

REFORMATIONS.

It may be thought premature to begin to discuss the matter now, so long before the next election, but we opine that it is never too early to try to do good—it sometimes is too late.

The PLAINDEALER holds to the opinion that the delegation from this county to the next legislature be required to pledge themselves to cut loose from the pernicious practice of employing an army of clerks during the session of that body, many of whom are mere sinecures—drawing pay from the treasury without rendering any needed services. The PLAINDEALER further demands pledges to oppose appropriating money to aid any institutions of whatever name or nature that are not controlled by state authority. This paper also demands pledges from them to favor the re-enactment of the mortgage tax law.

The PLAINDEALER is aware, from the multiplicity of bills presented for the consideration of the legislature, arising from the demands of the several interests of each county, that the floor work of body is such as to require their greatest care and vigilance in critically examining those bills before voting upon them, and necessitates the work of committee clerks, that formerly could be done by the members themselves.

While this is true, the practice of employing clerks has grown into a sort of license to raid the treasury to make place for friends, and, not infrequently, to repay political adherents for campaign services.

This practice should be stopped, the sooner the better. Another evil of this practice is the payment of exorbitant wages. It is a noted fact that committee clerks are paid about double the wages paid for doing clerical work for private business men. These things need to be corrected and the PLAINDEALER raises its voice against the evil complained of and will demand of all candidates for the legislature next June, to pledge themselves to do what they can to correct this abuse.

PROTECT AMERICAN INDUSTRIES.

The men who talk about the impracticability of making a national campaign on the protection issue surely have not read political history well or comprehended its most important lessons. They ignore the fact that the law of 1890 was the most just and reasonable tariff law ever enacted by any party at any period since the organization of the government, and was happily adjusted to the conditions then existing. It enforced the principle of protection more vigorously and fully than ever before, and was repeatedly endorsed by republican conventions as the best embodiment of the protective principle ever put on our statute books. It will be remembered that Mr. Blaine at first complained that the bill did not recognize and enforce the doctrine of reciprocity, but it should also be recalled in that direction that he subsequently declared in a letter to Mr. Joseph H. Manley of his state in 1892, that "the wisdom of the McKinley tariff had been amply vindicated by experience." He declared that it was found to have worked admirably, and that within the last year it had produced a greater volume of business, internal and external, export and import, than the United States ever transacted before. The republican national convention in 1896 will fix the platform of the party. Wise men will not hasten to anticipate its action or usurp its functions. The law of 1890 sustained the protective principles most effectively and gave us the largest foreign trade ever known. Let the flag of protection float to the breeze.

THE MCKINLEY LAW.

The McKinley law operated as an enormous impetus to the growth, prosperity and profitability of the manufacturing industries of the United States. It enlarged the scope, it increased the profit, it brought enormous sums of money to this country and gave a grand forward impetus to our industrial system. It increased wages in many of the branches of labor. It lowered wages in none. It gave employment to all the laborers of the United States and made profitable the investments of United States capital. It caused a great increase in our foreign trade all of which has been cut off by the repeal of the McKinley law.

The McKinley law did not enhance the cost of living to the American laborer or the American citizen, on the contrary. At the close of the operations of the McKinley law, the commodities that enter into the life of the family and the support of the laborer and those dependent on him were lower than ever before in the United States. So that it had operated to benefit all classes of people in the United States, and was rapidly promoting our foreign commerce to an extent almost unheard of. Instead of retarding let the great army of protection advance its standards and lift them higher than ever before. No political party dare put a free trade plank in its platform.

DEMOCRATIC MENDACITY.

Democratic papers boldly assert that because of the revised tariff, suits of clothes which cost \$20 two years ago cost only \$12 now, and the equib is joyfully copied by local democratic sheets. Somebody must be a great liar. Possibly

there is a combination of them, because the change in the tariff on those suits does not amount to \$1 a suit. The chief difference in the cost of clothing in this country and in England is in the cost of labor for making it. Some artisans have been very poor for the last two years, and have been working for less than they did. That makes a reduction in the cost of clothing. Then, there are a good many stocks of goods which have been on sale a long time, and the owners are unloading them for what they can get. All the effects of a mighty depression have been on the country for two years, and there has been a cutting down generally, but to charge that the change in the tariff makes \$8 difference in the cost of a suit, when the entire tariff on that suit would not amount to \$1.50, is stretching the point a little too far. If the democracy takes that advanced ground in mendacity so early in the campaign, what in the mischief will it be doing toward the first of November?—Salt Lake Tribune.

Something About Hops and Hop-growing.

On a recent visit to the Willamette Valley Mr. P. Hume says he had an opportunity to learn some bottom facts about the hop business. There being some 300 acres in the vicinity of Brownsville, where they raise about the best quality of hops on the coast, the yield per acre being a fair average, too. He found, on an average ten acre field, that the rent paid for same when in full bearing was one-fourth of the crop in the bale.

The cost is about—
Cultivating, training, hoeing, &c. \$250 00
Picking, 1000 boxes @ 40c..... 400 00
Drying..... 100 00
Baling, sulphur and burlap..... 100 00
..... \$850 00
Add rent of ground or interest on original investment, at least..... 150 00
Total cost on year's crop..... \$1,000 00
Now 10 pounds of hops to the box is usual yield. Grower will need to get 10c per pound for his hops to cover expense, and pay ordinary wages.

True, the yield on the low, rich bottom lands may be greater than 100 boxes per acre, and the hops may sometimes go more than ten pounds to the box. But then owing to mould and lice, the crop may be worthless and an entire loss. So we count the 100 boxes per acre as a full average yield, and in the above figures there is no allowance for insurance, and the matter of drying is a very risky business. Besides, it is not prudent to put anything but first-class hops on the market now. Hops depreciate in value fully one-half each year, and if they are held over become valueless in three years.

It will be well for those intending to set out hop yards, to inform themselves as to the market for the hops in future and prices likely to be paid for them before using their best land for an article there is no possible chance to hedge on after raising it in turning the crops into something else as might be done with grain, corn or fruit. We would like to hear from some of the hop growers in this county as to the above figures and deductions.

THE PORTLAND MARKET.

Portland, Sept. 21.—The following prices were current in the produce markets yesterday:

Flour—\$2.75 @ \$2.85 per barrel.
Oats—Good white are quoted weak at 19@20c per bushel; gray, 18@19c.
Hay—Overstocked; timothy, \$8.50@8 per ton; cheat, 5.50@6; clover, No. 1.
Potatoes—New Oregon 35@40 per sack.

Butter—Firm; fancy creamery, 22½@ 20c per pound; fancy dairy, 17½@20c; fair to good, 15@17½c; common, 10@ 12½c.
Onions—New California, .85@ \$1.00 per ctt.

Poultry—Chickens, old, \$3@3.25 per dozen; young, \$1.25@2.50 per dozen; ducks, \$2.50@3; geese, \$1@6; turkeys, live, 10c per pound; dressed, no demand.
Eggs—Oregon, 20c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon, full cream, 8 @ 9c per pound; half cream, 5@7c; skin, 4 @ 5c.

Oregon vegetables—Cabbage, 1½@1½c per pound; radishes, 10c per dozen bunches; green onions, 10c per dozen; Oregon wax beans, 2@3½c; cucumbers, 75c@1 per box; cauliflower, \$1 per box.
Fresh fruit—Apples, 60@75c per box; grapes 65@81 per box; prunes, 25@40c; peaches, 60@65c.

Berries—Blackberries, 4c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 10@11c, according to quality; Eastern Oregon, 7@9c.
Provisions—Oregon: Smoked hams, 11½c per pound.

THE MEAT MARKET.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$3.50@ 3.75; light and feeders, \$3.25@3.50; dressed, 4½c per pound.
Veal—Gross, small, 5@6c; large, 3 @4c per pound.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.50@3; fair to good steers, \$2.50@2.60; cows, \$2.25@ 2.50; dressed beef, 4@5½c.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers, \$1.75@2; ewes, \$1.75; dressed mutton, 4c.

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REMINISCENT.

The reader will remember that in our last we were preparing a pit over which we were to erect a scaffolding on which to place logs to be converted into lumber. The pit was about seven feet deep, five feet wide, posts set on the bottom, and poles or sills laid across the top, which made a kind of carriage for the logs. The next thing in order was to get the logs. We felled a tree about three feet in diameter, and the tree in falling, as it left the stump split directly in the center for about 40 feet and about as even and smooth as if it had been run through with a rip saw. We sawed off three cuts, scored and hewed the outside of the logs, then with a cord blackened with damp charcoal, lined the logs, these lines to be followed by the saw making the lumber thus sawed two inches thick and 12 inches wide. The log was then slid onto the frame prepared to receive it. The writer then took the whip saw, mounted the log, another party stepped underneath and the saw mill started. We were not accustomed to manufacturing lumber in that way, and could not well follow the lines, and so spoiled one-half of the log before we could guide the "blasted" saw in the right direction. But by perseverance we conquered the difficulty and before night we had 100 feet of lumber to reward us for the day's labor. We retired that night congratulating ourselves that we had solved the problem of how to run a saw mill by manual labor unsupported by any other mechanical contrivances.

About midnight we were awakened from sleep by a snoring and growling, not far distant in the heavy timber, and we were soon aware of the fact the noise arose from bears engaged in some kind of struggle for the mastery. We composed ourselves again to rest, and in the morning took a hasty breakfast, eager to get to work and make a good day's run with our saw mill. We arose and started to the pit, and had not proceeded more than twelve steps from our shanty, when as we crossed a path leading through the timber, we saw large tracks of bears in the dust, they having passed by during our sleeping hours. Our shanties were entirely open on one side, and had Bruin been so disposed, he might have walked in and partaken of a midnight meal, a cannibal. We proceeded on to the designated place, worked 'til noon, took a lunch, then to work again and by sun down we were delighted to know that we had 250 feet of sawed lumber to reward us for our severe day's labor. But by further practice we succeeded some days in sawing 400 feet. Lumber was then four dollars per hundred.

This was before the discovery of gold in California. We ran that saw mill about one month and then concluded we would abandon that business for a time, and go to making shingles. Shingles were worth \$1 per hundred. We felled a beautiful redwood, that made 1500 shingles to the cut, and got ten cuts from the tree, and then the limbs starting in we sawed off five 12-foot logs to be sawed up into lumber. We individually and alone shaved 3000 shingles from that tree the first day, another man doing the riving. The butt end of the shingles required no touch of the knife. One evening near-sundown a couple of us concluded to take a hunt around to see if there was any game in the vicinity whereby we could replenish our larder with some luxuries. We travelled about three-fourths of a mile, when we came to a beautiful little prairie, and on that prairie were four bear subs gamboling as lively as two kittens. Young bear meat seemed to be very tempting to the appetite, so a ball from a rifle was thrown in the direction of one of them, and young bear meat that was destined for our supper soon lay prone upon the prairie. We hunted around for a pole, found one, ran it through the gambrels, then each one of us placing end of the pole on our shoulder, Chinese fashion, we started and soon reached camp. The cub was then stripped of his hide, its body desecrated, about ten of us, big and little, cut a hazel stick, fastened a piece of the meat on one end, held it over the fire until it was well broiled, and we then feasted on as delicious morsels as gratified the appetite of man. This manner of supping was kept up until a late hour in the night, when we retired to our respective beds of straw, dropped into blissful slumber and dreamed of delicious bear stake for breakfast. One of our party, the capacity of whose stomach was not equal to his gormandizing appetite, during the night breathed through his nose in senatorian tones, awakening us with the supposition that bears were among us and were about to feast upon our mortal bodies, but a punch in the ribs roused the snorer, he rolled over and remained quiet for the rest of the night. I will mention here that bear were very plentiful at that time and the Spaniards were very fearful of them, and never ventured where they were liable to be found. We may in our next notes give an account of a trip from the redwoods to the then Yerla Buena, now San Francisco. S.

Lake Steamer Sunk.

Sault Ste. Marie, Sept. 27.—The steamer Mark Hopkins collided with the steamer Vanderbilt at Nine-Mile Point today. The Hopkins went down in two minutes, while the Vanderbilt was but slightly injured. The Hopkins was insured for \$40,000. Her owner is R. C. Recor of St. Clair, Mich.

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LOST HARBOR

On the 21st of September, 1896, the steamer Mark Hopkins, of the Great Lakes, was wrecked on the rocks of the St. Clair River. The vessel was completely destroyed, and all on board were killed. The cause of the disaster was a collision with the steamer Vanderbilt, which was also wrecked. The bodies of the crew were recovered and buried in the same day.

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