The Daily Morning Astorian.

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MEMBERS OF THE XLVII CONGRESS.

If there is any man in the house of representatives who represents all that is best in political reform, his name is Holman. He looks like Abraham Lincoln, but is not so large physically or intellectually. He has the same chin, whiskers, and much the same bump of conscientiousness. It is said of Lincoln that when in the house he objected to the consideration of the steals, just as Holman does—but Lincoln had magnetism, humor, benevolence, and administrative genius; Holman has magnetism, no humor, no genius. He may be benevolent; be certainly is honest. He has served in nine congresses—eighteen years; he was once a probate judge and once judge of the court of common pleas, in Indiana, a member of its constitutional convention and its legislature. He has a naticnal reputation. Where did Carlisle put him on the committees? He is fourth member of appropriations and has no chairmanship. Evidently Carlisle thinks the party can get along without Holman.

Holman was elected first to the thirty-sixth congress, and has served in every congress since but three. He is so cordially hated by the rascals who swarm about the house of representatives engaged in lobbying bills, that after the adjournment of the forty-fourth congress a "sack" was raised and certain distinguished Washington scalawags went to the Indiana legislature, then Republican, and had his district gerrymandered in the apportionment of that year, so that Holman, when he reached home, did not know it. He was taken out of his old stamping ground and put among people he had never seen, with 2100 Republican majority to over come. He went home and brooded during the next two years, but finally got out and stumped the strange territory over. It was rough work, but the next year the Democrats, who hate him almost as cordially as his political opponents, were hard up and they nominated him for congress. That was the year that Garfield ran for president, and "strong" Democrats popped up everywhere. A very able Republican (a Campbellite preacher named Britchard) ran against Holman, and they made the campaign together. After the votes were counted it was found that the district had gone Republican by 2100 majority, but that Holman was elected by 1700. The Washington lobby has given up fighting Holman at home. They are now talking of running him for governor of Indiana, to get him out of congress. This appears to be the only way.

"By objecting to the immediate consideration of steals on private bill day," said an attache of the house to me, "Holman saves more money every session of congress than would pay the salaries of both houses. I was in the gallery one day when a lobbyist offered a woman $500 if she would get Holman out of the house for five minutes. She went down stairs. At that time ladies were admitted to the rear lobby and she called Holman out and began talking about some measure she wanted him to support. He listened until his mouth apparently got full of tobacco juice, when he stepped to the door back of the speaker to find a spittoon. In a moment he had emptied the juice and resumed the talk. The woman returned to the gallery to get her money. 'You kept him out, didn't you?' the lobbyist said. The woman thought she had, but when Holman stepped in to spit, he had said, 'I object!' Unanimous consent to consider the job was refused and the bill went over. The woman didn't get the $500 and Holman stopped probably a $25,000 steal."

Perhaps it was Holman's presidential aspirations that led to his retirement. In Cox's case it certainly was his brains. And then, there is Springer and Hewitt—but neither is so great a man that his retirement from the head of important committees would cause any shock to the sensibilities of the country. But in the cases of Pendleton, Cox and Holman, a large part of the country certainly has been shocked. Speaker Carlisle's methods of retirement were different from those adopted by the Ohio legislature in the case of Pendleton, but there is some authority for the statement that "Coal Oil Johnny," a name now thoroughly settled upon Mr. McLean, had a great deal to do with Holman's treatment, and certainly the Standard Oil company had something to do with getting votes for at least two of the candidates for speaker last December. Many of the Democrats are getting discouraged, and when they point to the errors committed by the leaders, say it is merely an illustration of the ancient saw—Democracy never scented a victory from afar that it did not become demoralized. While Senator-elect Payne is blowing hot and cold in Ohio, one day for protection and one day for tariff for revenue, one day against civil service laws and the next for reform, some of the Democrats are introducing bills to repeal the Pendleton law in the lower house. Shaw of Illinois and Clay of Kentucky each have a bill of this kind. Clay is a grand nephew of the great Henry Clay; he says he is opposed to the Pendleton law because nobody can pass the examination of the civil service commission. "Why," says Mr. Clay "under such an examination I doubt if there is a man in Congress to-day who could pass an examination for a minor clerkship before that Commission." Of course the leaders never intend that Shaw or Clay shall commit the party to their policy. But the bills must be reported, and suppose one of them should unexpectedly come up in the regular order, would not the House pass it? Of course it could not become a law, but the party might get itself committed even on a vote to suspend the rules. It is dangerous to have such measures lying around loose.

No man ever led a political party to success without being obliged to do things which seemed at first as fatal as any of these. Persistent argument and persistent demonstration may show after all that the retirement of these men and the policy of the Democracy so far is right. Speaker Carlisle is the homeliest man in the House. Has a face, fleshless and expressionless, a monstrous development of the frontal head, the bulging perceptives over the eyes damaging what few lines of beauty might have ever been there, a lean, sinewy figure, crooked legs and generally grotesque appearance. Sam Randall is not a handsome man, but he is a beauty beside Carlisle. Both have eyes like hawks and cheeks that would not easily blanch. "I would like to see Carlisle and Randall at poker," said one of the Kentucky men recently to a group of newspaper correspondents; "they would make your blood run cold. If I had a face like either of them, I would go back home and win all the money in the state." In case lightning should shiver the dome of the Capitol some day when Carlisle was occupying the chair, I imagine he would remain unmoved, and quietly put the question on adjournment as the walls around him tumbled in. The possession of such qualities makes him a natural leader, and the House always selects a natural leader for speaker. A mere leader, however, might not have the sagacity to originate and carry through a political policy. Carlisle is not unlike the "Ohio man." These latter are off the same chip wherever you find them, and a person who ever saw one could be sure of knowing another on sight. —*Corr. Bulletin.*

Protection to Settlers.

Senator Slater has introduced a bill for the protection of settlers on the land grant of the Northern Pacific Railway which ought to be extended to all settlers on all land grants that are forfeitable for nonfulfillment of the conditions of the grant. The Northern Pacific got its original grant July 2, 1864. That was a ia nous year and day for land grants to railway corporations. It was on that year and day that the Central, Union, Western and three other original Pacific railways got their grant doubled. The condition of the grant to the Northern Pacific was that the road should be completed from Duluth to the navagable waters of the Pacific ocean by July 4, 1878. When that time came but 531 miles of the road was built and so much of the grant as had no road constructed through it was forfeitable by act of congress, according to decisions of the courts, and not otherwise forfeitable. Congress refused or neglected to pass the act and in September, 1883, the road was completed. But in the meantime, from July 4, 1878, to September, 1883, many persons, believing thas the unearned part of the land granted to the corporation was lost to it by its failure to comply with the condition, and that it would be restored to the public domain in time, settled upon the odd sections granted, cultivated them and, made many valuable improvements on the same. All the homes so made and all their improvements—houses, barns, fences, orchards, everything—are in danger of being taken by the company should congress and the courts hereafter decide to let the grant of July 2, 1864, stand. The Slater bill provides that all settlers on not exceeding 160 acres of land so granted to the Northern Pacific, if the settlement was made prior to July 4, 1878, shall have the right to the United States patents for their lands, when the settlers shall have paid into the proper land office $2.50 per acre, or $400 for 160 acres; and that no patents for any such land so settled shall be given to the Northern Pacific company.

This is good as far as it goes; but it does not go far enough. The bill should be so amended as to protect the rights acquired by settlers on all railway grants that were forfeitable after settlement was made. Such a law might be construed as *ex post facto;* but it is no more open to that objection than the Slater bill. A liberal construction would be that from the time the grant was forfeitable the land was in fact public land. The intent of the grant was in all cases to promote and not to delay settlement and cultivation. The settlers have a right to the benefit of this construction. No title to the unearned part of the grant had passed from the government to the corporation, and no right to earn it after it had become forfeitable could pass to the company without an act of congress extending the time for the completion of the road. No such act of grace was ever passed by congress and may never be. It would be a most unreasonable construction of law to say that the unearned land within the grant should remain indefinitely closed against settlement, cultivation and improvement, when in fact it was to promote these things that the grant was made and not, as the corporations are now arguing, to enrich them and create vast land monopolies, exempt from state and local taxation.

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Grant's Pass	10:00 P. M	Portland	4:25 P. M.

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Corvallis	8:30 A. M.	Portland	3:20 P. M.

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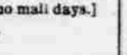

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