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Scio Press.

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THE SALEM MUDDLE.

The situation at the legislature of Salem is a peculiar one indeed. At the time of the adjournment of the senate and Benson house Friday, a settlement of the situation was seemingly no nearer than upon the first week of the session. Both sides appear to be fixed in their determination. It is generally thought, that upon the decision of the senate upon the matter of the recognition of the Benson house depends as to how the dead lock may be brought to an end. Should the Bensonsites be recognized as the legally organized house, by the senate and Governor Lord, it is quite probable that the members who have been staying out, will take their seats and the fight will then be transferred to the floor of the house. But it is quite improbable that the Benson house will be recognized as a legal body and in which case a new organization upon a compromise basis will probably result.

While the wisdom of the tactics adopted by the Bensonsites is open to question, they are guileless of any wrong except that of continually absenting themselves from roll call. In all other respects, they have been very careful to follow the letter of the constitution. Temporary Speaker Davis has consistently ruled that two-thirds of the members elected must be present before any business whatever could be transacted other than that of adjourning from day to day. This has been done regularly. The attempt of the Bensonsites to prevent him from taking his seat through force was universally condemned, and has placed the Benson house in bad odor before the people. The force employed was composed of thugs, ruffians and all around shoulder strikers, one-half dozen of whom were sworn in as assistant sergeants of arms. So rank did this movement appear that many of the Bensonsites themselves openly condemned the action. Mr. Benson evidently saw that even his own house would not uphold such revolutionary measures and he therefore, directed the thugs to stand aside and permit Speaker Davis to take his chair.

When the small permanent organization was effected, it could only be accomplished by the displacement of Temporary Speaker Davis who presided in following the letter of the state constitution, with a speaker who would do their bidding no matter what the constitution might require.

Why should Speaker Davis be intimidated by being removed from his position? Even his opponents do not assert that he has been absent from a single roll call or has violated the requirements of the constitution as interpreted by himself and sustained by many of the most eminent lawyers in the state. Members who continually absent themselves from roll call may be unwise, but they are not violating laws. Their activity be open to question; but their action and ruling of speaker Davis are in strict conformity with law, and probably will be upheld by the senate and the people in the exercise of the functions of his office. There is but one opinion in regard to the tactics of force resorted to by the Bensonsites. It certainly places the action of men who claim to be actuated only by a desire to further the interests of the people in a very questionable light before the people. With them the all important question is the reelection of Senator Mitchell, and the matter of the enactment of legislation for and in the interests of the people, is secondary. They appear to think they were elected to reelect Mr. Mitchell at any or all hazards.

We sincerely hope that a compromise will be effected at once and an attempt at least, made to enact some of the many proposed measures for the relief of the people, into laws. There are but a few measures that are absolutely required, and there is plenty of time for it in almost any month, as well as to repeal those of noxious commissions.

Senator Mitchell, nevertheless he has an extraordinary large lobby at Salem to assist him, is daily becoming more convinced that he is now serving his last term in the U. S. senate. Had he remained at his post of duty instead of attempting to force his reelection, he would have found less opposition to his reelection than now exists. The people are getting tired of this continual interruption of the law making power by senatorial aspirants. The day is not far distant when such interference will be a sufficient ground for defeat.

OUR COUNTY OFFICERS.

Over six months have elapsed since our present county officers were inducted to their various offices. They have all been in office long enough, to become familiar with their respective duties. Most of the opinions that we have heard expressed publicly, are, that we have never had a more efficient, careful and job-taking gentlemanly, courteous and accommodating set of county officers, than we now have. Every officer seems to be the right man in the right place.

The conduct of our city court, from a business point of view, as administered by Judge Burton and assisted by Commissioners Walters and Curt, is unsurpassed by any similar court in the state. Strict economy has been their watchword and as a result, their first tax levy is but a trifle less than the second year of any county in the state. This is the way that our judges manage our county affairs. Judge Burton may make mistakes, but it is commonly admitted that he is in the right place and is undeterred, with the aid of Commissioners Walters and Curt, to keep public expenditures at the lowest point commensurate with the public good.

County Clerk Montague, in point of competency, has never been surpassed by any of his predecessors. His gentlemanly bearing and courteous and accommodating manner makes him a very popular county officer.

Sheriff Gibbs, with his efficient deputy, Mr. Lewelling, is conducting the sheriff's office in a manner satisfactory to all. He is doing much of the work himself, instead of having it done by deputies, thus making his office largely less expensive than was the case under his predecessor. Nor is the affairs of his office conducted less efficiently in order to reduce expenses. He is simply doing as much of the work as he can instead of hiring it done at public expense. Of course he has deputies in various portions of the county; but so far, they have done but very little of the work as compared with the former administration. Deputy Lewelling attended to the office matters and can be found at his desk at all times.

School Superintendent Wheeler is not behind any of his predecessors in point of thoroughly attending to his duties. He has attended more schools during the six months he has been in office than was visited by Superintendent Rutherford during his entire two years' term of office. His official action is generally satisfactory to teachers and school officers.

The old county officers, or those who were re-elected, are administering the affairs of their respective offices with fidelity and ability. The simple fact that Recorder Hartman and Treasurer Morris were re-elected while the responsibilities of their offices were defeated, is evidence that they have done their duties as public servants in the past and may be called upon to continue to do so during the present term.

Criminal matters appear to be looked after very thoroughly by Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Dal-

rymple. As a rule he convicts all violators of law whom he prosecutes. Cost bills in justice courts are rather high at times, much to the regret of our reprobated court, but as the law now stands, Attorney Dalrymple cannot but partly prevent this seemingly large expense. The simple fact that his prosecution generally result in convictions, shows that he is slow to take up doubtful cases.

Taking our public officials as a whole, they are a credit to Linn county and will not suffer in comparison with the officers of any other county in the state. Every one seems to be discharging his duty in a thorough conscientious manner, ever remembering that they are public servants, and are in duty bound to be governed by rigid economy in spending the people's money. If the remaining portion of their official term is conducted with the same care for the public good, the people will never regret having placed the county government in the hands of the populists.

The Salem Statesmen stated in one of the issues of last week that the populists members from Linn county had telegraphed "Colonel" Dairymple from Albany to come to Salem and give them the benefit of his advice. Representatives Smith and Munkers state that they never sent such a telegram and that as soon as Dairymple arrived in Salem, he immediately went to the Mitchell headquarters. His conference with Messrs. Smith and Munkers was after he had received his instructions from Mr. Mitchell. His open letter to the populists members, were distributed by the thousand and were undoubtedly paid for out of the Mitchell campaign fund. Mr. Mitchell is certainly driven to very hard lines, when he will resort to such despicable political methods. We despise Dalrymple will lose his position of deputy prosecuting attorney, because of his efforts to assist the declining fortunes of Mr. Mitchell.

The Albany Herald states the members of the legislature who will not participate in the camp organization as "highwaymen." We presume that it considers such eminent(?) statesmen as Tom McNary and his associates to shoulder strikers, a patriotic statesman. Since such men as J. S. Smith and L. M. Munkers become highwaymen? If they merit the appellation given them by the Herald, their proper place is at the end of a gibbet, and we suggest that the Herald institute proceedings against them to that end. We certainly believe that those members who refuse to obey the mandates of speaker Davis, a constitutionally elected officer, are transgressors of law in a more grave manner than are the so-called "highwaymen."

Colonel John Kelsey, a prominent member of the Oregon bar, is reported that at his home in Albany on the 17th Inst. Col. Kelsey served with distinction in the Rogue river Indian war of 1856, and was at one time a member of the supreme court of Oregon.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

(WASHINGTON, D. C. January 28, Special Correspondence.)—I ask you honest republicans to read what I say in this letter in the spirit in which it is written. I am not about to represent you for voting against Bryan and silver. You did what you honestly believed to be the best for your country, and if you qualify, mistake you made it conscientiously.

But, on the other hand, you can't afford to initiate the strike, and try to blot out facts by covering up your eyes. The election is over. There is nothing to be gained by misrepresentation. You can no longer think we have any selfish motive in what we shall say to you. Therefore we expect you to read and reflect upon what we shall present for your consideration.

In the first place there is no denying the fact that we are all disappointed at the present business condition. I never believed for a moment the statement made by the gold papers and speakers during the campaign that all they wanted was confidence, and immediately after McKinley's election confidence would be restored, money plenty and times good. But I did look for a considerable revival of business and I have been disappointed.

From week to week the weekly review of trade by the two com-

mercial agencies which has made the most confident predictions of a return of prosperity, and their disappointment at the failure of their predictions. They admit that business has not revived, and that prices have fallen. All the leading papers have tried to justify the awful crash of business since election, but the weekly tables of Dunn and Bradstreet's commercial agencies show the failures for the last four weeks have reached five tremendous total of over fourteen hundred banks have been failing in every direction. The poverty and misery in all the great cities is greater than ever known before, even with the advertisement of an appropriate and demand caused by the failure of crops and failures in 1896, the farmers can't take care enough to pay their debts.

It is time for us to think out the cause of these things. You say it might have been worse if Bryan had been elected? Well, let us see what would have been the probable result.

We are frank to admit that for a few days there would have been trouble for the banks. They had talked ruin superstitiously that it is quite reasonable to suppose that many depositors would have been frightened and would have rushed to get out their deposits, and it is even possible that a good many banks would have had to suspend temporarily. But all such trouble would have been merely temporary, for this reason:

If Bryan and a free coinage congress had been elected everyone would know that it would be but a few months before there would be more money, or as the gold bugs would call it, "cheap money." Now if a man has something in his possession that he knows is going to be cheaper what will he do with it? Will he hoard it up? Or the contrary he will exchange it as quick as he can for something that he knows is going to become more valuable. Now, as all the republican papers state, the victory of silver would have resulted in diminishing the purchasing power of the dollar. After free silver coinage went into operation a dollar would grow less and less in value as compared with land, hay, fish, and everything else which money can be exchanged for. Knowing this fact every man who had money would want to exchange that money for food, logs, furniture, factories, or some kind of property before money went down and property up.

You can't help but see this, and you must therefore see that if Bryan and a free silver congress had been elected, as soon as the first day or two of coinage panic caused by the bankers had passed away, there would have been a rush to buy property and a consequent rise in prices caused by the increased demand.

If there had not been quite so many honest men like yourself deceived by the subsidized newspaper editors, editors, hired by the manufacturers, we would by this time have entered upon an era of soundly rising prices. Your farm would be worth more, your logs and wood worth more, your store and your goods worth more, your mill and your machinery worth more, your piece of property in the state would have sold for more than it was worth, and under the stimulus of rising prices factories would have started up to supply the increasing demand, and instead of a nation used out of work, many of those dependent on charity or crime for their daily bread, work would be increasing and wages advancing.

As it is, honest men know that money is nearly to become more valuable every day. They are willing to wait where they are certain to get it back; no every dollar paid back to them will be worth more than the dollar they loaned. They have too much sense to buy depreciated farm and property, who are speculating in them. That is why you can borrow money easier than you can sell property.

That there will be other times soon is inevitable. There are some people who still have money to buy what they need.

After a prolonged stagnation like that we have been having the products of labor become almost entirely consumed and then there is a starting up until the limited demand is again supplied. But this revival again can not be much longer delayed, will be only temporary, or the great mass of people will have no more money that they have now, and there can be no permanent prosperity until labor and property go up, and mortgages go down.

JAMES FRANKSON.

OUR MIDWINTER SALE.

OUR MIDWINTER SALE. GREAT REDUCTIONS IN CLOTHING. Is making room for NEW GOODS at a rapid rate.

300 Pairs All-Wool Pants At \$1.95

Come early and take advantage of this opportunity to get a genuine bargain.

The E. E. Blain Clothing Co., Albany, Or.

RURAL WINDOW.

The farmers assembled in national congress at Indianapolis have taken the bull by the horns and come out plainly for what future style usually means anarchy, but which common sense defines as much needed reforms. They take strong exceptions to the decision of the Supreme Court on the income tax law and declare that inasmuch as the farmers' income includes all the products of the farm, all farm products should be exempt from taxation or assessment. To the agriculture districts the Supreme Court might well refer to learn the common sense interpretation of law, and should the provision levying taxes upon farm products be taken before the same Supreme Court that decided the income tax law unconstitutional, that tribunal could not consistently had a different view on the income of the farmer, but consistency is no jewel with that august body; its decisions are based upon the financial standing of the parties interested in the controversy up for adjudication, and should a farmer attempt to have a law taxing him declared unconstitutional, the judges would no doubt give him the "horse laugh" and have him sent to jail for contempt of court. That is generally a poor man's pariah. They did not stay with this timely job at the courts, but passed resolutions demanding that the existing laws against tru be enforced by the authorities, and that where they are not strong enough they should be made stronger. The farmers perhaps see the direct effect of trusts more than any other class and are very active in their demands to have the law applied. But why is the law not enforced? We have executive officers enough to enforce them. If they fail they can call upon the militia; that fact they can call upon the United States army. But who ever heard of the military being brought into play to make trunks or exports doors respect the law? It is an unknown circumstance, and will probably always remain an unknown one. That force is reserved to keep law in working people. The authorities do not wait for workmen to break a law; the military is called out in anticipation of law-breaking, but when sedition occurs with pennant-headed military outfits force it.

Committee after committee has been appointed by both Congress and state legislatures to investigate charges against trusts, but in some mysterious manner nothing has ever been done. Evidence of the existence of trusts and combines has been gathered in profusion by committees of Congress, but according to an established custom it is always sidetracked before it reaches a focus and the trusts live on and flourish, flouting the indignation of corruption in the faces of the people who are led to believe that they have Representatives in Congress.

May the expressions of these farmers grow until they sweep the country.—St. Louis Evening Journal.

A Cure For Lame Back.

"My daughter, when recovering from an attack of fever, was a great sufferer from pain in the back and hips," writes Louden Grover, of Sapho, Ky. "After using quite a number of remedies without any benefit she tried one bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm, and it has given entire relief." Chamberlain's Pain Balm is also a certain cure for rheumatism. Sold by J. S. MORRIS & Co.

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