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SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 12, 1898

WHO THE "BOSS" REALLY IS.

The Oregonian, in yesterday's issue, published an editorial which was in the main a strong protest against the evils of bossism, which every observer will agree have grown to an alarming extent. But the Oregonian has reached that stage of prejudice where it can but rarely comment upon any subject without bringing in a slur upon John H. Mitchell, which, in many cases, is entirely uncalled for and unfair.

In the article referred to, after summing up the situation in Pennsylvania and New York, the Oregonian asks, "What does Quay, or Platt or Mitchell care for the gold standard, except as it may be employed as a battery under which he may march to the senate and distribute the spoils of office among his craven followers?"

As regards Quay or Platt, THE CHRONICLE has no concern; nor has it any regarding Mr. Mitchell, except as he is a prominent figure in the politics of this state, and as such, especially under the circumstances at present existing, comes in for a good deal of newspaper comment. THE CHRONICLE is not a Mitchell paper, nor is it devoted to the political interests of any one man or set of men, but it does like to see fair play, and thinks that the time has come when Mr. Mitchell should be allowed the same treatment as other men are, and not made the especial and constant target for the venom-dipped shafts of the Oregonian, representing, as it does, Mr. Mitchell's bitterest enemies.

The Oregonian talks of bossism, and then brings in Mitchell's name as a sample of such men. Whatever may be said of Mr. Mitchell, he can never be charged with being a political boss. He has aspired to a seat in the United States senate, and used all his endeavors—as far as we know, honorably—to secure an election. He has been honored by the people of Oregon and has served his constituents abler, perhaps, than any senator ever chosen from Oregon. At the last attempted session of the legislature Mr. Mitchell said time and again that he was willing to withdraw if such action would in any way simplify the situation. Mr. Mitchell is not a boss, and the Oregonian by calling him one does not establish the fact.

Who then is the "boss" of Oregon? It is the master of the Oregonian—the man who can swing that journal to the right or left; the wrecker of party harmony in Oregon, and a man altogether unlovely politically in the eyes of the people—Joseph Simon. He is the man who planned and carried into effect the last legislative hold-up. He is the man who is preventing an extra session of the legislature because he fears that should it meet, Mr. Mitchell might be elected a senator. He is the "boss"—along with Platt and Quay.

The Oregonian talks about these bosses parading under the gold standard simply as a subterfuge to secure spoils for "craven followers"—Joe Simon again—the high-minded statesman who consorted with Populists and free silverites of all description at Salem last winter and betrayed the sacred trust of leadership. Simon, if he had wings, would chase a silver cloud or golden sunbeam, without regard to the ratio of gold to silver, if by so doing it would bring him political advantage. And Simon, according to the Oregonian, is little less than a god.

As we have often said, the Oregonian is an able paper, and when it divorces itself from local politics has few equals; but when discussing matters of local concern it can show more prejudice, unfairness and venom to the square inch than any journal in our observation, and that is why the people dislike the Oregonian. It does not know how to be fair.

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