



BROAD-AXE



"HEW TO THE LINE, LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY."

VOL. III

EUGENE, LANE COUNTY, ORE. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1899.

NO. 48.

PAYS THE PENALTY.

Claude Branton will hang Friday the 12th day of May.

Last Monday Judge Hamilton sentenced Branton to be hanged Friday the 12th day of May. When it was known that sentence would be pronounced at 1 o'clock the courthouse at that hour was every inch occupied by people to get what is probably the last glimpse they will ever obtain of what is considered one of the worst criminals known in the whole range of criminality in the world's history. For cold blooded, heartless cruelty, Branton's crime stands on a parallel with the murders committed by the Benders, or those committed by Thea Durrant.

The Benders took the lives of their inoffensive, unsuspecting victims for money.

Claude Branton killed his friend Linn while lying asleep, and burned his body—all for money. The conduct of Durrant in killing those girls was no more brutal and fiendish than that of Branton.

When the prisoner filed into the courthouse chained to the guard, Mr. John Holland, Claude exhibited the same cool, stolid nerve which he has maintained from the beginning. Wore the same inexplicable, mechanical smile peculiar alone to him.

It had been stated that Branton had professed religion, and is now reconciled to his fate.

We suppose it is hardly necessary to state that Branton's execution will take place in the jail yard in Eugene, within a stockade erected for the purpose, so as to prevent being witnessed by the public, the law requiring that not more than twelve men, some doctors and perhaps a few newspaper representatives shall be present.

That Buffalo Conference.

In another place in this issue will be seen notice of a political conference that is to take place at Buffalo, New York from June 28th to July 4th of the present year. This promises to be one of the most important political gatherings ever held in this country. While the conference is to be political, it is to be non-partisan in character, composed of prominent men of all parties, and educational and social institutions of the union. We are not sufficiently advised as to the main objects of the proposed meeting, but we venture the intention is to make the principles of direct legislation and other kindred subjects the basis of its platform. The movement has our earnest sympathy, as some such movement seems necessary, in order to meet the united action of the millions who favor a system of government, controlled by the people and for the people.

The Sentence of Branton.

[Following is Judge Hamilton's remarks in passing sentence upon Claude Branton:]

State of Oregon vs. Claude Branton. Now at this time comes on the above cause to be heard and proceeded with in compliance with the mandate of the supreme court of the state of Oregon, filed and entered in the journal of this court in said cause, and it duly appearing to this court that the said defendant Claude Branton was on the 4th day of November, 1898, duly convicted of the crime of murder in the first degree in this, that on the 15th day of June 1898, the said Claude Branton did purposely and of his deliberate and premeditated malice kill John A. Linn, and on the 8th day of November, 1898, judgment of this court was duly pronounced in said cause by this court that the said Claude Branton be hanged by the neck until dead, and it further: appearing from the mandate of said supreme court of the state of Oregon so filed and entered in this cause that said judgment is in all things affirmed by the said supreme court of the state of Oregon; and now the said defendant, Claude Branton, being present in court, and also his counsel, W. C. Hale,

and being asked if had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced upon him, answered: "That he had nothing to say only that he had never attempted to jump out of the window."

The Court: It is therefore ordered adjudged and decreed that he the said Claude Branton is guilty of murder in the first degree in this that on the 15th day of June, 1898, in Lane county, state of Oregon, he did purposely and of his deliberate and premeditated malice kill John A. Linn, and that he the said Claude Branton be kept in close confinement until Friday, the 12th day of May, 1899, and upon said day, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m., thereof, he, the said Claude Branton, be taken to a place to be prepared within the inclosure of the jail where he is confined in the presence of 12 bona fide electors of Lane county, Oregon, to be selected by the sheriff of Lane county, and there on said date, to-wit Friday the 12th, 1899, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. of said day, he the said Claude Branton, be taken to the neck until dead, and the state of Oregon recover from defendant its costs herein. And the court added in the sentence, "And may God have mercy on your soul."

Judge Hale asked for and was given ten days in which to file a bill of exceptions.

The Fruits of Privilege.

The great employes of labor, is the corporation. Not only is this in control of public concerns, but in the shape of vast corporate combinations and trusts it is monopolizing the field of private industry, driving by its monstrous power all individual competition into the ranks of wage-labor. Machinery then supplants labor, and this no longer becomes the essential factor in production of which economists boast. The competition between labor becomes intense and the wages paid to it even when employed are the most meager. Thus labor-saving machinery comes to mean to labor nothing else but the reduction or deprivation of its means of livelihood, while the corporation profits by mechanical progress at the expense and to the oppression of labor.

Is it, then, to be wondered at that the corporation is becoming to labor an object of increasing dread? Labor feels that it does not get its share, that when with the aid of machinery it can accomplish so much, and when capital reaps therefrom enormous fortunes,—the niggard wages meted out to it are, at best, an unjust return, it feels that the condition of things which, instead of giving to it any share in the world's mechanical progress, converts this into the means of its oppression and deprivation, is unjust to the last degree and no longer to be tolerated. This feeling rises into menace in strikes and labor combinations; it produces sullen revolt against existing institutions, and is the parent of socialism and nihilism, demanding their destruction. The fact is that labor does not get its share; and why should it? Between these vast corporations, whether in control of public or private enterprise, there is practically no such thing as competition, for the employment of labor, while the competition between labor for employment—crowded out as it is by machinery—is fierce enough, and it is only too glad to accept work upon any terms. What chance have the employes of a railroad or other gigantic corporation to dictate terms of wages to its management? They cannot spare the time and have not the means to change their residence in search of work elsewhere, nor can they abandon the trained occupation of a lifetime; and even should they do so, the conditions elsewhere and in other occupations are the same. They must, however have employment, and have therefore no recourse but to accept the wages offered. The utter helplessness of labor, by ordinary means,

to get any reasonable terms from these monstrous employers, is seen in its desperate attempts to force them to better terms by combinations and strikes, but its inability by even such methods to obtain justice has become only too notorious.

Labor is right in its resentment against capital; it is right in its dread of the corporation. By the fruitful instrumentality of the corporation, capital is becoming more and more concentrated and powerful, and is not only appropriating all the vast gains of mechanical invention and the world's progress, but has converted these into means of oppression against labor, giving it less relatively than before, and is inevitably depriving the toiling masses of the right to labor and to live.

Not only do these privileges thus oppress and rob of its just reward labor in all its forms, but in another sense, and as deeply, they affect every member of society as a consumer. The wages or profits of all productive labor are determined by two conditions: First, the actual money wages or returns received; and, secondly, the cost of living. The object of the whole struggle of the masses is for subsistence, for existence; when the farmer receives so many cents per bushel or per pound for his products, when the manufacturer so much for his goods, the business man so many cents or dollars profit upon his scales, or when the laborer receives his day's wage, the paramount consideration with each is how much of the necessities or comforts of life this money will procure. Now these privileges, while they reduce the actual money reward of productive labor, also, in turn, increase the price of all articles of use to consumers; production alone is not able to bear their burden. Sometimes the burden is greater upon production, sometimes upon consumption; but the candle of living is burnt at both ends.

Social and Political Conference.

"The National Social and Political Conference" is to meet at Buffalo, New York on June 28 to July 4 for "united and efficient action in important directions."—Eltwood Pomeroy, of Newark, N. J., president of the National Direct Legislation League, is secretary of the committee having the movement in charge. Circular letters containing the prospectus of the movement have been sent broadcast through the country. In Michigan the governor himself has evidently furnished a list of men for the committee. Scores of politicians have received invitations to attend at Buffalo, and from the names and character of those receiving invitations it is evident that the list has been selected with great care and with an eye toward energetic organization.

The circular letter of announcement of the new movement is in part as follows:

"A meeting will be held at Buffalo, N. Y., from June 28 to July 3, 1899, of progressive men and women of various political and social beliefs, to consider the present condition of American politics and economics and what is the next thing to do.

"We are in the midst of important changes in political issues and parties and social and industrial conditions, and it is felt that a frank and friendly interchange of opinion on the part of thoughtful and serious men may lead to united effort and efficient action in important directions."

"This convention is purely a meeting for conference, no person present to be bound by any resolution he does not vote for."

The committee fathering this circular letter is as follows:

Hon Hazen S Pingree, governor of Michigan; Geo D Herron, professor of applied Christianity at Iowa College, Grinnell, Iowa; Hon William V Allen, United States Senator; Col Frank Burkitt, editor the People's Messenger, Oklahoma, Miss; Richard T Ely, professor

political economy, University of Wisconsin; W S Morgan, editor Buzz Saw, Hardy, Ark; Henry D Lloyd, author "Wealth vs Commonwealth," Winnetka, Ill; Hon Richard Pettigrew, United States Senator; Eugene V Debs, Terra Haute, Ind; Hon Josiah Quincy, mayor, Boston, Mass, John G Woolly, Chicago; Hon James G Maguire, San Francisco; Rev Lyman Abbott, D D, editor the Outlook, New York; Hon Marion Butler, United States Senator; Samuel Gompers, president American Federation of Labor; Prof Graham Taylor, the Commons, Chicago; Milton Park, editor Southern Mercury, Dallas, Tex; Hon J M Owen, editor Farm, Stock and Home, Minneapolis; Hon J P Allged, ex-governor of Illinois; Dr E B Andrews, superintendent public schools, Chicago; Col Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Cambridge, Mass; Rev Benjamin Fay Mills, Boston, Mass; Edwin D Mead, editor New England Magazine; Hon O M Jones, mayor, Toledo, Ohio; N O Nelson, St Louis; James H Ferriss, editor Daily News, Joliet, Ill; Eltwood Pomeroy, president National Direct Legislation League, Newark, N J.

Miss Jane Adams, Hull House, Chicago; Henry Carter Adams, Professor Political Economy, University of Michigan; Hon H L Bently, editor West Texas Sentinel, Abilene, Tex; Hon James H Barry, editor the Star, San Francisco; Prof E P Bemis, Kansas State Agricultural College; Rev W D P Biess, President Reform League, Los Angeles, Cal; Hon John W Breidenthal, bank commissioner, Topeka, Kan; Hon J P Buchanan, ex-Governor of Tennessee, Wayside, Tenn; Joseph R Buchanan, American Press Association, New York; E R A Seligman, professor political economy, Columbia College, New York; Herbert N Casson, editor the Coming Nation, Ruskin, Tenn; Prof John R Commons, Syracuse University; Hon Frank Doster, Supreme Court Judge, Topeka, Kansas; Mrs M D D Fry, editor Union Signal, national secretary Woman's Christian Temperance Union; W S Carter, editor Firemen's Magazine, organ Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, Peoria, Ill; Dr George A Gates, professor Iowa College, Grinnell, Iowa; Rev Washington Gladden, Columbus, Ohio; Hon James H Lewis, Seattle, Wash.

W H Harvey, author "Coins Financial School"; Hon John MacVicker, mayor, Des Moines, Iowa; Prof Frank Parsons, Boston, Mass; Charles B Spahr, associate editor Outlook; J W Sullivan, author "Direct Legislation," Typographical Union, New York; Dr C F Taylor, editor of the Medical World, Philadelphia, Pa; Hon Jerry Simpson, Medicine Lodge, Kans; Rev H W Thomas, D D, Chicago; J Allen Smith, professor political economy, Washington University; Hon Thomas McEwan, Jr, Jersey City, N J; A M Thompson, editor the New Era, chairman Union Reform Party, Springfield, Ohio; Ed P Farrell, president Typographical Union, No 6, New York; Hon A M Todd, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Joseph B Reynolds, University Settlement, N Y; Booker T Washington, Tuskegee, Ala; Hon O W Stewart, chairman of last Prohibitionist national convention, Chicago; E J Wheeler, editor of the Voice and the Literary Digest, New York; Prof Charles Zubin, Chicago University; Mrs L M N Stevens, national president Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Portland, Me; Hon John P St John, ex-governor of Kansas; Hon Joseph C Sibley, Franklin, Pa; Hon George Fred Williams, Dedham, Mass; John Brisbane Walker, editor Cosmopolitan; Willis J Abbott, New York Journal, New York; William Dean Howells, New York.

Man, Trade and Money.

The common bond of society is the dependence of man upon man. No man can produce by himself all he needs or all he wants. He must obtain from others what he cannot produce. This he does by exchanging his product or by

rendering service. These exchanges are the only means whereby men can exist in organized society. Every exchange is a mutual gain. All improvement, the progress of civilization, springs from these exchanges.

The business of the world is in its elements only an exchange of products or services. Analyze the vast business of the country and it reduces to a transfer of commodities from producer to consumer. Taking a comprehensive view of these facts we may consider all products in the market as forming a common stock from which all men supply their wants. The common stock is the accumulation of exchangeable things.

The division of labor and the system of business that obtain among civilized people conceal the fact, but the truth remains that the whole movement is the exchange of products and services.

WHY DOES MONEY CIRCULATE?

These exchanges are not direct. They are effected through the use of money. The philosophy of the use of money may be readily understood.

For instance, a man sells his crop. It goes into the common stock. He receives \$500. This money represents his claim against the common stock. With it he can complete the exchange. That is, having sold his crop for \$500, he can now buy or withdraw from the common stock a share of equal value.

In these transactions it is evident that money is only a medium of exchange, acting both as a receipt and an order, and that it can be used as such because it represents value in the common stock.

Money circulates because it represents value in the common stock.

Whatever represents value in the common stock is money. And we may note that whatever represents value but is not a claim against the common stock is not money.

Money is not part of the common stock. It is not designed for consumption. It is essentially evidence of value. Hence it can make no difference in the use of money whether it is made of one material or another. Money can have no effect upon the character of things exchanged. It can only represent their value.

When we sell we receive money, and when we buy we part with it. While in our possession we can make no use of the properties of the material out of which the money is made, or if we do then we destroy the money.

Bearing in mind that money represents value in the common stock, we may state the law as follows:

Money circulates because it represents value. So long as man remains a producing agent and exchanges his products, just so long will he require money as a medium of exchange.

THE MONEY THEORY OF THE WORLD

This theory teaches:

1. That money must be made of some material that is rare and valuable. Hence gold and silver are used as money metals.
2. That money must be equal in value to the things exchanged.
3. That money is a measure and a standard of value.
4. That money is used as a medium of exchange because it is valuable.

This theory is all assumption. There is nothing in the nature of things that warrants a single one of these four propositions. The whole theory is a relic of barbarism. It is contrary to fact and to reason. The logic of events has ignored it.

Money is a common medium of exchange which has the nature both of a receipt and an order. It is clear that a receipt is only good for the value expressed in it, and that it may be written on dear or cheap material, but this would have no bearing upon the nature of the receipt. An order may likewise be written on dear or cheap material, but this would have no effect upon the nature of the order.

DISCOVERED.

The Oregonian's Servile Adoration of McKinley and Antipathy of Dewey Laid Bare.

Portland, April 1.—(To the Editor.)—Being a man in the humble walks of life, and having given many years of service to the republican party in its private ranks, I am surprised that The Oregonian has taken the stand it has against the nomination of Admiral George Dewey for president by the republican party and in favor of the renomination of McKinley.

The Oregonian, by this act, it seems to me, has gone over to the enemy—the trusts and all the forces that work against the welfare of common humanity. The renomination of McKinley, in the opinion of the writer, will be the defeat of the republican party.

The hearts of millions of the great common people—the bone and sinew of this great country—are set upon George Dewey for president, and you ignore that fact and invite defeat from the start. We will have no more of McKinley! The common people of this country filled the ranks of our army with privates that went forth to sustain the honor of our country, and were rewarded for their patriotism being poisoned with embalmed beef, and as a result hundreds are in premature graves who were near and dear to us who were left behind by the ties of nature. The two men who are responsible for this are rewarded by McKinley—one by being assigned to a life of ease and idleness for six years on a fat salary, and the other by being retained in one of the most responsible cabinet positions. Think you, Mr. Editor, that we common people will vote for that man for president who rewards the men that poisoned our boys? Nit! No, sir! I and thousands of others of the common people who are not connected with corporated trusts will vote many times over for Colonel W. J. Bryan in preference to McKinley, irrespective of what our past party affiliations have been. We believe that 16 to 1 and anti-expansion talk will not be as great a calamity and disgrace to our country as has embalmed beef.

Mr. Editor, the talk you make that Dewey would not accept the presidency is all rot (excuse our plain speech). Dewey is a loyal patriot, and will serve faithfully with honor and distinction in any position in which he may be placed by the American people.

If the republican party is to succeed, give us common people a chance to vote for Admiral Dewey, and we will elect him—have no fear on that score; but take warning in time, we will not help re-elect McKinley, although we are strong expansionists.

PIERCE BAUM.

That's What the Troops Thought in Cuba.

Some citizen of Eugene under the suggestive signature of "Bull Beef" writes the Oregonian as follows. The writer has our hearty sympathy:

"Eugene, Or., March 31.—(To the Editor.)—For God's sake give us a rest on the beef question. We have read nothing but bad beef, rotten beef, Alger and the investigation on spoiled beef, for the past month or more. Bad beef for breakfast, spoiled beef for dinner, embalmed beef for supper. Cannot you think of anything else to write about but bad beef? Do you want to turn our stomachs? Give us hash. Give us Portland politics. Give us anything but bad beef. Give us a rest. We have had enough of your spoiled beef."

BULL BEEF.

"Prosperity" has struck our friends of the Express-Advance, and they betray the evidence of it by making their paper a neat semi-weekly now. Boys, "Here's till yee."

Our Song of Praises.

Just to obey the mandate of Ira Campbell, member of the National Press Association, requiring all legitimate members of the Press Association of Oregon to sing praises to itself for having secured the meeting of the National Association at Portland this year we are moved to sing, and we request all legitimate newspapers in the "Web-foot" state not to fall backward, and join us in our efforts. Now, all sing:

Gentlemen of the National Press Association, we, the people of Oregon will welcome you among us. We will endeavor to make you feel at home. We will not be dazzle your eyes by the gaudy tinsel of Eastern manners to prevent you seeing us as we are. All we ask is to tell your folks when you get back home in plain language about our rivers, broad valleys, wide fields, our orchards, our forests, streams and fishes, our snow capped mountains, and our mines and farm houses and barns, cities, towns and villages, school houses and churches. Tell them of our climate and seasons etc, etc. Tell them that we have lots of room here for men of means and muscle but not an inch to spare for hobos and tramps, and but small room for the common laborer the country being already over-crowded with those. We don't expect you to go back East and tell your people much about us, as we rather fear your visit on the Pacific slope will be more as an outing for a little rest than for the purpose of learning much concerning our country and its resources, or of our people and institutions. If the former is your purpose you will not be disappointed—if the latter, it would be impossible for you to do yourselves and our country justice.

At all events we expect your visit to create in your minds pleasant impressions of us which will be as lasting as life, and as enduring as our hills.

And now let us sing a new version of an old fashioned doxology:

Praise the press from which all blessings flow; praise it all creatures here below; praise it all ye Webfoot host, and save your hide from a "good roast."

News Notes.

From Salem Capital Journal. New York, April 5.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Much interest is felt here in the proposition originating with the inhabitants of St. Kitts in the Leeward islands, for the exchange of the Philippines for the British West Indies.

There are strong arguments in favor of such an exchange if Great Britain can be induced to part with her West Indian possessions, and there is little doubt that if the people of the United States had an opportunity to choose between the Philippines and the English possessions in the Carribean sea they would prefer the latter.

New York, April 5.—A proposition is being agitated to trade off the Philippines for the British West Indies. The proposition is favored by the South but is opposed by the West because it would hurt the trade prospects of the western country.

Fort Worth, Tex. April 5.—Dr. Charles V. Harris, of the medical department of the United States army passed here today enroute to Washington. He comes from the Philippines and says the reports of excellent health among the troops are false. Dr. Harris stated that many United States soldiers, disheartened over their physical condition, deliberately placed themselves up as a target for the enemy's guns.

Chicago, April 5.—Carter H Harrison has been re-elected mayor of Chicago. He has a plurality of 41,933, but has 6,300 less than a majority. Harrison has carried 29 out of 34 wards, including his own ward, which is nominally Republican; also the Tenth, a strong Republican ward and the home of his opponent, Judge Carter.