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FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1898

AGENTS FOR THE ENTERPRISE.

Beaver Creek	Dr. T. B. Thomas
Canby	Geo. Knight
Clackamas	A. Mather
Milwaukie	Oscar Westinger
Union Mills	G. J. Trullinger
Meadow Brook	Chas. Holman
New Era	W. S. Newberry
Wilsonville	Henry Miller
Parkplace	F. L. Russell
Stafford	J. Q. Gage
Mulino	C. T. Howard
Carus	R. M. Cooper
Molalla	Annie Stubbs
Marquam	E. M. Hartman
Rutledge	B. Jennings
Aurora	Henry A. Snyder
Oreville	L. J. Perdue
Eagle Creek	H. Wilburn
Damascus	J. C. Elliott
Sandy	F. Gottsch
Salmon	Mrs. W. M. McIntyre
Currinsville	Geo. J. Curran
Cherryville	Mrs. M. J. Hamner
Marmot	Adolph Ascholt

THE COURTS UNDER FIRE.

The American Federation of Labor adopted a resolution demanding an amendment to the constitution of the United States depriving the supreme courts of the several states and of the United States of the power to declare unconstitutional any laws made by the people. "Laws made by the people" may be supposed to refer to laws made by congress and the several state legislatures. The scope of this amendment is broader than the Federation of Labor probably realized. It would leave the state without anything like a uniformity of laws. The legislatures of each state would be the final judge of the constitutionality of any laws it might enact. If a state legislature should pass a law in clear conflict with the federal or state constitution there would be no power to declare such act inoperative. Each state would have a set of laws to suit itself, and that which was law in one state might not be in another.

The resolution was doubtless passed on the assumption that the people would not go far wrong if left to themselves. It may be argued that if the people should fall into error it would be as easy for them to retrace their steps as to be brought back to observance of the constitution by a court organized for that purpose. But it may be that the Federation of Labor somewhat recklessly put on record against an extreme exercise of the right to interpret and declare inoperative laws that have been passed in good faith by lawmaking bodies. Knowing that such an amendment could not be adopted, the federation may have thought a demand for it the most forcible expression it could make of disapproval of recent court decisions.

There has been an alarming tendency of late to declare inoperative laws of which the courts did not approve. An example of this is found in decisions setting aside laws which were intended to secure the right of trial by jury. The chaos that would result from the denial to courts of the power to pass upon the constitutionality of laws is much more to be dreaded than any possible usurpation of power on the part of the courts. Courts are to an extent amenable to public opinion. Even the Dred Scott decision, which practically carried the institutions of slavery into all the territory of the United States, was reversed by the same body, though not by the same men, that pronounced the decision.

MARTIN QUINN, late populist candidate for congress in the Second district has been struck with the gold fever and expects to resign his position as superintendent of street cleaning in Portland to go to Klondike in the spring. Martin talked silver in the campaign for votes, but it appears to have been gold he wanted all the time. Silver is a very good antidote for an office seeking disease, but as a business proposition it does not fill the requirements of even a populist candidate for congress.

Taxes are too high all over Oregon. The trouble is there is too much government, too many officials living off the people, and nine out of ten of them are being paid too high a salary for the service they render. When we get a legislature that will cut off a few offices and at the same time reduce salaries about 25 per cent we may expect lower taxes, but not till then. The last legislature was elected on a pledge of a reduction in taxation, useless commissions were to be abolished and economy practiced in every line of the public service. All parties went before the people upon this promise. But why were not useless commissions abolished and taxation reduced and remedial legislation enacted? Simply because U'Ren, Ogle, Bourne, Barkley, Jones & Company refused to allow it done by preventing the house to organize for the transaction of business, and notwithstanding their promises would do the same thing again if opportunity offered.

In order that our readers may fully understand the proposition made by the Mitchell-Hirsch faction to the Simon faction in Multnomah county looking to harmony among the republicans, we reprint this week the plan proposed by the anti-Simon people. It is a document worthy of consideration by all fair minded republicans, and shows that the faction making it are in earnest and are willing and anxious for a settlement of the party differences in the county. No unprejudiced man will say that the plan submitted is not a fair one, and that, if accepted, it will be kept by the parties making it lies

In the fact that a failure to do so would mean political annihilation forever to the party who failed to make the promise good. Mr. Simon and the Oregonian have all along pretended that they wanted fair methods practiced in the primary elections of Multnomah county, and their rejection of this proposition—which they have done—proves conclusively that they want anything but fairness. The proposition speaks for itself and the careful reader will observe that having been once entered into by each side, a failure to strictly comply with its provisions would prove disastrous to the faction violating the agreement. The plan is an eminently fair one and if the Oregonian and Mr. Simon desire to practice fair means here is an opportunity to do so.

WERE THEIR PROMISES KEPT?

What can any reasonable man expect from a combination composed of Bryan populists and Watson democrats, both of whom were nominated by separate and distinct national parties, representing two separate and distinct national policies, but who trimmed their sails for the special and sole purpose of getting votes so that in case of success at the polls the leaders of each horn of the dilemma might have a say in dealing out public patronage. How can the honest farmer who has been a democrat or a republican all his life, adhering to principles which he believed was right; associate himself with a political conglomeration which represents nothing save greed for office?

Many honest conscientious men have been misled by the wails and promises of the calamity orator, believing them sincere, but what has been the result. Populism in all its phases is easily understood without reading between the lines. Their record in the past stands out prominently so that all may understand it, and that record does not commend the party to an honest though deceived constituency. Any number of good citizens supported the populist nominees in this county, two years ago, believing the promises made during the campaign would be kept, but subsequent developments have proven that these promises were not kept, and the natural and reasonable conclusion is that the parties making them had no intention of keeping them when they were made. It will indeed be hard to fool all the people all the time.

STATESMEN AND PROGRESS.

Some years ago Mr. Seward predicted that the center of the world's activity would pass from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean. The growth of the United States had already drawn the center from the Mediterranean sea to the ocean which lies between Europe and America. Recent events show that Mr. Seward took a more correct view of coming events than most of the statesmen of the period. Whether or not the Chinese empire shall be partitioned among four European powers without war, the four powers are certainly engaged in a contest for the commerce of the 400,000,000 people who compose the Chinese nation. We do not need to go far back in American history to find men who contended that a strip of territory along the Atlantic coast of America was broad enough for the United States to dwell upon. The school of statesmen who now oppose annexation of Hawaii were then opposed to the acquisition of the larger half of the United States that lies west of the Mississippi. They could not, even when standing on tip-toe, see across the continent. What they could not see did not for them exist. The construction of the transcontinental railroad was deprecated on account of the expense. The same short-sighted policy has prevented the construction of the Nicaragua canal. Had statesman of the Seward caliber directed affairs there would now be a waterway connection between the Atlantic and Pacific, and the Hawaiian islands would have been as thoroughly American as Oregon now is. Fortunately, what is delayed is not always lost. The construction of the canal is a matter of a short time, and Hawaii is still within our reach. The canal will change the current of trade and direct it to the American outpost in the Pacific. The list of names in the negative in a vote on the annexation treaty now before the senate will, in the estimation of the next generation, bear about the same relation to the nation's development that the group of well-meaning but timid gentlemen did who in 1776 did not see their way clear to endorse the Declaration of Independence. Lacking the prescience that distinguishes statesmen from the ordinary man of affairs, they allowed the world to move on without them. Less than thirty senators will for a time prevent the annexation of the islands. Should that number persist in voting against the ratification of the treaty, in the face of the present outlook in China, these thirty men will assume a grave responsibility.

Manifest destiny never pointed the way the United States should go more clearly than at present. The seat of the world's activity, as Mr. Seward predicted, is being moved to the great centers of the world's population. The conquest of China by Europe will not annihilate the 400,000,000 people of the empire. On the contrary, they will be in a sense recreated and endowed with the aspirations of the ruling race. The United States will take no part in the partition of the empire, but we should not shut ourselves out of a share in the world's commerce. Hawaii, the half-way house of the Pacific, lying on the line of the new course of trade that awaits the construction of the Nicaragua canal, is in fact, the key to the commercial situation. Shall the United States hold the key or hand it over to some European power?

Mr. SIMON and his committee have rejected the fair and honorable proposition submitted to them by Hon. Sol Hirsch. This is not surprising. There is only one thing left for the better element of republicans to do, and that is to clean out that rotten Simon-populist borough in Portland that has so often proved traitor to the republican party.

It is supposed that Durrant will be executed today, but will he be, that is the question.

Send the ENTERPRISE to your friend in the East and thus give him an idea of what is going on in Clackamas county. It may induce him to locate with us.

WHAT THE FARRERS SAY.

(Oregon Union.)

Bryanite papers are rejoicing over the fusion in Yamhill county. It is just what may be expected in every county in the state, and instead of doing the republican party any harm it will do them good. They will be much more likely to settle all their little differences and present a solid front to the enemy and this is a most desirable consummation. If one man were removed from republican politics there would be no divisions in the party.

(The Dalles Times-Mountaineer.)

Wire pullers and office seekers are already getting out among the people and preparing to fix up primaries so that the conventions of their respective parties will be "just right," that is, so that the professional politicians will be able to name themselves as candidates for office. What a nice thing it would be if office seekers would just let the people alone once and allow them to select their own officers. In other words, to let the office seek the man.

(Portland Dispatch, dem.)

Those democrats who are so anxious for a union with the "reform" forces, as they term themselves, should bear in mind the dose they had to take from this same crowd last fall. The democrats then, in order to form the union, submitted to the humiliation of repudiating one half their own ticket. We are not over zealous to take another dose of that kind. A dose of Young and U'Ren, mixed with initiative and referendum and other populist ingredients, will prove pretty tough for many democrats to swallow. The would be managers may as well understand it now as when it shall be too late that there are thousands of the democrats who will never take that prescription, even though it be labeled "reform."

(Oregon Observer.)

The Democratic liars continue their denunciations of the Dingley law, based upon absolute falsehoods. A sample of this is found in a recent publication of the New York Journal, which on the morning following the presentation of president McKinley's message, said that President McKinley "finds the Dingley bill producing smaller revenues and greater deficits than the measure his platform denounced ever did." The absolute falsehood of this statement is shown from the official figures of the treasury Department, which set forth that the receipts under the Dingley law in its first four months are more than \$7,000,000 in excess of those of the Wilson law in the first four months of its history, being in the four months in which it has been in operation \$60,517,114 against \$83,038,007 produced by the Wilson law in the corresponding period of its history.

UNIVERSITY GLEE CLUB.

College Boys of Eugene Entertain Oregon City People.

On Thursday evening of last week the University of Oregon Glee club gave an entertainment at Shively's opera house in this city which was largely attended and much enjoyed by all present. The company consisted of 19 persons all of whom possess especial merit in their respective roles, and they hail from all parts of the state when at home. Prof. Irvin M. Glen, the baritone soloist seemed to be the leading spirit from whom the boys received their cue. He it was who possessed all the essential qualities necessary for his important part. In addition to being a singer with extraordinary vocal powers, he also kept the audience in good humor by his commanding and cheerful presence.

Mr. Allen Eaton in his monologue (Cupid's Victim) and "such is the state of mau," brought forth tremendous applause from the audience who watched his every action and expression. He seemed "at home" on every proposition and in his difficult parts no error could be detected.

Mr. C. V. Galloway, son of Judge Galloway of this city, in his impersonations of people, representing almost every nationality showed that in oratory he possessed more than ordinary ability and was at all times complete master of the art. He appeared several times and as many times was greeted with that applause which tends to convince the performer that his efforts are appreciated.

The club generally was composed of well trained musicians who seemed to sing because they enjoyed it, manifesting swing and dash characteristic only of college boys. Especially was the chorus, "John Brown's Body" a test of thorough voice control. Mr. W. Gifford Nash, who was on the program for a piano solo was unable to fill his part of the program because of the bad condition of the piano, but it goes without saying as a performer he has few superiors.

The Glee Club left about 11 o'clock the same evening for Astoria where they were billed for Friday night. It is hoped they may return here in the future.

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