

Corvallis Gazette.

FRANK CONOVER, Proprietor.

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THE EXTRA SESSION.

President Cleveland has at last been persuaded to change the date he had fixed upon for the assembling of congress in extra session, and accordingly that body is called to meet at Washington, Monday, August 7, instead of early in the month following. This action will be heartily commended by all classes throughout the country.

It has been a long time since a more urgent call for an extraordinary session of congress existed. The financial situation has been going from bad to worse ever since the break in the speculative markets nearly two months ago. From that time to this the country has been picking a way along the ragged edge of a panic. Stocks have been falling, money growing tighter, capital becoming timid, demand for the productions of the factories rapidly diminishing, and the employment of labor threatened with serious curtailment. Doubt, uncertainty and distrust have been seizing hold of business and paralyzing the arms of trade and industry.

Whatever may have been the determining causes of this situation, everybody is agreed as to what stands irrevocably in the way of the speedy recovery of confidence, without which the existing demoralization and depression must be indefinitely continued. Business must know what is to be the standard of value—whether it is to be a silver dollar depreciated fifty per cent and wildly fluctuating in actual value in the world's exchanges from day to day, or whether it is to be the gold dollar of the great commercial nations. Business must also know what it is to expect in the way of tariff changes. Without this knowledge and without assurance that the currency is to be founded on a standard of some assured stability, without accurate information as to the rates of taxes to be put upon imported commodities, there can be no restoration of confidence, no driving away of timidity from capital, no stop to the contraction of credit and the paralysis of all enterprise.

This congress holds the key to the situation. It alone can furnish the needed remedies. We have held that in this view of the case it should have been called in extraordinary session before this time. We have thought it to be no constitutional function of the executive power to "educate" that body or to determine the times when, in the president's opinion, its "education" was sufficient for the purposes in hand. Responsibility rested with congress alone and there it should have been placed at an earlier date than this. It is well, therefore, that the session is to begin a month earlier than was intended. The action of the president will carry assurance to the fevered mind of business all over the land of a speedy and no doubt a happy relief from the ills of distrust that at present afflict the markets.—Springfield Republican.

It is not intended to fill one with much enthusiasm for going east to read the accounts of storms the past few days. Two or three towns destroyed in Iowa and one hundred lives lost, and death and destruction at Chicago is the last. Oregon is the place, after all, if she isn't putting on many "frills" at the fair.—Transcript.

The Washington Star proposes the name of Governor Altgeld, of Illinois, for president and Governor Pennoyer, of Oregon, for vice president. Platform, "We are agin the government."

Indications point to some very interesting scrimmages among the faithful at Washington in the organization of the house.

The new coast-defense vessel, Monterey, was in the Portland harbor this week and was visited by vast crowds.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S EXPERIMENT

There has been no end of fun poked at South Carolina for the stand she is taking with the liquor question by going into the business, and the temperance people condemn in unmeasured terms the idea of a state setting up whisky shops. It must be confessed that the experiment is a novelty and a marked departure from all ideas heretofore advanced on the subject. But, as an experiment, it may be worth trying, though we confess we have not much faith in it as a satisfactory solution of the problem that has been confronting us for generations. It is an exercise by the state of its authority for regulating the liquor traffic in another direction than absolute prohibition of sale, the plan of most who have enlisted themselves to the warfare against its manifold evils. Prohibition does not always and necessarily prohibit, its failure being largely due to the idiosyncrasies and personal frailties of those charged with enforcement of the laws and the sentiment of the several communities under their jurisdiction. Undoubtedly the same reasons will largely contribute to the success or failure of the South Carolina experiment. Meantime, its outcome will be watched with interest. It is not improbable that some valuable data may be evolved from it. The famous histrionic remark from the governor of North Carolina to the governor of South Carolina is more than ever before to be repeated in the Palmetto state within the next year.—Cincinnati Tribune.

A number of indictments have been made against persons connected with the Portland custom house under James Lotan, the ex-collector himself being among them. Inspectors recently in the Astoria custom house have also been arrested. The indictments are for smuggling, and kindred charges. "The government has started in to make a case against us," was Mr. Lotan's commentary on his arrest, "and they have to play the string out. It is persecution rather than prosecution, and is done merely to furnish an excuse to the administration for turning us summarily out after promising not to do so. I was removed, they said, because I would land the enormous quantity of opium and contraband Chinese coming in on the Haytian Republic. But there was not a pound of opium found on her, and they are still landing her passengers, some every day." It is understood that Mr. Lotan is to be prosecuted, if at all, not for active participation in any smuggling, but for neglecting to use his official position to prevent it.

The Sunday attendance at the world's fair has been so small that the directors have come to the conclusion that the public doesn't so much want Sunday opening as was supposed. It was previously announced that last Sunday's receipts at the gates would be donated for the relief of the families of the firemen who lost their lives in the recent fire on the grounds, but notwithstanding this charitable arrangement the attendance was unusually small.

Vice-President Adlai Stevenson and a party of friends, who are on their way to the Northwest, will be greeted with a rousing reception when they reach Portland. It is expected that the vice-president will reach Portland in a day or two, on his way to the sound, and during his necessarily brief stay in the city, Portland democrats will do all the honors to the distinguished Illinoisan that circumstances will allow.

Five hundred empty beer barrels, for reshipment to the breweries, were piled up in front of a saloon in Pendleton the other day, representing the amount of beer consumed at that saloon in two months. Each barrel holds fifteen gallons, making a total for the 500 of 7,500 gallons, nearly two each for every man, woman and child in that city. The first cost of the beer was about \$2,000. No wonder the brewing companies find Pendleton a good field to compete for.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

The surgeon general of the United States army reports that the rate of admission to the hospitals for alcoholism is forty per 1,000, a proportion the enormity of which is only appreciated by comparing our rates with the freedom from lunkeness of the British, 2.56; the Italian, 0.03, and the German army, 0.20. During the last fiscal year the desertions numbered 1,382 and this great total has been far exceeded in recent times. The difficulty of securing good men is shown by the fact that the recruiting officers in making 8,147 enlistments last year rejected 20,831 applicants who lacked necessary qualifications, mental, moral or physical. A system is in force by which men are allowed to buy their way out of the army during the second and third years of their first enlistment, which tempts undesirable men to enter the service, and then assures them a quick deliverance the first time they become offended by their commanding officer or are called upon to perform any arduous or unpleasant duty. During the last year 880 went out by thus purchasing the privilege, while among other causes that depleted the army were 394 fraudulent enlistments, and 836 sentences of garrison courts-martial. So low is the moral tone that a military prison has to be maintained at a cost of \$75,000 a year. The social status of the enlisted man is most undesirable, yet he is allowed to marry and have his family at an army post. The result is that one-fourth of all the women at the forts and more than one-third of the children are the families of soldiers, between whom and the families of the officers the social lines are and must be strictly drawn.

New York Times, June 15th: "It was learned from high Russian sources yesterday that the Russian government has decided to maintain a permanent fleet of warships in United States waters, and the port of New York will be made Russia's Western naval center. It was announced yesterday that representatives of the Russian government had made overtures to the Erie drydocks establishment to undertake the care and overhauling of all warships maintained by Russia in American waters. The opinion was ventured in naval circles last evening that in view of the likelihood of the Behring sea cases going against Great Britain and the late announcement that England is reinforcing her naval force at Esquimaux, the proposed action of Russia is of great importance to the United States.

Congressman Wagner says that President Cleveland has tendered to State Supreme Court Justice Edgar M. Cullen the appointment to the supreme court of the United States in the place of the late Justice Blatchford.

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If tired, aching, nervous mothers knew the comfort, strength, and vitality in Cuticura Plaster, they would never be without them. In every way the purest, sweetest and best of plasters.

The Duke of Veragua, whom the United States has been entertaining for some time as a descendant of Columbus, it seems, went broke in speculation. A number of prominent Americans are now endeavoring to have what they term a suitable sum of money subscribed and invested for the benefit of his family. "It is barely possible," says the Statesman, "that there are other families, a good deal nearer than Spain is to us, too, that are as needy and as worthy of public sympathy and aid. With all the advantages the Duke of Veragua has had in life he ought to be qualified to support his family from his own exertions. Men more poorly equipped have to do this. If President Palmer really wants to do a kindness let him give the aristocratic and impetuous duke a job at the world's fair. There are plenty of positions there, some of them quite soft snaps. And again if President Palmer wants to do a kindness let him start a movement for the relief of such persons as old Dan Emmet, the author and composer of "Dixie Land," who, in his old age, is sawing wood and doing chores in an Indiana hamlet. There is too much toadyism and too little humanity and patriotism and good sense abroad in the world."

It was learned at the pension office at Washington on June 14th that 2560 pensioners have been suspended up to date under Secretary Hoke Smith's recent ruling. The suspensions are not confined to any particular locality, but are well distributed throughout the country. No pensioner has as yet been dropped under the decision, for the reason that the 60 days allowed the pensioners in which to make proof of disability have not elapsed.

Well, when are democratic good times to begin? And by the way, where's the man who will stand up before the American public and affirm that McKinley prices are too high?—Ex.

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