

West Shore

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1890.

PINKERTON'S dream, as depicted on the last page, is not so much a work of imagination as one might think who has given the subject but little attention. If the Pinkertons can enlist an army of 500 men, arm them with rifles and revolvers, and use them as a private armed force not under the control of the constituted authorities, they can have an army of 5,000 or 50,000. The right to bear arms is abused by such an organization of mercenaries maintained by private persons for the use of corporations and individuals wealthy enough to pay for their services. The American people are law abiding to the highest degree and they believe fully in the right of self defense, but they desire to see the law upheld by the regular authorities, and they are willing to help them do so to the laying down of their lives if necessary. It is time now that in every state in the union there should be a law prohibiting any armed body of men not organized in due process of law as a portion of the government. Conditions are such now that whenever any corporation has a difficulty with its employes the Pinkertons are called in, and those worthies immediately enlist a lot of brutal and unprincipled men who are willing to shoot their fellow men for hire. The crimes committed by them—for the shooting of persons under such circumstances is surely a crime—are in reality the crimes of their employers, who, instead of posing as field marshals of an army of cut-throats, should be behind the prison bars for crimes already committed in their service. Let the law abiding citizens of every state say clearly and emphatically through their representatives in the legislatures that no private armies will be tolerated in America.

Representative Hermann thinks that reciprocity is, in a measure, inconsistent with our hostile position on the Chinese question. So it is; but if we are to have either we had better take the cheap goods than the cheap labor that made them. The crying evil of our protective system is that while we protect our manufacturers against the cheap goods of Europe, the cheap labor of Europe that makes those goods is admitted free to drive our own workmen from their benches, gradually producing here the same degraded condition of labor whose existence in Europe is the protectionist's most powerful argument. Men, not products, make a nation, and if we expect to improve, or even maintain the standard we now have, we must be careful what manner of men we receive from abroad. We have 65,000,000 people now, and the necessity of increasing their numbers is not so great that we should do it at the expense of the happiness and prosperity of those who toil daily for their bread, or the lowering of the general average of intelligence, morality or sterling American manhood.

The barbarity of the dark ages never produced a more revolting scene than that witnessed in the capital of Spain a few days ago, when the body of a woman who had suffered death by garroting was left, a horrible and repulsive spectacle, exposed to the vulgar gaze of the public for ten hours. A people that can employ such a brutal method for executing prisoners and maintain such a hideous custom of exposure after death to the gaze of the populace, can not expect to make much progress as a nation or as individuals. It is to eliminate as much as possible from legal extinction of life all that is brutal in its nature and demoralizing and embruting in its effects upon the people, that electric execution is urged so strongly upon men of sound thought in this country. To give a criminal a painless death is far less necessary than to give him a mode of dispatch that shall help to lessen the brutish and savage instincts in our nature as a people. For the welfare of those outside of jail, rather than for those inside, the hangman's noose, the guillotine, the garroting collar and the knout must go where the red hot iron, the rack, the wheel and the headman's axe have preceded them.

The reasoning of a contemporary that the formation of a third party at this time is unwise because there is no great crisis to call it forth, is not based upon political history or sound thought. Form the party now so that when the crisis comes it will have gathered strength enough to meet it, is both the teaching of the history of the past and the dictation of prudence. The republican party was not formed during the crisis of 1861, but five years before. If ever the evils that menace the welfare of the nation are to be overcome, the party that is to do it must organize and prepare for the battle before the contest actually begins.

Politics is the absorbing question in Idaho now. Not less important than the contest for representative and state officers will be the influence the election will have upon the subsequent choice of United States senators. Undoubtedly the best selections that can be made are Hon. W. J. McConnell, of Moscow, who took such a prominent part in pressing the claim of the state for admission, and Hon. Fred DuBois, who, as member of the house, fought the battle to a victory. With such able men to represent her Idaho may well feel content.

Disgusted with the failure of Uncle Sam to protect them, the seals have practically abandoned Behring sea and the Prybalov islands. When their new rookeries are found, which may not be for several years, they may be located where poachers will have some other nation to deal with. The only explanation of the remarkable diminution in numbers this year is that they have gone somewhere else. It would be worse than the proverbial barn door if England and America should come to blows over something that had ceased to exist.

Mexico is seeking some means of reducing her army without offending her hundred and fifty generals. As this is about a hundred and forty more generals than she has any use for, she might make lieutenants and captains of them, or let them emigrate to Guatemala, where they need a few hundred more generals to execute.

The Oregon State Fair, at Salem, closes to-day after the most successful exhibition in its history, both as to the character of its attractions and the number of people in attendance. The fair is of great benefit to the state, both as an educator of the people and as a splendid showing to visitors from abroad of the resources of Oregon.