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MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1897

PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN.

Col. C. E. S. Wood has presented Mr. McCamant's brief in the Corbett case to the United States senate, or, to be exactly correct, to the senate committee. This is the most sensible thing the Corbett faction has yet done, that is the employment of Col. Wood to make the argument. He is a lawyer, and, in our humble opinion, one of the best on the coast. He made an able presentation of Mr. Corbett's case. No attorney could have done better; but—and there are always "buts"—while his argument was strong, his premises were faulty, and consequently his conclusions were incorrect.

Col. Wood draws the comparison between the Mantle case and the one at bar. He shows that in Oregon there was no meeting of the legislature, while in Montana there was. On the face of the returns Col. Wood is correct, but he avoids striking into the deeps, and skirts along the shores of the proposition. It is true there was no meeting of the Oregon legislature, but that fact was due to the deliberate action of a minority of the legislature, which refused to act in order to accomplish its ends. It was a deliberate attempt to subvert the constitution, to establish the doctrine of minority rule instead of majority rule.

The question is not as to methods, but goes broadly to principles and results. Can the United States senate, which alone is the judge of the qualifications of its members, afford to establish the precedent that a minority of sore-heads can take the election of a United States senator out of the hands of the people's representatives, where it belongs, and turn it over to the governor, where it does not belong. That is what Col. Wood says should be done, but he does not believe it; neither does any other good citizen.

Let Corbett go! Let Mitchell go! Put them aside in the consideration of the question, and consider it from its merits. The country will live when both are dead, but it will not survive the setting aside of the principles upon which republics must be run. The majority must rule. That is democracy. When the minority rules we will no longer have a republic.

A GIGANTIC SCHEME.

One of the most gigantic engineering schemes ever attempted, and one that would be productive of the most wonderful results if successfully carried out, is that proposed by a Boston man. He proposed to build a dam across the Strait of Belle Isle, which separates Labrador from Newfoundland, and thus prevent the flow of ice cold water from the polar regions into the Atlantic, which accomplishment would bring about several very desirable results. First, it is claimed it would modify the climate of the entire New England coast, as the vapor rising from the Arctic currents is what makes the chilling winds that are so disagreeable in that particular section; it would keep the Canadian ports open all the year round, and give the maritime provinces of that country a mild climate all the time. The bank or dam that would be built across the strait would be about nine miles long, and trains could be run over it, allowing the American railway systems to extend their lines to St. Johns, Newfoundland.

This would reduce the trans At-

lantic voyage to three and a half days, as outgoing ships pass just a little to the eastward of St. Johns two or three days after leaving New York. With the railroads extending that far people who object to ocean travel could travel to St. Johns in a palace car, and thus save several days on the water. It will be seen that the scheme is a great one, and as the three countries—Canada, United States and England—would be directly benefited, the Boston man hopes to interest all of them. The estimated cost would be a very small item when the great results it would bring about are taken into consideration.—La Grande Chronicle.

As an eloquent Southern divine of Virginia recently said: "The South has now discovered that when she sought political independence by secession. God gave her industrial independence instead, not through victory, but through defeat. For it is now evident that the slave was not so much shackled by the South, as the South was shackled by the slave." Well put.

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