

THE OREGON SCOUT.

AMOS K. JONES EDITOR.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE WAR OF SPOILS NOW COMMENCES. Democrats have nothing to do but look on and enjoy the circus.

A CALL has been issued for a constitutional convention at Jamestown, Dakota, December 5th, to further the early admission of the two Dakotas into the Union.

THE BAG TRUST is still running up the price of bags on the farmers. And still some of them pay the four cents a bag tariff tax and hurrah for protection.—E. O.

GENERAL ALGER and Senator Sherman both say now that the Republicans will reform and reduce the tariff. Have they suddenly become "British free traders?"

A. CARNEGIE who drove Blaine over Europe on a coaching tour, has been denounced by the K. of L. for the poor wages he pays his men. Mr. Carnegie's income is \$22 a minute.

A SINGULAR defect in the laws of Oregon was made apparent at the recent term of circuit court, it appearing that the statutes do not impose any penalty for resisting an officer making an arrest, nor do they define the crime other than an assault.

ALREADY there are numerous candidates for the various federal positions which will be classed among the spoils of the recent victory. Verily, human nature is about the same as it always was.—La Grande Gazette. Yea, verily, the republican maw is as voracious as ever.

WE are now being treated to dreary discussions of the future of the democratic party. This is adding insult to injury. The future of the party is assured; it will always live. In fact, it is the only party in this country that has demonstrated its ability to exist a quarter of a century out of power. How many defeats does any one suppose the republican party would sustain before it would disband?

THE election in Oregon shows that the immigration to this state the past two years has been largely republican, and that Oregon can now be put down as a safe republican state. Had the republican party been defeated this year, we are of the opinion that it would have dissolved that party. The effect on the democratic party will be only to unite them, as they have become so accustomed to defeat, that it only has a temporary effect upon them.

SOME pertinent suggestions are made by the Astoria Pioneer as follows: "We would suggest as a change in justice court practice at the coming session of the legislature, that all criminal cases be tried before the county judges who are paid an annual salary, and the jurisdiction of justice courts be limited to civil cases not exceeding \$250. This would save Clatsop county \$2,000 per annum, besides it will give better satisfaction.

THE supreme court of the United States has decided that a life insurance policy is not a part of the estate of an insolvent debtor, and cannot be claimed by his creditors. In other words, it is held that a man has a legal right to provide for his family by insuring his life, regardless of his obligations to other people. Such a view is certainly in harmony with sound ideas of justice and fairness, though in special instances the rule may work an apparent wrong to third parties.

MANY are of the opinion that the Democratic defeat in the late election was due to the tariff question. This is a great mistake, for the democrats not only carried two of the principal manufacturing states, but made great gains in others where they would have lost ground were tariff reform looked upon with disfavor. In the great state of New York is where all the trouble lay. Systematic colonization along the Pennsylvania and northern borders and the unstinted use of the monopolists' bundle is what did the work there to which must be added a considerable amount of democratic treachery in New York city and Brooklyn. It was the death struggle of the republican managers, the beneficiaries of the robber tariff, and they were bound to win no matter at what cost.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

The Grand Army of the Republic, a non-partisan organization, established for the benefit of the veterans of the civil war, to perpetuate the feeling of comradeship engendered by the participation in many hardships, weary marches, and battles fought for the preservation of the Union, and to keep alive in the breasts of our people that martial pride and efficiency which can not but prove essential to our safety when menaced by internal dissensions or foreign aggression, seems thus early in its history to have lost the spirit actuating its founders, and bids fair to be disorganized, or at least divided, on account of the over zeal of partisan members who would make it subservient to party interests. That the exertions of these unworthy members have not been fruitless was made apparent in the recent campaign. John M. Palmer, of Illinois, as brave a soldier as ever engaged in combat in defense of his country, has withdrawn from the order for the reason that it has become a political machine and an annex to the corrupt republican party, and as such was used against him in the recent campaign in which he was a candidate for governor. His course was the only one left for a self-respecting man to pursue. When the order, forgetting its high purpose, takes a part in political contests, and its posts are turned into party caucuses, it is time to order a halt. Such is the point that now seems to have been reached, which in all probability will culminate in the establishment of a democratic wing of the order. It is understood that a move is now on foot looking to that end. It is a fact worthy of notice that in the twenty-three elections held for commander-in-chief, during the existence of the order, not one democrat has been elected to that position, although many democratic generals of world-wide fame have been eligible for the position. Another thing which is not creditable to the order, and betrays the motives which have actuated it throughout, is the fact that upon the death of any noted republican member, orders have been issued from headquarters for each post to pay due observance and respect, and for its members to don the usual badge of mourning, but in the case of democratic members this order has not been issued, although many noted generals have wrapped their martial cloaks around them and passed over to join their comrades on the other side—among them Generals Hancock and McClellan. This is the way things have been conducted and it has not been pleasant for a great number belonging to the order. Preston Post, No. 18, of this city, is probably a sample of other posts throughout the country. The great majority of the members desire to preserve the spirit as well as letter of the law, but are prevented from doing so by officious hangers-on who are more noted for work done with their mouths than for any reputation gained on the field with saber and musket. The post contains one member in particular, Rev. G. M. Irwin, who is also editor of a republican sheet here, whose mission is, apparently, to create discord and contention in every organization to which he belongs. The following extracts are taken from last week's issue of his paper:

"Some political idiot is the father of a certain document going the rounds of the badly disappointed papers, and is being published with a great deal of parade and bluster. If it were not, evidently, so full of palpable falsehoods and misrepresentations, it might possibly be of some force, but anybody who knows anything about the facts in the case can read the lies as he runs. Now we allude to that document, purporting to come from Grand Army members, declaring that they intend to form a democratic wing of the Grand Army. * * * * If it becomes necessary to say so, we may out with that part that is a fact, that all the rebels who fought against the government, were democrats; that fact everybody knows, and the solid south, today, is a living evidence of that fact. Furthermore, it is a well known fact that the great majority of soldiers who volunteered in the army, to put down the rebellion, were the men who put the party in power. * * * * The republicans and war democrats put down the rebellion, but it made most of the democrats republicans before they got through with the job. * * * * It is evident that the blundering, falsifying writer of said document never was in a meeting of the Grand Army, or he would there have learned that while it is a positive principle of the order that the penalty of treason is death, and that they hold to one country and one flag, they do not allow the discussion of parties within the meetings of the order. Outside they are as independent as any other class of men, and they propose to be so, and no democratic blatherer will be able to prevent them either."

It may be urged by some that these are the babblings of an irresponsible crank, unworthy of attention, and are

without weight, but it is very apparent that there are altogether too many such in the Grand Army to-day.

We believe it is the opinion of a great majority of our people that the rebellion was a sectional war—the North against the South—and that the slavery question was the issue. According to the sage of the *Republican*, they are in error in this, and the war was simply between southern democrats and northern republicans. How absurd is his claim that the Douglass democrats were as good as republicans, and his inference that the Union armies in consequence might be considered republican. This is a deal give away of the whole position, since the vote of the northern States was, in 1860, about equally divided between Douglass and Lincoln. Breckinridge received comparatively few votes at the North.

There were 3,000,000 men in the service, drawn from the northern and border states of Kentucky, Missouri, Maryland and Delaware; now, admitting that the troops from the northern states were about equally divided between Douglass democrats and Lincoln republicans, we still have the 251,131 troops furnished by the border states named, to go to the credit of the democratic column almost exclusively, since it is notorious that those states gave no votes to Lincoln to speak of. Thus it is to be deduced from his own showing that the army contained more than a quarter of a million majority of Douglass democrats—and nearly all democrats at the North were Douglass democrats.

Another feature of the business looks bad. Four-fifths of the drafted recruits were republicans. This is significant of the truth of our position that the stay-at-homes were in overwhelming preponderance republicans. He says that most of the democrats in the Union army came out republicans. Let us see. Hancock, McClellan, Hecker, Meade, Rosecrans, Stoneman, Black, McClelland, Sickles were among our best fighting Generals, and we hope they will not be accused of being republicans by a fraction of a fraction. Shurz, Seigel and others went in as republicans but are now democrats.

But enough of this. If the Grand Army of the Republic is to be made an auxiliary of the republican party, patriotic democrats owe it no allegiance and will do well to sever their connection with it, for the purpose of building up a grander organization which shall hold patriotism to their country higher than fealty to party—loyalty to the entire nation better than allegiance to a sectional faction—personal honor more sacred than the demands of a party leader.

NO RETREAT.

The democratic party is apparently beaten in the struggle for the presidency. That is merely an incident in the contest for good government, simply a Bull Run that will nerve to such earnestness, energy and fidelity as to insure final triumph. The democratic majority in the House of Representatives should stand by the Mills bill, or even go further. Protection is a fraud and cheat. Apparent popular endorsement cannot change its nature, any more than a counterfeit coin can be made genuine by passing through the hands of people who do not know its baseness. When the gloss wears off it will be repudiated for what it is. No demagogue should be discouraged. Divested of the burden of patronage and the dissensions and treachery born of it, the democracy will be stronger, more earnest, more honest than ever. In the honest and open Northwest is the future seat of democratic power. There are Southern states that will be enticed across the republican line. The next three years will witness such a complete exposure of the utter selfishness and unfairness of the protective tariff system that the great agricultural Northwest will revolt against its rule. There must be among democrats no retreat, no surrender, not the slightest flagging in the fight. Preparations must begin to-day for the renewal of hostilities against the hydra-headed monster of protection—the tax upon one man for the benefit of another.—*Owaha Herald*.

It is said that President-elect Harrison is desirous of "doing something" right off, immediately after he takes his seat, and will commence negotiations for the annexation of Canada. As we have a high tariff now "protecting us" against that country it would seem that it would be ruinous to admit that people and have them competing with our laborers.

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A LESSON HERE AT HOME.

The San Francisco *Examiner* says: "The workingmen of California have not had long to wait for an object lesson on the effects of the prohibitive tariff policy that was to give them steady work and high wages. They were told that their employers wanted the present tariff maintained so that the American market might be preserved for American labor. The people have consented to be taxed for that object, and now it turns out that those same public-spirited employers are having their contracts executed in England."

Why is it that the Risdon Iron Works are having the engines and boilers of the Australia made in Scotland instead of at home? It is because the proprietors of that establishment, being business men rather than patriots, except at election time, find it more to their advantage to buy a finished article in a free market and pay one tax on it in a lump, than to make an article of a dozen materials, every one of which has been taxed at every stage of its manufacture.

The San Francisco ironworker pays \$30 a ton for his pig iron. The Scotch manufacturer gets his for \$10. The Scotchman pays \$2 or \$3 a ton for his coal. The San Franciscan is lucky to get his for \$12. Is it strange that iron manufactures can be turned out more cheaply in Scotland than here?

When production here is heavily handicapped on the side of materials, the employers naturally look to see if there is not a chance to cut down wages. They are already beginning to hint that the present rates are too high for a fair competition with the East and Europe. That is natural. The returns from manufactures must be divided among wages, materials and profits, and whatever is added to the cost of materials must be taken from one or both of the other two. It would not be human nature for the employers to wish the loss to come out of profits; so of course they turn toward wages.

The tendency of unnaturally high protective tariffs is always toward low wages. It has been disguised in this country by the fact that our vast resources and scant population have kept the rewards of labor higher, in spite of the prohibitive tariff, than in countries less favored. But even here the tendency may be traced. Wages have increased faster with us in low tariff than in high tariff periods, and they have always been lower in highly protected than unprotected industries.

But it is in Europe that the drift may be seen most clearly. There the highest tariffs go constantly with the lowest wages and the most miserable working population. No protected country of Europe comes as near to the English standard of living as the English comes to the American.

The workingmen of California had a chance last week to help put their work on a solid foundation. The democratic party offered to remove the disadvantages that stood in the way of California industry, and so enable San Francisco to manufacture for half the world, instead of sending her own orders abroad to be executed. California declined the offer, and intimated that she preferred cheap Chinese labor to cheap raw materials. She will have abundant leisure for repentance."

The markets of the world have been derided and sneered at for months by the party which the people of this country has returned to power. Now there will be a fine opportunity for that party to demonstrate how the inhabitants of a country may all grow rich together by simply exchanging commodities among themselves.

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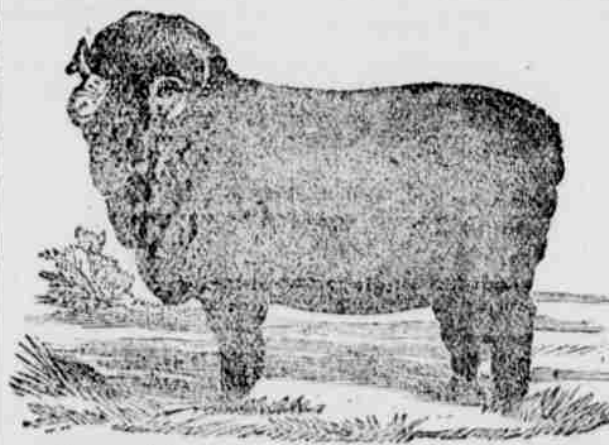
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