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MERIT VS. INCOMPETENCY.

The financial question is the one uppermost in the minds of the people today. This is a year when candidates for legislative offices must stand up and be counted either for or against the free coinage of silver. The democrats in state convention recognize this fact, and a majority in the convention favoring the free and unlimited coinage of silver, the platform adopted declares in unmistakable terms for that principle, hence there can be no mistake as to the views of the legislative nominees on this question. The TIMES-MOUNTAINEER is not with the majority of the democratic party of Oregon on this issue, nevertheless it admires their honesty and bravery in making an open declaration of their principles; and while it does not believe that the free and unlimited coinage of silver by the United States is safe, it recognizes that this is an issue that must be met fairly and squarely in the coming election. On this issue the democratic party of Oregon have placed themselves on record in terms that cannot be questioned, while the republicans have dodged the question most cowardly, especially in the matter of congressional nominations.

In the first congressional district the republicans have placed in nomination Thomas Tongue, an avowed gold-standard man, one whose views on this question cannot be mistaken; but in the second district, the nominee of that party is W. R. Ellis, a man who has, time and again, gone on record as opposed to a gold standard. In thier state platform they have declared neither for gold or silver, but have reaffirmed the declarations of the national platform of 1892. Hence it is that the republican party of Oregon go before the people with no clearly defined principle on the money question. Worse than this, their nominees for congress are of directly opposite views on the financial question.

In the first congressional district, democrats who are opposed to the free coinage of silver, and who consider this issue paramount to all others, may exercise their preference in the support of Mr. Tongue. But in the second district, they have no such option, even if they believe the financial question is of greater importance that tariff reform and economical administration.

With a "straddle" in the republican platform and an avowed free silver man in nomination for congress, the intelligent voter is at sea as to where to find the republican party in this district, therefore the contention must center upon a question of personal merit on the part of the two congressional nominees. One is a man who has served as representative in congress four years, and during that time has accomplished so little for the state which he represents that the press of his own party in this district, with the exception of the Heppner Gazette and Long Creek Eagle, have denounced him as incompetent and unworthy of support. The other is a man of recognized ability as one of the leading lawyers of the state, one who in congress would be the peer of any man on the floors of that great deliberative body, a friend of the masses, and an advocate of the interests of the great state of Oregon.

With such odds in favor of the latter, the TIMES-MOUNTAINEER, being an independent democratic paper, whose aim is to advance principles which it believes are for the benefit of the greatest number, and believing the interests of the state of Oregon will be more carefully guarded with Judge Bennett in congress than they have been during the past four years with Mr. Ellis as our representative, heartily advocates his election, however widly it differs with him and a majority of the democratic party of Oregon on the question of finance.

GOOD AND BAD.

The platform adopted by the democratic state convention is by no means perfect. It contains some objectionable and some commendable features, yet it is perhaps as consistent a set of declarations as could have been secured under the circumstances, when the convention was composed largely of men who had but a single idea—that of placing the party on record as unreservedly favoring the free and unlimited coinage of silver. Aside from the free silver plank, the next most objectionable declaration is that contained in the second article, demanding the repeal of all specific contract laws. While this idea is popular with many, it is a principle that, if carried into execution, would encroach upon individual privileges. It is not the province of the state to interfere with private contracts, to undertake to stipulate by legislative enactment whether a debtor shall pay his obligations in gold, silver or any other product of his labor, hence the specific contract law is not burdensome, nor would its repeal be beneficial to the masses.

But there are parts of the platform which are commendable, and on which the democratic party can go before the people asking the support of the voters, with the assurance that if the management of state affairs is entrusted to their keeping, a more economical administration will result than has prevailed in past years. The most commendable features are the sixth, seventh and tenth planks, as follows:

"We demand a reduction of all salaries, federal and state, commensurate with the depressed condition of the country; that the compensation of all state officers shall be kept strictly within the letter of the constitution; that all laws now existing providing extra fees or compensation for any duty or service imposed by law upon such offices shall be repealed."

"We demand the repeal of the laws creating the railroad commission, and all other useless commissions."

"We denounce the extravagant acts of the last legislature as coextensive with fraud, jobbery, and squandering of the people's money, and we censure and hold the republican majority responsible for the present condition of our public debt and high rate of taxation."

Official salaries in every branch of government are out of proportion to earnings in private life. They are higher than a just compensation for the service rendered. That they create an unjust burden upon the people in unquestioned, and the party that demands their reduction is the one on whom the overtaxed people must rely for relief.

The creation of the numerous commissions in this state has developed into a system for robbing the people for creating fat jobs for a favored class whose services to the state are not needed. The taxpayers of Oregon will heartily endorse the declarations of the democratic party demanding the repeal of the laws creating them.

The tenth plank, denouncing the extravagance of the last legislature, should have gone further and pledged the party to practice the strictest economy, to cut off all needless expense, and conduct the business of the state on business principles. Still the declaration can only be interpreted to mean that if the democrats shall secure a majority in the legislature, the extravagances of the last session shall not be repeated.

A LOST OPPORTUNITY.

Hardly had the last session of the legislature adjourned when the Oregonian gave the following advice as to the wording of the republican platform for 1896:

"The logical thing for the next republican platform would be a resolution indorsing and approving the earnest and successful efforts of the late legislature against reduction of salaries, offices, fees and taxes, and pledging the party to renewed efforts in that line.

"It may well be supposed that this matter will be duly attended to at the state republican convention, which will be held in March or April, 1896, a little over a year hence. If the platform is to accord with the policy and acts of the recent legislature, it should read something like this, to-wit:

"The republican party, both from principle and interest, believes in high taxation for the benefit of public officials. It pledges itself to stand firmly against all efforts to reduce the number of offices, or the salaries, fees and emoluments thereof. It insists that officials who have put up money for campaign purposes to secure the success of their party and their own election, are entitled to recoup from the taxpayers, and that through their election a moral obligation is created which forbids offices to be cut off or salaries or emoluments to be reduced. We congratulate the people of the state on the defeat of the efforts made in the legislature of 1895 to cut off salaries, offices, emoluments and fees, and denounce those efforts as the height of outrage and injustice; and we approve the large and liberal expenditures for clerks in the legislature, and point with pride to the numerous items and the grand total of the general appropriation bill."

The republican state convention, however, did not see fit to follow this advice of the Oregonian, nor did that paper see fit to refresh their minds on the subject just prior to the assembling of the delegates. Instead of following the advice of the great oracle of the party on the question of retrenchment, the convention made this declaration:

"We pledge the republican party to rigid economy in the expenditure of public money, to the reduction of excessive salaries, and the abolishment of the fee system wherever possible, and of all useless commissions; and believe that no appropriation should be made to any school or charitable institution not under the control of the state; and oppose the incorporation bill of items for the expenditure of public money not authorized by law."

Could the records of the legislative session of 1895 be blotted out of history, this plank in the platform of the republican party could be accepted by the voters of Oregon as meaning something, and would be considered as a pledge of that party to practice the strictest economy. But since those records are yet fresh in the minds of all, as are also the wording of the platform of 1894, it would have been more consistent on the part of the framers of the platform this year to either have said nothing about retrenchment, or worded their plank on this subject after the fashion suggested by the Oregonian. Such a wording would have been more compatible with the acts of the legislature, and with such a declaration of principles, the voters would have been assured of the meaning, but might have felt the assurance that there was a possibility of the pledge being broken, since so many former pledges have not been kept, and they might have hoped for some real economy being practiced. We believe the republican party has lost a golden opportunity of obtaining control of the next legislature by not following the suggestions of the Oregonian in this matter. In the light of the broken pledges of 1894, voters can only hope that their recent pledges of retrenchment will also be broken, and going on the hypothesis that such promises are made to be broken, might have interpreted a platform worded in accordance with that submitted by the Oregonian to really mean economy, and would therefore have given the party making the declarations their support.

JUDGE BENNETT ACCEPTS.

The nomination tendered Hon. A. S. Bennett, of this city, by the democrats of the second congressional district, has been formally accepted and Judge Bennett will enter the campaign as the standard-bearer of democracy in this district. As a candidate for congress, Judge Bennett stands before people as an advocate of the principles of the free coinage of silver at the present ratio, and as a representative of the people, free from the influences of any faction or clan. His attitude on the question of finance is identical with the views of a majority of those who composed the recent state convention, and being a forceful debator and logical reasoner, he will voice those sentiments clearly and in unmistakable terms. On all other questions of vital importance, Judge Bennett is in close touch with the masses, and his determination to accept the nomination will be agreeable to those even who do not agree with him on the financial question, for in him they recognize a man capable of representing the state as it should be represented, one who is honest in his convictions, and who has both the courage and the ability to defend what he believes is right.

There is at least one commendable feature in the democratic platform. It is so plain on the money question, that "the wayfaring man, though a fool," can read and understand.

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

Never before in the history of Oregon was there a more confused state of affairs existing in politics than at present. Especially is this true in the second congressional district. The financial question has overshadowed all other issues, and new lines by which individuals, not parties, are divided, have been drawn. The adoption of a free silver plank in the democratic platform was a surprise to the sound money element in the party from which they have not yet fully recovered, and it is yet a question where some of them will stand in the coming campaign.

The nomination of Mr. Ellis however, was no less a surprise to the gold-standard adherents in the republican party. His nomination, secured, as it was by a combine with one of the factions in the Multnomah delegation, becomes distastful to the opposing faction, and forces them to resent his election. To the honest sound money republicans Mr. Ellis is objectionable, from the fact that every vote he has cast in congress has been on the side of silver, and now for him to stand as a nominee on what is claimed to be a sound-money platform is so inconsistent that they cannot accept him as their standard bearer. Therefore the only logical course left for them to pursue is to nominate an independent candidate on a straight gold platform. Neither can Mr. Ellis be entirely satisfactory to the free silver contingency in the republican party. Posing as a friend of silver, yet standing on an avowed gold platform, he is not in a position to hold their confidence, nor can he hope to secure their undivided support.

With this view of the situation there can be but one logical conclusion. The contest will be between Judge Bennett, the regular nominee of the democratic party, and the independent candidate of the gold standard republicans. Judge Bennett's nomination was secured without his solicitation. He was the unanimous choice of the convention after the adoption of a free silver platform. His views on the financial question are heartily in accord with the platform, and were well understood when the nomination was tendered him. He stands squarely for the free and unlimited coinage of silver by the United States at the ratio of 16 to 1. On this issue there can be no question as to his position, while Mr. Ellis is hampered by the declarations of an alleged gold standard platform. Therefore there can be but two prominent candidates in the coming contest—Judge Bennett and the independent nominee of the gold-standard republicans. The issue will be on the financial question, and no candidate who is hampered in the least on this issue will be prominently before the people.

ELLIS IS RESPONSIBLE.

The TIMES-MOUNTAINEER has no excuse to make for the failure of Day Bro's., the contractors at the Cascade Locks, to complete the government works at that place on the date promised, or for their failure to more vigorously prosecute the work of construction, so that the expectation of the people, that the lock would be opened on the 1st of last March, might be realized. For these failures the Day Bros. have earned the severest censure. But they are not wholly responsible for these delays. Those higher in authority than they, are the ones on whom the blame really rests. Either the Oregon delegation in congress or the government engineers are the parties responsible. Probably the later are the ones who have caused past delays, but if the last appropriation of $20,000 is not applicable for the completion of the walls at the middle lock, it is the fault of Senator Mitchell and Representative Ellis, and more especially the latter. He is the special representative of the district in which the work is situated, and it was his duty, when the resolution was introduced in the house, first to know that there was money available in the fund on which it was intended to draw, and second, to know how the the money would be expended, if appropriated. If Mr. Ellis neglected to ascertain these facts, he has been willfully neglectful of his duty, and it is he who has retarded the completion of the locks, the matter now of the greatest importance to the people of the district he is supposed to represent. If the $20,000 appropriated are not made available, it is not the fault of the Days, but of Mr. Ellis. Whatever fault may be found with the contractors for their inactivity, let the responsibility of work being suspended at the the locks now rest where it belongs, on the shoulders of the representative of the second congressional district, the Hon. W. R. Ellis.

WE CANNOT STRADDLE.

These are times when any political party that hopes to succeed, or pretends to be honest, must come out squarely for the free and unlimited coinage of silver or for a single gold standard. A declaration that can be construed either one way or the other, but still means nothing, will not be accepted by the people. A declaration either for or against silver is demanded; no half-way grounds can be taken. The question of finance must be met fairly and unequivocally. Concerning this question and the probable nominees of the democratic party, the East Oregonian makes this statement, which every clearheaded voter recognizes as the trute:

"Carlisle will not run for president on the democratic ticket unless the convention which nominates him will make a gold standard platform. Neither will Whitney nor Russell. But there is Boise, of Iowa, a very intelligent and able man and one with a fine record. He is in favor of free silver and if the democratic party adopts a free silver plank in its platform he will likely be the man to stand upon it. Rather than straddle the financial question the democratic party in its national convention had better declare itself in favor of free coinage. But if it hopes to remain true to its record it should declare for sound money of the gold standard kind. However, the action of the republican convention at St. Louis on the financial question will largely point out the way the democratic party will go. In any event it is to be hoped that a straddle will not be permitted."

SILVER IN THE AIR.

The silver element in the democratic state convention of Washington was fully as pronounced as it was in the state convention of this state, and a platform was adopted demanding the free and unlimited coinage of silver. The ring of silver seems to be in the air among the democrats of the coast, and nothing will satisfy them but a practical test of free coinage. The issue appears to be one that will not down, and it is well that the people be given an opportunity of giving expression to their views on this important question. If the restoration of silver will create prosperity and good times, then that is what is wanted. That a majority of the democrats of Oregon and Washington believe that it will, is shown by their expressions in the state conventions. This idea is so firmly fixed in their minds that nothing will remove it but a practical demonstration. Nothing but the opening of our mints to the free coinage of silver, and the establishment of silver monometalism will convince them of their error. This idea seems to permeate the air through the United States, and the sooner it is tried, and the financial question is settled finally, the better it will be for the entire country.

HIS ONE QUALIFICATION.

It is urged by some of the supporters of Hon. W. R. Ellis that he should be re-elected to congress for the reason that he will continue in the future as he has in the past to cast a vote for a tariff on wool. This is paraded as his single and only qualification as a representative of the second congressional district of Oregon. Admitting this to be true, then Mr. Ellis is the representative of a single interest, one which, though it is of considerable importance, is by no means the leading industry of the district. While wool raising is extensively engaged in east of the Cascade mountains, there are other branches of agriculture that are of more importance even in the great grazing region. The wheat crop of the Inland Empire is of vastly more value than the wool product, and the wheat farmers are too entitled to some consideration at the hands of a member of congress. The only favors they can ask at the hands of a congressman is that all obstructions to the navigation of the Columbia river be removed, so that the product of their farms can be carried to market at the least possible cost.

There are three counties in the district, Multnomah, Columbia and Clatsop, that have no wool industry, but every one of them is interested in the opening of the river from Lewiston to the Pacific ocean. Therefore there is at least one matter in which the entire second district is more interested than a tariff on wool. And what has Mr. Ellis done in reference to this matter? What has he done to secure the completion of the canal and locks at the Cascades, or to advance the improvement of the river between The Dalles and Cefilo? Virtually nothing. More than a year ago the government engineers reported that an additional appropriation of $174,000 was needed to complete the work at the Cascades, but Mr. Ellis did not bestir himself to secure such an appropriation until he was petitioned to do so by the different commercial bodies in the cities along the river. Later his attention was called to the fact that money was needed to do certain additional work on the canal, so that the locks could be operated this season, and he secured the passage through the house of a resolution appropriating $20,000 worth of nothing for that emergency. Possibly Mr. Ellis was honest in his efforts in this matter, and imagined he was really doing something to further the completion of the locks; but if, after four years of service in congress, he is so utterly stupid as to not know when an appropriation is made that it can not be made available when drawn against a fund that is already exhausted, he is too stupid to even claim recognition for his one qualification, that of voting for a tariff on wool.

The opening of the Columbia river is something in which every resident in the second congressional district is directly interested. With them it is a matter that overshadows all other issues today. And the representative who trifles with this question, or allows himself "buncoed," as Mr. Ellis' friends must acknowledge he has been, or that he is willfully dishonest, is not a competent representative of the people. The sort of a representative the second district requires in the next congress is a man who is a representative of all interests, one who has more than a single qualification, one who can grasp the needs of the entire district. A man with a single idea might represent Morrow county, the home of the honorable congressman, in the legislature, but he can never become an efficient representative of the entire state in congress. Let us have a congressman who will guard the interests of all alike, the wool raiser, the wheat farmer, the merchant, the mechanic.

PROTECT THE FRUIT.

Fruit growing is rapidly becoming one of the leading and most profitable industries in the state, but of late years orchards have been so infested with different pests as to render the business of fruit growing less renumerative than it would otherwise have been. But the members of the state board of horticulture are undertaking to overcome this impediment to the industry, and are preparing to inaugurate a more vigorous campaign than ever before against fruit pests. This is indeed commendable, for this great and growing industry of the state deserves to have every reasonable protection and encouragement that can possibly be extended. Heretofore the board has not resorted to the harsher methods with which they are empowered under the law, probably for the reason that orchardists were not in a condition financially to bear the expense necessary to properly care for and improve their orchards, and the board have considerately waited for a time when fruit growers were better able to expend money in this direction. And too it was necessary, before entering vigorously upon the work of exterminating pests that public sentiment should become in sympathy with the move, that the owners of orchards should be brought to realize that a few infested trees in a neighborhood are liable and almost certain to spread disease to all adjacent orchards, and therefore the efforts of those desirous to keep down pests in their orchards are useless so long as their neighbors are not alike enterprising. Since this is generally accepted by all orchardists, the board will and is receiving the hearty support of fruit growers everywhere in their efforts to subdue the pests.

The spirit of enterprise is so universal among fruit growers all over the state that the work of the board is heartily endorsed, and those who a short time ago resented all acts of the board to compel them to treat their trees, are now among the heartiest supporters of the horticultural law. So earnest are fruit growers in this matter, and so efficient are the members of the board, that the period of wormy and inferior fruit in this state is nearing an end, and it will be but a short time when the renowned healthy, crisp Oregon apples of twenty years ago will again be up to their former standard of excellence.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

General Weaver, the Populist, in a speech at Portland, said: "The republican party killed prosperity, threw the corpse in the lap of the democracy and then shouted murder." The general's veracity in this instance is not questioned.

The candidate for the presidency who once remarked that he would rather be right than be president will be muchly quoted from now on to November. This candidate must have been right as he never got to be president.

The silver wave struck Missouri and Colorado democrats as forcibly as it did those of Oregon and Washington. The conventions in the former states both declared for free coinage. In both conventions the friends of the white metal were largely in the majority.

The Salem Journal remarks that Joe Simon is now "completely retired from Oregon politics." The journal does not know Mr. Simon. He has met his match for once, and was turned down for a time, but will be in the ring again long before election day. Death is the only thing that will retire him from politics.

If the financial plank in the republican platform adopted by the Portland convention declares against the free coinage of silver, how is Mr. Ellis going to consistently stand on it? However, he may consider that platforms are not to stand on, but are convenient vehicles on which to ride into office.

A "straddle" in the republican platform, a free silver man nominated for congress in one district and a gold-standard man in the other is a difficult combination even for the most radical republican to endorse. Free silver out-and-out is nothing to compare with it. Gentlemen, you have our sympathy in these confining times.

The Pendleton Tribune thinks the financial plank in the republican platform declares for sound money. Some very able statesmen in the republican party have construed it differently. They interpret it to mean free and unlimited coinage of silver, and on its declarations justify their vote for free coinage. It is strange that great minds should thus differ.

Politics in Multnomah county are decidedly mixed. Two republican, a democratic, populist and taxpayers' league tickets in the field, there is no telling what the result will be. At least there is plenty of material on all these tickets to select from, and if good men are not elected, it will not be for want of material. In such contests, however, taxeaters are very likely to come out on top.

Senator Mitchell's promises that something will be done for the completion of the Cascade Locks is rather a stale chestnut. People are getting tired of hearing it. He has had all winter in which to look after this matter, and his constituents in Eastern Oregon would accept with better grace a telegram announcing that an appropriation had been made than any promise that something will be done. They are getting heartily tired of promises.

Republican protection is robbery of the many for the benefit of the few, remarks an exchange. It has been the means of building up great and powerful trusts, killing off small industries, creating multimillionaires, and concentrating the accumulated wealth of the country in the hands of a very limited and select circle of plutocrats. This is why the iron barons, under the lead of Millionaire Mark Hanna, are so anxious for McKinley's nomination.

The congressional contest in this district is coming down to a peculiar phase. Roy Wilmot Whitfield, the prohibition nominee for congress, has withdrawn, and F. McKercher, who poses as a sound money man, has been named in his stad. It is just possible that McKercher will be endorsed by the sound money men of the district as the Moses to lead them to victory. In this event, he will have another plank added to his platform, which now declares singly for prohibition.

There seems to be a pause in the McKinley boom. Can it be that a combination is being formed against the sham Napoleon of protection? McKinley stands for nothing but extreme protection, which means the robbery of the few for the benefit of the many, and it would be a national calamity for him to become president of the United States. But before winning that honor he has two things to do—first to win the republican nomination, and then to beat some good democrat. Can he do both?

The indications now are that an independent candidate for congress in this district will be named by the sound-money adherents in the democratic and republican parties. The silver plank in the democratic platform and the nomination of Ellis leaves the gold men no choice between congressional nominees, hence an effort is being made to place a candidate in the field on a single-standard platform. It is not likely that such a candidate would receive the support of all single-standard advocates in either party, for there are some who believe there are other issues of as great importance as the question of finance, but the result would be a very accurate test of the strength of the different factions in the district.

Multnomah Democratic Ticket.

PORTLAND, Apr. 16.—The democratic county convention met today for the purpose of nominating a full ticket. The following nominations were made:

State Senators, C. E. S. Wood, Paul Wessinger, R. D. Inman, S. B. Riggen.

Representatives, Charles E. Ladd, R. C. Johnson, A. E. Reames, J. W. Shattuck, R. J. Holmes, Cecil H. Bauer, T. H. Watts, A. Donnerberg, F. Flegel.

Clerk of the circuit court, D. J. Beaky.

Recorder, Ivan Humason.

Clerk, J. C. Haverly.

Sheriff, A. D. Smith.

Treasurer, John Keirnan.

Ex-Governor Pennoyer was nominated for the mayoralty by acclamation.

Mayor Orr Declared Defeated

TACOMA, Wash., April 16.—Mayor Ed S. Orr was declared defeated for reelection by two votes and today began proceeding in court to prevent the inauguration of A. V. Fawcett, the successful candidate.

He charges the election officers with misconduct in counting the ballots.

TELEGRAPHIC.

THE VENEZUELAN CASE.

Commission Meets with All Members Present.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—The Venezuelan commission met today after an adjournment of ten days, with all members present.

Some time was consumed in reading the reports from individual members upon the progress they are making with particular matters of investigation entrusted to them.

Scruggs, counsel for the Venezuelan government, submitted forty maps and charts and considerable other evidence.

Word has come from London to the effect that the British government is preparing a supplement to the Blue Book, containing translations of the documents generally referred to in the first volume, and which is expected to reach Washington soon; but saying that the present action of issuing the Blue Book, and even this came indirectly by the British government has so far failed to follow the example set by Venezuela and submit the case formally to the commission and to accept an invitation to be represented by counsel.

TILLMAN SPEAKS.

His Words Have the Characteristic Ring. Denver Hears His Voice.

DENVER, April 14.—Senator Tillman, who has come here to address the democratic state convention tomorrow says: "The outlook is altogether favorable for the democratic national convention to be controlled by the free silver wing."

"I am a democrat," said Senator Tillman, "but if I may be permitted to offer a word of advice to the free silver republicans of Colorado it is to send Senator Teller to the St. Louis convention as chairman of the delegation with instructions, which he will gladly obey, to lead his delegation from the convention hall the moment McKinley or any other gold bug is nominated for president; or any other platform than one demanding free silver without waiting for the consent of England."

He concluded: "The country is going to hell; let us show the world we know it and we are determined to interfere."

THE PLATE-GLASS TRUST.

It Will Force All of the Jobbers Out of Business.

CHICAGO, April 14.—Every plate-glass jobber in Chicago has received a letter from the plate-glass trust, notifying him that the trust has withdrawn the pricelist for "stock sheets." The jobbers have been buying glass by the square foot in sheets and selling it to the trade in cut sizes. The pricelist for cut sizes is left in force, but as the trust will sell to the consumer at the price it allows the jobber to make, the latter, it is said, will not sell any more glass after the present stocks are exhausted.

The managers of the Pittsburg trust frankly state to the jobbers that they will open up warehouses in a short time in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, St. Louis, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Minneapolis and perhaps other large cities, as the needs of the trade may demand. The trade of the whole country will be supplied from these depots. Rumors that something of this sort was contemplated were circulated and denied for two months before they were confirmed.

TRAPMEN PREPARING.

Some, It is Reported, Have Begun to Fish in the Lower River.

ASTORIA, Or., April 14.—It was reported from Ilwaco today that a number of the Baker's bay trapmen are preparing to fish, while some have already begun. Seaborg's and the American Star canneries will pack whatever salmon are taken in this manner. The gillnet men, who are supported in their stand for a 5-cent rate by many of the trapmen, are indifferent as to what action is taken by the owners of traps, for the reason that, in the early part of the season, the catch by all devices other than gillnet is universally small, and can cut no material figure in the total pack.

The union men remain firm in their position, and, as the strike progresses, the belief grows stronger that unless there is a decided improvement in the market, the pack of 1896 will prove the smallest since the inception of the fishing industry.

Arizona Statehood Bill.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—At a special meeting of the house committee on territories today, the Arizona statehood bill was ordered reported favorably to the house. The vote stood five in favor and two against. Those in the affirmative were: republicans, Scranton, Perkins, Lefevre, democrats, Turner and Cooper of Texas. Those against were; republicans, Hadley and Low. Avery was paired with Knox, and Harris was paired with Harrison.

Owens of Kentucky was present but did not vote. The special meeting of the committee, he said, had been called for the purpose of hearing read the report of the New Mexico statehood bill. It was not proper that the Arizona statehood measure should be taken up without warning, and while the members who opposed it were absent. His request that the matter go over until the next meeting was refused, however, and he absented himself from the room while the vote was being taken.

Ordinance to be Enforced.

OAKSDALE, Wash., April 14.—The new city marshal has served notice on the saloons that he will enforce the ordinances regarding Sunday closing, gambling and selling liquor to minors. The saloons at present are run wide open, and as soon as a new police judge is appointed arrests will be made.

Still in Doubt.

TACOMA, April 14.—It is uncertain yet who was elected mayor of this city a week ago. The republicans claim a majority of three, and the citizens a majority of two. The city council is sitting as a return board today, canvassing the votes. It will not conclude its labors till late tonight.

Explosion in an Alaska Mine.

SEATTLE, April 14.—The steamer Willipa arrived from Alaska this morning, bringing news that on April 3 an explosion occurred in the tunnel of the Treadwell mine. Two miners were fatally injured and several others seriously injured.

MAY BEAR GOOD FRUIT.

Spain Shows Signs of Accepting Cleveland's Offer.

CHICAGO, April 15.—A special dispatch to the Times-Herald from Washington says:

There is now hope that the efforts of the United States to mediate between Spain and the Cuban insurgents will result in the bringing about of negotiations between the rebel leaders and the Spanish government. At least, Spain shows signs of acceding to the request recently made by President Cleveland for the acceptance of the good offices of the United States.

The negotiations are in the hands of Secretary Olney and Senor Dupuy de Lome, the Spanish minister at this capital. Senor de Lome, acting under instructions from his government, has made certain inquiries as to the method which the president proposes to follow.

If the Spanish minister of foreign affairs finally accepts the good offices of this government, General Fitzhugh Lee, our new consul general at Havana, will be instructed to sound the insurgent leaders as to their willingness to accept reforms in Cuba, and on these being guaranteed, to lay down their arms.

MISSED THE MARK.

A Spectator to a Shooting Scrape Fatally Wounded.

ALBANY, Or., April 15.—This morning, at Halsey, Owen Bond and John Pearl quarreled, Pearl accusing Bond of bestowing too much attention upon Mrs. Allingham, Pearl's daughter. The men had a fight, and afterwards met in Pearl's livery stable and renewed the quarrel. Pearl's son Elmer, and his brother, Silas, were with him. Bond called to the city marshal to protect him. At the same time he drew a revolver and fired at John Pearl. As he did so, Pearl's son seized Bond's arm. The ball missed Pearl and struck Ira Stroud, a cattle-buyer of this city, who had at that moment entered the stable and alighted from his horse. The ball entered the lower portion of the abdomen. It is believed Stroud will die.

Bond and Pearl are under arrest, and a preliminary examination is being held this evening.

Owen Bond waived examination, and was held in $1000 bonds. John Pearl was held in $800 bonds. Elmer and Silas Pearl were arrested as accessories in attempting to kill Bond, and will have an examination tomorrow.

Stroud is still alive, but cannot recover. His intestines were severed by the ball in several places.

THE ANTI-SIMON CROWD.

Hold a County Convention of Their Own, Legislative Ticket Nominated.

PORTLAND, April 15.—The anti-Simon republicans reconvened their county convention today and began the nomination of their full county and city ticket.

The following legislative ticket was nominated this forenoon:

For senators—J. E. Hazeltine, A. H. Tanner, J. J. Fisher, W. M. Killingsworth. Representatives—H. A. Hogue, W. E. Thomas, Jonathan Bourne jr., Van B. Delashmut, Charles E. Drake, G. B. Tucker, Henry Wagner, Chas. Cleveland, T. A. Marquam.

Election in Spain.

MADRID, April 15.—The election returns to date show the parties are divided as follows: Conservatives, 318; liberals, 87; dissenting conservatives, 5; independents, 11; Carlists, 10; and republicans, 3.

Owing to irregularities at Madrid, the presidents of the electoral bureau have been fined 100 pesatas. Fines have also been inflicted upon wire-pullers. The liberals elected at Madrid think of resigning in connection with the suit for libel against the Marquis of Cabriana, who was instrumental in exposing the alleged municipal corruption, and who is being prosecuted by the municipal councilors. The marquis has been ordered to find bail, but it is believed he will prefer to go to prison.

Unsuccessful Search.

MOMENCE, Ill., April 15.—For two days an unsuccessful search has been made here for the body of Minnie Williams, said to have been murdered by H. H. Holmes, who is to be hanged in Philadelphia May 7 for the murder of B. F. Pietzel. The cabin of the Parmalee place, which is mentioned in Holmes' confession as the place where the body was buried, was thoroughly investigated. Unless the letters to Holmes and the sheriff of Philadelphia county bring forth new information, the search will be abandoned.

Bad Weather For Sheep.

HEPPNER Or., April 15.—The weather for the past eight days has been very rough, raining and snowing most of the time. Snow fell to a depth of 14 inches within nine miles of town. Yesterday it snowed and hailed most of the day and it was very cold today. That the sheep raisers will lose a large number of lambs is a foregone conclusion. How great the loss will be cannot be told. It has been many years since they have had such weather at this time of the year to contend with.

Burned to Death While Drunk.

SALEM, April 15.—Across the river in Polk county last night an old bachelor living alone, named Eugene Newton, set his house on fire and was burned to death in the building. It is supposed that the accident was caused by his being intoxicated.

England's Rebellious Subjects.

LONDON, April 15.—A dispatch from Buluwayo says: The whole country is in the hands of the rebellious natives and they are moving in great force northward. It will require a large force of troops to dislodge them.

Charged With Cowardice.

SALEM, April 15.—The democratic county convention reconvened today for the nomination of a county ticket.

The platform adopted condemns the republican party for cowardice in failing to express itself on the money question.

Passed Over Their Vetoes.

ALBANY, N. Y., April 15.—The greater New York bill was passed by the senate today over the vetoes of the mayors of New York and Brooklyn by a vote of 34 to 14.

Mrs. Ellis, Who Shot Herself, Died.

BAKER CITY, Or., April 15.—Mrs. Thomas Ellis, who shot herself Monday, died at her home near Express this morning. She was temporarily insane.

MAINE WANTS TOM REED.

Speaker of the House Strongly Supported by His Own State.

PORTLAND, Maine, April 16.—With enthusiasm almost unequaled in the history of republican politics in this state, the convention for the nomination of delegates to the national convention was held here today. Enthusiasm centered about the name of Thomas B. Reed, the unanimous choice of the convention as candidate for president. The slightest reference to Reed called forth demonstrations. Hannibal E. Hamlin was chosen chairman and made a speech in advocacy of protection and "honest money." At the mention of Reed's name the cheering continued, ever increasing in strength for fully five minutes. Herbert W. Heath, of Augusta, chairman of the committee on resolutions, reported the platform. It says the republicans of Maine gladly join with brethern of the other states in presenting to the republicans of the nation for promotion to the presidency the speaker of the national house of representatives. He needs no platform. He is opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver, except by international agreement, and until such agreements can be obtained he believes the present gold standard should be maintained.

THE CANADIAN BOUNDARY

Attempts to Have it Definitely Fixed.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The house committee on foreign affairs today took action regarding the Canadian boundary. The matter was brought before the committee by Heatwole, who is endeavoring to bring about the settlement of the question of jurisdiction over Hunter's island.

A resolution was unanimously adopted reciting that the boundary between the United States and Canada, at many points, had not been definitely settled, and asking an appropriation of $75,000 for determining, under the existing treaties, the boundary at all necessary points between the St. Lawrence river and Lake of the Woods.

The appointment of the commission and the details of negotiations will rest with the president if the proposition of the committee be adopted.

A Joint Meeting Held.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The subcommittee of the senate committee on judiciary appointed to consider bills for the reorganization of the Northern Pacific and the Atlantic & Pacific railways, under, foreclosure, held a joint meeting today to listen to arguments on behalf of the bills. Attorney Britton appeared for the Atlantic & Pacific, and Mr. Moccowles, of New York, for the Northern Pacific. They directed their attention especially to the question of privileges to be extended purchasers in connection with the stock and bond- of the roads.

To Settle Railway Debts.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The consideration of the bill for the settling of the Pacific railway's debts, at this session by the house seems assured. At a meeting of the house committee today, Chairman Powers announced that Speaker Reed had promised that the bill should be brought up in the house within two weeks and all time necessary for its consideration be given.

The Fur Seal Fisheries.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The president has issued his annual fur-seal fisheries proclamation, reciting the law prohibiting the taking of seal-bearing animals in Alaskan waters, an act passed to effect by the Paris arbitration. It warns all persons not to violate these laws under the penalty of arrest and punishment.

To Investigate Bond Sales.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—At 2:35 P. M. the Peffer resolution for investigating bond sales was laid before the senate and a hard struggle for precedence occured.

Cullom, Allison and Hale urged taking up the appropriation bills. It was finally determined to consider the bond resolutions. Hill, of New York, then took the floor to oppose the resolution.

Against the Gold Standard.

DENVER, April 16.—Senator Teller and Representative Shafroth have decided definitely that they will not be candidates for the election as delegates to the national republican convention. Both say they cannot support the gold standard candidates for presidency.

Army May be Increased.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The senate committee on military affairs today agreed to report favorably Hawley's bill for the reorganization of the army. The bill increases the force to 30,000 enlisted men.

Overcome by the Heat.

PAILADELPHIA, April 16.—The mercury went up to 84 yesterday. It was one of the hottest April days on record in this city. George Sebela was overcome by the heat and died in the Germantown hospital

In Favor of Gold.

TRENTON, N. J., April 15.—The republican state convention today declared in favor of the gold standard.

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Sift 1 quart of flour, 1 saltspoonful salt, 1 saltspoonful ground nutmeg or cinnamon, 2 rounding teaspoonfuls baking powder together. Beat 2 eggs; add 1 cup sugar, 1 cup milk, 2 teaspoonfuls melted Cottolene. Stir these into the flour; roll and cut into shape. Have kettle ¾ full of Cottolene—at just the right heat—and fry the doughnuts in it for 3 minutes.
For frying, Cottolene must be *hot*, but don't let it get hot enough to smoke or it will be burned and spoiled. To find if it is hot enough, test it by throwing into it a single drop of water. When at just the heat, the water will *pop*. Get the genuine.
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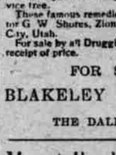
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