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CAN TARIFF BE THE ISSUE?

The wording of the republican national platform and the expressions thus far made by the leaders of that party indicate that it will be their endeavor to make the tariff the leading issue in the presidential campaign.

This sentiment meets a hearty response and endorsement from McKinley managers and McKinley organs all over the country. It is already pronounced so emphatically that it cannot be mistaken. It means something, but what? What position will they take in order to make it the leading issue? What will they fight and what sort of a tariff will they propose? Certainly they cannot expect to fight the present tariff law in its entirety, for, although it was enacted by a democratic congress, and allowed to become a law by a democratic president, who though denounced it as too atrociously protective to receive his signature, nevertheless it is a high protective measure.

The present tariff is one of the highest protective tariffs ever in force in the United States. Its average rate falls short of the average rate of the preceding tariff, distinguished as the McKinley tariff, by very little. A presidential campaign waged in support of the general theory of protection as against the general theory of tariff taxation for revenue only, is a conceivable thing. Such a campaign occurred four years ago. But a presidential campaign turning on the question whether forty-one per cent, let us say, or forty-seven per cent, shall be the average rate of protection, is utterly inconceivable to the ordinary mind. There is not going to be much enthusiasm fired up among either the forty ones or the forty-seveners.

Then is the fight to be for an entire rearrangement, of readjustment of the protection afforded by the schedules of the present tariff law? That might involve sufficient difference of opinion to cause a controversy in the committee on ways and means, or even occasion a lively debate in the house, but is hardly of enough importance to influence sentiment throughout the length and breadth of the nation, and turn the scale of a presidential campaign.

Or is it merely to contend in behalf of the theory of protection, as an abstract proposition, that the warriors of McKinleyism are arming themselves? Do they want to smash the last democratic national platform? The enterprise is superfluous; the democracy has smashed the platform already. The democrats themselves have abandoned the position which the McKinley republicans propose to attack. The McKinley warriors may march forth to occupy a stronghold which has been evacuated by its garrison, but it is a strained use of the English language to speak of such a proceeding as a fight, much less as the principal fight in a national election.

If the tariff is to cut any figure in the coming campaign it can only be on the schedules affecting specified articles, such as have been carried from the dutiable to the free list by the present law. If not on specific articles, then the republicans must make it upon the democratic doctrine of tariff for revenue, since the present law fails to produce enough revenue to meet the extravagances of the last session of congress, and on this issue the republicans will be met half way by the democrats, hence there can be no issue between them. The tariff has been made a political football so long, for the purpose of hoisting parties into office, and it has drawn the two great parties so nearly together on this question, that it cannot longer be made an issue.

A FIGHT FOR OFFICES.

Henry Watterson, the well-known editor of the Courier-Journal, who is traveling in Europe, looks upon the approaching election in this country as being a scramble for offices, more than a vindication of any well-defined principle. To a London newspaper he said a few days since:

"If the republicans come in they will find themselves as little able to settle questions as the democrats have been in the last three years. For a moment the democrats seem to have gone to pieces, but when the offices are distributed next year and the battle and resentments begin and the republicans go to pieces, then there will be a complete redistribution of party forces and there will be a great and conclusive test in 1900 between sound and unsound theories of government and finance. The coming general election will be largely a struggle for offices."

Mr. Waterson's idea seems to be about correct. The democrats will endeavor to retain their grasp upon the official patronage of the government by flirting with free silver and tariff reform, while the republicans are endeavoring to get the offices away from them by pledging themselves to a gold standard, high protection and reciprocity, and the populists will come in for their share of the spoils with a declaration for free coinage and unlimited issue of paper currency.

The present indications are that the republicans have the best of the scramble, and will likely be awarded the booty at the November election, unless the populists shall lay aside some of their isms, and endorse the nominee of the Chicago convention, thus consolidating the free silver vote of the nation. In this event there could and would be a fair expression of the people on the money question and it would be finally settled. But if there are two free silver parties contesting against one gold party, it will be nothing but a scramble for office, and the financial question will remain unsettled another four years.

CLEVELAND'S APPEAL.

It has often been repeated that the people of the East do not realize or understand the sentiment of the South and West with reference to the money question. Because they favor the gold standard, they believe all sections of the country are with them. In this they are decidedly mistaken. The idea that the free coinage of silver would prove beneficial to their conditions has seized upon the minds of a large majority of the people who reside south of Pennsylvania and west of the Mississippi river, and until it is given a test, they will not be convinced of the contrary. Those who live in the New England and Middle states cannot realize how firmly this idea is engrafted into the minds of the people living in other sections. They are enwrapped in their belief that all should view matters as they do, and will not be convinced otherwise. President Cleveland is thoroughly embued with this idea, hence he addressed the following appeal to the democrats of the nation, which, though it is patriotic and sound in judgment, will not be heeded when the national convention assembles at Chicago on July 7th:

"I have made no figures as to the probable action of delegates already chosen or to be chosen to the democratic national convention, but I refuse to believe that when the time arrives for deliberate action there will be engrafted upon our democratic creed a demand for the free, unlimited and independent coinage of silver.

"I cannot believe this because I know the democratic party is neither unpatriotic nor foolish, and because it seems so clear to me that such a course will inflict a very great injury upon every interest of our country which it has been the mission of democracy to advance, and will result in lasting disaster to our party organization.

"There is little hope that as a means of success this free silver proposition, after its thorough discussion during a political campaign, will attract a majority of the voters of the country.

"It must be that many of the illusions influencing those now relying upon this alleged panacea for their ills will be dispelled before the time comes for them to cast their ballots which express their sober second thought.

"The adoption by the democracy of this proposition would, I believe, give to our opponents an advantage, both in the present and the future, which they do not deserve.

"My attachment to true democracy is so strong that I consider its success as identical with the promotion of the country's good.

"This ought sufficiently to account for my anxiety that no mistake be made at our party convention. In my opinion no effort should be spared to secure such action of the delegates as will avert party demoralization.

"It is a place for consultation and comparison of views, and those democrats who believe in the cause of sound money should there be heard and be constantly in evidence.

"A cause worth fighting for is worth fighting for to the end. If sound money democrats suppose there is danger of a mistake being made, such danger should stimulate their activity in averting it instead of creating discouragement.

"I am very far from arrogating to myself a controlling influence upon the policy of my party, but as an unflinching democrat who has been honored by his party, and who desires hereafter no greater political privileges than to occupy the of private in its ranks, I hope I may not be blamed for saying this much at this time in the interest, as it seems to me, of the grand old organization, so rich in honorable traditions, so justly proud of its achievements, and always so undaunted and brave in its battles for the people's welfare."

WHO WILL BE DISAPPOINTED?

The fact that the millionaire manufacturers of the east have contributed many thousands of dollars to bring about McKinley's nomination, and that they stand ready to furnish ten times as much to insure his election, ought to be proof to the American people that these manufacturers have a selfish interest in the success of the party of high protection, says the Baker City Democrat. These beneficiaries of a high tariff expect to receive their money back increased many fold.

How will it be done? Manifestly by higher prices received for their products. It is generally admitted that clothing is from 25 to 50 per cent cheaper under the Wilson law than under the McKinley law. What is true of clothing is true of hundreds of other manufactured articles. The manufactures expect that as soon as McKinley's duties are re-imposed that they will be enabled to raise the prices of their goods, and thus force millions of consumers to pay them tribute by this system of indirect bounties.

But it is doubtful whether the people will submit to this increase in the cost of living without grumbling. The experience, though costly, will teach a valuable lesson. Thousands who now believe that foreigners pay our tariff taxes will realize how basely they have been duped. They will see that the tariff is a tax no less burdensome because indirect. They will begin to doubt the wisdom of attempting to make a people more prosperous by increasing taxation.

To increase indirect taxes is McKinley's only remedy for the cure of this nation's financial ills. The pernicious system that has brought about the extremes of wealth and poverty that we see in this country is to be revived and extended in order to relieve the poor.

The millions of people who are pinning their faith to this remedy for hard times will be grievously disappointed. The farmer who votes to place a higher price on the clothing and the implements he has to buy will get thereby no higher price for his wheat. He will still have to meet the competition of Russia, India, Egypt, Australia and Argentine, and to sell his wheat according to the price of his surplus in Liverpool. He will pay tribute to eastern manufacturers without any opportunity to recoup by exacting tribute of any other class. He will be ground between the upper and nether mill stones of high prices for what he has to buy and low prices for what he has to sell. He will sell in the free trade markets of the world and buy in a restricted, high-priced home market. The people may need another lesson on the true inwardness of McKinleyism, and if so they should have a thorough one.

The cartoonist employed on the Oregonian is evidently something of a satyrist. In Sunday's enition he represented the republican party as a monster elephant, carrying McKinley, and had caused it to turn its back to the gold plank, endeavoring with its caudal appendage to pull the plank out of the protection platform. We has not supposed the republican were trying to smash their platform so early in the battle, but the Oregonian is the organ of the party, and voices its sentiments quite explicitly.

THE SUN ADRIFT.

The New York Sun, which has posed as a democratic paper almost for ages, but which has been more damaging to the democratic party than the most radical republican paper published in the country, has for the past year been trimming its sails to support Morton for the presidency, but the St. Louis convention knocked the wind out of its sails by nominating McKinley, and now the poor, old Sun is adrift. It opposed Cleveland's administration from the beginning, for the simple reason that he was nominated and elected contrary to the wish of its austere editor, who desired in 1892 to pose as a dictator, but found himself in the wrong pew. And now, since his counsel was not heeded by the republican national convention, and Morton was turned down as it were, he endeavors to steer his frail barque around into line with democracy, and wails about the St. Louis nominee, the past administration, and the future duty of the democratic party as follows:

"The republicans have nominated McKinley, with unanimity not expressed for any successful new candidate, with the exception of Fremont, the first republican candidate, in 1856, and Grant, the third, in 1868. They alone were nominated for a first term on the first ballot.

"It is a shallow view which supposes that this extraordinary demonstration has been a mere matter of manipulation and forehandedness in the minutiæ of convention politics. An amiable, engaging, showy, but rather shifty commoplace like McKinley often reaches public distinction; but personality or individual achievement hasn't drawn to him the sentiment which has made his nomination possible with an irresistable majority in the republican national convention. The fortune of a name has given him the unrivalled prestige of representing beyond any other republican, the reverse of the disastrous, aimless, and utterly un-American politics of Grover Cleveland. Men like Thomas B. Reed and Levi P. Morton, McKinley's superiors in both mind and character, have lost in the lottery, and McKinley has won. Clevelandism has made McKinley, and we may be thankful that in the violence of the reaction it has made nothing worse.

"What is the democracy to do under these extraordinary circumstances? The republican platform is for gold. It is unassallable before the American people. The republican platform is for protection. The existing tariff, by which a large portion of the democracy think the party should stand, was avowedly for protection through the lips of Chairman Wilson, when he first laid it before the house of representatives fresh from the White House. After the repudiation of the declaration of the Chicago platform that protection is constitutionally impossible, it is no time for hair-splitting over schedules. The difference between protection or incidental protection, or between free wool and taxed sugar, as Mr. Cleveland has it, and free sugar and taxed wool, as McKinley had it, cannot constitute an intelligible issue. The democrats must adhere indomitably to the 1892 platform of a 'tariff for revenue only,' or let the tariff sink out of sight.

"The democratic party, however, has a function to perform of greater importance to itself and to the country than the carrying of an election recurring every four years. It must redeem itself. It must make itself again known and accepted as the party of equal rights, of party government, of republican ideas, and of political stability, or all that Jefferson labored for and all that his successors have achieved in the democratic name will be lost or credited to other parties. And by just so long as the need of this regeneration fails to be recognized, the beginning of democratic restoration will be delayed."

HELP FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

In the past The Dalles has plaid a "lone hand" in the effort to secure the opening of the canal and locks at the Cascades; but now our neighbors to the east are becoming interested in the matter, and are as desirous to see this end accomplished as we have been in the past. The farmers and business men of Shermen, Gilliam and Morrow counties are awakening to the fact that they must have cheaper freight rates than they have been able to obtain from the railroad, and that this may be secured, a company has been organized for the purpose of building a portage road around the dalles to connect the Upper and Middle river,

They realize, however, that such a portage can avail them little so long as the locks at Cascades remain closed, for the one boat on the Middle river cannot handle all their products, hence they must interest themselves in the completion and immediate opening of the locks.

Since there will soon be an abundance of money available for this work, our neighbors to the east will stand shoulder to shoulder with The Dalles in demanding that the work be pushed with all possible expediency so that the locks can be operated this fall. That there may be no delay, it is advisable that those who are interested insist that the ordinary methods of awarding contracts be dispensed with, for if they are not, it will require more time to let the contract than it will to perform the work. If work is commenced as soon as the water is out of the way, the walls that are considered unsafe can be completed within two months, at an estimated cost of $20,000, but if bids for contract are advertised and all the customary red tape gone through with, the awarding of the contract will likely be delayed from six to twelve months. Hence it is to the interest of all that we insist that the work be done either direct by the war department, or on the basis of the old contract for the work that has already been finished, and that a specified time for its completion be insisted upon.

A FALLACIOUS PRINCIPLE.

The "sap" that is thrown out in the republican national platform to the sugar raisers, condemning the present administration for not extending bounties to sugar raisers, is the sheerest kind of rot, for it is the advocacy of a theory that cannot but result in the worst sort of class legislation. The idea of paying bounties on the production of any commodity is wrong because it cannot be extended to all. It is taking from one industry to enrich another. There is no justice in giving the sugar planter of the south a bounty on what he produces unless the same favor could be extended to every industry in the country. There is no more justice in the government paying a bounty on sugar than there would be on paying a bounty on wheat. One is just as necessary to the comfort and welfare of the people as the other. In fact wheat is the more necessary of the two articles. Flour we must have, while sugar can be dispensed with, and if anybody is entitled to a bounty on his product it is the wheat raiser.

It would of course be a nice thing, if it were possible, to place a bounty on every product of the country, but that is impossible, since the government has no means of obtaining money with which to pay bounties except by taxing the people, and the system, if extended to all products, would only be taking money from the people today in order to give it back to them tomorrow, and burdening them with the cost of collecting and distributing

The system of bounties is one of the most fallacious ever invented, and was never intended for anything only to cotch votes and increase the burdens of an already over-taxed people. It had its origin in the pernicious idea of government paternalism, and can never be adopted with justice, for it results in taxing the people generally for a purpose from which they cannot be benefitted. It is un-American, it is wrong, and can never meet with favor from the masses, because it is a tax for the benefit of classes.

HENRY M. TELLER.

Outside of Cleveland, McKinley and Hanna, there is not a man in America today that is attracting more attention or is more generally talked about than Senator Teller, of Colorado. He is on everybody's tongue, and many silver advocates regard him as their patron saint. Though Teller has not sprung into prominence by a mushroom growth; he has been attracting attention for a number of years on account of his strong silver convictions and his forcible expressions in the face of all manner of opposition. Teller has probably reached the zenith of his glory, so far as political aspirations count; that is, he will likely never be president of the United States, or even nominated for that office, but he is certain to be a prominent feature in the settling of the financial question in this country, and must be one of the leaders in the contest between gold and silver during coming years. Of his ability and tenacity of purpose, Frank G. Carpenter, the noted Washington correspondent says:

"The first sensation of the day in the St. Louis convention was when Teller made his speech, and withdrew, carrying his silver supporters with him from the convention. Teller has a good voice. He is in good training. His soul was in his speech and his every word was heard. His utterances were so manly and so honest that they commanded even the applause of gold men, and when he left many a republican felt like crying. There are few more lovable characters than that of Henry M. Teller, and there are few men of such inflexible honesty. He has for years fought for silver. He has refused public honors on account of his faith, and he comes of that material which will burn at the stake rather than do what it thinks is wrong.

"He was a United States senator when President Arthur offered him the secretaryship of the interior. He refused to take at first on account of his friends, who were candidates for the same position, and even after they had urged him to accept it he would not go into the cabinet without a thorough understanding that he was to think and act as he pleased. He said to Arthur at this time "Mr. President, I am heartily opposed to you on the silver question. I am against you on the Indian quesestion and on the land question, and I don't think you want me for secretary of the interior."

A FAVORED LAND.

The Northwest may have some drawbacks and disagreeable features that cannot be readily overcome, but when compared with the disadvantages of some other localities they sink into insignificance. Disastrous floods are almost unknown on this coast. We never have crop failures, death from sunstroke, or devastating cyclones.

An eastern scientist has tabulated 572 tornadoes and cyclones reported in the United States during the past century and finds that forty-three states and territories have been visited. Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, New York, Georgia, Iowa, Ohio, Indiana and Minnesota, leading in the order named. Maryland, Delaware, Utah and the three North Pacific states, Washington, Idaho and Oregon, are honorable exceptions to the list and are reported free from all such storms.

With the absence of such disasters as the states farther east are subjected to, and with our productive soil, salubrious climate, cheap lands and varied resources, the Northwest coast will in the future, more than ever in the past, attract the attention of the home seeker.

The country is not half developed, nor has it one-third the residents it is able to support in comfort and comparative luxury. It is more inviting to the investor today than any other section in the United States, and the time is at hand when the tide of immigration will be turned toward the sunset in greater volume than has ever before been known. Whenever confidence has been restored by the settling of the questions that are now disturbing business, Oregon, Washington and Idaho will be in to be the bee-hive of the nation, for they present advantages to the home-seeker that will not be overlooked.

It is rather unexplainable that Mr. Ellis, representative of the second Oregon district in congress, should construe the St. Louis platform to mean anything but a single gold standard, and that he should find it necessary to say that his actior, in case a free silver bill should be introduced in congress, "should depend upon circumstances" after the assurance he gave his constituents that he would abide by the decision of the national convention. Since he still wears a button inscribed "Dennis Flynn and free silver" it may be taken for granted that he will consider the national platform none too binding on his conscience.

Affairs in Cuba are assuming a more serious aspect, and that the United States must intercede seems almost inevitable. Lives and property must be protected from both the insurgents and the Spaniards, and the United States is about the only government in a position to extend the protection.

Senator Peffor is a genuine middle of-the-road pupulists, and will not listen to a union of the populist party with the free silver hosts of any other party. He says the money question is only one of the issues before the people, and other reforms which the populists adhere to are of as great importance as free silver.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The republicans condemn President Cleveland but adopt his financial views in their platform. This is insincerity which is bound to be recognized by the voters at the polls.

Congressman Ellis has returned to the state, and persists in holding that the St. Louis platform is a sort of 16-to-1 expression on the financial question. He probably interprets it to mean 16 for McKinley and the manufacturers and one for the people.

The beet sugar industry at St. Louis was encouraged by the republicans in their campaign declarations, but the silver industry got it where the chicken got the ax. If the sugar beet industry should be encouraged by promises of special legislation in its behalf why no silver, also?

During flush times Pendleton boomed itself, or rather indulged in extravagances beyond its resources, and now has a bonded debt on which it is paying $1000 a month interest. Pendleton is only one of the few cities in the Northwest that undertook to grow beyond its resources.

Ex-Governor Russell, of Massachusetts, will be at the Chicago convention but not as a delegate. He goes there to battle for the gold standard. He, like all other Eastern democrats, cannot believe that the national convention will favor anything but the gold standard. However, Russell is too true a democrat to bolt even if the convention declares for silver.

The free silver republicans and populists are using every effort to force Teller on the Chicago convention for the presidential nomination. Their efforts should be unsuccessful. It would be a repetition of the Greely combination of '76. Teller might be given the second place on the ticket, but democrats could never swallow him as a candidate for president.

There will be great changes in the senate after March 4 next. Thirty senators will go out, of whom thirteen are republicans, fourteen democrats and three populists. The senate is now a tie on party questions. The republicans have forty-five senators, the democrats thirty-nine and the populists six. Upon the silver question the free coinage majority is from six to ten.

Of the delegates elected to the Chicago convention scarcely two-thirds are instructed for free silver, so if the traditional two-thirds rule is agreed to there is little possibility of a platform being adopted, unless one side or the other gives way, and of this there is no probability. Failing to get a two-thirds, the silver men may atempt to adopt the majority rule, which would cause a disruption that never could be reconciled.

Ex-Secretary of the navy Whitney has postponed his contemplated visit to Europe until after the November election. He states that he will attend the Chicago convention, and will there endeavor to prevent the democratic party from falling into the hands of the silver element. Mr. Whitney believes that free coinage would result in much damage to the commercial interests of the nation, and will endeavor to so convince the delegates to the national convention.

There is a decided shaking up of the dry bones in the press of the nation just now, and one can hardly tell "where he will be at" by next November. Some of the Eastern papers hitherto democratic, are backing and filling toward McKinley because of the gold declarations of the St. Louis platform, and the Salt Lake Tribune, heretofore one of the ablest republican papers in America, has come out squarely against McKinley and gold.

The East Oregonian thinks Congressman Ellis talks in an interview like a man half asleep on the financial question, and says "he had better keep his mouth shut than allow such air escape as he did when talking to the Portland Oregonian reporter." Really, if we are to judge, the congressman has been dozing on nearly every question of importance the past four years. At least he has not been very wide awake on matters of interest to Oregon.

It is estimated that the total cost of the St. Louis convention was near $4,000,000 and that the democratic convention at Chicago will cost as much. Now who is going to foot the bill? Will the politicians gracefully pay it out of their store, or do they expect to get even after they get into office? Politicians are not usually public benefactors, hence it may be expected that the masses will eventually be called upon to pay the convention expenses by indirect taxation.

THE STORY OF A BRAKEMAN.

Dust-begrimmed, features weather-beaten,
Hands all scarred and soiled:
Did you envy him his station,
As patiently he daily toiled?
In the storm or in the sunshine,
He would mount the speeding train,
Ride away at post of duty;
Heeding neither cold nor rain.

In the pleasant summer weather,
Standing on the cars so high,
He could view the changing landscape,
As the train went rushing by;
But while he viewed the beauteous picture,
That the lovely landscape makes,
Suddenly across his dreaming,
Would come a quick, shrill cry for brakes.

And when winter's icy fingers,
Scattered snow flakes all around,
While the north wind, cold and piercing,
Rushed along with shrieking sound;
Then, behold! That gallant brakeman,
Speed to heed the engine's call,
Running o'er the icy car tops,
God was watching, or he'd fall.

If you'd treat him fair or kindly,
He'd return you smile for smile,
Though he was a railway brakeman,
He was never rude or vile;
Greeting everyone politely,
Though his clothes were coarse and plain,
In his fearless bosom beat a heart
That could feel both joy and pain.

He had a loving wife to greet him,
When returning home each day,
To welcome him back to his fireside;
From which duty had called him away.
How he loved his wife and children,
Toiling for them day by day,
Always bringing home a present,
Every time he drew his pay.

In their cozy little cottage,
Waiting in the waning light
Were the luckless brakeman's family,
They expected him home that night.
Some one brought his wife a message,
God have mercy! hear her pray!
When she read the dreadful story,
"Run over by the cars today."

When our friends were gathered 'round us,
Little did we care or know,
Of the brakeman riding onward,
Where duty bade him go.
As we read our evening papers,
Noting what each column said,
One brief line attracts our notice,
"B. T. Conroy, brakeman, dead."

A. B. C.

Parties desiring to attend the celebration at Moro will be afforded an opportunity of reaching that place on the morning of the 3d and 4th by taking passage of Allen's stage. It will leave here at 5 o'clock each morning, and will be prepared to carry 15 passengers.

TELEGRAPHIC.

CROSSED THE LINE.

Venezuela Forces Invade British Possessions.

NEW YORK, June 23.—A Herald dispatch from Caracas says: A paper just received from Grenada, West Indies, says that on the 13th inst. a Venezuelan force crossed to the British side of the Acarabisi river. As they proceeded on their march to the head waters of the Barima river, in the Yuruari, or gold territory, they interfered with the mining operations of a party of British colonists from Demerara.

The real object of the Venezuelan colonists, it is peported, was to reach the mouth of the Yuruari, thus obtaining a commanding position in their efforts to secure a foothold in the rich gold regions of Venezuela or Guiana. To do this, it is supposed that they proceeded above the Acarabisi, which crosses the Venezuelan line between the Acarabisi and Amacuero stations.

The government believes that these incidents may explain the conflict which was first reported from Trinidad as having taken place at the mouth of the Barima river and near Barima station.

Regarding the above dispatch, the Herald publishes the following explanation:

"The above dispatch, from the Herald's special corrospondent in Caracas, probably states the cause of the conflict between British and Venezuelan colonists in Guiana. The places mentioned by the Herald's corrospondent proves that the engagement took place in the heart of the now celebrated Yuruari territory of Guiana which Lord Salisbury says shall not be submitted to arbitration, as he affirms that it is unquestionably British territory, under the cessions of the original Dutch colonists. It is in this territory that gold is found in great abundance."

The Herald in recent dispatches from its corrospondent in Georgetown, Demerara, has informed its readers of the alarm of British colonists at the idea that Venezuela should succeed in the mining claims, and it is quite probable that the appearance of Venezuelans in that region precipated the conflict in question.

PREPARING FOR A CRUISE.

United States Warships Being Rapidly Fitted for Sea.

NEW YORK, June 23.—Unless significant signs fail, the squadron of United States warships, just now stationed in the harbor of New York, will be dispatched soon on an important mission. Those who should be in a position to know say the destination will be the coast of Cuba. During the last week work on vessels has been doubled in response to a special order received from the secretary of the navy. The nature of this order cannot be ascertained. Every boat of the North Atlantic squadron, except the New York, which is still in the drydock, was taking in coal yesterday.

Officers admitted that services were omitted on board the ship on Sunday, but explained it by the necessity of making repairs so that the ships might be in condition to take the naval militia on their annual cruise early in July.

Altgeld for Governor.

PEORIA, Ill., June 23.—The democratic convention held here today renominated John P. Altgeld for governor. He was unanimously placed at the head of the ticket. He had no opponent, and a few minutes before the honor was thrust upon him declared he did not want it.

The convention, as had been predicted, came out strongly for free silver, and so instructed its delegates-at-large to the national convention. The platform was almost diametrically opposed in all its parts to that of the republican party, and the 1065 delegates voted unanimously for its adoption.

A Brutal Robbery.

LOS ANGELES, June 23.—Early this morning two masked men, one a burly six-foot negro, entered the house of John B. Fletcher, who lives alone near the Soldier's Home, on the road to Santa Monica. They covered the old man and kept him quiet while they ransacked the place, securing nearly $300 in cash. They then poured all the oil from the lamps upon the floor and threatened to set fire to the place and burn the old man to death if he attempted to make an outcry. They then escaped.

Free-Silver Emblem.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—A design has been submitted to the patent office and copyright asked thereon for a floral emblem to be worn by the adherants of the free-silver clan. The emblem is in the form of the common field daisy, with 16 petals, each numbered on the tip from 1 to 16, and the yellow center marked with a figure 1. The adoption of scheme is under consideration by the leading silver men now in Washington.

Soldiers Gone Home.

SALEM, Or., June 23.—Upon information from the authorities at Astoria that everybody was fishing and that the taxpayers and non-union fishermen favored the withdrawal of the militia, the governor today instructed General Beebe to order the remainder of the troops home. A message from General Beebe this evening conveyed the information that the militia would return to Portland by tomorrow's boat.

Finished up Well.

BAKER CITY, Or., June 23.—The enthusiasm over last night's institution of Elks is still unbounded. It was a tremendous success and the event of the season. Forty-two applicants were initiated into the mysteries of Elkdom. The banquet was a magnificent affair.

Ohio Democrats for Silver.

COLUMBUS, O., June 24—The democratic state convention here today was controlled by the silver men. The financial plank of the platform is as follows:

"We are unalterably opposed to the single gold standrrd and demand an immediate return to constitutional money, gold and silver, by the restoration by the government, independent of other nations, of the unrestricted coinage of both silver and gold as standard money, at the ratio of 16 to 1, and upon the terms of exact equality existing prior to 1873, such coin to be full legal tender equally with gold coin for all debts and dues, public and private.

POPULISTS ARE PREPARING.

They Are Getting Ready For Their National Convention.

St. LOUIS, June 24.—J. H. McDowell, of Union City, Tenn., sergeant-at-arms of the people's party national convention, which will convene in this city July 22, arrived in the city last night. He will establish himself in the people's party headquarters on the fifth floor of the Commercial building, for the ensuing week, after which he will go to the convention hall. Eugene Smith, first assistant sergeant-at-arms, will be here from Chicago about July 15.

The National Reform Press Association will convene in annual session todays before the convention. It has a membership of about 2000 populist editors from all parts of the country.

The national reform party will meet in conference with the national committee of the people's party in St. Louis the day preceding the latter party's convention. The nationalist party led by John P. St. John, has also been invited to the conference, but no reply has been received.

NEARLY KNOCKED OUT.

Champion Corbett Almost Defeated by Tom Sharkey.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 24.—James J. Corbett, champion of the world, was all but knocked out tonight in a four-round contest with Tom Sharkey, champion of the navy. The referee declared the contest a draw, but it is doubtful if the decision will be supported by public opinion. Corbett clinched Sharkey throughout the entire fourth round to avoid punishment. The champion was breathing heavily and was apparently greatly exhausted when the round closed, while Sharkey seemed as fresh as at the beginning. Sharkey even refused to stop fighting at the end of the bout, and made a vicious rush for Corbett.

Six policemen jumped into the ring and three officers grabbed Sharkey. The marine refused to be restrained and struck one of the policemen a vicious blow. More policemen jumped into the ring, and Sharkey was finally escorted to his corner.

The Saratoga Convention.

SARATOGA, N. Y., June 24.—The state democratic convention was called to order by Chairman Hinckley, who introduced Mayor John Boyd Thatcher, of Albany, as temporary chairman.

The committee on credentials reported in favor of the sitting delegates in every case and the report was adopted. Contestants from Queens and Wayne walked out amid hisses. The platform adopted declares that the decline in the commercial value of silver has brought about a disparity between that metal and gold which can only be adjusted with the co-operations of other governments. Until an international agreement can be agreed upon the convention approves of the existing gold standard.

In Teller's Behalf.

CHICAGO, June 24.—Senator Thomas Carter, of Montana, arrived in the city yesterday, and left in the evening for Washington. He had a long consulation with Senator Lee Mantle, which is said to have dealt with the prospects of securing and indorsement of Senator Teller's candidacy at the approaching democratic convention. Senator Carter said in case the democrats put up a man whom the silver people could conscientiously support, Senator Teller would probably withdraw. He declined to say what course he would follow, remarking that events would shape that.

Sandon Threatened.

SPOKANE, Wash., June 24.—Passengers arriving here from the north tonight report that just before the train left Kaslo, B. C., this morning, a message was received from Sandon, B. C., stating that the town was surrounded by forest fires and threatened with destruction. Before further particulars could be received, the telegraph wires refused to work, and it is supposed that the fire reached the line. All efforts to reach the town by wire today have been futile, and the worst is feared. Sandon is a lively camp of about 200 people, situated in the Slocan mining district in British Columbia.

Indiana Democrats

INDIANAPOLIS, June 24.—The democratic state convention met today. Seventy five per cent of the delegates are for free silver. R. C. Bell was chosen temporary chairman.

For the first time in the history of political conventions in Indiana a female delegate was on the floor. She was Mrs. A. D. Leach, of Sullivan, a lawyer. The gold men were defeated in all contests. The platform declares for free silver at 16 to 1. Delegates to Chicago are instructed for Governor Matthews.

Quay Sends Congratulations.

CANTON, June 24.—Among the letters in Governor McKinley's mail today was an autograph letter from Senator Quay, who said he did not try to push his congratulations into the first great flow that came, but continued:

"I congratulate you on the splendid vote of confidence you received in the convention which represents absolutely the best thought of the republican party of the nation."

Texas Silverites.

AUSTIN, Texas, June 24.—The silver state convention assembled at 9:30 A. M. and after several hour's discussion adopted a platform declaring for free coinage of silver at 16 to 1, regardless of the action of foreign countries. Eight delegates-at-large will be selected to the Chicago convention.

The convention almost unanimously instructed its delegates for Bland for president.

James Dixon Indicted.

ROSEBURG, Or., June 23.—The grand jury today brought in an indictment of willful and malicious murder against James Dixon, who shot and killed Charles Rice, June 14, at a ball game near Binkesley's. Dixon's trial will begin Thursday.

The Battleship Oregon Accepted.

WASAINGTON, June 24.—The navy department today finally accepted the battleship Oregon from the builders.

ASKED TO INTERVENE.

England's Request Upon the United States.

WASHINGTON, June 25.—Secretary Olney received calls today from Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, and Minister Andrade, of Venezuela, with both of whom he conferred separately concerning the arrest by the Venezuelan troops of British Crown Surveyor Harrison, on the British-Venezuelan boundary.

It is understood that Sir Julian, acting under instructions from the British foreign office, requested the friendly intervention of the United States toward securing the release of Harrison, as was done by the British authorities in behalf of the American, John Hays Hammond.

Andrade was the first at the department, calling before the usual hour when diplomatic calls begin. He was with Olney some time, going over, quite fully, the circumstances of the Harrison incident. The minister said the affair had been magnified and was lacking in circumstances, seriously indignity or wrong to the British. The exact nature of the British request was not made public, but its essential feature was the request for friendly intervention by the United States. Owing to the British-Venezuelan trouble, the British have no minister or consul in Venezuela.

It is believed that Olney has already taken steps to communicate with the Venezuela government through the medium of the United States minister at Caracas. Ordinarily the first step of our secretary of the state would be to seek to ascertain for himself, through our ministers, the exact facts, but in view of the peculiar relations of the parties, he might depart so far from ordinary methods as to precede this, in the present instance with a request that Harrison be released and the status quo be thus restored to what it was before the arrest, it being understood meantime, that there should be no advance on either side until the case can be settled soberly on its merits.

COUNTY SCRIP VALID.

Judge Eakin's Decision in Baker County Cases.

BAKER CITY, Or., June 25.—Judge Eakin this morning rendered a decision in the county scrip cases, sustained the demurrers to the first and second causes of suit, thus validating over $200,000 worth of scrip. In the third cause, no conclusion has been reached, but the court intimates in its ruling that it would hold a small portion involved in the third cause invalid. This would probably apply to to the warrants issued for building bridges and purchasing roads; also, some other small scrip, issued for expenses, which were not absolutely necessary in the conduct of county affairs.

Out of the whole amount of scrip issued and outstanding, which amounts to about $250,000, this decision practically holds that it is all legal and valid, with the exception of not more than $10,000, and this is still subject to further examination. The decision is considered a great victory for the county, and for those who have fought for the maintenance of its honor and credit.

Silver Men Convene.

DENVER, June 25.—The state silver convention was called to order at 11:15 A. M. by I. N. Stevens, member of the national silver committee. There were 710 delegates.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Thomas Uzzell, who asked a blessing "on this convention, on the coming silver convention at St. Louis, and especially on the convention that is to meet at Chicago." Stevens congratulated the counties on sending to Denver delegates to the meeting "at which there was no pie counter in sight." He expressed the hope that the Chicago convention would nominate a man whose position on silver was unequivocal, and suggested Teller as an ideal candidate. Mention of Teller set the convention wild and the enthusiasm continued over the names of Sibley, Bland, Blackburn, Morgan and the Southern free-silver senators. The convention selected H. A. W. Tabor temporary chairman.

A Cloudburst in Ohio.

MARIETTA, O., June 25.—A cloudburst took place near here last night. The water covered a wide area of territory and was the most destructive ever known here. Houses were swept away, stock drowned and many persons narrowly escaped death. In some streams the water rose 20 feet in ten minutes. The flood came almost as suddenly as did the Johnstown flood. Crops are ruined on the Little Muskingum for twenty miles, and on many small tributaries of the Ohio above here.

Peffer's Plea.

TOPEKA, June 25.—The Topeka Advocate, which is Peffer's paper, and which represents his personal views, today prints a double leaded article headed, "The situation is Perilous." It contains an impassioned appeal to the silver republicans, silver democrats and all populists to unite in the present campaign, alleging that to be the only method of avoiding the calamity of the gold standard success.

Georgia's Convention.

MACON, Ga., June 25.—The democratic state convention was called to order at noon by Chairman Steve Clay. J. W. Wilson was temporary chairman. All the state officers will be re-nominated in a bunch this afternoon. The platform declares for free, unlimited and independent coinage of silver at 16 to 1.

By a Large Majority.

INDIANAPOLIS, June 25.—At the Indiana state convention yesterday Hon. Ben Shively, of St. Joseph county, who was nominated for governor, received 1634 out of 1744 votes. Ex-Congressman Cooper, the candidate of the gold-standard men, received the remaining 101 votes.

They Will Support McKinley.

CANTON, O., June 25.—Governor McKinley is daily receiving assurances from Colorado and other Western states, of the hearty support at the polls, and assurances that there is no disaffection in that territory on account of the financial plank.

What Peffer Says.

WASHINGTON, June 25.—Senator Peffer, before leaving here for home today, expressed the opinion that Teller will not be nominated by the democrats, and declared that the populists should nominate an independent ticket.

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