

The Democratic State Convention
meets at Albany, on the 18th of
March, 1874.

Currency and Depression.

Amasa Walker addressed a letter to the Farmers Convention which lately met in Illinois, on the causes of the depression in agricultural business in the United States, that contains some suggestions or interest on the subject now most directly before the people, the subject of the contraction and expansion of the national currency. The writer argues that the remedy for the condition complained of is a resumption of specie payment. It is not pretended that there are not other causes operating against the prosperity of the country. The oppressive exactions of railroads is one of the contributing troubles, but that is one of those palpable evils, about the existence of which there are not two opinions. The currency question is one not so free from difficulty. There is much room for opposing opinions and argument concerning it. And it is to this question that distinguished New Englander directs himself.

It is argued that the prices of the great staple agricultural products are no higher now than before the war, while all other commodities have advanced from twenty-five to fifty and even seventy-five per cent. Mr. Walker's explanation of the anomaly is this: "The great staples do not rise equally in price, because the country produces a surplus of these that must be sent abroad for a market, and consequently must be sold at what they are worth in gold to Liverpool or other foreign ports. Flour, wheat, corn, pork, beef, lard, etc., are sent as a remittance instead of gold, and therefore must be sent at their value in gold, since that is the universal standard of value in the commerce of the world. Farmers' products then are sold at gold prices, plus what little gold premium there may be, while all the farmer consumes must be purchased at currency prices, from twenty-five to seventy-five per cent. higher; in consequence of the excessive volume of our paper money, and the operation of the tariff. It is thus attempted to be shown, with what success our readers can judge, that a defective currency system compels the agricultural classes to sell at a low and buy at a high figure.

The agriculturalist stands alone in suffering the evil effects of the defective currency, for while he must sell at the lowest, the gold, price and buy at the highest, the greenback, price, the case is materially different with the manufacturer. He makes his goods under a depreciated currency, but sells them under the sale currency, and his goods are protected by the tariff. While he buys material and labor at depreciation prices, he also sells at the same prices. He suffers, therefore, only remotely, and through the general injury that his neighbors sustain. It is, therefore, insisted that the currency should be restricted to a par with gold, which, of course, can only be done by a contraction of it. The effect of such a contraction upon the money market is thus stated: "A contraction of the currency to its normal amount (and that will be indicated by its being at par with gold) will make money plenty and cheap! This may seem quite paradoxical; nevertheless, nothing is more true, and the most positive evidence of the fact is before us at this moment. Is not money more scarce and the rate of interest higher than ever known before? And yet we have over \$700,000,000 of paper money to-day against \$200,000,000 before the war. Certainly this cannot be disputed. Nor is this a solitary case in point. I find by careful examination for the past forty years that whenever the currency has been uncommonly redundant money has always been in extraordinary demand and the rate of interest unusually high, though never as high as at present, and for the reason that at no previous time has there ever been such an excess of paper circulation over the real wants of the country; I do not say over the wants of speculators and monopolists, for they can

never have too much; the greater the excess the more extended their operations and the larger their profits." Against these incontrovertible positions are arrayed the fantastic theories of politicians like Phillips, who wants the volume of the currency increased to some billions, and the practice of Mr. Secretary of the Treasury. The fact must not be lost sight of, that while the question of contraction or expansion is now pending, the Secretary has adopted a system of expansion on his own hook. He is doing this by disbursing the greenbacks that constitute the \$44,000,000 reserve funds in the Treasury. It is true that this course is adopted to meet a deficiency in the revenue of the country that cannot be met in any other way. But whatever the excuse may be the effect is the same. The volume of the currency of the country has been by these means increased more than \$20,000,000 within a few months, which has had the effect, according to Mr. Walker, to add very considerably to the general depression from which the country, and more directly the agricultural classes are suffering.

Senator Schurz on January 14th made a great speech in favor of retrenchment and resumption of specie payment, from which we take the following extracts:

He said the issue now seemed to be between resumption and inflation. He thought the doctrine of procrastination in redeeming the legal tenders an alarming and dangerous one. He opposed the reissue of any portion of the forty four million dollar reserve, and argued at length against the policy of expanding the currency in any way, as not only not calculated to relieve the people, but rather to add to present results. Every consideration of good faith and sound policy, he declared, urges the United States to put an end to this iniquitous system. He especially criticized the plan for resumption proposed by Terry of Michigan, which, he says, was to extend the currency until the country was prosperous, and then to resume specie payment; and that of Boutwell, which he characterized as "a know nothing" policy, of which we had too much already. Return to specie payment must be preceded by severe retrenchment in public and private expenditures; by prudence in business enterprises, and by a recognition of the truth that honest and productive labor is the true source of wealth. He argued that the West and the South had never been and never would be, benefited by an expansion of the currency, but would be greatly benefited by resumption of specie payment. He argued that the present was the auspicious time to begin resumption, as one of the greatest difficulties in the way, the shrinkage of prices, was now less than ever before. In conclusion, he announced his intention of voting for the resolution of the minority, offered by Bayard, and if that failed, for that of the majority as the next best, and he expressed a hope that a bill may soon be prepared providing for a return to specie payments.

DUTY OF CITIZENS.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, if taken at the flood, leads to fortune."

Possibly the above reflection was not induced from Shakspeare's intimacy with the political manipulations of Baker County, but the application could not have been more appropriate, nor more so here than elsewhere.

The tantamount consideration in the approaching campaign is the detailing of good men and true, such as have been tried in the smelting furnace of temptation, and whom the acid of feelingism cannot touch or tarnish. Delegates should be sedulous in their footing through the labyrinth of political guilts; beware of the pledging trap by which your discretion is manacled and your duty disregarded; individual preferences and prejudices should be ignored that you may deliberately gravitate to a serious sense of your momentous charge.

The ultimatum of all these ephemeral friendships—this sickly, sentimental, sweetly scented, soothing syrup, of which every candidate has a full supply, is what maketh wounds without a cause, and soreness of heads. The teasing process is interesting, both to the observed and observing: After a gentle relaxation of the ligaments of caution, tip the deacon of confidence, then an air of perfect familiarity and a toning tone of sympathy does the work of pumping with all the accuracy of a syphon.

The strongest and holiest faculties that rankle in the mind are thus made the booty of the partisan. The garb of distinction thus clasps its rich folds about the ignominious carcass of a successful political trick-

ster; and what is the result? a mounted beggar.

Upon the selection of unbiased and unpledged delegates depends the character of our ticket. Citizens therefore in the exercise of their exalted functions as voters must yield their power only to those whom experience has taught them to trust.—The concerted action of true Democrats will place a quietus upon the clamoring class, and define their true status before the people; otherwise you encourage this diabolical system and applaud the actors in this revolting charade.

We therefore hope that every host may come boldly forth upon the primaries, as the lightning upon the malarious gases of a swamp, clothed with the armor of political honor and uprightness, and, by their course at the ballot box, make way for liberty.

HOGGISH.—The Oregonian says—"the editor of the Baker City Herald wants to economize. He offers to sell a Berkshire pig. Reducing the editorial corps, eh?" We were not aware that the Oregonian was as well acquainted with our neighbor as it appears to be, from the above remarks. We hope to see no more of these home thrusts. The Oregonian ought to be ashamed of itself for treating a man, who has not been long enough in the State to gain a residence, in this way.

On the 19th Hon. J. W. Nesmith introduced a bill in the House of Representatives granting the right of way to railroads in Oregon. This is the way the telegraph states the matter. The Col. is at work for the interests of Oregon.

CONFIRMED.—M. R. Waite, of Toledo, Ohio, was confirmed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, on the 21st., by the unanimous vote of the Senate.

OUR RYE VALLEY LETTER.

RYE VALLEY, Jan. 24th, 1874.
MR. EDITOR:—Once a week, on every Friday, Mr. Charles Durkee comes to this place carrying my mail, he never fails, and his coming is anxiously looked for, for the ever welcome BEDROCK comes to hand, sure. Since I wrote you last we have been blessed with a day and night of rain, a regular Webfoot softener, but to-day there is every indication of a snow storm. If a stranger was to visit our burgh at present, in the day time, he would think it was deserted, if it was not for the ring of friend Brishaw's hammer and anvil, for most all of the boys are at work, some drifting and others picking bedrock, preparing for the spring and summer campaign of mining, for political campaigns do not bother us much. A mining camp in winter is a dull place. We could manage to pass the time away a little more agreeably if there were only a few more marriageable young ladies, so as to keep the boys from showing so much "ENVY," only three or four single ladies and fifteen or twenty old bucks is rather a one sided affair, for some are bound to have the inside track, or heels, and you know that makes the rest of us show considerable "ENVY." I noticed in your valuable paper that friend Hyde had passed the Gulf of Bachelorhood, and was safely anchored in the Harbor of Matrimony. Mr. and Mrs. Hyde have the best wishes of Joe, may their life be long and happy, and may his example be followed by the merry bucks of Rye Valley as soon as they can find the better halves, and may I be one of the lucky cusses.

JOE.

FOR THE BEDROCK DEMOCRAT. PATENT SERMON.

BY JOE, JUNIOR.

TEXT.—Hope, the Beacon Star of Life.
MY DEAR READERS—Hope is the first of feelings that distinguishes man from the lower order of animals, it is the evidence of something above instinct—it is the looking forward into futurity. It is the Hope of doing better; it cheers the dying, the sick and weary. 'Twas hope that cheered a Washington when all was dark and dreary. We are always looking forward in hope of achieving some great reward. The present may have its pleasures, but in the future is where we hope to attain some great end. The insane have no hope; life to them is a blank. To look forward into the future is a law of nature—it is the secret of all our successes. If it had not been for this looking into futurity, to day we might not have been any better than the Indian, who roams our

mountains, seeking only for the present, caring not for to-morrow. Were it not for this looking forward, science, to-day, would only be in its infancy. And the greatest of all, is the Hope of immortality—a happy, endless life, beyond the grave. May you, my dear readers, have that hope. "So mote it be."—Amen.

Proceedings of the County Central Committee.

Pursuant to a call of the County Democratic Central Committee, made through the Chairman thereof, the County Democratic Central Committee met at the Court House, in Baker City, Oregon, Jan. 24th, 1874. The Chairman called the Committee to order. On motion of A. H. Brown, duly seconded, L. B. Ison was duly elected Secretary.

Upon motion of A. H. Brown the basis of representation to the County Convention was the Congressional election of June, A. D., 1872.

Which will entitle the various precincts to representation as follows—to-wit:

Humboldt Precinct,	26 votes	3
Clark's Creek "	59 "	4
Rye Valley "	19 "	2
Shasta "	102 "	6
Easton "	28 "	3
Wingville "	42 "	3
Burnt River "	12 "	2
Pocahontas "	51 "	4
Baker "	330 "	7
North Powder "	30 "	3
Auburn "	34 "	3
Stone House "	13 "	3
Fort Sumpter "		1
Connor Creek Precinct "		1
Pleasant Valley "		1

On motion of J. W. Wisdom it was ordered that Saturday, the 14th day of February 1874, at 1 o'clock be set as the day for the holding of the primary meetings, at the following places:

Humboldt Precinct at	N. Savage's
Clark's Creek	A. Trunk's Brewery
Rye Valley	Blain's Hotel
Shasta	Recorder's Office
Easton	Harmer House
Wingville	School House
Burnt River	Weatherly Ranch
Fort Sumpter	Young's Shop
Pocahontas	School House
North Powder	Sol Cole's
Baker	Secord's Store
Baker City	Court House
Pleasant Valley	J. F. Cantor's
Stone House	Stone House
Connor Creek	Dalley's Hotel

On motion of John W. Wisdom it was ordered that Monday, Feb'y 23rd, 1874, at 10 o'clock, A. M., be set as the day for holding the Democratic County Convention to nominate candidates to fill the various county offices. The Convention to be held at Baker City, Baker County, Oregon. On motion of A. H. Brown it was recommended that all persons who will pledge themselves to vote the Democratic ticket at the ensuing election to be held in June, 1874, be allowed to vote for delegates in the primaries to be held Feb'y 14th, 1874, and that the votes at the primaries be by ballot.

On motion the Committee adjourned until February 23rd, 1874, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

C. G. CHANDLER, Ch'n.
LUTHER B. ISON, Sec'y.

LATE NEWS.

The New Chief-Justice.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19th.
M. R. Waite, of Toledo, O., has been nominated for Chief Justice.—The nomination of Mr. Waite appeared to be a surprise, but it was referred to the Judiciary Committee, and will doubtless be confirmed to-morrow. All parties appear to agree that it is a fit one. Mr. Waite is 58 years of age, is a son of the late Chief Justice Waite, of Connecticut, and is a lawyer of 35 years standing. He was one of the counsel for the U. S. in the Geneva arbitration. He has been a resident of Toledo, Ohio, since 1838, and is at present President of the Ohio Constitutional Convention. Just a year ago he was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States, on motion of Caleb Cushing.

Waite's nomination thus far meets with no opposition, except that the nominee is unknown. Both Evarts and Cushing, who served with him at Geneva, endorse him cordially.—He is personally well known to the present Associate Justices, and was the friend and possessed the confidence of Chief Justice Chase. In politics he is a moderate Republican, with strong convictions, but slight partisan predilections.

Mitchell, of Oregon, introduced a bill to provide for the construction of the Portland, Oregon (Dalles?) and Salt Lake Railroad, and a telegraph. He said the measure was in the true interest of commerce, and was approved by the people of the whole north Pacific coast without distinction of party; that the people of that section were actually suffering for cheap transportation, and the construction of this road would result in a great saving to Government in transportation of troops, mail, etc. Bill was referred to Committee on Railroads.

Mitchell's bill provides that the proposed extension of the Portland, Dalles and Salt Lake Railroad from the Columbia river to some point on the Pacific Railroad between Ogden and Kelton, shall be open for the free transmission of United States mails and Government supplies, in consideration of which the United States Government is to guarantee the payment of the interest on the Company's bonds to the extent of \$10,000 per mile. The rates of freight and passenger traffic may be regulated by Congress, and they are in no case to discriminate against any particular class or individual.

The House Committee of Civil Service will report a bill reducing the number of Deputy Commissioners of Internal Revenue, and providing that a vacancy in the office of First Deputy shall be filled by appointment of the existing deputy.

CHICAGO, Jan. 20th.
Between 3 and 4 o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the Union Central depot buildings, occupied by the Michigan and Illinois Central and Chicago, Burlington and Quin-

cy railroads, at the foot of Lake street, and in a short time made such progress as to defy the Fire Department. The building was entirely consumed. The baggage in the C. B. & Q. R. R. baggage room was nearly all lost, only a few pieces being saved and taken to the freight depot across the street. Baggage in the other room, south end, was saved, the fire being put out before it reached that far. Some of it was, however, removed to a place of safety. Nothing was saved from any of the offices in connection with the depot, all being swallowed up in the common destruction. The tracks were filled with cars, and most of them were saved, but the men were unable to remove a number of the passenger cars. The Michigan Central Railroad lost three passenger coaches and two Pullman Palace Sleepers. The C. B. & Q. lost three coaches, including one sleeper. The Cincinnati Air Line lost one coach. The total loss is estimated at between \$300,000 and \$400,000; insurance unknown. The depot was a frame one, put up after the great fire for temporary use.

WHEELING, W. V., Jan. 19th.

A letter is made public from Rev. T. Hatton, Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in this city, to Bishop Johns, dissolving his connection with the ministry of said Church, on account of the growing tendency of Episcopal bodies throughout the United States to ritualistic practices. For the present the Rector does not join in Bishop Cummins' movement, although he endorses it, but will wait for the action of the Church in Virginia and West Virginia. There is some excitement among the members in regard to the movement, which may be called the first reference in West Virginia to the Cummins' movement.

THE VIRGINIA SENATORIAL ELECTION.—A Richmond (Va.) dispatch of January 13th, contains the following:

The House and Senate voted separately for U. S. Senator to day. The result of the combined vote is: Withers (Conservative), 123; Wichham (Rep.), 6; Lewis (Rep.), 8; Evans (colored), Rep., 16.

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan. 19th.

The offices of the Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General were surrendered to-day by the old officers, and Governor Cooke and the newly elected officers took possession. The other offices will be similarly surrendered as soon as the new incumbents are qualified.

NEW YORK, Jan. 20th.

A special from Richmond makes the announcement of the sudden death of the Siamese twins on Saturday morning, at their residence at Mount Airey, Surrey county. Chang was partially paralyzed last fall, since which time he has been very much debilitated and strongly addicted to drinking liquor as a means of alleviating his sufferings. He had been quite feeble for several days, so much so as to confine the brothers to bed. Friday night Chang became worse, and expired suddenly about 4 o'clock on Saturday morning. Eng became so terribly shocked that he roared wildly for awhile. This attack was followed by what seemed to be a deadly stupor, and in two hours from the death of Chang, Eng breathed his last. The wives and families of the twins are in the deepest grief, the children, many of whom are deaf mutes, expressing their sorrow in the most piteous manner.

BENNINGTON, Vt., Jan. 20th.

The knitting mill of E. Bradford was burned this afternoon. The fire was caused by a leak in a gasoline pipe. The gas was ignited from the boiler furnace and, exploding, demolished an adjoining sewing room, nineteen women being at work there in. They were instantly killed or burned to death in the fire which followed, and many others injured, some shockingly. The card and sheeting rooms were saved. Loss, about \$100,000; partially insured.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 20th.

A petition has been introduced in the Missouri legislature for the removal of Judge Prim, of the Criminal Court of this city, for alleged immoral and corrupt practices. A resolution was also introduced requesting Missouri Representatives and Senators to vote for any measure for the expansion of currency.

MEMPHIS, Jan. 20th.

The Supreme Court of Mississippi unanimously decided that the late State election was Constitutional, and Governor Ames will be inaugurated to-day.

Congress turns General Howard's case over to the War Department for investigation by court of inquiry.

The London Times estimates that 74,000,000 bushels of wheat will be required from this country to supply the markets of Europe until the crop of 1874 is harvested. This, at present rates, will bring into the country over one hundred millions of dollars, giving a new impetus to business in almost every branch of industry. Agents from London Liverpool, Glasgow and other cities in England and on the Continent are now in Chicago and Milwaukee, buying wheat for houses there, and the competition among them is so brisk that prices have taken a decided upward turn. This is a first time, we believe, in the history of the grain trade, that European agents have visited the great grain depots of the West and made purchases direct, all supplies having heretofore been contracted for in New York.

Zach. Chandler manages to get right down to the hardpan of truth occasionally, and the best of it is that his wisdom, for a variety of reasons, is mostly unconscious. "We have now been in session nearly three weeks," said Zach. in the Senate the other day, "and accomplished absolutely nothing in the three weeks.—We have alarmed the country a little; raised the price of gold a few per cent; deranged business somewhat; done no good to anybody or anything and now, having been in session three weeks and accomplished nothing, you propose to run home and rest, do you?"

JAS. W. VIRTUE,

BAKER CITY, OREGON,

BROKER AND ASSAYER

DEALER

In Gold Dust,

—AND—

GOLD AND SILVER BARS,

—ALSO—

EXCHANGE & GREENBACKS.

Office—First door north Odd Fellow's Hall
[n39v24f]

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Announcements.

At the solicitation of many friends, I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the office of County Clerk of Baker county, Oregon, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

LUTHER B. ISON.

For County Clerk.—We are authorized to announce, W. R. Curtis, of Clarksville, as a candidate for the office of County Clerk, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

For Sheriff.—We are authorized to announce R. C. George as a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Baker county, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

For Sheriff.—We are authorized to announce Samuel H. Small as a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Baker county, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

For Sheriff.—We are authorized to announce William Athley as a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Baker county, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

For Sheriff.—We are authorized to announce E. B. Bineheart as a candidate for Sheriff of Baker county, subject to the decision of the Democratic County Convention.

Estray Notice.

THE UNDERSIGNED, Living six miles from Baker City, has taken up one stray horse, described as follows:—He is a bay Cayuse, blaze face, the right hind foot white above the pastern, supposed to be four years old, about 14 hands high; no brands perceptible.

Appraised by Samuel Farnum, a Justice of the Peace for Baker Precinct, Baker county, Oregon, to be worth Nineteen Dollars. January 6, 1874.

JAMES TONEY.

Tax Payers Take Notice.

COSTS WILL BE ADDED TO all Taxes remaining unpaid after the First Day of March, 1874.

JAMES H. SHINN,
Tax Collector.
Baker City, January 20, 1874. n37n42

TIN-SHOP!

J. H. PARKER,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN
Copper, Tin and Sheet-Iron Ware,
Main Street, Baker City, Oregon.

HE KEEPS CONSTANTLY ON hand a full assortment of all articles in his line, such as

Miner's Hydraulic Pipe, Nozzles, Butts and Tin Ware.

Also, Every Pattern and Style of STOVES.

The Celebrated Beck's Patent Cooking, and the Onward Parlor Stove are kept on hand, together with all other styles.

JOB WORK

Done upon short Notice, and at reasonable Prices.

J. H. PARKER.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS.

Boyd's Pre-emption Entry and United States Townsite of Baker City, set down for Patent. The Final decision of Commissioner Drummond against H. A. Pierce and State of Oregon, and in favor of Boyd's Pre-emption Entry for the Northeast quarter of Southeast quarter, and West half of Southeast quarter of Section 17, Township 9, S R 40 East, 120 acres. Also, in favor of United States Townsite of J. M. Boyd in the Southeast quarter of Section Seventeen, in Town Nine South and Forty East, commonly known as Baker City, and Boyd's Addition, and which is situated in Baker county, Oregon, (if said Boyd has not first secured the title of the undesignated to the same), will be forfeited, and will be taken from you without any pay or reward for improvements. DEWEY & PIERCE.

January 13, 1874—354f

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS.

You are hereby notified that all Lands purchased of J. M. Boyd in the Southeast quarter of Section Seventeen, in Town Nine South and Forty East, commonly known as Baker City, and Boyd's Addition, and which is situated in Baker county, Oregon, (if said Boyd has not first secured the title of the undesignated to the same), will be forfeited, and will be taken from you without any pay or reward for improvements. DEWEY & PIERCE.
Chicago, Ill., Dec. 8, 1873. n344f