THE HATCHET.

Entered at the post-office at Forest Grove, Or. as Second-class mail matter.

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Editor's hobbies and opinions on this page, all the rest facts—impartial and uncolored.

Editor is at home in his sanctum, HATCHET Building, Forest Grove, from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m. of each week day and always glad to talk and be talked to.

ISSUED EVERY WEEK IN THE YEAR ON THURSDAY FROM THE HATCHET PRINTERY.

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AUSTIN CRAIG, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

READABLE .. EIGHT
RELIABLE .. PAGES
REPUBLICAN .. WEEKLY

EXTENDING THE OLIVE BRANCH.

That peace and harmony which Republicans have so long been hoping to see restored among the Multnomah branch of the party seems on the eve of returning. The following offer from the so-called Mitchell partisans, that is to say all who opposed the Simon rule, proposes as equitable an arrangement as can well be made and it hardly seems possible that the other side will reject it. Yet Oregon has seen such strange political proceedings lately that one is led to expect the fairness of the plan will insure its rejection by this faction whose only gains thus far have been by trickery and fraud.

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 27.—Hon. Donald Mackay, Portland, Or.—Dear Sir: Whereas, unfortunate factional differences in the Republican party in this city and county, growing out of the primary election of 1896, culminated in a division of the party in this county, and the organization of two different committees, one composed of yourself, as chairman, and six other gentlemen, and the other composed of the undersigned, being one member from each ward in the city of Portland, and two members from the precincts in the county outside of the city, with Hon. Sol Hirsch as chairman, each of which committees claim to represent the republican party of this county and city. For convenience, the former said committees will hereinafter be designated as "your" committee and the latter as "our" committee; and,

Whereas, further, it is universally known that leading and influential republicans throughout the state, irrespective of their preferences as to men or factions, or their past or present affiliations, are unanimous in the expression of their wishes and opinions to the effect that the Republicans of Multnomah county should speedily settle among themselves these factional differences in the party, and thus present an united front to the common enemy:

Therefore, without entering upon or further any statement or discussion, as to what person or persons, factions or factions, if any, are responsible, either wholly or in part, for the unfortunate state of affairs in the republican party of this city and county, and in the spirit of entire fairness, and solely with the view of bringing about, if possible, a unity of organization and action in the republican party, on a basis that is fair and honorable to every republican and all factions, our committee hereby submit to you for the consideration of your committee the following propositions, asking for their sole purpose proposals for a fair primary election, to be held at the proper time next spring, in which all republicans may participate, and at which each and every faction of the party in the city and county shall be at liberty to support their own ticket and delegates to the city and county conventions, to be held later, for the purpose of nominating candidates for precinct, city and county offices, including members of the legislature, and delegates to the state and district conventions, the persons so nominated at such conventions to receive the cordial and earnest support of all republicans:

We propose:

That there shall be one, and only one, republican county and city convention held in the county of Multnomah, in the spring of 1898, which shall possess all the duties usually pertaining to such conventions, in accordance with the time-honored usages of the republican party.

That there shall be one, and only one, republican primary election held in said Multnomah county in the spring of 1898, and it shall be held in accordance with the provisions of an act of the legislative assembly of the state of Oregon, approved Feb. 11, 1891, relating to primary elections, and known as the primary law. At such primary election shall be elected the delegates who, and who alone, shall be entitled to seats in said county and city convention.

That the usual call shall be issued at the proper time for such primary election and convention, and shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of each of the said committees.

There being in the city of Portland 11 wards, numbered, respectively and consecutively; from 1 to 11; and in the county of Multnomah, outside of said city, 28 election pecincts, numbered, respectively and consecutively, from 54 upward to 81, inclusive.

Our committee proposes that the appointment of the delegates to the county and city conventions aforesaid shall be as follows: Such of said wards and precincts as cast over 100 votes each in 1896 for McKinley for president shall be allowed, respectively, one delegate for each 100 votes so cast, and one delegate for each 40 or more over an even hundred or hundreds so cast; and each of said precincts which cast less than 100 votes for McKinley in 1896 shall be allowed one delegate.

That the chairman, respectively, of said committees shall each appoint, from the committee of which he is chairman, a subcommittee of three, which subcommittee shall, at the proper time, select and procure the use of a place in each ward in said city, and a place in each of said precincts in said county outside of said city, for a polling-place for such ward or precinct. That each of said committees shall pay one-half of the expenses necessarily incurred for such polling-places and the publication of the call for said primary election.

That the judges of said primary election shall be selected as follows:

In wards numbered respectively, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 (that is, in all the odd-numbered wards in said city), one of such subcommittee, or its representative, having first choice, which choice is to be determined by lot, as hereinafter provided, shall select two judges for the primary voting-place in each of said wards, and the other of such subcommittees, or its representative, shall select one judge in each of said odd-numbered wards; while in wards numbered, respectively, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 (that is to say, in all the even-numbered wards of said city), said subcommittee, or its representative, having second choice, shall select two judges for each of said even numbered wards, while the other subcommittee, or its representative, shall select one judge for each of said even-numbered wards.

And the question as to which subcommittee, or its representative, shall have first choice, and which subcommittee, or its representative, shall have second choice, as aforesaid, shall, unless sooner agreed upon by said committees, be determined by lot, as aforesaid, on or before the 10th day of January, 1898, in the presence and under the direction of the arbiter, hereinafter named; and said judges shall be named at the time of preparing the call for said primary election.

The judges of election in said 28 election precincts, outside of the city, numbered, respectively and consecutively, from 54 upward to 81, inclusive, as aforesaid, shall be selected as follows:

The subcommittee or its representative having first choice, such choice to be determined by lot, as hereinafter provided, shall select two judges in each of the 14 of such election precincts as are designated by odd numbers; while the subcommittee, or its representative, having second choice, to be determined, as above, by lot, shall select one judge for the primary election in each of the said election precincts designated by odd numbers; while the subcommittee, or its representative, having second choice shall select two judges for said primary election in each of the 14 of said election precincts designated by even numbers; while the other subcommittee, or its representative, shall select one judge for each of said primary election in each of said election precincts designated by even numbers.

And the question as to which committee, or its representative, shall have first choice shall, unless sooner mutually agreed upon by said committees, be determined by lot on or before the 10th day of January, 1898, at the same time of casting lots for first choice in said city wards aforesaid; this also to be done in the presence and under the direction of the arbiter, hereinafter named. And said judges for said precincts, respectively, outside of the city shall also be named at the time of preparing the call for said primary election.

That the judges for each polling-place who shall have been selected by our committee, or its representative, shall be permitted to select one person for clerk for such polling-place, and that the judge or judges for each polling-place who shall have been selected by your committee, or its representative, shall be permitted to select one person for clerk for such polling-place, and the persons so selected, respectively, shall be duly appointed and qualify and act as such clerks.

That, in addition to the two poll books of said primary election, required by law to be kept by the judges and clerks, there shall be kept at each polling-place by such judges and clerks an additional poll book, to be in all respects a duplicate of the other poll books, kept as required by law, and that one of said three poll books so kept shall be delivered to your committee, one to our committee and one to the clerk of the county court of Multnomah county, at the close of said election.

That Hon. George H. Williams, of Portland, Or., a gentleman of unquestioned integrity, a republican of undoubted loyalty, a statesman of great ability, and a judge whose action cannot be improperly controlled, influenced or biased by any person or persons, faction or factions, shall be arbiter for the purposes herein named.

That the said arbiter shall have power and authority, from the time of the acceptance of these propositions by your committee to the time of holding such primary election, to decide all questions with reference to which said committees or subcommittees shall disagree; and to call meetings of said subcommittees, and his decisions thereof shall be final and binding on all concerned.

That said arbiter shall also call the aforesaid county and city convention to order, and be temporary chairman thereof; he shall appoint two from each of the contending factions therein, who, with himself as chairman thereof, shall constitute the committe on credentials for such convention.

That no proxies shall be used in said convention, except that in case of the absence of any delegate a person to act as proxy in his place shall be elected by the delegates from the ward for which said absent delegate was elected; and in case such absent delegate was elected by a precinct, a proxy for him shall be selected by the convention.

That both our committees and your committee shall pledge to abide by the result of such primary election, and to loyally support the entire tickets which shall be nominated by said county and city convention; and that we shall further pledge our united efforts to secure reforms in both city and county governments in all respects, and especially by a reduction of taxation and in the expenditure of public moneys,

We deem each and all of the parts of these propositions absolutely fair and honorable, and such as every republican can agree to without any sacrifice of principle, and all of which we now tender in good faith in the spirit of compromise, looking solely, not to the candidacy or promotion of any man or men, but to the unity and welfare of the republican party in this city county and state.

Assuming that you and your committee, in view of the existing conditions, will promptly accept these propositions, we, in the event of such acceptance in writing, within ten days from the receipt by you of this communication, pledge ourselves in advance to give loyal support to the entire tickets which shall be nominated by said county and city convention; and, unless your committee shall so accept in writing. we shall understand that you reject these propositions.

Sol Hirsch, Chairman,
4th Ward.
W. T. Hume, Secretary,
2nd Ward.
P. L. Willis, 1st Ward,
James Lotan, 3rd Ward.
W. F. Matthews, 5th Ward.
Carl A. Brandes, 6th Ward.
H. M. Bush, 7th Ward.
John Wood, 8th Ward.
John M. Lewis, 9th Ward.
D. A. Morris, 10th Ward.
W. H. Moore, 11th Ward.
Henry Chapman.
D. C. Powell.

It is understood that this address will be answered in a few days,

SENATOR CHANDLER'S LETTER.

"If the secretary of the treasury and his single gold standard associates will cease their demand for impossible currency legislation, congress will pass the necessary appropriation bills, probably take care of Hawaii and Cuba, there will not be a serious party division during the session, and there will be an adjournment in May. Business will revive, the balance of trade will continue in our favor, and the republican party will, in November, 1898, elect a majority of the house in the 56th congress. On the other hand, if Secretary Gage continues to press upon congress a bill, the object of which, he says, is, first, to commit the country more thoroughly to the gold standard, and the immediate result of which is to throw doubts upon the sincerety of the president's declaration in favor of efforts to secure bimetalism, a political turmoil will arise in congress which will split the now united republican party into fragments, while it will unite and consolidate the now incongruous opposition. It is not feasible to retire the greenbacks; there is more probability that a bill will be sent to the president to increase their amount. It is not possible to secure a passage through either house of a bill making the greenbacks into gold notes, or authorizing bonds payable in gold. It will also probably result in the passage of a bill for the redemption of the greenbacks in silver dollars and for the payment of all United States bonds in gold or silver coin in the discretion of the president, who will be commanded to exercise his option for the advantage of the government, and not for the advantago of the creditors.

"With such an uproar in congress as these proceedings will create, with certain congressmen embroiled therein, with presidential vetoes, as threatened by Secretary Gage, under angry discussion, it will happen that all business enterprises and funds and stocks will be disturbed, prices will fall, insolvencies will increase and the republicans will lose the congressional elections in 1898, as disastrously as they did in 1890, and beyond the hope of a favorable reaction in 1900, at which time, therefore, a Bryan democratic president and congress will be chosen.

"Whether we are to have one of these results—political safety or political destruction—depends entirely upon the course to be pursued by Secretary Gage and those who are pressing him forward, namely, the Gold Standard League of New York and the self-constituted monetary conference. How much Secretary Gage cares for the republican party is not known. Whether President McKinley, whose good faith towards bimetalism is coming to a test, will stop his secretary. is not known. It is to be hoped he will. But no political situation has been clearer than the present one is to sound eyes since the republican party began its marvelous career 42 years ago. There are times for all things. There is a time to move and a time to keep still, and now is the time to so keep.

"It is simply ridiculous for the republican party in this congress to affirmatively open the discussion of the question, and the bringing of yea and nay votes on the currency legislation, We ought to await the progress of international bimetalism, the advent of business prosperity and the filling of the treasury by the normal workings, soon to be seen, of the new tariff law. Shall we wait for these things, or rush on to self-destruction? President McKinley must decide. Will he act for his people, or for his plutocrats? Upon his answer will depend the events of 1898.

WILLIAM E. CHANDLER."

A DEMOCRATIC OPINION.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Columbia club of Portland, the leading democratic organization in the state, and express their views of the great daily.

"Resolved, That the attacks of the Oregonian upon the city administration of Portland are an outrage upon public decency and an insult to every fair-minded citizen in this city, regardless of party affiliations.

"Resolved, That we characterize as cowardly and criminally libellous the utterances of The Oregonian in attempting to arraign the city administration and destructive of the city's best interests, and inimicable to the correction of certain abuses in city affairs in the past and have fastened a bonded indebtedness on the property of this city of more than $4,000,000,

"Resolved, That The Oregonian, in its blind, unwarranted, unreasonable and unreasoning hatred of certain of the personel of the present city administration is proving itself a public enemy, and while pursuing such course should be shunned as a scourge, destructive of both private and public interest.

There will be but little opposition to Tongue in the republican convention. Nor will the combinations that nearly defeated him in the election of 1896, be operative next spring. Barclay wishes to run against Tongue and the republicans are quite willing.—Corvallis Gazette.

State's Taxable Property.

Following are the corrected returns from all the counties of the state, the aggregate value, exemptions and value of taxable property in each being given according to the rolls filed with the state board of equalization:

Counties.	Valuation.	Exempt.	Taxable.
Baker	$ 2 502 637	$ 120 641	$ 2 381 996
Benton	2 752 243	139 570	2 612 713
Clackamas	5 028 981	404 679	4 624 302
Clatsop	3 159 071	82 997	3 076 674
Columbia	1 452 176	93 560	1 358 616
Coos	3 042 929	251 197	2 791 452
Curry	588 528	80 586	507 942
Crook	1 798 554	136 821	1 661 733
Douglas	5 506 707	497 135	5 009 572
Gilliam	1 341 417	150 878	1 222 539
Grant	1 341 749	600	1 341 149
Harney	2 018 470	64 770	1 954 600
Jackson	4 686 217	149 598	4 536 618
Josephine	1 280 081	119 993	1 160 088
Klamath	1 545 822	51 744	1 494 078
Lake	1 384 694	83 666	1 301 028
Lane	7 999 435	707 560	6 391 875
Lincoln	856 403	57 103	799 300
Linn	7 515 365	622 865	6 892 500
Malheur	1 240 225	124 094	1 116 131
Marion	8 580 450	925 147	5 855 303
Morrow	1 518 046	108 937	1 409 109
Multnomah	45 131 149	1 317 155	43 813 994
Polk	4 468 601	325 355	4 143 246
Sherman	1 122 786	127 021	996 765
Tillamook	1 106 997	111 456	995 541
Umatilla	6 745 409	465 669	6 179 740
Union	3 703 503	355 910	3 347 593
Wallowa	1 062 874	152 005	910 869
Wasco	3 241 517	228 131	3 013 386
Washington	4 884 730	369 495	4 515 235
Yamhill	5 354 824	396 314	4 958 510
Totals	$142 995 530	$8 622 592	$134 372 998

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