

THE OREGON SCOUT.

AMOS K. JONES EDITOR.

City and County Official Paper.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

CHEAP whiskey and higher priced clothing or high priced whiskey and cheap clothing. Reader: Which are you going to vote for in November?

The republican slogan of "Protection" means protection to the monopolists, and slavery to the masses. It is a pleasant and persuasive word, kind reader, but be not deceived by it.

PROTECTION to arrogant and thieving monopolists and free importation of Chinese laborers, or protection to the American laborer and cheaper clothing and food. Reader: Which are you going to vote for in November?

The discarding of party prejudices and the exercise of honest thought will certainly make democrats. Kind reader, if you never had a serious thought in your life we urge you to think seriously now. Every patriot should perform his duty on the 4th of next November.

TWO-THIRDS of the so-called republicans of Union county are at heart democrats to-day and would proclaim themselves as such if it were not for their mistaken loyalty to party. There are many honest, conscientious men among them whom THE SCOUT would remind that their loyalty to their country should be greater than to their party. In the silent vote that will be registered next November let your honest convictions be told.

We believe that if the Mills bill should pass the senate the result would be to break up the wool trusts, and giving the manufacturers cheaper foreign wool, which they must have, would cause three woolen mills to be erected where we now have one, create a greater demand for our domestic wool, and consequently a greater profit to our shepherds than ever before, give better employment and better wages to operatives, and cheaper clothing to the masses of the people.

THE Mills bill having passed the House, it now remains for the republican senate to act on it, but this they have concluded not to do till after the November election. And why this delay? you ask. The reason is obvious: The republican platform declares for a high protective tariff, and the leaders know it would not do to allow the republicans in the senate to show their hands on this subject. It would reveal such a division in their own ranks as would be ruinous to their hopes in November. They think it wiser to hide their own weakness as best they can, and "let the people speak at the polls on the subject." Well, the "people" will speak in a manner they will not forget, else we are terribly mistaken.

We have been informed by several persons that a report is being circulated around town to the effect that THE SCOUT refuses to publish contributions from republicans, and that Tom Wright even offered to pay us to insert a piece and we refused to do it. As these reports are put in circulation by malignant enemies to satisfy their spite, we feel it incumbent on us to give our readers the true inwardness of that affair. Tom Wright did come into this office a few weeks before the election with a copy of the East Oregonian in his hand which contained an editorial, the first three paragraphs of which severely arraigned the democratic party, but the same being explained, neutralized and the remedy pointed out in the remaining portion of the article. Mr. Wright, marking the three first paragraphs, offered us \$20, or more if we wanted it, to publish them, crediting them to the East Oregonian, without any comment from ourselves. Looking over it and concluding that it would be most dishonorable and dirty work for a decent man to do, we promptly declined, but told Mr. Wright if he wished us to do so we would publish the whole article free of charge, but that did not meet his approval. If he or any of his little gang of followers can injure us by telling the truth they are at liberty to do so, but misrepresentation from any source we shall resent.

WOOLEN MILLS.

The La Grande Journal last week contained the following item:

T. B. H. Green was over from Union last week talking up the proposition to establish woolen mills at this place. He informed us that he is in communication with five gentlemen in the east who propose to take con-

siderable stock in the concern, providing the citizens will "stand in" on the enterprise. These parties would each have charge of the separate departments of the mills, thus making quite a saving in the way of hired help. Business men of La Grande, what say you?

The gentlemen mentioned are the same men who have been for some time past trying to get our citizens to assist them in moving their mills to this place, as they are highly pleased with the location and surroundings, one of them having come out a few weeks ago and looked over the situation for himself. The propositions they make are extremely reasonable and we believe our citizens should take hold and see that the mills are erected here, but we do not believe they will. Some of our "leading" citizens whom it might be reasonably expected would take an interest in the upbuilding of the town, and lend their influence to that end, are lukewarm if not positively opposed to anything of the kind. They seem to think that if woolen mills and other enterprises were started here it would increase the population which would necessitate other business houses being started up and they would have opposition. Their motto seems to be to let "a good enough thing" alone, which is perhaps all right from an individual or selfish standpoint, but that kind of a policy don't build up towns, and does not benefit others while benefiting ones self—a policy that every man should follow as closely as he can. THE SCOUT has worked faithfully for the advancement of this place, and has used every endeavor to secure the erection of woolen mills here, for it believes that there is not a better place in Eastern Oregon for the establishment of manufacturing of this kind than in Union, but still if we cannot have them, it is free to say that it would be pleased to see them established at La Grande, or any other convenient place in the county. Institutions of this kind tend materially to reduce taxation, attract a desirable class of immigration, enhance the value of property, and benefit the section of country in which they are located.

POLITICAL HONESTY.

In another column of this issue we publish an article from our republican "Reader," who seems to have taken exceptions to our comments on the shifting positions of the Republican party in its platform of 1888 from its declaration of principals in its platform of 1884. In its platform of 1884 the Republican party denounced the failure of the Democratic party to reduce the tariff to a revenue basis, and pledged the party to a correction of the tariff inequalities and to a reduction of the surplus. In its platform adopted at Chicago, it expressly declares that rather than surrender any part of our protective system, it is in favor of abolishing our internal revenue system entirely. In other words, rather than allow an American citizen the privilege or benefit of cheap clothing or other necessities of life, the Republican party will repeal our internal revenue tax altogether and give them in lieu of the things they cannot do without, free whiskey and tobacco. It does not even stop here, but proposes to place such a tariff on foreign products as to make the law against importations prohibitory. If this is not a departure from the principals declared in 1884, we confess we cannot understand what our republican "Reader" calls a somersault. We do not disagree with him that the party proposes to reduce the surplus, but we protest against its plan of reduction, which is simply to plunder the people by extravagant and jobbing legislation. We contend that it should be reduced by economical expenditures. Its cant about coast defenses and building navies, etc., is to our mind the most impudent hypocrisy, when we remember that for twenty-four years that party had absolute control of the federal government, and that during that period our navy was allowed to decay until it has become the laughing stock of all nations. Not that money was not squandered by the hundreds of millions. Yes, dear republicans, the surplus was squandered during that period by the hundreds of millions in rebuilding and repairing our languishing navy, but not a single war vessel was fitted out—not a single ship to show for it. Now, really, don't you think, notwithstanding your stump orators, your congressmen and your newspapers have been telling the dear people how much we need a navy, and how glad you would be to unlock the vaults and reduce the surplus in this way, that the distrust with which your propositions have been met with, is natural? More substantial work has been done on the navy, more sea-going vessels have been launched within the past three years than during sixteen years of your parties' power since the war, and still the surplus has ac-

cumulated until we now have the enormous sum of \$120,000,000 locked up in the vaults of the treasury.

Cleveland proposes in his message to reduce the surplus by taking the tariff off of raw material, but do not allow your partisan zeal to stop you at that proposition. Do not allow your political prejudice to put you to gushing over on the subject of trust combinations, etc. If there was no other answer to your trust, combination and monopoly argument, we would deem the fact that your organ the Oregonian, is daily publishing and gloating over the names of manufacturers, trusts, combinations and monopolists that are deserting Cleveland, sufficient, but there is an answer which furnishes a good reason for this desertion and that is: Cleveland proposes and the democrats in congress propose to reduce the tariff on the cheaper grades of woolen goods which the poorer classes of people wear and which your party placed at 180.97 per cent. to 42 per cent. The object to be accomplished and the result which will follow placing raw material on the free list and reducing this necessary article to the poor man, from 180.97 to 42 per cent. will be manifold in its benefits to our people. In the first place it will give to our manufacturer cheaper raw material from foreign imports to mix with our American products. In the second place it will enable him to extend his market and thereby increase the demand for his manufactured goods, thus enabling him to make goods for 600,000,000 people instead of 60,000,000 as is now the case. In the third place, as his market extends his demand for both labor and raw material increases, and last but not least, the power to form combinations, trusts and monopolies that you talk so glibly about will be broken. As the tariff now stands the trusts have a monopoly of the market. They do not care to extend their trade. They are making more clear money than they would make with a large trade, but the cost of these profits is what is sapping the life-blood from the producer of raw material, and the laborer. You ask, how is this done? Simply by manufacturing just such a supply as will sell on the market below a foreign competition, with 180.97 per cent added to the costs of goods manufactured. Now this supply can, as we all know, be made by running the factories in this country six months out of each year or on half time, which is the common plan. When the producer's crop is ready for the market this devoted monopoly you allude to, closes shop. The raw material market languishes. The laborer starves until Mr. monopoly buys at his own figures. In the meantime the grower of raw material has suffered, the laborer has been without employment, and the price of Mr. monopoly's manufactured goods have advanced, "Savey." This is why we as independent journalists favor a reduction of the tariff on the necessities of life and not on rum and tobacco.

We have another class of producers on our subscription list that we are satisfied you would not for anything leave us overlook—the farmer. Can you favor giving him free rum and tobacco and taxing him from 50 to 180.97 per cent, on everything he consumes? forcing him at the same time, when he has a bushel of wheat, oats, barley or any of the products of his labor to sell, to "examine the bulletin board of Liverpool prices in order to know what it is worth? We will not disagree as to the fact that when the farmer goes to the market to purchase he has a duty of from 50 to 180.97 per cent, on his coat, pants, vest, shirt, hat, and underwear, his families' furnishing goods, his nails, his salt, his tinware, his plow, harrow, mower, reaper, rake, etc., and the lumber that goes in his house, and that when he sells he must compete with the whole world. That being true, suppose you put your vaunted protective tariff on the ground of right or wrong. Is it right that this class of hard worked, poorly paid citizens should be made to pay tribute to your horrid monopolies, and when they have an article to sell, be compelled to compete with unprotected markets? No, dear republican friend, no. As much as we hate to disagree with you, as much as it grieves us not to be able to please you, and to see as you see, we must say no. We have a large list of this class of subscribers and just as long as this old "unprotected" tallow candle holds out to burn we will shove this protected pencil in the interest of our poorly paid, overworked patrons.

We do admit that your platform of 1888 does oppose a reduction of the tariff and favors in lieu thereof free rum and tobacco, and we further admit that you have a perfect right to change from your declaration of principals of 1884, but in doing that have you any right to ask an independent paper with a laboring constituency to follow your wild march? We frankly admit to you that a man should always change from wrong to right, but from right to wrong, never, and you never should for the sake of the mon-

ey or capital with which to run your campaign, have departed from your declaration of principals of 1884, and traded it for the free whiskey and tobacco platform of 1888. But since you have done so we must assert our independence in opposition to it. Had you staid with your party principles or changed for the better, we would have been indifferent as to the result, but as it is, deliver us, excuse us, etc.

You ask, how well is Mr. Cleveland keeping his pledge to the disabled soldiers and their widows. The pension Commissioner, General Black, has a greater financial and administrative responsibility upon him than the whole government carried thirty years ago, and his genius has inspired the whole pension establishment, urging it to a despatch of business and to a volume of work that his predecessors would have declared impossible. To illustrate: During the last three years of republican control of the Pension Bureau there were issued of original, increase and miscellaneous certificates to pensioners 191,221, while during the first three years of democratic control by General Black there were issued 329,452 of original, increase and miscellaneous certificates, or an excess by a democratic commissioner of 168,231. The enormous amount of work done is shown in the net increase of pensioners on the rolls, which during the last three republican years was 59,428, but under the three democratic years has been 104,872, an excess under the democrats of 55,447. Increased disbursement is another test of the working ability of the Pension Bureau. The last three republican years show a disbursement to pensioners of \$183,399,216.31, while the next three years, with Mr. Cleveland president and a democratic House to make the pension appropriation, the disbursement has been - 217,399,757.30 an excess of \$34,000,541.01. During these three years of democratic management the new names added to the pension rolls exceed by 48,105 the new names added in the last three republican years.

President Cleveland approved the Act of March, 1886, increasing to \$12 per month the pension of 105,568 widows, minors and dependent relatives of union soldiers. He approved the Act of August, 1886, increasing the pensions of 10,092 maimed soldiers of the war by an average of \$9 per month or \$108 per year. He approved the Act of January, 1887, placing on the pension rolls 31,704 survivors and widows of the Mexican war. He approved the Act of June, 1888, granting arrears of pensions to widows from the date of their husbands' death, in all cases filed since June 30, 1880. Cases prior to that were provided for already by the law of 1879. By this Act of June, 1880, 10,000 widows get an average of \$108 more than they would have had before.

President Cleveland has made free use of the veto on these private bills, but the records fail to show a case in which he is not justified by the law and the facts. He has kept frauds and the unworthy from getting upon the pension roll, and every such one kept off has been for the protection of the deserving old soldier and the honest pensioner. But while we have heard all the noise over the private pension bills he has vetoed, the still, small voice of gratitude for those he has signed does not reach the public ear. Now, look at the record: Republican Presidents were in power from March 4, 1861, to March 4, 1885, twenty-four years, and during all that time those Presidents, elected by the party which insists that no other can be trusted to care for the pensioner, approved just 1524 private pension bills, while in three years President Cleveland has approved 1200 such bills. Republican Presidents approved them at the rate of 63 1-2 per year and Mr. Cleveland at the rate of 400 per year. These are the record facts, and we ask the democratic press and democratic members of G. A. R. Posts to preserve them for reference, to refute the baseless and virulent and venomous charges which are made for political effect.

And now, dear republican "Reader," you will pardon us for declining to enter into a discussion of the bloody shirt portion of your article. Our industry was too infantile prior to, and in the days of the rebellion, to even need protection. Yet, your g. o. p. has doubtless accomplished much of which to be proud, but, like many good men, it has fallen into bad company and allowed the monopolies and trusts, of which you have such a holy horror, to capture it, and, dear brother, it is sinking. You should leave it at once as its founders have been forced one by one to do.

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