TALES OF MR. M'BRIDE

OLD FRIENDS TELL OF THE SENATOR'S EARLY DAYS.

How He Found What Was in a Dynamite Cap—A Thrilling Experience at College.

"Physically unlucky, but politically the luckiest of men," was one of the most striking of the many remarks heard during the past two days concerning United States Senator-elect McBride. Among all the remarks, however, not an unfriendly word has yet been spoken. "O, yes, I know George McBride; known him for years," says everybody now, generally adding something about being connected with the McBride family by marriage of some more or less remote relative to some of George McBride's numerous brothers and sisters. The new senator seems to be popular with republicans and democrats alike. Mr. Frederick V. Holman, who is described by some of his republican friends as the "worst democrat in seven states," said:

"Of course, I would like to have seen a

GEORGE W. McBRIDE, UNITED STATES SENATOR ELECT.

democratic senator elected, had it been possible, but as it was not, I am pleased to see George McBride get it as any man in the state. I have known him all my life, and have a very high regard for him. The only point upon which there has ever been a difference between us is a political one; he is a republican and I am a democrat. We decided long since to let that point remain undebated, and agreed each to make no attempt to convince the other. He is a man whose admirable qualities and manner have made a friend of everybody he ever met. Never having engaged in politics, he has made none of those enemies inevitable to a man who pushes an active political campaign. He would undoubtedly have made a first-class stump speaker, had it not been for his physical weakness. But he has never tried to bank on his physical misfortune.

"Politically, he has always been lucky. Immediately after his election to the legislature he was made speaker of the house. When he was first nominated for secretary of state, it was on personal popularity and against the state of the convention. He received the nomination for the second term as a matter of course, and now he happened to be the available man for the senatorship, and he got it. He may not have been thought of until the last minute, though there was hardly a prominent republican in the state who had not been mentioned at some time or other during the session. Even Louis Barin's excessive modesty did not prevent him from saying that the only solution of the senatorial difficulty was the election of Louis Barin.

"Well, George McBride deserves his success. Probably the best index to the character of the man is that he did not take to his bed as an invalid and resign himself to be cared for and supported by his relatives and friends; instead, in the face of infirmities that would have rendered most men useless to themselves and the world, he has made for himself his present proud place in the world."

Not many anecdotes are told of the senator-elect. "He is not an anecdotal man," said Judge L. L. McArthur, "but he is a gentleman, and comes of good stock. Many of his family have held, or are holding, positions of honor," and the judge proceeded to give Mr. McBride's pedigree in a manner that demonstrated his familiarity with the history of the McBride family. "As to his physical weakness," what of that?" continued the judge. "It will never prevent him from making a good senator. He may not be physically robust, but his brain is O. K. There was Thadeus Stevens, leader of the house at one of the most critical times in the country's history, yet lame and sickly. Alexander Stephens was a man of exceedingly frail body, while Oliver Morton was paralyzed from the waist down. McBride's brains are all right, and I am glad he was elected."

"George McBride was always a reckless fellow," said a man who has known him for many years, "and yet he was not, in one way. For example, he would never pull a gun after him through a fence; nor snap a pistol at any one under the impression 'it wasn't loaded.' When he was 16 or 17 he hammered a giant powder cartridge 'to see what was in it.' It exploded, and he was thereafter minus a finger. But the actual cause of an injury which affected him permanently was reckless driving. George always was a reckless driver. It happened this way: He was returning to St. Helen's from a hunting trip in the mountains. He was a good shot and fond of hunting, and generally went off alone in a one-horse dog-cart, in which he frequently drove at breakneck speed, over all sorts of rough roads. Well, it was late on a dark night, as he was returning from this particular trip, driving rapidly, as usual, when he went slap against a stump. He was thrown out, and sustained a very serious injury to the knee, an injury very much worse than half a dozen broken ribs. The knee never improved to any extent, until he went East, not long since, and had it treated by eminent doctors, who also arranged an appliance for him to wear. He now gets about fairly well with a cane.

"It is not an easy matter to recall many anecdotes of George. His life, you see, has been comparatively uneventful. He has never married. But he was always a genial, generous and companionable man. Had his health permitted he would have been a very active man. He came of a rugged, active stock. His father, old Dr. McBride, was once a Kentucky slave-owner and a planter on a large scale, but the doctor awoke to a realizing sense of the iniquity of slavery, and became as ardent an abolitionist as ever lived. The doctor, I believe, liberated all his slaves before coming West."

Among others who chatted about the newly elected senator was W. H. Adams. "Do I know George McBride?" said Judge Adams. "I ought to. We went to school together. Once since he became secretary of state, some one asked him if he knew me. 'Well, I should think so,' said he; 'we grew up in the same potato hill.' Our fathers each owned a section of land adjoining, and they lived together in the same cabin in '48 and '49. Both farms are now owned by Captain R. R. Thompson. Dr. McBride had an immense family; there were 14 boys and girls, all told, and George was the youngest. The youngest is proverbially the smartest, you know; but the whole family was very bright, and all but one were witty. The only one not much given to joking was a studious boy, who is now filling some very honorable position in the East, I believe. George was always good-hearted and particularly liberal. Money was never an object with him, and acquisitiveness was not among his characteristics; yet he was never a spendthrift in any sense. He simply had not the gift of accumulating, or it is more likely that he may have had it, but did not care to exercise it. We went to school together at Christian college, at Monmouth, in Polk county. He was one of the most popular boys at college, a favorite with the girls as with the boys. In our class, there were also two who were afterward judges of the supreme court of the state—Judges Bean and Wolverton. There were also W. D. Fenton, the prominent attorney here, and Dr. Lon Cleaver, at one time land office register at La Grande, and now a dentist.

"I remember a rather amusing incident that occurred at the college in the winter of '71-'72. Professor Campbell, who was a curious old character, in that he possessed some remarkable notions about propriety, had issued an order forbidding the young men to sit with the girls at church. Professor Campbell said it wasn't proper, that in the best-regulated communities the female portion of a church congregation sat on one side of the building, while the male portion occupied the other; and the professor even asserted that such was the custom in Portland. This matter created quite a sensation at the time, and there was a disposition among the boys to rebel. George did rebel, with a few others. He had been down to Portland, and knew that the ridiculous old Puritan custom did not obtain there, as the professor had asserted. George claimed that the old professor didn't know anything about etiquette, and said that it was wrong and absurd for a fellow to take his girl to church and leave her at the entrance to hunt a seat for herself on one side, while he sought a seat on the other. The upshot of it was that the professor's order received no attention."

One Result of Dolph's Defeat.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Although everybody speaks in the highest terms of McBride, yet the loss to Oregon is everywhere commented upon. Already Dolph's place on the foreign relations committee is parcelled out to Wolcott of Colorado, a senator opposed to the Nicaragua canal. His place on commerce will go either to Squire or Wilson, of Washington, and the chairmanship of public lands, which Dolph would have when the republicans reorganize the senate, will go to Dubois of Idaho.

General Satisfaction in Union County

UNION, Or., Feb. 25.—There is general satisfaction among the republicans of this part of the state over the election of McBride to the senate.

IN THE JUSTICE COURT.

Officers' Fees Stay, and Everybody but the Taxpayer Is Happy.

Monday proved a busy day in Justice Geisler's court, and not only the judge himself, but all the court officials were in the best of humor. For a good many days they had been on the ragged edge over the possible cutting off of their fees, but the legislature adjourned on Saturday night without any such drastic measure becoming a law.

Vincent Reichinto, charged with cruelty to animals, was discharged, it being shown that the accident through which a horse belonging to E. Moran had a leg broken, was due neither to malice nor criminal carelessness.

James Riley, arrested on complaint of his father, Patrick Riley, for the larceny of $40, will have an examination today.

Edward Clay, a young man who took occasion to knock P. W. Klein down for making some uncomplimentary remark about his horse, was fined $20 for his amusement.

Josep Work, employed as a motorman, accused by his father of the larceny of a watch, will have an examination today.

Henry Morgan, in jail for defacing a building and threatening to kill "Lame Jennie," his wife, an ex-convict, will have an examination today.

A BLOW AT MR. SEARS

A NEW LAW MATERIALLY CURTAILS SHERIFF'S EMOLUMENTS.

Board of Prisoners to Be Let by Contract—No Soft Snap in Transporting Persons to Salem.

There was one economic measure passed by the recent legislature, and approved yesterday morning by Governor Lord, that will result in a great saving to the taxpayers of Multnomah county. When senate bill No. 40, introduced by McGinn, and passed by the senate, reached the house, a vigorouse onslaught was made upon it by the tax-eaters, who swarmed the lobby. County officials from Multnomah were particularly active in efforts to defeat the bill, which cut down their fat official fees, and they succeeded. Elated with their success, they paid no notice to senate bill 161, introduced by Butler of Polk county. As originally introduced, Senator Butler's bill provided for the fixing of fees and compensation of sheriffs in the various counties of the state. Before it was placed on third reading in the senate, the Multnomah delegation caused to be inserted an amendment that in counties having more than 50,000 population the county court should let by contract to the lowest responsible bidder the boarding of all prisoners confined in the county jail. Another amendment secured by the Multnomah delegation to the bill was one requiring the state of Oregon to pay to the treasurers of counties having more than 50,000 population all fees allowed for the transportation and conveyance of insane and idiotic persons to the asylum, and all convicts to the penitentiary from those counties, the sheriff or other representative of such county to be allowed only his actual expenses after they had been fully verified. A third amendment, which was also accepted and made part of the bill, was one providing that in all counties of 50,000 or more inhabitants it should be lawful for the sheriff to collect mileage in all civil cases, but he should not be allowed any in criminal and execution proceedings.

This is the one economic measure, and the only one, that the Multnomah delegation succeeded in passing; but this little will save to the taxpayers several thousand dollars.

The conveyance of prisoners to the penitentiary and insane persons to the asylum has always been a profitable source of income to the sheriff of Multnomah county. During the years past, as high as $2 50 for hack hire from the courthouse to the train and a similar amount from the station at Salem to destination, has been charged up against the state, while the per diem, mileage and extra fees for guards amounted in the aggregate, for the transportation of some prisoners, to more than sufficient to make a first-class trip to San Francisco and return.

In the matter of prisoners' board for inmates of the county jail, competition for the contract will bring the cost of meals down to a minimum price. The city pays only 9 cents a meal for prisoners confined in the central station, and, while this prohibits luxuries being served, wholesome, plain food, as a rule, is furnished. It now costs the taxpayers a considerable sum to feed prisoners held in confinement, and the contract system is expected to materially cut down the expense.

An emergency clause having been attached to Senator Butler's bill, it goes into effect immediately upon receiving the signature of the governor yesterday. A certified copy of the bill will be received here today, and furnished the county court for its guidance.

Notwithstanding the emoluments of Sheriff Sears' office are curtailed by the new law, he will doubtless be partly comforted to know that his $4500 salary remains, and he is allowed one deputy at a salary of $1800, and such others as the county court may allow him at salaries not to exceed $1200 each.

ZE GAY CAPTAIN IS GONE

Riding-Master Dilhan and Wife Leave, to the Sorrow of Creditors.

Captain Joseph Dilhan, erstwhile director of the Portland Riding Academy, and for three years past the undisputed authority in equestrian matters, is missing, and circumstances would seem to indicate that he compelled himself to be absent from the city, because of some pressing creditors. And the captain's charming wife, Madam Dilhan, has also been missing from her usual haunts. Rumor says that they are enjoying life in San Francisco, among the leaders of fashionable society, who have gone mad on equestrian sports since the great horse show a few short weeks ago.

The captain was somewhat of a character himself, and there is scarcely a man, woman or child in Portland who is not familiar with his corduroy breeches, riding boots and spurs, and his general equestrian air. He is a Frenchman, and while in this city posed as an ex-officer of the French army. While not a master of the English language, he certainly understands the art of being polite, and he made the most of it. Captain Dilhan came to Portland nearly three years ago. He was without funds, but that seemed to worry him but little, for he always lived well, and made friends easily. He always posed as a horseman, and he undoubtedly was one of exceptional ability, as all who have seen him ride can vouch. So was his charming wife, the madam, a mistress of the equestrian art, and when they appeared on the streets together on horseback, they were targets of general admiration.

About the time Captain Dilhan came to Portland, some of the leaders of the best society were very anxious to learn to ride properly, and they eagerly accepted a proposition from the suave Frenchman to start a school. The Portland Riding Academy was then incorporated, and a fine riding ring and stables put up at Nineteenth and Northrup streets. Captain Dilhan was installed as the director of the academy. So long as he confined his attention to the affairs of the riding ring, he gave great satisfaction, and many of the most graceful riders in the city today, both ladies and gentlemen, owe their entire knowledge of the equestrian art to the captain. But business ability Captain Dilhan seemed to have none. He seemed to have no knowledge of the value of an American dollar, and the result was that the academy, under his management, did not prosper, and a few months ago he was relieved of his position, but retained as riding master on a salary. The captain lived well during his stay in the city, and always entertained his friends in style.

Last Tuesday morning Captain Dilhan came to the stable at the usual hour, and asked that his horse—the only one he owned—be saddled. He had some words with the present director, Mr. Nicols, over a bill of $150 he owed for the board of his horse, and then rode away. He never came back. It was ascertained that he disposed of his horse and saddle that same day for $30, and then probably took the train for San Francisco. Madam Dilhan was missing the following day. Both leave creditors to mourn their absence, but for how large an amount in the aggregate cannot now be ascertained. They owed the academy nothing, and that institution is out of debt to them.

Of Madam Dilhan, or "the madam," as she was known about the academy, much might be said, but little will suffice. She is a handsome French woman, and speaks English perfectly. But she had a will of her own, and a temper that she evidently did not attempt to control. It is said that she sometimes made things lively about the academy, no matter who might be present, and the management, in order to avoid a scene, agreed to pay her traveling expenses to her home in the East. She sold the ticket with which she was provided, and went to San Francisco by boat, returning here a few weeks ago to make things more interesting. Madam Dilhan is a very accomplished horsewoman, and her riding, on horses trained by herself, has often excited the admiration of the Portland public.

THE HISTORY OF MONEY

Mr. M. C. George's Lecture Before the Historical Society.

Mr. M. C. George, ex-United States congressman, lectured before the historical society, at the First Congregational church, last evening, on "Our Monetary System and the Silver Question." For nearly two hours he held the closest attention of a large audience, and at the conclusion of his address was the recipient of many congratulations. Mr. George illustrated his subject with an immense chart, showing the monetary history from its inception down to the present day, and particularly the present situation. This chart is an invention of Mr. George's, and has cost him an immense amount of study and labor. It is very comprehensive, and so easily read that to follow Mr. George through so intricate a problem seemed but a pastime.

For many years Mr. George has studied the monetary question from the standpoint of a student, and as a result he has accumulated a mass of facts and figures that covers the whole subject, from the time it first was recognized as a matter of national importance down to the present day. As it would require several hours to treat even briefly, of the many phases of so important a question, Mr. George announced, at the outset, that he would only attempt to discuss those phases more nearly relating to silver, and would, necessarily, entirely forego any mention of money and its relationship to prices, the policy of keeping money good, the relationship of the panics of 1837, 1857, 1873 and 1893, to the question of money; where gold enough can be found to answer all demands, paper money, fiat money, greenbacks and Sherman money, and many other interesting phases of the monetary discussion; also, with reference to foreign countries, to the rise and progress of bimetalism in England, France and the Latin Union.

Mr. George then proceeded to discuss, briefly, the free and unlimited coinage of silver, under the act of 1792, when provision was made that both metals be coined at the ratio of 15 to 1, and claimed that in thus changing the market ratio, gold was driven out of circulation in this country, and what was practically a silver currency substituted, until 1834, when the country changed to gold currency by changing the ratio to 16 to 1, and we have since been practically on a gold basis. Although the law was bimetallic from 1792 to 1873 in theory, in practice it was monometallic—silver up to 1834, and gold since. Mr. George especially explained the subsidiary act of 1853, whereby the use of silver was secured in this country. He held that the act of 1853 was copied after the English act of 1816, when England went to a gold basis, and that all the silver circulation we have had since 1853, down to and including coinage under the Bland and Sherman acts, has all been on a gold basis, and has been kept at parity with gold through the credit and policy of our government. He gave the history of the American silver dollar, and showed that as part of the currency of America, even under the free and unlimited coinage of silver, at either ratio, both gold and silver dollars being equal legal tender, it practically never circulated to any considerable extent as money, but was used as merchandize, or shipped abroad, principally for the manufacture of coined silverware.

The lecturer explained how and why President Jefferson had stopped the free coinage of silver in 1806, and told how bullion-dealers carried on a lucrative business under the act of 1836. The act of 1873, he said, was not responsible for the decrease in the price of silver bullion in the world. The causes were many, and the movement against silver world-wide. Silver commenced to fall in 1859, and has been going down ever since. Since that time the United States has produced 700 times more silver than it did in all of its previous history, and the silver production of the world has been vastly greater. The movement against silver has extended over a century, and embraced the leading civilized nations of the world. Germany, in 1871, practically discarded the currency of silver for gold. In 1875, the United States passed a law whereby a market was made for more than $50,000,000 worth of silver, to be coined in place of trade currency.

Under the Bland and Sherman acts, Mr. George said, this country has bought and made available for circulation, between $500,000,000 and $600,000,000 worth of silver, either in bulk or coin. In its effort to hold up silver, the United States has suffered the loss of $200,000,000 in the depreciation of silver purchases. It has done more to uphold and sustain silver as a money metal during the past 20 years than any country on earth. The free and unlimited coinage of silver or gold at the ratio of either 16 to 1 or 15 to 1, whereby both metals have been made legal tender, historically speaking, has been an undoubted failure. After reviewing at some length the history of the monetary system in France, and of international bimetalism, Mr. George said, in closing:

"I believe in the use of both gold and silver as money, not as a monometalist, but as a practical bimetalist. Some policy should be devised whereby gold can be available for the settlement of great monetary and international balances, and silver for the bulk of ordinary business transactions between the generality of mankind. I believe that the system known as the free coinage of silver, whereby unlimited quantities of silver could be coined at a ratio of 16 to 1, and made legal tender for all debts, would simply make silver take the place of gold in this country."

Major Dunlway.

The appointment of Mr. Willis S. Dunlway as assistant adjutant-general, with the rank of major, gives general satisfaction among guardsmen in this city. Mr. Dunlway is a native Oregonian and has been a resident of Portland for many years, until a few weeks, ago, when he accepted the position of secretary to Governor Lord and went to Salem to live. The office of assistant adjutant-general is purely an honorary one so long as the adjutant-general is able to act, but in his absence from his post of duty the cares of his office fall upon the assistant. The office has been vacant for more than a year. Major Dunlway it is now, if you please.