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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6.

There was an election last Monday. Some of us know it because we feel just as we did November 8, 1892.

The politicians sought to nominate and elect city officers in the city of Hillsboro last Monday, but they were left. The other fellows had too many votes.

There is one part of the president's message that is fairly good—what he says about Venezuela. This much can be said because the English press adversely criticizes the topic.

It is a little remarkable how many men were nominated by the people's party last Sunday evening, and successfully run and elected to office without their knowledge and consent.

Once more the briny tears roll down the chubby cheeks of well-fed Grover, because congress has not paid old England \$425,000 for the seizure of a seal schooner that was stealing furs on the Alaskan coast.

When republicans were in power, \$100,000,000 was the danger point below which the gold reserve was not allowed to go. The new maximum is \$75,000,000. It has not been touched yet, but it is, thanks to the Wilson tariff bill, gradually sinking to the point where the bell will ring.

A good place for the new council to commence economizing is to repeal the ordinance paying councilmen \$24 per year salary. It will save the city \$144 per year. Each one of the councilmen can afford to contribute his services free, indeed they give about four times as much service to their lodges.

A Chicago dispatch states that the Cook county democracy had a free-for-all fight at a meeting the other evening. The doors were locked, and "harmony" prevailed for the space of half an hour, when one faction withdrew. The chairs were broken to pieces and the other furniture demolished.

There are twenty-four states with not a single democratic representative in this congress. Besides the editors and defeated candidates, there is very little of the democratic party in evidence now, and that is employed, as president and cabinet, catching fish in summer and guessing, within one-half of the amount, of the annual deficits all the time.

The remarks of Mayor Huston at the council meeting, embody the only platform upon which the candidates named on the citizen's ticket run. That ticket was one of business men and property owners, but the people threw them down. Especial venom seems to have been directed against the candidate for mayor and treasurer. A personal fight was made on those two, especially Mr. Patterson. The usual campaign stories were rehearsed, but so slyly that he nor his friends had opportunity for correction.

Democrats who claim that the election of 1892 commissioned them to try the free trade experiment must admit that the elections of 1893, 1894 and 1895, expressed the decision of the people that the experiment had proven a failure. The election of a republican congress was also a decision to return to the policy of the McKinley tariff, and if President Cleveland has any regard for a healthy state of the political atmosphere he had better respect that decision.

For several years past, the United States government has been placing in the Yellowstone National Park all American animals that are liable to become extinct. Here can be seen the antelope, bear, buffalo, deer, elk, moose, porcupine, beaver, mink, etc. Since the late elections have proven that in a few more years the political party known as "pops" will all be slaughtered; why not corral a few fine specimens of them for preservation, that the future voters may see what once existed and roamed promiscuously over the country?

It is a positive fact that nothing improves a man so fast intellectually, nor nothing makes him better socially, than traveling—to have seen the country in which he lives. This gives him a cosmopolitan idea of business, and makes him a welcome social visitor wherever he may go. There are thousands of good people in the vicinity of Portland and the Willamette valley who have had great desire to see San Francisco and Southern California, but owing to the price of four cents per mile for transportation, they could not do so. Now, since Mr. C. P. Huntington, a man many times a millionaire, and the O. R. & N. Co. have made it possible for those of limited means to see the "Golden State," and numbers are taking advantage of same, the retail webfooted population of Portland are kicking like a Texas bay steer at a yellow dog, because those who make a trip to San Francisco might not buy a few dollars more of some fanciful luxuries. Such selfish greediness has not an equal in the writer's wide experience.

SECRET NOMINATIONS.

We all laugh at the result of the city election, but there is a sober side to the question. A bad precedent has grown up that ought to be changed. The way of making nominations is bad. Dark alleys and back rooms are no places for such work. No one is responsible for the ticket—no party can be held for the acts of the nominees. There has been great objection to the nomination of officers made by political parties to serve in city stations. The cry has been "away with party, choose the best men." Well, in Hillsboro, party has been cast aside. Did we get men of the soundest management last year? The INDEPENDENT thinks not. We got good neighbors and men whom all respect, but our finances were not well managed. The incoming council is to be tried. There were two tickets in the field Monday, both named in the objectionable way. Two years ago the republicans named a ticket and thereby became responsible for the acts of its officers, but many voters from the ranks of the nominating party took up the "good men" cry and supported an opposition ticket put out by a secret caucus. The regular party was thrown down. All seem to have adopted the theory that the people must support whom the caucus names.

Again, a mass meeting of citizens is a poor body to make nominations. There is almost always "two sides to the question"—different policies of administration. A mass meeting of citizens cannot recognize the different policies. Take it at the last election. Some of us favored refunding the city debt at a lower rate of interest. Others opposed that idea, and the others, we feared, would beat us in a mass meeting. However, they beat us at the polls, so it, in this instance, would have made little difference.

Again, there is no one appointed whose duty it is to call a mass meeting. No one likes to take such responsibility because some one is always ready to set his tongue wagging. After all there is no way so satisfactory for making nominations as by organized parties. If citizens can't afford to use the machinery of the republican and democratic parties, then let some other organizations come forward, but let those organizations be other than the church and the saloon.

THE TIME WAS NINETEEN DAYS.

ED. GATES' letter in last week's INDEPENDENT that he has drawn inferences which I never intended, namely: that he had "sold the bonds too soon," I will state that he gave the council three months—ample time to act on his proposition to refund the bonds.

If Mr. Gates will again read my communication, he will see that I am right, and that he read between the lines. J. P. TAMMIE, M. D.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

In his message, Pres. Cleveland says: "As we turn from a review of our foreign relations to the contemplation of our national financial system we are immediately aware that we approach a subject of domestic concern more important than any other that can engage our attention and one that requires prompt and wise legislation. We may well be encouraged to earnest efforts in this direction when we recall the steps already taken towards the improvement of our economic and financial situation, and we appreciate, how well the way has been prepared for further progress," by an aroused and intelligent popular interest in the subject. By command of the people, a customs revenue system, designed for protection, but really benefiting favored classes at the expense of the great mass of our countrymen, and which, while inefficient for the purposes of revenue, curtailed trade relations and impeded our entrance into the markets of the world, has been supplanted by a tariff policy which, in principle, is based upon a denial of such rights.

The compulsory purchase and coinage of silver by the government, unprotected and regulated by business conditions, and regardless of our country's need, which for more than fifteen years deluged our circulation, undermined confidence abroad in our financial ability, and at last culminated in distress and panic at home, has been recently stopped by the repeal of the laws which forced this reckless system upon the country. The things thus accomplished, notwithstanding the improvements and beneficent effects, fall far short of curing the monetary evils from which we suffer as the result of long indulgence in ill-advised financial expedients.

After explaining the resumption of specie payment and the creation of the reserve gold fund of \$100,000,000, the president gives a brief monetary history of the United States, quoting the fact that in July, 1890, congress provided for the purchase of silver bullion, but decided that gold and silver must be kept at a parity. The redemption of treasury notes, treated as gold obligations, in 1893 amounted to \$155,000,000, with \$500,000,000 outstanding. This resulted in the depletion of the gold reserve to \$97,011,310, and there were prospects of a further depletion owing to the high tariff laws in vogue until the passage of the Wilson bill, together with the infusion of silver into the currency and the increasing agitation for its free coinage. In consequence of

SOME ENGLISH OPINIONS.

A few paragraphs of English criticism of President Cleveland's message are here given:

Daily News (liberal)—President Cleveland knows better than to treat the Monroe doctrine as if it were a rule of international law. It is neither dignified nor politic for the administration at Washington to take up the quarrels of South American communities which do not deserve the notice of civilized nations. Americans will find some day that this sort of patronage involves a corresponding responsibility, and they will not like that at all.

Post (conservative)—As regards Samoa and Venezuela, the message appears to be framed on lines which Senator Chandler might approve. In regard to Cuba, there are similar suggestions of a disposition to conciliate the feelings of popular agitators. These things are incidents of every presidential campaign, and President Cleveland never pretended to be superior to them.

Graphic—The crudities and indiscretions of President Cleveland's present pronouncement have been foreboded by the late Mr. Blaine in his worst mood. Can anything be more absurd than the proposal that the Schomburgk line (in Venezuela) should be submitted to arbitration? The reference to Cuba is infinitely more injudicious. It is virtually an expression of sympathy with filibusters.

Standard (conservative)—We cannot but regret the tone of President Cleveland's references to Venezuela. If we may judge of the tone and substance of Mr. Olney's dispatch from the paraphrase thus emitted to congress, we are not surprised that no answer has been received, and we further undertake to predict that when the reply reaches the White House, it will furnish the president with a deal of matter for serious reflection. We must be pardoned if we venture to say that the whole passage referring to Venezuela is a tissue of assumptions and unsupported deductions. If they desire to carry out the views thus expressed, they will do so after due calculation of the cost. Even if we were eager for arbitration, the experience in the Behring sea controversy would hardly encourage us. It is not easy to argue calmly when we find that President Cleveland has already prejudiced the merits of the dispute. But even strong states have rights, and though Great Britain is able to maintain its dignity and interest, it ought not to be a mark for public affront in a presidential message. We are not much impressed with his currency proposals. He suggests a palliative and not a cure.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

That part of the president's message treating of the Venezuelan question is in these words:

"It being apparent that the boundary dispute between Great Britain and the republic of Venezuela concerning the limits of British Guiana, was approaching an acute stage, a definite statement of the interest and policy of the United States, as regards the controversy, seemed to be required, both on its own account and in view of its relations with the friendly powers directly concerned. In July last, therefore, a dispatch was addressed to our ambassador at London for communication to the British government, in which the attitude of the United States was fully and distinctly set forth. The general conclusions therein reached and formulated are in substance that the traditional and established policy of this government is firmly opposed to a forcible increase by any European power of its territorial possessions on this continent; that this policy is as well founded in principle as it is strongly supported by numerous precedents; that, as a consequence, the United States is bound to protest against the enlargement of area of British Guiana in derogation of the rights and against the will of Venezuela; that, considering the disparity in strength of Great Britain and Venezuela, the territorial dispute between them can be reasonably settled only by friendly, impartial arbitration, and that the resort to such arbitration should include the whole controversy, and is not satisfactory if one of the powers concerned is permitted to draw an arbitrary line through the territory in debate, and to declare that it will submit to arbitration only the portion lying on one side of it. In view of these conclusions, the dispatch in question, called upon the British government for a definite answer to the question whether it would not submit the territorial controversy between itself and Venezuela, in its entirety, to impartial arbitration. The answer of the British government has not yet been received, but is expected shortly, when further communication on the subject will probably be made to congress."

Our old friend, Ex-congressman Holman, has struck a rare piece of news. He has made the discovery that President Cleveland is very unpopular.

Canada seems to be exercising dominion over American territory. The news reports speak of a mail contract that the Canadian government has let over a route within our boundaries, though Canada has recently set up a claim to it. We can't permit that act of sovereignty. We can carry our own mails.

The Salisbury government has answered President Cleveland's message and refuses to submit the Venezuelan disputed boundary to arbitration. The Venezuelan government is raising an army of 100,000 men. While England is kept busy by Venezuela on one side and Turkey on the other, would it not be a good time to adjust our Alaskan boundary line?

HIGHEST OF ALL IN LEAVENING POWER.—LATEST U. S. GOV'T REPORT

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people's sympathy with the Cuban insurgents, nor our loss and material damage, consequent upon the futile endeavors thus far made to restore peace and order, nor any shock our humane sensibility may have received from the cruelties, which appear to especially characterize this sanguinary and fiercely conducted war, have in the least shaken the determination of the government to honestly fulfill every international obligation, yet it is to be earnestly hoped, on every ground, that the devastation of armed conflict may speedily be stayed, and order and quiet restored to the distracted island, bringing in their train the activity and thrift of peaceful pursuits.

One noticeable instance of interference by Spain with passing American ships has occurred. March 28th, last, the Alliance, while bound from Colon to New York, and following the customary track for vessels near the Cuban shore, but outside three-mile limit, was fired upon by a Spanish gunboat. Protest was promptly made by the United States against this act, as being unjustified by a state of war, nor permissible in respect to vessels on the usual paths of commerce, nor tolerable in view of the wanton peril occasioned to innocent life and property. This act was disavowed with full expression of regret, and assurance given of non-recurrence of such just cause of complaint, while the offending officer was relieved of his command.

Military arrest of citizens of the United States in Cuba has occasioned frequent reclamations. Where held on criminal charges, their delivery to the ordinary civil jurisdiction for trial, has been demanded and obtained in conformity with treaty provisions, and were merely detained by way of military precaution, under a proclaimed state of siege without formulated accusation, their release or trial has been insisted upon. The right of American consular officers in the island to prefer protests and demands in such cases having been questioned by the insular authorities their enjoyment of the privilege stipulated by treaty for the consuls of Germany was claimed under the most-favored nation provision of our own convention, and was promptly recognized.

The long standing demand of Antonio Maximo Mora against Spain has at last been settled by the payment, September 14th—last, of the sum originally agreed upon in liquidation of the claim. Its distribution among the parties entitled to receive it, has proceeded as rapidly as the rights of those claiming the fund could be safely determined. The enforcement of differential duties against products of this country exported to Cuba and Porto Rico prompted the immediate claim on our part to the benefit of the minimum tariff of Spain in return for the most favorable treatment permitted by our laws as regards production in Spanish territory. A commercial arrangement was concluded in January last securing the treatment so claimed.

Vigorous protests against excessive fines imposed on our ships and merchandise by the customs officers of these islands for trivial errors have resulted in remission of such fines in instances where the equity of the complaint was apparent, though the vexatious practice has but been wholly discontinued.

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Henry Waterson, commenting upon the president's message, especially that part relating to the retarding of greenbacks, says: "It must be remembered that our national banking system rests upon the national debt, and that if the national debt is wiped out, we wipe out the whole national banking system with it. That is one of the best banking systems in the world, and ought to be maintained."

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