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GOOD CAUSE FOR UNION.

Charles A. Fitch, editor of the Oregon City Herald, which is one of the most ably edited popular papers in Oregon, who was present as a delegate from Kansas to the Cincinnati convention when the people's party was first originated, gives the following good and sensible reasons for a union of the democrats, populists and silver republicans at the present time.

"This question of union is not one devoid of argument of merit on both sides. Much can be said for and against either course, but nothing can be said against the plan to ask and accept the decision of the people upon the question of procedure. Partisan prejudice is inherent in human nature. The democrat will not renounce his party unless he is unqualifiedly opposed to the main features of its policy and its platform. This is equally true of populists and republicans. No more bitter partisans and sticklers for party name can be found in any political organization than can now occasionally be found in the people's party. Nothing short of direct legislation in actual operation will ever destroy this partisan prejudice.

New parties can only be originated and grow by reason of a rebellion in the old. A democrat will not leave his chosen party as long as its party platform and the action of the greater majority of its congressmen are in accord with his views upon political economy. Two or more parties standing upon practically the same platform cannot successfully cope with one party, united upon a platform wholly adverse thereto, unless they join forces to defeat a common enemy. This is a condition, not a theory. In its right solution lies the only hope of overcoming the aggressive march of the money power in America.

"Fully ninety per cent of the first populists had left their parties because they were free coinage and opposed to the national banking system. Had either of the old parties declared unequivocally for these principles and their actions shown their sincerity therein, the people's party could not have become a formidable factor in American politics.

"But there are over twelve million voters. Our two million, except by an honorable alliance with other equally strong organizations, cannot expect to control this government or establish its principles upon the statute books of our country.

"Oh, but if we keep in the middle of the road and advertise our platform of principles to the people we shall gain sufficient accessions to our ranks to enable us to finally control every branch of our government. Were that true, it would be absolute treason for any true populist to countenance an alliance of forces. Or the correct solution of this one proposition depends on the outcome of the present struggle against the money power. Let us coolly and calmly discuss this question.

"The people's party enters this contest of 1920, two millions strong. To be the victor in the contest is most closely approach to voting strength of seven millions. From what source shall it draw nearly three times its present strength? From the Bryan democrats? Hardly; there was a time when the free silver and anti-national-bank party was not satisfied with his party and we had hope of his becoming a populist, but under the leadership of Mr. Bryan on the Chicago platform he is satisfied. Why should he come to us? Only when the democratic party repudiates the Chicago platform can we reasonably expect accessions from the ranks of the democratic party.

THEIR AIMS IDENTICAL.

The question now uppermost in the minds of what are termed the reform partisans, shall they unite on common grounds, or shall each pursue its own course, dividing on party lines rather than uniting on principle. Were their principal aims not identical, a union would perhaps be ill advised, for they would in that case have little in common, but since they are agreed upon nearly every issue, though each may have a different plan for reaching a certain end, co-operation would seem the wisest thing.

Wm. J. Bryan, whom the reform forces supported for president in the campaign of 1896, expresses this view of union: "If the democrats, populists and silver republicans were agreed upon but one question, that to justify co-operation, although the parties differed on all other subjects. But those who advocate the union of the principal reform forces against the common enemy can point not to one, but to a number of reforms which are demanded with equal emphasis by democrats, populists and silver republicans.

"First—They are unalterably opposed to gold monometallism. "Second—They demand the immediate restoration of bimetalism at the present ratio by the independent action of this country. "Third—They oppose the retirement of greenbacks. "Fourth—They oppose the issue of paper money by national banks. "Fifth—They oppose the issue of interest bearing bonds in time of peace. "Sixth—They favor the income tax as a means of raising a part of the revenue necessary to administer the federal government. "Seventh—They favor the abolition of trusts. "Eighth—They are opposed to government by injunction. "Ninth—They are in favor of arbitration as a means of settling disputes between labor and capital.

Then here are nine tenets upon which the three parties are united, and are these not enough to justify their pooling their issues? After these reforms are enacted into law, whatever difference that may arise in the future can be settled as the several parties may determine. Mr. Bryan gives further reasons why the democrats, populists and silver republicans can meet on common ground and why they should co-operate in opposing the common foe to the masses.

"If the republicans obtain control of the senate and house in the elections of 1918, there is no doubt that they will, by law, surrender the contract right which the government now has to pay coin obligations in silver (of which we are large producers) and bind the nation to pay in gold an appreciating metal, the production of which is largely controlled by England.

"The republican party may if it obtains control of congress in 1918 abandon the system, which gives the debtor the option of substituting a new system, which first permits the money lenders to choose the coin of payment, and, second, allows them to increase the purchasing power of the dollars they demand, to the impoverishment of the wealth producers of the world.

"Should those who oppose this financial heresy, this child of greed and avarice, fight each other while the American people are bound with fetters of gold? "The administration is clearly committed to the policy of opposing independence of metal. Should friends of bimetalism help the administration by fighting each other? "The secretary of the treasury is planning the retirement of the greenbacks. Should those who oppose the retiring of the greenbacks help to destroy them by fighting each other? "The administration has recommended an enlargement of the privileges and profits of national banks of issue. Should those who oppose national banks of issue strengthen the banks by fighting each other? "The secretary of the treasury asks authority to issue interest-bearing bonds. Should those who oppose such bonds aid in increasing the interest-bearing debt by fighting each other? "Our Federal taxes are collected entirely from import duties and internal revenue duties, both systems bearing more heavily upon the poor than upon the rich. The republicans refuse to grant the relief which should be secured through an amendment to the constitution providing for an income tax. Should those who favor an income tax oppose this needed reform by fighting each other? "The democrats will be warned against becoming tainted with populism, and yet Jefferson denounced banks of issue, and Jackson entered into a contest with the money power before there was a populist party, while the bimetallic system was established in the United States before any political party was organized.

"Our enemies will warn the populists against associating with the democrats and with nestled praise commend those who are credited with 'putting principle above office.' The republican party will gladly leave the populists in possession of all the principles, so long as the republicans are permitted to hold all the offices, but their political principles are of no service to the public until they are enforced, through the legislative, executive and judicial departments of the government. The silver republicans will be asked to listen to the siren song of international bimetalists, and warned against the contaminating influence of both democrats and populists. As an ounce of prevention is said to be worth a pound of cure, so a dollar spent in separating the reform forces will be more useful than \$10 spent in an attempt to overcome their united efforts.

LOSING INTEREST ON MONEY THEY CAN'T INVEST.

It does seem to be possible that if these capitalists wanted interest they would be willing to take the chances to earn it, instead of waiting for someone to take the chances and give them the interest. The fact is, these capitalists are waiting to put their money in sure thing bonds where they have to take little risks and from which they are sure of their interest regularly. They have had such opportunities to invest their money in the past and with so much profit that they are not willing to invest in anything else, so their money is lying idle and they are 'growing poorer every day.'

They should be allowed to grow poorer and poorer until their money is driven to invest their money in industry and enterprise, by which employment would be given to labor, rather than in bonds and mortgages involving the soil as security, through which privilege and monopoly are given the fruits of the toil of labor to the degradation of every honest working man on the soil of the earth and the raising up of an idle, luxurious class of nabobs who toil not and neither do they spin, but have all the land affairs.

When the American people awake to the need of a taxation system which will not tax industry and enterprise, as does the present system, to reward the parasite and the privileged, there will be still more 'idle money' belonging to capitalists, so called, lying in the vaults and treasuries not drawing interest, because of the lack of bonds and mortgages; and there will be less 'idle money' in the hands of drawing wages, because of the lack of opportunity to apply their labor without having to pay tribute in some form to 'prince, pirate, nabob, master, corruptist, monopolist, syndicate, trust, or boss,' all given power and privilege to a few.

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THE MIDDLE-ROADERS.

State Senator S. H. Holt, of Jackson county, one of the foremost populists of Southern Oregon, has published a lengthy communication in opposition to a union of the silver forces of the Oregonian. Mr. Holt views the situation solely from a partisan standpoint, and objects to union principally upon the ground that reforms demanded by his party cannot be had in conjunction with other elements. His argument savors somewhat of the principle 'I'm an abolitioner, but still it must be conceded that he is actuated by honest motives.

Mr. Holt, like a majority of the middle-road populists has been long in the business, has labored in season and out of season for the upbuilding of the populist party, hence his motives should not be impugned. Still he and his associates are firm believers in referendum, and since their state executive committee has agreed to leave the question of union to the decision of the voters at the primaries, they certainly cannot refuse to abide by the will of the majority. At the present time it is their privilege to oppose union, but they certainly are too honorable as a rule to set themselves up in opposition to the majority should the voice of the masses be in favor of union.

They are reformers both in name and in spirit, and such men will not break away from the ties that bind them to justice and right simply because a majority cannot be made to see as they do. If union is decided upon, which is certainly will be, they will accept the inevitable, enter into the councils of union forces with a will, and labor for the success of honesty over corruption.

Unless Jerry Simpson is away off, Mr. Dingley and the Prince of Wales talk through the same kind of a hat, and this too in a country that our 'leading' statesmen want to put a protection around our 'free' industries, which includes the manufacture of hats.

Now it is Congressman Tongue, instead of Congressman Sherman, who is having the speeches which he wrote but never delivered published in the Oregonian. This advertising scheme is scarcely necessary. All his constituents know that Mr. Tongue can talk as long as the next man if he can get the chance. But the straw he threshes over is very old and musty.

One of the most abominable schemes that has yet been attempted is the Loud bill, which the California congressman is seeking to saddle upon the people of this state. If the postmaster-general will be able to exercise a censorship over newspapers that will in effect do away with a free press in America, in that only such publications as he chooses to admit as second class matter will be able to survive.

There can now be but little doubt that Joe Simon will control the repeal of the United States tariff on wool, and this means the control of the state convention. After this a compromise between Mitchelism and Simonism is not improbable. Mitchell to be given the legislative ticket and Simon all the taxpayers get off. Or by sitting down upon these two blooming bosses.

If Secretary Gage's scheme for retiring the greenbacks should be accomplished, what is to take the place of them as money? Where are importers going to get money with which to pay import duties, or the manufacturers to pay the duties on raw materials? Where, in short, is the government to get its money to pay current expenses? There is not enough gold in circulation to transact both the private and public business of the country.

THE COURT AT HAVANA.

Investigations Being Made of the Maine Disaster. BIG DAMAGES LIKELY. If indemnity is asked for the Destruction of the Maine It Will Be Large.

The Murderers of Nelson Are Held Without Bail—Contract For Raising the Maine—A New York Firm Will Do the Work.

HAVANA, Feb. 22.—Consul General Lee and members of the United States court of inquiry on the loss of the battleship Maine called this morning upon Captain General Blanco and Admiral Sagasta. Where these ceremonies were ended the court returned to the United States lighthouse tender Mangrove and resumed its sessions. It is believed a number of bodies will be recovered from the forward part of the Maine today.

It is announced that 1,600 Spanish regular troops arrived at Santiago de Cuba Saturday. The military commander of Guanabacoa has ordered a suspension of public festivities as a mark of respect to the Maine's death.

MAY COST SPAIN DEARLY. Indemnity, if Any, Will Be From Thirteen to Fifteen Millions. CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—The Journal has the following special from Washington: Should it be proven that the Maine was destroyed by an outside explosion with the knowledge of Spanish officials, President McKinley will demand an indemnity of from \$13,000,000 to \$15,000,000. The statement was made today by an officer of the navy department, who is thoroughly conversant with the present Spanish situation.

"It was decided at a conference of the president and cabinet officers today," he continued, "that the Spanish government was bound to protect the vessels of a friendly nation in one of its harbors, and that if the Maine was destroyed by a submarine mine or torpedo, whether with the knowledge of officials or not, that the government must be responsible. The value of the vessel is estimated at \$5,000,000. The rest is to be paid to relatives of the officers and men who lost their lives by the destruction of the vessel.

RELEIVING STARVING CUBANS. Red Cross Nurses Are Aiding Consul-General Lee. NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—A letter has just been received by the central Cuban relief committee from the chairman of the committee selected by Consul-General Lee for the purpose of assisting in the distribution of relief supplies sent by the United States and donated by citizens.

It is announced that General Lee is having himself of the experienced service of the Red Cross nurses sent to Havana by the department and that he is gradually turning over to Miss Barton the matter of distribution throughout the island. The writer says: "There are said to be thousands of children in the streets or gathered in crowded dens, or so-called hospitals, in all stages of suffering that can develop from hunger, malaria and exposure. I shall attempt no description. We have seen the worst of the gatherings, and jointly with General Lee have decided that a hospital be erected at once."

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Advertisement for Pease & Mays featuring 'SPECIAL! SPECIAL! SPECIAL! Summer Cloth' and '4c Per Yard'. The ad lists various fabric patterns like 'Organdie' and 'Pease & Mays'. It also includes a small table with 'ALL GOODS MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES'.

Advertisement for 'LUMBER! Lumber Lumber' by 'JOS. T. PETERS & CO.' The ad lists various types of lumber and building materials like 'SASH AND DOORS', 'Paints, Oils and Glass, Building Paper, Cedar Shingles, and Red Wood Shingles'.

IT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS.

Experts Think the Maine Disaster Was Premeditated. NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—A dispatch to the World from Havana says: The situation in Havana is more grave than it was a week ago. Although the officers of the naval board of inquiry preserve an impenetrable reserve, it is learned that some of the best naval experts now believe that the explosion was the result of treachery. They do not believe that Spanish officials were parties to the conspiracy. From evidence now in their possession they believe the Spanish government, General Blanco and all his military subordinates were guiltless. It is believed to have been the work of a fanatic.

NO HALF-WAY MEASURE.

Senator Morgan Insists on a Declaration of War or Nothing. WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Allen offered the Morgan Cuban belligerency resolution as an amendment to the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill. Hale gave notice of a point of order against the amendment: Morgan, in opposing Allen's amendment, said: "We have no right to make a declaration of this sort in this way. If this resolution was made a part of the bill, Spain would have a right to consider it a declaration of war."

TO RAISE THE MAINS.

New York, Feb. 22.—The Merritt & Chapman Derrick & Wrecking Company today signed contracts with the government to raise the battleship Maine. Their most powerful tug, the Monarch, now at New York, will proceed at once to Havana. The Monarch will be followed by other tugs, and the work will be begun as soon as possible. Two expert divers with all necessary appliances will accompany the Monarch.

TO INCREASE THE ARTILLERY.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—A bill to increase the artillery by two regiments passed the senate by a vote of 62 to 4. The senate raised a resolution directing the committee on naval affairs to ascertain if a ship to be equal to any in the world and to be named the George Washington can be built within one year in the United States shipyards.

THE CUBANS OBJECT.

They Do Not Want War Between Spain and America. ST. LOUIS, Feb. 23.—Luperco Martinez, a Cuban residing in St. Louis, and a man reported to be in close touch with the leaders of the cause for independence, stated yesterday that the Cubans are not in favor of a war between the United States and Spain. "We do not want to see the United States declare war against Spain. We can win our own independence now and need no foreign aid. Spain realizes her inability to keep the island, but the Sagasta party dare not declare such to be the case, because to do so would mean the downfall of the party and most likely a revolution. To declare the island independent would be a death blow to the powers that, now rule Spain."

AVAILANCE AT LAKE BENNETT.

TACOMA, Feb. 23.—Two weeks ago an avalanche came thundering down the mountain slopes at the south end of Lake Bennett. An immense mass of ice and snow was deposited on the trail and 300 tons of supplies were buried many feet deep. Their owners had stacked them up together in what seemed to be a sheltered spot while they were whittawing lumber for boat-building. Now they have left only the whipsaws, and are trying to dig out their outfits.

KILLED HER DRUNKEN FATHER.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Feb. 23.—Mary Kewitzky, a 17-year-old girl, blew her father's head off with a shotgun early this morning while he was asleep. Her father came home drunk last night and chased the family out of the house with a butcher-knife and threatened to kill them. He was finally pacified, and induced to go home. It is supposed the girl had been by frequent occurrences of this kind, decided to put him out of the way. She has been arrested.

WHILE RESISTING ARREST.

'Omaha Rob' Shot by an Officer at Baker City. BAKER CITY, Ore., Feb. 23.—Last night at 11 o'clock, while residing at the Officers James L. Baisley and Joseph Hammond, William S. Johnson, alias Omaha Rob, was shot by Officer Baisley. The ball entered at a point midway between the heart and the pit of the stomach, making probably a fatal wound. Public opinion divided as to the justification of the officer's action. Baisley says that Omaha Rob reached his hand toward his hip pocket, whereupon the policeman fired.

TRAFFIC ON THE YUKON.

OTTAWA, Feb. 24.—The Canadian government has decided to permit Canadian goods to be shipped from Vancouver and Victoria in American vessels free of duty by St. Michaels to the Yukon for the coming season. An order to this effect has been sent to the customs office on the coast. The order applies to the Yukon route by St. Michaels, and does not include Skagway or Dyea.

SCOURGE IN DAWSON.

VICTORIA, Feb. 22.—Advices from Dawson under date of January 18 say that scurvy has developed among the miners to such an extent that there are now 17 cases in the public hospital. It is estimated that there are from 13 to 15 cases in private cabins. Precautionary measures are being taken to prevent the spread of the malady.