

CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT STATE CONVENTION.

The Douglas County Independent Tax-Payer's Convention having assembled this 28th day of February, 1874, and nominated a full Legislative and County ticket, and having adjourned in full harmony, a large majority of the members then assembled and having organized for the purpose of recommending an independent State ticket, the following resolution, on motion, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, the interests of the people of Oregon will be better served by independent political action than by strict adherence to existing party organizations, and that the people of the several counties of the State be, and hereby are, requested to select delegates to an Independent State Convention to be held at Salem on the 15th day of April, A. D. 1874 at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of nominating a State ticket to be presented to the voters at the coming election.

This Convention recommends that in selecting such delegates, the basis of apportionment be one delegate for every 200 votes cast at the election of 1872 for Wilson and Burnett, and one additional delegate for a fraction of 100 votes or over. Upon this basis the number of delegates from the respective counties will be as follows:

Table with 2 columns: County, Delegates. Total 127 delegates.

On motion, the Convention further recommended that the people throughout the State assemble in their respective precincts on Saturday, March 28th, and elect delegates to assemble in County Conventions on Saturday, April 4th, 1874, (except in those counties where steps have already been taken to choose delegates for meeting at some future time, and elect delegates according to the above apportionment, to meet in State Convention to nominate State officers.

On motion, the Convention adjourned, there being 79 delegates present, the proceedings marked by complete unanimity and harmony.

R. M. GURNEY, Chairman.

A CALL.

For an Independent State and County Convention.

We, the undersigned citizens of Marion county, irrespective of party, favor an independent movement for the purpose of nominating candidates for the different county offices, at the coming June election; also for members of the Legislature. We endorse the resolutions of the Douglas County People's Convention, recommending a State Convention to be held at Salem, April 15, 1874, for the purpose of nominating a State ticket.

The precincts will hold their meetings at the usual place of voting, on Saturday, March 28, and elect delegates to the County Convention, to be held at the County Seat, April 4, 1874, at 2 o'clock p. m.

Each precinct shall be entitled to one delegate for every 25 voters in such precinct.

Each county shall be entitled to one delegate in the State Convention for each 200 voters in said county; the vote of the general election of 1872 being taken as a basis.

- List of names: B. J. Grim, C. O. Hubbard, A. O. Matson, T. G. ...

PROFITS ON MAIL ROUTES.

The New York Sun is not altogether reliable in its statements sometimes, as its passion for aggressive warfare leads it to attack the Administration at Washington with reckless persistence, but in a late article on mail contracts it gives particulars of the career of one of these mail route millionaires, who in five years grew from a Montana stable boy to become a great operator who lives in fine style in Fifth Avenue, New York.

C. C. Huntley must have been very shrewd, even if ignorant in the book-learned sense of the word. He went to Missoula in Montana about six years ago, and seeing how mail matters were managed, invested his brilliant genius for business in manufacturing a petition for a mail route from Missoula to Walla Walla, and as the road from the one place to the other, though hundreds of miles in length, did not furnish names to use, the public archives at Washington were robbed and old and forgotten petitions were despoiled of their lists to furnish the necessary backing, all of which might be done by slightly corrupting clerks of the departments.

When the mail route was established, Huntley took pains to put in the highest bid in his own name, and bogus bids were put in for several smaller amounts that were never responded to, and he bought off persons who put in fair bids at low rates, so that he mastered the situation, and then went to work to have it made a tri-weekly route which was accomplished in the same way the original petition, was manufactured, and the Missoula stable boy sub-let his contract so that he had for six years an income of \$50,000 per annum.

Such genius as his was needed at the East, and he is said to have removed to New York and used his money and his talents to such excellent advantage that he was soon interested in half a dozen postal contracts equally valuable, and no doubt as honestly manipulated. Huntley is now said to be a millionaire, master of the situation at Washington, at home in the departments, up to the elbows in the post-route rings, and within five years grown from a stable boy to a millionaire. His ignorance of books is made up by his knowledge of men and their ways, and many who envy his tact and success would exchange all their school learning for those qualities and throw in their reputation to boot.

There is no reason to doubt that the nation has been very grievously swindled and humbugged in these western mail contracts, and the above story contains far more truth than poetry.

There has recently been a new letting of mail contracts, and reform has commenced in that line with such success that there is an immense saving to the government. It may be possible that the cry for reform and economy has tended to correct these glaring abuses, and that by some surprising means of grace a fair share of honest competition has been effected in regard to the letting of these contracts. In that case our talented young friend Huntley can lend his genius to any one of the other speculative fields where his youth and his fortune can labor to advantage. He will probably leave post roads and mountain trails to more ignoble stable boys, and take a kindly interest in the growing railroad interests of our country. He will come up in time to replace the Scotts, Vanderbilts, Stanfords and Holladays, who must be getting along in years so that their successors should be on hand, and we shall probably hear of him again, all in due course of time.

We copy from the S. F. Chronicle the following paragraph which shows what a saving has been made in the recent lettings of mail contracts on this coast:

"There appears to have been a marked improvement this year in the letting of the contracts for the carrying of the United States mails on the Pacific Coast. The total sum to be paid for this service for the coming four years will be but \$896,000, a saving from the four years past of \$125,000. On some of the routes the cutting down was enormous. For instance, that from Mexico (New Mexico) to San Diego, which has been costing the Government \$124,000, is now cut down to \$55,000, at which figure it has been let to Kerns & Mitchell, of Fort Smith, Arkansas. The San Diego and Los Angeles route is let at \$12,000 per annum to William Buckley. The route from Hamilton to Pioche, in Nevada, was let to James Rensen for \$1,075. It has hitherto cost \$51,250 yearly. That from Palisades to Hamilton, Nevada, which costs now \$17,000 per annum, under the new contract with Levi McDaniel will cost \$1,450. The route from Reading, California, to Roseburg, Oregon, was let for \$24,000 instead of \$100,000, the present sum paid. This gives an idea of the extent of the retrenchment which is being practiced in this direction."

We confess to the weakness of hoping for some revolution to occur in politics that shall insure such watchful administration of public affairs that shrewd and unscrupulous speculators will not be able to accomplish their designs, which we greatly fear cannot come to pass until the political rings of both parties are thoroughly dead and buried comfortably out of the way.

If you want to make a bustle in the world take five newspapers and a piece of tape.

OUTSIDE VIEWS OF THE GRANGE.

We have received a very interesting communication from a gentleman in one of the Southern Coast Counties, who is a radical friend of reform and says that party feeling is at zero in his county and who says:

The best men are marching out, shaking hands over a bitter, but dead past, and pledging their mutual aid to make the future a better present than now. When the people understand themselves, and their duty, and power, our country is safe. The people have the nominating as well as the voting power, let them exercise the first as well as they do the last, and one half our evils are passed. Dr. Franklin said that "it was the duty of an American citizen, never to ask, refuse, or resign an office." We concur in the sentiment, especially the asking part; for our experience, though short, has taught us that rascals are more energetic than honest men, in pressing their claims for office; and the people, however, generally nominate those who ask oftenest and loudest.

Let our editors and speakers teach the people their rights and power, and we will soon see these rotten rings, that control our primaries and our convention, that exist in every precinct, county and State, rent asunder and trodden beneath the feet of a free and progressive people.

But the people must not be taught to expect too much, for as yet, the millennium has not come, nor has it been demonstrated that this world is a suitable place for a paradise. They will still have their burdens to bear, their duties to perform, and raise a revenue sufficient to run the greatest nation the world ever saw.

The Granges are doing much in the right direction; but they are also doing things that will be hard to undo, and will undermine and shortly destroy the organization. They are teaching the people to expect too much, they are encouraging the growth of an excitable, Frenchified public sentiment, which is as explosive as the Communists, and will fill our country with riots, confagurations, and insurrections. A secret organization, assuming to control the destinies of a nation, while it is dangerous, cannot live in a land of universal intelligence. It is copied after a terrible pattern, and has only to read history to trace its certain doom. I know of farmers who expect to have their produce reach market without freight, who expect their stores delivered at their door, not only free of freight, but of duty also.

This is a mistaken view of the motives and expectations of the Patrons of Husbandry as we understand them from enunciated principles of the National and State Grange, and from intercourse with gentlemen in this vicinity connected with the order. Our friend lives where no Grange has as yet, been established, and he may have been misled by the expressions of farmers of his acquaintance, but nothing in the principles or actions of the order as established justifies a charge, that it sympathizes with French Communism or threatens in any sense the peace and prosperity of the nation. Not even does it refuse to pay just freights or a fair interest on railroad investments, while it opposes monopoly and the corruption that attends it, and the imposition it practices on the people.

Our correspondent has views that are so generally correct, that we give place to his communication as the expressed fears of an outsider, who has only to be convinced to accord to the order all the credit that it deserves. Whenever it assumes the character, he fears, we shall not hesitate as an independent organ of the people to show its tendencies.

NO SIGN OF IMPROVEMENT.

President Grant has lately forced on the people of Boston a Collector of Customs, named Simmons, who was opposed by the majority of the merchants of that city, because his character as a merely corrupt politician did not command respect or confidence. But Simmons is Collector, and a servile Senate finished the job to order. This appointment was made to please Ben Butler, and is severely criticised by such intently Republican papers as Harper's Weekly and many others.

San Francisco had a postmaster named Stone who gave satisfaction as an honest man and good officer, and the people have desired his continuance in office, but his time being up, a corrupt politician named Coey has received the nomination, and great scandal against the administration is created thereby.

Oregon is to have Ben Simpson set up as Surveyor General, not because he possesses public confidence or has especial qualifications for that important office, for unfortunately his labors for political rings have not given public satisfaction, for even leading Republicans consider his appointment a poor compliment to the popular movement for reform. The case simply is that Simpson elected Mitchell Senator, and had to be paid for his valuable services—not considered so very valuable, however, by people generally.

The "Albany Convention" cut a large figure in the year 1873, so far as Oregon was concerned, and made an impression time will not easily efface. Perhaps it is only proper that the Chairman of that Convention should be sent to Alaska, since that has been talked of as a penal colony.

But in all these matters the President does not echo the popular demand for "Reform."

LINN COUNTY FOR REFORM.

At the Democratic County Convention for Linn county the following excellent resolution was adopted which is of the same nature, at least, so far as Clerk and Sheriff offices are concerned, as that lately passed by the Democracy of Marion county:

Resolved, That this Convention favors the creation of the office of County Recorder for Linn County, and the segregation of the duties pertaining to such office from that of County Clerk; the County Recorder to receive a salary not to exceed \$1,200. We also favor making the office of County Clerk a salaried office, with a salary not to exceed \$1,500. We also favor a modification of the laws regulating the fees of Sheriff of Linn county so that the annual expenses of said office do not exceed \$2,000 per annum; and we respectfully commend the consideration of this question to the Democratic County Convention for the nomination of county officers soon to be held in this city.

SALEM FREE SCHOOLS.

For several years past our town has enjoyed the benefit of good common schools made free to all. In addition to the revenue from the school fund of the State, of which Marion county has its due proportion, our citizens have annually voted a small tax on the property of this school district, which has sufficed to support our common schools and make education a free thing among us. The effect of this has not only been to bring schooling within reach of many families in poorer circumstances, but it has added greatly to the standing and character of Salem, which, as the capital city of a prosperous State, has a reasonable ambition to excel, and is expected to take a foremost position on all leading questions and to show enterprise and liberality in public affairs.

Our citizens have expended largely, and to some extent unprofitably, in making improvements suited to the character of our city, and have reason to be proud of their enterprise. They have now the name of being public spirited and liberal in matters pertaining to other local interests, and hitherto we have deserved respect for our liberality in maintaining free schools.

To-day the public schools close for the season, and will not again be opened, probably, until next fall. The intention, at the school meeting last Spring, was to vote a sufficient sum to sustain free schools during the year, but the means thus raised have only been sufficient to carry them through two thirds of the year, and we must all regret to see them closed through the Spring, unless opened and conducted as private enterprises.

It is entirely unnecessary to argue with our citizens as to the importance of public instruction, for we have an enlightened community which fully comprehends and appreciates all that. We can point, with considerable pride and satisfaction, to the high character our public schools have attained, and the credit due to our school directors, who have disinterestedly labored to properly grade our schools and make them efficient. Our teachers, too, are competent and able persons, and our readers must see that there is a direct loss involved in having the schools disband, the children go untaught, and the regular corps of teachers thrown out of employment, which cannot easily be made up after an interval of six months.

There are many persons among us in tolerably comfortable circumstances as laboring people, who find it no easy matter to pay school bills, so they will feel compelled to send only a part of their children to school. There are many others, here as in every other town, who must have free schools or they cannot send their children at all. Let us, therefore, carefully consider and vote understandingly at the coming district school meeting, and avoid a penny-wise and pound foolish policy in regard to popular education. We have good school houses, good schools, good teachers and good school directors and we should economize elsewhere to save money in preference to closing down our schools and permitting our children, not only to go untaught, but run wild in idle mischief. There is political economy in good schools.

A SENSIBLE WOMAN.

Queen Victoria has a daughter who made a love match and broke through the royal usages to marry a man who was not of royal blood, through Marquis of Lorne and son of the Duke of Argyll. An English or Scottish Duke is well enough in his way, and the eldest son of a Duke has claims for public appreciation if he behaves himself, but nobility cannot sit with royalty on equal terms, and Princess Louise has sometimes been deeply mortified because her husband has not been permitted to take part by her side when certain royal pageants have taken place. Lately the English people have been called to do homage to a Russian princess who has condescended to marry the Duke of Edinburgh, one of Madame Victoria's boys, and we learn that the reason why the young Marquis of Lorne and his Louise have taken no part in the wedding ceremonies was because the young woman had become tired of having her husband snubbed at royal shows, and preferred to stay at home with him to repeating that humiliating spectacle.

It is astonishing how fond the English people are of the royalty and how willing they are to pay for it. Pay for it they do, at a round rate, but they might learn a valuable lesson from the independence of the Princess Louise, who values her self-respect too much to humiliate her husband at public exhibitions, or at private royal gatherings. They ought to be proud of her for so doing and appreciate her good taste in marrying a man she liked instead of having a committee of old fogies pick out some royal snob for her acceptance.

SENSELESS TALK.

In an editorial urging upon the coming Democratic State Convention to make the best possible nominations, the Salem Mercury shows that it fully appreciates the sentiments of the people and respects the feeling of independence that rules the land. Referring to the weakening of party ties it uses the following forcible language:

Heretofore whatever might be the character of the work of a political convention the strength of discipline was such that the leaders could confidently count on the support of "the ticket" by the great mass of the party. But it is not so now. The times are critical. The spirit of "independence" has gone through the length and breadth of the land. It has breathed upon the bonds of party, and they have become as brittle as ropes of sand. They will crumble to dust at the least strain. The power of party discipline is broken—broken forever. Veterans who have borne themselves gallantly in a hundred well fought battles and have gone through them all without a "scratch" are ready to break like raw militia at the first fire. If they are called upon to follow tricksters and leaders of the Dalgetty stripe. No party can now command the support of its followers unless it first commands their confidence by declaring honest and worthy principles, and selecting its very best men as candidates, and by doing all this fairly and openly and without artifice of any kind.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION.

We learn that on Wednesday evening the Democratic State Convention, which met at Albany, nominated Gov. Grover for re-election, as also Secretary Chadwick, and placed in the field as the party nominee for Congress Hon. Geo. A. LaDow, of Umatilla. The nomination of Grover and Chadwick was expected, though it was known that a strong effort would be made by the friends of ex-Gov. Whiteaker to secure his nomination.

While it is claimed that Governor Grover has paid strict attention to his official duties and has accomplished far more than his predecessor did for the interests of the State, still we feel that his nomination was no concession to the popular feeling against rings and party drill-masters. His re-nomination was fore-ordained by county rings, and he had secured to himself personal organs in each county, by his veto of the bill repealing the litigant act. Grover is a life-long politician, has to carry into the canvass the odium of some very bad appointments made to reward partisans who had done rough and unscrupulous service, and will be weighed down by their unworthiness, as well as by his endorsement of the salary grabs, his veto of the litigant repeal, and an official and political record which pronounces him an ambitious politician working for higher place. We should have preferred to see Gov. Whiteaker put in nomination which would have been a response to the wish of the people to be represented by men of the people and not by politicians.

Secretary Chadwick is both popular and a good officer, so far as we have knowledge, and his re-nomination was a very proper move, for while his name is connected in some respects with the action of the State Board—as for instance in the matter of State Equalization—the Governor cannot conveniently divide that matter with any body else. Chadwick certainly strengthens the Democratic ticket, and we freely accord him the character of a worthy citizen and a good officer.

The nomination for Congress is thrown as a sop to Eastern Oregon, which was expected. Mr. LaDow was a member of the last Legislature, and as such, voted for the measures which make that Legislature unpopular. It became survive the popular odium which attaches to that session, and can pass the ordeal sure to come, of a close scrutiny of his votes as a member of that body, he will be fortunate.

Mr. LaDow is a pleasant gentleman, evidently is popular at home, and we are inclined to think would make a good candidate if he had no legislative record. We confess to a kind and friendly feeling for him personally, but we doubt the good policy of any Congressional candidate being taken from the Legislature of 1872, unless he consistently opposed its breaches of the Constitution and its reckless waste of the public lands and disregard of the State credit. In this connection we may say that in our opinion Mr. Nesmith is doing good service in Congress that would warrant his party in renominating him if he had the good will of the party to do it. It is not easy to fathom the intricacies of party conventions and our history as a State shows that no congressman need ever expect a re-nomination.

We further learn that the Convention met again this (Thursday) morning, and made the nominations for the rest of the State ticket as follows: For State Treasurer, Hon. A. H. Brown, of Baker City. Mr. Brown has been a strong partisan, is a man of excellent character and abilities, and in every way a good candidate, if he can explain his votes in the two last legislatures satisfactorily.

For State Printer, M. V. Brown, of the Albany Democrat.

For Superintendent of Instruction, Rev. E. J. Dawne, of Salem, who is well known to our citizens as an accomplished gentleman, whatever may be his special qualifications for this position.

For Judge of 2d Judicial District, Judge I. F. Mosher, of Roseburg.

For Prosecuting Attorney for this District, a young man named J. J. Whitney, of Albany.

We confess to disappointment that the Albany Convention found no farmer in that great party worthy of a nomination at its hands.

THE INDEPENDENT CALL.

We publish to-day about 180 more names to the Independent Call, and we hear of many more that are in the hands of friends of the movement, and should be sent in for publication. We are assured that no efficient canvass has been made and that a thousand names could be had if some man would go around for them.

FOR THE EAST.—The Pendleton Tribune, March 11th, says that Dr. Wm. McKay will start below in a few days, taking with him his brother, Capt. Donald McKay and twelve Warm Spring Indian scouts; also the celebrated mountaineer and trapper, Joe Meek. Among the Indians are Cap-poh-las and A-wen-s-chai who captured Capt. Jack after he left the Lava Boils. It is the intention of the Doctor to start on a tour of the States with this company some time next month, making their debut at San Francisco. It is his design to deliver a Lecture at each of the Entertainments or Exhibitions; and as he is a regularly educated physician and speaks the English language fluently, we have no doubt his lectures will be interesting and entertaining.