

THE HATCHET.

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AUSTIN CRAIG, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

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REPUBLICAN .. WEEKLY

THE LIBERATION OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Three months have passed since the Oregonian began its self-imposed task of exterminating those who did not regard it as the source of all true Republicanism in Oregon. At a recent convention of the Republican editors of this state the president ruled that The Oregonian was not entitled to representation in it, not being a Republican newspaper, and no dissenting voice was heard. Today in nearly every county in Oregon the Republican newspapers are exposing the Oregonian's methods and purposes and combatting with their utmost endeavors its attempts to fasten upon the Republicans the responsibility for actions repugnant to the Republican principles and made practicable only by the alliance of unworthy members with the party's avowed and bitterest enemies.

Though not a member of the party nor in sympathy with it the Oregonian still presumes to speak for it with the voice of authority and the greatest peril to Republicanism in Oregon is that the people may be deceived by these hollow pretenses. It is fear lest this perfidious Delilah should again establish herself in the confidence of the Republican party only to again betray it to the Phillistines that has caused the active campaign now in progress in this state and which will be continued until even in the remotest parts of Oregon there shall not be found a voter, be he republican, democrat, populist, union-bimetallist, or of any other party, or of no party, so credulous as to believe that a newspaper however great can be the mouthpiece of a party whose candidates it betrays, whose leaders it deserts, whose good faith it impeaches, whose platform it derides, to whose principles it is false and whose history it insults.

Never was the future of the Republican party in Oregon so fair as today for its old man of the sea has become intoxicated upon his missionary money from the east and has lost his hold, never to regain it.

THE OREGONIAN'S ONE ISSUE.

The Oregonian is of the belief that, after all, there is not very much in protection, but a great deal in the gold standard. In fact so unimportant is the issue of protection that had the democrats "told the country that the panic of 1893 was due to departure from sound monetary principles, for which the republican party was chiefly responsible, since it had passed both the Allison act of 1878 and the Sherman act of 1890; had it declared for the gold standard, denounced the republican party for temporizing with silver, and appealed to the country on this issue, it would have won. It would have carried the whole South, naturally democratic, and the great states of the North, in which, because of their vast industrial and commercial interests, the money question is supreme."

There is no justification for the conclusion arrived at by the Oregonian in the result of the last na-

tional campaign or in the late state elections. On the contrary the indications all point directly to the tariff being the controlling factor in the politics of the country today. To deny this fact it is not creditable to any newspaper with a reputation for sanity or an inclination to state the truth. The Oregonian knows, or ought to know, that the democratic party could not have carried one state north of Mason and Dixon's line on a free-trade, sound-money platform. To have eliminated the battle cry of protection from the last campaign on this coast, the democrats would have carried every Pacific coast state, and the states of the middle west with the exception, perhaps, of one or two would have followed suit. Public feeling has undergone a tremendous change in the west, so far as free silver is concerned, within the past year, but the improved conditions almost entirely due to the passage of the Dingley bill are accountable for it. Wherever the republicans gained a victory in the recent elections it was where the tariff was an issue.

While we are willing to admit that the republican party has temporized with silver, to the extent of passing an independent free coinage plank in the Oregon state platform, which was not viciously attacked by the Oregonian for reasons best known to itself, perhaps, but vigorously denounced by Senator Dolph who was not a politician who trifled with great questions, though his own state and her leading newspapers were willing to do so. The defection from the republican party was in no way a result of it, but because so many republicans and republican newspapers temporized with the great principle of protection.

In order to suit their ends it seems to be the desire of many to drop all other issues from the politics of the country save and except the one issue of sound money. This is a mistake and if stubbornly insisted upon will wreck the old party.

The Oregonian a few years ago recommended with considerable ardor that the money question be kept out of the politics of Oregon. This was temporizing with a great question, but it was good advice then and it is good advice today. Then Dolph was a candidate for re-election and now that Mitchell is the candidate ought not to make any difference. Had the advice given by the Oregonian been heeded the republican party of this state today, instead of being in the throes of a factional fight, would be an united, harmonious party. But because the advice was not followed is no good reason why the Oregonian should lead in a movement it discouraged a few years ago and one that is almost certain to turn the state over to the populists.

The Oregonian is above the average of country newspapers, but it is strikingly peculiar to the balance of us professing christians who do not always speak by the card. We sometimes believe that if Senator Mitchell were a gold-standard man, that the Oregonian could be easily educated up to the belief that after all there is something in the silver craze, and that it might not be a bad idea to give it a trial or at least to try and do something for the white metal. Indeed we are sometimes inclined to believe that the brilliancy of the Oregonian's editorials on the subject of the gold-standard dazzles its own "bizzon conspicuities."

Senator Mitchell, all know, is an uncompromising protectionist and may we not, therefore, conclude that this fact has inspired the Oregonian to say that "again and again it has been demonstrated that advocacy or defense of protection furnishes an unsure issue on which to go before the country."

On the contrary protection is a sure issue. It has never failed among the producing class. It is stronger in the rural districts today than ever before. "Give us protection," they say, "and the money question will take care of itself." And this is true as has been demonstrated by the passage of the

Dingley bill. Whatever votes the republican party has lost in the past are due to temporizing with the tariff. Every concession made by republicans to the mischievous free trade sentiment has proved a body blow to the doctrine of protection and the success of the republican party.

While sound money is a most necessary element in the prosperity of the country, it is by no means a cure-all, and those who maintain that it is will eventually become as ridiculous in the estimation of the sober minded as the followers of the Georgian theory, who see in their hobby a panacea for all the ills the body politic is heir to.—Pendleton Republican, Nov. 13.

A PAGE FROM HISTORY.

Last winter Mr. Scott, editor of the Oregonian, visited Salem. The legislators elect were gathered there, and in the headquarters provided by Jonathan Bourne, the populists congregated. Here they discussed choice viands and wines, and incidentally, the initiative and referendum. Jonathan is jovial, a pleasant entertainer, and to many of the followers of Mary Ellen Lease, the temple of Bourne seemed like a glimpse of heaven.

To this resort of Bacchus, Venus and populism, Mr. Scott repaired. He had a piece to speak and he spoke it. He said he had denounced populists and populism through his paper, but he had recently discovered that he was in error. He said he now came before them to make proper apology and to promise that henceforth the Oregonian would refrain from deeply damning populism and lashing populists. The assembled populists applauded loudly, and the lion and the lamblike played together.

This is perhaps not news to all the readers of this paper. It is simply retold as a reminder to the few good republicans who swear by the Oregonian, that they are being gradually led into the populist camp. Have you noticed an editorial in the Oregonian this year criticising Oregon populists? Has not it emptied its vials of wrath on the heads of republicans only?

The Oregonian is opposed by the republican newspapers of the state and endorsed by the populist journals. The Herald in Linn county, Statesman in Marion county, Enterprise in Clackamas, Plaindealer in Douglas, Tidings in Jackson, West Side and Observer in Polk, Transcript in Yamhill, HATCHET and Independent in Washington, Mist in Columbia, Gazette in Morrow, Republican in Umatilla, Republican in Baker—the list is too long to be fully enumerated. All these stalwart republican papers consider the Oregonian an enemy to republicanism and a friend to populism. It is hardly pertinent here, but it might be well to add that some of these papers supported Senator Mitchell and some opposed him.

On the other hand the populist organs are loudly praising Mr. Scott and the Oregonian. They know their friends.

This paper has always supported the republican party. The Gazette does not believe in fusion or trading. The republican principles are not of the swapping kind. But this paper does not believe in populist republicans as urged by the Oregonian. This paper supported Senator Mitchell for re-election, believing him to be a valuable man for the state, but we do not believe in tying the party to Mr. Mitchell nor to any man or faction. "The republican party stands for honest money and the chance to earn it," and that party is good enough for any patriotic citizen.—Corvallis Gazette, Nov. 19.

A CLEVER RUSE

The Old Soldier Incorrectly "Sized Up" by the Editor of The Oregonian.

A clever ruse, that, which appeared in the principal editorial in the Oregonian, Nov. 9, 1897, by which the editor seeks to assume the responsibility for our increasing national indebtedness, and then undertakes to justify it all in

the eyes of all pensioners and their sympathizers by asserting that it is all brought about by the demands on the treasury for money with which to pay pensions. This sensational attempt to influence through the emotions and sympathies of the people that which can be accomplished in no other way, is characteristic of demagoguery in any line of profession, and those who go to such means to accomplish an end prostitute their calling and compromise their intellectual ability, and possibly their morality and integrity, and at the same time concede the non-existence of any substantial reason or basis for the policy set forth or the position assumed. "It is important that the country should know that the main reason why the public debt increases, lies in the obligations assumed on account of pensions," says the editor, and, *This once understood it is to be hoped there will be less complaint about it.* If the editor of the Oregonian—clearly the apostle of the leeches and parasites of Wall and Lombard streets—can prevail upon the many thousands that are pensioners, or friends of them, to believe that it is through the bursting spirit of sympathy and desire to reward for services rendered that the government is now called upon to increase her bonded indebtedness, he is perhaps not in error when he betrays (but attempts to conceal his thoughts) that he believes they will peaceably submit to any manner of gold standard, bond issues or what not that the Oregonian and its "gold bug" associates might in their infinite wisdom (?) see fit to impose upon a patient and long suffering humanity. But the old soldier and his sympathizer are not fools. They are, perhaps, with few exceptions, as intelligent as the editor of the Oregonian. Some of them are as honest as he is, and if it is possible for one to reach a higher plane of honesty and integrity than that held by the editor of the Oregonian, we think, perhaps some of them may be "more honest" than he is.—North Yamhill Record Nov. 18.

We have read the article headed "Sunbeams from Cucumbers," in the Oregonian of October 2, giving a general condemnation of General Neal Dow's life, and we cannot help but think that if the highwayman would pay that great journalist that he would try and convince the public that you cannot stop murder and robbery by legislation. Neither can you, but you can stop and do stop it some, no doubt, just as the Maine prohibitory laws have checked the greatest crime of the age for forty years or more. Yet the Oregonian would have you believe that Gen. Dow's life was a failure, that man whose life has been an inspiration to the world. Though dead, his works still live and will continue to live long after the editor of the Oregonian has been forgotten. The General was never known to bribe legislatures nor to use his influence to prevent officers from doing their duties as officers, as the law requires. Who, with a man's heart in his breast, would not rather be Gen. Neal Dow dead than the editor of the Oregonian living?—Oregon Temperance.

The Oregonian always hunts up some kind of an excuse for its unfairness. Only a few days ago it declared that a statement from Mr. Ellis to the effect that he opposed free coinage of silver would indeed be welcome, but now that it has been made, the "only" paper declines to accept it, which, however, makes the little difference only as said before, to show that paper's unfair methods. If Mr. Ellis should have the declaration engraved upon the stone in the archway of the entrance to the Oregonian building where Harvey Scott could look at it each time he passed in and out, he would still rail at the man who made the statement for having done so. Mr. Ellis does not belong to the class of men who take their cue from the Oregonian and for that reason it opposes him.—St. Helens Mist.

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