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DOWN PIATT ON CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

I have been thinking of late of what a calamity it would be to have a change of administration in the general government. This not because the democratic party differs in any essential particular from the republicans. The policy and principles—if I may use the words—are about the same in both. The Randall end of the democracy links in with the republicans, and the color running throughout is a neutral tint. Of course there is no difference in honesty. The democracy make one-half the people, and it takes a Whitelaw Reid and a Dana to assert earnestly that one-half of our population is made up of knaves and the other half of virtuous people.

A party out of power is always more dangerous than the same organization in place, for it preaches while struggling for office what it does not practice when clad with the responsibility of the government.

I assert, however, in view of all this, that a change of administration, if it occurs, will be a national calamity, for it means a sweep-out of all the offices, from the highest to the lowest.

The army of invasion at Washington will be something terrible. The streets will be thronged, the hotels crowded, while the jan in the department buildings will arrest public business. And this mob will be recruited from the most worthless elements of our social and political life. All the men too lazy to work or too incompetent to find employment will be to the front clad in a linen duster and carpet-sack—the last named holding, not a clean shirt and an extra pair of socks, but recommendations in the shape of letters and petitions.

These men have no money to waste on a change at either end of their unwashed bodies; but they have enough for railroad fare, boarding-house bills and cheap whisky.

They are all professional office-seekers in command of wards, townships and counties, and the party they represent furnishes them with money on which to live in a poor way while prosecuting their claims to office.

When the democratic party got possession some years since of the house of representatives, the little patronage the house had to bestow was set upon by an army of loafers. I happened to be at Washington when the invasion occurred, and I never saw, and hope never to see again, such a collection of tainted humanity. It was something fearful. And, strange as it may sound, they were from the furthest reaches of our continent. From the woods of Maine to the sand-lots of California the hungry creatures came, ravenous for spoils.

A ward "bummer," as the captain of hundreds in the political camp is called, is a creature set on end and endowed with motion—made from nature's refuse material, that while giving an inordinate stomach denies the man a heart or brain. His face is fairly smothered with impudence and inquiry. He controls the police and debars the courts. Too cunning for the penitentiary or the gallows, he is captain because he deserves both.

The sight of this crowd destroyed one's faith in the favorite doctrine of evolution and a survival of the fittest. It was to hard to realize that the playful, innocent monkey was the progenitor of such specimen brutes.

While Europe—especially England—is getting to be Americanized, we are getting to be Mexicanized. In the absence of any great question or questions of policy or principle to interest and divide our people, we are, like the Mexicans and the people of Central and South America, dividing up under leaders—"bosses," as we call them. There is no policy to be considered, no principle at stake, and so of course there's nothing left but men to fight for and under.

Conking, for example, is a republican of the same sort as Blaine, yet the followers of these men are more bitter toward each other than toward their common foe, the democrats. The democrats, on the other hand, have their Tilden and Kelly, and are not less intense in their following and hate than their opponents in theirs.

I told President Hayes when he was honestly making his fight in behalf of civil service reform that he could make it a success or demonstrate its utter absurdity by dividing the offices of mere routine between the Republicans and Democrats. He laughingly replied that I had threatened his life on his coming into office, and he believed I had a scheme to insure his violent death on going out.

What a howl there would have been had he tried such a radical move in behalf of civil service reform. And yet this is what it means, if it means anything. Mr. Evans, one of the ablest men ever called to the cabinet, said to me that in making his appointments, all else being equal, he gave the preference to the republican. The equality must have been a mark, for he never gave place to a democrat.

If the rest of the season continues even reasonably fair, says the Prineville News, the farmers and stock raisers of this section will reap a good profit from their various labors and investments. The natural increase of the like stock of all kinds is a very large per cent. Up to the present time refreshing showers of rain have come just as often as needed and in comparison with previous years the outlook now is very flattering.

Deputy Sheriff Severson informs a Walla Walla Journal reporter that Columbo, or Spokane Joe, as he is better known, has confessed to Indians of the same tribe to having been implicated in twenty-six murders, two of which were those of white men. One of the white men whom he killed was the man Frazier, found dead in the Grand Coulee country.

No matter of how long standing, S. G. INGALLS' LINIMENT is the sovereign cure for bodily ailments.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

What the people wish to know before they vote for a legislature candidate is whether he favors a commission to supervise transportation by land and sea, and prevent the people being imposed on by corporations. This question cannot be longer set aside or ignored. We can insist on these matters being understood and should do so. Put down the rings. Hold the corporations level. Make the great franchises we, the people, have bestowed, serve the people. Cause money to be secondary to popular rights. Plant the banner of the Nation's progress, and you will see such prosperity as we need and actually deserve. It is not necessary to do any damage or unfairness to the corporations. Let them make a fair interest on all money invested.—Northwest News.

A change must come, either rents must come down to the wage rate, or the wage rate must go up to the rent standard. They cannot be reconciled as they are. Wages are reasonably high and an advance, so that their proportion to rents would be fair, can find no justification. Rents can reasonably stand a reduction of 10 or 15 per cent. and not bankrupt a landlord down a little within the last few days, but not enough. A little dullness just now will subserve our best interests if it forces house owners to "let up" on their unwarrantably close grip.—Standard.

Garfield and Arthur as Teachers.

There was an unusual number of visitors to "pay respects" at the White house. I happened to see some few who went in a little in advance of the crowd. They were taken in by two or in small groups by friends and introduced to the president, who had gotten through with the business of the morning and gave the strangers a pleasant greeting. Arthur made an agreeable impression upon all, and there was one party, who were evidently from a small town in New York, once the boyhood home of the president. He at once referred to his life in this country village, telling them how long his father had preached there, then of his own experience as a school teacher, giving the exact spot where he taught and the name of the family with whom he boarded. And then he told what I had never heard before, that General Garfield had, two years later, taught in the same place, boarded with the same families and occupied the same room. He said he had talked about this with General Garfield years after, and they had compared notes and laughed over the amusing incidents which befell them both as country school teachers. I thought the president enjoyed talking about his early days and was quite as pleased to recall them as his visitors were to see that he had treasured up such memories of humble beginnings.—Washington Capital.

An old Indian, who said he was camping on the outskirts of the city, went into Holmes' drug store yesterday to ascertain the nature of the contents of a bottle which he had in his possession. He was informed that the bottle contained or did contain carbolic acid. The old Siwash then explained that his seven-year-old son had found the bottle in a pile of rubbish, and taking it to be "fire water," he imbibed a liberal supply, resulting in the young brave becoming a "good injun" within fifteen minutes of the "absorption act." The old Indian seemed to think that it was rough to die by the effects of carbolic acid, when strychnine whisky would do so well. With a shrug of his shoulders and giving vent to a vigorous "Ugh!" the Indian left the drug store meditating upon the fact that whisky bottled was not so whisky.—Walla Walla Union.

W. H. White telegraphs to Seattle from Washington city that no further action will be taken by the interior department in the approval of sections of the Northern Pacific railroad till congress shall have acted on the land grant question.

The rate from London to New York (steerage passengers) may, it is thought, be cut down to ten or twelve dollars before the summer is ended. It was down to those figures in 1873 or 1874.

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