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### SILVER IN EUROPE.

Senator Jones Agreeably Surprised at the Awakening.

HAS A HOPE FOR THE CONFERENCE.

Quidnuncs Concerned About "A Will or Not" by Gen. Butler.

LATEST DOINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Raley's Bill to Authorize the Construction of the Dalles and Celilo Portage.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—Senator Jones and family started for Paris today, and after a brief visit to that city, will sail for America on the Gasconne Saturday. The senator was visited while here by numerous members of the house of commons and other public men interested in the silver question. The senator says he was agreeably surprised at the evident awakening in England to the value of bimetalism. He believes the monetary conference will resume its sessions in May, and he hopes to be able to return at that time. Owing to his position as senator he will be unable to accept invitations to address meetings in commercial centers of Great Britain.

Quidnuncs Concerned.  
Boston, Jan. 19.—It will be strange if, after all his experience in breaking wills, Gen. Butler should have omitted to frame a will. His private secretary, Col. Thomas Mayor, told a reporter today that he knew nothing of the existence of such a document. "I can't tell you whether he left a will or not," he said. "If he did, it will undoubtedly come up at the first session of the probate court at East Cambridge. If he did not, undoubtedly a petition for an administrator will be put in at that time." A gentleman who has been associated with Gen. Butler for many years, and whose relations with him are very close, said: "I don't know whether there is a will. It does not follow necessarily that that there is not, and it is quite possible that the son or daughter has such a document, but there is none in his office, I believe."

Legislative Proceedings.

SALEM, Jan. 19.—Senator Raley's bill for an act to authorize and empower the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer, in the name and behalf of the state of Oregon, to construct, operate and maintain a portage railway between the highest and lowest points of the navigable waters of the Columbia river, around the dalles of the Columbia. The bill provides that the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer shall purchase all private property necessary to the construction of the road, of, if necessary, condemn same in manner provided by law for the condemnation of lands and rights of way by other corporations for public use. The revenue derived from the freights and fares collected are to be used in running, operating and maintaining the road, and the surplus paid into the state treasury. The bill provides for an appropriation out of the general fund of the state of Oregon of the sum of \$460,000 from any money not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of building the road; and the secretary of state is authorized to draw his warrant or warrants upon the state treasurer for said sum or any part thereof when directed to do so by the board. Inasmuch as the present means of transportation are inadequate to the great and growing demands of the producers of Eastern Oregon, it is provided that this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval by the governor.

In the senate today Dodson's bill, relating to fees of Malheur and Baker county officials, was reported favorably and adopted. Pass to third reading. House joint memorial for prohibition of foreign immigration was referred to the committee on federal relations.

In the house Paxton of Multnomah, Brown of Morrow, and Staats of Polk, were appointed as joint committee with the senate, to visit the cascade portage road.

Senatorial Matrimonial Rumor.  
BALTIMORE, Jan. 19.—A special from Charleston, W. Va., to the News, says it is rumored that Senator Charles J. Faulkner is to wed the widow of Senator Hearst, of California. Senator Faulkner is a widower.

### STATESMEN THEN AND NOW.

Thomas H. Benton's Acts Compared With The Present.

From The Spokane Review.

Mr. Allen's indefensible conduct in leaving Washington to lobby for votes at Olympia has been contrasted with the high-minded record of Senator Benton of Missouri. Benton was in congress for 30 years, and during that time never deserted his post at Washington to help his candidacy at home. The contrast can also be extended to the Columbia river. Benton early took an active interest to secure the acquirement, exploration and settlement of the Pacific northwest. As early as 1819 he had written books upon the subject and thrown his powerful influence for occupancy of the mouth of the great river. In one of his magnificent bursts of oratory he pointed to the west and declared that "there lay the coming gateway to the Orient."

With fiery eloquence he prophesied the settlement of this territory by American immigrants and the navigation of the great river of the west. "The magic boat and the flying car," he exclaimed, "have not exhausted their wonders. Looking into the future I behold the flying engines ascending the passes of the great Stony mountains. I see steamboats, laden with the argosies of the Orient, ascending the majestic Oregon. I can view a smiling land of peace and plenty, and over all I behold the triumphant folds of the colors of my country." Contrast this broad statesmanship with the petty local influences and jealousies which dominate the two senators from Washington.

On one hand is seen the majestic figure of the prophet and the statesman, whose vision spanned a continent and whose foresight penetrated the mists of a century. On the other hand are seen two senators whose ideas of public improvement are limited by county lines, and who have turned from the great public enterprise, which has only to be presented to command the respect of congress, in order to squander their time and effort upon a petty local job. It has well been said in the east that a Pacific coast senator elected upon his merits as a statesman would be a refreshing novelty in Washington. If the Pacific northwest had sent a Benton to the senate the Columbia river would have been open to navigation long ago. It will never be opened by the faint-hearted efforts of Senator Allen and the open hostility of Senator Raley.

The Souvenir Coins.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Senator Pettigrew, chairman of the quadro-centennial committee, introduced a bill in the senate today, instructing the secretary of the treasury not to deliver any souvenir coins until the world's Columbian exposition delivers a good and sufficient bond, conditional that, if for any reason whatever, the world's fair was opened to the public on Sundays, the corporation pay the United States for the sum of money it shall have received from the sale of the coin, not less than \$2,500,000.

Canal Tolls Withdrawn.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—The announcement was made today from an authoritative source that the council of the dominion government, by an order agreed upon last Saturday, had determined to withdraw for the season of 1893 all discriminations in tolls respecting vessels, persons or commerce using the Welland and St. Lawrence canals. This is said to be more than our government asked. The information has not yet been officially conveyed to this government.

Slight Panic in May Wheat.

CHICAGO, Jan. 19.—The report that a clique who had been buying wheat were selling out caused something of a panic on the board of trade, and made a break in May of two and one-half cents. At the close there was a slight recovery.

Positively the Last.

CHICAGO, Jan. 19.—Mary Ann Nelson, positively the last of George Washington's army of colored servants, was found dead in her shanty near Chicago yesterday. She remembered lighting Washington's pipe for him before the Revolution, and claimed to be 130 years old.

### COLFAX WHEAT DEALS.

A Blundering Telegraph Dispatch Made The Farmers Happy.

AGENT JOHN H. LARSON TOO ALERT.

He Purchased Sixty Thousand Bushels at Fifty-Five Cents.

HE WAS SOMEWHAT ASTONISHED.

Makes a Special Trip to Portland to Trace The Blundering Message to its Source.

COLFAX, Jan. 20.—[Special.]—An error in a cipher dispatch caused a large boom in the Colfax wheat market a few days since. The particulars came out today and are the talk of the wheat dealers. Farmers had been bewailing the downward tendency of the wheat market for several months and when 43 cents per bushel was the ruling price, the grain growers who sold early in the season were looked upon as men of exceptional good fortune. Prospects looked rather dry a few weeks ago, when suddenly the market began to advance and the farmers simultaneously to regain their jubilant spirits. The price steadily advanced until on Saturday it swayed between 52 and 53 cents here.

Upon that day the J. M. Russell company, the big Portland grain dealers and speculators, telegraphed in cipher to their Colfax agent to purchase ready wheat quickly at 55 1/4 cents. The agent, J. H. Larson, was on the alert for just such a dispatch. He hurried out to the local holders of grain and bought right and left for a few hours until he had purchased a total of 60,000 bushels. With a fine eye to business he tried 52 cents, but the holders wouldn't listen to the proposition. Even 53 cents was refused point blank and the farmers held back at 54. But when Mr. Larson sprang the unexpected offer of 55 cents the wheat moved toward him like a charm, as it were, and he compassed the big purchase above mentioned. He congratulated himself on saving his house 1/2 cent per bushel on his offer, and immediately wired to Portland the fact that he had cornered 60,000 bushels at 55 cents. This means an outlay of \$33,000. The astonishment of Mr. Larson may be better imagined than described when the Russell company telegraphed back that they had never offered 55 cents, and that they couldn't accept wheat at such unwarranted figures.

Further telegraphic correspondence between the agent and the house elicited the fact that the cipher sent out should have read: "Buy wheat at 52 1/4," instead of 55 1/4. The men who unloaded their wheat Saturday are naturally in high feather; but not so with Agent Larson. The latter boarded the train for Portland this morning, determined to chase down the error which caused him to buy wheat at an advance of 3 1/4 cents over the figures which the Russell company was willing to pay. He gave notes which call for \$1,650 more than the house had offered at Portland. And now the question is: "Where was that mistake made?" Are the company's Portland employes chargeable with the error in translating the figures to cipher, or was the fault with the Western Union telegraph office at Portland. The former idea seems the more plausible.

The Old Egyptian Contention.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—Under constructions from the French foreign minister, the French ambassador today sent a note to the British foreign minister in reference to affairs in Egypt, saying France could not remain indifferent to acts on the part of Great Britain tending to infringe on the independence of the khedive.

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