

OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE.

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OREGON CITY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1892.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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WASHINGTON NEWS

Prospects of the Free Coinage Law in Congress.

DEMOCRATS WILL PROBABLY PASS

The McKinley Law is Constitutional—The Behring Sea Matter to be Arbitrated

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The free coinage men of the house feel elevated over the action of last night's caucus in refusing to consider any proposition for the delay of free coinage legislation. Harter and his friends content themselves today by simply announcing that they will oppose the Bland bill by every parliamentary tactic in their power when it comes up in the house and that it will never pass the lower branch of congress. The generosity of the democratic committee on rules has placed at their disposal parliamentary weapons of obstruction necessary to tire out and weary the friends of the measure by weeks of delay. Free-coinage people openly deride these pretensions, and say that the democrats who oppose the free coinage bill, for the most part, merely content themselves by recording their votes against the bill. Bland, Pierce and other leaders of free coinage, are today compiling and arranging petitions to be presented tomorrow to the committee on rules, asking for a day for consideration of the free coinage bill. These petitions contain the signatures of all the friends of free coinage.

Representative Pierce today said there is no doubt that the rules committee will report an order at an early day, and the date will also be set when the final vote will be taken. So far as the free coinage men are concerned, he said, they did not want more than three or four days' debate—certainly not more than a week. Bland would insist, however, that final action be taken when the bill comes up. "We will pass it through the house," said Pierce, "send it to the senate, and the responsibility will then rest with that body. The bill has," he says, "a clear majority of forty votes in the house; so there is not the slightest doubt of its passage. With ten republicans favorable to free coinage, they will have about 210 votes for the bill. The remainder of republicans and thirty-five or forty democrats will vote against the bill."

THE MCKINLEY LAW LEGAL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—The three cases in which importers sought to test the constitutionality of the McKinley tariff act were today decided by the United States supreme court. The court affirmed the judgments of the New York and Illinois circuit court of the United States in favor of the constitutionality of the act.

The three cases mentioned were those of the Boyd, Sutton & Co., and Herman, Storbach & Co., each against the United States, and Joel Earhardt, collector of the port of New York and J. V. Farwell & Co. against Clark, collector of the port of Chicago. The grounds on which it was claimed that the tariff act is unconstitutional were that the tobacco rebate section of the bill had been omitted in its enrollment after its passage by congress, and therefore the bill signed by the president was not the bill passed by the legislative department of the government; that the reciprocity feature was a transmission to the executive of the law making power, and therefore void, violating the whole act; and lastly that the act is void because of the sugar bounty provision.

IT IS LEGAL TO COUNT A QUORUM.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—The "no quorum" case, in which the legality of the Dingley worsted act was attacked by importers, was today decided by the United States supreme court. The Dingley act passed through the action of Speaker Reed in counting a quorum when the quorum was of members present but not voting. The importers maintained that Speaker Reed's action was in violation of the constitution and the act passed in this manner was void. The court, in the opinion of Justice Brewer holds that "the quorum" rule was valid, and the house of representatives had a right to make such a rule.

The constitution provides, says the opinion, that a majority of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business, and its capacity to transact business is then established, created by the mere presence of a majority, and does not depend upon the disposition or assent or action of any single member fraction of a majority present. All that the constitution requires is the presence of a majority. The constitution has prescribed no method of ascertaining the presence of a majority, and it is, therefore, clearly within the competency of the house to prescribe any method that may be reasonably certain to ascertain the fact.

THE WORLD'S NEWS

Silver Mines of Montana are Getting Sensitive.

OWING TO PRICE AND LITIGATION

United States Silver Coins at a Discount in British Columbia Other News.

Butte, Mont., Feb. 29.—The silver mines of this district are in a ticklish position, owing to the low prices of silver. The Alice closed its sixty stamp mill two weeks ago and reduced its working force to about 100 men all told, laying off about 250 men. Today the Blue Bird, the largest silver mine in the district, was closed by attachment for \$70,451 on an overdraft to that amount in Hoge, Brownlee & Co's bank. The concern is an English corporation, and the major portion of the stock is owned by Ferdinand van Zandt, an Englishman. He has always been considered to be a millionaire here, but even millionaires find it difficult to raise money occasionally. The reverses of the mine are due to the low price of silver and the litigation in which it has been involved for several years. A big suit for damages that had kept the mine closed for two years was settled a year ago at a cost of \$80,000 cash and notes for \$60,000, which are due tomorrow. Mr. Van Zandt left for England a month ago to negotiate loans to meet this and take up \$50,000 worth of more notes, given for the purchase of the Ground Squirrel. Another big suit for damages is pending against the company. These damage suits were for trespassing in the underground workings of the Blue Bird on adjacent mines. Over 100 men are thrown out of employment by the attachments.

BEHRING SEA NEGOTIATIONS.

An Agreement to Arbitrate Reached by the Two Governments.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Negotiations between the United States and Great Britain looking to submission to arbitration of the controversy between the two countries in regard to the Behring sea seal fishery reached a favorable conclusion today. Pauncefoot, British minister, signed today the agreement of arbitration in behalf of England and Blaine on behalf of this government. The treaty is subject, however, to the action of the British parliament and the United States senate. The exact terms of the treaty cannot now be stated, but it is known that the board of arbitration will consist of seven persons, two representing the United States, two representing Great Britain, one of whom is to be a Canadian, and one each representing the neutral government of France Sweden and Italy.

Revolution Imminent in Brazil.

New York, Feb. 29.—The British steamship Cyril arrived from Brazil today, bringing news of general dissatisfaction in that country, and reports the existence of a difference between the army and navy there that will result in a conflict whenever the two factions meet. A serious encounter between the two took place January 31, at Manaus, an important town in Para, in which three sailors and one soldier are known to have been killed, and many injured. Captain Oliphant, of the Cyril, says continued troubles in Brazil might be expected, and that a general revolution is not far distant.

In Favor of Free Silver.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 26.—In the trans-Mississippi congress today, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah voted for a resolution to urge the passage of the free silver bill, and Missouri and Texas cast the majority of their votes the same way. Arkansas and Iowa voted solidly against, and Kansas and Louisiana and Nebraska cast a majority in opposition. The vote stood 142 for and 80 against. The next convention will be held at Ogden, Utah, the first Tuesday in May, 1893.

Felt at The Dalles.

THE DALLES, Or., Feb. 28.—Three distinct shocks of earthquake were felt here at 2:55 this morning. The vibrations were north and south, and lasted about four seconds. A number of citizens were awakened by the shocks and rushed into the streets in their night-clothes. In some residences the plaster was cracked and crockery rattled upon the shelves. No serious damage is reported.

Hawaiian Minister.

Boston, Feb. 26.—Mott Smith, of this city, has received an official communication from the queen of the Hawaiian islands, appointing him minister resident in Washington. Dr. Smith lived about forty years on the islands, and has held many high positions of honor in that country.

Heavy paper suitable for underlaying carpets sold cheap at the Enterprise office.

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Critical State of Affairs.

VIENNA, Feb. 29.—The authorities of this city have at last been compelled to recognize the urgency of the situation among the poor, and now permit the socialist committees to circulate appeals, hitherto prohibited, for donations. They estimate that 5000 shoemakers, 3000 carpenters, 1500 metal workers, 7000 sione workers and 23,000 unskilled laborers are out of work, and much misery exists as a result. As an alleged result of the McKinley law, 12,000 pearl-workers are thrown out of employment and classed as unskilled workmen.

Another Rabbit Drive.

TRAVER, Cal., Feb. 21.—The largest rabbit drive in this section of country since 1888, was held today about two miles west of Traver. About 1 o'clock hundreds of vehicles and 400 mounted horsemen commenced the line of march under the personal supervision of J. N. Bowhay. The line extended four miles with. Great excitement prevailed on reaching the wings of the corral, which were one and one-half miles apart. About 4000 scalps were secured.

A Receiver Appointed.

TACOMA, Wash., Feb. 27.—On application of R. F. Radebaugh, president of the Tacoma and Puyallup Railroad, Otis Sprague was today appointed receiver. The road runs between Tacoma and Puyallup, twelve miles. The application states that the property is worth \$500,000 but much of the land is unsalable.

Discounting American Silver.

VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 27.—In the telegraph office and other places of business notices have been posted up stating that American silver coin will not be accepted except at a discount of 5 per cent. The postoffice will take the same action.

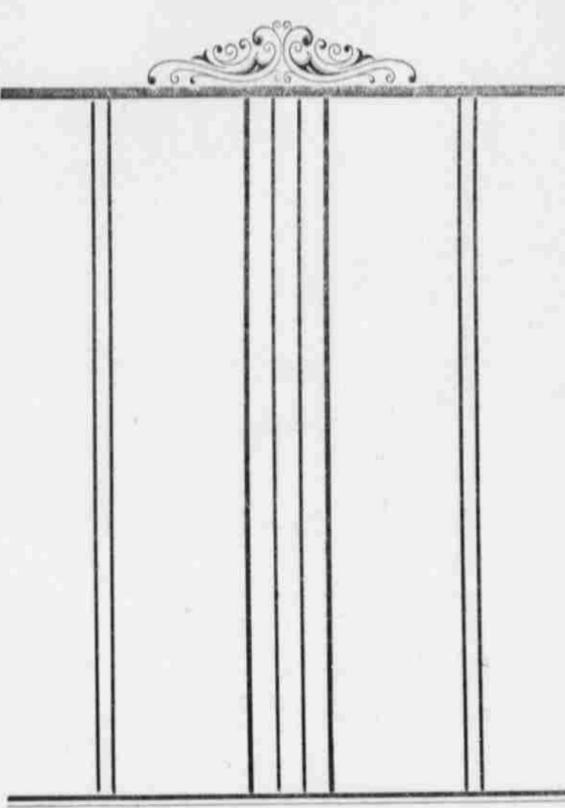
Declined to Make a Defense.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—In the pension office investigation today, young Kaum was called to the stand. He said Secretary Noble and Assistant Secretary Bussey and declined to allow him to make any defense to the charges.

Postoffices in Oregon.

The United States official postal guide shows that Oregon has a total of 710 postoffices, all but 709 of which are first-class. Three are second class, eighteen third, and 628 fourth. Twenty-two are presidential offices, 106 are money order offices, and fifteen are postal note offices. There are no more money order stations in this state nor in Washington. In the United States there are 64,965 postoffices, 61,861 of which are of the fourth-class. Pennsylvania has more postoffices than any other state, the number being 4728. Alaska has seventeen, and Washington 791. Idaho has 282 and California 1403.

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