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THE CAPITAL JOURNAL.

HOFER BROTHERS, - - - Editors.

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HILL'S ANTI-FREE TRADE LETTER

A mass meeting was called by the free traders of New York, among them two democratic members of congress, to celebrate Jefferson's birthday, and Hill was requested to be present. In reply to this invitation he sent the following letter.

STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE MANSION, ALBANY, N. Y., April 2, 1891.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your letter of March 28th, inviting me to attend a free trade mass meeting to be held at Cooper Union on Thursday evening, April 2. While thanking you for your courtesy, I cannot attend the meeting because I have no sympathy with its professed purpose. I had supposed that my opinions upon the tariff question had been so frequently expressed in public that nobody could expect me to consistently attend a meeting intended to promulgate the doctrine of free trade. I am not an advocate of free trade and never have been. I stand with the democratic party in favor of tariff reform, which means a reduction of the present excessive and iniquitous tariff and the retention of the tariff limited to the necessities of the government, economically administered. I believe that the interests of our country, industrial, agricultural and commercial, demand the establishment of that tariff policy declared and particularly defined in the national democratic platforms of 1876, 1884 and 1888, and I am earnestly opposed to the attempt which is now being made in some quarters to undermine the sound and conservative position of the democratic party upon this question and to commit it irrevocably to the doctrine of free trade. The men who are engaged in this effort, no matter how honest or sincere they may be in their individual convictions, have no right to longer masquerade as true democrats. While seeking to commit the party to a policy which it has always distinctly repudiated and which if adopted must inevitably, in my judgment, affect injuriously the welfare of the country, and nullify the democratic party for the maintenance of the wise principles of government, which it has, for many a century, been the proud and unyielding representative, they generally mistake public sentiment who assume to construe the revelation of last autumn at the polls as a popular manifestation in favor of radical tariff legislation. It was, so far as the tariff was an issue, a popular outburst against excessive duties, against restraints of the markets, against war taxation for the benefit of the favored industries. But it is only blind theorists who in this think they see that the people are impatient of all tariffs and desire to resort to direct taxation to secure the necessary revenues for the support of the government. As a democrat I must respectfully decline to support any government, no matter by whom instigated or championed, having for its purpose the adoption of any such suicidal policy as is sought to be promoted by the meeting to which you have invited me. In my opinion such movements only embarrass and endanger the cause of tariff reform. I remain very truly yours, DAVID B. HILL.

EFFECT OF LOWERING RAILROAD RATES.

A short time since the Oregonian depicted a woful state of affairs as existing in the Iowa railroads, owing to the great reduction of rates made by the Iowa laws and commission. The article stated that earnings had run down so that train service was crippled, men discharged, and general bankruptcy threatened the once affluent corporations of the Hawkeye state. The JOURNAL copied the article and showed its fallacies. It ventured the prediction that the report of the railroad commissioners of Iowa would not substantiate the assertions of the Oregonian, which was seeking to alarm the Oregon people against the adoption of a similar policy on the part of the state and its railroad commission. The report of the Iowa commission is now before us and we respectfully call the attention of the Oregonian and the people to the state of affairs the Iowa corporations are officially found to be in. The facts do not sustain the assertions of the Oregonian but are exactly to the contrary. Iowa railroads are shown to have increased their net earnings from \$11,861,000 in 1889 to \$14,021,000 in 1890, every mile of road in the state earning \$182 as against \$142 the year before. There was spent on improvements the past year on the Iowa roads \$22,485,759.97. We state this amount exactly, because the Oregonian was specific in asserting that the Iowa roadbeds were rotting, station houses falling down and the roads going into general decay. The total tonnage of the roads shows an increase of 5,189,622 tons of freight. This is important because it shows that with lower rates the people use the railroads a great deal more than under higher. The commission reports it as their belief that the physical conditions of most of the roads has improved within the year. Many miles of track have been ballasted, bridges and depots built and general improvements made. Considerable double track has been laid and general improvements made in terminal facilities. The report speaks of the small number of Iowa roads in the hands of receivers. The total amount of taxes paid by the railroads of the state during the year was \$1,223,408.83; No. employees, 24,642; increase 328. Total gain in mileage, 125.94 miles. In conclusion the report says: "The year 1890 has been a remarkable one in the railroad world. Rate wars, both passenger and freight, have broken out at times with much fury, covering vast areas of territory. The organization known as the Interstate Commerce Railway Association, better known as the 'Gentlemen's Agreement,' organized for the ostensible purpose of preserving peace and business good faith among competing lines, went to pieces, and several general officers of railroad companies were criminally indicted by a federal grand jury for alleged violation of the interstate commerce law. A material and marked reduction in freight rates commenced in February, and continued with more or less fluctuation through to December reaching the lowest point in that month. So deep was this cut in rates that on March 19th the local rates in the state were reduced by the several companies to a point considerably below the maximum rates fixed by the commission and so maintained until August last following. These facts brought out the anomalous fact that there had been a gain in the earnings of the year of eight and one-half per cent. over the year previous. Increased earnings following a marked reduction in freight rates sharply challenges the attention of candid students of the railway problem."

NOT A STATE MATTER.

A New Orleans organ very sharply informs his majesty King Humbert of Italy: "The Italian government shows its ignorance of republican institutions in supposing the federal government can interfere in a matter of purely state concern."

This, upon the theory that there has been just cause for interference on the part of the federal government, is assuming that if the Italian government had grounds for demanding justice of the American nation, the federal government at Washington would not have the right nor the power under the constitution to interfere in what Louisiana might be pleased to call "a matter of purely state concern."

It is an assertion that, if an outrage had been committed on Italian subjects in the city of New Orleans, in violation of treaty rights, and for which Italy would feel bound to demand satisfaction at the hands of the federal government, the federal government would be powerless to interfere.

Under this theory of the helplessness of the federal administration, a "sovereign" state could offer any insult, commit any depredation, sacrifice the lives or property of aliens and the nation would have to stand back and declare to the world that it would not be in good form to meddle with a matter of purely state concern. The sovereign state of Louisiana could carry on piracy on the high seas, imprison foreigners

and hold them for ransom, and the citizens of New Orleans could establish and maintain a brigandage that would put to blush the Sicilian Mafia, while the outraged foreign power would appeal in vain for justice to a national government which this theory renders obsolete, while at the same time the constitution forbids any recognition of a state by a foreign power. This double-headed and absurd proposition could only originate in the perverted brain of a states-right demagogue, seeking to flatter a little remnant of Bourbons that exists in the hotbed of a slumbering secessionism. This theory is worse than a crime, as it would allow the practice of all kinds of crimes and treasons, and practically forbid redress.

standpoint to the stockholders and most useful to the people. As the Oregonian has told its readers, the Iowa commission has reduced freight rates from one-third to one-half in some cases and earnings are not diminished but increased.

GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

Next Friday the salmon fishing season begins.

Hon. John C. Drain died at his home in Drain on Sunday. He was born in Iowa, May 22, 1843.

Freeman's printing house at Los Angeles was burned out Saturday night.

Olinger's country kitchen at Woodland, Cal. was destroyed by fire Sunday morning. Loss about \$8,000.

People along the west side of the Willamette valley frequently make complaint of poor train service, or rather the lack of more railroads. Yamhill county folks are anxious to have a railroad to Salem, and the newspapers are urging local capitalists to make a move in this direction. More people and more small farms is the principal need of the Willamette valley, and it will be very hard to get more railroads or better transit facilities until these conditions exist.—Oregonian.

There is a rumor afloat that there are about 3000 Indians camped across the Columbia, opposite the mouth of the John Day, who belong to the same tribe and are sympathizers of the two Indians in the Condon jail. It is said these Indians have made threats of going to Condon and liberating their brethren there from the county jail, and that they are waiting for the "dark of the moon" to do so. Sheriff Wilcox was notified of the report, we understand, by a reliable citizen of Blackland, and the sheriff has notified the militia of the county that he will call them out in case these Indians come to Condon on said mission. It is also reported that John Scott and Geo. West have joined the Indians in jail in the "ghost dance," and while it is a matter of some speculation as to what the feeling of the warriors down on the Columbia is, there is no doubt but those at Condon, including Scott and West, would like to "break out."—Fossil Journal.

The suit for \$5000 damages which was instituted against the Gazette, of Corvallis, by E. G. Beardsley has been voluntarily withdrawn.

The organization of a company of state militia was partially effected in this city this week. The state regulations require that a company be composed of at least forty privates, but a special permit was granted in this instance and application for enlistment of thirty members was made. Others will be admitted as suitable persons make application to become members of the company. The organization will shortly be complete.—Corvallis Gazette.

Washington Special: During the session of the Methodist conference last week, one of the ministers went into a drug store about dusk on a chilly evening and asked the proprietor for a good mild cigar. After paying for it he said:

"Is there any place around your store where I can have a quiet smoke? Our bishop has just been preaching pretty sharply against the use of tobacco, so I don't want to smoke 'round the house where I am staying, nor out in the street, on account of the bad example I might set. But a mild cigar does rest one so!"

The druggist quite agreed with him and replied:

"Step behind my prescription counter, sir; you will be unseen there."

Two minutes later another good minister came into the store, bought a mild cigar, and asked if he might be permitted to smoke in the store, because:

"Our bishop has just been preaching against smoking," he explained, almost in the exact words of his predecessor.

He also was sent behind the prescription counter. The screen hid the two dominies from sight, but it did not shut out the peals of laughter which arose when minister number two encountered minister number one.

The Secretary of the Interior has directed the various pension agencies to be rearranged into three groups, so that, beginning July 1, 1891, there may be quarterly payments of pensions made each month during the year. While the details have not yet been fully arranged, it is expected the three groups will be made up as follows:

Group 1—Chicago, Des Moines, Buffalo, Concord, Milwaukee and Pittsburg. Payments will be made on the fourth day of the months of July, October, January and April.

Group 2—Indianapolis, Louisville, Topeka, Philadelphia, Knoxville and New York. Payments August, November, February and May.

Group 3—Columbus, Washington, Boston, Detroit, Augusta, Me., and San Francisco. Payments September, December, March and June.

TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCHES.

Associated Press Report and Digests of all Important News of To-Day.

MISCELLANY.

THE STRIKE IN NEW JERSEY.

TRENTON, April 7.—The brick manufacturers at a meeting held last week decided to reduce the wages of their employes 20 per cent., the cut to effect all classes of help now receiving \$2 to \$4 per day. The dullness of trade is the reason for the new schedule. There are thirteen large yards in Trenton, and they all have an immense quantity of brick on hand, carried over from last year. The manufacturers say brick have fallen from \$20 to \$12 per 1000. The employes met yesterday and decided not to accept the reduction. A big strike is therefore likely to begin today. If it does, at least 2000 men will quit work.

HAVE LOST \$400,000 IN WAGES.

TRENTON, N. J., April 7.—The strike of the sanitary ware pressers in the potteries, which began in December last, is still in progress, the men having lost, up to date, \$406,000 in wages. When busy they are among the best paid workmen in the world, earning as high as \$60 per week, and rarely less than \$30. They refused \$8 per day recently offered by the bosses. The spring election occurs April 13, and the politicians are currying favor with the strikers by trying to patch up their troubles. The potteries are working with crippled forces, but the proprietors will not admit suffering any embarrassment. They say the quarrel is not over wages and they advertised for help, offering \$8 per day, to prove it; it is a struggle for control of the business.

A HORRIBLE BRUTE.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., April 6.—Edward W. Halligar, colored, who, it is said, has been a preacher and a pugilist, murdered his wife in a most brutal manner at an early hour yesterday morning. The woman had recently left him on account of cruel treatment. Halligar, while besotted with liquor, forced an entrance into the house where his wife was stopping and began beating her with a hatchet. Again and again he sunk the weapon into the woman's skull. Even after the woman was dead the infuriated brute kept striking her with the hatchet. When he finally desisted the woman's skull was crushed to a bleeding mass. Both her arms were almost severed from the body, these having been cut while she raised them in an endeavor to ward off the blows. Halligar then attempted to kill himself. He had cut himself severely about the head, when the police arrived and disarmed him. The refusal of the woman to again live with him was the reason given by the murderer for his terrible crime.

IMPORTANT LAND DECISION.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—The United States supreme court yesterday reversed the decision of the supreme court of Montana in the case of Andrew J. Davis, appellant, vs. Henry Wiebold, and ordered the case remanded for a new trial. This was a suit for damages, and involved the title to certain lands in the town of Butte, Montana. The case turns upon the construction to be given to the provisions of the townsite law of the United States. Davis claimed title under the townsite entry act, of which one entry was that no title could be acquired under the act to any gold, silver, or copper mine, or to any valid mining claim held under existing laws. Wiebold claimed title under the general laws, and when Davis offered to prove that at the time the patent of Butte townsite was issued the premises in dispute were not known to be valued for minerals of any kind, objection was taken on the ground that Wiebold's patent showed that as a matter of fact the premises did contain valuable mineral lands, and such could not be granted by the townsite patent. The court sustained the objection, and this ruling, which was really decisive of the controversy, the supreme court overrules.

The question involved in the suit was long in dispute, and there had been various and in some instances diverse opinions on it in the executive departments. The United States supreme court has several times passed upon it by inference and implication, but this, it is said, is a first direct decision.

The court, in the opinion written by Justice Field says: "The important question is whether in the absence of knowledge that there were any valuable mineral land within the townsite, Davis can be deprived of the premises purchased and occupied by him because of the subsequent discovery of minerals in them and the issue of a patent to the discoverer. After much consideration, we have come to the conclusion that this question must be answered in the negative. The object of the townsite act was to afford