

# Aurora Borealis.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1900.

W. S. U'Ren of Oregon City, the erstwhile Populist leader and dictator, has taken a new departure and arrived at a very sensible conclusion. U'Ren has for a long time been an initiative and referendum enthusiast—fanatic, if you will—and that issue with him predominated all others. He believed, and possibly does yet, in free silver, but was willing to ignore the silver plank in order to gain the other. He has finally hit upon a happy idea. Knowing full well that the Republicans will control the next legislature, he has conceived the plan of the Populists supporting all republican legislative candidates who will pledge themselves to vote for an initiative and referendum measure. Of U'Ren's recent visit to Astoria the Herald of that city says:

He came to Astoria to consult with the Populist leaders here, Hon. J. N. Svendseth and Sofus Jensen, and several others, but both Mr. Svendseth and Jensen were out of the city. Just what instructions will be given the Populists was not stated, but there is no doubt but that any member of the last legislature who voted for the initiative and referendum amendment, will receive the support of the Populists in the various counties. Clatsop delegation voted solid for the amendment. While not known that they favor such an amendment, yet they are willing that it should be submitted to a vote of the people.

While U'Ren will be damned by the Democrats and Populists wishing union, none can but admit that he has a level head on this occasion. His philosophy is faultless. It is too clear to be disputed. Simmered down, it means that the Populists, or initiative and referendum people, can gain their ends only through the reigning party, and to obtain the good-will of the Republicans they must support their legislative candidates. But U'Ren pauses at only a milestone and knows full well that he and his followers should go on to the terminus. To cinch the matter why do they not promise to support Republican candidates for all offices? They should temporarily at least become Republicans and work for their object inside the party. They have not nor will they accomplish anything outside of it. This initiative and referendum amendment would have to be voted upon by the people and therefore it would be requisite for success to propitiate the majority of the Republicans in the state, all of whom are not candidates for the legislature.

One of the best political moves will be the projected nomination of Bryan before the Democrats get a whack at it. The prospect of the refusal of the Democrats to endorse the Populist nomination and the selection of another by the Democratic body will be only an incentive to the Populists to have an early convention. With Bryan all to themselves they would have a bigger party than that of the Democrats—perhaps. It would be just probable that, in the event of an early meeting of the Populists, Bryan would not accept a nomination from their hands, as in 1896, and there is a likelihood that if he is chosen by the Populists the Democrats will put up another man. This proposed "previous" meeting of the Populists may be a deep political move on the part of the anti-Bryan Democrats, but it is more of a Populist scheme to build up that organization.

This year the publishers of some of the one-horse Republican newspapers of Oregon will again form an association, whose principal object will be to divide the campaign fund sent to Oregon with the independent Ore-

gonian. They tried this last year, but have faith in the maxim, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." The prospects are that they will be found trying in 1904. They of course are Republicans and will support the ticket no matter how the pecuniary cat jumps. It must not be supposed that some of the one-horse sheets of this state that are not represented in the association are not staunchly Republican.

Misfortunes never come singly, and Sylvester Pennoyer has found this out. To have his dwelling seized in the unrelenting grasp of the law was bad enough, but there are other ways of making ducks and drakes of one's property than going bondsman for an unfeeling and heartless city. Mr. Pennoyer has a little farm at Woodstock, on which he has a large duck pond, and recently he purchased a dozen ducks to stock this pond, looking forward to having a large flock next fall. The ducks were duly sent to the farm and turned loose on the pond, when the man in charge of the place discovered that 11 of them were drakes. Further particulars are unnecessary, but there are other things accursed under the gold standard.—Oregonian.

Now all Pennoyer needs is free silver and two gondolas for his lake—a male and female.

It would have been much pleasant and better for all if the hop association and buyers had harmonized in the beginning. Now they are farther apart than ever and doing each other material damage. The association unwisely started in to not only advance the price of hops, but to "do up" the brokers. This naturally put the latter on the defensive and offensive. The growers when they first convened entered into an abuse of hopbuyers instead of getting right down to pure business. Instead, they should have particularly extended an invitation to local agents of Eastern buyers to meet with them.

W. H. Scott announces through the Oregonian that he is not, nor will be a candidate for the United States senate. He says he has no desire to undertake the labors of the position. Scott is smart, but he reminds us of the story of the fox and the grapes.—Silverton Appeal.

It seemed to us that Mr. Scott was perfectly honest about the matter. He simply does not want to be in the senate. There is nothing in this that should call to mind the old fox and grapes fable, for if Mr. Scott were to be a candidate for United States senator he would, under present conditions, be selected.

The British in South Africa are now about to make a move that will to an extent remedy the poor generalship displayed thus far. They will march on the Orange Free State with 70,000 men. It is supposed that the Boers will be drawn there in force, or at least the Free Staters will break for home to protect their own. The history of the past three months has taught the world that the Boers are full of resources and good generalship.

Now there will be investigation of the title of West Virginia Senator Scott's seat in the United States senate. The senate is devoting considerable time to this kind of business which it would not do so much if its members were elected by a direct vote of the people. It is widely conceded that legislatures are purchasable and do not by any means represent the opinions and wishes of the people.

There can be no harm done if the Oregon Hopgrowers' Association disposes of its pooled 1899 hops to Eastern buyers through the latter's agents here. What the growers desire is to realize as soon as possible on their last year's product and obtain as much money as possible, no matter where the money comes from or through whose hands it passes.

County officers are lost sight of for the time being in the interest manifested in who shall be congressman and United States senator. On these two matters there is much quiet work being done and some admirable scheming. So far as we have heard, each candidate has such good chances that there is no doubt of his selection.

When Spain was vanquished by America she was on the verge of a revolution at home. The Carlists were prepared to seize the throne. That the young king is still secure is due to the intervention of the Pope, whose influence has for the nonce stripped Carlism of militant power.

We heard an earnest pleader for free silver and anti-expansion the other day. He believed just what he said, too. What struck us particularly was that his Democratic party would certainly lose this year if Bryan were nominated.

Kicked out of congress, Roberts has returned to his loves. He never did forsake them. Unlike some congressmen, he fathered all his children, and did not try to get any of his sweethearts into the treasury department.

The trusts now in existence are rather small concerns compared with the colossal combine that is being formed by the Standard Oil and Whitney groups to control the light, heat and power used in New York city.

What a vastly different country this would be if all were not afraid to do a little extra work, full of vim, push and courage. But many people were born tired and as many more are fonder of recreation than work.

For the honor of having the Republican national convention Philadelphia must pay \$100,000. The Press of that city naturally wonders why such an amount is needed to pay the expenses of a convention.

The Democrats of Marion have come to a tacit understanding that there will be no union this year with the Populists. This decision has spoiled the latter's plans. They are not now so all-important.

China's woman ruler has fired another emperor. She is still under the influence of Li Hung Chang and Russia. The Oriental imbroglio is being brought to a head by the Mongolian dynasty itself.

The Southern Pacific promptly discharged brakeman Harvey, who has been held to answer the charge of assault on Winnie Thorn. His is not a case that any labor association desires to defend.

This talk of Webster Davis being slated for Vice President on the Republican ticket is all rot. McKinley cannot run any risk of losing New York for the slim chance of gaining Missouri.

President McKinley is too sharp to dictate who shall be Vice President. Mr. McKinley is satisfied with the fact that he is the only candidate for President on the Republican or winning side.

Burke Cochran has announced that he will support Bryan if the latter drops free silver. As Bryan will not do this—cannot do it—what is Burke going to do?

Some of Aguinaldo's followers in this country are truly sorry that the insurrection in the Philippines is over and the Americans have won.

The Democrats need not look around for a runningmate for Bryan. They can endorse the Populists' choice for Vice President.

The assassination of Senator Goebel is a deep disgrace to Kentucky. No fair-minded person can lay the blame at Governor Taylor's door.

In some sections of the Northwest the reported smallpox epidemic has turned out to be chickenpox. Doctors are not infallible.

Why these meetings to express sympathy for the Boers? They do not seem to be needing it.

It is pleasing to note that subscribers to the AURORA BOREALIS continue to roll in.

Portland is becoming quite noted for having so many missing murderers.

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