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SPURIOUS COIN

BOLD OPERATIONS IN TILLAMOOK COUNTY.

A curious case of a moonshine mint has just come to light here. Spurious silver dollars have been manufactured by the thousands in this county for the past year.

A gentleman who lives on Cape Mearns tells us a most remarkable story. Here it is:

"Sir, you will be surprised when I tell you that free coinage is practiced, and the government gets no benefit from it. But, it's a fact.

"About a year ago a man dressed like a laborer or rancher came over here and took up a ranch near mine. He was a quiet, agreeable fellow, and always had money to pay for all supplies he needed, and did no work here apparently, except to erect a cabin and after that put in his time hunting. He was gone half the time however, and always said he had been in the Willamette valley working he was as good a neighbor as one wished for, however he never talked of his former life or occupations, and never even dropped a hint that would compromise himself in any way.

"About a month ago I was out hunting, and came to a very steep, rugged little canyon, which I supposed had never been penetrated except by wild animals. It was full of a dense growth of brush, hard to get into from any quarter, and easy to get around, but this time curiosity prompted me to make an investigation. I found a steep, rugged, little used path, a bear trail, I presumed, and with great difficulty clambered down it for a way. Imagine my surprise when I found a log with notches cut into it for steps, leading further down the canyon. I began to tremble with fear, but hated to back out. I reached the bottom of the canyon, and after crawling around for half an hour through a winding trail under the salmon-berry bushes, I found a dug-out, and smoke was issuing from it. I knew I must be observing, and feared to proceed further, and dare not attempt to retreat. Suddenly I heard a merry laugh, and to my surprise my agreeable neighbor appeared, and invited me in.

"Of course you will not give me away until I have time to get out of the country," he remarked. I agreed to his suggestion. He showed me his outfit. Imagine my feeling, when I saw more than half a bushel of bright, new silver dollars! And, on the floor were several large bars of the same metal. I thought at first that he must have a mine of the pure stuff. He had a small, well constructed furnace, a stamp operated by hydraulic pressure, several tools and fixtures, and seemed perfectly comfortable in his quarters. Some of his tools and the manner in which he used them showed him to be a skilled and artistic workman.

"Well," he said, "I will explain matters. This is pure silver that I have here. These pieces of bullion are some that I have not worked up. I am doing a free coinage business. Yes, there is a law against it the same as counterfeiting, but it is hard to detect a man in this business. It is safe to pass the coin, as it is just exactly the same as the government makes, and is just as good. In fact, for a while, I put in two or three grains extra of silver, which made a better dollar than that issued by the government. But the extra weight came near causing me trouble, so I made my coins standard weight, and have turned out many thousand standard dollars here. There is no danger of detection, as there are no questions asked when you pass a good dollar, and nobody remembers whom he got it from. Experts cannot tell the difference, and you couldn't be punished if you were caught with a basketful of them in your possession. The only way is to catch a man making them. If a man gets a bad dollar he is likely to notice something wrong with its color, appearance, or ring, and he remembers where he got it. Of the others, there is no desire to remember where they came from; they are good good anywhere. "How can I afford to do this? Why, my dear sir, it is very profitable. I started in here a year ago with \$500, and now I have over \$20,000 in coin, greenbacks and gold. You see that the way silver sells now, its market price being kept down by gold-bug legislation, there is only 53 cents worth of silver in a silver dollar. The government stamp is what makes it go for a dollar.

I bought bullion in San Francisco with my \$500, and I had enough silver to make nearly \$10,000. I came here and coined it, and then went and bought more silver bars, and I have kept this thing going until I have made quite a stack in the past year. I shipped my

bullion in here in nail kegs, and I carry it out in my valise, in boxes and in various ways. Sometimes I have had a little difficulty in exchanging it for greenbacks, and I have lost a little in that way. Silver is legal tender only in amounts of \$5.00 or less, and I made small deposits in various banks each day, and drew it all out at once, or left it there to my credit. Have had little trouble to change it to silver certificates. You are right, it is good to pay board and buy provisions. I never act mysterious or try to dodge the authorities while passing my money, I defy them to detect it from U. S. coin.

"Why don't others do as I do? Bless your soul, they are, and just lately millions are being coined that way. Nearly every big mine in the west has a private mint now and is coining dollars by the thousands. This money is actually put into circulation through western banks, and good times are coming on this coast. I have inside facts regarding this matter and know of several banks which were nearly broke during the panic which are now in fine shape, able to pay every dollar if a run were made, and you're right depositors will take silver. All kinds of business will be better soon. The action of congress in 1873 and in repealing the Sherman law, recognized gold as the only money practically, and forced the price of silver down, and European bankers are trying to force it down, but you see I am getting dollar for dollar for it, full market price, and as so many others are doing the same thing, they will soon quit offering it in the market at reduced prices, and it will soon be in such demand that you can't make anything of it as I do. The free coinage of silver would have exactly the same effect. Practically free coinage of gold is what keeps that metal up in price. It is not over-production, as so many people claim. Curious, but every gold-bug fanatic claims this depreciated price of silver to be an argument against free coinage. They are not able to grasp the true significance of the matter. Why, there are blame I fools around selling Mexican dollars for 50 cents, when they could readily get a dollar for them.

"Well, I shall leave on the steamer tomorrow. Here's a bag of shiners for you. I am going to quit the business, as I have all the money I shall want in my life time.

"A government that hasn't any more sense than ours can't expect to have any thing else but to have its people to usurp some of its powers. The idea of trying to make half-a-dollar's worth of silver worth a dollar, just by law! It is just as easy to make a paper dollar legal tender, it is just as good, doesn't cost half-a-dollar each, and is much harder to counterfeit. The government should put a dollar's worth of silver in a dollar, or legislate so that the silver in a dollar will be worth a dollar, which can be done by giving silver free coinage, the same as gold, or stop the coinage of silver and issue paper in its stead. The U. S. financial laws are a farce, an attempt to please all, a thing which can't be done safely in a financial question. Of course this is a delicate question, hard to solve, and our statesmen have spent years on it to no purpose. I have solved it here in this little canyon. Good day, sir."

Some of the road supervisor's bills have been cut down, and in fact few have been allowed in full. It seems that in some cases supervisors have put in time overseeing three or four men, when double the number could have been worked at the same time. In this way it is thought some of the bills were made too large, and consequently the court has been scrutinizing such claims very closely.

The county has gained by the new salary law in the last six months in the Clerk's office \$637, besides over \$800 in fees that were paid to the clerk under the old law. The sheriff's office has also made money for the county, besides the court has allowed the sheriff over \$200 for expenses in making the tax levies etc., the payment of which is not provided for by law.

The sheriffs are trying to get a bill passed to allow them expenses in certain cases. This is necessary. Another change in the law that should be made is to reduce fees in the clerk's office about 30 per cent.

At the council meeting Saturday night there was a dead lock in selecting a councilman to take the place of J. Jones. J. W. Haskins and Wm. Barker were the two men represented by petitioners, but the vote stood two and two all the time. Finally a dark horse in the person of W. H. Eberman was sprung, and he was elected. It is a good choice.

PROSPECTUS
 General Character of this Paper.
 THE HEADLIGHT is the oldest paper, having been here seven years. Other papers have come and gone, but the HEADLIGHT never weakens. The present proprietor has been with it most of the time since it started.
 It is the county official paper; publishes the tax list, financial statements and court proceedings. Besides it gives all the county news, and works to build up the country.
 The HEADLIGHT is absolutely independent, and speaks fearlessly on all local questions. It gives all persons a chance to air their opinions, and encourages independence and freedom of thought and action.
 A finely equipped commercial printing plant is in connection, and the office does practically all the job printing done for this country.
 W. F. D. JONES, Editor.

AT SALEM

THE SENATORIAL FIGHT UNSETTLED.

Special Correspondence.

There was great excitement and enthusiasm in the legislature last week during the balloting for senator. The people of Salem all turned out, there were crowds from other parts of the state, and the enthusiasm seemed to know no bounds when the anti-Dolph men made their speeches explaining their reasons for voting. Demonstrations have been made on the streets, and in the galleries at the state house it was almost impossible to keep order at times. The Dolph faction met with no encouragement in the way of cheering, and it has seemed as if the whole state, irrespective of party, are clamoring for some man to beat Dolph. The bolting legislators have received telegrams and petitions signed by thousands, urging them to stand firm against Dolph, and it is evident that the man who deserts the cause will have odium heaped upon him, be charged with selling out, and be consigned to political oblivion. The show of anti-Dolph enthusiasm has been very galling to Joe Simons and Dolph's supporters, but it seems as if the whole state, the people of Salem included, are bent on making themselves heard against Dolph.

The Oregonian has made a few sickly attempts to show that certain localities are urging their representatives to vote for Dolph, but that paper knows it is perpetrating a fraud when it publishes such stuff. It is aware at the time that it is misrepresenting the status of affairs and it and a few politicians are determined to bulldoze anti-Dolph men into deserting their standard. It lies when it asserts that Dolph is strong anywhere and even in Portland a large majority of the people are against him. The sentiment throughout the state is almost unanimous, only a few spoils seeking politicians standing for Dolph, and it seems that about 40 of them are in the legislature. The republican newspapers of the state are taking up the cause of the bolters, and are vigorously supporting them. It is developed that the people don't care a continental for caucuses, do not want their representatives to feel bound by such rules, and disapprove of being deprived of their rights in any such manner.

If the people could only get a chance to vote on the question, it would soon be settled.

The gradual weakening of Dolph's forces have discouraged his followers, and the abuse heaped upon his opponents by the Oregonian and Dolph's henchmen have made the opposition stronger. All kinds of threats and promises have been made, but the opposition is gaining.

Unless Dolph's managers succeed in bringing somebody at once, his case is hopeless. It is said that several thousand dollars will be brought to the aid of Dolph at once, though it will be hard to use it on the opposition as they have all declared themselves so forcibly, that any deserter would be stigmatized with treachery and bribery.

At first the opposition voted as follows: The republicans for Moore, generally; the populists for W. D. Hare; and the democrats for Judge A. S. Bennett. There were a few votes for Lord, Hermann and Kincaid. On Friday's ballot Hermann received 10 votes, it being understood that Judge Moore is not eligible and does not want the office. On the first ballot, when the houses voted separately, Dolph got two more votes than were necessary to elect, but has been gradually losing in joint ballot until on Friday he received only 43 votes, 46 being necessary for an election. The total opposition being 47 votes. It is difficult to tell how long the deadlock will last, as it is not known what the few democrats and populists will do. If they vote for a republican as the democrats did once for Mitchell, they can settle the matter any day. But, they may prefer a deadlock, so as to weaken the number of republicans in the United States Senate. It is thought however that they will vote for a free silver republican before long, except Senator Cogswell, who is the only democratic gold-bug. It is feared that the Dolph men may hire some of the democrats or populists to absent themselves from one session, thus giving Dolph a majority of the votes present, which would elect.

All the opposition needs to do is to center upon some man, and Dolph is beaten. The people are anxiously watching.

LATER.—Tuesday's vote was the same as usual, Dolph not gaining.