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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent. WASHINGTON, May 18, 1888. A lower branch of congress has convened and stepped up to its duties with tariff eloquence.

Speeches follow each other in a deluge of tariff talk this afternoon. On Tuesday there were three or against the Mills tariff.

On Wednesday there were three in support of it. On Thursday there were three in support of it.

The report has been current at the capitol that after the general discussion on the bill has closed, its consideration by sections, and final action upon it will be allowed to go over until after the democratic national convention at St. Louis.

The purpose of this, it is said, would be to get a declaration on the subject from the convention, which will bind every member of the party in congress to vote for the bill, and thus secure its passage.

Still, no one knows what will be done about the matter at this time, and it is hazardous to venture a prediction.

A speech by Representative Butler, of Ohio, against the Mills tariff bill, was the feature of the debate on Tuesday last.

He addressed a full house and much attention was paid him for an hour or so after he had finished.

He argued that a tariff was not, strictly speaking, a tax; it was a trade regulation relating to that part of a nation's business which extends to the productions of other countries.

He said he could not understand how any Irish-American could stand here as the closest and most earnest ally of England, who was attempting to do to this country what she had done to the Irish across the seas.

He created a good deal of laughter by reading an extract from the London Times, declaring the only time England has any use for an Irishman is when he emigrates to America and votes for free trade.

The senate has been slowly doing nothing this week, or rather nothing of importance. One day it indulged in a long, learned debate on the constitutional question as to whether or not the senate had power to originate an appropriation bill.

Senator Hoar was the leading champion of the exclusive authority of the house. Then when the resolution confirming Mr. Turpie's right to his seat was called up and adopted, Senator Chandler saw fit to dissent from the broad declaration of the committee that the senate had no right in such a case to question the regularity of members of state legislatures, and believed that exceptional cases might arise wherein the senate should not so broadly relinquish authority.

This led to a long discussion. But this reminiscence has made a number of special orders for next week. For instance, three bills for the admission of Washington, North Dakota and Montana territories will be taken up next Thursday, and it is thought all three of them will be disposed of on that day.

The United States supreme court denied the application for another hearing of the telephone case. Your correspondent lives in sight of the large and handsome church, the Calvary Baptist, where the five national organizations of the Baptist church are holding their series of conventions. From the throngs on the streets in this vicinity, it looks as if the city were full of Baptist delegates. There are said to be about three thousand delegates in attendance.

Washington grows in popularity with conventions of all kinds. During the present month the lawyers from all parts of the United States will meet here in convention under the name of the national bar association, and for the purpose of harmonizing certain matters of law that cause trouble because they are different in the different states.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Oregon Old Fellows paid out during the year 1887 for the relief of distress \$10,943.54. David S. Fotheringham has obtained a verdict of \$20,000 damages for false imprisonment by the Adams express company.

He was messenger of an express car that was robbed, and at the time of his arrest was suspected of being an accomplice of the robber. The town of Roseburg has paid her bonus of \$5000 to a Scotch company who will build and operate a wooden mill in that town.

The Tillamook Grand Army building association has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$1000. Location, Lincoln, Tillamook county. The board of asylum commissioners is furnishing 6000 pounds of butter to that institution at 30 cents per pound, to be delivered during the year as needed.

The Golden Gate Tribune has sold its plant to the Sentinel, and Klickitat county now has but one newspaper. Senator Fry has reported the river and harbor bill. It appropriates \$21,388,683.77, being an increase of nearly two millions over the house bill.

It will be over a week before the bill is taken up. Two shooters are in the Baker City jail; one shot an editor; the other shot a calf. The fellow who shot a calf was fined.

The Michigan supreme court has decided that the new local option law is unconstitutional and void, because of the failure of the legislature to frame the bill in legal form.

The Overland Packing Co., of San Francisco, has failed; liabilities \$65,322; alleged assets, \$29,500. The Stampede tunnel, on the Cascade division of the Northern Pacific, is now open to traffic. It is 9850 feet long.

Reports from California say that not since 1877 has there been such a dry spell in that state as exists now. The steamer Walla Walla, formerly used as a collier, has gone on the docks to be rebuilt and turned into a passenger steamer. The work will take several months and will cost about \$200,000.

At Seattle last week, before Coleman turned over to Judge Jones, of the district court, his findings of facts and evidence in the civil case against ex-Treasurer Hill of King county and his bondsmen. The referee finds that the total amount that Hill is short in his accounts to be \$46,910.78.

Of this amount he gives the county judgments against Hill and his sureties for \$24,910.34. The remainder, \$22,000.44, the county loses, as the referee finds that Hill defaulted in this amount after the legislature extended his term. The latter act of the legislature, he holds, to not have extended the liabilities of his sureties.

The father and mother of young Star, the boy who was murdered near Yaquina last week, are divorced. At the funeral, on the intervening time between the murder and the burial, not one of the children would speak to the mother, although they spent several hours in prayer for the forgiveness of the assassin, forgetting entirely the dear mother who had watched over them in the cradle in the days of their helplessness, and refusing to offer a word of consolation to the woman who gave them birth in her hour of bereavement—Cavallis Times.

In the case of Marion B. Nham vs. the N. P. R. Co., the jury found a verdict for plaintiff in the sum of \$4,000, which was cut down to \$3000 by the judge. The jury was composed of twelve as fair minded men as could be found in Golumbia county.—Mesa.

Ulysses S. Grant, jr., is having some difficulty with his magazine, the Cosmopolitan. Schlicht & Field, the company who were the main backers, failed a few days ago, and now it is said the magazine will have to go. Grant was vice-president of the company which published it. It is understood that he paid \$100,000 into the affair which is said to have come from his mother's funds.

At the session of the home committee on printing Saturday, Gallinger introduced a number of employees and ex-employees of the government printing office, who testified that they contributed sums ranging from 25 cents to \$10 each to the democratic campaign fund last autumn in New York.

Boston has just received from Africa the largest gorilla ever landed in this country. His name is Jack, and he is five feet in height when standing erect, and measures from the end of one outstretched hand to the other, seven feet. He weighs about 125 pounds, and exhibits enormous strength, compared with which a man seems like a child. He arrived in a large box made of planking two and one-half inches thick, and when being removed from the ship, he tore large splinters from the hardwood planks with as much ease as a child would break a twig.

Is the Protective System a Correct One?

(By an ex-Confederate in Texas.) From a manuscript with the above title, which has been submitted to us, and from which we make a few significant extracts, it will be seen that Mr. Edwards, of Ennis, Texas, is not the only ex-confederate who is not of the same mind as his fellow-citizen Chairman Mills. These extracts show the drift of the writer's argument.

The tariff is a question of more importance than slavery, which a quarter of a century ago the country was called upon to settle by war. Shall the United States discontinue the tariff, or modify it so that we shall have tariff for revenue only?

If the purpose is to reduce the tariff to a revenue tariff, it will be a false step. One of two conclusions is inevitable: either make protection absolute, or declare free trade. There can be no half way.

In the United States we have an undeveloped country, with avenues for investment of more capital than we have to spare, and are constantly borrowing from other nations. Our capitalists will not lend at two or three per cent, because they can use their money to better advantage.

The workingman is not forced to accept pauper rates of wages, because he can do better by farming. But is it expedient for the United States to abandon manufacture and rely upon her farming for support?

Is this going to make a prosperous country? It may do well for New York and Boston, but how would it affect the South, where money is worth ten to twelve per cent. per annum? Will it not necessarily stop all development and drive into bankruptcy all who have already engaged in the opening of our industrial resources?

The writer concludes with an appeal to congress: "You must not lose sight of the fact that it has taken many years of thought and care to improve our sheep up to their present condition. It has cost enormously to purchase the pure-blood rams that were necessary to use in grading up the common Mexican coarse-wool sheep to fine merinos. All these years of labor, care and expense have been undergone by a worthy class of citizens who have invested their all in sheep.

The welfare of themselves and families depend on the issue of the tariff question. Are you not bound to consider whether you have a right to destroy this great industry?"

A New Departure.

The Klamath county (Oregon) Star is a newspaper run for revenue only. At the head of its editorial columns it flies both the Democratic and Republican tickets. It has sold two parallel columns on its first page for the campaign—one to the republican county central committee and the other to the democratic county committee. One is headed in bold black letters "Republican Column" and the other is headed "Democratic Column," in exactly the same kind of type. At the top of each column the editor candidly announces that he has sold the space below for the campaign, and is not responsible for anything appearing therein.

While the two opposing columns conduct a wordy and aerial warfare, the editor sits at the receipt of customs, and takes the pelf of both parties with equanimity and a clear conscience. This feature of journalism is unique, but it has its merits. The readers have a fair opportunity of reading side by side what the opposing parties have to say, and can form a pretty fair idea of what is sense and what is nonsense. They also understand that what they read is purely partisan and honestly paid for; there is no deception, and everybody should be happy. With the subscribers it is simply "You pay your money and you take your choice." The editor, being a newspaper man, is supposed to have no principles; he takes the money and makes no choice. His method, however, is an effective squelcher of the campaign liar. That nimble rascal can't crawl off the farm without being nailed.

While the Irish are sending from one hundred to two hundred thousand dollars yearly to the pope, he sends them in return. This is the language of McGlynn, and he further says: Is it not strange that while money is being collected in New South Wales and other places for Ireland, she sends this much to the pope?

The Methodist conference in New York recently decided that lady delegates should not be admitted to that body. Such vote was carried by one majority.

Statistics of Wool.

Sacramento Record-Union. A correspondent having asked the Rural Vermont certain questions of interest to wool growers, it made statements which brought the Springfield Republican to its feet with the question why it was that with a high wool tariff New England had lost over 500,000, or one-third of the sheep it had before the tariff went into effect. The response of the Vermont is of interest to California wool growers, in considering the question of wool on the free list. The Vermont quotes first the allegation of the Republican that "with the exception of a few southwestern ranchmen woolgrowing with us is a mere incident of farming." The Vermont then proceeds to show, from official records, that in 1860 and 1870 a low wool tariff prevailed, and the increase of sheep in the United States was 31 per cent. But between 1860 and 1870 a protective tariff prevailed, and the increase of sheep was 27 per cent., while between 1870 and 1880 the increase continued up to 1883, of both sheep and wool product, when a reduction of ten per cent. on the tariff on clothing and combing wools was ordered. Immediately there was not great change, the wool and sheep industry indeed gained a little during 1884, but from the latter date up to 1887 there was a steady decline, until it amounted to a falling off of 6,000,000 sheep. Had the protective policy as to wool prevailed, the ratio of increase in the preceding years, justifies the conclusion that instead of a decline in 1887, there would have been a gain of 6,000,000 sheep. The importation of wool had risen from 78,000,000 pounds in 1884 to 114,000,000 pounds in 1887, when, according to the ratio of protection years, it should have sunk to 40,000,000 pounds. It is scarcely necessary to support the Vermont's case by giving the reasons for these fluctuations. They must be apparent to all intelligent readers. When the wool industry was protected, sheep-raising was engaged in in order to grow wool, not mutton. When the protection was withdrawn, sheep-raising declined to just about the level of mutton furnishing.

A Boy Breaks Into Store at Washougal and Takes Money and Stamps.

Last Friday night the postoffice at Washougal, W. T., kept in the store of Geary & Herzig, was entered by a 13-year old boy named Chris. Goebel and robbed. The boy stole a sum of money, a quantity of postage stamps, entery and other small shelf goods contained in the store. He then went to La Camas, where he stole a small boat used for transporting the mails from the landing to the O. R. & N. steamer and crossed over to the Oregon side.

From this city Monday he returned a coat belonging to the Washougal postmaster, stating that he sent it back because he could not use it. At present the youth's whereabouts is not known; but the following will show that he is naturally a criminal: Last summer he stole a horse and rode it off to Vancouver, where he made an unsuccessful effort to sell it, but before he could consummate his purpose he was arrested and taken back to Washougal. He was placed in jail, but broke out and got away. However, he soon returned, but was not prosecuted. If taken this time, though, which is highly probable, it will go pretty hard with him.

COLLEGE JOURNALISM.

Cornell University to Have Such a Department. Ithaca, May 25.—Cornell University is soon to have a department of journalism. Classes are soon to be formed, and Prof. Smith will give lectures on newspaper work in the great cities, and the work of a reporter. Classes will then be organized, very much as the staff of a large newspaper. Prof. Smith will act as managing editor, and assign subordinates to various fields to gather news. Young men will also be taught how to write headlines. The relative value of a piece of news to different papers, as well as its relative value, will receive some attention. There will also be something in the way of editorial writing. The professor will think himself successful if he can teach his class to get news instead of rumors. Prof. Smith is a journalist who has lately been connected with New York papers.