The Columbia Register.

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R. H. MITCHELL, Editor.

Application has been made to enter this paper as second class matter at the Houlton, Oregon post office.

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Believing that there is a demand for a paper in opposition to the three Republican party papers we have determined to make this venture. Its success and usefulness depends to a great extent on the amount of patronage bestowed upon it. Our columns will be open for the free discussion of all matters of interest to our readers. The policies of the paper will favor good government, as opposed to Republican misrule. THE COLUMBIA REGISTER, the largest paper in the county, will always be the best paper in the county.

It was the Republican legislature that appropriated the people's money, and caused your tax to be double what it should be.

If the roads are bad and the bridges poor in Columbia county the Republican county court which has been in power for the last decade are responsible for the roads not being better.

THE FLOPPING SUBSTITUTE

Grandmother Flag, not Old Glory, who is just now the titular engineer of our weekly contemporary, the much bartered and trafficked Oregon Mist, is about to burst a "gallus," in a frantic attempt to make the $79,000 00 taxation of this county look like thirty cents. His labored endeavors in this direction, if successful, will doubtless be greatly appreciated by the taxpayers and entitle him to rank, as a mirical worker, along with Hercules. Endeavor, either physical, mental or spiritual, is obviously not Flag's long suit, and his post election mesmerism and spell-binding are likely to meet some resistance before he finally dispells the fact, that we are paying $19,000 00 more taxes than last year, and more than $37,000.00 in excess of 1897. It makes little or no difference whether the money is disposed of regularly or not. The taxpayers know that this county cannot exist under such taxation—it is a clog to industry and absolutely prohibits settlement. This county must be differently financed, or we may as well throw up the sponge and cut for the tall timber, a continuation of the present system, or anything approaching it means business paralysis and industrial stagnation. We arise to say that such taxation is absolutely unnecessary, especially since the liquidation of our debt in 1901. Our thumaturgic friend hastens to warn us, before the campaign opens, not to throw mud at his candidates; that everything is all right; that the legislature is to blame: that our State and school taxes have been raised to meet the expenses of the Lewis & Clark fair and new legislation, etc. etc. We hasten to assure our over-heated friend that we are not here to throw mud; that his candidates are all right (to stay at home): that the legislature surely is and was one long-eared pie bald ass and we particularly hasten and are anxious to admit that the State did direct some $4,000. or $5,000. extra to be raised and the school fund has nearly if not quite doubled: but these taken together do not equal $37,000.00 nor even $19,000, and here the explanations end for the very good reason that there is nothing more to wail about.

Flag has done but little, if anything, since the Republican nominations but anticipate mud slinging; not that he expected the Democrats to indulge in it, but for the purpose of drawing the people's attention from the issues. We have no mud to throw: Flag has a corner on that commodity, let him work off his surplus if he so desires; it may be fun for Flag and it will be of very little moment to the opposition candidates. We had not supposed that because our candidate for representative was a temparance man and christian gentleman he would be amenable for such follies to any than the Most High, but we suppose that so long as the temporary editor of the Mist has seen fit to arraign Mr. Young for being a prohibition sympathizer, we may as well admit the fact, and contemplate with beaming admiration the superior knowledge of the litany of satan possessed by Flag.

We submit that our friend has taken a large contract to make the taxpayers see nothing but ciphers, or to cause the voters to understand that it makes a difference whether Mr. Young subscribes to the Nicene creed or believes in infant damnation.

No citizen of Oregon can vote for President in November unless he registers before May 16. On that date the books close, not to be opened again this year. No one will deliberately throw away the opportunity to vote for President; so register now. Don't wait for the crush on the last day.

A superstitious subscriber found a spider in his paper, wants to know if it is considered a bad omen. Nothing of the kind. The spider was merely looking over the columns of the paper to see what merchant was not advertising so that it could spin a web across his store door and be free from disturbance. —Ex.

The Democratic county convention enunciated a platform on which their candidates will stand or fall. The Republicans did not deem it necessary to make a county platform. Their past record of high taxes, poor roads, bad bridges, and big grafts—road master and rock crusher extra, etcetra being sufficient guarantee to the people that all they desire is to hold the offices, for the salaries.

Louis T. Barin, whos death occured suddenly Monday morning, was in his day a conspicuous figure in local politics in Clackamas County. In this connection he was widely known between 1869 and 1890. He was one of the few men who, after having begn an active and successful politician for many years, quietly dropped back to professional life. His name will recall many political incidents of a bygone era, and the news of his death will be heard with regret.

Flag said last week in the Mist that the people of Columbia county would not endorse the democratic nominee for representative, because he was nominated by the prohibitionists. Well it is not a crime to be a prohibitionist. And as as a gentleman of the socialist party expressed it on the day of the Democratic county convention:—"It appears as though the Democratic party had exchainged places on tho whiskey question, judging from the two conventions held in Clatskanie." The republicans being the whiskey party.

Editor Flag in last week's Mist says R. H. Mitchell promised to vote for Teddy Roosevelt and Martin White if nominated, and refused to support Hattan for the nomination of Sheriff. A half truth is always told to make an impresson and mislead the public. R. H. Mitchell did at one time say that he would support Roosavelt and White if nominated, but that was before we learned that Flagg had gone over to join the Republicans. There are too many renegade Democrats in the Republican ranks for the good of the government. The only thing for Democrats and independant voters to do is to go together and down the corruptionists. As we look out over the field of politics in Columbia county we find all the republicans of prominence who have sought place on their party ticket have been turned down for such men as Flag who have gone over from the Democratic ranks. Now Mitchell did not support or favor Hattan's nomination for Sheriff for two reasons. Frst it has been a time-honored principal of the Democratic party to oppose a third term for any political position. Second we are satisfied Mr. Hattan can be elected county judge, and if elected such policies will be followed as will relieve the taxpayers of the heavy burdens they now bear.

The question of local option is one on which the voters of the great state of Oregon will be called to pass upon, the sixth day of June. The sale of alcoholic drinks at retail has been the cause of more legislation in many of the states than any other. Some states have prohibition by constitution and legislrtive enactments with severe penalties for violation, but in most states it is permitted under various restrictions. That the sale of alcoholic drinks is a necessity is proven by the fact that no matter how stringent the laws are made, they are invariably envaded or openly violated and it has been found next to impossible to accomplish any good by prohibition. Since the sale cannot be wholly suppressed it seems best, that it should be confined to those communities where it is desired, and regulated by rational laws. Local option gives to each district the right to declare for or against the admission of the saloon. It seems the only logical way of settling the question under a republican form of government, that the people should abide by the wishes of a majority in each community. The people of Oregon are in favor of law and order, and good government, willing to obey laws which are reasonable and fair. Experience in other states has taught that the most effective way of treating the liquor question is through local option, in which the majority decides either for or against the sale of liquor in certrin prescribed limits. And from this experience the local option law idea has been sufficiently successful to warrent its extention to this commonwealth. In voting for local option you do not vote for or against the saloon, but only enact a law by which in the future communities so desiring may bring up the question and vote for or against the the sale of liquors in their town, precinct, ward or county.

THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

Supreme Judge, Thos. O'Day of Multnomah.
Congressman 2nd district, J. E. Simmons.
Dairy and Food Commissioner, S. M. Douglas.
Presidential Electors John A. Jefferson, Marion; T. B. Crawford, Union; W. B. Dillard, Columbia; and J. H. Smith of Clatsop.
Joint Senator from Multnomah, Washington, and Columbia, J. T. Millner.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY TICKET.

For Representative,
W. A. YOUNG,
Of Clatskanie.

For County Judge,
R. S. HATTAN.
Of St. Helens.

For County Clerk,
H. HENDERSON,
Of Mayger.

For Sheriff,
J. M. HILL,
Of Mist.

For Surveyor,
JAMES BARR,
Of Clatskanie.

For County Commissioner,
WM. PRINGLE,
Of Pittsburg.

For Assessor,
F. J. PETERSON,
Of Mist.

For County Treasurer,
G. W. WELSCH,
Of Marshland.

DEMOCRATIC DOCTRINS.

For the benefit of our readers we here with present the county and state platforms of the Democracic party. They are well worth your consideration, and careful perusal.

COUNTY PLATFORM.

We the Democrats of Columbia county Oregon, in convention assembled, hereby make the following declaration of principles:—

We believe in the most economical administration of all county and other affairs, consistent with efficient service, and we depricate the extravagance into which our county has been plunged, and the extortionate taxation to which we have been subjected, which has been doubled since the year 1897.

We are unalterably opposed to the appointment of useless officers, in the county, thus subjecting the taxpayers to unnecessary burdens.

We submit that it is radically wrong to force money out of our citizens by what is called taxation, and place the same in the Portland banks for them to speculate upon, as something from $4,000 to $10,000 of the county funds are constantly lying in bank, when it should remain with the taxpayers.

And lastly we affirm the time honored principles of the fathers Jefferson and Jackson; and we invite all good citizens who believe in retrenchment to co-operate with us to bring about all needful reform, and stop all extravagance in county affairs.

STATE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

The Democrats of Oregon, in the State Convention assembled, believing that in the present more than at any time in the past, the people should insist upon a return to the principal of Democracy as enunciated by its founder, Thomas Jefferson, of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none," and present these reasons for such opinion.

TRUSTS

The Republican party, entrenched behind the corporations and trusts of this country, not only refuses to abide dy the will of the people, but attempts to nullify and destroy the laws enacted in the past for the protection of popular government and the privileges incident thereto. We insist that but a casual reading of the history of the past, and observatian of the present conditions should convince the people that the Democratic party is the shield and buckler that must protect popular government from the fires of Radicalism on the one side and the grasping greed of the money power upon the other. The keystone of the Republican power is what they call "Protection" which we denounce, as now administered, to be a fraud upon and a robery of the people by the trusts and tariff magnates who supply their wares to the people of foreign countries at honest prices, while the citizens of our own free land are made to pay extravagant profit. For many years the Republican party has claimed that it would remedy this evil by what is called reciprocity between this and other countries, but instead of treatsng with other governments, that party has made treaties of reciprocity only with the trusts and protected interests, and the evident compact is to retain the iniquitous tariff in return for campaign contributions to be used to debauch our elections, subsidise the press and corrupt the American Congress through the powerfull lobby that is constantly maintained at the Capitol of our country. This system is destructive to individual effort, and puts a premium upon both cunning and corruption in the political and commercial life of the Nation. It is destructive of the morals of our political organization, and the example created is the inspiration of the greater part of the political corruption in our state and municspal government where such exists. In our opinion the reform of the politics of the Nation must begin at the fountain source—our present tariff system which must be modified to benefit the people and not to protect the trusts as the present law does. This we believe can only be accomplished by the success of the Democratic party throughout the Nation.

The Republican party has of late been compelled by the vigorous efforts of the Democrats to make a pretense of enforcing the national antitrust laws. The insincerity of the Republican party is conclusively shown by its striking from such law the criminal provision providing for imprisonment as a penalty for the violators. This was done with the approval of Theodore Roosevelt in the face of abundant evidence that these trusts were daily violating the criminal provision by sending hunger and suffering to the homes of the poor, by unlawfully and outrageously increasing the the price of food and coal, not to speak of the destruction of competition by ruining the individual producer. This insincerity is also shone by the fact that as soon as the United States Supreme Court made a decision giving effect to the anti-trust laws, Attorney-General Knox announced that the "Administration will not run amuck among the trusts," which the people will understand to mean that the executive branch of our Government will not interfere with the greatest allies of the Republican party. But notwithstanding this assurance, these criminal trusts have insolently rebuked the friendship of the party that created them by its tariff system by declaring that they will defy the courts. They have thus shown themselves to be real Anarchists of the Nation and have made the Republican party an object of cotemptious pity.

ISTHMIAN CANAL.

Through the efforts of the Democratic members of Congress for a number of years the Republican Administration is about to begin construction of an Isthmian canal. The Democratic party has always favored this and does now, but in view of the exposure of our present Postal Department, we can but pause and tremble at the robery of the National Treasury that will occur if it is built under a Republican Administration, and we believe that in order to avoid a National scandal that will undoubtedly follow its construction under the Republican party, that the people should turn out of the Administration the party that refuse to allow its culpable officials to be investigated.

The Republican party has long posed as the friend of the laboring man and is showing that friendship by its effort to defeat the eight-hour law now pending before Congress. We desire to encourage the labor organizations of this country in their efforts to secure the passing of such law and pledge them the earnest assistance of the democratic party in their behalf.

We believe in the extention of the Postoffice facilities by and a parcel-post system, which we believe has too long been delayed. We favor the enactment of the bill now pending before Congress giving the Interstate Commerce Commission power to regulate freight charges which was introduced and is supported by members of the Democratic party. Without this law that commission is powerless.

We favor and demand the establishment of a Federal assay office in this state, which our mining interests, by their importance, are entitled to receive.

We favor the embodiment of the foregoing declaration in our National platform with such other declarations as will be in accord with the spirit of our last national platform.

GOVERNOR CHAMBERLAIN INDORSED.

In state matters we most earnestly indorse the Administration of Governor Chamberlain and especially commending him for his vetoes of extravagant appropriation bills, by which he has saved the people many thousands of dollars. His record proves the wisdom of the people in chosing him, and we desire to call the attention of the voters to the necessity of electing a Democratic Legislative Assembly that will sustain such vetoes and continue his policy of economy.

FLAT SALARIES.

We again demand the placing of all state officers on flat salaries, and pledge our support to that effect. We believe it our duty to call attention to the deceitful, false and hypocritical posstion on this question of salaries that has been assumed by the Republicans. In 1894 the Republican state platform declared in favor of paying state officers only their constitutional salaries. In 1902 that party declared a flat salary, but has violated all its promises and refused any relief. In its last platform it has cowardly ignored the question, believing that contrary to the opinion of Abraham Lincoln, that it can "humbug all the people all the time."

The last Republican Legislature accepted the suggestion of the last state platform of this party, and passed an act for the protection of employes upon railroads by modifying what is called the "fellow-servant" doctrin. We favor the extension of that law to other occupations, and also the enactment of a law that will afford protection to the lives of those engaged in mining and other hazardous pursuits.

We believe the time has come when the best interests of this state require the reasonable regulation of railroad freight rates and we favor such law.

We also declare ourselves emphatically in favor of the primary election law now pending before the people.

MONOPOLY CIRCUS—GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH.

Professor Uppaginstitt in his stupendous sensation, the camel back loop! A danger defying demonstration of daring, desperate and delirious disaster.—New York American.

SMALLER DINNER PAILS

Size Must Be Decreased if They Are to Be Full This Year.

WAGES REDUCED, MILLS CLOSING

Republicans Anxious to Adjourn Congress Before Actual Facts Become Known—Fear Their "Stand Pat" and "Prosperity" Speeches Will Be Made Worthless.

The Republicans are doing their best to deceive the people as to the real conditions in the business world. They are pouring speeches into congress for use in the coming campaign the tenor on which is "stand pat," "all is well," "prosperity is still rampant," despite a few facts to the contrary. They would have the country believe that we are rapidly recovering from the temporary setback to industry which occurred last winter, from October to January, when wage reductions became general and when nearly half the mills in many industries had to close.

Although there never was more important business for congress to attend to than at present in order to bring relief from the tyrannical trusts which have put up prices and increased the cost of living to the highest point ever known, while reducing wages in all directions, yet it is the aim and policy of the Republicans to adjourn congress just as soon as the appropriation bills can be rushed through. They will then begin to circulate their "stand pat" and "prosperity" speeches, hoping to lull to sleep the great mass of voters and to keep them ignorant of the real facts as to the industrial depression which is still on and which cannot be vanquished even by Republican rhetoric. The Republicans know that every day they remain in Washington will not only bring to light new scandals in their administration, but that it will add new evidence of the depression which is now running its course. They know that the Democrats hesitate to picture conditions as bad as they really are and that if congress adjourns at once the Democrats will practically be without frankable speeches to offset the frankable prosperity speeches of the Republicans. This, they think, will give them another opportunity to fool the voters. This accounts for much of their unseemly haste to adjourn congress.

That the business world, after some slight recovery in February and early March, is again on the down grade is reasonably certain. The testimony of the trade papers is conclusive. Thus that great trade journal, the Iron Age, in its issue of March 31, mentions numerous wage reductions and closed mills, some of which are:

"McKinley lodge, Amalgamated Association of Steel and Tin Plate Workers, Elwood, Ind., all hot mill men, numbering 500, has decided to quit work rather than accept the 20 per cent reduction in wages proposed by the American Sheet and Tin Plate company and is indorsed by the officers of the Amalgamated association."

"At New Castle, Pa., the men in the lodges of the Amalgamated association employed in the tin plate mills in the Greer and Shenango works of the American Sheet and Tin Plate company have voted to accept the reduction of 20 per cent in wages which went into effect on March 21. At South Sharon, Pa., the men in the lodge of the Amalgamated association have voted not to accept the reduction in wages."

A Pittsburg special says: "While the Amalgamated officials refuse to give out anything as to whether the vote is in favor of or against the reduction in wages we learn from reliable sources that the tin plate workers have voted against a reduction. It is not known at this time what action will be taken by the association in this event, but it is probable that a number of the union tin plate mills will be closed. At other points where the men voted in favor of the reduction, as they did at the Greer and Shenango works of the American Sheet and Tin Plate company at New Castle, Pa., the plants will likely continue to operate at the reduced wage scale. The whole situation from the Amalgamated association's standpoint is serious, and it will require the greatest diplomacy on the part of the officials of the organization to hold it together."

The Wool and Cotton Reporter of March 31 mentions a 5 to 10 per cent reduction in wages at the Arlington mills, Lawrence, Mass., affecting 2,000 of the 4,000 operatives, which took effect March 28. It also says that the woolen mill at New Castle, Del., and the Chester (Pa.) Manufacturing company have closed down for indefinite periods; also that the West Warren Cotton mill, Massachusetts, has shut down No. 3 mill and that the mills of the Lonsdale (R. I.) company will in future run only five days a week.

Turning to the New York Journal of Commerce of March 31, we learn that some of the drawer finishers in the Harrower Knitting mill at Troy, N. Y., are on strike because of a cut of 2½ cents a dozen on the goods handled. Again on April 1 it tells us that 30,000 textile operatives in Philadelphia are idle because of poor conditions. In the cotton and woolen goods trade and that "in the next few weeks it is probable that many more mills will suspend operations and that the number of men, women and children out of employment will be increased materially." It says that "many mills are running on half time and some have closed down entirely. Among the latter are the Dobson Cloth and Blanket mills at Manayunk and the Winfield Manufacturing company."

Other trade and commercial organs contain similar news as to industry. Only two or three weeks ago 190,000 soft coal miners voted to accept a reduction in wages of over 5½ per cent. It has become known that the average reduction in wages of these of the 168,000 employees of the steel trust who were not discharged a few months ago was more nearly 30 than 10 per cent.

The window glass and silk industries are perhaps in as bad condition as are those of steel, textile and coal mining. Railroad earnings are greatly decreased notwithstanding that thousands of men were recently laid off and that hundreds of thousands have had their wages reduced. Only a few days ago President Meilen of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad announced that the trade depression in New England had become so severe that his road had found it necessary to curtail its passenger service.

These are some of the facts that indicate that Republican tariff and trust legislation is rapidly reducing the size of the workingman's dinner pail. Not only have money wages declined greatly recently, but the cost of living, according to Dun's tables of prices, is now 43 per cent higher than when the Dingley tariff bill became a law. If dinner pails are to be full this year they must be very, very small. To get a feeling of fullness the workingmen must wear shorter belts than usual and keep them buckled up tight. BYRON W. HOLT.

A Few Questions.

When the Republicans are crowing over their Sherman antitrust law it is well for the voter to quietly ask if any of these laws have ever really injured the trusts or benefited the people. Have these antitrust laws ever stopped the depredations of a single trust? Are not the beef trust, the Standard Oil trust and the pipe trust doing the same kind of plundering now that they did before the courts decided against them? Did railroad rates drop when the Northern Securities company lost in the courts? If so, why did the prices of railroad stocks advance so rapidly in Wall street during the two weeks following the decision?

The Republicans do not intend to harm the trusts. They are not putting these rich criminals in stripes.