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WEDNESDAY - APRIL 24, 1895

MR. STEVENS' OPINIONS.

A gentleman named Stevens, the inventor of the roller process for making flour, was in the city from Monday noon until midnight. There is no particular significance to this statement, other than a wish to use him as an illustration of the circumscribed area in which a man's ideas may ebb and flow and be self-satisfactory. Mr. Stevens is a wealthy man, having sold his patents, and is now traveling over the country, partly to see the scenery, and partly in search of audiences that will absorb his ideas and not talk back. Mr. Stevens is a gold bug, rabid. He talked to a small crowd at the Umatilla House in the evening, making more rash assertions in five minutes than the craziest alverite could invent in a century.

Mr. Stevens stated that in the East the silver sentiment represented but 5 per cent of the voters, while the gold bugs represented 95 per cent of the voting population. He stated that before the present administration was chosen \$12,000,000 had been subscribed for building factories on Fox river, Wisconsin. Mr. Stevens' home, but that the scheme was abandoned, and now Fox river flows along unexposed by \$12,000,000 worth of dams, mills and machinery down to Oshkosh. "Why," said Mr. Stevens, "Fox river has a fall of eighty-five feet in thirty-three miles, and is larger than your river here." These are but samples of some of Mr. Stevens' statements, and after listening to him for a few moments, we no longer doubted his first statement that he was an inventor, only he has not retired from business.

Mr. Stevens probably repeats what he believes concerning the proportion of silver and gold advocates as he has seen them. He forms his conclusions from the opinions of those he comes in contact with, and as that class is his own, wealthy people, their beliefs would probably be in the proportion stated. The trouble with Mr. Stevens' rating is that he only meets a class representing say one per cent of the voting population. Ninety-five per cent of that one per cent are gold bugs; but of the 99 per cent that Mr. Stevens did not meet the percentage does not run that way, but rather directly opposite.

Free silver is the issue for the next campaign, and we lose our guess if it does not win, as the sports say, "hands down." It will be as the Columbia to Fox river, Wisconsin, even though Mr. Stevens' ideas of that creek are somewhat exalted.

LIKE A MUSHROOM.

The Colfax people have been wanting an opera house for some time, and now they have one. A big pile of brick lumber and other building material piled at a street corner had awakened comment, but no one knew what was to be done with it. Last Wednesday evening seventy-five men were brought from Spokane, and armed with trowels and hods repaired to the aforesaid corner, and by daylight the outside walls were up, the scaffolding removed, and the men gone. Thursday morning the place was filled with carpenters, painters, decorators, etc., and at 10 o'clock a bill poster came along and put up a bill saying that the Colfax Dramatic Company would present the drama "Hickory Farm at the Colfax Opera House." That was the first intimation the people had as to what the building was intended for.

It seems to us that if the United States supreme court will carry its decision on the income tax cases to its legitimate conclusion, it will be found that it is unconstitutional to collect or levy any tax at all. From the very nature of things any tax levied by any power, state, county or city, is a tax upon incomes. A tariff tax on sugar of one cent per pound is a tax on the income of the consumer of one cent for every pound of sugar used by him or his family, and if he is a farmer, and his income is from lands, why is it not unconstitutional to make the tariff tax applicable to him? Why is it not unconstitutional to levy a tax on whiskey or tobacco, since in both cases the incomes of the business are incomes arising from the products of the lands. If it is true, as the supreme court says it is, that our constitution prohibits the taxing of those who have incomes, then the more suddenly the constitution is amended the better.

It seems probable that the income tax decision will be set aside to the extent of giving the cases a new hearing with a full bench. Justice Jackson is rapidly recovering and it is said the motion for a rehearing will be heard and argued, May 6th, at which time Justice Jackson will be present.

While it is probably true that "Steve" Elkins is not an ideal senator, it is true that he is visiting Oregon in the capacity of a private citizen. The Oregonian's insult was therefore gratuitous, and gross.

Victor Notes.

Victor is improving right along. Mr. Gordon has enlarged his store building and fitted up a nice postoffice with a cabinet of seventy-eight boxes. This will give each regular patron of the office a box. The unloading and placing of a 1200 pound safe, seems to say that Mr. Gordon is at Victor to stay, and that he means business.

The young grain is growing nicely. Juniper Flat is destined to be the best part of Wasco county. There is no other part of the country which yields more grain to the acre. The Flat is about twelve miles square. It would be difficult to find in this entire body of land, a quarter section having less than 100 acres of the best quality of farm land.

"The Criminal Crowding of Public Schools" and "Crowded Schools as Promoters of Disease" are two subjects of pressing importance that will be taken up in The Forum for May. Professor J. H. Penniman, of Philadelphia, by a study of school reports themselves of many of our principal cities, shows what lamentable lack of sufficient and wholesome buildings there are—how, indeed, much of the educational work in Boston and New York and many other cities is worse than wasted. Dr. H. D. Chapin, of New York, lays down the conditions that should govern the healthful building and arrangement of schoolrooms.



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Grounds will be prepared at the Locks for a Basket Picnic. After lunch the following amusements will be had:

CLIMBING GREASED POLE, SACK RACE, FAT MAN'S RACE, LADIES' RACE.

Prizes to the amount of Twenty-five Dollars will be awarded the successful competitors.

After stopping at the Locks a few hours the train will make a trip to Bonneville, where another stop will be made.

It is probable that Captain Webb will make a frightful plunge over the rapids on this occasion.

All those desirous of examining the Government Works at the Cascades will be given ample opportunity.

ROUND TRIP TICKETS, . . . \$1.00

Children under 12 years of age, half price.

Train will leave the Umatilla House at 8 o'clock A. M., and returning arrive at 6 P. M.

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