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AGAINST FREE SILVER

So Declares the Republican County Platform.

M'Gregor and Parker Nominated on the Legislative Ticket.

Convention Transacted Business Behind Closed Doors, Excluding Everyone.

Meeting Was Harmonious, Although Some of the Contents Were Close-Platford Declares Flatly for Gold--Present Incumbents Generally Renowned.

The Republican party of Clatsop county has proved itself worthy of the name, and by its action yesterday has put a quietus on any doubt as to its tendency toward a deflated currency. An unequivocal declaration for sound money is the sum and substance of the platform adopted. The money plank leaves no room for doubt as to the tendency of Clatsop county Republicanism, and proves that the party of the people has not been carried away by the Populistic wave of a visionary currency which swept over the country, carrying with it a greater or lesser number of men who, through ignorance more than anything else, were deluded.

The success of the Republican party, by its declaration of yesterday, is assured, and the few Populists, under the mask of Democracy, who declared for the unlimited coinage of free silver at the court house some time ago, will be relegated into the darkness of oblivion at the coming June election, never to rise again. All credit, however, is due to those few brave old Democratic warriors who stood out against the visionary ideas of the remainder, and, although they were defeated in convention, coming events will demonstrate to their entire satisfaction that they were in the right.

That those sound money Democrats and their followers will vote with the gold standard Republicans goes without saying, for affiliation with honest Republicans as against like affiliation with alleged Democrats-in fact, pronounced Populists-will be their only course, and such course they will pursue. The Republican party has placed itself beyond the pale of the silver heresy, and, as it controls this county overwhelmingly, Clatsop county may be relied upon to bring against any Populistic scheme to bring the country's finances into disrepute.

CONVENTION ASSEMBLES. Promptly at 11 o'clock yesterday Chairman Barker called the Republican county convention to order, after which the report of the committee on credentials which showed a full attendance of delegates, either in person or by proxy, was adopted. Preceding the adoption of this report, a motion by Delegate Johnson, of Seaside, to not recognize proxies held by persons residing outside the precinct from which the delegate issuing the proxy resided, prevailed, the action being in harmony with the rules adopted at the former meeting of the convention.

The chairman then called upon Secretary Hildebrand to read the report of the committee on platform. Before the secretary began reading the platform Delegate James W. Welch moved that the convention go into caucus of the whole to adopt a platform and make nominations for the various offices, the nominations to be ratified in open session. Delegate Wade Hampton Smith said he had no objection to going into caucus, but that he would not be satisfied if any platform the convention might adopt. He saw no reason why the public should be barred from the proceedings, and moved therefore, as an amendment to Mr. Welch's motion, that the convention go into caucus only to make nominations and not for the adoption of a platform.

The chairman left for an eye and a half vote, which left him in doubt, but on a rising vote the amendment was lost. The original motion was then carried, and the convention, much to the disgust of the newspaper reporters, went into caucus.

BETWEEN ACTS. Many delegates did not attend the caucus, saying they were willing to abide by any platform the remainder of the delegates saw fit to adopt. On the corner of Twelfth and Commercial streets a large crowd collected and many opinions were expressed as to the importance of the two main issues-money and tariff. An expression that the former was paramount brought out a statement from Delegate Ingalls.

"Gentlemen," said Mr. Ingalls, "give us the McKinley tariff for three or four years; start the wheels of industry and the spindles of the mills to working, and so how quickly the money question will be lost."

Many other expressions were heard, but that the money question was the all-important issue seemed the opinion of the majority.

Prospective candidates rustled during the noon hour, and many buttonholes were rent asunder. The hopeful ones set forth their respective sterling qualifications in many different languages, with variations, and the delegates from the outlying districts listened; and, listening, they wondered; and their amazement knew no bounds.

CONDEMNED TO DIE FOR TREASON

President Kruger Imposes the Sentence Upon John Hays Hammond and His Associates.

MOTIVE IN KRUGER'S MADNESS

He Is Making the Sentence Big That the Clemency of Fardon Will Be the Greater--Petition Circulated in Congress.

Special to the Astorian.

London, April 28.--Secretary of State for the Colonies Joseph Chamberlain announced in the house of commons today that the five leaders of the reform committee at Johannesburg, J. H. Hammond, Francis Rhodes, George Ferrer, Lionel Phillips and Charles Leonard, had been condemned to death.

The sentence of the reform committee to death has produced a great sensation in London. In well informed circles, however, the sentence has caused little surprise. It has long been understood that a very severe sentence would be passed, in order that the clemency which President Kruger is certain to exercise might appear the greater. It is thought probable that the sentence of death will be commuted to a short term of imprisonment, and a big fine, unless Chamberlain's dispatch to President Kruger, read in the house of commons, should irritate the chief magistrate of the Transvaal into greater severity than he would otherwise exercise. Chamberlain's telegram is regarded here as being precipitate, and as leaving President Kruger no time to act on his own account, and as having, moreover, the ring of dictation.

PETITION FOR HAMMOND'S PARDON. Washington, April 28.--When Senator Stewart, who is a personal friend of John Hays Hammond, heard of his conviction, he immediately set to work to prepare a petition in Hammond's behalf, which he had circulated among senators and members of the house. The petition is addressed to President Kruger and is a plea for pardon. It sets forth the high character of the accused and, while it is conceded by the petition that the crime to which he has pleaded guilty is a most serious one, and directed against a government for which the signers have high regard, they still ask, as an act of clemency, that the offense be condoned and the prisoner liberated. The petition was signed by all to whom it was presented.

KRUGER IS SARCASTIC. Treats England's Alleged Friendly Spirit With Much Contempt.

Cape Town, April 28.--The text of President Kruger's reply to the invitation of the British government, through the secretary of state for the colonies, to visit England and discuss the matter connected with the Transvaal, the latter country's voluminous demands, is already indicated in the formal attitude assumed by the Boers. The president begins by stating that his visit to England has depended upon a settlement of the basis of discussion, and he regrets that the basis has not yet been reached. Concluding, he says:

"In a friendly spirit, but from the very first, the government clearly saw and recorded its opinion that no foreign interference in the affairs of the republic could be allowed. Chamberlain admits the justice of this position, yet intimates that Great Britain desires that particular international measures be taken by the Transvaal, the latter country's voluminous demands, is already indicated in the formal attitude assumed by the Boers. The president begins by stating that his visit to England has depended upon a settlement of the basis of discussion, and he regrets that the basis has not yet been reached. Concluding, he says:

"It appears to be the wisest," he says, "not to press the question of my proceeding to England any further at present, but to leave it open, especially in view of the coming session of the veldkran, and the desirability of my presence during at least a portion of the session, when important measures are to be considered, is apparent."

In regard to Chamberlain's proposal to permit a Transvaal protection from outside attack in exchange for the remedy of the Uitlanders' grievances, President Kruger says:

"Something is offered the South African republic which has already been proposed as the obligations and selections of the South African republic to Great Britain, recognized by international law, precluded an attack upon the independence of the republic."

LOOKS DARK FOR BULLWAVO. Mathabes Are Drawing Closer to the Pledged Town. (Copyrighted, 1896, by Associated Press.) Cape Town, April 28.--The dispatches which filtered through from Bulawayo yesterday increased the feeling of anxiety felt here regarding the fate of the beleaguered town. According to the latest advices the circle of fierce warriors, behind mounds of fortifications, had again been drawn closer to Bulawayo, and, at the same time, extended. The Mat'abes, when this news was sent out from the beleaguered town, had been further reinforced, and another larger body of men was leaving Matopopo hills, expecting to effect a junction with other bodies of hostile natives, and completely surround the place from all sides, while keeping south of the fortified pass which is the key to the situation in that direction. In addition, another strong force of hostiles has gone in the direction of the route being followed by the relief corps of about 60 men, and nine machine guns advancing from Mafeking.

GORMAN ON BATTLESHIPS

Treated Secretary Herbert's Request for More Vessels With Contempt.

Washington, April 28.--The senate was plunged into an exciting financial debate today after a protracted session of several days. The subject of the day was the naval appropriation bill. The naval appropriation bill was under consideration and an amendment to the bill, which would increase the cost of the ships to \$10,000,000, was the test for a speech by Gorman, pointing out that the revenues of the government are less than the receipts. Gorman's amendment brought on an animated controversy in which Sherman, Hale and Chandler joined issue with the Maryland senator as to the responsibility for the failure of tariff legislation in the present congress. Gorman's speech, and the frequent heated colloquies it developed, attracted great interest, crowds filling the galleries for the first time since the Cuban debate, and many members of the house coming over to listen to the proceedings. The battleships item was not completed when the senate adjourned.

When the senate resumed consideration of the naval appropriation bill today, the pending question was on the amendment offered by Chamberlain, making it unlawful for retired naval officers to enter the service of contractors furnishing material to the government. The Chandler amendment, which would increase the number of ships to 16, was adopted. As adopted the prohibition against naval officers serving as naval contractors goes into effect June 30, 1897. This brought the senate to the most important feature of the bill--the appropriation for four battleships to cost \$12,000,000 each; thirty torpedo boats at \$200,000 each; and thirty minesweepers at \$100,000 each. Gorman then addressed the senate in support of his amendment. In closing his speech Gorman, with great sarcasm, referred to the secretary of the navy and his ambition to build up, man and equip "a splendid navy."

"Our great secretary of the navy," he said, then, after a pause, "that is to say, our secretary of the navy who is not great, who went into the subject because of the success of the Democratic ideas, as we suppose, asked for more ships and more men." He described the demand of the secretary with contempt, and attributed much of his inspiration to association with naval officers who were anxious for ships to command.

PENSION BILL PASSED. Washington, April 28.--The house today passed the Pickler general pension bill by a vote of 187 to 54. The Republicans and Populists voted solidly in favor of the measure and the Democrats, with six exceptions, solidly against it. The section to which the bulk of the opposition was directed provided that veterans otherwise entitled to pensions shall not be disqualified on account of prior service in the Confederate Army, provided they joined the Union forces ninety days before Lee's surrender.

WALCOTT WILL NOT BOLT. He Wants Silver, but Will Take Gold if He Must. Washington, April 28.--Senator Wolcott, of Colorado, has written a letter defining his position in regard to the St. Louis convention. The senator's position is radically different from the position of his colleague, Senator Teller, as Senator Wolcott indicates his intention of remaining with the Republican party, whatever action it may take on the currency question. His letter is written to the chairman of the Republican state committee of Colorado, and says:

"I have received many letters from Colorado friends on the subject of the coming Republican national convention, many of them asking me if I desired to be a delegate. To avoid any possible misconception as to my position, I write this letter to you as chairman of the Republican state central committee. I prefer not to go to St. Louis as a delegate. I have, however, an opinion on the subject of our representation at the convention which it seems proper I should express to you. When the Republican state convention meets in Colorado May 14, it may decline to be represented in St. Louis, or it may select delegates. If the latter, the duty of the delegation, in my opinion, will be to attend the convention, make the best fight possible for bimetallicism, and after having failed on every proper method upon the duty of the convention to declare in favor of a restoration of silver as a measure of value equally with gold, to accept the will of the majority of the convention, and endeavor to secure the nomination of the candidate most friendly to Western interests."

SIX SEALERS DROWNED. Port Townsend, April 28.--Word reached here today from Neah bay that six Indian sealers on the schooner Desahka, which carried a full Indian crew, were lost while seeking off Cape Henry. The six men left the schooner in two canoes five days ago and have not since been seen. After a prolonged search they were given up and the schooner returned to Neah Bay and reported the loss.

BASEBALL SCORES. Pittsburg, April 28.--Pittsburg, 2; Cleveland, 0. Philadelphia, April 28.--Brooklyn, 12; Philadelphia, 5. Baltimore, April 28.--Washington, 12; Baltimore, 5. New York, April 28.--Boston, 6; New York, 2.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.--Latest U. S. Gov't Report. Royal Baking Powder. ABSOLUTELY PURE.