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REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION. By order of the Republican State Central Committee, a Republican convention for the state of Oregon is called to meet at Portland, on Thursday, April 20th 1882, at 11 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of nominating candidates for Representative to Congress, Judge of the Supreme Court, Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Printer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, District officers in the several judicial districts and to transact any other business that may come before the convention. The committee passed a resolution recommending that all delegates elected to this convention attend personally, so far as possible, or by proxies residing in the counties to be represented.

PRECINCT AND COUNTY CONVENTIONS. At a meeting of the Republican county central committee, for Benton county, called to order by Hon. A. M. Williams, chairman, on last Wednesday, the number of delegates for the several precincts to the county convention was apportioned on the vote of State printer Odell, at the ratio of one delegate for each twenty votes and one also for each fraction over ten, and one delegate at large for each precinct, which resulted in giving to the several precincts the following number of delegates: Soap Creek, 4; Corvallis, 12; Willamette, 2; Monroe, 6; King's valley, 5; Alsea, 2; Summit, 1; Yaquina, 3; Muldy, 3; Philomath, 7; Elk City, 2; Tum Tum, 2; Lower Alsea, 2; Toledo, 2; Tidewater, 1. It was ordered by the committee, that precinct conventions be held in each of the several precincts, on Tuesday, the 4th day of April next, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the afternoon, and that the county convention meet at the Court house in this place, on Saturday, the 8th day of April next, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon. It was recommended that the County Convention elect delegates to the State convention at the same time when they nominate for county officers.

NOT SOLD. During a recent trip to Portland we were met with statements from several parties to the effect that they had heard that the Oregon Pacific Railroad had sold out, and inquiries from the same parties as to whether we knew of any such transfer. We frankly answered that we knew nothing of the kind, and furthermore that we felt confident beyond any doubt whatever, that no such transaction would occur. For the benefit of the people generally, and also to satisfy such inquirers, it is proper to inform them that for a long time past, reports like those which elicited the inquiries above alluded to, have been circulated at short intervals. Such reports have been found to originate with parties through selfish motives and having large interests opposed to the building of a railroad through the central portion of the valley, and tapping the ocean at Yaquina bay, and whose desire is most strong that such a sale should occur, in order to prevent such a formidable competition as the Oregon Pacific will afford. The most active efforts on the part of the company are now being made to again start the work on the road, and it is evident that it will be running from the bay to the Valley the present season.

POLITICAL JIGGLERY.

The Republican State Convention has been called to meet in the near future. The precinct and county conventions must soon follow in advance. With an important election near at hand and the fact of the state having gone Republican, in the near past, inspires the average democratic organ, and the street-corner politician, to assume a grave attitude of self-importance and starts them out in the usual way of smelling around and making uncalculated and impudent assertions without any shadow of truth or plausibility, for the simple and only purpose of creating discord and confusion in the republican ranks. Instead of attending closely to matters of importance in the household of their own party. They continually endeavor to impress the public mind with the idea that some job or combination is being attempted to be made in the republican ranks. The object of these curb stone politicians whose triticism makes them unworthy to be associated with the rank and file of honest and fair minded democrats is self evident. From past experience we may reasonably expect a continuance of any amount of such contemptible and disgusting proceedings. All good citizens depise it and all fair minded and honest democrats have determined, in the future, to effectually and completely set down upon the perpetrators of such infamous and dishonorable maneuvering whenever they arise for popular favor.

THAT POLITICAL POT.

Our neighbor under the title of "Political Pot" in a recent issue, bawdy-like, undertakes as is usual many times with such Journals, to interfere and meddle with matters which more properly concern the republican party. It names a number of prominent citizens of our county, at the same time insinuating that they are attempting to maneuver in such a manner, as to secure nominations to themselves. In noticing this article we do not desire in any way to interfere in nominations for the county positions, or in any way influence them, for we believe that it is the duty of the people to meet in conventions and elect delegates and nominate such material as will suit their judgement, and that in doing so, they should be left to perform that important duty without being influenced by wireworkers or newspaper dictation. But when an organ, styling itself a newspaper, so far forgets itself as to circulate uncalculated, false insinuations in regard to some of our best citizens, as has been said of Mr. Williams, it becomes our bounden duty to notice the same whether the party assailed be democratic, republican, or otherwise.

This remarkable article, besides mentioning many other names, says: "Treasurer Williams claims to be a county charge, and could not be away through this dreary world without a five hundred dollar salary from Benton." The writer of the above, does not understand the temper of a Benton county people if it is expected that such will be received with popular favor. As to whether Mr. Williams desires a renomination or not, we are unable to say, as we have not heard anything on the subject from any reliable source. It makes no difference whether such is his desire or not, the assertion above alluded to is none the less true. Mr. Williams has been a much respected citizen of Benton county for 25 or 30 years, and has always been industrious and self supporting. If he does not possess as much of this world's goods as some others, it cannot probably be attributed to his fault, because he has, as all old citizens of the county well know, been the unfortunate victim of two of those large and destructive fires, which occurred several years ago in our town, while he was engaged in the mercantile business, almost totally destroying his stock on those occasions. In order to put this comment short, it is probably sufficient to say that Mr. Williams never before occupied an official position in this county and has not been an office seeker as the term commonly implies. His life has been one of activity and industry and not devoted to manipulation of political machinery, or of a street corner politician, as has probably been the writer of the article above alluded to. For aught we know, he may be a poor man but that is no offense. A great portion of the best men we have are poor men. However poor he may be in purse, we can safely vouch for him, that he will never under any circumstances, become so

bankrupt in principle as to write or speak of his fellow man, such an unkind, false and uncalled for comment, as is contained in the above quotation regarding him.

THE LEADER'S CRITICISM.

The Leader of last week, takes occasion to criticize our views on the subject of free trade, insisting that according to our position, our state legislature should be empowered to enact a tariff law, so high as to prohibit the importation of all manufactured goods. The article to which our neighbor refers is insupportable of any such construction. The power to legislate on matters affecting our commerce with other nations, is rightfully lodged by our constitution, in Congress. If Oregon were an independent nation, she would have the right, and it would be her duty, to enact, not a prohibitory, but a protective tariff, of such character as to insure within her borders, the development of her material resources and the multifarious avocations pertaining to the industrial, manufacturing and mechanical arts. There are two extremes which, in the discussion of this question should be avoided: a prohibitory tariff is one of these and the Leader's pet theory of free trade is the other. A prohibitory tariff would enable the manufacturer to exact the most extortionate prices for the products of his labor, while free trade would inundate our country with the products of skilled labor, from the old world, and would be as destructive to our manufacturing interests, as was the recent invasion of Chili to the prosperity and happiness of Peru.

Our neighbor quotes from the Oregonian, (which, by the way, is the best part of his article), in which quotation, the astounding statement is made, that the number of persons benefited by our present protective tariff, does not exceed 500,000. In the single state of Massachusetts, which, in 1878 had a population of about 1,600,000, there were 316,459 employed in the manufacturing and mechanical industries. We have not the data from which to determine the number employed in these occupations in the other states, but that the number is much larger than as represented by the Oregonian, admits of no reasonable doubt. The article objected to by the Leader however, clearly showed that the whole people are benefited by the tariff. We showed that the inauguration of the free trade policy would utterly destroy our manufacturing and mechanical industries. It is also claimed that no government, devoid of manufacturing interests, would be self-sustaining in case of war with some powerful nation like England or Russia and therefore, that the very safety of the country, the welfare of the whole people, is involved in this question. The Leader does not deny either of these propositions, which fact is to be taken as a logical admission of their truth.

But we are gravely told that we would not have a home market for one-tenth of our surplus products, even if we were properly supplied with manufactures. This might be true if our population were to remain what it is now, but our neighbor must remember, that if skilled labor, mining, stock-raising, agriculture, manufacturing interests etc., were properly developed, our population would not long be confined to its present insignificant proportions. Under such favorable circumstances, Oregon would be susceptible of a dense population. She could easily give peaceful and profitable employment to at least 3,000,000 of industrious, contented and happy citizens. In a manufacturing community, the great diversity of vocations requiring skilled labor, gives ample scope to the employment of the young, in those vocations in which, by bent of mind and natural inclination, they seem best fitted by nature to succeed. It therefore becomes an imperative need of the whole country, that government pursue such a policy, as will inure a diversity of occupations commensurate with the diversity of capacities, thus avoiding a waste of human aptitudes.

It will be observed that the Leader is not satisfied with antagonizing the manufacturing interests; it also opposes the patent laws. Now we do not pretend that our patent laws are insupportable of improvement in some respects, but we are fully of the opinion, that it is a wise policy for government to stimulate inventive genius, by giving the inventor the exclusive use of his invention for a limited time. This and this alone, has given our country, the proud distinction of possessing the finest labor-saving machinery in the world.

The Leader's meaningless medley of words on this subject, may perhaps, by courtesy, be styled an argument in favor of free trade, but his expecting anybody to reply to it, would be truly laughable. As well might Noah Webster have appended a challenge at the end of his dictionary, defying the world to refute the argument he had made in his book.

DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS.

Notwithstanding all efforts of a few persons who inhabit the principal towns, and imagine that if it were not for their disreputable maneuvering in democratic politics, that the wheels of that party would cease to revolve, and also of a like number of democratic papers, run wholly by the influence of the above class of political jugglers, put forth in circulating unfounded reports of combinations among members of the republican party, will avail nothing. Despite all these wasted efforts and publications of all parts of the state will meet in convention in their various precincts, uninfluenced by any considerations whatever, except the candid dictation of their own honest judgment and by their influence and representative men of the people as delegates to represent them in the several county conventions not pledged to any individual purposes. In like manner also delegates will be sent to the state convention. When delegates are sent to conventions, who are representative men of the people, it is unnecessary for them to go pledged or under instructions, as they will as a rule, by their good judgment, do under the circumstances as best they can, that which is for the best interests of the people. It is hoped therefore, in order to secure fair representative men a delegate, that all persons will attend the conventions in the various precincts. This also is a duty which men owe to the preservation and administration of a republican form of government, because all power in such a government springs from the people, which under the present system of nominations for the several offices, has its beginning first at the precinct conventions and second at the ballot box.

JUNCTION CITY AND CORVALLIS MAIL ROUTE.

Some parties are interesting themselves quite actively in their endeavors to bring about a change in the mail route from Corvallis to Junction City in Lane county. The desire of this effort is for Congress to increase the facilities for Monroe to Junction, making it a daily line between those two points and discontinue the remainder of the route from Corvallis to Monroe. By this means it would cut ninety per cent of the people of Benton county off from any direct mail communication with the southern end of the county.

This is certainly not a scheme in the interests of the people or for increasing the mail facilities. If people interested in the Junction end of the line wish a daily mail, why do they not apply for an increase to a daily line on that end of the route, and let the remainder of the line alone. It is self evident that this is not the point, and that in order to satisfy the object intended by the originators of the scheme that direct mail facilities from Corvallis, the county seat, to the entire southern end of the county, must be cut off. This same plan was worked through Congress some eight or ten years ago and the route changed to correspond with the effort now being made. It only remained in that condition for a short time until it was changed back to the present plan as the change did not accommodate the people. It cannot accommodate them now if the change should be made, and it is to be hoped that our senators and representatives in Congress will see that the majority of the people of Benton county are not shut off from mail communication with the whole southern portion of the county.

HON. M. C. GEORGE.

Mr. Editor.—The criticism of the Democratic press, regarding Hon. M. C. George's action in asking for \$25,000 as a recommendation by the Engineer Department instead of \$200,000 as per memorial of the legislative assembly, is unjust, unwise and unfair. An examination of the record shows that the memorial in question was presented last session, by Slater in the Senate, and Whitaker in the House, and it was DENIED AND REFUSED BY A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS. Nor was this all. The work of improvement had commenced, and the Engineer Department had recommended \$25,000 to continue the work, (the need of which is quite apparent now) yet neither Whitaker nor Slater, nor even the Hon. Governor who now presents a bill asking \$200,000, could induce a Congress of their own party to grant more than a paltry \$10,000. Nor did either Mr. Slater or Grover in the Senate, or Whitaker in the House ever offer

an amendment or introduce a bill on this important subject. The Committee on Commerce, simply cut the recommendation of the Engineers for \$25,000 down to \$10,000 without any argument or opposition from the VIGORANT delegation from Oregon it passed. Mr. Whitaker absolutely failed to obtain as much as a trade dollar for Coose Bay, notwithstanding a recommendation from the Engineer Department to continue the work at that place. As the democrats started this fire I am not disposed to put it out. If Hon. George is to blame, the democratic delegation past and present are equally to blame, more so, because Hon. Grover now rushes to the front, as the time for electing a new Senator is near at hand, and offers a bill for \$200,000. That is all right, but it is not possibly strange? He cannot see the wants of Coose Bay, Coquille, Alsea, Unappo, the Upper Willamette, Upper Columbia, Snake River. These places are all in the Engineers' estimate, and backed in many cases by Legislative Memorials and petitions from the people. Why don't the Hon. Gentleman come to the front on these? A shrewd observer of the democratic press, will not be at a loss to understand this move. I have no disposition to examine Hon. Grover and I would like to have to ascertain what he has done, and what would take a great deal of time. Hon. M. C. George, however, has not been so remiss in his duties to all sections of the State, every point having a recommendation. M. C. George is a new member. Other members will naturally feel envious of his position on the Committee of Commerce. He will need the committee's cooperation and votes in the House. I had hoped to see the Democrats around the same hearty assistance to him, that the republicans did to Hon. Whitaker. The republicans never allowed the question of political interest to interfere with what they considered a paramount duty although it was well understood that great political favor would accrue to the man who succeeded in getting a bill passed for the bay. The republicans never faltered. They gave cheerily every possible support, fully realizing they were assisting a political rival in the case of an important election. The democrats seem to fear Mr. George and in their frenzy do that which is certainly against the best interest of the State, rather than cooperate with their support and confidence. I had hoped, where no mistake for better conduct. But M. C. George although 1 to 15 in the Committee of Commerce and I among 300 members of the House, will go home that committee and the House and will not allow any other Representative to labor as he offers the Committee and House will allow. Then Mr. Slater and Grover can wait. I am in the Senate, and I hope they will be able to keep all that Mr. George's success might be well enough as an inducement to quit quarreling over politics and go to work, to say that Oregon is 1 State in 3, and she has 17,500 people to 20 millions elsewhere in the United States, that the same legislator had asked for \$200,000 at the bay by the name of M. C. GEORGE, and the Engineer Department have asked for about this same amount. Thirty-one million is asked for by the Engineer Department, for the United States, and the Secretary of War has cut his down to \$5,500,000 nearly 2 of the amount required and I submitted, to this opposition of the United States, and there is something else to be heard, hearing down the power of the only man who can represent us and lead us out of a commercial bondage. It is a pity.

POLYGAMY BILL.

The anti polygamy bill which passed the Senate some time ago, also passed the House on the 14th, by a vote of 119 against 42. It now awaits the approval of the president to become a law.

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