

HILLSBORO INDEPENDENT.

Published in the postoffice at Hillsboro, Oregon, as second-class matter.

Subscription, in advance, per year . . . \$2.00

HILLSBORO PUBLISHING CO., Proprietor.

R. M. C. GAULT, Editor.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27.

The vigor shown by republicans in pushing legislation looking to upholding national credit, is in marked contrast with the dawdling acts of the democrats of two years ago.

There is some room for the criticism that Cleveland has been a little too anxious in the Venezuela matter to "take the steam of time by the forelock" as a German politician once observed; but a touch of precipitancy is to be pardoned where the Monroe doctrine is involved.

The recent election in New York eliminated the populists as a party from the politics of that state. According to the official returns, they polled only 6916 votes, or less than the required 1 per cent of the total vote, and so they will not be entitled to nominate a ticket by convention next year. They have never cut much of a figure in New York, and will not be missed.

It is a little singular that England and the others in Europe can't understand that the commission created by the Hitt bill did not propose to establish the boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana, but only to find out the rights of the claimants. If England's claim is just she will get her demand. If Venezuela is in the right England must acknowledge that right and keep off the grass.

Is New York a foreign city? It would seem so, when a convention of 1,100 people assemble at Cooper Institute and listen to speakers denounce the action of our government, and all but pledge themselves to England. How far removed from treason was the meeting of Monday night? One could almost wish that an English fleet would bombard the un-American town. But then the sentiment of that 1,100 in New York is not more the idea of the people than would be the like opinion of two men in Hillsboro speaking on the same subject, to the same purpose.

An Ohio Judge has decided that wives are legally responsible for the support of their husbands and their families, provided the husbands themselves are unable to furnish the support. The decision is said to have greatly surprised the lawyers, and also the new woman. But the Judge contends that the law of Ohio in this respect is the same as that in Illinois, Iowa, California and the territory of Oklahoma. In the Ohio case the amount sued for was a balance of \$22 on a tailor bill of venerable date, and the wife, who has real estate valued at \$10,000 will have to pay.

Somehow or other, along these days, the American people have very great respect for Abraham Lincoln and his opinions. On the Monroe doctrine he had this to say to Gen. Thayer in 1863: "My policy is to attend to only one trouble at a time. If we get well out of our present difficulties and restore the Union, I propose to notify Louis Napoleon that it is about time to take his army out of Mexico. When that army is gone, the Mexicans will take care of Maximilian." It will be remembered that we did get out of those difficulties, that Louis Napoleon was notified, that he did take his army out of Mexico, and that Juarez did take care of Maximilian.

Prof. W. Stevas, a well-known German geographer, says that in its controversy with Venezuela England has been steadily the encroaching party. Since the discovery of gold near the Orinoco the English have "slowly advanced upon Venezuela territory, getting bolder with every revolution that weakened the republic." The professor declares that England recognized Venezuela's present claim until within recent years, that Venezuela has always owned the auriferous district, and that the people of the republic "will only be defending their rights if they remove encroaching Englishmen and send troops to the territory." This opinion may be said to prevail among all, except Englishmen, who have looked into the facts connected with the dispute.

Our credit is not yet exhausted. Russia wants to loan the United States any amount up to \$400,000,000 in gold. Ought we to take it? Should we do so we would, to some extent, occupy the position of a nation that has concluded an offensive and defensive treaty with another power. It is probable that Russia is not moved so much by friendship for our government as she is by a desire to hedge against England. She would probably prefer to make the United States a large loan at a low rate of interest than have England or any of its subjects do so. English bankers tried to wreck us last Friday and Saturday, but failed. They could not get greenbacks enough. Realizing how impotent the British government is to whip us in battle, they tried to destroy our credit. They failed, and out of the struggle we come with a better knowledge of our strength.

HOW DEFENSELESS ARE WE?

Suppose we admit the truth of what General Miles' reports, touching our lack of coast defenses. He ought not to tell of it without at the same time letting it be known what we could do for protection. Why inform our enemies of our weak places and invite them to take advantage of our supposed defenseless condition. The Southern cities were just as defenseless in 1861-5 as they are to-day. We got Mobile and New Orleans by a sea attack, and that is all. We have a long sea coast and that is an element of strength. England's ships would be widely scattered when she has our coast blockaded, and it would take several cannonades to do the work. And while they are investing our imports, what are our ships doing? Will they idly swing at anchor in the mouths of the creeks? Must every American find out for himself what Grant did when he realized that the other fellow was as badly scared as the first?

A soldier writing from Vancouver, Washington, puts the matter in a true light when he says: "We scout the idea of England's 20,000 or twice 20,000 'veterans' (when and where did they become 'veterans'?) marching on and taking Portland. What would our five transcontinental railroads be doing? What would the citizens of Washington and Oregon be doing? What would our army officer be doing? They would cut England's transcontinental line (Sherman taught us how to do that), torpedo the Straits, and with live officers, like many of this post, we feel confident in saying that these 20,000 British veterans, or a British man-of-war would never place a ransom on the Sound cities. A few hundred dauntless men, properly equipped with the secrets of defense, which are not always given to the public, would place the Sound cities beyond the reach of English veterans or H. M. S. Pinafore."

RESERVE FUND IN LIFE INSURANCE.

The amount of money locked up by life insurance companies in the reserve fund account has become so large that financiers are becoming alarmed. Business begins to feel the effect of the removal and locking up beyond its reach such large sums that by the terms of the law creating the fund, cannot be used unless the company owning the fund goes into the hands of a receiver. One authority states that there is more money locked up in the reserve fund of life insurance companies than the combined capital of national and state banks of this country. Tables of statistics show that the average premium collected is \$50 per year per \$1,000 insurance, and that the actual cost of insurance is no more than \$10 to \$12 per year per \$1,000 insurance, and that the \$18 to \$20, the remainder of the \$50, is put into a reserve fund or consumed by expenses. This statement can well be believed when the cost of insurance with the A. O. U. W. and kindred orders is examined. The actual cost with the workmen ranges from \$7 to \$9 per year per \$1,000. The A. O. U. W. gathers no reserve fund, but leaves in the possession of its beneficiaries what the old line companies collect over the actual cost of insurance. Implicit faith is exercised in willingness of the membership to pay all losses as they occur. Individual members may fall or may default, yet the great body of men have proven true to the compact made when the insurance was written.

The outcome of the investigations is a demand for the repeal of the laws creating a reserve fund, or a modification which will allow the fund to be returned to the channels of business. The repealers truly say that a company which collects what it costs for insurance, and honestly handles the money is always solvent. To pile up more money than this will not make a company honest or more solvent, therefore it would seem to be the height of business folly to create a reserve fund to be used only when the company fails and goes into the hands of a receiver.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

In 1812 Russia, Austria and Prussia concluded a treaty to mutually promote the influence of their existing dynasties; the league thus formed was known as the Holy Alliance. At that time England was building up a profitable commerce with the South American states, and Spain, supported by the Holy Alliance, was taking preliminary steps to regain by force her former colonial possessions in South America and Mexico. Mr. Channing, the British Premier, proposed, that the United States and Great Britain should oppose the policy of the alliance in its interference with American affairs, and publish a declaration that the two countries would not view with indifference and foreign intervention in the affairs of these South American Governments. Mr. Reed, the American Minister, consented to do so, provided England would acknowledge the independence of the new South American republics. The negotiations went no further, but thus far they established the interesting fact that the first suggestion of the principle of the Monroe doctrine came from a British Minister.

Charles Francis Adams claims that the first hint of the policy is found in a notification of John Quincy Adams, when Secretary of State in

President Monroe's Cabinet to the Russian Minister, that the United States "would assume the principle distinctly that the American continents are no longer subjects of any new European colonial establishments." Soon after came the message of President Monroe, which declared that "this government would consider any attempt on the part of European powers to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety." The policy we propose to follow, in the words of Jefferson, indorsing the message of Monroe, is not to entangle ourselves in the broils of Europe and not to permit Europe to interfere with affairs upon this continent. And there we stand today.—Louisville Commercial.

WHAT DINGLEY SAID.

Congressman Dingley, chairman of the house ways and means committee, made the following statement touching tariff legislation and bond issues on Christmas night after his bills had been reported to the house at session held the same day: "The revenue bill is not intended to be a tariff revision, but simply an emergency bill to raise about \$40,000,000 deficiency. The main object is revenue, though incidentally to the increase it will protect American industries to some extent. The bill is limited to two and a half years, the expectation being that the republicans will be in full power by that time and able to revise the tariff on their own lines. Wool is taken from the free list, and clothing wools given a duty of 6.4 cents (60 per cent of 1890), and woolen goods are given a specific compensatory duty of 60 per cent of what they had under the act of 1890, in addition to the ad valorem duty of the present law. Carpet wools are placed where they were under the act of 1890, and the same specific duty is given to carpets as under the act of 1890, in addition to the ad valorem duties of the present law. The articles of lumber placed on the free list of the tariff of 1894 are transferred to the dutiable list, with 60 per cent of the duty they had under the act of 1890. Then all the other dutiable schedules (except sugar, which is not touched) have all the duties raised 15 per cent. The committee had not the time to treat articles separately, and hence a horizontal increase became necessary as to all articles now on the free list.

"The bond bill gives the secretary of the treasury authority to issue 3 per cent five-year coin bonds to maintain the redemption fund, in addition to the authority he now possesses, but provides that the proceeds of all bonds sold under this act and under the redemption act shall be used only for redemption purposes. It also provides that all bonds shall be first offered to the people of this country. The only object of the bond bill is to reduce the rate of interest and the time to run, as the bonds the secretary is now authorized to issue carry from 4 to 5 per cent interest. The bill practically separates the redemption fund from the cash in the treasury, and is intended to put a stop to the use of proceeds of bonds to meet the deficiencies in the treasury."

THE REVENUE BILLS.

Congress has taken hold of business with a vigor that is pleasing to the country. The Wilson tariff bill failed to raise revenue for the government, and the house now proposes to submit to the president an amendment that will bring the income of the government to an equality at least with the expenditures. The president has, so his supporters declare, been trying to put republicans in a hole—but if he don't drop into a pit, no faith is to be put in signs. The democratic congressmen, however, give out that they will oppose the bills. The new legislation is a measure entitled "A bill to increase the revenue and to prevent deficits in the treasury," and will go into effect when signed by the president, if he signs it, and will remain in effect until August 1, 1898, when, by its provisions, its operation will cease. Its items follow:

A duty on wool of 60 per cent of the McKinley law rate.
A compensatory duty on woolen goods of 60 per cent of the McKinley act rates.
A duty of 60 per cent of the rates of 1890 on lumber, which will be from 10 to 15 per cent ad valorem.
An increase of 25 per cent from the Wilson-Gorman act rates on cereal breadstuffs, dairy products and livestock, including poultry.
A horizontal increase of 15 per cent of the Wilson-Gorman bill on all other schedules, with the provision that in no case shall the duty exceed the McKinley rates, except where the Wilson-Gorman rates exceed those of the McKinley law.
The second bill will provide for two issues of bonds. The first will be an unlimited amount of 3 per cent five-year coin bonds to protect the gold reserve, with the provision that the currency redeemed by the proceeds shall not be paid out for current deficits in the revenue, unless the expenses of the government are in excess of the revenues (which it is expected they will not be if the first bill is in operation.)
In addition, the second bill will provide for one-year 2 per cent treasury certificates of indebtedness, not to exceed \$50,000,000 in amount, and to be disposed of at the discretion of the secretary of the treasury, to meet current deficits in the revenue.

These are to be offered for sale at the subtreasuries and depositaries of the government.

It is possible, also, that there may be added to this bill a plan to increase the currency by authorizing national banks to issue circulation to the par value of all the government bonds deposited by them with the government as security for their notes.

TO OPEN THE CROW RESERVATION.

The people living in the country surrounding the Crow Indian reservation, in Montana, are about to send a petition to congress, asking that a part of the present Crow reservation be opened, is in our estimation not a plausible idea, and we speak from actual observation, having driven over two hundred miles in said reservation this present fall. The Crow Indians are the best (if there are any best) Indians there are in all these United States. They are industrious, as much so as Indians are supposed to be. They have vast herds of cattle roaming over the prairies. They have plenty of good ponies. They have good cabins for homes, and they farm, after a fashion. We saw, while there, considerable wheat that was yielding a good crop. They had some corn and plenty of garden stuff. These farms were located along the streams, viz: the Big Horn, the Little Big Horn, the Yellowstone, and other streams where irrigation is possible. They have good meadows, and they cut, annually, many tons of hay. While all this is true, we see no reason, whatever, that any portion, let it be ever so small, should be thrown open for settlement, and we raise our voice against it.

It is not a place for the farmer, for crops cannot be grown without irrigation, and but little can be put under irrigation owing to its high table lands. The soil is not the best by any means, being covered with cactus, some sage brush, rocks, gravel and deep ravines, and but little wood, and what there is not good for fuel.

It is true that the jack rabbit, coyote and wolf make their home there in thousands, but they are compelled to leave the reservation for a square meal. Wild game, such as the deer, antelope, elk, &c, have all been killed long ago.

From a close observation, and a study of the Crow Indians, we see no excuse for any portion of it to be opened, except the excuse some persons have who want to be, or is now, a squaw man.

Leave the Crows alone. They are contented and happy as they are now; divide their possessions and we are liable to have more or less trouble until they are exterminated.

GOLDHUNTER.

The government has already taken one section for Custer's battle field, one section for the Crow agency, one section for F. Custer, and three other pieces of land for national battle fields.

There are a million more homes yet to be taken in Montana alone, and there are five-eighths of Wyoming and mountain counties of Idaho undeveloped. Any portion of this, except the lava beds of Idaho, is better for those seeking farms than the Crow reservation.

NOTICE.

THE REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING of the stockholders of the Hillsboro Electric Light & Water Company will be held on Monday, January 6, 1898, at 3 o'clock p. m. in said city, for the election of directors for the ensuing year, and for such other business as may come before said meeting.

J. D. MERRYMAN, Cashier.

Stockholders' Meeting.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE stockholders of the First National Bank of Hillsboro, Oregon, will be held at their banking house on Tuesday, January 13, 1898, at 3 o'clock p. m. in said city, for the election of directors for the ensuing year, and for such other business as may come before said meeting.

J. D. MERRYMAN, Cashier.

Notice of Final Settlement.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT the undersigned administrator of the estate of Minerva C. Brown, deceased, has filed his final account as such administrator, in the County Court of Washington County, Oregon, and said Court has appointed Monday, the 27th day of December, 1897, at 10 o'clock a. m., as the hour of hearing and account.

Dated at Hillsboro, Oregon, this 27th day of November, 1897.

FRED J. BROWN, Administrator of the estate of Minerva C. Brown, deceased.

SHERIFF'S SALE ON FORECLOSURE.

BY VIRTUE OF AN EXECUTION, a decree and order of sale, issued out of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Washington County, in favor of E. A. Hyde, and against N. L. Threlker, W. C. Fardin and George M. Kreamer, for the sum of \$122.39, U. S. gold coin, with interest thereon at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, from the 4th day of October, 1893, and for \$25 attorneys' fees, and for the expenses of sale and of said writ, now, therefore, by virtue and in pursuance of said judgment, decree and order of sale, I will, on Monday, the 27th day of January, 1898, at 10 o'clock a. m., of the Court House, in Hillsboro, Washington County, Oregon, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m., sell at public auction, the following described real property, to-wit:

Being a part of the donation land claim of the estate of the late John H. Threlker, a subdivision of said claim, containing 30 acres, more or less, situated in the center of the county road leading north and south, to a point in the center of the county road leading east and west, thence south 50 deg. 30 min. east 2.50 chains to a post; thence south 60 deg. 22 min. east 12.70 chains to a post in said county road, thence north 80 deg. 10 min. west 10.70 chains to the place of beginning, containing 32.21 acres, to satisfy the hereinbefore named sums, and for the costs of a decree of said sale.

Said property will be sold subject to redemption as per statute of Oregon. Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 1897.

H. P. FORD, Sheriff of Washington County, Or. By W. D. BRADFORD, Deputy.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Real Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

OVER THE STATE.

The business men of Eugene have organized a commercial club. Burglar-catching goes on successfully. Three enterprising night prowlers were taken in at Crawfordville, Linn county last Saturday.

There are three persons under sentence of death in Oregon: Lloyd Montgomery, at Albany; Sam G. Brown, at Roseburg, and Charles Flester, at Grant's Pass. A petition is being circulated for Brown's pardon and an appeal has been taken in Flester's case.

Old Glory has been waving grandly from the Wright building the past few days, in McMinnville, by way of giving expression to local sentiment. If worst came to worst, McMinnville could raise a regiment in an hour to fight the British on land or sea, says the Yamhill Reporter.

A wood war is on in The Dalles, which promises to be a brisk one. Through competition of local dealers, the price of wood has been reduced to a lower figure than for previous winters, and for this the consumer is glad. An unusual large amount of wood has been brought up the river during the fall, and the beach is covered now with a good supply.

W. B. Barr returned to Albany Thursday from the Santiam mines, where he had been surveying for the Lawler Company. The road into the mines is a mass of snow nearly four feet deep on an average, probably more at the summit. At the mines it is 12 to 15 inches deep. The machinery for the mines is at Gates, except the pieces that were taken to the mines before the storm.

The state board of equalization adjourned at noon on Saturday of last week until next week. Monday will be given to hearing representatives from Multnomah county, and on Tuesday the board will proceed to adjust the assessments according to its idea of fair play. Unatilla's returns are in, but Lincoln's has not been corrected yet. The county board reduced Unatilla's assessments \$25,180, which is the largest decrease made by any county board this year. The other county boards that have changed the assessor's valuation are: Clackamas, which reduced the assessment \$1000; Harney, cut \$550; Klamath, \$12,722. The only county raising the assessor's returns is Polk, which increased \$572.

Chili alone of all the Central and South American states takes the English view of the Venezuela boundary question. Chili is really an English colony which explains the matter.

The unexpected and amazing intelligence comes that the Cuban insurgents are rapidly marching on Havana with an almost certain probability of capturing that capital city. The royal troops seem to be completely unprepared.

BRICK LAYING.

JOHN RING, THE WELL-KNOWN brick layer and contractor, will execute all work entrusted to him, draw plans and specifications, and make estimates. References in Hillsboro: T. H. Tongue, S. B. Hutton or D. M. C. Gault. Portland address, 510 Columbia St.

THE REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING.

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