

WASHINGTON.

Public Interest is Centered in Congress.

BUZZING OF PRESIDENTIAL BEES

The Farmers' Alliance Troubling the Politicians—Blaine's Tactics.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21, 1891.

EDITOR OREGON SCOUT:—

Washington may now truthfully claim to be the head quarters of the political history. Never during the last twenty-five years has there been more political activity displayed here than is now, and it is increasing every day as the city fills up with men who control the destinies of the great political parties of the country. Here will be fought, this winter, the preliminary skirmish of the great battle of '92, and a good many people are beginning to think that engagement will be a triangular one, and if the combination between the labor organizations and the Farmers' Alliance, that wonderful organization which has frightened the professional politicians nearly out of their wits, can be perfected by that time, there are certainly squalls ahead for somebody.

Public interest is centered in the final session of the Fifty-first Congress, which meets Monday, December 1, and conjecture its life as to what will be done. Whatever is done the methods of doing it will be highly interesting, because of the personnel of the republican House. Many of the republicans, particularly those that were nominated and defeated at the late election, feel so sore that they would be willing to adopt the most radical political legislation that could possibly be proposed, and the Speaker is generally supposed to be ready to aid them in every way in his power, and those who watched the legislation in the House at the last session can form an idea of what that means. But there is another element in that party headed by Mr. Blaine that will attempt to steer a more conservative course.

The matters which are certain to come up during the three months of this short session, to say nothing of those that may unexpectedly be brought up, will make it notable in Congressional history. The first thing to come up in the Senate will be the Federal Election bill, and that it will be fought to the last extremity by the democrats is a certainty. Nevertheless it is believed that it will be passed in a modified form. In the House the first thing to be taken up will be an apportionment bill, and that will also be fought by the democrats, but it will be certain to pass in the shape that will give the republicans all the advantage possible—it would be just reversed were the democrats in the position of the republicans. The game of politics is, get all you can.

The question of free coinage of silver is going to make a rumpus too, and the general impression is that it will be adopted, although it is still opposed by Mr. Harrison and his Secretary of the Treasury. But it is whispered that Mr. Blaine has made up his mind to bring about free coinage at this session of Congress as a special concession to the Farmers' Alliance, which he is said to be particularly anxious to conciliate. There will not be much difficulty in getting a bill through Congress, as the Senate is already on record as favoring it, and it was charged that it was trickery that defeated it in the House at the last session.

Another troublesome matter is that of pensions. It's bound to come up in some shape or other. It is claimed that by the end of the next fiscal year the annual payments for pensions will have reached \$200,000,000, which added to other expenses of the government will amount to considerably more than our receipts. What is to be done? Not a baker's dozen votes could be secured for repealing any portion of the pension laws, so that some method of increasing our revenues will have to be found, if these claims prove to be correct. But how? That's an interesting question. Some answer it by proposing a graduated income tax, others by increasing the tax on whiskey. But wait until the question comes up in congress, then you will hear some interesting things.

The speakership campaign, which gets warmer and warmer, will furnish some mighty interesting political news before it is ended, and it is believed that it will also be the means of determining to a certainty whether Mr. Cleveland will be at the head of the next National democratic ticket, at least that's the way it looks now when the Cleveland and anti-Cleveland

democrats are at daggers' points. And it will also have a great effect upon the chances of the democratic party in the coming presidential election.

The question of the head of the next republican presidential ticket will be considered this winter by the leaders of that party, and the wirepulling they will indulge in will add much interest to Washington political gossip. Just now Mr. Blaine has it all his own way, but whether he can keep it that way, even if he desires the nomination, is problematical. Mr. Harrison thinks himself entitled to a renomination; Senator Sherman has not abandoned all hope; General Alger is still in the field, and from the Pacific slope comes the news that Senator Stanford has entered the lists and that his platform will consist solely of his proposition to loan out government money to farmers at 2 per cent. per annum. It has also been strongly hinted by Farmers' Alliance men here that Mr. Stanford can have the support of that organization if he wants it. Take it all in all, the prospect is for lots of very lively political news this winter.

J. H. C.

FROM ALBANY.

Interesting News Items Gathered by an Occasional Correspondent.

EDITOR OREGON SCOUT:—

After another overwhelming democratic victory—a victory for right and justice—I will try and address a few thoughts to your many readers.

Politics are about all one hears now, and we suppose one will not hear much else for several months to come, at least not until after the presidential election. Well as we are to politicians we have very little to say about it either way.

This valley has just been visited with one of the most disastrous wrecks that has ever happened on the O. & C. R. R., namely, the train wreck at Lake Lashish. Although only five persons were killed, the list of injured was exceedingly large. The State Railroad Commissioners have just given their version of the cause of the accident, and it places the blame just where we thought it belonged all the time—on the road. It may be the cause of the company repairing some of their old trestles, and we are sure that at least it will be a very dear lesson for them.

The Santiam and Calapooia mines are attracting a great deal of attention just at present. One Albany company has a mill in running order now and have already had one clean up of a week's run. This mill is running steadily all the time and a number of other miners are working their claims and developing them as fast as men and money can do it. We hope before another year goes past to be able to report as good paying mines as any in the State. Another mill will be put in as early in the spring as possible.

A large immigration is arriving here all the time. Forty-six persons with their outfits arrived by one train a short time ago. They all seem to be the better class of farmers and laboring people, who are willing and ready to do anything that comes along. We say let them come. "The more the merrier," and there is always room for one more.

Albany is steadily improving despite the tardiness of the Oregon Pacific railroad to start. A number of good substantial brick business houses have been erected as well as a good many handsome residences. A large amount of building is already laid off for 1891.

Our woolen mills are doing an excellent business—have more work ahead than they can do for some time. They are turning out an excellent quality of goods, which are commanding a good price and a ready market.

Our wife left us today. Very sad these few words. But when you fully understand them in this case they are not so sad. She went to the country to help kill hogs. Think of the backbones and spare-ribs we will enjoy picking, on her return. If it wasn't for our noble wives how would we poor newspaper scribbles make a living and have a clean shirt for Sunday. Long live the noble woman. "P."

Great excitement prevailed on the east bound Oregon Short Line train on Wednesday of last week after leaving Pocatello, when it was discovered that a man in one of the coaches was sick with smallpox. He had been on the train for some time and the train men had passed and repassed through the coach. Besides this there were twelve other passengers in the coach with the sick man. The car has been put aside at Bryan with the sick man in it, and the passengers who rode with him were taken to Green River in another car to be examined by the surgeon.

COVE CULLINGS.

Severely Bruised by a Run-away Team.

SCARCITY OF WATER IN SPRINGS

The Spring Fights—Grand Ball to be Given—Advertised Letters.

Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Rees returned from their visit in the East last Thursday.

Rev. Mr. Trumbell is holding a series of meetings at Frosty school house this week.

Mr. Mel Campbell went to the Sound this week and will look after real estate interests at Sehome.

Mr. Frank Pfy has returned to Gray's Harbor. Frank is a believer in the future importance of that port.

Mr. George McDaniel started for the Willowa last Monday. He expects to ride for stock in that region this winter.

Spring fights have commenced early this season. Some of our citizens look as though Sitting Bull had been swinging them on the corner in a ghost dance.

There will be a ball in Wright's hall at Cove on Friday evening, December 12th. Music will be furnished by first-class musicians and a good supper served. Tickets will be \$2.00.

Services are being held nightly at the Morrison church. Revs. Driver and Morris, of Union, Rev. McCart, of Willowa, and Rev. Johnson, of Cove, are in attendance.

It is said that several springs near town which, in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, have furnished an abundance of water have gone dry in the last few weeks.

We may be called a village of churches in the course of time. Both, the Methodist and Baptist denominations are contemplating building edifices and are circulating papers for subscriptions to the cause.

While Mr. S. Burnough was returning from La Grande Monday night his team ran away near Mr. Corpe's residence and overturned the wagon. Mr. B. sustained severe bruises which may confine him to his house for some time.

Letters remaining uncalled for in the Cove postoffice: Mrs. Mary E. Carpenter, T. Flynn, J. M. Jones, E. O. Makin, Mrs. Lottie Pratt, Vince Reeves, Miss Eva Shirts, S. Stewberg, Mrs. Smith, (mother of Emmett Smith) Mr. Vantress, Martin Vernon.—JASPER G. STEVENS, P. M.

Its Effects.

The West Shore says: One of the beautiful workings of the system of deductions for debt in listing property for taxation is shown by comparing the tax rolls of the counties of Coos and Yamhill. The former has gross assessments of \$2,863,365 while the other has \$6,166,000, more than twice the former. Yet after the deductions are made, Coos has still \$2,140,450, while Yamhill's has dwindled to \$3,912,064, being \$50,800 less than last year. Coos county pays State tax upon seventy-five per cent. No doubt even greater discrepancies will be revealed when reports are received from the entire state. This question is aside from that of unequal assessment of property, and under the deduction system it will never be possible for the burden of state support to be borne by each county in proportion to its wealth, the richer counties shifting an undue proportion of the tax upon the poorer ones.

TELOCASET.

The Farmers Busy—After a Bear—Fencing the Railroad Track.

November 30, 1890.

Mr. Wm. Cates Has the boss gates. What beautiful weather. Barley quoted at \$1.95 in Milwaukee. Many of Antelope's farmers are harrowing in white winter barley.

Mr. Wallace Hincley has sold his barley crop to Couper, for 95 cents per hundred.

Several of our young bloods attended the ball at Union on Thanksgiving eve, and report having an enjoyable time.

Mrs. Wm. Haffman is sick. It is to be hoped that the estimable lady will soon recover her usual excellent health.

The Union Pacific track is now fenced through Pyles canyon and Antelope valley, and the fence builders have moved on.

Mr. John Lee of the Summit ranch, has returned to his former position as foreman on the section at Telocaset, for the Union Pacific railroad company.

Mr. William Frazier made us a pleasant visit yesterday. He was around with a butcher knife about a foot long, and a gunny sack. He made an assault on a dead horse on the hill side near by and intends feeding a bear with it that is prowling around his farm. He proposes to attach a trap to the meat, and allows he will have "that ar bar" or know the reason why. Success to him.

The great war ship, "Maine," the largest and finest man-of-war ever built in the United States, was launched at the Brooklyn navy yard on the 18th inst. At the launching platform Miss Alice Wilmerding, the handsome 17-year-old daughter of Secretary Tracy, took her position directly in front of the big cruiser's nose, in her hand a gaily decorated bottle of San Bernardino county, California champagne, and, as the ship commenced to slide into the water, Miss Wilmerding timidly advanced and breaking the bottle across the big cruiser's nose, christened her the "Maine." So the cruiser named for the eastmost State, was christened with champagne from the westmost State. Let the good work go on, and soon Uncle Sam will have a navy that Americans will not be ashamed of. C. F. H.

CORNUCOPIA.

The Pine Creek Mines in a More Prosperous Condition Than Ever.

The Baker City Democrat reporter had the pleasure of meeting Mr. W. T. Burdette, a prominent mine owner of Cornucopia, and from him learned considerable of interest concerning the camp. Mr. Burdette said:

The Oregon Gold Mining Company are running their 20-stamp mill night and day, and through the scientific management of Mr. Fred Stein, superintendent of the mill, are treating forty-five tons of ore every twenty-four hours up to eighty-five per cent. of the assay value of the ore, besides saving two and one-half tons of sulphurets per day, that will average \$150 to the ton. The ore is from the Red Jacket, and the company estimates that there is sufficient ore in sight in the mine to keep the mill running constantly for the next twelve months.

The company have just finished a roaster of eight tons capacity per day for the purpose of reducing the sulphurets to bullion, thus doing away with the necessity of shipping to Denver or Salt Lake.

Under the present management, Mr. Burdette says the Oregon Gold Mining Company is more successful than ever before known and the camp is in a more prosperous condition than ever.

The Huntington mill recently erected by Davis & Howard on the Union mine is treating from five to six tons of ore per day up to 90 per cent. In the trial test of twenty-five tons, average ore, the mill saved \$35 to the ton—\$10 free gold; \$25 in sulphurets.

The Davis & Howard mill also treated several tons of ore from the Last Chance mine, owned by Carey & Howard, with satisfactory results.

Mr. Burdette says that all development work done shows a good outlook for the camp, and more confidence is expressed than ever before. The failures in the past can be attributed to mistakes in the treatment of the ores.

How to Buy a Farm.

A method of buying farms which has been experimented some upon in Whitman county, says an exchange, is that of giving a number of bushels of wheat per acre, the payments extending over a series of years. This has generally been found to be an exceedingly easy and successful way for a man with but little means, but strong muscle and a plucky heart, to acquire a home and a fertile farm, though the plan has been derided by some and assertions made that it could not be done. It can be done and has been done. A case in point is that of R. McQueen, who three years ago purchased 160 acres near Colfax from Galland Bros. on this plan. He was to pay for the land in wheat raised upon it, fifty bushels per acre, the payments being extended over a period of five years, or ten bushels per acre per year. Last year and the previous one made the required payments. This year he has paid the remaining thirty bushels per acre and yet has wheat left, and his farm clear. Instead of five years he has paid for it in three from wheat that has grown upon it, and kept enough for his needs.

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