

EDITORIAL NOTES.

HON. WILLIAM WINDOM, secretary of the treasury, died suddenly at New York last Thursday, while attending a banquet.

IT IS NOT probable that the legislature will donate much to the Columbian exposition—not over \$50,000 at the most. We think this is hardly sufficient, yet, if expended judiciously, will do much towards showing up the industries of our wonderful state.

WE ARE in receipt of a copy of the mid-winter edition of the Free Lance, published at Hollister, Benito county, Cal., by W. B. Winn. The paper is illustrated and contains much interesting matter in regard to the town and county in which it is published.

THE NEW Spanish tariff raises the duty on flour from 48 shillings to nearly 106 shillings a ton. This is the retaliation which comes as the necessary consequence of the passage of the McKinley bill by congress. And whom does it affect? The farmer, as the price of wheat must go down with the price of flour.—Albany Democrat.

THE SCOUT acknowledges receipt of Hon. W. J. McConnell's bill, providing for a settlement between the United States and certain railroad corporations which have heretofore received bonis from the government to aid in the construction of their roads, and for other purposes, which he has introduced in the United States senate, also his speech on "Silver, the Money of the People."

THE BOLD stand that Lee R. Freeman, of the Freewater Herald, is taking in regard to the recent Chinese trouble in that place, should meet the hearty approval of all law-abiding citizens. While it may be true that the Chinese are a curse to any community it does not justify such perpetrations as have been committed in Milton lately, by a mob of men styling themselves "regulators." So long as the Chinese are allowed to remain in this country they should be protected the same as our American citizens.

GEORGE H. MOFFAT, of St. Paul, has purchased the Portland Telegram, and will convert it into a first-class daily evening democratic newspaper. The firm of Palmer & Rey, type foundry, have received instructions to fill the order for material for the new big democratic daily to be managed by Frank S. Gray, formerly of the New York Mail and Express, of which mention was made in these columns a short time ago. That both these enterprises will be a success we have no doubt, but they must receive a hearty support from the democrats of the northwest.

A PETITION containing nearly ten thousand names has been presented to the state legislature asking for the taxation of church property. Among the signers are said to be a number of ministers and many church people. Three other petitions that were to have been presented with this one were lost before reaching "headquarters." This one, having for its object equitable taxation, is being pushed by the Oregon Secular Union, and a bill embodying this principle will, in all probability, be presented to the legislature before the close of the session. The measure has many supporters who will make every effort to secure the passage of such a law.

"NEARLY the whole resident population of Union county pan handle has signed petitions praying the legislature to annex that strip of country to Baker county. The Union county hobos who are circulating a remonstrance meet with no success."—Blade.

THE ABOVE is a sample of the literature (?) that has been sent forth through the columns of Baker City papers of late. The fact of the matter is there is no truth in the statement, and why they should persist in lying we cannot see. We presume it is their nature. It is true they did succeed, by misrepresentation, in securing a few names to the petition, but when the people found out the facts in the matter they readily signed a remonstrance against such action, and today there is not one in ten of the taxpayers of the southern portion of this county who are in favor of being annexed to Baker county. The "hobos" as the Blade styles them, who circulated the remonstrance, comprised some of the best and most respected citizens of Union county, and they did not have to carry a cargo of whisky with them and misstate facts in order to induce the people there to sign the remonstrance, as did the parties from Baker City, in order to get signers to the petition.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

The farmers' alliance is the product of indignation and despair—indignation at the merciless exactions imposed on the agricultural interest by the republican party and despair that the other national party would ever be able to obtain the supremacy and right the wrongs perpetrated by its powerful adversary.

That this indignation was originally well founded is beyond question. It is doubtful if the all-important industry of agriculture was ever subjected in any country, except the feudal France just before the revolution, to so many crushing burdens as the republican party heaped upon it in this.

It is also beyond question that the despair of the democratic party ever coming into power was also originally well founded. Those who organized the alliance saw nothing between them and eternal spoliation but the unaided strength of the farmer.

Since this vista was presented, times have altered. The policy of the republican party has been changed only to intensify it, and the indignation which was originally justified by that policy has now more justification than ever. The relief that party intended to give is only illusory; the burden has in reality been grievously augmented, and the hypocrisy which seeks to sugar over the superadded wrong is a fresh motive for new detestation.

But on the other side of the picture there has been a genuine and decided change. There is no room now for despair as to democratic supremacy and the permanence of the supremacy. The republican party has had its day and must go. The exigency which called it into existence is over. The great party of the future in this country is the democratic party, and no oppressed popular interest ever looked to that party in vain.—New York World.

AS OTHERS SEE IT.

A correspondent from Baker City to the La Grande Chronicle, signing himself "Nemesis," has this to say of the much-boasted "Denver of Oregon"—Baker City:

"Baker is dull; there is no money, no fall rain, no winter snow, no spring mowing, no crops, no boom for 1891 and to add to our especial discomfort the banks are not loaning any money.

What's the matter? We have by long and circular sung and shouted published and puffed the imaginary virtues, fertility productiveness &c. of our Queen Denver. Nearly every real estate office along the lines of railroad exhibits our Denver with additions extending for miles in neat square blocks with a population of 5000 of the most energetic the most prosperous and happy people on earth.

* * * The stranger comes, and what does he find? A small village big with iniquity and containing about 2500 with exhaustless capital of enthusiasm &c. surrounded by a vast waste of thousands of acres of dry sunburnt sage brush land all in sight of town, portions of which are called additions the fact being made known by an enormous sign looming up in the distance marked "Mix Addition" said sign being the only sign of improvement.

* * * The fact is the stranger is "onto" us and we are left unless something or somebody comes to our relief. We hoped for an appropriation by the present legislature but the necessity of hiring some one to go to "the world's fair" will take all the money the legislature can spare after repealing the mortgage tax law and paying off the railroad commissioners.

We might try congress but its pressed because the McKinley bill is falling due in large installments.

Your correspondent suggests the publication in book form, large type of Aesop's poem entitled "The Farmer and the Lark."

SENATOR GRAY, of Delaware, has some sensible ideas about reciprocity, and he has introduced a resolution in the senate authorizing the administration to open negotiations for the purpose of framing reciprocity treaties between the United States and Mexico, and the United States and Canada. Notwithstanding the fact that reciprocity treaties with those to countries would be of more real benefit to the people of this country than all of those proposed by Mr. Blaine with the South and Central American republics, there isn't the slightest probability that the republican senators will support Mr. Gray's resolution. It isn't real reciprocity that republicans favor, but only an imitation, that will serve for the time being to blind the voters of this country.—Jacksonville Times.

THE identity of "Nemesis" is worrying the people of Baker City to a remarkable extent, of late.

THE ANNEXATION SCHEME.

A Common Sense View of the Situation, by a Resident of Telocasco.

EDITOR OREGON SCOUT:—

The following is taken from the Portland Oregonian of January 30th:

BAKER CITY, January 29.—The people of the panhandle of Union county and of North Powder have signified their desire to be cut off from Union county and be annexed to Baker county by signing a petition to the legislature to that effect. Some of the petitioners have been induced to sign a remonstrance. The inducements to sign remonstrances are, as the Unionites tell them, that Baker county taxes are from two to five mills higher on the dollar than those of Union county, and further that the people of the section to be cut off will have to help pay the debt of both counties, making taxes in that district double what they now are. They also represent that the petition circulated proposed to take in as far north as the Cove and a part of Union town. These statements are false from beginning to end, the facts being as follows: Baker county's taxes for the year are 24 1/33 mills on the dollar, and lands of the same character, along the line of division between the counties named were assessed in 1889 at \$4 per acre in Baker county and \$8 in Union county, and in 1890 \$5 in Baker and \$12 in Union. Besides taxes being higher in Union the assessment is also higher. The part to be annexed, after annexation, will pay the same taxes as the balance of Baker county. There is not more than \$100,000 difference in the indebtedness of the two counties, and further the petition does not contemplate taking in the Cove as a reference to the description in the petition will show.

The strip of country proposed to be cut off from Union county is so situated as to naturally belong to Baker county, and, if so cut off and annexed to Baker county, will be of great convenience to the people living there. The people living on the line are anxious to belong to Baker county. The city of Union is trying to prevent this.

It is barely possible that a word from one who lives in the panhandle might throw a feeble ray of light on the feeling of annexation; that is, if the intellectual brilliancy of the author of the foregoing is not of such power as to totally obliterate the feeble ray of light emitted by any one so unfortunate (?) as to be located outside of Baker county.

A remonstrance was placed in my hands to circulate against annexation. I had the paper in my hands three days and it was signed by every voter in the precinct except one, whom I did not see. The heaviest taxpayer in the precinct, hearing that I had a remonstrance, saddled his horse and rode seven miles to sign it, he having heard that it was to be sent away that day. This gentleman lives on "the line to be annexed" and owns land on both sides of the line.

Every one who signed the remonstrance will bear me out in the statement that no "inducements" were extended or argument advanced to induce them to do so. The fact is, the people are beginning to look upon this biennial effort on the part of Baker City as a nuisance. Not a session of the legislature has passed in the last eight or ten years that we have not been cursed with this stereotyped annexation bill, as though we did not possess sufficient intelligence to take this matter into hand ourselves.

Whenever our relations with Union county are such that it cannot be endured, we are very apt to take some action in the matter for our relief, voluntarily, and not wait for Baker City to inform us of our afflictions; and when we do take such action we will let our desires be known in a manner becoming men of intelligence, honesty and fair-dealing, and not sneakingly and slyly circulate a petition as if to steal a march on our neighbors in an unguarded moment, asking the legislature to do a thing which of right belongs to the people.

The idea seems to prevail in the minds of certain individuals that counties can be chopped up by the legislature at any time to gratify the whims of a few disaffected or avaricious politicians, merely by an act based on a petition. The United States derives its power from the consent of the governed; so, also, do the states, and all rights not specially delegated to the states are reserved to the people. The right to change or divide counties in Oregon is not only not delegated to the state, but is specifically reserved to the people by the state constitution, (Article I, section 21.) which provides as follows: "No ex post facto laws, or laws impairing the obligations of contracts, shall ever be passed, nor shall any law be passed, the taking effect of which shall be made to depend upon any authority, except as provided in this constitution; provided, that laws locating the capital of the state, locating county seats, and other local and special laws, may take effect or not, upon a vote of the electors interested."

As an act to cut off a portion of this county and annex it to Baker would come under the head of special laws, it is wholly in the hands of the people.

Can the author of the foregoing batch of information give us any reason why the land on the Baker county side is not assessed as high as that on the Union

county side? If his figures are correct and he is well informed on the matter and proposes to do the fair thing with us, he surely ought to tell us why there is such a difference in the valuation. Some fellow—a Union chap, of course—has said that it is because the assessor has been put through a course of training, and has been instructed to assess real estate bordering on the line very low, as a bait for the panhandlers; but I think he said that just to get the Bakerites to call him names.

The reason for such difference is a very plausible one, however, and is for the simple reason that about nine-tenths of all the settlers and land owners along Powder river have erected their buildings on the Union county side of the river, and have, through choice, taken up their residence in the county of Union. The result is that that part of the real estate situate in Baker county and containing no buildings, outside of fencing, cannot reasonably be assessed as high as that in Union county, containing the residences and other improvements. The same difference in assessment occurs where the buildings, in a few instances, are in Baker county.

The statement that "the part to be annexed after annexation will pay the same taxes as the balance of Baker county," is a very smooth allegation, to say the least, and doubtless is very encouraging to those who are to be grabbed up to know that they will not be taxed any higher than the "balance of Baker county." Great consolation, that!

Any one of ordinary intelligence knows that the portion cut off would carry their proportion of the indebtedness of Union county with them into Baker county, which amount would be to the balance of Union county's indebtedness as the taxable property so cut off would be to the rest of the taxable property of Union county.

The county tax of Baker county for the year 1889 was 18 1/10 mills which was the lowest for several years. Union county's county tax for the same year was 16 mills which was the highest for many years, and was made necessary by the expenditure of \$30,008.74 for roads and bridges.

In 1890 Baker county's levy for county purposes was 14 33/35 mills, the lowest in the history of Baker county, made so by the necessity of having an inducement for the "panhandle" to become a portion of Baker county. For the same year the levy by Union county for county purposes was 14 mills, being nearly one mill less than in Baker county.

As a matter of fact Baker county's indebtedness is only a matter of conjecture, and is unknown by even the best informed of her citizens; but it is safe to say that it is double that of Union county. Baker county has a total taxable property for 1890 of \$2,016,658 as against \$3,405,255 for Union county. With the above figures we leave the taxpayers to judge for themselves as to which of the counties offer the greatest inducements for the future. W. A. CATES.

WE CALL the attention of those who assert that the McKinley tariff has not increased the cost of living to the following from the Dry Goods Economist, a strictly trade journal: "A 54-inch double warp Italian, which cost 52 1/2 cents to import on October 1st last, one week later cost 72 1/2 cents; a little better grade which cost 60 cents to import was jumped up by the McKinley bill to 92 1/2 cents, making a difference in the retail price of either grade of not less than 25 cents a yard. The amusing part of this is that about a third in value, and about the same in weight, of this cloth is American cotton on which the McKinley tariff imposes, in addition to the ad valorem duty, four times the duty on the Australian wool, of which the remainder of the fabric consists. This putting an enormous wool duty on our own cotton when we bring it back to this country would be enough to make a cow laugh, if it were not such an irritating piece of stupidity."

THE BILL introduced in the legislature by Jennings, of Lane county, which provides that if any person shall shoot and wound or kill another, mistaking him for a deer, bear or other wild animal, he shall be found guilty of criminal negligence, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary not less than three months nor more than three years, and by fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, is a good one and should receive the support of all our law makers. Hardly a week passes but we read of the account of some innocent person being killed in this way, and there should be some law to punish parties guilty of such criminal negligence.

For Bargains in

GROCERIES!

ats, Caps, Gloves, and

Gents' Furnishing Goods,

Jewelry, Picture Frames,

Albums and Variety Goods,

SCHOOL = BOOKS,

Writing Tablets, Novels and

STATIONERY

Tobacco, Cigars, Pipes and Cutlery,

—Go To—

JONES BROS.

In addition to bargains in the above mentioned lines, all kinds of

Glassware, Lamps and Holiday Goods,

AT LESS THAN COST.

CALL AND BE CONVINCED!

JONES BROS., Union, Or.