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ATHENA, OCTOBER 27, 1905

"Tainted money" has become an issue in the state political campaign in Nebraska, and two of the candidates for regents of the state university have signed statements that if elected they would advocate returning to John D. Rockefeller \$86,000 which he gave last year for a temple for the religious societies of the university. It is difficult to understand how such a pledge should commend them to the intelligent voters of the state. The propriety of Chancellor Andrews soliciting Rockefeller for contributions for the university may be questioned, but the gift itself has been of valuable assistance to a worthy institution and to cripple the university now by handing back the money would seem to be an act of folly.

Frank Baker's "harmony meeting" of republicans at Portland the other day seems to have been very well attended by one wing of the party. The other faction was represented by one man, Wallace McCamant. From inference it may be concluded that Mr. McCamant was in attendance at the meeting either to satisfy his curiosity or to keep tab on the doings of the other fellows. From the way things have turned out the harmony meeting was a fizzle and the factional strife remains much the same as before the meeting. It will take more than one wing of the republican party in Oregon to cement harmony in the rank and file. Either one faction or the other, working single handed, will never accomplish anything.

The government will unquestionably be able to secure a very comfortable revenue from the grazing privileges in its forest reserves. The reserve comprises over 740,000 acres in the Blue mountains. It is the purpose of the government to lease the privileges to stockmen at a stipulated price per head for sheep and cattle. The prevailing price for sheep will perhaps be about five cents per head for the season. By this arrangement the government will be able to derive a revenue from its forest reserves sufficient in all probability to make them, at least, self supporting, if not a net profit to the government.

District Attorney Jerome of New York holds a local office corresponding to that of county attorney in this state. Yet the whole country is, in a lively manner, interested in the fight he is making for reelection. This is not so much because of Jerome's relation to the expected prosecution of insurance thieves, but because of Jerome himself. He is the first man in a generation, who has had the temerity to defy the bosses on either side. He was elected four years ago as a Tammany candidate and has spent the most of his time in prosecuting the thieves with whom Murphy consorts. He might have had the republican nomination but he preferred his liberty, and by expressing his opinion of both Murphy and Odell.

There is no occasion for the Walla Walla Union and the Pendleton Tribune to frame up a quarrel over the C. M. & St. P. railway. Both papers are selecting a route for the road that seems to be coming coastward, and incidentally, each paper lays the rails in its home town. Now, right off the reel, the Press sees that a compromise must be had, so proposes to split the deal and let the contract for the road bed through Athena.

Everybody concedes that the farmer is the most independent man on earth, yet the tremendous growth of the cities proves pretty conclusively that no greater proportion of us yearn for that kind of independence. On the contrary, the farm boy goes to the city but the city boy does not go to the country—except for a vacation.

Rains have fallen to the extent that soil is in excellent condition to receive the fall sown crop. The farmer has his drill ready and seed is in proper shape. All now depends on the antics of the weather man. Should his capers become too obstreperous, the ranchers would do well to give him a coat of tar and feathers.

The telescope reveals the fact that the landscapes on Mars are subject to sudden and frequent changes of the most extensive character. Map making must be the most profitable employment on that planet.

Charles R. Flint, just back from Russia, says that the czar is a man of high intelligence and strength of character and that the grand dukes are all right. Mr. Flint must have got his contract.

Capt. Sir Ernest Cochrane of Dublin and Belfast promptly denies that he has any design whatever on the American cup. He must have been reading the papers since Sir Thomas Lipton started out to "lift" it.

A woman cashier in a Chicago restaurant put two holdup men to flight recently by throwing cigar boxes at them. The name of the brand is not given, but the cigars must have been fierce.

Now that the experimenters have sent a kite up more than two and a half miles in the air, it is obvious that anything that is knocking higher than a kite must go up pretty high.

DIVE WON'T COO.
(Portland Journal.)

Apparently the only definite result from Frank Baker's Republican peace conference has been a widening of the breach in this country between the Simon and Mitchell factions. The conference simply served to show the impossibility of harmonizing the hostile clans and the deep-seated antagonism in the Simon ranks of Baker and all his works.

In other sections of the state there has been some disposition to bury the hatchet, but in Multnomah the old feud is as bitter as ever. Here it was well known that Jack Matthews and Frank Baker, the two men most detested by the Simon republicans, were the prime movers in the scheme for a peace conference, which was looked on as nothing more than an effort to reestablish the old Mitchell machine.

Wallace McCamant was the only one of Senator Simon's old lieutenants who took any part in the peace conference, all of his former comrades being conspicuous by their absence.

"What can the Mitchell faction offer us?" was the common remark among them.

"Their leaders are all discredited and their organization is a wreck. If they have chestnuts to pull out of the fire, we will not be their catspaw."

Frank Baker's personal interest in maintaining his hold on republican politics is well understood. He owns the printing plant in the state printer's office and derives from it a substantial yearly revenue. He is credited also with receiving a fat slice of the state printer's handsome profits and is therefore deeply interested in naming the next incumbent of the office. According to the gossip that is current among the politicians, Baker's chief object in his effort to reunite the factions was to be able to name the next republican nominee for state printer, thereby insuring the continuance of the revenue which he now enjoys.

Some of the aspirants for other state offices who reside in this county have been regarding Baker's movements with jealous eyes. They suspect him of a desire to sacrifice all candidates from Multnomah county except his own choice for state printer.

"Baker would gladly give every other place on the ticket to the outside counties if he could only name the state printer," said one prominent republican who attended the peace conference. "He wants to be able to compel every candidate in this county to come to him for support, and then he would throw them all down and say to the outside counties, 'Multnomah wants nothing but the state printer; give us that and you can take the rest.'"

The original scheme, of which the peace conference was but a feature, was to call a convention next spring in advance of the primaries and make up a slate to be ratified by the voters in the primary election. So much opposition developed, however, to this suggestion that it was reluctantly abandoned. This was peculiarly unfortunate for Baker, for the difficulty of programing the ticket is vastly increased when the nominations are made by the voters and not by the bosses. Nevertheless, he is said to be still hopeful that the republicans of Oregon will show a proper regard for his private interests when the nominations are made.

THE VIEWS OF ONE.
(By Ambrose Bierce.)

This Hall of Fame matter is become, as was to have been expected, ridiculous. Edgar Allen Poe is denied a place and James Madison is selected "by a heavy majority." It is needless to drag the name of that political imbecile from the sunless pantheon of American presidents and damn him with a deeper obscurity.

Erected by the widow of Colgate, the millionaire soapmaker, a tomb, "probably the most expensive of its kind in the United States," will hold the ashes of "Dandy," her favorite horse, and incidentally keep green the memory of the family product. I venture to submit the following lines for inscription:

His virtues here inscribed where all may see 'em,
Dandy reposes in this horseolum,
Whose massive marbles, fit with Time to cope,
Procraim that even after life there's soap.

When the president shall have regulated to his taste the American birth rate and done it by talking, and when he shall have set up an Al-phonse-and-Gaston code of football etiquette, I should like to invite his attention to the abuses that have crept into the national game of "Simon says thumbs up." It is not at all what it was when its illustrious inventor left it as a legacy of delight to a grateful posterity, and I was recently beaten at it by "an unsportsmanlike conspiracy between a girl of 18 and a lad of 10. For what have we presidents?"

Mr. Hall Caine explains that he does his best thinking in church. Good, but the dogology and the benediction must have a paralyzing effect on the thing that he remembers with.

"I am convinced that the 3,400-pound projectile fired by the 16 inch gun is more effective in proportion than the 1,000-pound shot of the smaller guns."—Secretary Taft.

In proportion to what? The expense of firing it? If so, its destructiveness is truly volcanic.

No, Mr. August Belmont's vermiform appendix may have been "cast as rubbish to the void," or may have wriggled away into the incommunicable Afar, but he is not "out of danger." His life is still shadowed by the imminent peril of remaining what he always was.

"Japan does not wish to disturb the Philippines."—Minister Takahira.
No more did Dewey.

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