FROM THE CAPITAL.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1, 1892.

In the matter of current events, political or congressional, there is nothing worth mentioning this week, except presidential gossip, which is now at fever heat. As the date of the conventions draws near the interest increases and plots multiply. The scheming and manœuvering now going on does not all appear on the surface, and things which two or three weeks ago seemed to be about settled, are to-day more doubtful than ever. It is wonderful how quickly the entire political situation in this country may be changed. Two weeks ago it was the universal opinion that President Harrison had an absolute certainty of renomination, but the developments of the past few days again envelope the outcome of the Minneapolis convention in doubt. There is a strong combination of political forces quietly working to encompass the defeat of the president, and the one thing that portends possible success is the general lack of enthusiasm for Mr. Harrison and the feeling that in spite of the prevailing "endorsement" of his administration, he will prove a weak candidate. The chances are still largely in favor of his nomination, but if the opposition succeeds in perfecting its organization as now planned, he will be defated. Your correspondent has obtained his information in confidence, but if at liberty to give the names of all those republicans who are concerned in the anti-Harrison movement its strong character would be readily perceived. It may be set down as morally certain that if Harrison is not nominated on the first ballot he will be out of the race. If William McKinley should happen to be the nominee of the convention nobody need be greatly surprised.

The democratic situation is quite similar in some respects, a perceptible change having occurred within the past few days. The Cleveland sentiment is not as strong as it was a week ago, and the prevailing opinion among shrewd political observers is that it will continue to recede from now on. It is still true that a majority of the Democratic rank and file are for some reason favorable to the ex-president, but the difficulty of electing him, in view of the position of New York, is coming to be more generally realized. Sentiment seems to be giving way somewhat to hard sense. In addition a very strong combination of Democratic politicians is being formed which will probably result in the nomination of a candidate not in any way identified with factional differences. The chances of two or three western candidates are looking up decidedly as matters stand to-day, and if Cleveland is not nominated on the first ballot the candidate will be either Senator Palmer, Governor Pattison, of Pennsylvania, or another western man whose candidacy has not attracted much attention up to this time. From signs that are cropping out it is not much of a hazard to predict that Cleveland will be defeated. He is strongest, say his opponents, in State that can not give him an electoral vote, and weakest in States which must be carried. Palmer or Pattison, or any of the others, they say, would stand a better chance in New York. This argument will not be without effect when the delegates get together, especially as it is known to be true. Word has quitely gone forward to Palmer's friends in Illinois which is likely to inspire them with working zeal. From the present outlook the old war horse is decidedly in it.

But the newest political development is this movement for a combination to nominate a Farmers' Alliance and Free Silver candidate. This movement comes to the surface with its probable presidential ticket already elected, and if all the influences behind it are in earnest the ticket will cut something of a figure. A secret meeting of the national Silver Committee has just been held here, and it had in attendance men of no little influence in national affairs. It is learned that the nomination of a strong ticket representing the free coinage idea was considered and conditionally agreed upon, and that the combination with the Farmers' Alliance would be made by nominating Secretary Teller for President and Colonel Polk, of the Alliance, for Vice President. The platform is to contain the single plank of free coinage, and it is claimed by those familiar with the movement that no less than eleven western and southern States could be carried, thus throwing the election into the House and securing a free silver victory. The movement is sufficiently formidable to have some terrors for the old political parties, and if it proves to be something more than a "bluff" will help to make things interesting in the coming campaign.

The Smith family is concededly numerous in this country, but the Taylors knock them out of all kinds of shape in the present Congress. A few nights ago "fiddling Bob" Taylor, of Tennessee, who scraped himself into the governorship and into congress, delivered a very unique and interesting lecture in one of the churches of this city on the influence of the violin. But while people were recalling the incident of the campaign of the two Taylor brothers as opposition candidates for the governorship of Tennessee, somebody was reminded of the fact that there are no less than five Taylors in the present House of Representatives. Three of these are from Ohio, one from Tennessee, and one from Chicago. But from all accounts there won't be so many in the next Congress, as all three of the Ohio Taylors are understood to decline re-election, Mr. E. B. Taylor after a service of twelve years, and the Chicago Taylor is having a hard fight for renomination. It is possible, therefore, that the Tennessee man may have to hold up the Taylor name all by himself. But come to think of the matter is it not strange that the Joneses and Smiths don't show up stronger in Congress? There has been no Jones in the lower house since Frank Jones of New Hampshire retired, and as for the name of Smith, it has had no place in the Congressional Directory for a number of yesrs. In that respect the Congressional Directory is peculiar.

OREGON WEATHER SERVICE.

Crop Weather Bulletin No. 5, for Week Ending April 30, 1892.

MONTH OF APRIL.

Throughout Oregen the rains, during April, have been in excess of the normal amount. The total amount has varied from over four inches in the Willamette valley to two inches and over in Southern and Eastern Oregon. Snow has fallen on the mountains and higher elevations at frequent intervals. The rains have penetrated the soil, and it is now more thoroughly moistened than it has been for years. Water stands on the low lands of the Willamette valley. Temperature has been from two to four degrees below the normal for the month, this deficieney is apparent in every section of the state from the retarded condition of vegetation. The season is fully four weeks late. Frosts occured with unusual frequency and they did slight damage to the fruit interests. A severe wind and rain storm, one of the most severe on record, occured on the 24th. There has been a marked deficiency in sunshine and an excess in the number of cloudy and rainy days. The weather has delayed spring seeding and farming operations in general. It has been unfavorable to shearing and lambing, The latter has been very successfull however, fully eighty-five per cent of the lambs being saved. The wool clip is unusually good, the staple being long and remarkably clean. The acerage of grain is as large as ever before and considerable is yet to be sown. That which is sown is in first-class condition, except in a few places on the low lands of the Willamette valley. The wheat has a good stand and has stooled well. Though the season is late, yet vegetation is healthy and offers bright prospects.

THE WEEK—WESTERN OREGON.

Continued cloudy and rainy weather with cool temperature has prevailed. On the 24th, a severe wind and rain storm was experienced, especialiy along the coast and in the Willamette valley. The storm was almost as severe as the great storm of January 9th, 1880. The total rainfall varied from two inches, at Portland, to fifty one-hundreths of an inch in Southern Oregon. Snow fell on the mountains. Frosts were experienced on the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th in various sections. Thunder storms and hail prevailed on the 25 and 28 in the valley.

But little farm work was done during the week. Seeding was practically at a standstill. Winter wheat on low lands is turning yellow; on uplands it is growing nicely. Hops are a foot or more high. The wind storm on the 24th blew most of the fruit bloom off the trees. Prunes are reported injured by frost at Dayton. Apples injured at Williams. The correspondent at Grants Pass says, "notwithstanding reports by some parties to the contary, our cold snap has undoubtedly wound up most of the peach, almond and fruit crop for the year 1892." Ashland correspondent says, "There is a promise of a fair crop of fruit. Orchards are being plowed and spraying has commenced."

EASTERN OREGON.

Rains; snow in the mountains, cloudy weather have prevailed during the week with frosts of frequent occurance. The tempature has risin somewhat, but is yet below the average, The wind storm of the 24th was experienced more or less. The rainfall for the week varied from 30 to 90 one-hundredths of an inch.

The spring seeding has progressed considerably, yet in localities it has been delayed. Winter wheat is from 20 to 30 inches high and spring wheat is in many localities from 6 to 15 inches high. The most excellent crop prospects prevail, and generally the acreage of grain is larger than ever before. Sheep shearing and lambing continue. From 75 to 95 per cent of lambs are being saved. Warmth and sunshine are now needed throughout Oregon to develop and bring forth vegetation. At this time of the year the prospects were never better for a successful grain crop.

Anxiety Among Democratic Congressmen

Some of the southern silver men are expressing great anxiety about the Democratic party in the south since the silver bill has been defeated. They declare their belief that it will be impossible to hold the southern Alliance men out of the third party. One of the old North Carolina members declares that he expects to see North Carolina go Republican this fall. His expectation is that the Democrats will lose so many votes to the third party that the Republicans will have a plurality in the state.

Others say that they believe that the solid south is a thing of the past, and that the third party will carry Georgia and perhaps Louisiana, Alabama and South Carolina. In this gloomy mood they express a fear that the Alliance will send so many third party men to the next house from the south that they will hold the balance of power and be in a position to dictate terms to the old parties. Some of this talk is in earnest, while some no doubt is for the purpose of frightening southern members who are not quite "sound" on silver.—Washington Star.

FARM FIELD AND GARDEN

TRANSPLANTING CABBAGE PLANTS.

What Professor Bailey, of the Cornell University Station, Reports.

For three consecutive seasons we have endeavored to determine what foundation there may be for the common notion that deep set cabbage plants give better heads and a larger proportion of heads than those set at the normal or natural depth. It is a very general practice among gardeners to set the plants to the depth of the first leaf when transplanting to the field. The results of three years' tests show that no advantage is to be gained by such a practice.

In 1889 the experiment was tried upon twelve varieties, about twenty plants of each being set up to the first leaf, and as many more set to the same depth at which they stood in the seed bed. Strangely enough, it appears that one-half the varieties gave better results from shallow setting and the other half better from deep setting. There were, however, rather more heavy heads from the deep setting. Combining all the results, the gain in weight from deep setting was as 13.60 is to 13.46, a difference so small as to lead to the conclusion that the particular method of planting probably had nothing to do with the yields.

In 1890 the test was repeated, the early Wakefield cabbage being used for the purpose. The plants were grown upon a heavy and rather poor clay loam. Here the shallow planting gave decidedly the better results, both in the percentage of plants producing good heads and in the average weight of heads.

In 1891 the test was again repeated, this time with Early Wakefield and Premium Drumhead. The plants were grown on a rich and well prepared loose clay loam, and all the conditions throughout the season were such as to insure a fair and uniform test. The average result was in favor of the shallow setting so far as the weight of heads is concerned, but in favor of deep setting in the percentage of plants producing good or mature heads, but the differences were slight and no greater than might be expected from two or more lots of plants treated in the same manner. The two varieties, however, gave different results. The Early Wakefield gave better results from deep setting and the Drumhead from shallow setting. Upon the whole the result of the entire investigation leads to the conclusion that the depth at which strong and stocky cabbage plants are set does not influence the extent or weight of the crop.

Potato Scab and Potato Rot.

Experiments made last season at the Rhode Island station, as reported by The Horticulturist, demonstrated that the product from potatoes planted upon recently plowed sward land without fertilizer is not necessarily exempt from the potato scab. The disease may exist in a mild form and not seriously injure the crop. Fresh or partly decomposed seaweed scattered in the furrows at the time of planting did not increase the disease; scattering it over the seed potatoes after they were dropped in the furrows slightly checked its development. On the contrary, stable manure scattered over the seed potatoes after they were dropped tended to a large increase of scab. Covering horse manure lightly with earth when used in the furrows at the time of planting produced a less per cent. of scabby potatoes than when scattered over them. Spraying the vines with Bordeaux mixture during their growth slightly checked the development of scab, and spraying the seed potatoes and the soil above them, after they were dropped in the furrows, had much the same effect in fields not previously contaminated with the disease. Applications of Bordeaux mixture made July 20, and repeated July 29 and Aug. 8, checked the spreading of potato "blight" and "rot" to such an extent that all the varieties treated formed good sized and well matured tubers practically free from the disease. As compared with untreated plots, the yield of merchantable tubers of four varieties gave an average increase in the yield of merchantable potatoes due to the application of Bordeaux mixture of 53.26 bushels per acre.

Experiments in Soiling.

At the Ohio station, where a careful soiling experiment has been conducted by Director Wilson, these conclusions have been arrived at:

That the average cow will eat about seventy-five pounds of green feed a day, kept in the station with grain ration added.

That cows fed on oats and peas, clover and corn, fed green in the stable in midsummer will give more milk than when feeding on a good blue grass pasture.

That a cow fed on green feed in a stable darkened and ventilated will gain in weight more than she will in a well shaded pasture.

That the cow responds as promptly to a well balanced ration of grain while eating green feed as she does on dry feed.

An acre of peas cut green weighed 13.5 tons.

An acre of peas and oats cut green weighed 24 tons.

An acre of corn cut green weighed 33.6 tons.

The second cut of clover in a drought was 3.1 tons.

It is not necessary to cut green feed oftener than twice a week if it is spread to avoid heating.

Sorghums for Dry Seasons.

It has been found that some of the nonsaccharine sorghums are among the best of drought resisting grasses. These sorghums will compare favorably with corn in the amount and quality of the seed they will produce. German millet gives a good yield of hay in Kansas, where it has been tested, and following it closely are the Hungarian, broom corn and Wonder millet.

The Scotch or English practice of stacking hay and then subjecting it to pressure by weights or by windlasses, drawing together chains or ropes attached to cross timbers under and over plank floorings, seems to be successful there, but is not adapted to this country with its variable climate and extremes of temperature. Experiments made in New York state and Massachusetts, according to The Country Gentleman, showed much loss in spoiled ensilage—in one case nearly two-thirds of the stack; and this wastage, even if much less, will doubtless offset the cost of a good silo.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Land Office at Roseburg, Or.
April 4, 1892

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim and that said proof will be made before the judge or clerk of the county court of Jackson county Oregon at Jacksonville Oregon on Friday, May 20, 1892, viz: Pre-emption D. S. No. 7000 of John J. Watts, for the W½ of NW¼ of Sec 27, and E½ of NE¼ of Sec 28, Tp 32s, R 3e.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land viz:

Luther G. Porter, John S. Brown, Perry Ellis and George Clements all of Prospect, Jackson county, Oregon.

To E. L. Deuel, pre-emption claimant under D. S. No. 6591, you are hereby summoned to appear and show cause, if any, why said final proof should not be accepted.

14-19 JOHN H. SHUPE, Register.

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