

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

TALK about Webfooters being full of prunes, the trouble with the daily newspapers is that they stuffed full of politics.

It is well not to be too sanguine as to who will be elected president next month, for there is truth in the remark that "The American people are fickle as to their preferences. The man they idolize to-day they throw down to-morrow."

REALLY there is only one issue to be decided at the election next month, and that is Prosperity vs. Hard Times. And what's the good of keeping on chewing the rag about it? If people prefer hard times they will vote that way, of course.

HONORS are easy. Republican newspapers are making a display of democrats who have gone over to McKinley, and the democratic newspapers are doing the same thing with those who have deserted McKinley. What a flopping time they are having.

THE State of Oregon has issued warrants from May 6, 1899, to September 30, 1900, for \$91,653 to pay the scalp bounty on varmints. This is a large sum, yet it is stated there were 7504 scalps less secured during this quarter than last. Let us hope that the law is not being imposed upon by people raising wild cat.

THE sailor boarding house difficulty in Portland has been settled. When a lot of disreputable people interfere with the commerce of our ports it is quite time that the state legislature should take the matter in hand and make this impossible in the future. Had this been a lot of working men insisting upon more wages instead of boarding house keepers, they would have been called "anarchists."

P. L. WESSELS, special commissioner to the United States for the defunct two South African republics, is still talking for publication, and it is surprising how short sighted he is when he says "their cause is not lost and they will fight till they win." It must be remembered that the commissioner was not one of those on the fighting line, but while touring Europe was tooting his horn while the battle was in progress. He also says that the reports Lord Roberts sends amount to nothing. Are we to understand from this that the annexation of the two republics amount to nothing? How absurd. But one thing is left for the Boers to do, and that is to accept the new conditions with the best grace possible, for ex-President Kruger and his envoys expect to keep the war in progress while in Holland it may lead to complications of a serious nature with that country and England.

Oregonian not well informed as to Tillamook's Needs.

It is no uncommon thing to read in the newspapers reference to the dairy industry of Tillamook county. The Oregonian had this to say in an editorial last week:

"Ever since the first settlers crossed the mountains and made their homes in Tillamook county, that section has been noted for the excellence of its dairy products. For many years Tillamook butter has represented a product not only that people could eat, but one that they were glad to get. In late years the dairy interest, expanding through the creamery interest, has made substantial growth, the industry being hampered at times by lack of proper shipping facilities, but still making satisfactory growth. Until in very recent years dairying has proved the principal industry of Tillamook county."

This is correctly stated and a true description of the dairy industry, which will multiply itself in a few years. When, however, the Oregonian describes the lumber industry, it is not well informed as to the unsatisfactory conditions which confront that industry, as will be seen by those who are conversant with the situation in the concluding portion of the editorial:

"The lumber interest has now, however, taken firm hold there, with every indication that it will, in a few years, become exceedingly profitable. The lumber output of Tillamook Bay is now about 1,000,000 feet a month, and there is a good prospect that it will be doubled next year. This is a matter upon which our coast county friends may be well be congratulated. There is no reason why the carriers of commerce may not have dispatch from their ports to the ports of the Orient, to the advantage of local enterprise, while making a substantial addition to Oregon exports."

Without touching upon all the discrepancies, as far as Tillamook county is concerned the Oregonian is not correct in making the statement: "There is no reason why the carriers of commerce may not have dispatch from their ports to the ports of the Orient." But this is what Tillamook county has been aspiring to for a number of years; but, alas, as we have repeatedly pointed out, this cannot be accomplished until the government improves Tillamook bar. Local enterprise, energy and perseverance have not been wanting to overcome this serious obstacle to the development of the timber resources of Tillamook, yet with all this enterprise, the results are disappointing, unsatisfactory and perplexing, as every lumberman who was wrestling with the business last winter in Tillamook can testify to. It is tantalizing to be constantly reminded about the resources of the county, but not a word is mentioned nor the reasons given why they cannot be developed. To accomplish this, the rivers and harbors committee at the next session of congress will be petitioned to improve Tillamook bar so that twenty-two feet of water at low tide can be obtained. Here is the secret to the whole difficulty, and the question with Tillamookers is whether our representatives in congress can bring enough persuasion to bear to bring about this necessary improvement, but as Representative T. H. Tongue has made himself acquainted with the whole situation, we are hopeful that he will be instrumental in securing the necessary approval and appropriations for the improvement of the bar. It will be a great disappointment to the people of Tillamook if this is delayed, and especially to those who have invested money in timber land and want to invest more in saw mills when an opportunity presents itself so that lumber can be shipped and the danger of a shifting, shallow bar is removed. That the resources of the country and the increasing commerce of the port demands this improvement is frankly admitted by all. For instance, Tillamook Bay has thirteen billion of timber tributary to it and waiting to be manufactured as soon as the government improves Tillamook bar, to say nothing of the timber resources of the Nehalem country. From a commercial point of view it is just as imperative that Tillamook bar should be improved as it is to give 40 feet of water on the Columbia bar; more so, for Tillamook bar will only allow small coasting vessels to cross, and at times it is impossible for these to do so. Although small appropriations have been made from year to year to improve Tillamook bay, no attempt has been made to improve Tillamook bar, and until that is improved it is folly for the Oregonian or anyone else to indulge in idle dreams and imagination that "There is no reason why the carriers of commerce may not have dispatch from their ports to the ports of the Orient." The improvement of Tillamook bar is a practical question and important matter with Tillamookers, for the dairy and lumber interest demands it, the development and prosperity of the county demands it. The Headlight is just as enthusiastic over the improvement of Tillamook bar as the Oregonian is in its commendable effort to have

the Columbia bar still further improved, but we do not want the Oregonian to convey a wrong impression that no obstacles present themselves to dispatching vessels with lumber to the Orient, for it may have a tendency to defeat the efforts which have been put forth the past few months by a number of our leading citizens and manufacturers to have the bar improved, not that we believe the Oregonian would intentionally convey that impression if it was rightly informed, for that newspaper has identified itself so much with the industrial development of the state we do not believe it would do anything to retard the development of Tillamook county. But to run a sawmill successfully on Tillamook bay, bucking the perplexing shipping difficulties, and drawing a pen-picture of the situation is a totally different matter when the writer is not correctly informed, and that is the reason we have referred again to the improvement of Tillamook bar, which we hope to see improved at no distant date.

President Mitchell was Equal to the Occasion.

THE coal miners now on strike in Pennsylvania have the sympathy of the American people. First, because the demand of the miners for more pay is just; and, second, because the strikers have proved themselves law-abiding citizens. It is true that a few cases of disorder and blood-shed have occurred, but that does not amount to much when considering that 150,000 men are on strike. We are glad to see how implicitly the miners have obeyed their leaders who have counseled carrying on the strike in an orderly and law-abiding manner, and the quietness which prevails is not only a surprise to the nation but to the coal barons who secured military protection. Laboring men have secured a victory in this strike on those lines, and political speakers have been deprived of depicting them as a lot of foreigners, anarchists and socialists. Now that the mine owners have posted notices of a 10 per cent raise in wages, it is well to notice the business-like methods the leaders have adopted to discuss the matter in all its phases. A convention was called, and President Mitchell's opening address to the delegates is a conservative, sensible statement of the case. It is devoid of threats, and counsels the miners to be rational and cool in their deliberations. A great responsibility rested upon President Mitchell at this trying time, for by giving wrong advice or making a wrong move the sympathy of the people would have withdrawn. Mitchell, we are glad to say, was equal to the occasion and advised wisely, which will be proved by reading his conservative speech, and which we consider worth reproducing so that people can judge intelligently of the situation:

"Gentlemen: In opening this convention I desire to briefly outline the purpose which prompted us to call you here and to point out, if I can, the course you should pursue in determining the questions which so vitally affect not only yourselves and the vast constituency you represent, but also the millions of people in the Eastern and New England states and in the anthracite region, not directly connected with the coal industry.

"Before doing so, however, permit me to congratulate you upon the growth of your organizations as evidenced by the large number of delegates assembled here. This is, without exception, the largest labor convention which has ever taken place in the industrial history of our nation. The causes which forced you to engage in the contest which has preceded this convention are from years of suffering so indelibly imprinted upon your memories, that it would be a waste of words to recite them here. The story of your wrongs has been truthfully depicted by your officers, it has been portrayed in all its hideousness by the representatives of the press, men sent here to seek out the truth and report the conditions as they really exist, and with exceptional unanimity, the public has declared that your cause is just and that the responsibility for this unfortunate strike rests solely upon the shoulders of those who employed you.

"Your own conduct during the strike, even under the most trying circumstances, has won for you and your cause the respect and commendation of all justice-loving and patriotic people. Violations of law have been few in number and then only under circumstances in which the miners were not wholly at fault. In fact, it has been shown that more overt acts have been committed by those whose duty it is to enforce law than by the miners who have been so erroneously pictured as men entirely devoid of respect for law and order. For this you deserve much credit.

"Labor organizations have no greater enemies than the thoughtless strikers who violate the law or permit themselves to be provoked into the commission of crime. It frequently occurs in time of strikes that employers provoke strikers into violations of the law with the hope and the expectation that public sentiment will be arrayed against the strikers and the military arm of the state can be secured to curb the mer and defeat the objects for which the strike was inaugurated. Whatever may be your decision to-day, whether you end or continue the strike, it is my earnest hope that every miner may regard it as his duty not only to obey, but assist in enforcing the law.

"When this strike was put into effect we declared that it would not end unless a majority of the delegates representing the anthracite miners agreed to its termination. We repeatedly announced that we would not undertake to decide the future happiness or misery, the weal or woe of the 500,000 persons dependent upon the anthracite coal industry for a livelihood. We believe that the men who mine coal, that the men who work in the collieries, that the boys who work in the breakers, should all be consulted before the officers of your union declare that strike at an end. Learning that the operators had posted notices at their mines, offering an advance of 10 per cent in wages formerly paid, we deemed it our duty to call a convention and permit the miners to pass judgment on the question of its acceptance or rejection.

"In considering the proposition of the operators I want the delegates attending this convention to be clean and dispassionate, to consider the question in all its phases, to measure carefully the chances of success and the possibilities of defeat, should the strike be continued. You must not reach conclusions hastily, you must not overestimate your strength, and, on the other hand, you should take every precaution to protect yourselves against the viciousness of your employers, who, I regret to say, have shown no disposition to treat you fairly in the past, and who have never shown any regard for the welfare of those who produce their wealth.

"For the first time in many years the operators have recognized your demands for better conditions of employment and have offered an advance of 10 per cent in your wages. I am well aware that this advance is not satisfactory to you. You have felt, and with justice, that a definite period of time should be named during which this advance should remain in force. Your experience where wages are based on a sliding scale has been so unsatisfactory to you that you believe that the sliding-scale method of determining wages should be abolished. You also believe that the laws of Pennsylvania should be obeyed by the coal companies and wages be paid twice each month, you reserving the right of spending your earnings wherever you choose. Whether it is believed wise at this time to insist upon a compliance with all your demands is a question which you, as most interested, are called upon to decide.

"Personally, I have hoped we should be able at some time to establish the same method of adjusting wage differences as now exists in the bituminous coal regions, where employers' and miners' delegates meet in joint interstate convention and like prudent, sensible business men, mutually agree upon a scale of wages which remains in force for one year, thus removing the cause of strikes and lock-outs, and even yet I believe that in future the anthracite operators will accept this humane and progressive method of treating with their employes.

"Labor organizations, like labor-saving machinery, are here to stay. Capital may for a time refuse to deal with them, may, because of its great power, retard the growth of organizations for a time, but like 'truth crushed to earth,' they 'will rise again' and will give battle in defense of the poor and oppressed.

"Now, gentlemen, permit me to admonish you to consider seriously the course you intend to pursue. The eyes of the American people are centered on the City of Scranton to-day, anxiously awaiting the result of this convention. I do not wish you to accept one cent less for your labor than it is possible for you to secure. I do not wish the great organization which has been built among you to be wrecked and ruined through any mistake of mine or yours.

"If you legislate wisely and judiciously I can see a destiny brighter and happier for you and for those who will take your places when you have passed away. I can see a future where the little boys will be in attendance at the school instead of wasting their young lives away in the breakers, helping to earn a livelihood for parents. I can see a future where pleasant homes and happy, smiling faces of the wives and mothers will be in vivid contrast with the conditions of to-day."

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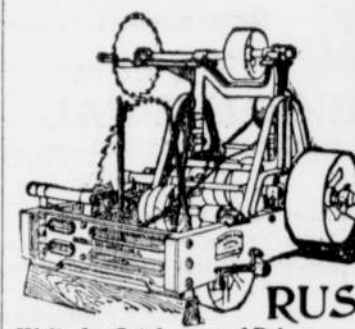
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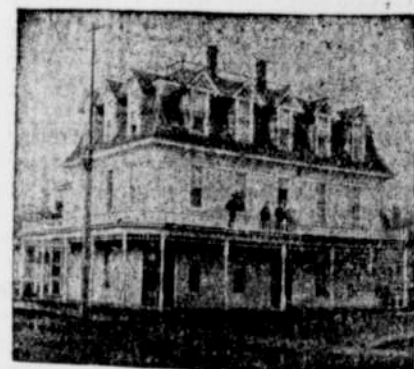
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