

THE ENTERPRISE.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, DEC. 15, 1876.

Watts-Cronin Case.

We presume the most radical of our readers will admit that Dr. Watts, the Lafayette postmaster, was ineligible to the office of Presidential elector at the time the ballots were cast, and that Governor Grover did perfectly right in refusing him a certificate of election, but whether the latter was justified in appointing to his place a minority candidate on the opposite ticket opens a wide field for discussion. It has been our aim to act impartially between Democrats and Republicans in the management of this paper, and after canvassing the popular sentiment among Republicans and Democrats, the predominant feeling was that Governor Grover transcended his authority. Without looking into the law of the case, common sense is sufficient to teach us that when the majority of the people vote for a man of a certain party, and the ballots are honestly cast, without any resort to "trick-box" returning boards, federal bayonets, intimidation, kai to loipa, and that man be found disqualified after the day of voting, then the more fortunate electors should be entitled to fill the vacancy, inasmuch as eligible elect represent the popular sentiment. As far as we can understand the law on the case precedents for Governor Grover's course come entirely from old English cases, while the more modern American authorities are in direct conflict. Inasmuch as the Watts-Cronin case is essentially American and as we happen to be living in what are now called modern times, we think our Governor should have ruled accordingly, especially as each last decision is supposed to annul its predecessors.

We are of the opinion that if Gov. Grover had permitted Messrs. Cartwright and Odell to fill the vacancy occasioned by Mr. Watts' ineligibility, it would have been no small feather in his head-dress. The independent voters of this and every State would have commended his honest course, and for the few fretting Democrats he would lose but would gain the good will of ten honor-loving men. As it now is, Gov. Grover and Mr. Cronin are politically dead—and they have dug their own graves. Honorable Democrats, whose instincts left them above mere party spirit, keenly feel the outrage committed on the voters of this State, and are no less severe in their denunciations of Gov. Grover's course than the most rabid Radicals. We regret very much that a gentleman of Gov. Grover's fine character should be smirched by resorting to such trickery for party gain, and hope that while at Washington, by indefatigable working for the good of the State he has disgraced, he will in some measure wipe away the stain.

The Silver Springs.

In England it was the great East India Sea Bubble that burst and ruined the gullible, in more modern times the Keely motor rendered to "mote," and if we are not very much mistaken, in still more modern times it is the vanquished Soap Silver Springs of Wasco county that will wash out the pockets of those speculatively inclined. We have in this county one of the most expert assessors on the coast—and to Oregonians it is as unnecessary to mention his name as that of "Old Noz" or the "Sage of Yoncalla"—who, after putting the putty-like substance, that has raised such a furor, provided by a person not connected with the mines, through the severest tests, has been unable to extract what we should call paying "color"—not being able to find even a trace of silver. We do not wish to misjudge chemists and practical miners who have already passed favorable judgment on this ore, but such things as assessors being bought have been known, as have men who are willing to pay for falsehoods. Money is spent lavishly with the penny-a-liners for "puffs," and editorials are bought in leading papers, of whatsoever character. The public mind is in consequence raised to a pitch of desperation and they consequently "pitch" in and the promoters sell out a few thousand shares (only as a great fear, of course,) and then for some insupportable reason take no further interest in the stupendous enterprise. Cool heads never rush into such unwholesomely-puffed-up ventures, while those that do, too late find out that they have taken Dr. Pangloss' degree of A. S. S.

Whether it be the prospect of war in Europe or our own dear country—which Heaven forbid!—or whatever cause, certain it is that our millers are now paying one dollar a bushel for wheat, and our farmers should immediately take advantage of the rise and empty their granaries to fill their coffers. Hard times and a bad winter will mean nothing, directly, to us here in Oregon, and out of our fullness we should spare a little to the poor and starving in less favored places. Truly this has been a year for general thanksgiving in Oregon.

The Supreme Court convened at Salem on Wednesday.

Who?

As the Presidential election now stands, if the final decision is not reached by the second Wednesday of February the vote will be settled by Congress. To say the least matters political are decidedly mixed. Gov. Tilden still retains his 184 votes without any very bright prospects of securing the other. It is true Mr. Cronin of this State will endeavor to cast his vote for the Democratic candidate, but it is generally believed that his ballot will be ignored. If his vote is cast on the ground of illegality, Democrats claim that it will necessitate the going behind the certificate to discover this fact, which will give them the same right to go behind the certificates of the members of the "three disputed States," and investigate their claims of eligibility. Both Louisiana and South Carolina have two sets of electors, appointed respectively by the rival Governors, each State having one of each party claiming the gubernatorial honors. How it will all terminate would take a Delphic Oracle to tell. Each day, each telegram brings new complications until the poor people become almost as bewildered as the situation is "mixed." Come what may, however, be it Tilden or be it Hayes, our voice shall be for peace. If Presidential elections must be attended by war, every four years would be a signal for rapine, murder and plunder, and our once proud Republic would go the way of ancient Rome. Peace and fraternity are our only salvation. Both parties should feel this, and be the struggle as bitter as it may, let the vanquished gracefully submit—otherwise, it is death.

The Bee insinuates that the reason Democrats patronize their county paper at this place, while Republicans forget their duty, is because the latter send for that silly little sheet. Send! "Ye gods and little fishes!" Was ever a man in his right senses known to send for such nursery trash? Is not the rapid little programme forced upon people by a swell gentleman with a plenitude of buccal development with such persistency that it is subscribed for merely to get rid of his long talk and disagreeable manner? And then it is because so many Bees are taken here that our Republicans have neglected to take their county paper! We very much fear that if our postmasters were interviewed on this subject a story very damaging to the Dollar-and-a-Half-Bee-and-dear-at-any-price would be told, and we would therefore advise the bewildered editor whose "gnash" has long since crowded all stinging and honey from his paper that he confine himself to legitimate journalism and not attempt to interfere with a paper which is soliciting the subscription and support of people in its own county—pretending to be nothing more nor less than a county paper.

All disputes concerning the majority of Hayes over Tilden in Illinois are ended by the official canvass of the returns, which, taking the highest vote on each electoral ticket, places the majority at 19,631. The official canvass as the vote for members of the Legislature shows the Republicans to have 79 in the House, against 74 for the Democrats and Independents. Of the Senators-elect, 11 are Republicans and 14 are Democrats and Independents, making the Senate stand—Republicans, 22; Democrats 24; Independents, 5. Up on joint ballot the Republicans 101, Democrats 98, and Independents 5. It is calculated that two of the latter may be relied upon to act with the Republicans, and thus prevent the election of a Democratic Senator.

The finances of Philadelphia are getting a little below par. The amount of the estimated liabilities of the city for the year 1877 exceeds \$29,000,000, to meet which would require a tax rate of \$3 50 on the \$100 of assessed property, allowing that the taxes should all be paid. This is not probable, as it is officially announced that 21 per cent. of the taxes are not collected. It is truly a gloomy outlook for the property owners of that city.

It must indeed be a bitter pill for our Southern brothers to have the four million ignorant negroes who had once been their slaves now by a turn of fortune's wheel become their masters. Our suffrage institution is entirely too liberal in this country, and we thoroughly agree with President Grant that there should be certain qualifications. John Morrissey has declared all bets off on pools sold in his New York house on the direct Presidential result. This is a good move and will do considerable toward allaying the loud talk of frauds, war, etc. The person who said that Presidential elections had degenerated into a fight for the spoils of office, did not make such a terrible mistake after all. Prince Napoleon has been making a violent speech against the clergy in the French Assembly, which is held to be evidence of his ambition, to lead a revolution.

On the Sound.

OREGON CITY, Dec. 11, 1876. EDITOR ENTERPRISE:—Having promised a short sketch of my travels on the Sound in W. T., I hope your numerous readers will excuse my lack of descriptive expertness in letter writing, and be content with simple facts as they appear to me. Klamath, the first place of interest I found on the line of travel from Portland to Seattle, is situated on the east side of the Columbia river 40 miles from the former city, and is quite a lively little place, as the N. P. R. R. terminates at this point, running eastward. The distance by rail from this point to Tacoma is 96 miles, Tacoma being the present northern terminus of the road. The country lying between Klamath and Tacoma is alternately rich and poor, a large majority being very gravelly and hardly fit for cultivation. Tacoma is a small place with but little outlook for the future metropolis of the Northwest. Seattle, the present centre of trade and commerce, is growing quite rapidly, the present resident population being about thirty-seven hundred. The city is beautifully situated on the eastern shore of Duwamish bay, which is perhaps one of the most beautiful in the world. A section of the Seattle and Walla Walla R. R. is nearly completed a distance of fifteen miles. The completion of this road is only a question of time, as the route is not only practicable, but will pay large returns for the investment. Snohomish county lies immediately north of King, the county in which Seattle is situated, and is comparatively a newly opened county, but contains some of the richest agricultural lands on the Sound. Snohomish City, the present county seat, is situated 12 miles above the mouth of the Snohomish river, and is one of the most lively little towns on the Sound. The people are principally from the New England States, well educated and energetic almost to a fault. The Northern Star is published here, and claims to have the largest circulation of any paper on the Sound. It is edited by Eldridge Morse and Dr. A. C. Folsom. Morse, the chief editor, is the most energetic person I ever met. I traveled with him in an open boat from Snohomish to Maelleto, a distance of 20 miles, one night after 9 o'clock, and I can say truthfully that I do not wish to take another such pleasure trip. He is a lawyer by profession, does a large business in that line, and has been honored by occupying a great many positions of trust in that county. He was the chief mover in the organization of the Snohomish Industrial Society, and also the Athenaeum. I regret very much that I have misplaced a short sketch of his early life and education which I obtained of a friend, in lieu of which I will relate what a man in a rural district of that county said of him: "He has bled the county out of more money than any other man, and will finally rain it if let alone. He begs money for the Athenaeum, the Free Religious Society, the public schools, bridges, etc., etc." But notwithstanding the man in the rural district, the people have raised many thousands of dollars for these purposes. The Athenaeum building is 40x100 by 40 feet high, with apartments for Museum, Library and Hall. A large assortment of stuffed animals and fossils, and a large amount of books for the Library, has already been collected. Dr. A. C. Folsom, an associate editor of the Star, is a native of New England and a graduate of Harvard University. He came to California in 1849, and served in the U. S. Army both before and during the rebellion. He has traveled in South America, in the interest of science, as also in Europe. He has performed some noted surgical operations, and has been a regular contributor to several medical journals. Of sciences, his taste runs to natural history, geology and astronomy. He was a regular correspondent for the Scientific Journal for sixteen years, and came to Snohomish four years ago, was one of the founders of the Athenaeum, and was made superintendent of the scientific department, which position he still retains. He is superintendent of public schools, is a Republican in politics, a Liberal in religion, and takes an active part in all that pertains to education. He is one of those free thinkers who takes pleasure in according to others the same privilege he claims for himself. "The right to think for himself, and not because somebody else says so or thinks so." I had intended to speak of E. C. Ferguson, an acknowledged sage of Snohomish county and member elect to the Legislature, but has been sent Gov. Tilden's telegram of the Athenaeum; of Mrs. Masterson, a poetess of rare ability; of Mrs. Bell, principal of the public school; of Mr. Tirtol, an accomplished lawyer who does a large professional business, and member elect to the Legislature; of Sunday School of that place; but my space will not allow. I became greatly attached to the people of Snohomish, and wish them great success in all that pertains to progress, science and the true religion. A. M. CORNELIUS.

The Brooklyn theatre, in Brooklyn, N. Y., was burned on the night of the 5th, and 270 persons passed over to that bourne whence no traveler returns. Chamberlain inaugurated Governor of South Carolina on the 7th, without any disturbance.

Grover and the Law.

A correspondent of the Oregonian says: The following extract I take from Gov. Grover's explanation to the New York Herald: "The law of Oregon providing for filling vacancies only in the electoral colleges recognizes a vacancy only in cases where there has been an incumbent, and such incumbent has died, has refused to act, neglected to stand or is otherwise absent." I desire this extract to stand in contrast, without comment, to the kind of words of the law referred to, which may be found in the General Laws of Oregon; latest edition, on page 578, as follows: "If there shall be any vacancy in the office of an elector, occasioned by death, refusal to act, neglect to attend or otherwise, the electors present shall immediately proceed to fill such vacancy," etc. CITIZEN.

Women Suffragists, Attention! EDITOR ENTERPRISE:—We have been appealed to by our co-laborers in the East to canvass the State of Oregon for signatures to a petition to Congress, which reads as follows: "The undersigned citizens of the United States and of the State of Oregon earnestly pray your honorable bodies to adopt measures for so amending the Constitution as to prohibit the several States from disfranchising United States citizens on account of sex." Our time for work is short. The petitions must be sent to Washington during the present session of Congress. A therefore earnestly beg all suffragists throughout the State to begin the work at once. Don't wait for petitions but clip the above and pin it to a sheet of foolscap, and begin the work at once. I further urge that the hours between 9 o'clock A. M. and 4 P. M. of Monday, Dec. 18, be especially given to soliciting signatures. When filled send them immediately to my address. H. A. LOUGHRAN, President Oregon State W. S. A. AMITY, Yamhill Co., Oregon.

Counting the Electoral Vote. The New York Tribune's Washington special, of Dec. 11 in relation to counting votes in the Senate chamber, says: The Senate having maintained, by an overwhelming majority, a majority of the Democratic senators, that a joint rule be adopted, the presiding officer will rule that nothing is in order except to open certificates and count votes. He will not permit debate, and entertain no motions. If the House Democrats still insist on throwing out returns from one or two States, and withdraw under the leadership of Randall to carry out such project, they will not find the doors locked, as some of them apprehend. They will be admonished as they depart that the proceedings were wholly unconstitutional and will not be recognized by the judicial functions of passing on Watts' disqualification. Grover only hoped to throw out the whole vote, but he failed. (Signed) W. W. UPTON, Chicago, Dec. 12.—Tribune's Washington special says that the gentleman known to the Tribune as "John" will inform their Democratic friends to-day that they found him fully convinced of his election and determined not to abandon the field. He had no desire nor did not expect the contest should cease fighting, but he proposed to stop until all the means to secure his rights were exhausted. He would even carry the contest through the entire term. It is an open secret here that a number of prominent Southern men have been consulting over the propriety of standing together and countenancing the extreme measures of the Northern Democrats. Yesterday morning's papers published a paper which created great excitement here, purporting to issue by the National Reform Association addressed to General Sherman, being signed by General Corcoran and Don Cameron, of this city. It is set forth that a conspiracy against the nation's liberties is afoot and that a military force will be used to hold the Government paper. The signers are earnest and will fight if Tilden is not declared President. It declares there will be fighting and the army, if it opposes the will of the people, must lay down its arms. General Corcoran in a letter to the Chicago Tribune, repudiates this document saying it was published without his knowledge. The movement very noticeably revived by the Democratic caucus held to-day, but it is subsiding as the people learn that, although some extremely earnest speeches were made in them, no action was taken except to provide that the law shall be carefully examined to find a legitimate means for the settlement of all threatened trouble. The electoral disputes are the basis of the inflammatory expression employed in the caucus speeches. The Albany Argus has the following special: Gen. Hancock is ordered to San Francisco and Sheridan to New York. The frigate Franklin which was ordered out of the commission after landing Tweed, has been supplied with a new crew and fully equipped at the pier. The Swatara is in the same condition at Brooklyn navy yard. Sherman at Norfolk has also been put in condition for service by a countermand of previous orders. New York, Dec. 11.—The Congressional committee that was sent down here to make it appear that State; but they must let Wade Hampton be the Governor. The Confeds don't care so much about Tilden, they will let Chamberlain be Governor. They will kill him inside of thirty days. Mr. John Jackson, whose house and contents were destroyed by fire at New Orleans last week, has been presented with a purse of \$400 by his sympathizing friends. The coal from Columbia City, which has lately been tried at Kinney's cannery, stood the test very well, and it is thought to be as good as Coos Bay or Seattle for steam purposes.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Eastern. New York, Dec. 9.—The Times Washington special says: Both houses adjourned to-day till Monday. Many Democrats have gone to New York to stay over Sunday and consult with the great head of their party as to the next movement. It has shown by the proceedings in caucus and Congress, and is still more apparent from private conversations that trouble about the election is not by a little knot of New York politicians who have their hearts upon controlling the patronage of the government, and of taking possession of the offices. But for a dozen men from the North, mostly from New York, opposition to the inauguration of Hayes would have ceased entirely with the voting on Wednesday. As it is, in spite of their endeavors the excitement is visibly decreasing here. 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