

OREGON MIST.

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—BY—
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ST. HELENS, OREGON, JAN. 29.

When the republican party pledged itself to do all it could for the promotion of international bimetallism, it meant what it said, and will not miss any opportunity in that respect.

When Senator Sherman says that "Congress is perfectly competent to deal with the tariff" he may be right as to the next one, but certainly the present one has not done anything to justify such an assertion.

It appears to be settled that Mr. Digley is not to be a member of the McKinley cabinet; and it is much easier, by the way, to get that sort of information than to find out the names of men who are certain to be appointed.

The fact that nearly 10 per cent. of the ballots cast in the state of New York at the last election were thrown out as defective goes to show that the Australian ballot system is a good deal of a mystery to the people of that part of the country.

At the recent election Minnesota adopted a constitutional amendment to the effect that no alien shall hereafter exercise the right of suffrage until he shall have been fully naturalized; and Texas decided that hereafter no person of foreign birth shall vote in that state unless he shall have been a resident for one year, and declared his intention to become a citizen six months before the election.

Good citizenship has become quite a theme of late, and organizations of "Good Citizens" are being formed throughout the country. The theme in its correct interpretation is right, good citizens make good government, and there is much room for reform in this direction, but it is thought the organization has other objects than the one given to the public, which, if known, would give a decidedly different coloring to the picture. The movement will be noted with interest.

MAY it be said to the credit of Columbia county's representative in the lower house of the legislature that Mr. Merrill has been in his seat every day to answer to roll call and ready to do anything to advance the interests of the people who he was elected to represent. Had a populist been elected from this county he, no doubt, would be doing like all the rest of the populists elected to the legislature—obstructing every effort to bring about remedial legislation. Mr. Merrill will be found at his desk ready, willing and anxious to serve his constituents in any matter for the public good.

LAST June in Oregon's thirty-two political divisions the electors of the state chose sixty representatives to speak for them in the house of the nineteenth biennial legislative session. The acceptance of the decree of the electors by these sixty representatives sealed the contract and the sitting in the house on January 11th, by these representatives, was evidence of their intention to fulfill their part of the contract. Then have not the twenty-nine members who refused to attend the sessions betrayed the sacred trust reposed in them? Would they have been elected had they told their constituents on the stump of their purpose to prevent remedial legislation and reduction of taxation by holding up the house?

THE populist members of the house, are making an attempt to excuse their anarchistic actions by the assertion that if the house is organized certain legislation will not be enacted by the republican majority. How do they know this without first having tried to pass such acts? And if such be true, their only recourse is another appeal to the people. They say, in effect, that a minority will rule or ruin. This is anarchy, pure and simple. It may be true that some measure they insist upon might be rejected. Even if they could know this, shall they, a minority, say there shall be no legislation? The populist party is not entitled to govern this state until the people elect a majority of populists to the legislature. This they did not do; on the contrary they rejected the populist party. They elected only a minority of populists. The populists have no constitutional, legal, or moral right to dictate what laws shall be passed or rejected. Yet

they have the unexampled audacity to say that nothing shall be done or undone unless it exactly pleases them. If this is a sample of populism, the people of Oregon better be careful to elect no more adherents of that party to the legislature.

ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION.

The bill introduced in the senate by Senator Mulkey, of Polk county, providing for assessment and taxation is, generally speaking, a meritorious measure. Below we give three of its principal objects:

First, the assessment of all property to taxpayers according to the interest any such taxpayer has in any property, personal or real, deducting all bona fide indebtedness where the corresponding credit can be found and assessed, and making the debtor the agent in part to ascertain credits. This measure practically restores the mortgage tax law.

Second, the collection of taxes without fear or favor. It is based upon the theory that all taxes assessed can and should be collected. It charges the tax collector upon his bond with the tax roll and makes him personally responsible for the collection of the same. If there be manifest error in assessment, such as double assessment or listing of property not in existence, on making the proper showing to the county court the proper credit relief shall be granted by the court. It makes the treasurer the tax collector up to the point of delinquency. The sheriff collects delinquent taxes only. The justice of this provision is manifest, since our treasurer has ample time for the collection of taxes, and our sheriffs throughout the state are overworked.

Third, it is an economic measure in the following particulars: It provides for the sending of a certified summary instead of the entire assessment roll to the state board of equalization. It provides that the collection of taxes shall be upon the original assessor's roll, thus saving the expense of making a second copy, and it provides that the court shall not pay for an extra copy of the assessment roll for the assessor. These items save to the state through its counties about \$55,000 per year. It abolishes the State Board of Equalization as now constituted, substituting therefor the governor, secretary and treasurer of state. It provides for the payment of taxes in semi-annual payments, in fall and spring.

There is one provision which, in our judgment, the bill ought to contain, and that is to make a non-assessed note or mortgage null and void. That would be an inducement to those holding such securities to report the same to the assessor.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD LOAN.

It is to be hoped that the report is true that President Cleveland has received assurances from responsible parties which make it certain that in the foreclosure of the mortgages on the Pacific Railroads the property will be bought at a price sufficient to give the government a fair return for the money it has advanced to those enterprises. The total amount of indebtedness, in round numbers, is \$64,000,000 of bonds that constitute a first lien, and \$121,000,000 due the government as a second lien. It is hardly to be expected that any syndicate of capitalists will bid \$185,000,000 for the roads, which would be far more than they are worth; but it is possible that a price considerably beyond the amount of the first lien can be obtained. In any event, the government is bound to be a loser more or less, and the principal thing to be considered is that of making the loss as light as possible. It is useless to talk about the corruption that has attended the construction and operation of these great lines, and the wrongs that have been perpetrated upon the government in connection with them. The story is a shameful one, but it belongs to the past and has nothing to do with the present necessity of saving all that can be saved out of an unfortunate investment.

The mortgages will be foreclosed, and the government must either take what it can get after the liquidation of the first lien, or pay off that lien, take possession of the property, and go into the business of operating railroads on its own account. There are so many and such serious objections to the latter plan that it is not worth considering. It would mean, to begin with, a large addition to the public debt, to be followed by a succession of deficits and numerous business and political complications. It does not appear to be generally understood that the government mortgage covers only 1400 of the 8000 miles of the Union Pacific and 860 of the 1360 miles of the Central Pacific, excluding all of the important terminals. The result of an attempt to operate railways thus unfavorably situated by government agents and methods would be inevitable failure, as any intelligent person can readily understand. There is no inducement whatever to adopt that course, which would simply make a bad matter worse. The wise thing to do, manifestly, is to bring about a sale, as the president proposes, and free the government from all further relation to the matter by canceling its claims

in consideration of such reasonable sum as can be obtained. It is an ugly and annoying question in every aspect, and it should be settled without unnecessary delay, or idle efforts to put aside the actual facts of the case.

It is claimed by a few that the Oregonian is consistent upon the question of finance. This may be true, but if so, that is the only question upon which it has been consistent. For a number of years the Oregonian has referred to Senator Hoar as one of the great statesmen and constitutional lawyers of this country, but now, since Mr. Hoar disagrees with the Oregonian's defense of the hold-up in the legislature he is a man of small calibre. Senator Thurston was a man of great ability, in the opinion of the big daily, until a few days ago when that senator offered a solution for the difficulties at Salem, but now he is anything but a gentleman. Senator McBride was given credit by the Oregonian about a year ago for having saved the reputation of the state by his acts in the senate, but now he is called by that paper a "me, too," senator and accused of all sorts of political jobbery, all because he does not add his influence in assisting the populist hold-up in the legislature. On the other hand, last spring, in the opinion of the Oregonian, Hon. George H. Williams was the most disreputable person in the state because he did not "stand in" with the ballot box stuffers at the primaries. Mr. Williams at that time was also said to be in his dotage and therefore his opinion should carry no weight. But things have changed. Mr. Williams is evidently getting young again, for the big daily now declares him one of the bright legal minds of the state and quotes him as authority, because he expressed an opinion that a bare majority of the members of the house could not organize for business, which opinion tends to strengthen the Oregonian's populist position. The Oregonian has at different times in its history advocated first protection and then free trade alternately during succeeding campaigns. The money question as a party issue is new, and who is able to say just how many days it will be before the Oregonian will be advocating some other system of finance? We submit such "consistency" as above shown on the part of Oregon's big daily to the judgment of an unprejudiced public.

A PETITION was circulated here yesterday by a Mr. Thompson, of Portland, who was one of Joe Simon's friends in the last legislature, asking Representative Merrill to oppose the re-election of Senator Mitchell, or in other words to join the gang who are holding up the legislature in the interest of the Simon-Bourne-populist combination. The petition was signed by a number of republicans, populists and democrats, who, in substance, ask Mr. Merrill to betray the pledges made to his constituents last spring, to abandon his duties as a representative of the people in the interest of Joe Simon or some one whom he might designate for senator. It is a new feature in politics to see Portland people taking such an interest in Columbia county's welfare at this particular time. Mr. Merrill is not the man to be juggled with when his word has been given, especially when he is urged to affiliate with the populists in their disgraceful proceedings at Salem. Besides how can it be presumed that Senator Mitchell is standing in the way of legislation when no ballot has yet been taken for senator and the house not even organized. It is a privilege ever man has to designate his preferences upon public questions, but the attempt seems to be progressing in the opposite direction from the object alleged to be sought. It is a peculiar proceeding indeed to petition a representative to join the stand-outs in obstructing legislation. Why not petition those who are out to come in and assist Mr. Merrill and a majority of the house who have at all times been present to proceed with business?

TWO PAIRS OF TWINS.—John Benson and family, of the Dakotas, arrived last night and are quartered at the Minnesota hotel, says the Eugene Guard. There is nothing unusual about this family except that it contains two pairs of twins. The eldest pair is 15 months old and the youngest pair is one month of age. All four are girls and are healthy, good looking and have splendid lungs. Besides the twins there are three small boys in the family, all older than the eldest pair of twins. If cold and bleak Dakota is so productive, what will be the results here in the warm congenial climate of Oregon.

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CITATION TO HEIRS.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Columbia County.
In the matter of the Estate of John Keller, deceased.
To Marie Keller, (now Marie Schmitz), Anna Keller, Lisa Keller, John Keller and to all others unknown, if any such there be:
You and each of you are hereby commanded to be and appear before the Hon. County Court of the State of Oregon, in and for the County of Columbia, at the Court House in St. Helens, on the 9th day of February, 1907, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any exist, why an order of sale of the real property belonging to said estate should not be made as in the petition prayed for; said real property being described as the south half of the southwest quarter, and the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 26, in Township 7 north of Range 12 west of Willamette Meridian, in Columbia County, Oregon, containing 160 acres of land.
In testimony whereof I, Judson Wood, clerk of the County Court aforesaid, do hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of said Court at my office in the City of St. Helens, Oregon, this 15th day of January, A. D. 1907.

CITATION TO HEIRS.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Columbia County.
In the matter of the Estate of Orlan Cherrington, deceased.
To Veronica V. Dawson, heir at law of Orlan Cherrington, deceased, if any exist, why an order of sale of the real property belonging to said estate should not be made as in the petition on file in said Court, said real property being described as follows: The NW 1/4 of Sec 12, T. 12 N., R. 12 W. of Willamette Meridian, in Columbia County, Oregon, and containing 160 acres; also an undivided one-half interest in the NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4 of the fractional SW 1/4 of NW 1/4, SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Sec 18, T. 12 N., R. 12 W. of Willamette Meridian in Multnomah County, Oregon, and containing 70 acres now in possession of Jackson Able, known as the "Joy 70-acre tract" situated in the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Sec 18, T. 12 N., R. 12 W. of Willamette Meridian in Multnomah County, Oregon, and more particularly described in a certain deed from J. M. Joy and wife to J. Able and O. Cherrington, dated October 15, 1888, and recorded in Book 126, Page 688, Multnomah County records, to which reference is hereby made.
In testimony whereof I, Judson Wood, Clerk of the County Court aforesaid, do hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of said Court at my office in the City of St. Helens, Oregon, this 15th day of January, A. D. 1907.

For Sale!

The cheapest place in Columbia County. Inquire of R. O. HAZEN, Warren, Oregon.

Lost.

One white yearling steer, marked with "Key" mark in left ear; also a red yearling heifer, having small white spot over hips. Anyone knowing whereabouts of either or both animals, please notify owner, C. Saleme, by letter addressed, St. Helens, care of Captain Good. C. SALEME.

For Sale!

My share, consisting of 213 acres in range 7 west Willamette meridian, sections 2 and 3 situate on Columbia river near town of Rainier, off James Dobbins' donation land claim.

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The J. A. Atkins place in Beaver valley, 2 1/2 miles from Rainier, 80 acres in cultivation, large pastures, good buildings and bearing orchard. An excellent chance for dairying. Terms very reasonable to right party. Call on or address the undersigned at Clatskanie, Or., or Mrs. Sarah Meserve, Delema, Oregon, for full particulars.
L. J. MESERVE,
Administrator of the estate of John A. Atkins, deceased.

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