

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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A REMARKABLE MAN.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN in many respects is the most remarkable among our statesmen. No other man since the civil war days, has been twice defeated for the presidency and emerge from those defeats holding a greater measure of popularity than ever. No other defeated candidate for the presidency has had his political ideas wholly adopted by his opposing political party, and made its policy of government, as he. No other American statesmen has had the wisdom of his political ideas established and formulated into laws by his political enemies.

If we except Mr. Bryan's 16 to 1 free coinage of silver theory, every one of his leading contentions in the campaigns of 1896 and 1900 have been swallowed by the Republican administration. Nor has Mr. Bryan's theory of money been entirely turned down. He advocated the free coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1, as a means to an end. Mr. Bryan believed that the financial disasters of '93-4-5 were due to a depleted volume of basic money, and for this reason advocated the free coinage of silver. He argued that the volume of money in a country measured the commodities of that country—that if you doubled the money you would double the price of commodities. Our financial history since the campaign of 1896, has fully established the correctness of Mr. Bryan's conclusions. At that time the treasury reports showed a volume of money, less than \$14 per capita. We can all remember the 40 cent wheat, \$25 horses, and \$10 cows of that day. Immediately after Mr. McKinley's election, a policy of money expansion was inaugurated. More silver was coined than ever before. Men searched for and found fabulously rich gold mines. The number of national banks of issue was rapidly increased, etc. All of which has increased the money volume, until now the treasury reports show a little less than \$34 per capita of money in circulation. We have more than doubled the money volume. How about the price of commodities? Wheat 75 to 80 cents per bushel; horses from \$100 to \$150; cows from \$30 to \$40, and other commodities increased in like proportion. Has not Mr. Bryan's quantitative theory of money been fully verified?

Mr. Bryan urged that the trusts should be curbed; that railway freight rates should be regulated by law; that the tariff, the mother of trusts, should be regulated; that men who were unlawfully acquiring government lands should be prosecuted, etc. All of these measures have been, or are in process of, being carried out. True, the tariff has not yet been revised; but revision will be undertaken in the near future.

Of course, Mr. Bryan had no patent to these reform measures. He simply was wise enough in 1896 to see the dangers that threatened the commonwealth, and had the eloquence to sound the alarm, in so convincing manner, that the Republican administration was compelled to take the matter up. The men who participated in the Farmers' Alliance movement, eight or ten years prior to the date when Mr. Bryan electrified the country with his Crown of Thorns and Cross of Gold speech, voiced the same sentiment. But the Farmers' Alliance, seemingly, could not reach the ears of the people. It required the eloquence and force of a Bryan to sound the alarm in a way to which the people would listen.

Mr. Bryan will be nominated the third time for the presidency, at Denver, next July. Who his opposing candidate may be is, at this time, quite uncertain. Certain it is, that unless President Roosevelt shall be his opponent, Mr. Bryan will be the winner. Nor is it certain that President Roosevelt can defeat him. Reports from the East indicate that Mr. Bryan will be much stronger in that section than he was in his previous campaigns. With the Republican party torn asunder as never before, and with the purse strings of the predatory rich drawn tightly against it, the g. o. p. never started into a campaign so handicapped as at the present time.

Mr. Bryan, as before stated, is a remarkable

man. Is he to be made still more remarkable by, after receiving two crushing defeats, in a third effort proving victorious? At this time, at least, the sign appears to be right.

TO EXTEND THE WATER SYSTEM.

NEXT SATURDAY the citizens of Scio will decide whether or not our water system shall be extended to cover the residence districts. We understand there will be some considerable opposition to the project.

The measure is opposed because it is thought by the opposition that an increase of taxation would result. This is a mistaken idea. The city charter taxation is eight mills on the dollar, and as the tax levy is now eight mills, and will probably continue at that figure for an indefinite period, whether or not the water system is extended, it can be readily seen that the financial increase of taxes is impossible.

How, then, shall the proposed improvement be paid for? Supposing that when the system is extended, our citizens will increase the number of hydrants by 50. This, without increasing the cost of operating the plant, will increase the water revenue \$900. There will probably be 100 more lights taken when the new plant is installed. This will bring in \$900 more revenue. It will require \$300 to pay the interest on the proposed debt; leaving over \$600 to apply on the principle. In six years the debt is paid.

There is another feature connected with the proposed extension. Every residence covered with adequate fire protection will save in insurance 15 per cent. Suppose the average residence is covered with \$300 insurance. The annual premium, excluding exposures in the old line companies, is now \$7.50. Covered by fire protection, this amount would be reduced to \$6.40, enough to pay for one family hydrant for one month or, taken all together, more than enough to pay the interest upon the proposed indebtedness.

Another feature. All residences within the city limits and without the district now covered by our water system, are taxed to maintain our water system as it now stands. Thus these people are paying a tax from which they can reap no possible benefit.

As a general principle, the News is opposed to a city incurring debt; except the return is sufficient to warrant the indebtedness. To have our water and light systems so extended that every citizen may reap his or her portion of the accruing benefit, seems to us to be a matter that amply justifies the venture. Then think of the green lawns and well sprinkled streets, of the convenience and safety of the electric light. Then go up to the polls next Saturday and vote for your own convenience, safety and pleasure.

So Abe Ruef is still the boss down at the bay city. He holds the key that will unlock the doors of conviction to Ford, Calhoun, et al, and will not give it up except upon his own terms. Ruef is the greater rascal of the whole bunch, and it is humiliating to law-abiding and decent people to be compelled to allow the scoundrel to go unpunished. But it seems to be a sort "Of two evils choose the least" case. Ruef will escape punishment. Our California friends might send him to congress, as Oregon did Brother Herman.

What is the use of expending money hunting down criminals, prosecuting and convicting them in the trial courts, if the appellate courts set aside the verdict on pure technicalities. Mayor Smitz, of San Francisco, committed the crimes of which he was convicted. Nobody doubts that fact. Yet an appellate court, because of some nonsensical technical construction of law, has undone the work of the trial court, and the big expense of convicting the fiddling mayor goes for naught. The appellate court is said to be a creature of the S. P. railroad. Like the railroad, the court needs fixing.

Of course counties in which state institutions, particularly the colleges, favor large appropriations for those institutions. Why would they not, when the vast majority of the money appropriated is expended in the county wherein the college or other institution is established. Lane and Benton counties draw double the amount of money from the state treasury that they contribute through taxation to it. Douglas, Jackson, Polk and Umatilla get about as much back as they pay in. Marion, of course, because of the penitentiary and eleemosynary institutes, gets many times the amount from the state which she pays to it. But Marion has this fact in her favor. Every state institution in that county was built in accordance with the provisions of the state constitution. The colleges and soldiers' home were erected in these other counties in direct violation of that venerable instrument.

This week the land fraud mill has been set in motion down in Portland. But what is the use for Mr. Heney to spend time and brain force in convicting men, if upon repeal, his work is undone? When our U. S. supreme court forces a construction of law that permits scoundrels to escape punishment for their crimes, one is forced to conclude that in some way or somehow the court shall be reconstructed. Our U. S. supreme court is the highest court in the land. Its members, like

Ceaser's wife should be above reproach. But are they? There is one consolation, however. Mr. Herman nor Mr. Williamson if tried again, can appeal to this highest court. They can only appeal to the U. S. district court of appeals. They are not now congressmen, and cannot avail themselves of the constitutional privileges accorded congressmen. After all judicial officers are only men, and are subject to mistaken judgements and dishonest motives, the same as ordinary humanity. Yet one hates to think so. One would like to think our courts influenced only by motives of justice, law and equity.

Office seekers do not seem to be very plentiful in Lane county this year. Prospective candidates must have their petitions out now in a short time. We know of several citizens, who, like Barkley, is willing, but who seem somewhat bashful in putting their names before the public.

All of our county officers, save one commissioner, are to be elected this year. Men who have been tried as county officials and who have made good, may be persuaded to try again. It is a pretty good idea to select men who are tried and true. We do this in private, why not in political life.

Whichever political party is the victor at the polls next fall, whoever may be elected president, this fight of the people to regain control of the government will go on and on. The people of the United States, having been aroused to the importance of purity and upright-ness in public life, and of just and equitable dealing between citizens, will ever press towards the accomplishment of that end. The time is not far distant when the American people can justly feel proud of their public men, because they will justify that pride by their acts.

SHOP LIFTER CAUGHT.

Arrested yesterday evening by D. O. Woodworth Drug company, after she had been detected stealing a handbag from the counters in the store, Mrs. Kate Murray was taken before Justice of the Peace L. L. Swan, and charged with the crime. Waving examination the woman was bound over to the Circuit court, her bonds being fixed at \$50, which were furnished late last night by relatives.

For the past few weeks the woman has been under surveillance by the merchants of the city who suspected her of being a shoplifter, but not until yesterday evening was it made possible to detect her in the act of taking property not her own. When Mr. Woodworth saw Mrs. Murray enter his store he concealed himself upstairs behind a pile of wall paper, and saw her take a handbag and drop it in a bag which she carried. The woman immediately hastened from the store. Mr. Woodworth followed and overtaking Mrs. Murray stopped her.

"Mad m," said he. "I think you have something that you did not pay for at my store when you were there a moment ago."

Without any hesitation Mrs. Murray drew the handbag from her satchel and handed it over to Mr. Woodworth saying, "certainly, here it is, I don't want it."

"Well, we want you," said Mr. Woodworth, "and you can come along with me." Mrs. Murray did not make any protest but accompanied her captor to Justice of the Peace Swan's office. A number of merchants who had found goods missing in the past few weeks, accompanied Deputy Sheriff F. C. Steinhilber to a local rooming house where Mrs. Murray had a room, and a search was made with the result that 19 articles identified as stolen from six different merchants in town, were brought to light. A number of other things which could not be positively identified as stolen, were found, and partially identified. The merchants from whom the identified articles were stolen are D. O. Woodworth, Chambers & McCune, Fogarty & Mason, G. A. Flood and L. E. Hamilton.—Aiban Herald Jan. 9.

COST OF THE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT FOR SCIO.

The following figures are submitted for the benefit of the public:
New 6-inch pipe, 1500 feet, at 28c per foot (in North Scio)..... \$423.00
New 6-inch pipe, 1000 feet, at 28c per foot, (in South Scio)..... 280.00
New 6-inch pipe, 1200 feet, at 28c per foot, (in business section of city) 236.00
One new fire pump..... 350.00
11 new fire hydrants, at \$25 each, (6 in North Scio; 5 in South Scio).... 275.00
Cost of labor laying 3700 feet..... 925.00
\$2586.00

600 feet of 3-inch iron pipe on hand to further extend system.

The above improvement will give fire protection and water to every section of the city.

According to the above figures, we have \$414 in excess to meet any extra expenses which may be incurred in this improvement.

E. C. PERRY
H. SHORE
H. M. METZ
Committee of Fire and Water.

OUR 5TH ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE!

THE SALE THAT PLEASURES THE PEOPLE

Is now in full bloom. Every step in our store leads to bargains of the truest value

SALE CLOSES SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1908

Below We Quote a Few Prices:

DRESS GOODS
35c values 27c \$1.00 values 87c
90c values, 58 inches wide 58c

We are always pleased to show our goods and quote prices whether you purchase or not

Calicoes
7c, 8c and 8 1/2c values for 6c

Outing Flannels
7c, 7 1/2c and 8 1/2c values for 6c 10c value 8c
12 1/2c value 10 1/2c 13 1/2c value 11 1/2c 15c value 13c

Ladies' Coats
\$5.00 value \$3.98 \$12.00 value \$7.68
\$18.00 value \$10.50

Girls' Coats
\$3.75 value \$2.85 \$6.00 value \$4.85
\$10.00 value \$6.90

WE ARE DETERMINED NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN BY THE BARGAIN-BUYING PUBLIC

Ladies' Skirts
\$3.50 and \$4.00 values \$2.85 \$6.00 value \$4.90
\$11.50 value \$9.50

Ladies' Underskirts
\$1.25 value 98c \$3.50 value \$2.95
\$7.50 silk, value \$6.15

Umbrellas
50c value \$37c \$1.75 value \$1.35
\$3.50 value \$2.90

Men's Suits
\$8.50 value \$6.40 \$12.00 value \$9.85
\$20.00 value \$16.80

Boys' Suits
\$1.75 value \$1.38 \$3.50 value \$2.89
\$8.50 value \$6.85

With Every Sale We Strive to Win a Friend and a Steady Patron

MEN'S OVERCOATS
\$6.00 value \$4.70 \$11.50 value \$9.65
\$18.50 value \$14.90

BOYS' OVERCOATS
\$3.00 value \$2.40 \$6.50 value \$4.90
\$8.50 value \$6.70

MEN'S PANTS
\$1.65 value \$1.30 \$3.75 value \$3.20
\$5.00 value \$4.35

BOYS' KNEE PANTS
25c value 19c 65c value 45c 95c value 75c

LIKE A HOT POTATO? THAT'S THE WAY WE DROP OUR PRICES

MEN'S DUCK COATS
\$1.75 value \$1.38 \$2.25 value \$1.93
\$5.50 value \$4.20

MEN'S MACKINAW COATS
\$2.50 value \$1.75 \$4.75 value \$3.90
\$6.00 value \$4.65

We have also a large line of Boys' Duck Coats on sale from 98c up

BLANKETS
75c value 59c \$2.15 value \$1.90
\$6.50 white wool \$5.30

UNDERWEAR
Ladies' \$1.25 wool 97 1-2c Men's \$2 wool \$1.67 1-2
Ladies' 65c union suit 48c Men's 50 wool fleece 43c
Children's 30c union suits 19c

A Customer that Goes Away Satisfied is the Very Best Advertisement We Can Have

SHOES
Men's \$2.25 Shoes \$1.78 Ladies' \$1.50 Shoes \$1.18
Men's \$7.25 Shoes \$6.45 Ladies' \$4.00 Shoes \$3.65

We have many other things that we would like to quote you prices on if we had room

The Regular Price Charged For Goods Sold On Time

Wesely & Cain