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DUTY OF REPUBLICANS.

Word comes from the eastern states that many of them which do not hold an election till next fall are already preparing for the contest, actuated by the hard times which have resulted from the attempt of the democratic party to overturn those laws of business and trade which have made the country the most prosperous on the face of the globe for the last quarter of a century. All along the line men are out of work; mills are standing idle, and as there is nothing for men to do there is but little sale for the goods which are piled up on the merchants' counters and shelves, so that there is a great increasing loss all along the line which the democratic party either cannot or will not remedy. This has made partisans of men who heretofore have taken no particular part in the campaigns. But with the business depression (almost the greatest that this country has ever known) omnipresent and increasing in volume, there is a growing feeling all over the country that the administration of the affairs of this government should be placed in the hands of a party which knows the demands of the business interests and is able and willing to legislate in a manner to protect all concerned to the best possible advantage. It is this intense feeling which has given an impetus to politics all over the country, which bids fair to have the force of a tidal wave ere the time rolls around when the ballots are to speak.

Oregon holds an election prior to any of the sister states, and the condition here is such as to urge upon every citizen the necessity for his taking an active interest in the politics of the state and nation which are the issue in the coming campaign. The democratic party has pandered to every wild cat theory that has been promulgated for the last twenty-five years till its members are now utterly incompetent to control national affairs wisely and well. Power has proven them incompetent and unreliable. As a result losses have piled up amounting to untold millions. The populists, who promise so much, have for their foundation theories wilder than the most visionary that democracy has ever dared to embody in its platforms. It is hardly possible that the country, and especially Oregon, is prepared to continue experimenting—no not even for the sake of permitting the populists to experiment with their visionary theories.

The condition of business warrants every good citizen in interesting himself in politics to the extent of working for the return of that party to power which has proven itself able to administer the laws in such a manner as to maintain confidence at home and abroad. Such is the republican party.

NEW POSTAL LAWS.

For some time past congress has been laboring to perfect the postal system and has passed a number of bills having this in view. The most important of these is the bill reorganizing the money order system which went into effect last week. It abolishes postal notes which were insecure, because they were payable to bearer and anybody could cash them. There was no provision for duplicates in case of loss. To take the place of postal notes money orders, which may be duplicated, are to be issued. The fees are changed, so that all orders up to \$2.50 will be as cheap as postal notes were, and these money orders will be perfectly secure. To make the orders available the postmaster general is authorized to designate small post offices to issue these orders up to the amount of \$5. There will be 1000 of these limited money orders. All money order fees are brought down to the basis on which the express companies now handle about \$50,000,000 of business, because they do it cheaper than Uncle Sam's rates. An ingenious form of coupon is attached to money orders, to be filled out and sent to the sixth auditor as a sure check on fraud. The new law will turn into the United States treasury \$3,000,000 which has been accumulating in the sub-treasury ever since 1864 when the money order business was established. This is money not called for on orders issued. Most of it is profit to the government. Hereafter the government will hold the money only twelve months if not called for, and then turn it into the treasury. If an order over twelve months old is presented it will be paid by a check on the treasury. The reform is an important one. It means a saving of \$133,000 a year by the simpler methods it substitutes.

BROAD WAGON TIRES.

In the general discussion of the road question there is one feature which is generally lost sight of although its adoption would do a great deal to solve the vexed question. One of the worst troubles with the roads is the bad ruts made by narrow tires, and while the substitution of broad tired wheels would not take the place of good solid roadbeds they would help to keep the roads packed instead of, as is the case with tires now in use, serving to make them worse. A California paper in discussing the road question there says: The wagon rolled over the road should be a road maker not a road destroyer. It ought to conserve hauling the heavier not the lighter load. The broad tire does this. In France are found the best roads in Europe, and over them roll only the wheels of the broadest tires. It is the law there that the load shall be distributed over the largest possible surface consistent with the weight carried, the power exerted, and the needs of the people to wheel loads to market. The tires of the French market wagon are all the way from three to ten inches in width. The greater are from four to six inches. Then, too, the hind and forward wheels do not track. Each pair of wheels tracks alone, and thus the combined width of the four tires serve the purpose of a road roller to keep the roof of the road smooth, compact and free from cut-outs, or what are generally known as chuck-holes.

In Ontario the department of agriculture advises that for wagons without springs the tire should never be less than two and a half inches in width for a load of from 500 to 1,000 pounds on each wheel. For loads of from 2,000 to 3,000 pounds to the wheel each tire should have a diameter on the face of not less than six inches. This recommendation will be adopted here.

We need such regulations more than they are needed in Canada. But no ordinance of this kind should be imposed on the people at once. It must apply gradually, so that owners of vehicles can accommodate themselves to the new rule without suffering heavy cost. The adoption of the system will at once make manifest its economy when it begins to come into use, for it is a money saving device for all who contribute to the construction and maintenance of good roads.

FREE TRADE LOGIC.

The telegraphic report of the Wilson tariff bill in congress contains the following: "The ways and means committee suffered its first defeat today when, by a vote of 112 to 102, the committee of the whole rejected Mr. Wilson's amendment fixing the date on which free wool should go into effect as August 1, 1894, and adopted the substitute of Mr. Johnson, the Ohio free-trader and single-taxer, making it go into effect immediately on the passage of the bill. Many of the republicans voted with the radical democrats for the substitute.

It was Mr. Wilson's intention, had his amendment prevailed, to offer an amendment making the woolen schedule go into effect December 1, 1894, but when the committee overruled him he decided to let the latter schedule stand and go into effect with the rest of the bill in June, 1894. Just before the vote was taken Mr. Wilson stated that the jobbers were now hesitating whether to place their orders for fall goods here or abroad, and if the committee amendment carried the home manufacturers would make next fall's goods."

Why should Mr. Wilson, the free trade advocate, wish to have this fall's goods manufactured in this country in preference to those required any and every other fall? If postponing the time when the bill will go into effect will work good for the people of the country this fall, and it is desirable that they be thus benefited, why does not Mr. Wilson move to postpone his bill indefinitely and permit the people of America to manufacture the goods needed in this country all the time. He should be consistent in his logic.

A DANGEROUS ELEMENT.

One of the worst elements to be feared in this country is the anarchistic and its first cousin the socialistic. Both are indefatigable, unscrupulous and insidious in their workings. In view of this fact the following utterance of Judge Sol Smith of Baker City in his address to the Grand Jury post of that city is none too strong and comes none too soon. The judge says:

"Our government has a foe more dangerous than any foreign nation or combination, attacking its vital point, poisoning the minds of our youth and those of our men and women who ought to know better, thus striking the very germ of constitutional liberty. Socialism and anarchy are close kin, and are just as much an enemy of a republic as of a despotism; and more dangerous to it, because it is less securely guarded, and, from the very nature of its institutions and its laws, less able to protect itself from them. The socialist of today is the anarchist of tomorrow, and both are the deadly enemies of this and all other governments."

The Statesman makes a good point in the following: Here is a point the consideration of which should be taken home, when it is remembered that poor houses all over the state are emptying their contents into the state insane asylum; that the committing powers are every day sending morphine fiends, imbeciles, epileptics, aged, enfeebled, and decrepit to the madhouse; that the friends and families of such unfortunates are escaping expense and responsibility by having the care and custody of such charges improperly transferred to the state. "A great majority of them (referring to the classes above named) could be better cared for in these homes, (homes for the aged, etc.) except for the fact that it has become the fashion to unload them into wards of insane asylums, the friends and families thereby escaping the responsibility and expense of their care." These are the words of Dr. W. A. Cusick, consulting physician at the asylum.

JOHN SHERMAN, whose good judgment cannot be called in question, says: "The tariff bill as it now stands is thoroughly vicious, not only greatly affecting injuriously multiplied interests in this country, but it is still more vicious in largely reducing the revenue and creating a deficiency which must be met by loans or insolvency."

In the vast bodies of desert land in this country can be reclaimed and converted into homes for those who are now without a roof over their own, it will prove an incalculable boon not only to those who secure homes in this way but to the country at large. But if this is ever to be there must be some system of irrigation which will reclaim the sand plains from their present useless condition. The United States government, the several states, or large corporations will have this to do if it is ever done, for individuals cannot. Corporations should not be permitted to acquire another foot of the public domain; in the hands of the general government it is likely to prove too costly. The alternative, and it is a good one, is to permit these lands to pass into the hands of the states under such wise provisions as will secure their improvement and retention, to be disposed of to actual settlers upon terms favorable to the state at large, with the stipulation that no one person is to secure more than eighty acres.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND would never have sent a representative to Great Britain accredited to the de facto government with private instructions to consort with the opposition party for the overthrow of the government to which he held credentials. When he committed that offense against the Sandwich islands and found his scheming policy outwitted by the good sense and wise acts of President Dole, he should not mount the high horse of offended dignity in treating the question. Not only congress but the whole country can see that the president was worsted in his negotiations, and the American citizen is constitutionally opposed to the bully. Strong nations have the same rights as the small and it will behoove this country in its dealings with a weaker power to take an untenable position. It is besides being undignified liable to return in the form of a precedent after many years to cause no end of trouble.

You're genuine populist thinks of politics first; of his family, his religion, and something to eat at some subsequent time. He goes upon the theory that his family, his religion, and his meals can wait, but that he must attend to politics in season and out of season. For this reason one of that peculiar faith saw great political guns in the air when the management at the Congregational church saw fit to vary their usual program and invite Messrs. Brownell and Dye to speak on Sunday evening. Our populist neighbors are the last ones that ought to complain even if all that they imagined of that meeting were true, since they eat with their politics, drink with their politics, and if they find time sleep with their politics.

A populist scheme is on foot to have all desert lands donated to the state and to have the general government give along with these lands a lot of legal tender treasury notes which are to be issued to pass at par to be used by the state in paying for labor and to be loaned the people settling upon and improving these lands at not to exceed 2 per cent. This is a nice scheme on paper,—but to make it perfect it should compel all the rest of the world to sell to the holders of said notes whatsoever they might demand at the note-holder's own price, to be paid for when he got ready, and a provision should be included against forced collection of all interest.

The dilatory tactics pursued by the administration may yet result in international complications which may lead this government into difficulties with a stronger nation than Hawaii and from which it cannot easily extricate itself. Last week the dispatches noted that in the Dominion of Canada they were raising volunteers to go to Honolulu for the purpose of restoring the queen. Should this prove true and the British government not take prompt steps to suppress such a move the United States and Great Britain might find themselves confronting each other with war in their teeth. Nations have fought over matters of much less import.

The so called state board of equalization might do some good work for the state as well as for the several counties, if instead of giving its attention to consideration of valuation of hens and geese, it would inform itself as to the equities between counties and fix a proportionate share of the state tax which each county is to pay. As that body has heretofore worked it has entirely misconstrued the intent of the law. Picaresque questions have absorbed its attention to the exclusion of the weightier matters which it was created to adjust.

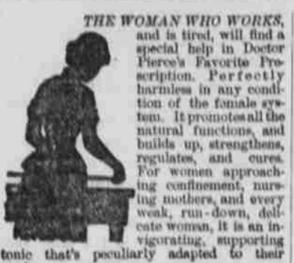
The Spokane Opinion publishes a letter from Senator Sherman upon the need of calling the legislature of Washington together at this time for the purpose of electing a senator in which he says, "that every republican state should be represented is a palpable fact, but whether your legislature is in a condition to elect a senator is a fact that I cannot determine."

The Statesman says: Marion county should have a roadmaster, provided the appointment of such an officer would insure the uniform and systematic working of the public highways.

Grange at Milwaukee.

To THE EDITOR:—As you are always willing to give the hayseeds a hearing I venture to give you the following items. I organized a new grange in Milwaukee with the following list of members viz. T. R. A. Sellwood, Mrs. J. M. Sellwood, J. S. Risley, Miss Alice Risley, H. Thiesens, H. S. Starkweather, Miss Ida Starkweather, M. Outfield, W. S. Uren, Seth Luelling, Mrs. S. V. Lewelling, Mrs. M. E. Lewelling, Alfred Lewelling, Mrs. Mary Wills, Frank Wills, H. Hammond, Mrs. Lydia Carter, and S. H. Carter. Alfred Lewelling was elected master, J. S. Risley overseer, and Frank Wills secretary. Many more would have been on the charter list but for the tremendous storm which was raging at the time. On the same evening I installed the officers of Barlow grange No. 292. The grange is booming.

J. CASRO,
Deputy Organizer.



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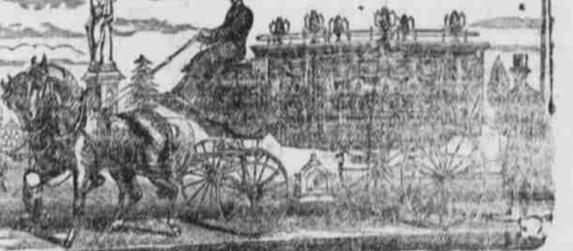
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