

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

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TUESDAY - JANUARY 25, 1898

NOW IS THE TIME.

There has never been a more favorable time for the reformation of pension abuses than now. We have at the head of the bureau a commissioner who is determined to do all he can to make the roll an honorable one. There is in the present congress a disposition, largely born of the necessity of economy, to limit pension expenditures and reform abuses. We have on the part of the general public a strong desire that such changes be made in administration as shall prevent the payment of public money to persons who have no right to it. Everybody is satisfied that there are numerous cases of such frauds. It is clear that men who are able to do active work on the police force of a great city have no right to be drawing invalid pensions; that a man who is competent to take charge of a long-distance telephone ought not to be drawing pension money for deafness.

A general co-operation can secure the purging of the list. Especially valuable would be the help of the Grand Army of the Republic in this direction. They owe it to themselves to assist in exposing those who are fraudulently drawing money which belongs to the veterans. It is announced by the New York Tribune that J. P. S. Goblin, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army, has been in Washington with this end in view. It would be a very helpful thing if the suggestion of the commissioner of pensions that the government should look after the interests of those entitled to pensions itself, and do away with the necessity for pension attorneys, were carried out. This would at once be a protection to the government and to the pensioner. If there were no pension attorneys there would doubtless be less occasion for the adoption of private pension bills by congress.

It is a striking coincidence that the semi-centennial celebration of the discovery of gold in California should take place while the eyes of the world are fascinated by a like discovery in Alaska, which promises to equal, if not exceed, the famous find of 1849. San Francisco is arrayed in holiday attire, while a multitude of citizens from all parts of the state are paying homage to the pioneers who wrung from the earth her golden treasure. In the meantime thousands of poor fellows are camped along the icy streams of Alaska animated by the same hopes as were the gold-seekers of California. The same story of success and failure, of discouragement and ecstasy will be told, but the tale cannot be so pleasant in the present instance as it was in the former. The dark, frozen canyons of the Klondike compare unpleasantly with the sunny California fields, and the mournful pines of the northern latitude are far different from the bright flowers and luxurious verdure of the southern clime. But the sought-for goal in each instance is the same, and we trust the celebration now in progress is a fitting prelude for a greater observance yet to follow of the discovery of gold upon the Klondike.

The Oregonian, by its fight on John H. Mitchell, will probably elect him. At least this will be the case if history repeats itself. The tactics used by the Portland paper are manifestly so unfair that their effect is to cause a sentiment in favor of the person who is the object of the at-

tack. Mitchell has served Oregon ably in the senate, probably with greater success than any other representative we have had, and whatever has been his course in the past he may be counted upon now to vote for and uphold the side of sound money. Many men have changed their views upon the currency question, and for the Oregonian to try and read out of the party all those who at times in the past may have leaned toward silver, but are now for the gold standard, can result in nothing but harm to the state and party.

The French love of the sensational is evidenced again by the scenes in the chamber of deputies over the Dreyfus matter. Statesmen and politicians pummeled each other like boys upon a foot-ball field, and challenges flew as fast as flies in summer time. It is stated one hundred and twenty-five neckties were picked up on the floor after the struggle was over. The French need some way to give vent to the exuberance of their feelings, and if they can't have war with Germany over Alsace and Lorraine, they pick a fight among themselves. However, as the stock of neckties remains sufficient, no damage can be reported done to the nation.

Were Governor Lord to act upon his judgment, and to consider only the needs of the people, we do not believe he would hesitate in calling an extra session. If, however, he need consult and be guided by Joe Simon, the matter will depend upon how it suits the Portland machine. The need of convening the legislature in special session is becoming every day more apparent.

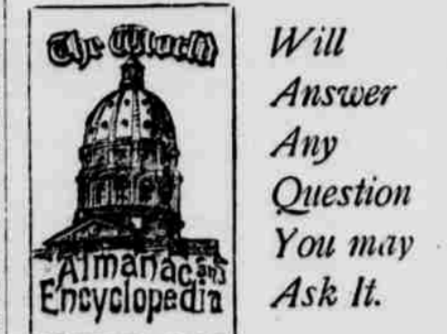
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Taken Up. Came to my place on 3-Mile, about the 25th of November, a straw-bay roan mare, branded V P connected on the left shoulder, about 5 years old. Owner can have same by paying charges. M. S. EVANS, The Dalles, Or. dec22-1m