

THE ARGUS

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The Only Democratic Paper in Washington County.

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BLAME THE PROPER PEOPLE.

In order that the people of Oregon may not characterize this meeting of the Oregon solons as the "worst legislature yet known to the state," as has ever been the case in the past, it appears that strenuous efforts are being made to have no session. Mr. Simon will decide in a few days, perhaps, whether he will give the people any legislation, or whether he will favor the state with a break assembly. But let us remember one thing: Oregon elected a republican legislature last June on pledges of reform. They have a majority in both houses. If they cannot agree amongst themselves it is just as right that the democrats and populists should be condemned for the hold up? Must democrats and populists be the agencies to lead in the battle in order that political fights in the republican party may be settled to the satisfaction of either faction? Must they be the advance guard that Mitchell may be elected? Not much. This would be asking too much. The republicans should not be angry because the democrats and populists refuse to be chestnut rakers for political spoils hunters. Our republican brother editors should meditate a trifle before abusing any one but republicans for the Salem fiasco. They should force their own people into line and if they must abuse the opposition—lay to them the present cold wave.

McKINLEY FORCES SHOULD UNITE.

The trouble at Salem is a result of the organization of the republican party. The split in the republican party is irremedial and in order to force in democrats and populists to close the breach every Mitchell paper has resorted to abuse and vilification in the attempt to fasten the lack of organization upon other forces than republican. The republican party united—gold standard, free silver and all—during the presidential campaign and fought the opposition to the last ditch. Now when they are divided, instead of going to work and allow the strongest faction to prevail, they stand apart and the major faction wants aid from the heretofore "outcasts." Let the McKinley forces unite in the legislature and organize. Then if the free silver forces remain away there will be cause for complaint. The two free silver minorities of Washington state, constituting a majority, have organized and are now fighting over the senatorship. Let Oregon's republicans get together and the others must fall into line for organization and work.

THE GOVERNMENT CLAIM.

It now seems inevitable that the government will foreclose on the Pacific roads and it will be interesting to watch this process of forced collection. It is almost a certainty that the corporations will not pay the government claim until forced by the strong arm of the law. When execution is issued and the date of sale revolved upon the government will receive every dollar of its claims, for railroad corporations would at once go to the relief of the properties in distress. One potent reason why they would do this is that no exemplification of what our government can or might do in the railroad line is wanted by railway and transportation promoters. That governments have successfully conducted such enterprises is a matter of history, and the probable success in the instances now in question would be a strong disclaimer against the popular prejudice that a government can't successfully conduct a railroad business and that such governmental holdings are contrary to public policy and a step towards paternalism. It is, therefore, more than likely that our national foreclosure would be met by full payment of the in-

debtedness incurred for building, without which aid, the roads might have been delayed for 10 years at least.

LET US ALL EDUCATE.

The banking institutions are again striving to resurrect the monetary conference scheme that they may blind the people thereby and thus further their own interests. A national monetary convention was recently held in Indianapolis. It consisted of delegates from little groups of citizens throughout the country, who indulge in the harmless pastime of forming themselves into boards of trade, chambers of commerce and the like. There is no special use for them, but they thrive in certain localities just as mushrooms grow. This great convention did not resolve itself into a legislative body, but it marked out a plan for directing the legislative department of the government in its duties. We fully recognize the constitutional right of the people to assemble and petition for redress of grievances. But this body assumes no such attitude. It did not even consider the question of whether or not congress would grant their petition a hearing, but it went ahead and framed the orders it should give and the manner in which they should be given. Of course the gold standard was declared to be the basis of all correct financial legislation. Next to this, the "retirement of all classes of United States' notes" was demanded. A banking system was also adopted which would furnish an elastic circulation, and distribute loanable capital in such a way as to equalize interest everywhere. Nothing was said though, whether it was to be stretched in the interest of the borrowers, or contracted in the interest of the lenders. Nor was the public informed on what principal capital could be equally distributed throughout the country. Its objects having been stated, an executive committee was appointed to confer with congress and urge that body to legislate, at the next session "for the purpose of putting the gold standard into effect as soon as possible." The Indianapolis conference was an entirely lawful and orderly body. It did nothing which it did not have a right to do. Its gravity and self-importance occasioned a general smile, but the members will not be affected by that. It is just by such gatherings that the campaign of education is carried on. And let the friends of bimetalism and of government control of paper money be equally zealous with their opponents. While the gold standardites scheme for gold, let the great body of the people keep up the agitation for the restoration of the "sound" gold and silver money of the constitution.

THE Nebraska legislature has considered a resolution to instruct Senator Thurston to vote for bimetalism. It will be remembered that Mr. Thurston declared he was in favor of such legislation when he was a candidate for the senate but after election and when the St. Louis platform declared for gold the young fellow broke away and has since staid with his party. It would appear that to a quit himself honorably with his constituency he should at least receive instructions from a legislature which represents a majority of the people of the state. But he will not tolerate advice, and like Senator Dolph, will have the temerity to use his own ideas. This is one way of serving a people and it is the very best argument for the election of senators by the popular vote. To bring this phase of senatorial elections closer to home, it can truthfully be stated that these elections so held, Mr. Mitchell would now be back at Washington at his post of duty, working for the Nicaraguan canal bill.

PHILADELPHIA lost about three million dollars worth of property at a recent fire and strange to say there has so far been no democrat or populist paper with enough genuine wit to remark that the fire department of that city is under the control of a republican Mayor. When we have a fire in Portland the Oregonian is equal to the occasion and points with great earnestness to Mayor Penneyer. So long as the silver press is so lacking in perspicuity the republican party will be sure to remain in power. Truly this lack of intuition is a sad one and Jeremiah's lamenta-

tion can't begin to express our grief at the ignorance of our reform press and the wisdom of our opponents. THE Oregon statesmen will have to do some tall rustling if they do anything towards legislating relief for the state. Ante-election promises fade away like an irredecent dream in the presence of the senatorial fight and the House is no nearer organized than was it on the first day of meeting. The Mitchell supporters are hanging out and will not give away, hoping against hope that the people of Oregon will become desperate and demand organization on any terms. They think, then, that Mitchell will be elected without a doubt and evidently mean to make his election to the senate the price of all legislation, be it good or bad. Unless we much mistake the people of Oregon, this idea is not well founded. They have seen each consecutive legislature fritter away the peoples' money in a reckless disregard of property rights and many taxpayers will not complain if no session is legally held. Very true, commissions should be abolished and all that, but there is every reason to believe that Mitchell organization means the continuance of all commissions and no reduction of official salaries, with an exception or so.

THE idea that the government must compromise with the Pacific roads in order to get a settlement is one prompted by the stockholders of the road. These people think the government is a legitimate fishing ground for cheat of all kinds and their minds should be dispelled of the hallucination or rather such thought should be made a hallucination instead of being fact. The railroads are no better than fourth class postmasters when it comes down to business and it is time the government gives such ideas of paternalism a set back. They should be made to get in full.

THE inventor who seeks to solve the secret of perpetual motion can get an idea of what he wants as chief principle by inquiring into the Cuban rebellion or the daily meetings and adjournments of Oregon's law-makers-elect. These two examples are as near perpetual motion as possible to obtain. WHEN one reads such diversity of opinion about the tariff in our leading republican organs—some wanting high tariff and some Cleveland tariff—it would seem there is some excuse for a poor uneducated parrot in wanting to know "what does Polly want?" THE legislature in session at Boise City, Idaho, will do a very foolish thing if they elect "Texas" Angel to the United States senate, as an ordinary angel would feel very lonesome there—but this may be a circumstance in which it would be different. A BILL is pending before the Illinois legislature, with good prospects of passage for an appropriation of \$100,000 to have the state represented in the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. Perhaps the taxpayers would like to have an Altgeld now to veto the bill. THE salary reductions proposed last June are not very likely to take effect. Yet, should the legis-

lature organize within a week there would be ample time to pass a salary bill that would meet the approval of tax-payers at large. In this county all parties in the field were pledged to reduction of salaries and there must be some justice in the movement.

It is questionable whether such international treaty as the one now before Congress for ratification is in line with the true principles of American independence. In this treaty it is understood that King Oscar of Sweden shall serve as arbitrator of disputes until his successor shall be agreed upon. Those who are monarchs and connected with monarchies are, generally speaking, not educated to the standard of broad principles upon which republics are founded. In times of peril and when our republican institutions are menaced it may be possible that this treaty would be a humiliating barrier to the proper assertion of our rights. Of course, in the event of a withdrawal from the treaty, should such danger be a visitor, it might mean war and the adjudication of a dispute would give Britain time to prepare for immediate action upon a non-recognition of the arbitration by our nation. Taking it all in all the treaty may give England a chance to bottle up our Monroe doctrine and export it from the American continent.

HORSE raisers should not be discouraged over the present low valuation of equine stock. When times grow better there will be a greater demand for driving horses in our cities. When people are making profit they must have diversion. They can get this by having a horse and carriage. When times are not good and business men are going behind they sell their horses as soon as possible in order to retrench. Horses will advance in unison with all other products of our farms as soon as business picks up.

ALL who call on President-elect McKinley may not be ex-congressmen, but there cannot possibly be many republican ex-congressmen who have not called on Mr. McKinley.

EX-SENATOR Dolph could be excused for asking Senator Mitchell how it feels to be in a legislative fight and not hold four axes.

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Notice for Publication.

LAND OFFICE at OREGON CITY, ORE. January 21, 1897. NOTICE is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the County Clerk of Washington county, at Hillsboro Oregon on March 6, 1897, viz: Frederick Mast, H. E. No. 9727 for the S E 1/4 of Sec 28 T 8 N R 3 W. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: Andrew J. Hobbie, Ambrose Cox, William J. Grogg and Eliza H. Howell all of Mountaineale, Ore. ROBERT A. MILLER, Register, 42-6

Notice for Publication.

LAND OFFICE at OREGON CITY, ORE. January 4, 1897. NOTICE is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the Register and Receiver at Ore. on February 29, 1897, viz: George Reichwein, H. E. No. 10898 for the E 1/2 S W 1/4 and W 1/2 S E 1/4 of sec 13 T 4 N R 6 W. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: Thomas Pettijohn and Charles Elchman of Vermilion; C. H. Welch, of Mountaineale, and Geo W. Reichwein, of Portland, Ore. ROBERT A. MILLER, Register, 42-6

TWO FOR ONE

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