CLEETON ON THE ISSUES

MASTERLY PRESENTATION OF THE REASONS FOR REPUBLICAN VICTORY

FOSSIL, Or., May 20.—Hon. T. J. Cleeton, of Portland, addressed a large and enthusiastic audience of Fossil voters and ladies in Steiwer's brick hall. Hon. W. W. Steiwer, hold-over State Senator for this district, occupied the chair, and a number of local Republican leaders were on the platform. Quite a number of Democrats were in the audience, and, while they did not by any means indorse the whole address, which included an arraignment of the Democratic party from its birth to the present time, some of them, especially the younger ones, expressed themselves as much pleased with Mr. Cleeton's treatment of the Philippine question, which formed the larger part of his speech. The speaker held the close attention of his hearers for two hours, at times was interrupted with enthusiastic applause, and undoubtedly made votes in Fossil for the Republican state ticket. Speaking on the Philippine question, Mr. Cleeton said, in part:

The Democratic party would pull down the flag in the Philippine Islands, where the patriotism and valor of our boys in blue, wading through blood and pestilential swamps, have placed it, acknowledging thereby that we were not fit to govern. It would surrender the islands to pillage, rapine and anarchy, and ultimately to the tyranny of some European Government. It would furl our flag, withdraw from the position which gives us the key that unlocks the great markets of the Orient teeming with millions ready to buy our wares, anxious to establish trade relations with us. It would forego this grand opportunity for making markets for our labor, which would guarantee every laborer plenty of work at good wages, every wheatgrower a market for his flour, every lumberman a demand for the product of his mill, and every branch of industry an opportunity to expand. It would lose this great and only opportunity of becoming a factor in the world's affairs, of becoming a world power and of spreading our civilization and showing the beneficence of our institutions to the people in the land of the rising sun. It would have us return to our own shores, shut ourselves up in our own domain, put shackles about our limbs, chain our giant strength to the car of extreme conservatism, set a boundary to our ambition and our energies as a people, allow these great opportunities to pass us by, while other nations eagerly grasp what we refuse to take and join the procession of progress and National expansion.

Is Oregon Against Expansion?

Shall we of these Pacific States, we of Oregon, living on that great highway of commerce leading to the very doors of more than one-third of the human race, we whose fertile soil is overgrown with the products that the countless millions are anxious to obtain; we who are in position to get the full benefit of that golden stream of commerce which will flow past our very doors, causing our cities to expand with teeming millions, our hillsides and valleys to become busy hives of industry, our vast plains to respond in nature's bounteous harvest to the millions of husbandmen who will inhabit them; shall we, who above all others are to be thus favored set the example of changing the policy and administration of our Government by repudiating the Republican party and its glorious work of National expansion and prosperity, inaugurate in its stead the pessimism and narrow conservatism and hard times of the Democratic party Shall we elect a Democratic Governor who is an anti-expansionist and in favor of scuttle, and proclaim to the world by that act, that we are no longer a live, progressive state, reaching out for great opportunities and great achievements? Shall we repudiate the policy of our country from the days of Jefferson, the policy of McKinley and Roosevelt, by sending to all parts of the United States the news that Oregon has voted Democratic and for the policy of scuttle? It cannot be the people of Oregon will retain that policy which has driven want and idleness from our shores, that policy which has brought prosperity and plenty, that policy which has brought honor and distinction. These islands which have been purchased with gold and sanctified by the blood of our heroic dead we will retain, the old flag shall still float over them, we will educate and civilize these native sons and bring to them the blessings of our institutions, the schoolhouse and the schoolmaster; the agencies of peace and civilization shall transform these people, who will prosper under our flag and institutions, and who shall raise up children to call us blessed.

The antis have said that it is not right that we should retain our supremacy over the Philippine Islands. In human government the question of what is right is answered by what is best. If it is best for the people of those islands and best for the people of the United States that we maintain our supremacy then it is certainly right that we should do so. If we can give them government where they have before had anarchy, if we can give them freedom where they have heretofore had tyranny, if we can give them enlightenment where they have had ignorance, if we can give them justice where injustice has prevailed, if we can give them happiness where they have had misery, in short, if we can give them better advantages and do more for them than they could possibly do for themselves in everything that tends to elevate them to a higher plane of living, if we can give them civilization and put into their bosoms the spirit of our institutions, inspire them with the love of progress, then no one will say that it will not be better for them that we maintained our supremacy. For us it certainly is best that we retain these islands; it is true among nations as among men that a good act done for another benefits the doer as well as those who receive. We have a duty to perform, to discharge that duty will give us strength and moral force; to neglect it will take from our people the inspiration that always follows the discharge of duty. It is our duty as a Nation, having had placed under our control these people, who are and were totally unable to establish and maintain a government, to establish one for them, to protect them from anarchy within and from tyranny without. We should not permit any nation of the old world to extend its government over them, believing as we do that we have the best government ever instituted among men. We know that we will not oppress them; we know that we will give them a greater degree of freedom than any other nation would or could. We know that we can give them everything that goes to make the people wiser, better and happier. Therefore it is our moral duty to retain them; it is a duty that God has put upon us; to shirk it would be to weaken our moral force in the world, as a nation and as a people. These are the moral considerations of the question; aside from this is that which refers to our and to their financial and commercial welfare.

A Crisis in Trade.

The vital question for our people now and for the coming century is markets and trade extension. We now have a domain unparalleled in extent, richness and varied resources. We have a people unequaled in skill, energy and productive capacity. Under the beneficent policy and wise statesmanship of the Republican party we have built up industries and a productive energy that has overrun the demand of the home market. We are now 80,000,000, with a productive capacity equal to that of 300,000,000 of any other people on the face of the earth. The time has come when a large portion of what labor, skilled and unskilled, produces must find a market abroad. It is axiomatic that the price of every commodity, whether labor or what labor produces, depends upon the demand, and the demand is regulated by production and consumption. The battle of the civilized nations today is, and for the coming century will be, trade supremacy. Each of the great nations of the world looks beyond its own domain for a market for its surplus products. The greatest unexplored market in the world today is the Orient, in China and Japan, and among the people who live on the other side of the Pacific. There in that vast domain live more than one-half of the human race. In China more than 300,000,000 are just beginning to awaken from the stupor in which the centuries have enveloped them, just catching, as it were, the first inspiration of Western civilization; just awakening to modern ideas and the consumption of the products of a modern people. Their trade with other nations of the world has been rapidly growing in the last few years, but what it is today is a mere bagatelle to what it will be in the near future. It is impossible to estimate the value and extent of a market that more than 300,000,000 of people will bring to the nation that gets the bulk of their trade. Until three years ago our Nation's share in the trade of the Orient was trifling and insignificant, but as a result of the fortunes of war, waged for liberty and human right, the Philippine Islands came under our control, since which time, in spite of the fact that their inhabitants have been waging a semi-barbarous war again us, our trade with them and the Orient has grown by leaps and bounds. It is a well-established fact that trade follows the flag, and that markets grow between nations in close proximity. The Philippine Islands are American territory, and are the key that unlocks the markets of the far East. Shall we retain them or abandon them, is the paramount issue in this campaign. To find a market for our producing class is the duty of our country as a nation. The word "market" involves the whole question of commerce, labor and prosperity. It reaches every man. In it is involved the whole system of industry; with a good market for our producing classes, prosperity is assured. Labor will receive good wages, vitalizing every calling in life. Without it labor will seek employment at starvation wages, and seek in vain. We must have markets for our producing classes. A demand for the products of our farms and factories insures prosperity to that class of people which forms the bone and sinew of our country.

Upon the broad shoulders of labor rests the welfare and prosperity of our country; to them we turn in the dark hours of the Nation's peril, and at our country's call come those sturdy sons who make up our armies, fight our battles, pay our National debt and form the bulwark of our Nation. They should have the best opportunities that civilization can give them. We live upon a higher plane than any other people; our hopes, aspirations and ambitions are more exalted, our necessities embrace a wider scope. That we may continue to advance in civilization, intelligence and prosperity we should be able to pay such wages and such prices for the products of labor as will enable our laboring people to feed and clothe not only the body but the mind; they must have opportunity to cultivate all those higher and nobler qualities which embellish and adorn our institutions. All our people must help forge the links which form the golden chain of our civilization. I have great respect for the glorious achievement of our eminent sons, those men whose deeds crown history's pages and add a brighter light to the constellations of great names of the world, but as high as is my admiration for them, I turn with a deeper reverence to the great body of our common people, whose common heart beats in sympathy with every noble emotion that stirs the human breast. It is among them that patriotism is born and nourished. From the humble firesides of our common people come those who make the truly great names in history, and not from halls of elegance and splendor, honeycombed with extravagance and ease. And that is why I like the Republican party; it has always stood up for labor Its whole history has been a battle for the elevation and dignity of labor and the common people. Since it took the reins of government of this great country in 1896 its triumph has been amazing. Wages have advanced more than 30 per cent; every man can find employment; the laborer is better fed and better clothed and happier now than at any other time in history. The balance of trade in our favor for the five years during McKinley's administration amounted to $1,600,000,000—six times as much as in all our history prior to that time. The wealth of our farms has increased in the last four years $1,200,000,000. The laborers engaged in manufacturing industries alone receive annually $500,000,000 more than they did in 1896. The rate of interest has declined, money has grown cheaper and more plentiful, the circulating medium per capita has increased from $22 to more than $28 per capita, the rate of interest has declined 50 per cent, and we have reduced our National debt more than $10,000,000 and saved in interest $7,000,000 yearly

The Benefits Already Conferred.

We have already done for the Filipinos what they never could have done for themselves, they who never knew in all their dark and bloody history the meaning of the word liberty, who never knew justice, are now receiving the benefits of our superior civilization. There are today nearly 200,000 Filipino children receiving instructions in the schools instituted by us, learning the English language from American teachers, learning the rights of civilization and of peace; more than 40,000 more are attending night school, and already they hail with delight and enthusiasm the "old flag." More than a thousand American teachers are there in the work of education. Shall we, to please a few seeking to rule and mislead the people in these islands and our antis at home, give them up and turn back to darkness the hope which is now catching the first bright inspiration of the dawning of a better day? This we will answer on the second day of June. And I have faith in the people of Oregon, and believe they will settle this question right. We cannot be blind to our own interests and lost to that sense of justice, to that obligation of duty, which we feel resting upon us. We will not refuse or neglect to do our duty in accordance with the spirit and enlightenment of our age. In this question is also involved that of patriotism. I believe that the people of Oregon and of the United States are uncompromisingly opposed to any party whose main efforts are to bring dishonor and disrespect upon our institutions, our Army and our flag. It may be wrong, but I have been taught that we have the grandest country, the most glorious institutions, the most magnificent people and the greatest degree of political freedom the world has ever known. I have been taught to love, honor and revere the American flag. It is to my mind the symbol of all that is best in human government, and wherever it floats to the breeze, whether amid the green islands of the Pacific sea or in the arctic snow, there is the day-dawn of liberty, justice and law. It symbolizes human sacrifice for principle, on march, camp and battlefield, from Bunker Hill to Malabon. From the achievements of John Paul Jones to Admiral Dewey at Manila Bay. It will be a sad day when the people uphold a party which traduces and defames the Nation's defenders. When that time comes, let our epitaph as a great nation be written, for then the glory of our country will have departed. Then let the starry emblem of our country's banner trail in the dust, for our effeminate and dishonored sons can no longer hold their place among the great and progressive nations of the world. These questions are up to the people of this state; we are to speak first, and on the second day of June. What will the verdict of Oregon be?

SUPPORTS THE PRESIDENT

Representative Tongue's Attitude Toward Trusts.

The following letter from Representative Tongue received by A. D. Rockafellow, of Portland, shows where the Oregon Congressman stands on the trust question:

"My Dear Mr. Rockafellow: I regret exceedingly to learn that there is any effort to rebuke the Administration in Oregon at this time. Yet I am not surprised at it, and had already begun to expect it. It is well known that the trusts are not pleased with President Roosevelt. They resent what they consider his 'intermedding' with business affairs. They seem to forget that it is his duty to enforce the anti-trust laws now on the statutes of the United States. There is no doubt that they will seek every method possible to rebuke him. It is reported here that they are watching the campaign in Oregon with some interest and are quietly doing what work they can.

"Surely, the people of Oregon, if this is the issue, will not desert the President and side with the trusts. The public have so often demanded that we ought not to be governed by the trusts, that now they have a full, fair opportunity of giving evidence of their sincerity. Just now one of the leading questions is the President vs. the trusts.

"A Democratic victory in Oregon now will be taken as a rebuke of President Roosevelt's Administration, not only on the Philippine question, not only upon his vigorous stand in favor of the Nicaraguan Canal, but also upon his stand against the trusts. The President so far has taken no step which he does not honestly believe to be in the interest of the whole of the United States. He certainly ought to be upheld by every Republican. But upon this present question, when he is fighting the battle of the people against the trusts, the people ought to stand by him.

"Yet all at once Democratic orators are announcing, as Congressman McDermott, of New Jersey, announced a few days ago, that 'there is no power in the President, and there is none in the Attorney-General to suppress monopoly.' The President believes there is, and the public ought to sustain him.

"I sincerely hope that Oregon will stand by the President in the present campaign. THOMAS H. TONGUE."

Gladstone and Irving.

Chambers' Journal.

Mr. Gladstone was a great admirer and never missed an opportunity of seeing Irving in one of his great characters. It chanced that after being present at the first night of "Ravenswood," presented in September, 1890, I had occasion to post off to Edinburgh to chronicle the proceedings in the penultimate Midlothian campaign. At dinner on the night of my arrival I had the good fortune to find myself seated next to Mr. Gladstone. It was a time of great storm and distress in the political world. Mr. Gladstone was leading the attack upon the government which resulted in their defeat at the general election two years later. When he heard that I had been at the first night of "Ravenswood" all other topics were set aside. He overwhelmed me with a torrent of questions as to how Irving had worked out particular episodes. I remember he was particularly anxious to know how the final scene, where the hat of the drowned Ravenswood is found forlorn on the sands, was staged. He told me that of all Scott's novels he most admired "The Bride of Lammermoor."

BUSINESS ITEMS.

If Baby Is Cutting Teeth,

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and diarrhoea.

LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE

Republican Candidates Stand for Republican Policies.

PORTLAND, Or., May 24.—(To the Editor)—Having just returned from a trip to the East, and noticing the struggle that is being made here by the different political parties for the control of the city, county and state offices, I cannot help but feel that possibly a word from an observer (who does not consider himself a politician) might be of some benefit to the voting public in so far as to lay before them a few points to assist them in deciding what course it is best for them to pursue on election day and for what candidates it will be best for them to cast their votes.

I found on my trip East that a great many people are interested in the result of our election next month. Among financial people, jobbers and manufacturers this is notably the case. They feel that, as we are the first state to vote previous to a general election, our state is, therefore, in a measure a sort of a barometer in reflecting the situation in general.

The general feeling among Republicans is that they should all stand together, regardless of any petty quarrels or differences that may exist between them; that the welfare of the state and city is at stake; that we had in the years of '92, '94, '95 and '96 a sufficient taste of hard times brought about by a theoretical policy; that the prosperous years that we have had since '96 under Republican administration are sufficient proof that we should not vote for a change, and it would seem that we should follow our present policy. We are having prosperous times. Do we want anything less? Do we want a change? Is it best to tamper with present conditions? I, for one, feel that we should leave "well enough" alone, and I sincerely trust that the voters at the coming election will feel likewise. The Republicans of Oregon should study this matter over very carefully and hesitate a long time before they permit themselves to be drawn into a net that may result disastrously to themselves, as well as the community at large.

We are all aware that were it not for the fact that there is a division in the Republican party in the state there would be no chance for a single Democrat to be elected. The Democrats also know this very well, and they, therefore, are depending on Republican votes to elect their candidates. The election of their candidates, especially that of Governor, and (next important) Mayor of the city of Portland, would mean the turning over to the Democrats of nearly all the appointive offices in the state, as well as carrying out a Democratic policy in the administration of the state and city. Does any one believe that if Mr. Chamberlain is elected he will administer the business of the state on Republican principles? If Mr. Inman is elected Mayor of the city of Portland, does any Republican believe that he will work with Republicans? If so, will they disabuse their minds? They may depend, beyond the question of a doubt, that the state will be turned over to Democrats and the city of Portland likewise. The question is, Shall we take the risk?

Under the new charter the Mayor of the city of Portland has great power. Shall we assist in its being used to forward a political policy which has proved disastrous in past years? I say most emphatically, no! Republicans of the city of Portland, Republicans of the State of Oregon and also business men of the city and state, I, as one among you, ask you to consider this matter carefully and seriously between now and election day and decide, each and every one of you, with yourself, what course you will pursue on election day, for it means a great deal to you—more, possibly, than you now realize.

We are a growing state. We are looking to the future with a great deal of confidence. Our trade is expanding in all directions, owing to the present policy being pursued by our Government. We are all being benefited by such a policy and we should in every way assist and do our part in this plan of expansion. Do not let the fact that there are a few disgruntled politicians (who did not secure a position or objects at which they aimed) lead you astray. They will talk to you of reform, of the rotten condition of our government. I think you will concede that up to the present time they are the fellows who have had charge of our local Government and are responsible for the very conditions which they are now holding up to us as being "rotten to the core." We think it is merely a question of whose ox is being gored; whose toes are being trodden upon, and rather than work in harmony they are willing to tie up with any organization than help people who are trying to improve conditions. Do not let them mislead you. I believe that every Republican, particularly at this time, should vote, at least, to elect a Republican Mayor for the city of Portland and a Republican Governor for the state. These are the two main offices that will be looked upon as a reflection of what the feelings of the people are in the State of Oregon.

In conclusion, permit me to say my only interest in this matter is that we continue the prosperous condition under which we are now living. So far as the gentlemen are concerned, both Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Inman are good friends of mine—men whom I have known for many years. It is not the men that I am asking you to vote against. It is the party and the policies which it represents. I am positive in my own mind that the best thing that can happen to the gentlemen just named is to defeat them at the polls so that they may continue in their present business, which I know is prosperous.

H. WITTENBERG.

Matter Largely of Party Policy.

SALEM, May 22.—(To the Editor.)—On the editorial page of The Oregonian of April 16 appears the following:

"What sort of a figure will Oregon cut, going before a Republican Senate for $2,000,000 in aid of the Lewis and Clark Centennial, after having gone Democratic?"

"How much will Oregon get from a Republican Congress in the next river and harbor bill if it elects a Democratic Governor and Legislature?"

"Every vote for Chamberlain is a vote against an open river and the Lewis and Clark Centennial."

Repeatedly since something of that character has had place in its columns. In yesterday's issue a procured letter from one Charles M. Harvey, dated St. Louis, Mo., contained this:

"Oregon is soon to ask Congress for an appropriation for the Lewis and Clark Fair. A Democratic victory in the coming election would throw many obstacles in the way of getting money for this purpose from a Republican Congress."

Does the Federal Treasury, replenished by the people irrespective of parties, belong solely to the Republican party? And is the American voter to be told that it shall be used to coerce him to vote for the candidates of the party in power? That he shall have nothing for rivers and harbors if he votes against its candidates? And to Oregon, you shall have no appropriation for your intended exposition if a majority of your voters shall elect to support other than the Republican ticket? And will Portland, sending out these warning threats, have assurance to ask support for its fair from those who do not sympathize with Republican policy and politics? If the fair is to be thus used to defeat the enemies of republicanism, may not its furtherance well be left to those who seek so to use it? B.

This subject goes to the bottom of party policy. The policy of the Republican party has always been more liberal towards public improvements than the Democratic. One of the salient facts of our political history is this; and it is as well that Oregon, wanting much, should not forget or overlook it.

MARK TWAIN'S LATEST JOKE

Too Deep for the Careless Modern Reader.

Minneapolis Tribune.

Some of Mark Twain's jokes are so ingeniously complicated that they require a diagram. One of his latest, on which he expended a vast deal of trouble, fell almost flat because it required too much intellectual effort to discover it. In Harper's Magazine for January and February appeared a "Double-Barreled Detective Story," which was an elaborate burlesque on the Sherlock Holmes school of literature. Mark Twain always likes to kill two birds with one stone, and he undertook at the same time to burlesque what is called fine writing. The story contains many flowery passages, among them the following, which contains the joke in question:

It was a crisp and spicy morning in early October. The lilacs and laburnums, lit with the glory-fires of Autumn, hung burning and flashing in the upper air, a fairy bridge provided by kind Nature for the wingless wild things that have their home in the tree-tops and would visit together; the larch and the pomegranate flung their purple and yellow flames in brilliant broad splashes along the slanting sweep of the woodland; the sensuous fragrance of innumerable deciduous flowers rose upon the swooning atmosphere; far in the empty sky a solitary oesophagus slept upon motionless wing; everywhere brooded stillness, serenity and the peace of God.

Mr. Clemens says, in a letter to the Springfield Republican, that he expected to hear from this paragraph. He has heard from it, but not in the way he expected. All his correspondents, ranging from a New England university professor down to a soldier in Northern Luzon, stick on the one word "Oesophagus." Not one of them has any fault to find with the rest of the passage; indeed, the soldier says, apologizing for his ignorance about the wonderful bird, "I consider the passage a very touching and beautiful one."

Now, it isn't necessary to be a university professor, or anything except a person familiar with ordinary English, to perceive that the entire passage is nonsense as ingenious as anything in Lewis Carroll or his imitators in the art of writing nonsense verse. Mr. Clemens invented the word oesophagus, and there isn't any such bird. If he had said "sea-gull" or some other familiar name, nobody would have criticised the passage. But look at its weird nonsense of lilacs and laburnums in Autumn, its fairy bridge for wingless wild things in the tree tops, its purple and yellow flames of larch and pomegranate, and its sensuous fragrance of deciduous flowers. One could hardly dislocate words more frantically by shaking them out of a dice box.

The real moral of the joke is that the American public has almost lost the art of careful reading. Of all the thousands who may fairly be presumed to have read Mark Twain's story, not one discovered anything wrong in this passage—which he made as wrong as possible to attract attention—but the one impossible word. This points out a habit that is all but universal. We skim lightly over books and through magazines to get the story or enjoy the style, without the least conception of the sense of half of the words. There is more than love of fiction in this. Mark Twain's soldier correspondent found this nonsense "very touching and beautiful." How many other readers were fooled? How many readers of current literature skim over really fine passages with no more perception of the sense; or read stuff almost as nonsensical, really meant by the writer to be fine, without discovering the fact that it is rubbish? Along with the love of a story goes a more remarkable love of mere word-daubing without sense or meaning.

This makes it mighty easy to produce popular literature and may account for the present wonderful output. Mark Twain has attacked the weak point of both writers and readers after the manner of Cervantes. He should make a lot of readers ashamed of themselves, however hardened the writers may be. His popularity may suffer, but he will not mind that, now that he has made money enough to buy another house.

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