OREGON MIST.

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—BY—

DAVID DAVIS.

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ST. HELENS, OREGON, JAN. 14.

POPULIST argument is not unlike populist money—you must take it for what it is worth.

ONE of the best things congress could do would be to wipe the infernal civil service laws off the earth.

A FEW facts in regard to the magnificent results of the Dingley bill are to its opponents like the business end of a hornet to its foe—they hurt.

POPULISTS are a kind of perpetual grumbling machine. Now they are grumbling because the Dingley bill will create a surplus in the treasury this year.

WITH all the cussings the populists are giving the Dingley law, we haven't heard any wish expressed to return to that sugar-coated "party perfidy," Bill Wilson law.

JUDGE R. P. BOISE, too, whose name appears in print as a "free silver-republican," is a man not unlike Judge Hare, of Washington county—a republican as long as he could get office.

COLUMBIA county is safely republican by nearly 200 votes, provided good men are named on the ticket. Let the next convention meet with the determination of bringing forward only the best men.

POPULISM may fuss and fuse and pull feathers, but they cannot produce the least evidence that the country is not 50 per cent better off today than it was under that "petted" Wilson free-trade law.

THE average shipment of wheat in November amounted to a little less than 6,000,000 bushels per week, as against less than 4,000,000 bushels during the corresponding period of last year.

THEODORE DURRANT last Friday paid the death penalty for the murder of Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams. While he was guilty of the crime in the minds of nine-tenths of the people, his guilt was never proven.

COLUMBIA county republicans this year will name the strongest ticket they have ever had, and the result will be a glorious victory. All that is necessary for success is the bringing forward of good men, and that will be done.

POPULISTS who have been industrially howling calamity for the past year will be delighted to know that the treasury figures for last month show a surplus. Thus the new protective-tariff law is fulfilling the expectations and hopes of the country.

"NOT enough money in the country to transact the business of the country," said the populists. How about those poor wool-growers and wheat-raisers in Eastern Oregon? They've got money to throw at the birds. Too bad, too bad—for the populists.

IF Multnomah republicans will not settle their differences, the state convention will probably settle it for them. That body could supervise a new primary in that county probably to the entire satisfaction of the state, and it is not at all unlikely that Multnomah differences will be settled in this manner.

THE only hope populists have for success in this county is the disruption of the republican party and the nomination of weak men on the republican ticket. Let the republicans name good men, and no swapping be done, and the ticket will be elected by a handsome majority.

IF the silver sentiment is growing with such rapidity, we would like to know how it happened that republicans made such enormous gains over populists in states where silver was made the issue in the campaign of last November. Now, don't break your neck trying to answer.

THE principal trouble with populists is that they had such a protracted fast under free trade regime, and when the Dingley bill supplied means whereby they could have a feast, they made such hogs of themselves that they are now afflicted with a severe attack of colic, and think their ailment something else.

POLITICS is warming up all over the state, and Columbia county is not behind in interest of the same nature. THE MIST is highly pleased that such is the case, for when everybody is taking an interest it is significant of the fact that the people are determined to perpetuate the republican party in power, and the personel of the next ticket will be of the highest character. It means, simply, the survival of the fittest.

THE Illinois Steel Company announces its orders at this time nearly double those at the beginning of any previous year, and prophesies that the country is entering upon the best business period within ten years. There is probably no more accurate indication of the condition of business generally than is shown by the iron industry. Iron and steel enter into practically all branches of business—building, manufactures, mining, agriculture, railroads, and in fact every branch of trade, and an enlarged demand for it surely indicates an increase in all branches of business.

"ONE of the best country weeklies that comes to our exchange table is THE OREGON MIST, published at St. Helens, this state. Mr. David Davis, its editor, is a rustler and deserves success for his earnest efforts in behalf of the people of Columbia county."—Milton Eagle. We do not reprint this because of any spirit to boast or because it swells our head in the least, but there is a more philosophical reason for its reproduction. When people in the eastern part of our state are searching for information in regard to the resources of our county, they seek it from reliable sources, and THE MIST endeavors at all times to print in an unquestionably reliable manner information as to the county's resources, and when possible to lay facts before the people, instead of depicting misery, wretchedness, poverty, hard times, and total destitution in our midst, as is the policy of a great many people, who use such argument as a political lever. Facts are facts, and they cannot be successfully contradicted. THE MIST has received numerous letters of late containing such encouraging remarks as those quoted above, and unless we acknowledge their receipt in some such manner as this, we would not be doing our friends justice. It goes without saying that our efforts are appreciated.

MARCUS A. HANNA is the senator from Ohio. He was elected upon joint ballot of the legislature of that state Wednesday afternoon. His election was close, being 73 to 72, demonstrating the fact that the opposition concentrated every ounce of strength to defeat him, thus lessening the strength of the republican party in the senate to legislate in the interest of the people. Mr. Hanna's ideas are in perfect harmony with those of the administration, and as a worker in the party he has few equals. Being elected for both the short and long terms, his influence will be felt by our nation for many years. His term of office expires in March, 1905. No one man contributed more to the defeat of Bryanism and the silver heresy in the campaign of 1896 than Mark A. Hanna, and though that party was again squarely defeated in Ohio last fall by the republican party of Ohio, it did concentrate every effort to defeat Mr. Hanna for the senatorship and thus "even up" in a personal way, and insure a silver senate and the blocking of legislation during the first half of President McKinley's administration.

FOR four years prior to March 4th, 1897, there was a full-fleged democratic administration and a Hoke Smith in charge of the pension bureau, but it has been since that administration retired that it found fault with the pension business. It was for this reason: Its leaders sought to retain their positions, and if they unwarrantedly attack the men who fought to save the nation from disunion, they would stir up a hornet's nest, and thus lose many votes. The very men who, today, are howling so industriously against the pensioners are the men who had it in their power to legislate against them, but they had not the moral courage. They were afraid of them, and well they might be.

The figures of the bureau of statistics of the treasury department for November, 1897, show the exports to have been over $82,000,000, an increase of more than $5,000,000 over October, and over $6,000,000 in excess of those of November of 1896. The increase over November, 1895, is $22,000,000, and November, 1894, 24,000,000. The exports for October of the past year fell short a few hundred thousand dollars of October of last year, under the Wilson law, and the populists thought they had an easy thing in proclaiming how the Dingley law was decreasing our exports, but November's figures have staggered them somewhat.

THE treasury statement for December shows a great increase in the government's receipts for that month. For one day the increase from customs alone was $735,567—the highest figure reached since the new tariff law went into effect. On several different days in December the receipts exceeded $600,000, and it is estimated that the excess of December over November will be above $2,500,000. Those who have watched the situation closely say this may be kept up for an indefinite period.

AMONG the names of those appearing in the list of the attendants at the "union" convention held in Portland last Friday appears the name of Sidney Dell as a "free-silver-republican." When, pray, was Sidney Dell ever a republican? When he was not a democrat he has been a populist. The people of Columbia county can rest assured that so-claimed "free-silver-republicans" are of about the same stripe of republicans as Sidney Dell.

THE McKinley dinner pails are going back and forth with daily regularity these times. They are full, too. Wheat has gone up and other commodities are higher than last year, but what the workingmen want to know is: What is the use of cheap wheat and cheap everything else if there are no wages coming in with which to pay for them?

POLITICS throughout the state is fairly on. Political fences are being built that in many instances the gentle winds of April will shatter and demolish, leaving only a few scattered fragments to tell the tale of hours of labor and thought by their builders.

IT is gratifying, indeed, to know that at the end of the present year, from all indications, the receipts of the government from revenues and other sources will far exceed the expenditures. The gradual increase in revenue since the inauguration of the present administration is cause for much gratification.

BUSINESS activity and increased demand and prices for produce of all kinds is the class of information not sought after by the populist press. With the exception of one or two populist papers, our exchanges are filled with the glad tidings of renewed business activity and increased demand for produce and labor.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY and his party have reiterated their intention to keep every American dollar equivalent to a gold dollar. The populist party is satisfied with a fifty-cent dollar, and even appears to be preparing to declare that a piece of paper worth nothing is as good as a fifty-cent dollar, and consequently as good as a hundred-cent dollar.

"THE price of cordwood this summer will certainly advance because of the scarcity of men to cut it."—Cathlamet Gazette. What is the cause of this, could you guess? Perhaps, and it is not at all unlikely, that the Dingley law, with all its good effects, has created so much business in the country, and opened up the field for employment everywhere, that men can find more lucrative and desirable employment than cutting cordwood. It is certainly too bad that labor has an opportunity!

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

Total Revenues Collected in December Nearly Sixty Million Dollars.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The monthly statement of the government receipts and expenditures for the month of December, shows the total receipts to have been $59,656,698, of which $11,660,788 was from customs, $14,342,928 from internal revenue, and $33,642,980 from miscellaneous sources.

The expenditures for the month aggregated $27,634,002.

The receipts and expenditures for December include $31 715,304 received during the month from sale of the Union Pacific railroad; $900,000 paid out to secure a bid on the Kansas Pacific, and $517,860 interest paid on Pacific railroad subsidy bonds not due until January. Excluding these items the receipts amount to $27,931,496, and expenditures to $26,212,663, leaving a surplus for the month of $1,714,831.

As compared with December, 1896, there is shown to have been an increase of nearly $1,000,000 in the receipts from customs, and about $1,145,000 increase from internal revenue sources.

CIRCUIT COURT PROCEEDINGS.

The following proceedings were had at the term of circuit court held here last week:

H. C. Conyers vs. E. G. Bryant estate; dismissed.

L. O. Baxter vs. Maria West et. al.; dismissed on motion of defendant.

G. F. Moeck vs. Epperly & McDonald; demurrer withdrawn, and defendant given 30 days to answer, and plaintiff given till first day of next term to answer.

Richardson vs. Henrici; continued.

Bowers vs. Leavens; demurrer overruled, and defendant given 40 days to answer.

State vs. Geo. Upton; set for trial May 11th, 1898.

Mamie E. Miller vs. John Quigley et. al.; default.

M. Bisbee vs. E. Webster estate; order confirming sale.

Burt West vs. M. Eva West; demurrer overruled, and thirty days to answer.

Coovert & McCredie vs. John M. Maxey; confirmation of sale.

J. H. Lee vs. W. A. Edgerton; order of confirmation of sale.

Smith, Wallace Shoe Co. vs. W. A. Edgerton; order of confirmation of sale.

Hiram Griest vs. Lulu Marquam; confirmation.

James Muckle, jr., et. al. vs. W. J. Deitz; demurrer overruled, and thirty days to answer and ten days to reply.

James Wallace vs. J. M. Nickum; demurrer overruled, and twenty days to answer.

Gust Hult vs. C. Erickson; confirmation of sale.

Root vs. Smith; dismissed.

Spencer vs. Conway; allowed to amend by inserting name of E. S. Bryant.

John Conway vs. E. Bryant; decree of foreclosure.

Pipes vs. Lynch; continued.

Foster vs. Reed; order dissolving attachment.

Spencer vs. Conway; ten days to reply.

Colby vs. Roeser; decree.

James Muckle et al. vs. W. J. Dietz et. al.; motion to make more definite as to receiver overruled, and thirty days given to answer.

Mamie E. Miller vs. John Quigley; demurrer overruled, and defendant given five days to answer.

Rebecca Webster vs. Martin Davison; demurrer overruled, and twenty days given to answer.

The following bills were allowed: T. J. Cleeton, $25; T. C. Watts, $15.

"Why is it that the inactivity of the hen occurs just at the time when eggs become dear?" asks the Minneapolis Journal. For the same reason that we have most of our cold weather in the winter season.

The festive house-fly is still in evidence, notwithstanding the frosty weather. The Milton house fly is a cheerful little cuss and cares not for cold weather, but pursues his avocation of making the lives of people miserable with an abandon and zeal that could be admired were it not so dodgasted exasperating.—Eagle.

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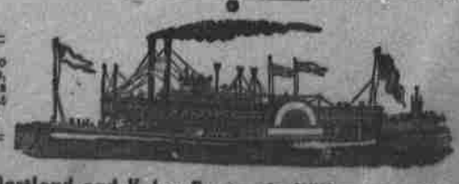

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