

THE OREGON SCOUT.

AMOS K. JONES EDITOR. Thursday, Nov. 21, 1889.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

ONE by one the "daises" fall. What a cluster of them, rare, beautiful and sweet, fell this year. Tanner, Foraker, Mahone. When shall these three meet again?—World.

HARVEY SCOTT, the ghoul, rises to explain just how the result of the recent elections was brought about, which leads the World to say that "Harvey always was a cheerful man at a funeral."

BILLY MAHONE, the candidate for Governor of Virginia, says the negroes are naturally protectionists. Senator Blair, another good Republican, says that the negro's ignorance is a menace to the country.

THERE is no greater delusion than the talk of a home market for the American farmer. Suppose the Oregon farmer was "protected" until he was forced to rely on the Oregon market. It would mean starvation to every farmer.

MR. HARRISON'S Thanksgiving proclamation will be responded to more generally than was suspected. The victories recently will cause many an unrepentant democrat to turn in and give thanks multitudinously.—Moscow Star.

A "YOUNG MEN'S investment company," with a capital stock of \$20,000, has been incorporated at Salem. It is composed of twenty young men who propose to invest their money in real estate instead of in faro banks, horse races, and "the girls of the period."

G. W. HUNT met the citizens of Waiteburg last week and secured a subscription of \$12,000 for the road. In answer to a question he said of the \$12,000 subscribed there if he failed to carry produce to the Sound as cheaply as the O. R. & N. carries to Portland he will pay back to any man so treated the amount subscribed by him, with interest. This was greeted with applause.

AN exchange says that every newspaper in the land should publish the fact that burnt corn is a sure cure for hog cholera. It was first discovered by the burning of a pile of corn belonging to a distillery at Peoria. It was thrown to the hogs and readily eaten by them. Before that a number had been dying each day with the cholera, but disease immediately disappeared. The remedy is so simple that it can easily be tried.

THE Summerville Annotator says: Any thinking man can easily see that it would be folly for the O. R. & N. to build the proposed extension if the Hunt road is not built, and if the Hunt road is built the O. R. & N. will be compelled to build in self-defence. So the whole business hinges directly on the Hunt subsidy. If we fail to raise the required subsidy the Hunt road will not be built, consequently the O. R. & N. will settle back in its old ruts and we will be left in a worse condition than ever before.

EVERY male Indian on the reservation who has reached his majority and accepts an allotment of land in severalty is endowed with the elective franchise by a recent act of congress. This will make quite a difference in the elections in Umatilla county. It is said that the average colored gentleman sweats copiously at elections, but it is not probable that poor Lo will be similarly affected, consequently he will not be as offensive a partisan, in one sense of the word, and can be taken to the bosom of the average politician with greater affection, as it were.

PROFESSOR CONDON'S discovery of the fossil remains of horses with cleft hoofs, the different part forming toes, has been commented upon by a writer in the New York Evening Post, who says: "Apropos of the frequent discovery in the far West of fossils of horses with toes, has it ever been recalled that Julius Caesar had such a horse? Suetonius, in his 'Life of Caesar,' sixty-first section, says: 'Caesar made use of a remarkable horse, with feet almost human, and hoofs divided in the manner of toes.' The whole passage is interesting. The horse, it appears, was foaled in Caesar's stud. The soothsayers at once proclaimed that it betokened for its master the dominion of the world, whereupon Caesar had it reared with the utmost care, and was the first to mount it. Indeed, it would never suffer anybody else upon its back. Later he set up an image of the horse in front of the Temple of Venus Genetrix. Was not this an instance of what evolutionists call 'reversion'?"

A FARMER'S VIEW OF THE TARIFF.

A Tennessee farmer, Mr. M. T. Peebles, puts in an interrogative form the following clear and forcible argument against the present tariff tax from the agricultural standpoint:

Does not every farmer sell his products on a free trade market? In other words, if I ship my cotton, wheat, corn, beef, pork, or any other commodity I have for sale to Liverpool for a market, are not all the waters of the world open for anybody and everybody to sell in competition with me if they choose to do so? Then if I ship anything beyond sea for sale all the world has a "whack" at me, and if anyone can afford to undersell me I must come down in price or not sell on that market. Is not this then absolute, world-wide free trade for the farmer when he has anything for sale? But suppose the farmer chooses to sell at home within the United States, is not all trade free between the states, and is he not forced to sell on an absolutely free trade market so far as railway and waterway transportation can put all men of like products in competition with him? Is it not perfectly plain then, to any one but a hopeless idiot, or one wilfully blind, that the farmers of the United States are all forced to sell their products on a free trade market whether they sell at home or ship beyond the sea?

Are not all mechanics and all workmen in the United States forced to hire their services in competition with all others who work at like trades? Is it not plain then, that all farmers and all workmen in the United States are obliged to sell their products and accept their wages on an absolutely free trade market?

But how is it when these same farmers and workmen come to purchase the necessary supplies for themselves and families? Have they an open market where all the world is bidding against each other by offering cheap goods? No, indeed; but they purchase everything on a restricted market hampered by tariff laws, and as a result all farmers and all workmen sell on a free trade market and buy on a market made high and costly by a protective tariff for the benefit alone of the few men engaged in the protected industries. Thus, then, we see all farmers and all laboring men are forced to sell on a market made cheap by the world-wide competition of free trade, while they buy on a market made dear by tariff laws enacted for the benefit of a few men. These few men have become immensely rich by the money thus enforced by tariff laws from the toiling millions and put by the unjust action of the government into the pockets of monopolists and speculators.

The State of Tennessee levies a tax of 30 cents on the hundred dollars of property, and some of our citizens seem to think we are a tax-ridden people. This tax of the state is a little less than one-third of 1 per cent. on property. Now, the general government by tariff laws levies on foreign made goods a tax not of 30 cents on the one hundred dollars' worth of goods imported, but a tax of 47 per cent. on the one dollars' worth of goods. So that the tax of the general government is 423 times as high as the tax levied by the state government, and there are hundreds and thousands of farmers and workmen who do not seem to know this, judging from the way they vote year after year and sustain the high tax party.

If farmers and workmen, by selling on a free trade market for twenty-five years past, have been gradually growing poorer year by year, what will be their condition at the end of the next twenty-five years if they still continue to sell on a free trade market and purchase all their supplies on a market inflated by tariff laws which oblige them to pay \$1.47 for every dollar's worth of goods they use?

EX-PRESIDENT CLEVELAND was interviewed at Washington last week on the election results. "It is evident," said Cleveland, "that the leaven of tariff reform has at last leavened the whole lump. The west, which has suffered most from the unjust burden of tariff taxation, has awakened. The state platforms of both Iowa and Ohio are abreast of the St. Louis platform on the subject of tariff reform. The people have considered and passed judgement. It was for the people to decide. They are now deciding. It is enough for me to say that I am satisfied at the indications and the result of Tuesday's elections. The verdict in Virginia indicates that the South is faithful to the democracy of Jefferson and Jackson."

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATIONS.

The San Francisco Freethought in speaking of President Harrison's Thanksgiving proclamation says:

"It is prohibited to government officials to use government franks and stamps for any other than official business, and we would like to know where Mr. Harrison gets his authority to use the seal of the United States for business that is not official, but religious. A president is elected to exercise political, not ecclesiastical functions. His duties are prescribed by the Constitution, and that of acting as high priest to direct the religious worship of the people is not among them. A president should never be a partisan politician—he is not elected as a servant of his party, but of the whole people. Neither should he be a religious partisan. He ought not to take sides on the question officially. As a citizen he has a right to hold or express any religious views that he chooses, but as a president he is not called upon to deal with religious matters. But it seems that Mr. Harrison has chosen to take sides between those who believe in superstitious incantations before the name a phantom and those who do not. An Atheist could not conscientiously join the worship recommended, but he must do so or stand practically in contempt before the chief magistrate of the land. We maintain that it is unfair and unnecessary to place a citizen in that attitude, but at the same time, we hold that when a president says officially ought to go; it ought to be mandatory. When he issues a proclamation, that proclamation should stand and be obeyed. If he has a right officially to recommend a day of thanksgiving, he has a right to order one, and it is the duty of executives to see that it is heeded. The seal of the United States ought to be respected by every citizen, but as affixed to this Thanksgiving proclamation it has no more legal force than the mark of John Doe or Richard Roe.

"All this is apart from the matter of Mr. Harrison's proclamation, which contains some glaring misrepresentations. One unacquainted with the facts would judge from reading it that the past year had been a period of phenomenal prosperity and unalloyed happiness to all the people of the country; but on the contrary, the United States has been the scene of the worst disasters of the century. Floods have drowned thousands in a day; fires have destroyed whole cities; failure of crops in some parts has left the people in destitution; and the Divine Providence we are asked to thank has in no instance intervened in behalf of the sufferers. What have the people of Johnstown to be thankful for, except the relief fund? What did providence do for Seattle? What is it doing for the starving farmers of North Dakota? To thinking people this proclamation can suggest only things wherein providence has failed and it must seem like a grim piece of sarcasm to the hungry, the homeless, and the victims of a thousand ills. On the other hand, it is base ingratitude to those who sacrificed self to help others that they are not given honorable mention.

"Taken all in all, the president's Thanksgiving proclamation is empty, absurd, and useless."

Was it "highly creditable" if President Harrison to appoint as his Postmaster-General a man previously unknown in politics, as a reward for raising a corruption fund for the campaign? Was it "highly creditable" to induce a Federal Judge to reverse his own decision to sidestep from punishment an organizer of bribery in "blocks of five"? Is the administration alliance with Boss Mahone "highly creditable"? Is the clean sweep office-holders going on in defiance of the party's and the President's pledges "highly creditable"? Was the Tanner episode creditable in any of its aspects? Is it "highly creditable" in the President to pardon all his relatives and connections upon the public? Where does the credit come in?—N. Y. World.

IN THE SIXTIES.

A copy of the Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman of August 7, 1864, more than twenty-five years ago, tell us that beef was then retailing at 15 and 25 cents per pound, mutton 20 and 25, chickens \$2 and \$2.50 each, butter \$1 per pound, eggs \$1.50 per dozen, potatoes (new) 15 cents per pound, oats \$12, hay \$35 and \$40, onions 25 and 30 cents per pound, cabbage 15, and so on. The following, however, the foregoing articles commanded double the price, and many of them could not be had at that, and green cottonwood was scarce at \$20 per cord.

ELECTION INFERENCES.

The Boston Globe says: Some interesting points are settled by the elections. The tariff will be the great, the overshadowing issue in 1892. The Democratic candidate will be a man who has an unimpeachable record for tariff reform. Neither Benjamin Harrison nor Fire-Alarm Foraker will be the Republican candidates. The Democracy will have better prospects in the West than ever before. The South will remain solid. The Australian ballot reform will be adopted in New York, and an honest unbought vote secured there. The next Congress will be Democratic. The Republicans in the present Congress will make a show of revising the tariff.

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