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RUMORS OF WAR.

Matters centering about the New Orleans lynching and the Italian Mafia took rather a sudden and unexpected turn on the 31st. With an official note Baron Fava the Italian minister at Washington declared to the secretary of state that the United States government, not having given assurance that the murders of Italian subjects, acquitted by American magistrates, and murdered in prison while under the immediate protection of the authorities of New Orleans, would be brought to justice, the Italian government has found itself under the very painful necessity of showing openly its dissatisfaction by recalling the minister of his majesty from a country where an Italian representative is unable to obtain justice.

This action on the part of Italy is regarded by some as next to a declaration of war with the United States, while for the most part the people treat the matter lightly. While it is not impossible that war will ensue, we are to understand that Italy means simply what she says—that she withdrew her minister in order to show openly her dissatisfaction with our methods of government. This action even was hasty in the light of the fact that it is not yet known that any of the Italians lynched were subjects of Italy, nor whether those participating would not be punished. It would seem that Italy demanded that Mr. Blaine give that country assurances which he, in his official capacity, was unable to do. Mr. Blaine is unable to dictate to Louisiana what that state shall do with its criminals, much less to sentence them according to the Italian idea of justice.

The indications of war with Italy are not such as to give alarm, but we are disposed to underate her as an enemy. Italy is weak in financial resources. She is in debt but her indebtedness has been largely contracted in the maintenance of an army and in the construction of a powerful navy. We are not to forget that a mortgaged ironclad may be as destructive as one twice paid for.

After all, a little skirmish with Italy might not be undesirable. It would probably be the means of giving the United States a navy, and would possibly stop the Italian immigration.

"Hurrah for Governor Hogg of Texas," one is inclined to yell upon learning that he is opposed to the gerrymandering of the Congressional districts in that state, believing that a Congressional district ought to be a compact, square thing, but one's ardor is slightly dampened upon reading the editorial comment upon the governor's views, in the Baltimore Sun; "With a democratic majority of 200,000 it is probably possible to heed the governor's advice without imperiling a solid democratic delegation." That is always the policy of the democratic party, which is only willing to do right when it can be done without political loss.

So the democrats think they should be recognized in the appointment of the nine new United States Circuit Court judges, do they? Well, that is rich. Pray how many republicans did Grover Cleveland appoint to office during his term as president? No, boys. You needn't waste any time hunting up endorsements for democrats; the new judges will all be republicans.

THE BRIDGE QUESTION.

The people of Albany seem to have succeeded in their efforts to secure a bridge across the Willamette at that place. It has been suggested that the county court of Benton county ought to assist in the building of the bridge because it would unite Benton and Linn counties at that point.

The fact that Polk county rendered such assistance in the construction of the first bridge at Salem has been mentioned as a precedent in this connection. The Albany bridge will no doubt be of benefit to the lower portion of Benton county. Many residents in that locality transact most of their business at Albany, and they will be benefited accordingly. But the great majority of taxpayers of the county have no interest whatever in the construction of a bridge over the Willamette river at Albany. Their interests can in no way be promoted by it. They do not transact their business at Albany, and when they have occasion to go there they find the trains the easiest and cheapest mode of conveyance.

The residents near Albany who do go there frequently might with propriety render such private aid in the building of the Albany bridge as in their judgment is just. But for Benton county to appropriate money from the county treasury for that purpose would not, in the opinion of the GAZETTE, be subservient of the best interests of the taxpayers of the county. The Polk county precedent is not one to follow in this case. The conditions are not the same by any means. There is a vast difference between the relative commercial importance of Salem and Independence and that of Corvallis and Albany. Independence, though a promising young city, is to the state capital as one is to several. Albany, on the contrary, is to Corvallis more nearly as six is to half-a-dozen. Therefore the conditions are not similar. Again, a court composed of human beings might by reason of inexperience or lack of wisdom, err. We do not allege that such is the case but still a court might do such a thing. Therefore the precedent of our sister county having helped Salem is no reason why Benton county should help Albany.

It has been intimated that if Benton county should assist in building the Albany bridge Linn would doubtless reciprocate when Corvallis is ready to build a bridge here. It is not probable that the county court of Linn county would commit themselves to such an agreement. If they should it is questionable whether or not their successors in office would be bound by such an agreement. It is furthermore not likely that such an action would meet with the approval of the taxpayers of Linn county in general. Of what special importance to them is the construction of a bridge at this city? It is highly probable that the city which first completes her bridge will be indifferent as to the building of a bridge at the other, or any other point. Supposing, however, that Benton county should make a liberal appropriation for the Albany bridge, and that, when Corvallis is ready to build, Linn county should make a corresponding appropriation, how much better off would either town or county be? Obviously they would be in the same condition as at first. If Corvallis was a little town of insignificant importance and with no prospect of a bridge for a considerable length of time it might be somewhat different. But such is not the case.

A hasty canvass among a few of the business men of Corvallis recently, revealed the fact that this community only needs a thorough canvass and a properly organized effort, to secure the construction of a bridge over the Willamette here. The citizens are in the humor for this. \$6,000 was pledged in a few minutes' canvass after

business hours. Another citizen, always prominent in public affairs, stated that he was ready at any time to be one of twenty who would subscribe \$1,000 each towards the bridge. \$250 to \$500 subscriptions are plentiful. All it requires is united effort, a good plan, and Corvallis will have a bridge.

As in Portland, Salem, and Albany, Corvallis also has its principal business street adjacent to and parallel with the Willamette river. The opposite bank may never assume the relative importance of East Portland, but it is certain that a bridge would widely extend the influence of this business street and the city. Let the community then, arouse itself and by concentrated action bring about this desirable result. Corvallis needs no outside aid to make improvements tending to her own aggrandisement. She rises superior to the conditions surrounding her and her prosperity is the sure index of her future greatness.

The excitement in Europe over the Franco-Russian alliance which menaces the Dreibund, as the alliance of Germany, Austria and Italy is called, has revived interest in the armaments of these powers. It is estimated that Germany can put into the field 2,233,950 men; Austria, 1,631,138; Italy, 1,465,494; making a total for the Dreibund of 5,330,692 armed men. To meet them France has 3,750,000 men and Russia, 2,955,000, making a total of 6,705,000. There is very little probability that either of these nations could mobilize the number of men which is credited to it, or could maintain them in the field if it had them there. The figures are interesting, however, because they show the extent of European armaments and afford a basis for estimating upon what a colossal scale a general European war would be carried on if it should break out before circumstances cause a disarmament of the nations.—San Jose Mercury.

No greater diplomatic triumph has ever been achieved by any secretary of state than that gained by Mr. Blaine in compelling the British Government to abandon its position in the Behring Sea dispute and agree to submit the matter to arbitration in the manner proposed by Mr. Blaine. It is a matter for congratulation that a satisfactory agreement has been reached before the opening of the sealing season this year, to which a great many people have been looking forward with apprehension. The dignity and honor of the country has been maintained, as it always has been and always will be when a republican is at the helm of the ship of state, and it has not been necessary to either bluster or fight.

Isn't it about time for the democratic press to stop circulating misrepresentations about the reciprocity treaty with Brazil? First they said there would be no treaty. Well, the treaty was negotiated. Then they said the treaty would not be approved by the Brazilian government, which has been proven false by the arrival of the official proclamation of the President of Brazil promulgating the treaty and explaining its provisions. Now, because there is nothing else to say, they are shouting that the treaty will be of no benefit to the United States. Come gentlemen, this is childish; if you are not willing to drop your partisanship long enough to give the administration credit for having brought about a good thing, at least have the decency to keep quiet.

A prominent Southern paper says: "It is becoming every day more apparent that the vast majority of the negroes are not disposed to take an active part in politics." The same may be said of the Jews in Russia, and the reasons in both cases are the same.—They are not allowed to.

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