

COAST MAIL.

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MR. CLEVELAND AND TARIFF REFORM (Oregonian)

Mr. Cleveland can strike the cause of tariff reform no more deadly blow than to advocate it. The more he talks about it, the more perilous becomes its path. This is not a pleasant thing to say of a man of Mr. Cleveland's high character and eminent service to his country, but it is true. The country has a measurable interest in tariff reform—would that it had more! But a concern much greater than that is to keep the Government out of the hands of Mr. Cleveland's party. There is the mistaken but persistent notion that the panic of 1893 was due to free trade. Its votaries are legion. There is the more pertinent fact that the democratic idea of tariff reform had its free course in the Wilson law, and that the country got rid of it at the first opportunity. There is the crowning fact that Mr. Cleveland's party has not yet purged itself of the fatal opprobrium of Bryanism. If Mr. Cleveland had not been denied the sense of humor he would hardly have asked what the Republicans have done to justify confidence in them, when the applicability of his query to his own party is so patent. Trusts have grown amazingly in this country the past four administrations, it is true, but two of them were Democratic. All that is needed to perpetrate tariff abuses is for Mr. Cleveland to persuade the country that tariff reform is a Democratic enterprise. That will beat it. Fortunately, the country knows better, for tariff reform is in Republican hands, East and West. There is no better evidence of it than Mr. Cleveland's frantic efforts to identify the cause with his own party. He implores his comrades to lock the stable door. But the horse has already gone.

THE PRESIDENT AS A POLITICIAN

President Roosevelt made a serious mistake in trying to settle the great coal strike as he did. So astute a politician as President McKinley, would never have done such a thing. McKinley, who was the shrewdest diplomat in the country, would have sounded both sides first, and found out whether there was a chance of a settlement. Roosevelt, who is a fearless and honest, but an impolitic man, calls the warring parties together first, and then finds out that his good intentions were hopeless. * * * The President's move will hurt him with the politicians of his party, who have always been dubious of him.—S. F. Wasp.

The above comment, which appeared in the S. F. Wasp on Oct. 11th, shows the chances an editor takes when he comments too positively on an incident not yet closed. It was the view taken of the president's action, however, by very many who have little faith in cur-

age and honesty on the part of a public official.

As a matter of fact, President Roosevelt did not make a political mistake, and did not find that his good intentions were hopeless. On the contrary, he brought about resumption of work and a solution of the strike difficulty in the best possible way and as no other man on earth could have done it—for he acted as a man and not as President.

He has not only performed an act of incalculable value to the country, but he has raised himself in the estimation of every right-thinking person.

Even from the standpoint of political expediency he has scored a victory and helped his party. The effect on the congressional election could not be otherwise than good, for it effectually spiked the guns of those who were pointing to the strike as an object lesson in Republican friendliness to capital in its oppression of labor. It has helped the party, and in a way that no mere astute politician would have had the courage to do.

That it will hurt him with the politicians of his party may be true, but fortunately the politicians sometimes have to bow to an overwhelming popular sentiment, and it is safe to say that Theodore Roosevelt is more strongly entrenched in the admiration of the American people today than any man who has appeared on the stage of American life in a generation.

A KNOCKOUT FOR THE KNOCKERS

The article given below was handed in by a gentleman who has become impatient at the spectacle presented by the Coos Bay people who are knocking the Great Central project, even while reaping the benefit of the added prosperity already brought to the Bay by the work under way, and being in a position to reap still more from the consummation of the project. The MAIL can heartily endorse the gentleman's remarks, which run as follows:

A "Knocker" is generally understood to be a person who is ever anxious to advance his unsolicited opinions derogatory of any projected enterprise.

As there are no actions without their impelling motives, it might be well, before giving to the knocker too much credit, to inquire into the motive which thus thrusts him forward uninvited to force upon a prospective investor in our community his unwelcome opinions. For if the motive be bad, the opinion should have no weight.

In respect to motives the knockers divide themselves into two classes:

1st. Those who justify their course upon the high moral ground of exposing a fraud to prevent the unsuspecting from being fleeced.

2nd. Those who discountenance a proposed enterprise because they deem it bad for the community.

To those we add two others, which are not acknowledged by the knockers, viz.

3rd. Those who knock to satisfy some purely personal grudge.

4th. Those chronic complainers,

who kick because it is their nature so to do, and would kick because their was nothing to complain of.

We can understand why a man, whose actions are swayed by the high moral motive of protecting the unsuspecting, should expose a fraud when he has actual knowledge that it is such; but that man is likewise swayed by the equally high moral consideration that to denounce a thing as a fraud, without knowledge that it is so, is as dishonest as the fraud would be. This man will never take the chance that the thing may, for all he knows, be genuine. He is too honest to attempt to deprive the investor of what might turn out to be a good investment.

We therefore hold that the aggressive knocker with his winks, his nods, his shrewd guesses and all his knocking paraphernalia, is not moved upon his course by the first motive. If you take his advice, refrain from investing and thereby lose a great deal you might otherwise have gained, he will not consider himself a fraud or fake, but will assure you that you accepted his judgement, overlooking the fact that his judgment was forced upon you in such a manner as to persuade you that your knocking friend had some actual knowledge on the subject. We are forced to conclude that such is not the method of the man acting with an honest purpose.

The second class can be argued with if they assault the enterprise upon the ground that it will be a detriment to the community. This matter is confessedly a conclusion and everyone is entitled to draw his own. And the investor will determine that for himself. What he wants to hear are facts.

But this class of knockers asserts that the thing is a fake and assigns as the reason for exposing it, that a fake is a bad thing for the community's prosperity.

If the concern advertises your country without expense to yourselves; if it expends large sums of money in your midst; if it employs men; if it buys your property and your produce at your own prices; if it attracts a large number of investors to your community; if it brings people here; if it asks nothing of you either as a subsidy or bonus, you who even as you talk can hear the rattle of their money in your pockets, perjure yourselves when you place the reason for your knocking upon the ground that it is a bad thing for the community. Be it a fake or not the one certain thing is that it is increasing the prosperity of the whole county.

The third class is too contemptible and the fourth too unworthy to be given any credence whatever.

Had we knowledge that any enterprise started here was a fake or was anything less than it professed to be, we would be the first to make public that fact. In so doing we would be dealing with facts. But inasmuch as we have no personal grudges to satisfy and have neither time nor taste for complaint for the mere pleasure of it; and inasmuch as it is not our business to dissuade persons from

investments where we do not know they will lose, and because we feel that any concern which is attracting attention to our resources is doing us good, we are not disposed to spread the wet blanket, and heartily condemn such action in others.

We are confident of the vast resources of our county and resent any attempt, either direct or indirect, to belittle them. Therefore if you have naught to advance why people with money should not invest upon this Bay, except your unfounded opinion that some concern or other is a fake, be honest with yourself, be fair to your county and to the investors, be less anxious to air your derogatory views, but retain them to yourself until they are asked for.

SMOKED OUT

A four-line item in our last issue about the Bangor townsite investors evoked the wrath of the Coast Mail and a column of type in reply is handed us; the item is characterized as "painfully silly", the Great Central Railroad and all of its allied corporations are dragged in in defence of Bangor, and the whole shooting match, to cap the climax, is headed with a saying in German—just to show that the editor has a high forehead. The Mail man evidently speaks with authority on railroad matters, which we do not profess to know anything about, and which do not cut any ice with reference to The Sun's item. We can substantiate what we have said in reference to the celebrated wildcat townsite of Bangor. Is our esteemed contemporary aware that there never has been a single deed recorded for a lot in Bangor; that the plat of said town has never seen the clerk's office; and last but not least the intended purchasers of this townsite have not paid for said land and were informed not later than five days ago that they had to "dig up" or get off the land. What's the use of all this infernal lying? Do legitimate enterprises thrive and have to be nourished on misrepresentation, or would it be better to "tell the truth and shame the devil." Let the boosters shout.—The Sun.

The predominant feeling in this office is gratification that one knocker, at least, has been smoked-out of his hole. And we can not but commend the Sun for having nerve enough to put its kick into cold type. An open scrapper is always more worthy of respect than a back-biter.

If, however, the Sun had taken to heart that heading in German to which it objects, it never would have made the slap it did at the Bangor investors, nor would it say now, in effect, that the Bangor townsite proposition has nothing to do with railroad matter. Every one knows that the value of investments in the Bangor townsite depends altogether on the railroad. If a transcontinental road makes its terminus at Bangor, the investors will make a big thing; otherwise they lose. It is very simple, and those who have invested in Bangor surely understand it.

The MAIL was perfectly aware of the status of the townsite, but no one newspaper can, from day to day, name all the things that have never been done. If any one has been in ignorance it was his own fault; the investors certainly know that they haven't received their deeds. There has been no secret at all about it and no misrepresentations, so far as the MAIL has been informed. If the Sun and some of the other knockers had "been around" a little more they would not spring such a simple and common proposition with such a grand flourish. The Sun fails to in-

form its readers, however, that the money deposited on Bangor lots is tied up in such a way that if a deed cannot be given when the proper time comes the money will be returned.

As for the "dig up" matter, the MAIL will confess ignorance—and doubt,

We are happy to note that the last six lines of the Sun's article are in a reflective vein. Truly, what's the use of lying? And what is the use of misrepresenting any legitimate enterprise in the endeavor to curry favor with some other legitimate enterprise? They all help each other.

The MAIL is perfectly satisfied with its position in this matter. We have given our readers all the news that has come to our knowledge and seemed to have a bearing on the main question of whether or not the Great Central is likely to accomplish its avowed object of making Coos Bay the terminus of a transcontinental railroad. That is a matter of the utmost importance to all, and our readers are entitled to all the light we can give them. That is what we are here for.

In our remarks about knocking we have been stating our convictions. We want to see the road built; we want to see this country developed and this harbor made the scene of the activities to which its excellence and its position entitles it. The fact that the Great Central people are paying neither "hush money" nor subsidies to Coos Bay newspapers cuts no figure with the MAIL. It is not the policy of this paper to jump onto any one in the hope of making him "dig up" nor have we ever announced that we were "out for the dust."

The Great Central people are certainly entitled to decent treatment, and our readers are entitled to the news. If the MAIL fail in either respect it will not be intentionally.

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MARK'S CORNER : : Front Street

FOXHOUNDS.
Foxhounds are extraordinarily swift, as is proved by the fact that a dog of this breed once beat a thoroughbred horse, covering four miles in six and one-half minutes, which was at the rate of nearly eighteen yards a second.