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THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1897

Senator Pettigrew has introduced a bill providing for submission to a popular vote the questions: "Shall congress at once enact a law providing for the immediate free and unlimited coinage of silver," and second, "Shall the constitution of the United States be so amended as to provide for the election of the president, vice-president and United States senators by direct vote of the people." The first proposition is unnecessary, for the parties will settle that, and the second is fol-de-rol, for the senate will see that it does not pass. Most of them realize that they would now be at home if their election depended on the vote of the people, and in fact know that under that rule they never would have been heard of.

Old man Spreckles, the sugar-coated California millionaire, has brought suit against Hearst, the owner of the Examiner, for \$1,000,000 damages to his reputation. Spreckles evidently has a better opinion of himself than others have of him, since he rates his reputation at those figures. The average citizen, familiar with Spreckles and his methods, would hardly place the damages so high. A committee, unbiased and uninfluenced, would hesitate a long while before agreeing upon a sum that would adequately represent the amount of damage that Spreckles reputation might suffer. It would range from a bonus to be paid by him for total loss thereof, to a reward for anything that could possibly damage it.

The examination into the matter of the alleged conspiracy to rob the Portland postoffice is still under way in that city. So far the only testimony is that of Gautier, an ex-convict, dope-fiend and all-around tough. Thral, the special inspector, testifies to hearing Gautier and Eppinger talking together, but he does not know what they were talking about, though he assumes it was about robbing the postoffice. It may be possible that Eppinger is guilty, but fair-minded people will want something more reliable than the testimony of such a man as Gautier before they will believe it.

The tariff debate has one merit at least, and that is that it is not long-winded. The list is being gone through very rapidly, and the end should be reached next week. The vote on every item so far has been overwhelmingly in favor of the increased tariff and the speedy passage of the bill, once the items have all been acted upon, is assured. Unfortunately the wool speculators have been taking advantage of the long delay to fill the warehouses with foreign wool, which will keep prices down for at least a year.

The outlook for a good wheat crop and good prices has not been better for many years than now. This is, of course, from a local standpoint, and is so because the crop outlook in the world at large is bad. France will have a shortage of from 50,000,000 to 75,000,000 bushels. Germany, England and Austria all report bad crop conditions, or at least conditions indicating a less than average yield. Australia, Argentine and India are all out of competition this year, and it looks as though high prices were bound to prevail.

It is stated that Mrs. Durrant, the mother of the murderer, has expressed her determination to see her son

hanged. The belief in Durrant's guilt becomes much more easy knowing this, for the son of such a mother could be little else than a reptile, with water instead of blood in his veins. Her presence ought to be a comfort to him on the occasion of his taking off, for the knowledge that he had such a mother ought to reconcile him to death.

It is reported in the dispatches that President McKinley is anxious to have congress, when it gets through with its tariff amendments, take some action in regard to reforming the currency. The money proposition has, in a manner, settled itself, and it would be a good thing for the country if it could be, and would be, let alone. All the country's money is kept at par, is interchangeable, and what more could any one ask or obtain?

The dispatches yesterday announcing that Almighty Voice had been killed, our middle-of-the-road friends were in doubt whether to go into mourning for Tillman or tie on crepe for Watson. They were much relieved to find the name belonged to an Indian.

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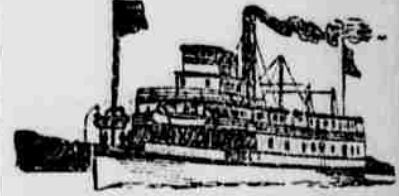
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