

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper on Wasco County.

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WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 9, 1898

A PLAIN ISSUE.

That the Republicans of Wasco county have a hard fight on their hands is unquestioned. The action of the Silver men, Populists and Democrats at their committee meetings last Saturday shows that each party is favorable to fusion, as far as this county is concerned, and will put up but one conglomerate ticket for the Republicans to oppose.

This determination to fuse causes surprise to no one, as no logical reason exists why these various elements should not come together and merge their single identities into symmetrical unity. The regular Democratic organization, the Populists and the so-called Free Silver Republicans have all adopted the free and unlimited coinage of silver as their fetish, and no other idol do they know. Every other consideration is swept away in this mighty rush for cheap money. The tariff seems to be no longer an issue, as it has been very forcibly demonstrated to the country that a moderate protective tariff is indispensable to the maintenance of general prosperity. With protection and free trade out of the way and settled to the everlasting glory and credit of the Republican party, the money question comes to the front as the issue upon which the battle must be fought.

It is well that the time has come at last when we know what the issue at stake is. In the last presidential campaign it was supposed the nation had definitely decided that it wanted nothing to do with cheap money; but it seems there are some people in Oregon who have not read the returns.

To this state the eyes of the country are turned. Oregon leads the way, and it is for us to say whether the cry of cheap money shall be borne from the Pacific to the Atlantic, bringing devastation to business wherever it is heard.

The Republican party in Oregon accepts the issue gladly. The declaration made at the late Republican League convention foreshadows what the state Republican platform will be, and when that is promulgated, no one will be in doubt what it means. The Republican party is for sound money—the gold standard, if you will—and no attempt will be made to shuffle with terms.

The good things promised of our Commercial Club when it was organized give promise of being realized. There seems to be a decided awakening among our business men to the needs of the city, and the Commercial Club furnishes the means for discussing and planning how best the continued prosperity of The Dalles may be assured. The various committees connected with the organization are showing an energetic spirit in performing their duties, and are devoting time and patience in investigating matters of importance to the city. A great deal is gained when we all realize that active, concerted action is necessary before anything of value can be accomplished, and the Commercial Club is the agency through which the common interests may be served. This is the decisive year in the history of The Dalles. We must either make a distinct advance in the way of cementing our trade relations with the interior or lose our grip. Success to the Commercial Club in all its undertakings, and may it have the support of every citizen.

The Dalles will make a reputation this year for hospitality. In addition

to the regular conventions of the various political parties, this city will be the meeting place of the Grand Army veterans and the wool-growers of the Northwest. We came very near getting the Republican state convention, and it is not unlikely we may secure the state meeting of the Democrats. Let them all come; we will see they are properly entertained. We want a chance to show off our new business blocks and tasty residences, to say nothing of newly-discovered coal mines, which bid fair to become a glittering reality.

Paris is happy again because she has another sensation to feed upon. Emil Zola, the well-known writer of realistic books, is defendant in a suit brought by the government for libel. The populace has taken sides, as usual, and everything is merry in the French capital. France leads all other countries in being able to stir up a sensation on short notice; but the many good qualities of her people more than overcome their love for excitement.

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