

# THE OREGON REGISTER.

"A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, AND BY THE PEOPLE."

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## WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, May 18, 1888.

Representative Mills expresses confidence in the final passage by the house of his tariff bill without any amendments radical enough to change the bill in any material way. Other members of the house are not so confident. They believe that a tariff bill will be passed by the house but that it will differ materially from the original Mills bill.

The general debate ends to-morrow, but just what is then to be done has not yet been settled. Two propositions are being considered. One is to leave the tariff to go over until after the St. Louis convention, and get that convention to endorse it so strongly that no democratic member will dare vote against it. The other is to cut off all amendments at the end of the general debate and take a vote on it at once.

The last idea is very inviting to the advocates of boldness in politics, but rather frightful to the more conservative and timid members of the party. If the president were asked to decide the matter he would undoubtedly advise the latter course, because every amendment accepted for the bill would weaken it as a political issue.

The senate committee on privileges and elections reported unanimously in favor of the legality of the election of Senator Turpie, of Indiana, whose election was disputed by certain republicans.

Secret sessions of the senate are not likely to be abolished for a long time to come. By more than a three-fourths majority the senate decided, this week, against considering the fisheries treaty in open sessions.

Senator Vest's resolution, providing for a select committee to examine the questions touching meat and meat products of the United States, together with the transportation of the same, has been adopted by the senate. In his remarks on the subject Mr. Vest quoted a table showing the amount of beef consumed per capita among the principal nations of the world in 1884. The United States heads the list with 120 pounds per head, therefore he contended that anything affecting meat and its production and transportation is of vital importance to every single inhabitant of this country.

Upon recommendation of the naval board, Secretary Whitney has granted Messrs. Cramp & Sons, the shipbuilders of Philadelphia, an extension of four months time for the completion of the new vessels Baltimore, Yorktown and Vesuvius.

The republicans of the senate committee on the judiciary have postponed the consideration of the nomination of Mr. Fuller to be chief justice of the United States until next Monday.

Representative Fitch, of New York city, is the first, and so far the only republican member of the house, who has publicly announced his intention of supporting the Mills tariff bill. He made a speech in favor of revenue reform on Wednesday.

Which party will control the senate after the 4th of next March? is

a question often asked these days. On the 3d of March the terms of twenty-six senators will expire, this number being equally divided between the parties. One of the republicans—Riddleberger, of Virginia—has had a democratic successor elected, and the rest are pretty sure to be succeeded by republicans, with the possible exception of Oregon. Among the thirteen democratic senators retiring there is only one who is not certain of being succeeded by a democrat. That is Mr. McPherson of New Jersey. Should the democrats retain New Jersey and capture Oregon it would make the senate stand thirty-nine democrats and 37 republicans, just reversing what it is now. But the chances are that Oregon will return a republican and New Jersey a democrat, which will make the senate a tie, giving the control, through the vice-president, to whichever party carried the presidential election.

Representative Matson, chairman of the house committee on invalid pensions and the democratic nominee for governor of Indiana, has reported favorably a bill extending the time of the arrearage of pensions, so as to give the benefit of the act to all claimants who filed their claims after the expiration of the time limit, or may yet file claims before the passage of this bill. The report accompanying the bill states that if passed it will cost the government probably not more than \$250,000,000, and suggests to the house that is the "very best means of disbursing the surplus in the treasury."

### SATIRIZING TARIFF ABUSES.

In the house on Thursday last Mr. Cox let in more real light on the tariff question than any of the participants in the long and dreary debate who preceded him. The subject is a serious one, but there has been so much serious talking about it that the seriousness has pallid and the point of argument become blunt and ineffective. Mr. Cox has illuminated the central principle involved with flashes of wit, satire and ridicule. Truth is the backbone of humor, whatever and however extravagant the embellishments may be. There must be something tangible to hit or the stroke is a failure.

When Mr. Cox, taking the tallow chandler's point of view, cried, "What cheap pauper labor the sun is!" he struck directly at the folly of denying advantages to the many for the sake of the few. Volumes could not say more. And when he said that he would not quarrel with gentlemen who had local interests at stake, but that he wanted them to be fair and "commit reciprocal brigandage," he pictured the inequalities of the present protective tariff in a few words. The threadbare and sleep-producing argument that protective duties produce high wages because we have both protective duties and high wages he punctured by a dozen ridiculous analogies. We have tramps and we have high wages; therefore tramps produce high wages, was one of them.

It is time that the selfish interests which underlie our tariff and tax the people \$140,000,000 more than the government needs were met by sarcasm. The hypocritical straight faces of special pleaders who care nothing for the general good invite that kind of comment.—N. Y. World.

## TO THE MERCHANTS OF OREGON.

The tariff laws now in force in this country are every way injurious to the business of Oregon. If the farmer of this state could purchase clothes, implements and articles of necessity used by him, at a much cheaper rate than he now does he would have that much more money to trade with, and to pay his debts with. The price of the farmers wheat is fixed at Liverpool; a reduction of the tariff could not change it. A large number of the farms in Oregon are mortgaged. The tariff has been such a burden that the farmers could not pay taxes and high prices for what they buy without incurring their property. Let us reduce these burdens for the good of all. When the farmer is prosperous the merchant is. Whatever the tariff is to other states it is a positive curse to Oregon. We have fewer manufacturers than any other state, and if we had many the freight charges on manufactured articles across the continent is protection to those we have. Wool is about the only article we raise that is protected. Yet the statistics of the world show that the price of wool is not regulated by tariff laws. But for the tariff, we could buy foreign wool to mix with our own. The demand would advance the price of foreign wool and therefore our own.

Mr. Hermann votes in congress with the high tariff party. In doing so we think he does lasting injury to the merchants and farmers of Oregon. Mr. Gearin, if elected, will vote to reduce the tariff, and to break every yoke upon the industries of this state. Tariff reform rises higher than mere partisanship. There are many republicans who believe the time has now come when these war taxes should be radically reduced. The Oregonian, of Portland, has often said so. If an unhealthy party spirit drives it to the support of Mr. Hermann and the tariff, there are many merchants and farmers who will not follow that newspaper this year. They believe the welfare and interests of this state are greater than party, and will vote for Mr. Gearin, who represents tariff reform. The democratic party has dodged this great issue until this year, and was not therefore entitled to the votes of tariff reformers. But now, for the first time, it has come squarely out in favor of lower tariff taxes; it is the duty of every voter who believes with us to give it a trial and vote for the man who will carry out the views contained in President Cleveland's message. Mr. Gearin is, we think, as well qualified for a seat in congress as is Mr. Hermann, and will have the advantage of acting with the majority party, that has controlled the lower house of congress for the last fourteen years, save two. But even if there was a wide difference in the qualifications of the two candidates for congress, principle is greater than men. We vote for a principle of tariff reform when we vote for John M. Gearin, a principle so far reaching that it is all important that we sustain him in the approaching election.

If the merchants who believe as we do on this vital issue will talk with their farmer friends and customers, with their employees and

neighbors, and urge them to stand by tariff reform at the coming election, we think a great victory awaits us in this state. A victory for the over-burdened taxpayers of Oregon. Very truly yours,

REVENUE-REFORM MERCHANTS.

### A NOTE FROM MR. IRISH.

PORTLAND, May 27, 1888.

To the Editor of the Oregonian:

Your publication of some personal misrepresentation and abuse of me from the Des Moines Register seems to make it necessary, for your sake, that I should enlarge the issue by adding to it some facts. The words and phrases attributed to me were annually circulated in Iowa for nearly two decades. It was known there that they were not and rank peculiar to a time of violent political passion, and that they were printed in a starveling country paper from the pen of any partisan hysteric who sought relief that way.

I long ago neutralized them by reproducing from the same paper articles written by myself which show that I stood with Douglas "for the Union, whether slavery go up or down." I was a young fellow then, and like most men who reach 40, if I could lay hands on myself as I was at 18, there are many follies for which I would like to kick myself, but they are not recorded in the attack to which you give circulation.

One fact more and I am done. After this virus with which you attempt to vaccinate Oregon against me, had been long before the people of Iowa, I was elected trustee of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, by a republican legislature, served in that office acceptably to the people and left it with the compliments and regrets of my colleagues, Col. Horton, a Union soldier, and Mr. Watkins, a leading republican.

All these things are ancient history in Iowa, and of but little interest to the people of Oregon. You get what you have printed from a bitter personal enemy who has injured his health hating me, and you know that such an enemy is not a good witness.

JOHN P. IRISH.

### CARLTON.

Mrs. Martha Oldham is sick. Lots of drummers these days. Our blacksmith has put up a new sign. Jeff, our next sheriff, called on us the other day.

Uncle Billy has got a namesake over at Uncle Doc's.

W. A. Howe is repainting his stores, which greatly improves their appearance. Our doctor hid himself away to New Mexico—gone to his cattle ranch, we suppose.

Mr. Derby, of Lafayette, was on our streets one day last week, looking after his political fences.

Mr. Frank York, deputy assessor, has been among us for the past few days, soliciting autographs.

W. A. Howe is putting in a very complete stock of agricultural implements—wagons, buggies, etc.

The Kelsey and Bodie Bros. are putting up a nice house and barn near town for Mr. James Edson.

A fine opening here for a good, steady, sober doctor to locate. One that has more knowledge of medicine than money can do well here.

Thomas Jefferson still takes his Saturday evening ride on the cars for McMinnville, but we understand he always sidetracks at Lafayette.

Messrs. Nelson and Hobbs were on our streets the other day, looking as pleasant as only an office seeker can. Secure your boats, gentlemen.

HAWK-EYE.

## J. Burt Moore,

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