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JOHN MITCHELL IS FORTY.

John Mitchell, former president of the United Mineworkers of America, and vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, is 40 years old today. With the possible exception of Samuel Gompers, Mitchell is the most famous labor leader of the country. His long career as chief of the "black diamond artists" of the land, building up a powerful organization in the face of the greatest difficulties, has shown him to be a genius as a leader of the men who toil. He is a diplomat, too, and despite his insistence upon what he considered the rights of the miners, he has succeeded in retaining the friendship of thousands of conservatives. Although a fighter when aroused, he has always sought for industrial peace, and his wise counsels have prevented many inopportune labor wars. The fact that he is now under the shadow of a jail sentence, after conviction of contempt of court in the Bucks Stove & Range company injunction case, has not served to dim the luster that attaches to his name.

Mitchell is in every sense of the term a "self-made man." He was born in Braidwood, Ill., on February 4, 1869, and received his entire schooling between the ages of 6 and 10 years. He became a coal miner at an early age, but this did not prevent him from attaining the education that fitted him for his duties of later years. He studied assiduously at night, and became a profound student of economic questions, reading all the books he could procure on such topics. For a time he considered the law as a profession, and spent one year in a law office.

Mitchell's connection with organized labor began at the age of 16, and in 1885 he joined the Knights of Labor, then a flourishing organization. Between 1885 and 1890 he traveled throughout the west, working at his trade of coal mining and adding a thorough knowledge of men to the knowledge he had gained from books.

NIBLEY FOR PROHIBITION.

A regular quarterly conference of the Cache stake, convened at Logan, Utah, last Sunday, at which the principal speakers were Joseph F. Smith and Bishop C. W. Nibley, the latter formerly a resident of Baker City, and who is interested in commercial enterprises in this and Union counties. At the close of the conference Bishop Nibley read the resolution adopted at the conference at Salt Lake City last year, calling for a state-wide prohibition law, and moved its reaffirmation, incidentally delivering a roast to the lone Mormon member of the legislature of Idaho who recently voted against a local option law there. He said it was inconceivable how a Mormon elder could vote against a temperance measure of that kind, and Joseph F. Smith corrected him by saying, "You mean one professing to be a Mormon elder." The resolution was adopted.

Bishop Nibley also made the interesting statement during his talk that the church statistics for Cache stake for last year showed an average of three births to one death.—Baker City Democrat.

Yesterday morning we wrote a few lines quite complimentary of the weather, but by noon time it was snowing and the article had to be consigned to the melting kettle. This reminds us of a story our old pioneer friend J. H. Rinehart told. Two men came to Oregon from Indiana; both

were men of good veracity, and stood well in their home communities. After looking over the state one decided to locate in eastern Oregon and the other on the coast, in western Oregon. Mr. Rinehart was visiting in the vicinity on one of his eastern trips and a relative of the men walked four miles to see him, knowing that he came from Oregon, and supposed, as a matter of fact, that he knew both of these men.

After the introductory remarks this friend became very much interested, as he a few days prior received a letter from each of his Oregon friends, and the letters were so opposite in character he was desirous of knowing which one of the two brothers had gone wrong and joined the Annanias club. One wrote that they were having a fine, open winter, cattle were doing well and that flour and articles of necessity were very reasonable, and he was well pleased. The other wrote that this was the hardest winter in many years. The stockmen had fed all of their feed and that the ground was covered with snow, and cattle were dying. Flour was \$25 per sack, potatoes \$2 per 100 and scarce, and he was discouraged. It took Mr. Rinehart quite a while to explain to him that both men told the exact truth. That Oregon was a state twice as large as the state of Iowa, and was divided by large mountain ranges which controlled climatic conditions.

Thus, a man in writing on the condition of the weather might tell the truth, but unless the reader knew the exact hour in which the article was written, might come to the conclusion that the writer was simply describing conditions that he desired, instead of the existing conditions. For instance, at this time, 10 a. m., it is nice and warm. So it was yesterday at this time. But, by 3 o'clock in the afternoon it was snowing and it may be again today. However, let it snow. We need it. This is not the season for buttercups. It is to be hoped that the snow will cover the valley many inches, and the mountains several feet before spring.

Anything of merit soon wins recognition. Wireless telegraphy has only become practical the past few years, and now we have a bill before congress which will undoubtedly become a law, compelling all vessels that carry 50 passengers or more, to be equipped with wireless apparatus.

Colorado has just passed a bill making it punishable by fine to either accept or give a tip. This is wise legislation. The public is perfectly willing to pay for services rendered. The tip system is simply a graft.

The senate was not long in killing the bill to raise the salaries of the circuit judges of the state from \$3000 to \$4000. The vote stood 26 to 3 against its passage.

WORKED 14
LONG YEARS

After 14 years of continuous service on the A. B. C. laundry delivery wagon, one of the familiar blacks driven by Lute Dunn is now enjoying a short vacation and a white and black comprise the delivery wagon team. Yesterday evening one of the old trunks was taken off and Mr. Dunn was forced to take him to the barn. That same span of blacks has done service every day for 14 years. Except for a brief period of two weeks, when one ankle was injured, the horse in question has not known a sick period in its life. It is no illusion to say that the white and black team on the laundry wagon today attracted more than its quota of attention. People have become so accustomed to seeing the familiar blacks, that anything else is a novelty.

RE-NUMBER
ALL PATENTS

Intent on renumbering every patent now before the United States land office in this city, C. T. Yoder, of the

general land office department, is in La Grande today. The entire office force is working day and night to bring the huge task to a speedy end. The work was commenced last evening and it is believed that by tomorrow night the work will be finished. The renumbering is a part of the general revolution taking place in the

manner of filing patents and papers in connection with the new system of bookkeeping.

A mule may never be known to kick and yet around his heels is no place for small children; for after the explosion regrets won't mend the pieces, nor clubs better the mule.

UNION COUNTY MEN OWN
PROFITABLE COPPER MINE

Rich copper ore has been discovered near Florence, Mont., in the Butte district, in a mine owned almost entirely by Union county people. It is the old W. W. Randall property that is now paying rich and gives evidence of having great quantities of the paystuff. The history of the corporation which now owns the mine, dates back many years, when the MacDonalds, J. M. McCall, now deceased; C. C. Penington, William Randall and others formed a company to prospect in the Butte district near Florence. Several thousand dollars were sunk in the project, the interest eventually dying out.

Soon after, W. W. Randall of this

county, reorganized a company among the more enthusiastic members of the old, incorporating at \$500,000. Among them were the MacDonalds and J. M. McCall. New development work was started recently and when one shaft had reached a depth of 80 feet, the bottom of a 40-foot ledge of 10 per cent copper had been reached. Cross-tunneling divulged that the ledge is from 14 to 15 feet wide.

Reports from Florence say the discovery means wealth to the owners. As further guarantee of this, no stock is offered for sale, the owners believing the property to be extremely valuable.

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