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PENDLETON



TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1902.

## THE RABBLE AND THE MACHINE

The republican party today is talking about trusts and the suppression of trusts. The republican party is in power and has the power to suppress the trusts. The republican party as a party is in favor of suppressing the trusts. But the republican party as a party is a mere rabble. It may howl, its newspapers may chant and its orators may fume and vapor with patriotism and eloquent words of "Down with the trusts!" but the trusts are prospering right along and are not the least bit worried.

The machine that controls it is running smoothly and the trusts have no reason for alarm. A certain faction of the political party in power nowadays always forms itself into a machine, gets control, does what it pleases and all of the howling in the world does not affect it. The machine is composed of shrewd, wealthy, designing, conscienceless leaders of the party and insidiously controls it in the face of all opposition, majorities, honesty and everything else. The weaker minded leaders, the more sincere, the unsuspecting are worked like oxen and paid but little, though they are needed by the machine and necessary to make it a success.

They love the name of the party better than all things else; they know but little about its principles, its purposes or its workings, but so long as the "grand old republican party" is in power all is well, and with the devotion of the wildest fanatic they stand by a machine and sustain it, and support it, and oil it, and polish it. They are a part of the rabble; yet they know it not. To tell them so would insult them. But they do know that trusts are wrong. They are told so; they say so themselves. They also know that the republican party can do anything, that it is all powerful, yet, they do not know why it does not suppress the trusts.

That is the machine's business. Let it keep running. It will run all right. The "grand old party" always does things right. You can trust to it. That is their idea and they do trust it, and the machine runs right along, and the trusts do too, and they prosper—the trusts, in spite of the fact that they are universally admitted to be great octopuses sapping from the people their life-blood, impoverishing them and dividing the country into classes daily and gradually bringing about a state of affairs that will cause trouble and serious trouble some day.

But the machine must run, and the rabble which condemns it, will continue to sustain it until such a time—well, no one can tell.

Papers all over the state are still giving advice in regard to the payment of the reward to Mrs. Waggoner for finding Merrill's body and delivering it "dead" at Salem. A majority of the papers are in favor of paying the reward, but several declare it "unconstitutional, unjust, impractical, and against public policy, and contrary to the statutes therein made and provided." Other reasons are given for not paying it. It might be well to state that in spite of the legal opinions of the various editors, country and otherwise, that the ablest lawyers in the state have declared that it is a close question, and nothing short of a decision by the supreme

on the surface of the ground, and man causes water to destroy the soil which nature intended should be preserved and made fruitful by it.

Dr. Fernow deals with the function of forests in conserving the water supply. He should be followed by hydrographers and agrostologists, who observe and deal with the same office performed by reservoirs and vegetations.

Nothing seems harder than to get the attention of man to these subjects which affect his very existence. Dr. Fernow says, truly, a large part of the world's area that was fertile at the beginning of the Christian era is now barren, desert and unproductive, as a result of man's destruction of the natural means of conserving moisture. That process is going on rapidly in this country. In the arid regions west of the one hundredth meridian it is officially reported that the desert is spreading at the rate of five million acres a year. The prairie states are becoming dry. Central and western New York and other states formerly covered by timber now complain that agriculture suffers from drought.

It is a process that once started, proceeds until the soil is destroyed. Palestine, today a desert, at the date of the Exodus was a moist and fertile land. Spain is arid, where in the time of Hannibal there was abundant moisture and fertility. Such missionaries as Dr. Fernow have no time to lose if this continent is to be saved from the fate that has overtaken vast regions in the Old World.—San Francisco Call.

court could determine the proper course in the matter. The case should be tested. It is not a question of sentiment. If it is law to pay Mrs. Waggoner, let her be paid; if it is not to do not pay her. There has been too much money drawn out of the state treasury on sentiment and newspaper advice already.

It has now been satisfactorily proved that Clark, of the Lewis and Clark expedition, visited the present site of Portland, and Portland is happy. If it is a commendable pride, for every point in the state should be glad to be connected with this great expedition, historically. It was the beginning of a great epoch in history, which is now practically just dawn ing.

## SOIL AND WATER.

Dr. Fernow, the forester, and head of the department of forestry in Cornell University, is spreading much needed information about forests and the necessity of their preservation. In a recent address in the Academy of Sciences in this city he stated clearly the relation between the soil and water and their prime importance to man.

Forests are soil makers and preservers. Their agency in preventing the flow of water upon the surface by leading it to penetrate the soil regulates the steady flow of streams and preserves the supply of springs. Their action is that of a reservoir for the conservation of water. But nature has not left man to depend upon forests alone as the instrument in the conservation of water. In the prairie states of the Upper Mississippi Valley this function was performed by the sloughs, ponds, marshes and small lakes which once abounded. They were supplemented by the natural grasses, which formed a turf and covered the soil.

The moisture for a great part of that region comes from the Great Lakes. When precipitated it ran into the sloughs and marshes, ponds and small lakes, and much of it penetrated the soil through the sod of the natural grasses and made affluent the many springs which existed there in early times.

Cultivation has destroyed the natural grass and its sod, and man's greed for land has drained the ponds, sloughs and marshes. When these retained the water it evaporated, saturated the air and supplied the moisture for the summer rains, which distributed it to the crust of the earth for the support of vegetation and the production of crops. Now that the reservoirs are drained dry, the local summer showers are less frequent and the crust of the earth is drying out. The clay subsoil is no longer wet, and capillary attraction no longer brings up its moisture for the summer crops.

When erratic changes of temperature cause a precipitation of moisture from the Great Lakes over that region it causes destructive floods, such as recently destroyed many millions in crops and other property in Iowa and Illinois. The reservoirs are no longer there to hold back the water, nor the natural sod to conduct it into the ground, and the rainfall that under natural conditions would be beneficial becomes destructive. After this flood has passed it will be found that the great rainfall has not penetrated the soil nor moistened the earth's crust.

On the plains, in the arid regions, where there are no forests nor swamps and marshes, the moisture was conserved by the low grasses and annual plants. These held the soil in place, prevented evaporation and their roots made the ground porous, so that the little rain penetrated it and supplied the streams and springs with a steady flow. The extirpation of this vegetation by overgrazing sheep and cattle has made the country more arid, dried up the springs, and now the rains wash the surface soil into the streams. The steady flow of these is lost, and they are alternately torrential and dry.

So it appears that the equilibrium of nature is equally disturbed by destroying forests, marshes and forage



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