

The Democrats claiming and the Populists denying their claims.

Today Mr. Mentzer himself consented to make an open and public statement of precisely what had been done in the direction of an agreement. He prepared this statement for publication himself, and gave it to a representative of the Post-Intelligencer. That statement is as follows:

"PREFERRING TO BE RIGHT RATHER THAN BE MATOR OF TACOMA AT A COST OF MY SELF-RESPECT AND THAT OF MANY OF MY FELLOW CITIZENS, I DEMAND OVER MY OWN NAME TO MAKE PUBLIC THE FOLLOWING:

"A FEW DAYS AFTER MY NOMINATION, FRIENDS OF MINE, DESIRING TO FACILITATE MR. FAWCETT AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS, BROUGHT ME AN AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED TO SATISFY MR. FAWCETT AND HIS FOLLOWERS. THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE AGREEMENT THAT I COULD CONSIDER UNREASONABLE, EXCEPTING THE NECESSITY OF BEING ASKED TO SIGN SUCH AN ARTICLE WITH THAT OBJECTION, I EXPECTED SUCH AN AGREEMENT. THIS WAS LAST MONDAY I BEING CONFINED TO MY HOUSE WITH LA GRIPPE AT THE TIME AND FOR TWO DAYS AFTER ON TUESDAY, BACK THEY CAME AGAIN FOR FURTHER CONCESSIONS. THIS TOO WAS EXECUTED BY ME, BUT CONDITIONED THAT TWO OR THREE MEMBERS OF THE POPULIST COMMITTEE CONSENTED TO IT. I THEN AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE PUT IN ENVELOPE.

"FINDING OUT LATER THAT MY CONDITIONS HAD NOT BEEN OBTAINED, I DEMANDED THE RECALL OF THE DOCUMENT. IT WAS GIVEN OUT BY THE PARTIES IN CONTROL OF THE PAPERS THAT THE DOCUMENT HAD BEEN DESTROYED. WHETHER IT HAD BEEN OR WHETHER NOT, C. A. MENTZER IS NOT BOUND BY IT AS MY EXPRESS CONDITIONS WERE NOT CARRIED OUT. I DEMANDED THAT IT BE NOW WASHED COMPLETELY OF IT. I CALLED ON MR. FAWCETT LAST WEDNESDAY MORNING AND TOLD HIM THAT IF MY TERMS HAD NOT BEEN FULLY CARRIED OUT THE DEAL WAS OFF.

(Signed) C. A. MENTZER. Alluding to an agreement made with Mr. Mentzer, the first move made after receiving his statement was to interview A. E. McDonald, state dairy commissioner. The reporter handed him Mr. Mentzer's statement, explaining that Mr. Mentzer had asked that this be done, and that after reading it Mr. McDonald might say anything that he liked concerning it. In other words, that after the state officer first learned what Mr. Mentzer had done, it rested with himself to explain his position to his own liking.

"After McDonald read the statement he promptly placed it in his inside pocket and suggested that a call be made upon Mr. Mentzer before anything further be said or done. Thereafter Mr. McDonald set about to try to modify Mr. Mentzer's signed explanation. McDonald read it and re-read it, and at last pointed out to Mr. Mentzer that it would probably be best that a change be made in the lines referring to the agreement being submitted to two or three members of the Populist committee for their consent. He reminded Mr. Mentzer that he was probably mistaken on this point, and then Mr. Mentzer agreed to the proposed change, and, corrected, the statement read:

"This was executed by me and conditioned that certain parties consented to it. In place of mentioning the two or three members of the Populist committee, the words 'certain parties' were substituted. This was all the change made in the original statement.

"After this had been done McDonald was asked what he had to say about it. He said he had absolutely no comment to make for publication, that it was Mr. Mentzer's business, he was his own agent, and that if he saw fit to make such a statement he (McDonald) had nothing whatever to add to or detract from it.

"Thomas Malony, a deputy in the employ of Sheriff Mills, who, as the story goes, was named as one of the trustworthy messengers to convey the signed agreement to Alexander Parker for safe-keeping, was the next man to be seen. A smile spread over his face when the reporter asked him what he had to say and told him what Mr. Mentzer had done in the matter, and he immediately began to back away from the proposition as fast as good manners would permit.

"I don't know a thing about it. So far as I am concerned, there is no such an agreement in existence. There is no use asking me any questions, for I have nothing whatever to say. If Mr. Mentzer wants to make a statement, that is his business. I am not connected with it in any way."

Despite further questioning, Mr. Malony, with an address creditable to any politician in politics, avoided saying or even hinting at anything that might entangle him or his friends. He admitted that his ignorance of the subject was remarkable, but at the same time smilingly said that, sad as it might seem, such was the true state of affairs so far as he was concerned.

For the complete outfitting of miners under one roof the firms of Louch, Antastine & Co., Seattle Hardware Co., J. A. Baillargeon, Have incorporated the Seattle-Alaska General Supply Co., Inc., Dexter Horton Bank Building, First Avenue South.

facts as to this agreement, Mr. Mentzer says, was a surprise to him, and he no sooner understood that the Fawcett Democrats were laboring under the impression that he had definitely signed an agreement in their interests than he demanded that the full facts be made known. He requested that the Post-Intelligencer reporter go himself to leading members of the Populist committee and explain to them that he had gone on record as to not having granted concessions to the Democrats, and that it might be well for them to explain their position if they had in any way been misled or deceived by a false report.

He took the position that the first agreement he had signed contained absolutely nothing that he would not voluntarily have given to the Democrats even without it. It was the clause proscribing three members of the Populist party and making their exclusion from office certain in the second agreement, that he most strongly objected to, and that was really the stumbling block in the whole business. He declared that two of the three men Fawcett wanted beheaded were never in his mind as possible candidates for any position, but that nevertheless he would not stoop to any such tactics, be it political wisdom or not. He hinted that he had Capt. King in mind for a place at least as good as he now holds on the police force, but that this had nothing whatever to do with the principle of right only.

"I would prefer to say nothing at all, but I suppose it is due me and my friends to explain our positions, in the face of the statement you tell me Mr. Mentzer has made. I have not seen the agreement now in existence, and as I understand, in the hands of Alexander Parker, my Democratic friends, men who I will bet on, and who have never before received from me the agreement had been signed by Mentzer, carried to old Mr. Parker for safe keeping and left there with the understanding that Thomas Malony and A. E. McDonald must go together to get it.

"What do I think of Mr. Mentzer's statement? "I do not care to express an opinion. As I have said, I prefer to speak briefly. This I will say: I do not for a moment doubt the word of those who told me that this signed agreement had been made, hence I do not believe in Mr. Mentzer's statement. I do not care to criticize Mr. Mentzer, but not the men who gave me their word that our demands had been agreed to. You will discover I am right in this. I do not care to criticize Mr. Mentzer's statement from any standpoint, but I will not avoid the truth, so far as I am able to know it.

"I do not know where you secured your information about this, and but for Mr. Mentzer's statement should certainly decline to say anything upon the subject. There are many little details of that transaction that will show you I am right, but I do not wish to go into them. Yes, I am fully advised of the whole deal, but nothing has been done that I am ignorant of. I have been treated fairly, and I say that. I do not care to criticize Mr. Mentzer, but I will not avoid the truth, so far as I am able to know it.

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Owen concluded his talk by paying a high tribute to Mentzer and his force of character, and vowed he felt certain the candidate spoke only the truth.

ARRESTED FOR CONTEMPT. All Officers of a Company Disregard an Injunction. SAN FRANCISCO, March 25.—All the officers of the Klamath River Lumber Company, who have been arrested by the United States marshal for refusing to obey an injunction issued against them by the United States circuit court, Marshall Barry Baldwin and Deputy Gallagher, went to Siskiyou county and arrested John S. Cooke, W. E. Cooke, George W. Marsh, George Norris and Henry Martin, while Deputy Monckton arrested J. R. Cooke, president, and A. R. Gillee, attorney for the company, in this city. All were released on bonds of \$1,000 each.

EXPLOSION CAME FROM THE OUTSIDE.

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Gen. Flieger. This amount, although large, was not, in the opinion of Gen. Flieger, sufficient to meet the requirements of the present emergency, and his conference with the secretary was to obtain an additional allowance. After a careful canvass of the situation, Secretary Alger gave Gen. Flieger a liberal additional allotment from the appropriation, but information could not be obtained either from Gen. Flieger or from the secretary's office as to its amount. The sum must be a very considerable one, however, as Gen. Flieger said that it was to be used to cover provisional contracts entered into for the construction of new guns of various calibers and their necessary carriages.

Marix on Special Duty. Pending action on the report of the court of inquiry, Lieut. Commander Marix, the judge-advocate of the court, will be on special duty in the office of the judge-advocate general. Here he will be available to supply any information that the president or the secretary of the navy may desire in connection with the proceedings of the court.

An order issued by the navy department today carries out the suggestion of Secretary Long that Capt. Sampson would command the North Atlantic squadron. The order as issued reads: "Commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic squadron." Although Key West advises state that the battleship Iowa will probably be the Spanish board of inquiry into the loss of the battleship Maine says emphatically that the explosion was of internal origin. The Spanish report says it is "scientifically and practically demonstrated that the explosion was internal."

The United States minister, Gen. Stewart I. Woodford, had a long conference this evening with the minister for foreign affairs, Senor Gullon. Absolute reticence is observed as to what transpired.

NEW YORK, March 25.—A special to the Herald from Madrid says: "Strange as it may seem to the American mind, the idea that the Maine explosion could possibly report that the explosion was not an internal one has only just been realized here, and the result is a sinister condition of public sentiment. That result is now generally admitted, although it is universally considered unjust, unfounded and iniquitous. It formed the principal subject of attention of the last cabinet council. The keynote of the situation was found in the approval by the government of Gen. Blanco's refusal to permit the Maine wreckage to be blown up, and this country was, previously indicated, use every means possible to procure an impartial inquiry. The Epocha says:

"We refuse to believe that such a verdict against public morals can have been returned as that attributing the explosion to an evidently false cause. We feel certain that President McKinley's sense of justice will right the situation."

The Novosti of St. Petersburg is of the opinion that a war declared by the United States against Spain would be unjust and without a cause. This finds much echo in Madrid.

The general opinion is that this country must be prepared to meet all emergencies, but every hope rises to the idea that some one of the friendly powers may intervene at the critical moment to prevent war. The feeling is quiet but general. The country is ready but unwilling for war.

CUTTERS PLACED ON DUTY. Vessels of the Revenue Fleet Ordered to Assemble at Hampton Roads. WASHINGTON, March 25.—Capt. Shoemaker, chief of the revenue cutter service, was busy engaged today in making assignments of officers to the revenue cutters detailed yesterday for defensive service along the Atlantic seaboard. Every vessel in the service available for action has been or will be assigned to duty. Even the new cutter Gresham, on the great lake, and the little cutter Calumet, located at Chicago, have been called on, and in a day or two both the lake ships will be en route to the rendezvous at Hampton roads. The commanders of the revenue cutters have been notified to move as soon as their general orders are received.

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command of the naval squadron at that station. The cutters will be employed as scout, or picket boats, and will be prepared for both offensive and defensive service. It is thought they will prove to be pretty formidable ships even in aggressive tactics.

SWIFT YACHTS AND TUGS. Small Craft Purchased as Auxiliary Naval Vessels. NEW YORK, March 25.—Four swift yachts, nine fast seagoing tugs and one coasting vessel, the pick of the available small craft in the harbors of New York and Philadelphia, were acquired today by the naval board of auxiliary vessels.

PHILADELPHIA, March 25.—The sudden death yesterday of John S. Hopkins, cashier of the People's bank, and the assignment made last night by the Guaranty Finance Company, were followed today by disclosures which showed an important connection between the two events. The coroner's investigation this afternoon developed the fact, hitherto concealed, that Hopkins had committed suicide by shooting, and an examination of the affairs of the People's bank by its officers resulted in the revelation that Hopkins had, during the past two years, loaned the bank's funds in large amounts to Richard F. Loper, general manager of the Guarantors Finance Company. These loans, which remain unpaid and aggregate \$150,000, were made without the knowledge of the officers and directors of the bank.

THE CHINA A TOTAL LOSS. P. & O. Steamer Ashore on Azores Point and Full of Water. PERIM, Island of Perim, March 25.—It develops that the steaming gear of the Peninsular & Oriental steamer China, Capt. De Horn, ashore on Azores point, has been carried away, and that her double bottom has been pierced forward. The company's steamer Carthage and the government steamer Orlando and Mayo have left to assist the stranded steamer. The mails, baggage, specie and passengers of the China have been landed here. She is full of water, and Lloyd's agency says she will probably be a total loss.

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