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MONDAY, JUNE 14, 1897

THE DEMOCRATIC IDOL.

There seems to be a concerted plan among the papers opposed to free silver to belittle William J. Bryan. He is spoken of as "little Billy Bryan," and in other terms equally suggestive. Whatever opinions may be held concerning the free coinage of silver, and however much the papers in question, or their readers, may differ from Mr Bryan in his views, the fact is undeniable that he is no longer the coming man of the free silverites, for he is here, and here to stay. He has taken a firm hold on those who followed him in the last campaign, and he is to be the next antagonist the Republican nominee for president will have to face.

It is utter foolishness to belittle an antagonist, and those who watched Mr. Bryan's campaign realize that in his case it is something that cannot be done. Possessed of strong convictions, a wonderful mind, fine oratorical powers, young, keen, hopeful, aspiring, aggressive; he is foe man worthy of any man's steel. He may be thought little, but he is large enough to have out-topped Cleveland. That gentleman is a back number; Bryan is the living popular volume. His campaign was one of the marvels of American political history. He made from three to twenty-five speeches a day for months. He was tireless, sleepless, and in all that campaign, making as he did innumerable speeches, he never made a mistake. He is the idol of Democracy today, and has awakened among the masses an enthusiasm that will make him a dangerous foe to the best man the Republican party can find. The measures he advocates may be wrong, his theories of government faulty; but right or wrong, he looms up across the political sky the giant of the Democratic party. It may be the race of last year over in 1900, but whether it is or not, if W. J. Bryan is alive, then he will be the candidate for president whom the Republican nominee must meet.

The silver question has been stirred up, and the rolled waters will not be taken out of politics in the next dozen years. It will die eventually from the repeated defeat of silver advocates, from the balance of the world deciding against it; but until then William Jennings Bryan is its avatar.

A CROOK COUNTY IDEA.

Geo. W. Barnes, in a communication to the Prineville Review, gives the entire credit of opening the Cascade reserve to pasturage to a few Prineville men and the Prineville papers. We realize that the Prineville papers presented the facts in the case strongly, and do not doubt but that the gentlemen named by Mr. Barnes did all in their power; but there are others, and one of them, contrary to Mr. Barnes' assertion, was the Hon. John H. Mitchell. Mr. Barnes very childishly remarks that "if the truth could be known, he [Mitchell] did all he could against them, because he did not get all the votes of Wasco, Crook, Gilliam and Morrow." Mr. Barnes is a lawyer, and yet he makes an assertion which he admits he does not know to be true.

John H. Mitchell is still a factor, and a large one, in Oregon politics, and in his own interests he would not oppose the demands of the people of Eastern Oregon, for he may yet ask further favors at their hands. But outside of that, Senator Mitchell has always, in season and out, looked after the inter-

ests of his constituents, regardless of any selfish interest. It was through his prompt action, and through him alone, that the reservation was thrown open in 1896 and kept open in 1896. We know whereof we speak.

Mr. Barnes is either grossly misinformed, or has a grievance of his own against Mitchell.

The battleship Oregon will not come to Portland, and so the silver punch-bowl and the gewgaws and jim-cracks accompanying the bowl, will probably have to be loaded on a wood scow and sent down to Astoria, or freighted over to some point on the Sound where the ship may be found. That silver set ought to be a valuable souvenir, for it was a subject of annoyance, sorrow and tribulation from its inception. It was hard to get, and apparently just as much difficulty has been experienced in getting rid of it. Oregon's best wishes go with it, if it goes, and along with the wishes goes the hope that it may never come back.



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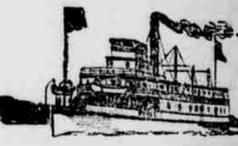
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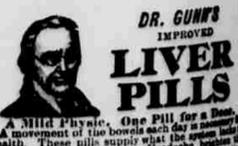
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