

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER: Occasional rain and slowly rising temperature, with east to south-east winds. YESTERDAY'S WEATHER: Maximum temperature, 45; minimum temperature, 37; precipitation, 0.00.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, NOV. 6, 1902.

George Turner knew perfectly well in 1896 that free grants of silver at 10 to 12 cents was economic and dishonest politics. Yet he sold the birthright of sound thought and upright action for the pottage that could be brought to him by a passing mania of Bryanism. Six years seems a long time when it stretches before us, but doubtless it seems short enough to Turner now, when he reflects that March his name in the Senate must be vacated to be filled by a Republican. With all his shrewdness of intellect and accomplishments as a politician, he has made the fatal mistake of supposing that error may be well as espoused as the truth. The sequel serves to show him that no man can hope for any permanent hold on power through compliance with misguided crazes of the hour. This same lesson applies to other states. The Bryan belt of 1896 and 1898 is rapidly coming back to the Republican column, where it naturally belongs. Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Utah joined the Democratic column then, and in Tuesday's election all but one or possibly two have swung back to their normal place. There is nothing in Democratic policies for the benefit of the great West. Its committees should set their faces toward the morning of honest money, fair tariffs, Pacific expansion, equal rights to labor and capital, special privileges to no combination of capital. The chief aim of the Democratic party is practically removed from serious consideration by the result of Tuesday's voting, which will be accepted by the public as assurance that he practically abandoned the party in the recent struggle. They have no use in California for "soreheads" who, from personal or sectional disappointment, sulk in their tents and are not likely to be a factor in the Senatorial election.

NEEDLESS ALARM. The London Saturday Review in a recent article insists that the United States is Great Britain's most formidable, most logical and terrible enemy. Its argument is that it is a settled object with the United States to include Canada in the British Empire. It is not to be expected that the fusion of Democracy and organized labor out of which this result has come will last long, for it rests upon nothing more substantial than a campaign bargain. There is no natural and enduring basis for this affiliation, and the positive results attained in the campaign just ended are not important enough to cement the parties in any permanent arrangement of political convenience. Furthermore, there is an inherent weakness and tendency to pull apart in all such unnatural combinations. If a National election were to be held tomorrow, it is probable that the fusion which wrought such havoc on Tuesday would melt away and that the Republican ticket would get its usual handsome vote.

The Legislature to meet at Sacramento in January will be Republican—a fact of special significance, since there is a United States Senator to elect. Perkins, the retiring Senator, is a candidate for re-election, and has at this time more positive strength than any other Republican. Governor Gage, who might have been a formidable rival, is practically removed from serious consideration by the result of Tuesday's voting, which will be accepted by the public as assurance that he practically abandoned the party in the recent struggle. They have no use in California for "soreheads" who, from personal or sectional disappointment, sulk in their tents and are not likely to be a factor in the Senatorial election.

However much one may deplore the fact which is very generally accepted as the most probable outcome of a special session of the Legislature, it must be admitted that the reasons upon which that outcome is predicted are far from creditable to the members of the Legislature. No candid person, we take it, will deny that if the Legislature would meet, and elect the Senatorial proposition, the Portland charter, the supplementary initiative and referendum statute, and possibly a "flat salary" law, in a week, adjourn and go home, the result would amply justify the expenditure of \$10,000 or less that would be incurred. The benefit to Portland alone by the enactment of the new charter would be almost incalculable. The views of the Legislature on certain roadways and bridges, and the practical paralysis of almost every department of the city government through lack of funds and the demoralization naturally incident to a virtual interregnum between systems. If any persons still cherish the ancient theory that whatever injures Portland redounds to the benefit of the rest of the state, they are rare enough to be negligible. Mr. Corbett's presentation of the benefits that would accrue to the Centennial from prompt action at a special session are simply unanswerable. The special session, then, is scotched, if not killed by the conviction of the Legislators that they cannot meet, do business that is useful and go home, because they can-

not refrain from all sorts of wrangles and delay and mischief-making generally. This is far from flattering to the members themselves or to the state. Yet until they give evidence to the contrary, their estimate of themselves must stand, and the special session be abandoned. Probably if assurance of prompt and creditable legislation could be had, Governor Geer would call the session. Meanwhile, there is manifest a more favorable feeling toward the project. Whether it will assume such shape as will justify the call remains to be seen, and is not at all probable from anything that appears.

THE RESULT IN CALIFORNIA.

The confused and anomalous result of the contest in California is due primarily to the disorganization of parties brought about by the labor troubles of the past two years. In a straight contest between Republicans and Democrats on National issues California is largely Republican, as was demonstrated two years ago, when the percentage of votes cast for McKinley as against Bryan was greater than in any other state in the Union. But since that election there have been two great strikes in San Francisco, with results unfavorable to the laboring element; and on the basis of the animosities engendered by these contests there has grown up a strong labor party which in San Francisco has made a splendid record. It is this combination that has pulled down the Republican majority in the state from approximately 40,000 to approximately 5,000 and which in two or more Congressional districts has overridden the Republican vote. Personal considerations have, possibly, had something to do with the result; and if Governor Gage and his friends had really wished for party success it is likely that the Republican vote would have been larger.

The election of Pardee, even by a narrow margin, saves the state to the Republican column; but, practically, so far as the interests of California are concerned, it would have been better to have lost the Governorship and saved the Commonwealth. From every point of view the defeat of Lord and Kahn is to be regretted. Both are men of ability, experience and public confidence. Both have at Washington the standing which comes from established connections; and he will be long before those who have been chosen to succeed them, no matter what their talents may be, can become so effectively entrenched.

It is not to be expected that the fusion of Democracy and organized labor out of which this result has come will last long, for it rests upon nothing more substantial than a campaign bargain. There is no natural and enduring basis for this affiliation, and the positive results attained in the campaign just ended are not important enough to cement the parties in any permanent arrangement of political convenience. Furthermore, there is an inherent weakness and tendency to pull apart in all such unnatural combinations. If a National election were to be held tomorrow, it is probable that the fusion which wrought such havoc on Tuesday would melt away and that the Republican ticket would get its usual handsome vote.

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Canadian politics. The Canadians ceased to regard annexation as their inevitable destiny. They saw that their enormous territory would eventually obtain and support a very large population; that the full development of their agricultural and mineral wealth, their timber and fisheries, that the Dominion would become a very rich colony. Canada knows, too, that with the revolution in the arms and tactics of modern warfare she is perfectly able to defend herself from foreign invasion or from oppression by the home government.

Canada's ultimate destiny is independent. She desires to be independent, but some day, when she has become more populous, she will ask for and obtain from Great Britain the grant of complete independence. Canada knows that she never had anything to fear from the United States since 1870, for we did not want her except on her own application, with the approval of England, and since the Canadians have become attached to their own system of government they have not wanted us. There is not the most remote chance of any quarrel between Great Britain and the United States, and from this it follows that we are in no danger of seeking to invade Canada. The Saturday Review assumes that the United States aims to absorb Canada, by force if need be, because the two countries are in geographical touch. We are in geographical touch with Mexico, a richer prize than Canada and one more easily won, and yet Mexico is in no danger of annexation and absorption by the United States. There is no possible adjustment of the commercial rivalries of the United States and Great Britain in war. That stupid mode of adjustment was worthy of the eighteenth century's deadly wrestle between France and England for the supremacy of North America and India, but under the present conditions of warfare on land and sea war between two great powers like the United States and Great Britain would mean mutual annihilation, with a debt that it would take a century of peace to liquidate. Commercial rivalries between two great nations will never again be settled by war, for war has become too expensive and too destructive. The British alarmist seems to belong to the same class of minds that are always alarmed by the apprehension of a terrible religious war in America between Protestants and Catholics. These fearful folk are men born out of time, because clean behind it. We don't want Canada and Canada doesn't want us, and we are in no danger of war with Great Britain.

STRONGER THAN HIS PARTY. The lesson of the election is that President Roosevelt is not only the leader of his party, but that he is stronger than his party. Democratic leaders like United States Senator Jones confess this when they say: "The best of the rectitude, sincerity and courage of President Roosevelt is aiding the Republicans much more than they will ever know." But for this impressive personality of President Roosevelt, Odell certainly would not have been re-elected Governor of New York and Republicans would have lost control of the House of Representatives. The laxness of the grip of the Republican party upon the country became that it is doubtful if any of its leaders save Roosevelt could lead it to sure victory in 1904. It is easy to attribute the victory of Tuesday to business prosperity, but under equally favorable industrial conditions we were beaten in the off year of 1892. Just twenty years ago, in 1880, as in 1900, the Republicans swept the country. The President then elected was shot in 1881, and Vice-President Arthur succeeded Garfield in September, even as Vice-President Roosevelt succeeded the murdered McKinley. The November state elections of 1881, like those of November, 1901, showed little change.

The business prosperity of the country showed no decline in 1882, and this prosperity the Republican party claimed and obtained large credit. In spite of this prosperity, the elections of 1882 went against the Republicans. The House elected in 1880 had a Republican majority of twenty; that elected in 1882 had a Democratic plurality of seventy. Business prosperity did not give the Republican party in 1882, and business prosperity would not save them today if Roosevelt were not today the leader of his party and because of his personality stronger than his party. President Arthur in 1882 was not the leader of his party; it was impossible to quiet, and because he was not and could not have been the inspiring leader of his party, the Republicans were severely defeated in New York, Ohio and Massachusetts, lost the lower House of Congress to the Democrats, and two years later were defeated in the Presidential campaign of 1884.

There has been a rise in prices bringing increased cost of living; there has been the prolonged coal strike, and when we add to these things the fact that the Republican party has been long in power since 1897 to wear out its welcome, it is remarkable that the Democrats did not inflict upon it in November, 1902, a defeat as severe as that suffered in November, 1882. The chief, if not the only, reason we escaped defeat was the universal popular confidence felt in President Roosevelt, and the strong desire to hold our hands within and without Congress. There was a time when but for the prompt appeal and intervention of President Roosevelt the great strike would have proceeded to disastrous conclusion. For such a termination the Republican party would have been arraigned by Democratic demagogues; the Republican President would have been denounced as utterly without sympathy for the workmen of the country. This illogical and unjust indictment would have been successful.

The President with many frankness trusted the people; took them into his confidence against the warnings of professional politicians, and he has succeeded in saving himself and his party when the ordinary political leaders would have wrecked the whole outfit. Governor Odell, who was in full sympathy with the President's views, owes his re-election to this fact. The plutocratic Republicans in New York City in large numbers either voted for Odell or did not vote at all, and Odell was saved from defeat by the farmers, the mechanics and workmen of the

country counties of the Empire State. Odell was helped something by the fact that David B. Hill, whose puppet color would have been Governor, is hopelessly discredited by such independent Democratic papers as the New York Post and the Brooklyn Eagle. A considerable portion of the Independent Democratic vote was given to Odell because of the odiousness of Hill. The popular determination to "stand by the President" has won the election. By his singular mixture of political shrewdness and moral courage the President has firmly entrenched himself in the hearts of the people. He has succeeded, as Jackson and Lincoln succeeded, by his union of simplicity of purpose and manner to courage in action. It is easy to say that a President with a strict sense of official dignity would not have stooped from so far as unofficially to be in the settlement of the strike, but the President "scooped to conquer." The first fruit of his conquest is the victory of Tuesday, and his ultimate laurels he will win and wear in 1904.

The arrest of a neatly dressed widow of refinement at Denver on the charge of repeating is not surprising. She had voted twice and was casting her third ballot when arrested. She admitted her guilt, saying that her motive was to make some extra money. In time the woman voter will be as corrupt as the man voter, and the only effect of woman suffrage will be to duplicate the masculine suffrage. Women whose circle of life is ruled by decent men will duplicate the votes of these decent men, and women whose life is ruled by indecent men. It will be harder probably to get the best women to the polls than it will be to get the worst to vote, and so society will get no benefit from this enlargement of the suffrage, but will rather suffer injury. On the whole, the test of experience in the settlement of the strike, and the woman voter, and the only effect of woman suffrage will be to duplicate the masculine suffrage. 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