

FLOODS AND THE CITY.

The people of Salem have a just complaint to make at the way they have been treated by some one in authority in the matter of the cleaning out of Mill creek ditch and properly drying the same. The seventeenth general assembly appropriated money for that purpose but Governor Penoyer delayed the expenditure.

No for two years more the ditches that supply the state institutions with water and water power have been filling up until in many places the bed is high as the banks. The last legislature made some appropriation to clean out the ditch and dyke the same, but it has not been done and how a large part of the city is flooded as a result. These ditches not only carry the water from the dam to the river to the reform school and state prison, but also carry all the surface drainage in the rainy season and some sewage at all times from these institutions. It is very essential to the health of the city and protection of property that they be cleaned to their channels and kept within bounds.

The legislature also passed a bill of Senator Gerner's to build a sewer to carry the asylum and state prison sewage to the river. This sewer was to cost about \$16,000 and pass through the city on Court or Chumeketa street. Much of the property along those streets, in the residence part of the city, is flooded now and will be all winter.

In the case of Mill creek and of this sewer, the main reason for delay is given that there has not been sufficient convict labor to do the work. The work has not been undertaken, it is said, because the convicts could not make the brick in time to put in the work this year. "The superintendent of the penitentiary shall furnish such labor and material as the board shall direct." The board consists of the governor, secretary of state and treasurer. In the Mill creek improvement \$7500 was appropriated and convict labor was to be used "as far as is practicable." It is not believed that all this work on Mill creek can be done with convict labor. Certainly the sewer through the city cannot be built with convict labor. If that work could have been done this fall, or part of it, and work could have been begun on the sewer this fall and pushed this winter, it would have been a godsend to laborers. When an appropriation has been made for labor to be performed by the poor laborer who has to depend on his day's labor for his existence ought not to be made to await the convenience of convicts, or any one else. In Oregon it has been too much the custom to appropriate money, collect it from the taxpayers and then let it lie unexpended, for what it has been appropriated for, from one to four years. We only voice the protest of hundreds of families suffering discomfort and hundreds of laborers who have no employment during a long, wet season, when we mention these matters. We do not wish to blame our state officials with neglect in the matter, but we do say the people of this city have a just cause for complaint in this matter, and let the blame rest where it may.

BLAINE ON BIMETALLISM.

James G. Blaine said in congress on February 7, 1878:

"On the much-veiled and long-mooted question as to a bimetallic or monometallic standard, my own views are sufficiently indicated in the remarks I have made. I believe the struggle now going on in this country and other countries for a single gold standard would, if successful, produce widespread disaster in and throughout the commercial world.

"The destruction of silver as money and establishing gold as the sole unit of value must have a ruinous effect on all forms of property except those investments which yield a fixed return in money. These would be enormously enhanced in value and would gain a disproportionate and unfair advantage over other species of property. If, as the most reliable statistics affirm, there are nearly \$7,000,000,000 of gold or bullion in the world, not very unequally divided between gold and silver, it is impossible to strike out as money without results which will prove disastrous to millions and utterly disastrous to tens of thousands."

Again he said: "I believe gold and silver coin to be the money of the constitution; indeed, the money of the American people, anterior to the constitution, which the great organic law recognized as quite independent of its existence. No power was conferred on congress to declare metal should not be money. Congress has, therefore, in my judgment, no power to demonetize silver any more than to demonetize gold."

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ENGLAND MUST BACK DOWN.

In the Venezuelan boundary dispute Great Britain has sought to bully and intimidate a poor and feeble South American republic since fifty years. In the dispute over the Oregon boundary line fifty years ago England proceeded by stealth at first and finally by open intimidation to overreach our country. But the English ministers met such men as Webster and Adams, Clay and Benton, men who were more than a match for Tory greed and cunning and England had to recede from her demands. As Great Britain had to be made to back down in the case of the Oregon boundary, so she must be made to respect American rights and American principles in Venezuela.

The tone of the English press has undergone great changes in three days since President Cleveland sent his message to a Republican congress and it was promptly approved by passing a bill to create a Venezuelan commission and appropriating \$100,000 to carry out its objects, which are a fair determination of the bounds of British possessions in Guiana. England's refusal to submit the whole matter to arbitration, has placed the moral responsibility for bloodshed if there be any upon Johnny Bull. France has been quick to see the importance and seriousness of the situation and the French press hastens to throw its weight on the side of England to protect French Guiana from a similar dose of Monroe doctrine.

The British newspapers at first assumed a fierce and warlike tone. In the past twenty-four hours the greatest change has come over them and they "roar as gently as a sucking dove." The St. James Gazette on Thursday moderated its tone so far as to say: "We think that the American press, with its customary enterprise, has given its readers everything but the essential facts, and the tendency of the moment is to believe that President Cleveland has made a spirited effort to uphold his country's honor. The Americans, if sensible, are also sentimental and would fight with all the fierce energy of their race for a principle. We know it and respect them for it."

The Americans will contend for the principle involved in the Monroe doctrine, that European governments must not by stealth or force wrest to themselves a single foot of American soil. They may by cunning laws or by the folly of our lawmakers drain the last drop of gold out of our country, buy up our breweries, waterworks, street car lines, what not, but they must keep their hands off the American continent.

Nothing remains but for England to back down in the Venezuelan affair. English cunning, English grasping and English ambition to dominate the American continent has led the Salisbury ministry to overreach and has offended a sentiment that all Americans cherish as dearly as life or liberty.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN AUSTRIA.

Dr. Lueger and Prince Liechtenstein, the eminent Jew-baiters, have struck out a new line. They are holding meetings of the fair sex, which leave nothing to be desired in numbers or enthusiasm. The female audience which attended a meeting convoked by Anti-Semite leaders in Vienna on Monday night mustered some 4,000, principally of the small bourgeois class.

The laboring classes were hardly represented at all. Dr. Lueger was received with prolonged enthusiasm, the women kissing his hands and even the heads of his coat. The crush was such as to render accidents inevitable, and the police consequently dissolved the meeting, amid loud protests. On leaving the Prater the crowd marched along the main street leading to the inner town, shouting, "Hurrah for Lueger! Down with the Jews!" They insulted the unlucky Jews whom they happened to meet, and made hostile demonstrations in front of a cafe which the Jews are supposed to frequent. The ardor displayed on this and other similar occasions by the female element clearly betrays the influence of the lower clergy. The new Catholic People's party, while expressing its sympathy with the program of the Christian Socialists, declares that it cannot cooperate with Dr. Lueger and his followers if they persist in the course upon which they have now entered. This is probably the result of an admonition from the higher clergy.

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AGRICULTURE AND PROTECTION.

Delegations of farm owners and tenants continue to wait on the English ministry and demand protection. According to the latest London Times:

The minister for agriculture on Wednesday addressed a large meeting at Sudbury Suffolk. He was first presented with a joint address from the Sudbury Conservative Men's Club and the Conservative Association of the Sudbury Division of Suffolk, expressing a hope that the government might pass such remedial measures, as would prevent landlords from being driven from their homes, would save tenants from losing their all, would bring about more work and better wages for laborers. Mr. Long said that, even if the country were agreed about protection or bimetalism, a long time would elapse before their effects could be felt. The government considered that it would be better, instead of introducing heroic measures, to have recourse for the present to such things as readjustment of local taxation, an increase of facilities for moving what was grown upon the land to the nearest markets, and the opening of the new districts by a wise and just scheme of light railways. If the government failed to relieve agricultural depression they would fail, not because they wanted the will but because they wanted the power.

James Lowther writes the Times to controvert Lord Salisbury's recent assertion that "the French have tried the experiment of protection in its extreme form, and their agriculture is suffering and greatly, if not more so than here." Mr. Lowther says the official report for 1893 of M. Tisserand:

"We think that the American press, with its customary enterprise, has given its readers everything but the essential facts, and the tendency of the moment is to believe that President Cleveland has made a spirited effort to uphold his country's honor. The Americans, if sensible, are also sentimental and would fight with all the fierce energy of their race for a principle. We know it and respect them for it."

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PERSECUTION IN GERMANY.

(From the London Times, December 14.)

Germans are a long-suffering race, constitutionally tolerant of bureaucratic interference, and, in fact, disposed to demand it to a degree of which we have little conception in this country. * * Liberty of the press is at the best very much narrower and more restricted in Germany than among ourselves, but of late it has almost vanished under peculiarly harsh and rigorous applications of enactments framed with perilsous vagueness. Liberty of association is also hedged round with restrictions the mildest of which would create a storm in this country. In this direction also the full powers of the law are now being invoked, with the result that, if the present severity goes on increasing, it will ultimately be not very much easier to secure collective action in Berlin than in Constantinople.

For the present the social Democrats are the objects of this excessive zeal, but there is no reason whatever to suppose that the spirit of intolerance once fairly aroused will display itself in the treatment of only one political party. The social Democrats, though no doubt identified in many minds with the wide-theories of their noisy writers, are not as a matter of fact the dangerous characters which the authorities apparently consider them. * * As far as the socialists are concerned, the first result of repressive measures is to cause them to close up their ranks and forget their internal dissensions. * * Those who, like ourselves, desire to see Germany strong cannot but regard as deplorable a policy which treats a couple of million of German electors as enemies to all that is good, merely because they hold opinions which in this country would attract little attention, and even in Germany, under a provocative regime, have next to no effect upon conduct. What does the German government suppose it is going to do with these two millions and their inarticulate sympathizers? It surely cannot seriously imagine that it is going to stamp out social democracy. * * The emperor is a man of very high

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