

NATIONALISM.

We do not wish to judge impartially, or to arrive at a hasty conclusion regarding the position of our contemporary, the East Oregonian, and we presume he is conscientious in the principles he advocates; but we believe the successful inauguration of his doctrines would be the commencement of nationalism such as is pictured in Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward." If the single tax theory has any other object than to saddle the burden of support of the government upon the wealthy few, while it permits the shiftless indigent many, go root free, we are mistaken. Again, if the land tax doctrine is not an attempt on the part of a certain class of people to equalize wealth we are free to acknowledge, we do not understand the premises assumed or the conclusions to be reached. In other words, and putting it in as simple manner as possible, if the revenue of the different departments of government were to be derived from a single tax on the intrinsic value of land would not be a great step towards the nationalization of property and labor we cannot see how that result could be reached in a more direct manner. The accumulation of wealth is not expended on the soil, and the government is to-day the largest owner of the vast tracts of the public domain. Therefore, when land will bear the only burden of taxation, it would be a movement in favor of landowners—giving them the absolute control of the nation. The wage-earner, who does not own a single foot of ground, would be driven to the wall, and his interest in the country would be little or nothing. It is possible that we may be wrong in our deductions; but we would be gratified if we could be convinced of the fact. Under the present system the reward given individual effort creates an ambition to excel in the accumulation of wealth; but under the theory advocated by our brother all incentive to the exercise of energy or economy would be neutralized, as the equalization system would deprive one man from raising above his fellow. We are fully aware of the truth that the wealthy enjoy many privileges that the poor do not; but it is also true that many millionaires to-day were poor men a few years ago, and the mobility of the present system causes encouragement to the humblest to raise himself above his present sphere. Change these conditions, and levy all taxes upon land-owners, of whom the government is the largest, and it would inevitably result in the nationalization of land and labor. If we are wrong in these conclusions we will gladly acknowledge our error, and it will be a pleasure for us to take the position on these matters that our conscience dictates.

In arguing this question we cannot agree with the East Oregonian that in "the fundamental principle of nature the strength, beauty and perfection of a thing lies in its being composed of independent and individual atoms, distinct and separate in their relations." The contrary is true; that the "strength and beauty" of every complete work of the great ruler of the universe is in combination, and in so far as unity is accomplished is effectiveness assured. This is as true in relation to the smallest particle of matter or the most insignificant insect, as it is of the millions of worlds composing the universe and of the most gigantic quadruped. In this we see the most cogent argument against the theories of our esteemed contemporary. There are so many opposing elements that to insure harmony the strongest power must be evoked. We would much prefer the present system to prevail than the citizen act in his singly capacity, than that the individual be completely swallowed up in the component whole.

We are informed by a late copy of a New York paper that Senator Dolph has placed himself on record in favor of defenses for the Pacific coast. And this is as it should be, for the people of this portion of the American continent do not desire that they should be at the mercy of a foreign fleet that is deared to bombard our cities. If measures are not taken for our defense, South American republics could batter down our cities and cause immeasurable damages to all commonwealths. In time of peace prepare for war is an old aphorism, and this is as true as sunlight. But the people of Eastern Oregon desire an open river more than anything else. If a fort, with all the modern appliances for attack and defense were erected along the Pacific coast, without an open river to the sea, the people of Eastern Oregon would be little benefited. In order to make agriculture remunerative cheap rates must be given to seaboard, and an open river is the only solution of the problem. By reason of an opposition boat on the middle river freights have been reduced, and if the locks at the Cascades were completed these rates would be reduced a great deal more. If Senator Dolph desires to favor his constituents in the Inland Empire he should pay more attention to an open river and less to the apparent evils by an attack from Chili or other countries. Eastern Oregon is all right without a single gun, but without an open river, she is completely subservient to the control of railroad monopolies.

A Democratic exchange has the following: "Those who predict that the present house of representatives will not pass any general tariff legislation bill are probably correct. Not that the Democracy has abandoned in the least its position on the subject, but it would be impossible to pass such a

bill with a Republican senate and president in opposition. That policy was tried when the Morrison horizontal reduction bill was passed in the house to meet with defeat in the senate, and again when the Mills bill met the same fate." Perhaps the Democracy has not "abandoned in the least its position on the subject"; but the party is fearful to go before the country next year with the ideas of the house on the tariff. The Republicans are never ashamed of their position on national matters, and nominated and elected by an overwhelming vote McKinley, the author of the present tariff measure, last month in Ohio. In the presidential campaign in 1892, protection and free-trade will be on trial, and the Democracy, by refusing this year to introduce any tariff measure cannot attract the attention of electors from its views on this important question.

The Chicago Tribune, although a Republican paper, has for years been a strong advocate of free trade, and we have noticed within the last few days some of our state Democratic exchanges noticing this fact and stating that the editor of the Tribune is a late convert to Democracy. This would be new to him, as much as it would to claim Mr. Dana, of the New York Sun, a Republican, because he is in favor of protection and honest money. While it is true, in a national sense, the Republican party has advocated protection and the Democracy British free trade, yet Hon. S. J. Randall, as bright and as honest a Democrat as ever sat in the halls of congress, was an ardent protectionist, and the editor of the Chicago Tribune, although a firm believer in the policy of the Republican party from its inception, is a strong and, we believe conscientious, advocate of free-trade. It is not fair to claim that either was converted to the principles of the opposite party, and until the Democrats read Mr. Dana out of the organization, we cannot consider the Chicago Tribune as a "late convert to Democracy."

A correspondent of the New York World credits a German military man of high standing with the statement that Count Walderssee will take Von Moltke's place in the next war, and will invade Russia from Oranienstadt by sea, while another army operates on the land frontier. This is about as sensible as a great many other World sensations. It is safe to assume that no German military man of high standing would entertain such a ridiculous idea as that of dashing a fleet and army against perhaps the strongest fortress in Europe, besides the opposition of the Russian fleet, which is superior to that of Germany, while the whole land frontier lies open with a choice of routes for military operations.

The Democratic party is not in perfect harmony over the election of Mr. Crisp as speaker of the house, and there are evidences of an approaching storm in editorials of some of the organs. There cannot be much doubt that Mr. Mills was the choice; but the caucus ruled otherwise, and now our friends the enemy must calmly acquiesce. When Tammany carried New York state it intended to control the party, and will do so. The candidate for 1892 will be groomed by this class of politicians, and Gov. Hill's chances are better than they have been for a number of years past. Tammany hall has always held the reins of the party, and we can see no reason why it should not continue in this position.

An exchange reads a lesson to young mechanics, and tells them that they should study and think. Does our contemporary expect that wood butchers act by instinct, and for this reason gives them this free counsel. Lord Lytton, one of the masters of English, says that the difference between the man and the animal is that the one cogitates and the other does not, and this is true in every instance. The architect, mechanic, artist, blacksmith, and even printer, must think and discriminate, or he is but little removed from the machine that acts by established rules. We are sorry that some mechanics are simply machines, and never progress outside of the groove in which they have been accustomed to act.

The Pendleton Tribune has this to say of the election of Crisp as speaker of the house: "The election of Judge Crisp to the speakership of the national house, while a blow to the Cleveland faction of his party and suggestive of radical differences existing therein upon the question of tariff and currency, is not to be regretted by men who desire that the house shall legislate. Crisp is a man of equal ability with Mills, far more calm and conservative and more likely to construct the committees in a manner to attend to public duty and conserve public interest. The people are desirous that the house shall attend to public business not to politics."

John L. Ayer has been chosen president of the state Republican league. He came from the east about two years ago. The Republicans will now be forced to take "Ayer's liver regulator" when they want to or not—East Oregonian. If the Republicans "regulate" their liver, they are sufficiently generous to give a few doses of "Ayer's pills" to the followers of Tammany in Oregon. Their systems are badly out of order, and they need strong medicine in allopathic doses.

With Mr. Crisp as speaker of the house the people may expect free coinage and protection to southern rights as the ruling principles of the Democratic party. Republicans desire to see the south rule in all Democratic matters.

FALSE ECONOMY.

The Democratic lower house of congress will inaugurate a policy of economy in the finances of the nation, and the result of this will be hoarding millions in the treasury, where it will do no one any good. All measures tending to the development of the resources of the country, the River and Harbor Bill and the pension roll will be stunted to the smallest minimum for the purpose of making political capital for the presidential campaign next year. From every platform in 1892 Democratic orators will speak in glowing terms of the amount saved to the country by retrenchment. But is this true economy, or what the people desire? Every dollar in the treasury comes indirectly from the people, and if it could return to them in the shape of liberal appropriations for public improvements they would be better satisfied. If the surplus in the treasury were four times as much as it is now, and hoarded in the vaults, it would do no one any good; but if it was sent in circulation through the channels of trade it would be beneficial to all classes.

To illustrate, if instead of the parsimonious policy followed regarding the improvement of the Columbia river, the necessary amount to build the locks and construct the jetty at the mouth had been appropriated at one or two sessions of congress the farmers of the northwest would have long since been relieved of the burdens of high freights, and the waste which happens annually by reason of the meagre amounts not being sufficient to do efficient work would have been stopped. With the credit abroad which the nation now enjoys there is no need of a full treasury, and to hoard any more gold or silver in the vaults than is necessary to pay the interest on the national debt and the current expenses of the government is waste and defrauding citizens out of their rights. To the honor of the Republican administration it can be stated that national expenses have been reduced and a large amount of the national debt paid. At the same time liberal sums for the improvement of rivers and harbors have been appropriated, and the country is in a more prosperous condition than for many years previously. Let the present Democratic congress profit by this example, if the party expects to go before the people next year in a favorable light, and not on the plea of a false economy by hoarding wealth in the treasury.

The decision of the supreme court of California that the late grand jury of San Francisco—the one that indicted so many prominent men for bribery, etc., has aroused indignation among the better element of that city. The court stood four to two—Justices De Haven and Sharpstein dissenting. The Bulletin, commenting on the decision, says: "The high circle of boodle has rung down the curtain on the efforts of the people to secure decent government. The indictments found against Buckley and Rainey go for nothing. Elwood Bruner walks forth free. Senators Harp and Williams are no longer under the ban of the law. There is great rejoicing, as might be expected, in all boodlesdom. The people of the state will spit with disgust and contempt on the pitiful reasoning that has brought about this result. The case is referred to them in the full confidence that they will take prompt and efficient action in the premises. If there is any state in the union which needs a judicial example it is California. The next legislature, if properly constituted, will know how to make that example. As for the federal judiciary, which is supposed to have been hung up as a prize, the people will take care that not one of the judges who participated in this decision shall ever get it. The administration of President Harrison will not be a party to any such trade."

If Governor Penoyer can induce Speaker Crisp to favor a portage road from this city to Celilo, and thereby secure the passage of such a bill by congress, we believe help would come sooner to the producers of Eastern Oregon, in the shape of cheaper freights, than by the ship railway, constructed on the "locks method." Senator Mitchell's bill for the ship railway passed the senate at the last session; but there is no reasonable hope of its passing the lower house for many years. In view of this, we believe the Oregon delegation will be acting for the best interests of their constituents by supporting a bill for the construction of a portage road on the Oregon side, to overcome the obstructions to navigation above this point.

The dispatches state that the Moscow Gazette "denounces the acceptance of foreign aid for the distressed people of Russia, especially English aid." It declares that Great Britain wants to turn Russia into another Egypt, and warns the people against the duplicity of her philanthropy. If England could establish a protectorate over the dominions of the Czar, as she did over the Nile country, it would doubtless be to the lasting benefit of the people; but the fear of this expressed by the leading journal in that country is evidence that the government of Russia does not rest on very solid foundations.

With all the adversities by fire and flood which this city has suffered during the past few years she is still the leading one east of the Cascade mountains. Possessed of facilities for manufactures and commerce unsurpassed by any point in the state, for many years she has been dominant regarding utilizing the superior advantages which her location naturally commands. If she possessed energetic business men the Dalles would to-day be

city of 20,000 population, instead of simply leading the other cities in Eastern Oregon. To see a good, healthy municipality like this point whining about misfortunes, when there should be a woolen factory in operation, a fruit cannery and a beef-packing establishment, is simply ridiculous. If we had few resources, and depended for growth and prosperity upon inflated booms, there would be some occasion for mild treatment; but the only elements required are energy and enterprise, and these should be brought into action by the most heroic treatment.

Those who have been carried away by the idea that the United States is on the verge of bankruptcy and that there is a deficit, or soon will be, in the national treasury, should read the annual report of the secretary of the treasury. The figures may alarm some who have no taste for such things, says the San Francisco Chronicle, so it may be well to take out a few items from the report which show the condition of affairs.

For the present fiscal year the secretary estimates the revenue of the government at \$433,000,000, and the expenditures at \$409,000,000, leaving an estimated surplus for the year of \$24,000,000. In the expenditures are included \$125,000,000 for pensions, \$100,000,000 for the civil establishment, \$46,000,000 for military purposes, \$32,000,000 for naval purposes, \$71,000,000 for the postal service, and other less amounts. The postal service, which may be remarked, is practically self-supporting, as it is credited with an estimated revenue equal to the expenditure. It is to be observed that the items which are included in the estimates for this year are not constant. Thus, the estimated receipts from internal revenue are \$123,000,000, which are certain to be increased year after year. The postal revenues, too, must increase as the country grows and population increases, and the customs receipts, which are now estimated at \$185,000,000, are certain to increase after the altered business relations, incident to the new change of tariff, have become thoroughly regulated. On the other hand the expenditure for pensions, which is now so large, must diminish within a very few years from natural causes. President Harrison explains in his message, in no cases first payments have been very large, because when allowed the pensions date from the time of filing the claim, and many have been pending for years. The first payments under the law of June, 1890, are relatively small, and as the percentage of these cases increases and that of the old diminishes the annual aggregate of first payments will be largely reduced. To sum the whole matter up, Secretary Foster's report shows that the financial condition of the nation is excellent, and there is no cause to fear a deficit. The surplus has been reduced by the purchase of United States bonds, and the debt-paying policy of the country thus carried out.

Next year Oregon will be the first state to vote in the presidential year, and if a liberal appropriation is secured in the River and Harbor bill by Republican efforts the state will give a good majority for that ticket; but on the contrary, if the Democratic party in the lower house do not attempt to cut down to the minimum the amount for public improvements, it will receive consideration. Political preferences next June will be largely controlled by favors bestowed and benefits received, and it will be well for our delegation not to forget these facts.

Diplomatic correspondence promises an amicable solution of the Chilean difficulty, without the United States submitting to any humiliating compromise. It would have added to the confidence of American citizens in foreign countries if the captain of the Baltimore had enforced protection to his officers and men with the peace means he had at command; but ready is better than war under all circumstances, and the peaceful ending of this aggravated affair will be a source of gratification to many.

Senator Squire of Washington allowed himself to be interviewed the other day and said: "The great northwest is thoroughly Republican and will throw its entire strength to the Republican ticket. We will make no demand on the party for anything except a plank in the platform favoring the free coinage of silver. The west will not submit to the domination of Wall street in this matter and will insist that the issue be placed fairly and squarely before the people."

Some of our exchanges say their objection to Speaker Crisp is because of the company he keeps, like poor Dod Tray. It is well known that he is in harmony with Tammany hall, and Tammany hall controls the party. What the Democrats will do next year without the aid of this ring of politicians, is difficult to determine; but as a Republican we shall not feel annoyed if there is a little "unpleasantness" in the ranks of Democracy.

The appointment of Stephen B. Elkins as secretary of war may be a very good selection. He has been a very sagacious politician, and this is no reason why he does not understand military affairs.

It is much better for the people of Eastern Oregon to urgently demand an appropriation for a portage railroad, which could be completed in the next two years, than to wait for a ship railway to be constructed, which, judging by the manner in which work at the locks has been prosecuted, will take

fifteen or sixteen years to finish. The difference of time in these two projects for the improvement of the navigation of the Columbia river, will be considerable, and if the quicker method be adopted enough will be saved to producers before the more substantial one could be finished to pay for its construction. The people of the Inland Empire desire cheap freights to seaboard, and these as quickly as possible. For this reason we believe they will favor an immediate appropriation by congress for a portage road from The Dalles to Celilo.

The appointment of Hon. Joseph Simon as circuit judge has received so much determined opposition that it is very probable President Harrison will look up another candidate. This is as it should be, for Mr. Simon's past history is so intimately connected with political jobs in this state that he would be no ornament to the judiciary. If possible, this branch of government should be kept perfectly free from politicians.

An exchange says that the next Republican convention will be the first one held west of the Mississippi river. That convention will not be held west of the Mississippi either, unless it crosses the river and camps out on the opposite side of the river from the Minneapolis exposition building.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Strange Disappearance. SEATTLE, Dec. 15.—Benard Noble, a prominent young man of Tolt, has disappeared, and the whole community is greatly excited. He is about 24 years old and a prosperous rancher. About a year ago he sold his farm to C. Webster, his wife's father, and December 1 he started from his home to go through the woods to his father-in-law's place to collect interest due on the mortgage on the farm. He has not been seen since. Webster says his son-in-law never came to his place, and parties are out searching the woods for him. He had no reason to skip the country. This disappearance is made the more exciting because of the strange disappearance of Jack Belsay, also a Tolt rancher. He came to Seattle three weeks ago, sold a lot for \$2,000 and collected \$400 insurance on Good Templars' hall, which had recently been burned, and for which John E. Perry had been arrested and acquitted on a charge of incendiarism. Perry's friends said that Belsay, who had been active in the prosecution, had set fire to the hall himself and the day before he disappeared he brought suit against one of the men for slander. He has a valuable farm, and after a few days he has absconded. It is also reported that a Mrs. Hingree, a wife of a hop raiser living seven miles south of Tolt, is missing, and the missing having gone several days.

Opposition to Simon. WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—By fragmentary statements it is learned that some very strong protests are coming in against Joseph Simon's appointment as circuit judge, and those who know a very little about it now say that he cannot be appointed. The opposition is strong enough to prevent his selection. Judge Hill seems to be the favorite, and the talk about Spencer Allen is being revived. It is stated that the president's preference is Allen. Just how this became known no one can tell, but some of the senators who have been up to the White house talk about Allen as a likely candidate. The president has a custom of passing upon the qualifications of candidates who have been judged by getting their decisions and reading them. Several coming appointments have been selected in this manner, and perhaps some Pacific coast men have been considered. W. L. Hill is still in the city, and the Washington delegation will have him among them as an informant if he cannot be appointed. Representative Wilson says that he thinks his prospects are excellent; the only objection yet urged against him is that of locality, and that Judge Henford is a resident of the same city, but that will cut no figure in the selection.

The Crew of the Ross. MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 15.—From the time the distressed wreck of the Maggie Ross was towed into Yaquina Bay the only topic has been, what has become of the crew of fourteen men, five of whom have not yet been accounted for in previous dispatches. Nine days have passed since she crossed over the Coos Bay bar for San Francisco. The story of her wreck is already related in these dispatches, and is substantially corroborated by Captain George Marshall, who has just arrived from the Umpqua accompanied by four of his crew, the other five having remained at Gardiner. They are Mate Taylor, First Engineer McKinney, Second Engineer Frank Camp, Coal Heavers James Kenney and Edward Dempsey, Sailor F. J. Johnson and the cabin boy Captain Marshall says: "On Tuesday night the schooner Ross went a boat alongside and took us off about ten miles from the mouth of the Umpqua, where we had let go both anchors. We landed at the mouth of the Umpqua Monday noon. We sighted the wreck of the General Butler about twenty miles off shore, between Coos bay and Umpqua, and she seemed to be in a dilapidated condition."

The Southern Pacific Strike. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 15.—The strike of the telegraph operators on the Southern Pacific division of the Southern Pacific Company began at 10 o'clock this morning, but it is not yet known how many men are actually out. There are from 600 to 800 operators on the Southern Pacific system, but it is not known what proportion of that number are members of the Telegraph Brotherhood. The Southern Pacific claims that but a small percentage of the number on their system are members, and that they will have operators enough to handle their business. On the Atlantic & Pacific it is definitely known that a large number of men are out, and that the strike is in more serious. The strike is based on the claim of the operators that the Southern Pacific should not compel them to sign an affidavit that they are not or will not become members of the order. Up to noon today strikers are reported out at San Miguel, San Ardo and Turlock, Cal., and at four points in Nevada and one in Utah, on the Central Pacific.

Famine and Disease. ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 15.—Smallpox is raging in the famine district. At two villages in province of Rostov 300 people are stricken with smallpox, and fifty cases have proved fatal. It is also prevalent in Arzenburg, Vladimir, Somera, Karkhoff and other districts. The people, in their half-starved condition, have no strength to combat disease, and medical attention is inadequate, and the patients die like sheep. Typhus fever is also operating to combat disease, and the famine has been more severe across the Ural mountains than on the European side. At Chadrisk, a town in the province of Pance, the food supply is entirely exhausted, and the people are perishing by scores of starvation. Unless relief comes speedily, the place, once a flourishing center of trade, will be ruined.

Dispatches From Emin Pasha. PARIS, Dec. 15.—Private dispatches are received from Africa, which state that Emin Pasha had several bloody conflicts in the lake districts, and that his position is precarious. Those advisers, however, do not agree with reports from other sources regarding the movements of Emin, which stated Emin was received with the greatest enthusiasm by the troops who had served under him when he was governor of the equatorial province. It is said further when the news of Emin's movements reached Uganda, a British officer with 1000 troops, started to oppose his further advance. It may be the force came in conflict with Emin's soldiers, and it is to these engagements the Paris dispatch refers.

A Brazilian Revolution Squeaked. RIO JANEIRO, Dec. 15.—There is a revolutionary movement in the province of Sao Paulo. The object is to depose the governor of the province. Up to the present time the insurgents have only a few hundred men, and consist of local officials. Later reports state that the revolt was suppressed by the government troops, and quiet now prevails throughout the state.

In an Open Boat. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16.—The steam schooner Dei Norte arrived this morning from Coos bay, having on board the captain and five of the crew of the bark General Butler. The latter left Port Gamble for this port on November 3rd, carrying 850,000 feet of lumber. On the 3rd inst, the vessel was struck by a gale and on the 4th all hands were wrecked by the pumps. On the following day there was ten feet of water in the hold. The crew had a terrible time during the next two days being almost dead from fatigue, and on

TELEGRAPHIC.

In Oregon's Confines. Salem, Or., Dec. 16.—The assessor of Yamhill county to-day sent in his roll, which shows 1941 polls and total taxable property amounting to \$4,810,801. The assessment roll completed is a list for all the counties of the state. The total taxable property for the state, as it goes to the state board of equalization, is \$135,286,186, \$12,000,000 more than last year. The state board of equalization to-day gave audience to representatives from Linn, Benton and Douglas counties. Assessor Sears, of Multnomah, is here, footing up the number of acres in Multnomah county, and will be heard to-morrow. The board to-day heard it self in ascertaining on what basis mortgages had been assessed in the several counties. They find them running at from 50 per cent in Clackamas, Clatsop and Multnomah to 60 1/2 in Baker.

THE CASE AGAINST THE SOUTHERN. W. H. Holmes, referee, and one or more members of the state board of railroad commissioners go to San Francisco to-morrow evening, accompanied by a stenographer, to take testimony at the Southern Pacific offices in the matter of the suit brought against that company in the circuit court here, for a reduction of freight rates on the Southern Pacific lines in Arizona. This suit comes up at the February term. Similar action is pending against the Union Pacific, the data in which suit reference and commission will have to go to Omaha.

Trade With Jamaica. WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The reciprocity negotiations with Jamaica have reached a satisfactory condition, thus completing the series of trade conditions made with the sugar-producing colonies of Great Britain in the West Indies. Jamaica was the last to hold out against the just demand for a revision of its tariff, made by General Foster, who has conducted the negotiations on the part of the state department. She did so because the proposed revision of her tariff was pending against the United States, and that she was asked to revise her tariff in a way which involved the surrender of a large proportion of her revenue than she had been used to. In fact, she is understood to have cut them down one-half, but beyond that point she was unwilling to go. The commissioners from Jamaica, who had a little while ago output and export of sugar. 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