

The Oregonian.

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For sale in Denver, Colo., by Hamilton & Kendrick, 906-912 Seventeenth street.

For sale in Jackson and Station City, 15th and Lawrence streets.

TODAY'S WEATHER - Fair and warmer; northerly winds.

TEMPERATURE - Maximum temperature, 71; minimum temperature, 44; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, AUGUST 29.

TARIFF AND TRUSTS.

The steel trust, in an effort to show its financial strength and capacity, submits to the New Jersey Court of Chancery that it is making a clear profit of \$150,000,000 a year.

It is a fair question, and one not to be ignored, evaded or thrust aside, whether this powerful and prosperous concern stands in any longer need of a protective tariff.

Once our iron and steel production was 45 per cent of the total, it is now 75 per cent.

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to enjoy the proceeds of their labor at the expense of their physical, mental and moral development.

OREGON AND CUBA.

The Oregonian's contention for generous treatment of Cuba has been based on the broad ground that our duty to the island, as to Porto Rico and to the Philippines, is to put the erstwhile subjects of Spain in the same position as contented living and that peaceful and orderly government is incompatible with commercial distress.

Cuba peace can never be, except first there be Cuba prospera. It was on this general principle that the Oregonian disapproved the action of the Oregon delegation in Congress in collusion with the "insurgents."

It is well to bear in mind, however, that the matter has a more serious bearing. It touches the pockets of our people as well as their conscience.

One industry directly affected is wheat-growing. The present Cuban duty on flour is \$1 per 100 kilos, or, practically, a dollar a barrel.

The new duty which Cuba is about to establish is 100 per cent, or about \$4, more or less, on the best Oregon flour according to present quotations.

In 1902 we shipped to Cuba 688,555 barrels of flour, and the year before we sent 556,532 barrels.

These figures are nearly up to those of the year 1893, when the reciprocity treaty was in force, and when the West was enthusiastic over the policy Mr. Blaine had led his party to adopt.

In the fiscal year 1891, with no reciprocity treaty, we sent to Cuba 114,447 barrels of flour, and the value of all our exports to Cuba was \$11,929,600.

In 1893, with the reciprocity treaty, our exports of flour were 616,496 barrels, and the value of all our domestic exports was \$24,094,000.

Last year the value of all our exports to Cuba was \$25,012,109, and the year before it was nearly a million dollars less.

Oregon will lose much by this Cuban duty. As has been said before, the duty is as much as any one by the high duties, and if our flour does not go to the Cubans, somebody else will be glad to buy it.

So far as the result does us, it will be bad. A general policy which would mean a tariff readily discernible. The proposed increase in the duty will affect all flour, Spanish, Argentine, American; but the duty cannot be increased from \$1 to \$4 a barrel without reducing its consumption.

There are other items of export in which Oregon is interested, such as provisions. Some of the last year's exports to Cuba were:

Provisions, \$1,000,000; Iron and steel, \$1,000,000; Hardware, \$1,000,000; Boots and shoes, \$1,000,000; Manufactures of cotton, \$1,000,000.

From hogs and steel billets are protected by a duty of from three to seven cents of a cent a pound, that is, from \$4 to \$14 a ton.

Yet in the last fiscal year we sold abroad various forms of iron and steel manufactures aggregating in value \$117,000,000.

Firearms are heavily protected. A \$6 gun pays about \$5 in duty. Yet our exports of firearms reached \$1,000,000.

Locomotives carry \$30 a ton duty, or from \$300 to \$800 on a complete engine and tender; but we sell \$5,000,000 worth abroad yearly.

These duties are unnecessary. They should be abolished.

Cars, carriages and buggies pay \$35 to \$45 on each \$100 of valuation, yet we market abroad \$10,000,000 of them annually.

The copper trust gets its raw product free and a protective duty of 45 per cent on its production, yet sells abroad each year manufactures aggregating \$45,000,000.

The rubber trust has its raw material of all sorts on the free list with protective duties on its product ranging from 30 to 100 per cent.

Its surplus sold abroad is \$4,000,000 a year. Leather, protected from 20 per cent on rough leather to complicated and much higher duties on manufactures, goes abroad to the extent of \$28,000,000 annually; and this includes \$5,000,000 worth of boots and shoes, protected with a duty of 25 per cent.

Pianos and organs with 45 per cent ad valorem protection, went abroad \$2,700,000 last year, and cotton goods, protected 60 per cent and higher, find sales to the amount of \$20,000,000.

Another class of duties contribute to the profits of trusts controlling the necessities of life. Salt pays 5 cents per 100 pounds in bulk, and 12 cents in packages.

The lead trust is protected by a duty of \$42 50 a ton, and ordinary window glass pays 5 cents a pound. The only remedy the consumer has against domestic extortion is the chance to buy abroad, and this is denied him by Congress, acting under the influence of these powerful corporations.

There is no popular demand for protection to these trusts. The only beneficiaries are the trusts themselves. The tribute thus wrung by them from the people is unnecessary, unjust and inimical to common morality.

For Republican leaders to pretend that eradication of these tariff abuses cannot be undertaken without disaster to business is only to exhibit their ignorance or insincerity.

These few simple corrections can be made as easily as last session the war revenue repeal bill was passed. The result would be strict justice to the trusts and reassurance for the body of the people, who are alarmed at the trusts and distrustful of the whole protective fabric.

Secretary Shaw likewise tariff reform to a fire in a wheat field which will assuredly destroy the crop along with the crop. The illustration is good, but misapplied.

The fire that Secretary Shaw and other blind leaders are inviting to the fire of Democratic victory, which will sweep Republican thistles and grain alike from the political field unless it is quenched forthwith by a judicious and honest application of tariff reform.

Child labor has attained proportions in the South that to the thoughtful student of economic conditions are little short of appalling.

The cotton manufacturing industry which has developed in that section with such wonderful rapidity in recent years, depends largely for its operatives upon children of from 9 to 15 years.

Sallow, wretched little drudges, these workers toil in the mills from year's end to year's end, their indolent, illiterate parents perfectly con-

colonization by any European power, but the political changes of nearly eighty years have left Great Britain without an ambition with which the enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine in its entirety can possibly interfere.

The British possessions in America are secure under the Monroe doctrine, and Great Britain has no interest in contesting the protest of the United States against the acquisition of new territorial rights in North or South America by any of the powers of Continental Europe.

Such colonization would be a dangerous prize if it had to be won at the cost of a tremendous war with the South American States backed by the United States.

DAUGHTERS DELAY.

The ship channel of the Columbia River above Willow Bar has shallowed to about 17 feet at low tide, although the river is not yet down to the level of the sea.

Attention of the Port of Portland was called to the fact that this particular spot was one of the worst of the river. Ships were continually getting aground in attempting to get through the zigzag channel on which a considerable amount of Port of Portland money had been spent.

The testimony of pilots, steamship masters and others familiar with the river currents at that point, was all to the effect that a mistake had been made in attempting to cut a channel across the river at that point where it should have run straight up and down stream, or at least quartering with the current.

Protest and comment were of no avail, however, and throughout the entire shipping season of 1901-02 ships were subjected to annoying delays at this point.

This year the trouble is worse than it was a year ago, and no steps have been taken to remedy it.

A period of several months has elapsed since the grain shipping season was at its height. The lack of protest during the last season may have led the Port of Portland Commission to believe that, instead of filling up, the channel had scooped out, and that any work on it accordingly would be superfluous.

This seems to be the only reason in sight for the costly neglect to remedy an unskillful piece of work. Even this hardly excuses the channel-makers for their failure to give the matter attention.

Under such circumstances it would seem that some one has been guilty of great negligence in not looking a little farther ahead. It is less expensive and more favorable to the port to dig a channel for a ship before she grounds, instead of afterwards, and this is what should have been done by the Port of Portland.

Comparisons are odious; but this is a matter of record that when the Port of Portland Commission included among its members a prominent wheat shipper, a sawmill owner, a banker, a water front property owner and a stevedore, there was a better channel in the Columbia than has been in evidence since that time.

The wheat shipper knew that a poor channel meant lighterage, and the attendant delay in getting a cargo afloat. The banker knew that a poor channel would eventually drive ships to other ports, and the profit of supplying finances for moving the crop would be lost to him and to Portland.

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combining wage-earning with amusement, the hop harvest is not only unobtainable, but full of promise, both of pleasure and profit.

Unobtainable, however, it is likely to bring a harvest of regrets to many homes for which the profits will prove a mockery rather than a compensation.

Mr. Craddock, the Democratic candidate for Governor of Kansas, declares that if he is elected he will reduce the taxes of the people one-half.

At Seneca, the other day, he described the methods by which he would bring this wonderful thing about. "At present," he said, "the ordinary property of Kansas is assessed at about \$300,000,000."

The railroads and other public service corporations are considered to be worth \$600,000,000, and we will assess them at 50 per cent of this amount, put them on the tax rolls at \$300,000,000. This virtually doubles the assessed property of Kansas, and, therefore, will cut the tax collection in half.

I pledge you that if I am elected, the man who pays \$100 in taxes now will have to pay \$50 then, and the man who pays \$10 now will have to pay but \$5 then."

How wise or mischievous such a pledge would prove in its redemption must depend on many other things besides itself.

Corporations as a rule pay big taxes with much more willingness than they show in accepting other forms of predatory and restrictive legislation.

In general the populist does not have in other ways than in correction of taxation abuses. In the State of Washington, for example, it is proposed to do no end of things to the railroads because their taxes are believed to be too low.

A business of any kind can pay just taxes readily enough if it is permitted to operate freely.

The New York State Democratic Convention has been called for September 30. New York has always been a Republican state since the success of the Republican party in 1855 and 1859.

New York was carried by the Republicans, but in 1862 the Democrats elected Horatio Seymour Governor, but two years later Lincoln again carried New York.

In 1868 and 1870 the Democrats were victorious, but in 1872 Grant carried it over Greeley by a great majority. In 1874 and 1876 New York was a Democratic state.

In 1878 the Republican Governor elected Cornell University President in 1880, and in 1882 carried it for President. In 1883 the Democrats elected Cleveland Governor over a divided Republican party, and it was a Democratic state in the Presidential election of 1884.

In 1888 the Democrats carried the state. In 1888 New York voted for Harrison for President, but Hill and the other Democratic state nominees were elected. Other recent Democratic years have been 1888, 1892 and 1897.

McKinley's popular plurality two years ago was 143,900.

The betrothal of the Grand Duke Michael, brother of the Czar, and in the throne, is a matter of great rejoicing to the faction in Russian court circles that is hostile to the Czarina.

This faction is led by the Dowager Empress, who contrives to make the life of her young daughter-in-law miserable, a condition that is aggravated by her repeated failure to give an heir to the throne.

The young woman who is to become the rival of the gentle but high-spirited Czarina for the favor of the Czar is subject to the whims of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, whose family is closely allied by marriage to the imperial house of Russia.

She is barely 15 years old, and is said to be averse to a union with the consumptive young Czarowitz. The marriage can scarcely fall to add another tragical chapter to the long record of unhappiness that tells the story of numerous Russian-German imperial marriages.

The increasing price of coal is so severe a hardship to the people of the Atlantic seaboard that the Springfield Republic urges the removal of the present duty of 67 cents a ton on soft coal.

This duty was imposed for the purpose of protecting the great bituminous coal industry of the United States from the small industry of British Columbia and the maritime provinces of Canada.

Its removal would give New England cheaper soft coal and coke. Coke made from bituminous coal can be used as a substitute for hard coal in the stove and the furnace.

It is a subject which the Western States cannot, and for furnaces is no more expensive and much more satisfactory than soft coal. Anthracite coal is on the free list, but none can be obtained outside of Pennsylvania short of South Wales, England, at a price which, with ocean freight added, makes its use at any distance from tidewater out of the question.

Against the contention that it is none of the employer's business how his clerks spend their money or their leisure time, Secretary Shaw makes substantial protest.

His order with respect to clerks in the Treasury Department who indulge in sports unbecoming to persons in their position, and more or less a menace to the public funds, is altogether commendable.

It is neither judicious nor reasonable to maintain in positions of trust men who engage in gambling at cards or who stake money upon the races.

No doubt the clerks in the Treasury Department are, as a body, men of exemplary life and character. That in so large a body there are some whose habits are questionable is not strange.

To eliminate these entirely may not be possible, but Secretary Shaw has shown a commendable spirit in an attempt looking to that end.

Hasty generalization is admirably exemplified in this paragraph from the New York Evening Post:

"One of the curious results of abolishing the convict system is noted in the Massachusetts case. The state has adopted the primary system, and, in consequence, is for the first time in many years without a party platform."

Platforms can be adopted through the primary system as well as under the old regime of packed conventions. Simply submit the various proposed planks to the primary referendum.

The Bingham act, twice defeated by the Oregon Legislature, but due there again this winter, provides for just such a method of platform-making in this state.

It would not be a great stretch of generosity for the state to make good, as far as possible, to Frank Ingram the loss he has sustained in the brave though unfortunately futile attempt to prevent the escape of Tracy and Merrill from the Penitentiary.

Perhaps the Legislature will see it in this light when the proper time comes and vote the necessary sum to put Ingram on his feet.

THE BRAVE VOICE OF IDAHO.

The action taken by the Republican State Convention of Idaho is another proof of the aroused feeling in this country on the subject of tariff revision, particularly in its relations to the great West.

Idaho, which has recently elected a Republican Governor, has recently said that the tariff when the proper time came, but he asserted "it is clearly understood that in his opinion the present was an exceedingly improper time."

But the Idaho Republicans insist upon "a revision of the tariff without unnecessary delay, which will place upon the free list every article and product controlled by any monopoly, and such other articles and products as are beyond the need of protection."

Taking as a basis the assertion in connection with the further one "that many of the industries of this country have outgrown their infancy and the American manufacturer has entered the markets of the world and is now competing with the manufacturers of other countries."

It becomes clear that these Northwestern Republicans do not agree with General Grover, of the ways and means committee, that the ways are pretty good as they are, nor with Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, that the protective tariff is an arrangement for permanently dividing Government favor among different groups of the country.

These Idaho Republicans apparently belong to the class of old-fashioned protectionists, those who believed that it was desirable to put the infant industries of the country by temporarily according to the Representatives of these an opportunity during the days of early growth to charge their fellow-countrymen with the most atrocious wrongs that would be possible for them exact if they were unrestricted competition.

But when they find that our industries have not only survived the infant stage, but have grown to be the most sturdy and in strength and ability that the world has ever known, the notion that the people of the United States should tax themselves in order to protect the infant industries of these States may be an acceptable notion to Messrs. Shaw and Grover, but is evidently not so looked upon by the North-western Republicans of the far Northwest.

Of course conventional resolutions cannot bring about tariff changes; but such resolutions, which are entirely at odds with the wishes of the political machine of the Republican party, would not be adopted unless there was a strongly pronounced feeling on the part of the people whom the delegates to these conventions represent. It is becoming evident that if the Republican majority in Congress refuses to act it runs the risk of placing in the possession of the Democrats the best possible issue with which to attack the Republican party in 1904.

We should imagine that even the representatives of the great industrial interests, who have been the chief beneficiaries of our protection system, would realize that, were the risk of having a Republican Congress take up the subject of tariff revision, the risk of having the Republican party defeated on the tariff issue, and of having the Democrats revise the tariff, so far as their interests are concerned, vastly greater, and hence of the two evils it is conceivable that they should see the expediency of choosing the lesser.

His Significant Omission. President Roosevelt's speech yesterday, for the most part, a rather tedious example of what the imperialists so greatly deplore, but it was not so in one respect. He glorified our motives and of our deeds in the Philippines, albeit with some confusion as to the facts of history, so easy that we should think a man who has spent so long a time in the Philippines would not so monotonously fall into it.

He pointed to our treatment of Porto Rico as the true way to administer the islands. But why did he not specify why he was so frank to say that the great reason of the Porto Ricans' property and content is that they enjoy free trade with us? Almost at the very time that he was speaking Governor Taft was telling the Filipinos in Manila that they deserved free trade and would soon get it. Why could not the President be equally precise, instead of resorting to the usual phraseology of the Republican party, which is just now torn to pieces over the tariff, and that if Mr. Roosevelt were to say explicitly that we ought to grant free trade to the Philippines, as we have granted it to Porto Rico, he would be rubbing salt into the party's wounds. But surely he cannot go on preferring what he calls "the easy and easy thing," which means in this case, as the President does, that we should not touch an issue which is coming to have the first place politically.

Largely Due to the "Insurgents." The Republicans of Idaho have endorsed the President and called for tariff reform if the best-separate fight against the tariff is a desperate fight against the tariff. The duties on imports from Cuba and the Western States conventions might not be so insistent on a more radical revision of the tariff.

This Beats the Oregon Case. At Cheban (Kan.) Globe. In Franklin County a boy of 19 recently married a woman of 48. This woman had a son grown up the same time this son also married. Now the son's father of a child and the Ottawa papers are presenting the step-father as a record-breaker—a man who became a grandfather before he could vote.

"I Fights Mit Sigel." (These verses, by Grant P. Robinson, are a specimen of the many lines of the same character that were current during the Civil War. The recent death of General Franz Sigel recalls them. There was a parody on it, after the manner of the Elizabethan Carpe diem, ending with "I run mit Howard.") I met him again, he was trudging along, His knapsack with chickens was swelling, He'd "blenkered" these dainties, and thought From some Secessionist's dwelling, "What regiment's yours?" and under whose flag? "Do you fight?" said I, touching his shoulder; Turning slowly round, he smilingly said, "For the thought made him stronger and bolder."

"I Fights mit Sigel!" The next time I saw him his knapsack was full, His cup and canteen were a-missing, Shell, shrapnel and grape, and the swift rifle ball Around him and o'er him were hissing, "How are you, my friend, and where have you been, and what for whom are you fighting?" He said, as a shell from the enemy's gun Sent his arm and his musket a-kiting: "I fights mit Sigel!"

And once more I saw him and knelt by his side, His blood was rapidly flowing, I whispered of home, wife, children and friends, The bright land to which he was going; "And have you no word for the dear ones at home?" The we one, the father of mother? "Taw, yaw," said he, tell them, oh! tell them I fights!" Poor fellow; he thought of no other—"I fights mit Sigel!"

We scraped out a grave, and he dreamlessly slept On the banks of the Shenandoah River, His home and his kindred alike are unknown, His toward in the hands of the Giver. We placed a rough board at the head of his grave, and we marked o'er we turned from the spot. The little we knew of his story, "I fights mit Sigel!"