

SEVENTY-FIFTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 16, 1925

Reminiscences Interesting in Oregon

The National Election of 1896 Was Won by Protection—Erroneous Claims of Currency Claimants Corrected by Two Living Witnesses—Secretary Wakeman Reviews Story of Mr. Henry L. Stoddard, Who Was Official Scout for Chairman Hanna

(Oregon Republicans who were active in the McKinley and Bryan campaign of 1896 will read with interest the article of Hon. Wilbur F. Wakeman below. It was written for the current number of the American Economist, of which Mr. Wakeman is and for many years has been the editor, that paper being the official organ of the American Protective Tariff League, of which Mr. Wakeman is the secretary. That was one of the most exciting election campaigns the United States has witnessed—partly because it was to decide the question of free silver coinage, which meant a debasement of the currency, and wide ruin to the substantial business and laboring interests of the country. Following is the article.)

By WILBUR F. WAKEMAN
"Mr. McKinley, today you are beaten." These words I used to Hon. William McKinley, Republican nominee for the presidency in his home at Canton, Ohio, in the afternoon of Labor day, September 7th, 1896.

I am led to give some of the incidents of that day by the remarkably interesting article by Mr. Henry L. Stoddard in the New York Telegram of July 30th entitled "Bryan—From First to Last." In this article Mr. Stoddard refers to the switch or sharp change from sound money to protection in the campaign of 1896. Technically, Mr. Stoddard's statement regarding the action of Mon. M. A. Hanna, chairman of the Republican national committee, may be correct, but it was William McKinley who switched or shifted the campaign at the time mentioned. Mr. Hanna received his orders from Mr. McKinley.

Mr. Stoddard in part says:
"In early September, Mark Hanna realized that enough states could not be held west of the Mississippi to elect McKinley as a gold standard candidate; for the first and only time in the national campaign the chairman gave orders to all speakers and newspapers west of the Mississippi to drop the money question entirely and take up the tariff. That switch held North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa to McKinley, but did not save Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming and South Dakota. There were fully fifty electoral votes in several states held by slender majorities—Kentucky, held by 291, California by 2,797, Oregon by 2,117.

Hanna, always claimed that the switch to the tariff saved the day for the gold standard. He held that had the west voted solidly on the money issue not a state beyond the Mississippi would have gone for McKinley.

"This brings me back to my earlier statement that we must judge the free silver men of 1896 by the conditions of that day and not by the light of today, emphasized as that light has been since the war by the fact of European currencies lacking a gold basis."

Invited to Canton, Ohio, by Governor McKinley, I spent Labor day with Mr. and Mrs. McKinley at their home. In the afternoon we had a drive and in the evening eight friends were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. McKinley.

After the afternoon drive, in his little office to the right of the entrance of his home we discussed the probabilities of the campaign very earnestly and when he finally asked me to give him my best judgment as to the outlook, I replied, "Mr. McKinley, today, you are beaten," and he replied in effect, "Well, I have done the best I could and presented the issues to the best of my ability."

"But," said I, "Major, this campaign is not a lull. Chairman Hanna has done great work and today I think you are as certain of New York, New England, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware as if the vote had been cast. But how about Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, all of the Missouri valley and the Pacific coast states? As you know, the management of the campaign in Oregon and California has been transferred to the American Protective Tariff league. A protective tariff campaign exclusively is being made in these two states. You will carry them. What other states of the Pacific coast, inter-mountain states and Missouri valley will you carry? We are just as much for sound money as you or Chairman Hanna, but of course we do not deal with the currency question. However, we do want to see the Republicans defeat protection through their faith in 16 to 1. Up to this time in the campaign 90 per cent of the speeches and literature are given to the currency question, five per cent to the law and order and five per cent to miscellaneous subjects, including the tariff."

Finally Governor McKinley inquired, "Is there anything can be done?" and my reply was, "Yes, there is just one man in the United States who can save this situation,—William McKinley. If you will give the protective tariff its proper place and proper importance in the campaign, the Republicans of the west will believe that protective tariff is more important than the silver question. They do not want to leave the Republican party, but they believe that the silver question is all-important to their interest and Mr. Bryan has magnified that situation until the western country is lost to you."

Shortly before the dinner hour, Governor McKinley called his secretary and read to me his speech for the next day, which was to be delivered before visiting Ohio editors. He very graciously invited me to appear with him on that occasion, but I felt that William McKinley was the only man who could present the issue so that it

would reach the American people effectively.

Mr. McKinley read his speech of the morning to me and I replied, "Yes, same old story, 90 per cent gold and silver, five per cent law and order, five per cent miscellaneous, including the tariff."

Mr. McKinley recalled his secretary and in his usual considerate manner with everyone, apologized that the stenographers would have to be on duty during the evening, for, as he said, "I shall rewrite this speech."

Naturally we were thinking very seriously of the outlook and little was said during the time when he shaved himself at his desk without a mirror just before dinner. I did not notice an "omission," but it developed at the dinner table. A smile went around among his guests, which I did not understand. This finally resulted in laughter, when Mrs. McKinley said, "Why, William, go look at your face in the mirror." Governor McKinley had left about an inch of white lather on the left side of his face. When he returned to the table we all had a good laugh and the incident passed.

Arriving home on Wednesday morning and reporting to the A. P. T. L. headquarters, I found a telephone message to the effect that Secretary Osborne of the Republican National committee wanted to see me at once. I reported to him immediately in the Metropolitan building on Madison Square, was immediately ushered into his private office, and that was the only time I remember of having been hugged by a man. Those who knew Mr. Osborne will remember that he was a big strong fellow. I asked him what was the matter, "Why," he said, "I had William on the phone this morning and asked him about his remarkable speech of yesterday, giving protection its proper place and his reply was, 'Wilbur Wakeman was here Labor day.'" "Then," said General Osborne, "I knew what had happened. My boy, Labor day, 1896, was the best day's work of your life."

Chairman Hanna was a great chairman, but up to the time that William McKinley took his positive position in favor of magnifying the protective tariff on September 8th, he could not be convinced of the necessity of making the national policy of protection prominent. William McKinley gave protection its proper position on that date and never changed throughout the campaign. In one of his speeches he used this wonderful phrase, "Open the mills instead of the mints," which became a slogan everywhere west of the Allegheny mountains.

I referred above to Oregon and California. During July of the campaign of 1896, the senators and representatives from Oregon came to New York and said to Chairman Hanna and to me in effect, "We are for free silver, but we do not want to leave the Republican party. We are for protection, we can carry Oregon if you will keep the currency question out of the state." After two or three days' deliberation, the entire campaign in Oregon was transferred to the direction of the A. P. T. L.

About two weeks after we had started on Oregon, I was summoned to headquarters by Chairman Hanna, when he said, "Wakeman, what kind of a scheme is this you are working up on me?" He handed me a dispatch from the chairman of the Republican state committee of California, a long night wire which said in effect, "Please keep the currency issue out of California, we want protection literature and speakers only. Treat us as you have Oregon."

I told Chairman Hanna that I had had no communications direct or indirect with the California committee and he then said, "Well, I guess you better take over California on the same lines as Oregon." We did, and it will be remembered that Oregon and California went overwhelmingly for McKinley.

Mr. Stoddard is right when he says that the issues of the campaign were shifted. In September, 1896, they were shifted by William McKinley, the nominee of the Republican party.

"My new housemaid is a treasure," declared Mrs. Johnson. I had a bridge party the other evening and one woman failed to turn up. You know how it is—she gave me no notice whatever."

"Very annoying."

"The housemaid, however, put on one of my gowns and fitted in beautifully."

"That was helpful."

"Yes, and I won her week's wages."

The Rev. Lawrence Redfern of Liverpool, while visiting in this country, told friends that his colleague, the Rev. John C. Ballantyne, was unable to come over on account of illness. While Rev. Ballantyne was kept indoors, his friends sent him many tokens of their affection. Flowers came in great profusion so that one day the living room was virtually filled with them. The English maid, passing through, stopped and, with a quirk of her thumb upward, said, "Think of it; and 'im a-livin' yet."

Secret of Teacher's Death in Cistern Resists Solution



Above: The Thomas seaman residence; below, the cistern.

MATTOON, Ill., Aug. 13.—The mystery surrounding the death of Miss Cora Stallman, 48, school-teacher, whose body was found in a cistern near here, is resisting all efforts at solution.

Miss Stallman, an instructor in Cincinnati schools for 12 years, was spending the summer in a cottage on the farm of Thomas Seaman, seven miles northeast of Mattoon.

When discovered the body had apparently been dead for about three hours, indicating that the

woman came to her death between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning. Water did not cover the head and there was no water in the lungs. There was no marks on the body to indicate that the woman had met a violent death. The vital organs have been removed and a chemical analysis probably will be made of the viscera to determine whether the woman was poisoned.

Floating about the body in the cistern were several watersoaked letters of a threatening nature. Subsequent search has revealed a

number of other letters, all of a threatening nature, all more or less disconnected but carrying a threatening tone. These letters, with a diary left by the dead woman, constitute the meager clues with which Coles County authorities are attempting to unravel the mystery.

When Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Seaman returned from Cincinnati, where they went to conduct the burial of Miss Stallman, they expressed the belief that the woman had committed suicide.

TEACH OREGONIANS TO SWIM

Easterners Astonished at General Lack of Knowledge of Art Where Such Quantities of Water Abound

By C. V. ASHBAUGH

Those coming from the east and mid-west are often heard to remark about the number of Oregonians, especially among the elders, who are unable to swim. Considering that we have within our state waters unexcelled for purity and clearness, and streams as beautiful as could be wished, the reason for the average web-foot's inability to propel himself properly in his native element is rather difficult to discover. It has been suggested that the temperature of the water is largely to blame, being so low that a few moments immersion will generally chill the ardor of the most enthusiastic beginner. This may be true among the men, at least, for they are so constructed that they chill very much more readily than their sisters.

This is due to an old work of Dame Nature, we are told, for when men used to go upon the chase with stones and clubs they were constantly in action and kept their blood circulating. But the women, at home in the damp cave, sat waiting or making garments and by this inaction were forced to develop (not evolve) an under-skin of fat cells that have persisted even to this day of bare arms, bare shoulders and gossamer stockings.

From this then it would seem that the gentler sex should be veritable mermals, but it has been noticed that they have a decided aversion to wetting their hair, or is it that the cosmetics have neglected to manufacture a waterproof rouge? Unquestionably the real reason has been hit upon in this nonsense. It is, because they, as well as the men, most decidedly do not like to get their heads wet. Overcome this aversion and the rest is simple

and easy. Nature has furnished us with an instinct to keep open and free the life-inlet and also the guardian senses of the ears, nose and eyes, and it takes both will and persistence to overcome this. But the old saying among the boys, "learn to dive and swimming will take care of itself," is not only true but a very good rule to be adopted by the aspiring amphibian.

For those who are really in earnest about wanting to learn this finest of sports and what should be a part of every human's education, a few simple instructions may here be given.

Overcome the fear of water. Wade out in still water where the bottom is uniform, as holes are both terrifying and dangerous, to breast-deep. Take a big breath, fill the lungs so that out of water the breath could be held about 30 seconds, then draw up the knees and clasp them with the arms. As you sink into the water count and see how long you are able to hold your breath. If it is your first time it will be remarkably short, although there is no reason why one should not hold quite as well under as out. After you are able to count five or ten you will note that you did not get down and sit upon the bottom as was expected, but that the whole top of your head was above water and remained so until the breath was let out.

When this feat can be done and the breath held for twenty or so counts, try going down fast foremost and gather pebbles from the bottom. It will no doubt surprise you that, in fairly clear water, the bottom may be seen distinctly if the eyes are opened. This, at first, causes rather a shock but no damage whatever, and if practiced for a few times it will be almost impossible to go under without open-

SHIPPERS INFORMED OF PROPOSED RATE RAISE

NOTICES SENT BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Proceedings Designed to Investigate Every Proposed Charge Increase

The public service commission is sending advices to Oregon shippers and the general public covering the status of recently filed formal applications of the western carriers for an increase in revenue in the western and mountain Pacific districts.

Similar petitions have been filed with both state and interstate commissions involving an investigation of all rates, fares and charges, both state and interstate and looking to the establishment of increased rates estimated to approximate eleven percent.

At the same time the interstate commission has instituted a general rate structure investigation under the Roch-Smith resolution, as passed by the recent congress and for the purpose of compliance with said resolution which was primarily a relief measure in behalf of existing depression in agriculture.

The formal application of the carriers and the proceeding under the Hoch-Smith resolution have been assigned for joint hearing in Chicago September 8, before Chairman Aitchison.

The interstate commerce commission states that although the Hoch-Smith resolution (I. C. C. Docket 17,000) is of broad scope it will deal with the western district in order, with specific and definite data.

1. To determine what products of agriculture, including livestock, are affected by depression.

2. To determine what if any, reductions may be lawfully effected in the rates or charges on products of agriculture including livestock.

3. To determine whether any rates, fares, or charges, either on particular classes and kinds of

commodities, or classes of traffic, in particular sections or between particular localities in the western district, or otherwise, may be lawfully authorized or required to be increased, and, if so, to what extent, in order to compensate for such rate reductions, if any, as may be found proper; and

4. To determine whether any rates, fares, or charges, either on particular classes and kinds of commodities or classes of traffic, in particular sections or between particular localities in the western district, or otherwise, may lawfully be authorized or required to be increased, and, if so, to what extent, in order to effect such increases in the revenues of western carriers as may be found proper.

Briefly summarized the proceedings now under way are designed to place under investigation and challenge not only every interstate rate, fare and charge of every sort and description, but every interstate rate, fare and charge as well.

The commission states that in view of the fact that the public service commission will be required to pass upon the issues in the state of Oregon, it cannot properly take part as an advocate in the proceedings pending before the interstate commerce commission. However, to assist Oregon shippers it makes available to the public the assistance of its coun-

sel and experts together with its files, reports and statistics. To facilitate procedure, it has been asked the cooperation of shippers, carriers and the general public in preparation and presentation of necessary information. Hearings covering state rates set at future dates and places to be determined.

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