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TUESDAY, - - - MARCH 17, 1896

COMING EVENTS.

Republican National Convention—St. Louis. State convention—Portland April 9th. County convention—March 28th at The Dalles. Primaries—March 21st. First District Oregon congressional convention—Albany April 7th. Second district—Portland April 8th. People Party National Convention—St. Louis July 22d. State convention—Salem March 26th. Democratic state convention meets at Portland April 9th. County convention April 7th; primaries April 4th.

CHASING FALSE GODS.

The approach of the time for holding the Republican state convention is causing the political situation to become more interesting every day. While there is no state ticket to be nominated at this time, the choice of congressmen and selection of delegates to the national convention, together with the fact that members of the legislature will be nominated, all combine to make the next few weeks exciting ones for politicians and incidentally for the people of the state.

The congressional situation has changed considerably since two years ago. Then the opposition to Hermann and Ellis, while it existed, was not of the kind nor degree to bother these gentlemen, and their re-nominations were easily secured. This time, however, defeat is hovering near, and in the case of Mr. Ellis it looks as if he will fail to obtain any delegation save from his own county. Hermann will be more fortunate, and it is possible he may muster votes enough to secure the victory. The opposition to Ellis comes from several sources. There are those who think he has not accomplished for the state during his four years incumbency, what he should have, and for this reason think some other man could be sent to Washington whose efforts would redound more to the material progress of the state than Mr. Ellis'. Then, there is another class of people who can always be counted upon to oppose the man that is in. This class comprises the rival candidates and their friends, and the influence they possess can be exerted to but a limited extent.

The real opposition to Ellis comes from another direction, and is far more formidable. The people of this district have learned a good deal this last year or two, and many who failed to understand the vital principles of our monetary system then, are beginning to see the light, and are able to appreciate, in some degree, the necessity of a sound and stable currency. Ellis votes for free silver, and by doing so, no longer represents the thinking portion of his constituents.

Stranger things have happened than that Mr. Ellis should be re-nominated, and if he is, he ought to be, and will be, elected. A free silver Republican is better than a free trade Democrat; and so long as our present congressman votes for a duty on wool, he is better than the man who by voting otherwise aids in destroying this industry.

We are not among those who think the money question is the paramount one. The tariff exceeds it in importance, and to just such an extent Mr. Ellis is more right on national questions than wrong. But why choose a man who but partially represents the state when one can be elected who will do so entirely?

There are more reasons for Mitchell's re-election than there are for Ellis', since the former has proven himself an unusually successful worker for the needs of

the state, and so his silver record can, to a certain extent, be lost sight of. Mitchell, however, is an unusual man, and Mr. Ellis cannot expect that the same charity that is given to Senator Mitchell will be extended to him. Oregon does not want to be known as a free silver state, and so should look well to the choice of her delegation.

THE COMING PRIMARIES.

At the primaries, which will be held next Saturday, every Republican should vote. The success of the party this year can only be jeopardized by the nomination of unworthy men whose choice would be repulsive to the voters throughout the state and county. The make-up of a ticket can, in a large degree, be determined by the result at the primaries, and it is of vital importance that representative citizens, who will vote as they think and are not subject to the control of any clique, be sent to the county convention. The man who stays away from the primaries is neglecting a duty, the performance of which is as necessary as that of voting at elections.

Another thing voters should keep in mind is to select only such delegates as will surely attend the convention. The proxy system is fraught with dangers, and by it the will of the people in the locality from which the proxy is sent is often defeated. No man should be chosen a delegate unless he has interest enough in the party and community to cause him to attend the meeting of the convention.

Let representative citizens be chosen to name the ticket, and let only those be elected who are certain to attend. In this way the ends of good government will be served.

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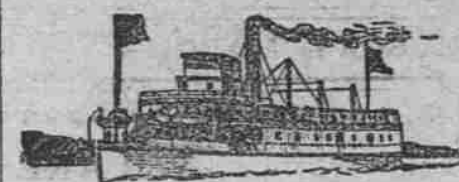


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