

SALEM, JAN. 15, 1891.

Editor Democrat:

For days preceding the convening of the Legislature and during the excitement of getting it into line, the public were assured that it was inevitable that Joe Simon was to be then and there politically buried. That the senator from Washington had mounted "white Surry" for the final charge and victory. Even the candidate for governor, whom Governor Penoyer so completely demolished, was early in the field battling for the supremacy of the senator from Washington. The battle came on, and after the great contest the result for president of the senate was Simon 14, senator of Columbia 7, and the senator of Washington 1, when this announcement was made came the echo—that the senator of Washington withdrew so "that harmony might prevail." In other words he withdrew for want of votes to beat Simon, who when the "deadest," is the liveliest corpse ever found in any political cemetery. Joe Simon, for he is known by no other name, is 39 years of age, about five feet and three inches in height and has a fighting weight of 135 pounds. He has been State Senator from Multnomah for twelve years, and twice president of the senate. He has been a valuable worker for Multnomah county. In political warfare his bold and wreckless exhibitions of his prowess have often shocked the feebler nerves of his friends, who always admired his drawn lance, that which intensified the hostile spirit of his powerless enemies. Notwithstanding this little bit of "harmony" swells to the dome of the capital, and before an adjournment of the House is had a bill is introduced to amend the Police force of Portland, as expressed in its report, to down "Joe Simon." What lovely harmony.

The popular senator from Lane, Mr Vestch, introduced the first bill, one to do away with the R R Commission. This may pass. It seems that something of a Railroad Commission should exist, but unfortunately the present Board has not impressed the public mind favorably as to the efficiency of or necessity for this commission. Had it kept within the law and confined its reports to those it is required to make to the legislature and of its own investigation into the cause of the disasters it would have escaped the censure which it has received for being over officious without doing any good or importing a word of information to the public. Their own opinions are no protection to them or any satisfaction to the public. If, when the Board concluded to sit as a court, swear its members, and take testimony *ad infinitum* for which there was no law, it had given the testimony so taken to the public instead of a gratuitous opinion of its own not warranted by this testimony popularly considered it might have dispated this disposition to criticize their official conduct which has lessened the faith of the public in the necessity of having such board continued. It was the testimony the public wanted, and inasmuch as the public was as much the judges as the commission in these matters, courtesy if not a legal requirement, should have given the testimony to the public, which is always the safe and conservative criterion in everything. The duties of the Commission in cases that arise on petition to settle complaints of patrons against common carriers are very different from those in case of accidents. In the latter case, when the Commission has reported its own examination or investigation it has fulfilled the law. Recent experience of the Board offers nothing to sustain its life. The impression is, that it should go into winter quarters. It has now all the power that can be constitutionally given to it, and if properly understood it is enough. The message of Gov. Penoyer is very generally discussed and approved. It will take root and receive the support of every independent mind that reads it. The only answer to it is that it is Penoyer's strong personality that marks it, and then a criticism may be applied. When Jefferson and Jackson laid down the constitutional safeguards as the rules that should govern

our nation and warned the people of the encroachments of federal and corporate power upon their rights. Federalists of the old school lost no time in denouncing and ridiculing both Jefferson and Jackson until they made both presidents of the United States. Penoyer is no less the people's champion of their rights and liberties, and his bold and fearless presentation of the rights of states and of citizens as against all usurpations will subject him to the same amount of detraction from his enemies as was heaped upon the heads of the early apostles of democracy. These things bring their reward, an irresistible reward that finds its virtue in the triumph of the great masses of the people. History informs us that we had "Jeffersonianism" and "Jacksonianism," that saved our nation in its hours of depression and peril, cannot we not in these last days receive "Penoyerism" of equal merit with the "isms" to which we refer, and fight it out on that line to the achievement of every reform? PROGRESS.

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