

EDITORIAL.

We believe there should be some concerted movement to provide literature for boys in our libraries. There are written, at this time, many interesting stories of a moral and practical cast, which would interest them and should be brought within their reach.

Business is slowly reviving. Increased activity is noticeable along the different lines of trade, nor is there anything speculative in its course—it simply indicates that better times are slowly coming.

What's the matter with a good historical and scientific library in any one of our Salem public schools.

Our climate is thought to be well adapted to flax raising, and there is quite an interest being developed in its culture. We trust that the raising of flax, as well as beets, may be encouraged and may become prominent among the industries of our state.

In the Western Reserve of Ohio the people take a dozen or twenty little district schools and put them all into one, put up a fine large building, employ half as many teachers but better ones, and haul all the children to and from school in a covered omnibus. See?

The manufacturers' association of Portland is agitating the question of the duty of patronizing home industries, and it is proposed to hold a mass meeting to awaken attention of the public to the importance of this subject. We believe the business sense of supporting our own industries by using their products and fabrics in preference to those of other countries, especially where they are of no greater cost and equal in durability, can be easily demonstrated. In fact, we think that no argument is needed on this subject—it is a self-evident proposition.

The prospect of the present price of hops being maintained as well as that of some other products, makes the business outlook much better. We hope that the yield may be good and the farmer find some compensation in price for the past few years of hard times. Money for hops is just so much in addition to all other crops. If the flax crop could be added as a money getter, with fruit and wool and mohair, this would be a prosperous state.

Now that spring is with us and bright skies and warm sunshine it is to be expected that our streets and alleys need to be cleaned of all filth and garbage. In order to preserve the general health, little work here and there will not answer the purpose. It must be thorough, otherwise the character of our city for cleanliness and healthfulness will be greatly impaired.

It is said that there is a good deal of butter coming from California and that its rolls are short in weight. This is not so with Oregon butter; the rolls are generally of full weight, or very nearly so. With our climate and grazing facilities, there ought to be no need of importing butter from California. We should be able to produce not only better butter, but sufficient food the demand.

They seem to be having some trouble at the University at Eugene about the president's course in reference to local matters, and also the course of study in the preparatory department. As to the first we know nothing, but should be inclined to advise: "keep hands off." But as to

the second, we should say, with the government, a preparatory department is no part of a university course.

Clearly it is the farmers and laborers, not the privileged classes, who are to help the world up the next step. Yet progress by violence is not the best or highest kind. The serpent indeed eats his skin and goes through a sort of evolution in doing so. The bird moults, and is half sick in the mean time. But a higher type, man, gets a new skin, and a new head of hair without feeling the difference. The repair goes on exactly as fast as the wearing. The perfect human body is made new every morning and fresh every evening. Progress is health, and the excretion of the worn out tissues is also health and pleasure. Growth is not by paroxysm, but by harmony.

Secretary of State H. H. Kincaid is no doubt taking the only course possible for him as auditing officer of the state. Of course, no one assumes that he has any legal authority to issue warrants when there is no money appropriated. But the effort is constantly being made to induce him to do what would be equivalent to issuing warrants—file a claim against the state. This he refuses to do unless the law clearly authorizes an expense. Here are examples of his firm replies to persons presenting doubtful claims:

"Replying to yours of April 5th I will say that as there is no appropriation for the Eastern Oregon Normal school and nothing due from the state, I cannot consistently recognize such claims, and therefore must decline to file them."

It is not pleasant for an official to be obliged to refuse demands of other persons claiming to be officials, but Mr. Kincaid takes the position that his duty is to the people, not to the official class alone.

Here is a reply to one of the commissioners:

Salem, April 6. "Yours of April 3d has been received. In reply I will say that as there is no appropriation and doubt as to whether you are in office, I cannot consistently recognize your claims, and therefore decline to file them and beg respectfully to return them in this envelope to you. As to what banks or brokers will do in regard to buying claims I do not know. I thank you for your words of approval."

The only danger to the people is that persons holding alleged claims against the state will be numerous and bold and active and influential, that they will elect and organize the next legislature and compel recognition. This may be done again. It would simply demonstrate that the political machines are controlled by the official class and that the government as now conducted is for the benefit of the taxers and not the taxpayers. That is what many now believe, but it has never been demonstrated when it has been put squarely at issue.

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PORTLAND, April 1.—By order of the circuit court Ben Selling, assignee of the \$75,000 Moyer woolen mill cloth ing stock, has put the uniform suits that were held in pledge by the Bank of Columbia onto the market at \$8.50. These all wool dark blue navy suits were never sold at Portland before for less than \$12 to \$16.

The Best is Not too Good. There never was a truer saying than that "The best is not too good" when speaking of the accommodations for a long overland journey and therefore it will be well for the traveler going east to remember that he will be very weary when he gets to St. Paul or Minneapolis, and that he should make a wise choice of routes from there to Chicago or Milwaukee. The Wisconsin Central train runs between these points making close connections with all trains at both terminals. Posted travelers seek this route for many reasons, one of which is, they can get a well cooked meal at a moderate price, and eat it as leisurely as they speed to their destination. Address Geo. N. Barry, General Agent, 240 Stark street, Portland, Or. or Jas. C. Ford, General Passenger agent, Milwaukee, Wis. or apply to your nearest ticket agent.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters of Silver Leaders.

Populists, Democrats and Republicans on Oregon Politics.

THE JOURNAL prints below letters from prominent silver men who belong to the several parties discussing the question of their future course of political action. The indications are favorable to a union of forces in the next state election and point strongly to a solid coalition against the gold standard advocates in 1900.

The effort in Oregon a year ago was to drive all silver men out of the Republican party. This was largely due to the fact that the silver men were then uncompromisingly for the return of John H. Mitchell to the senate as a free silver man. Mitchell encouraged the silver men in capturing state and county conventions, and the result was in several instances to break up the regular Republican organization. But the result was the election of a legislature strongly Republican and for Mitchell. What followed? Mitchell went over to the gold standard or international bimetallic wing of the Republican party on pledges of support from that side, and abandoned the aggressive independent bimetallics whose cause he had championed.

The result was that sincere gold standard Republicans and sincere independent bimetallics both felt ashamed to support a man who evidently had no fixed principles. The anti-Mitchell Republicans were surprised to find Mitchell, whose followers in the spring were pursuing anything but "regular" methods, in the winter came before the legislature and put forward the claim to be the "regular" party candidate. It was too big a somersault, and both sides fought the proposition.

THE LATEST SILVERITES

are the Republican national committee. We print below the headings and first paragraph of a sheet of matter sent to THE JOURNAL from the national Republican headquarters, M. A. Hanna, chairman. This supplement is offered our readers free if we will only use it. It is being used by Oregon papers. Here it is. Read it for yourself:

"True friends of silver." "The Republicans offer the only feasible method of its use." "They have urged international bimetallicism for many years." "International bimetallic conferences were called by them." "The silver shouters in Democratic and Populist ranks are opposing international action."

"They don't want the question settled, as it might end their employment." "Who are the true friends of silver? Is it the men who own silver mines or are employed by silver mine-owners and those who by their advocacy of an impracticable system manage to keep their names before the public and themselves in fat offices, or is it the men and the party which gave to the country its great volume of silver money, which originated all efforts at international bimetallicism, called all the international conferences which have been called by the United States, appointed all delegates to international conferences, and declared in their national and state platforms time after time in favor of the only practical system of utilizing silver, international bimetallicism?"

The McKinley administration seeks now to be regarded as "true friends of silver." It may be added that silver and wheat feel the effect of their friendship.

We print below some letters from silver leaders in Oregon, who speak for themselves. You can at least tell where such men are to be found.

GASTON FOR UNION.

Hon. Jo. Gaston, of Gaston, Or., writes as follows: "The fact that the Populists remained solid, steadfast and immovable from the position they assumed, has done more to enforce respect for our party and secure serious consideration of our claims than any legislation we could have secured from an

unfriendly legislature. Both factions of the Republicans believed our men could be bought up like cattle; but they have been astounded at their mistake. If even one of our men had yielded and gone into the Mitchell convention, the state would have rebounded from end to end with "the Pops have sold out." "Just as I told you," "they are just like the old parties," etc.

If we ever win at all, we can only win by putting forward our unselfish men. Greed, avarice and selfishness are the cancer and the curse that are destroying the fraternal principles of brotherhood among men. Let us stand for something brighter and better than peddling propositions of a protective tariff and a gold standard for the benefit of bondholders that are in fact slaveholders. In the old anti-slavery days the slogan and warcry of the agitators was "freedom and liberty" without regard to color—and it set men's hearts ablaze, warmed their souls for even the poor slave, and swept "Honest Old Abe" into the presidential chair. There is ten thousand times the cause for such a warcry today that there was in 1859.

I fear we will have no relief under McKinley. Of course I am in favor of doing everything we can in harmony and consistency with our principles to keep our own forces together and make the silver reform army the Populist army—it will have to come to that, we will have impractical men in our ranks that will be hard to manage, out it must be done; and we will find selfish men seeking advancement beyond their deserts among the Democratic recruits; and we will have to bring up the faint hearted and timid silver Republicans; but the Pops must show their allies not only courage and boldness to lead the way, but unanimity and generous confidence in the organization and honors of the united army of liberators.

A LANE COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

Under date April 2, "Lennti" writes as follows:

The time has come when all men who favor free coinage of silver, regardless of party or party ties, should band together and work for the one cause. We will be in better trim for the great conflict of 1900. "Let's unite, for 'in unity there is strength.'" I am fully satisfied that we can carry this county, provided we can arrive at a perfect understanding and then work together; when I say "we" I mean the silver men. With three tickets in the field, such men as old Driver would still be in the lead.

The last presidential campaign was much like the one of 1824, when the old Hero Jackson was defeated, and I think the one of 1900 will in many respects remind us of the great fight of 1828, when under the same issues of 1824 Jackson was triumphantly elected to the white house, and re-elected in 1832. The progress in 1896 was greater than in 1824. And since I firmly believe that the victory of 1900 will be far greater and of grander import to the people of this country, than was the victory of Jackson in 1828.

Ours will be a victory of over fraud, deception, intimidation, a victory of the people over Clevelandism, Hannaism, Shermanism and McKinleyism.

A SILVER REPUBLICAN.

Hon. M. J. Hillegas writes from Springfield:

"I fully endorse the attitude of Secretary of State Kincaid in regard to the different commissions, and in not issuing state warrants. What are your ideas in regard to organizing a new Republican party as free silver Republicans? I feel as if I have no political home, as I can not be a full fledged Pop. Neither can I endorse fully Democracy. Neither can I be a single gold standard Republican."

A LANE COUNTY POPULIST.

W. H. Spaug, of Harrisburg, writes: The Populists idea of a scientific dollar, as opposed to the theory of a money of ultimate redemption, is one of the Populists principles that cannot be conceded away. But do not infer from this that Populists would be willing to drop free silver from their platform either, for this is also one of the fundamental principles of the People's party. "We demand the free and unrestricted coinage of both gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, a full legal tender for all debts both public

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and private." This of course must stand as one of our chief demands. While the opening of our mints to free silver would not give us the scientific dollar of absolutely invariable value, such as Populists aim to ultimately establish, it will give us a dollar vastly superior in this respect to our present dollar. Another reason of innumerable importance, why we should open our mints to free silver is, that the premium on gold as measured by silver and which acts as a bounty on all exports from silver-using to gold-using countries, a bounty that has been a prime factor in depressing prices of commodities in general and agricultural products in particular. This premium, this bounty, can only be effectually done away with by restoring the parity between gold and silver which in turn can only be accomplished by opening our mints to free silver and completely re-organizing it. Therefore, any party representing the agricultural and producing classes must advocate free silver in its platform. Now the Peoples party is no great stickler for names, but is strictly a party of principle, and in proof that reform do not go backwards the Peoples party today demands all the reforms demanded by the old Greenback, Union Labor and Union parties and more. Therefore the name of the party that is to result from a union of forces is of minor importance. Populists who are posted in the history of the reform movement know that the Peoples party is the legitimate offspring of a union of reform forces and no true Populist will object to a further union. But it must be an honorable union, not a fusion for the sake of victory and the spoils of office. Never mind the name. One can be found but will Free Silver Democrats and Republicans agree to unite on the principles so far suggested? First government issue of money; a full legal tender for all debts public and private; gold, silver and paper to be equally absolute money; free coinage of silver sixteen to one; abolition of all banks of issue and government saving banks for the people I do not pretend to say that Populists would not demand more, but the question is what could be agreed upon, and is a union possible? Populists would certainly not demand less than I have indicated and if our free silver friends accept so far as to unite with us, we might continue the discussion. Otherwise it would be useless. We claim that the issuing of money is no part of legitimate banking, but entirely a function of government, and as such should not be entrusted to private corporations. We have no fight against legitimate banking.

As I have shown in a former article the Peoples party is the result of a union of forces. But in the union or conference held at St. Louis that terminated in the birth of the Peoples party at Omaha, no backward steps were taken. Now the question is, can another union be formed without sacrifice of principle? Who are the parties that seek a union with the Peoples party? And what concessions do they ask? I have seen no proposition coming from either the Democratic or Silver party asking an honorable union of forces. Will THE JOURNAL or some of its correspondents speak for the silver forces that object to the Peoples party platform; and point out the objection-

able features. Then Populists will know what concession is necessary. There is no use of nitcoring matters or wasting time beating about the bush: If silver Democrats and Republicans demand concessions, before uniting with us will they please name them, and let us all turn our guns on the enemy. FARMERS AND LABORERS H. S. Lyman county superintendent of schools writes from Astoria, April 1: The farmers and working men are now best informed upon all public questions in this country. The lawyers, the physicians, the preachers, and the business men are still comparatively ignorant of the current of thought at the present time, and are less informed upon the history and economical facts of society than the working men. There are comparatively few even among college professors who would dare to make an address before working men upon any subject for fear of making some slip of the tongue. With this lack of information usually goes prejudice. This is said partly from experience. The undersigned well remembers when he took it almost as an insult if any one not a college graduate, or at least a banker or banker's clerk, attempted to give him any information on history or economics. The working men are the readers and social philosophers of the time. Here at Astoria, as at Portland also, one goes to the workingmen's library for the most complete statistics. It is a little surprising here, as the majority of our businessmen are of foreign birth, and know the difficulty of reading in a new language. But this only accords with facts everywhere; as for instance, the teacher of the night school at Portland, says that she felt almost ashamed to find her pupils, many of whom were foreign men, and laborers, better acquainted than others with questions of economics and government; and that to teach them what they wanted to know how to express required much investigation.

During the coming year or two, and before the next presidential election, the farmers and working men must read even more. The contest going on is a battle of the giants and can only be fought with giants' weapons: i. e. fact and logic. There is much left over from the last campaign to be remembered; much that the victorious party would be glad to have forgotten; a number of promises and predictions that seem now to have been premature; many "educational" speeches full of hasty assertions that will not bear exposure under the light of history and facts.

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