

Political Pot-Pie.

Most of the local Republican politicians, including the Pie-maker, have been sojourning in the City of Destiny this week, attending the state convention, and if you know anything about state conventions, it will not take much to convince you that the most of us are unfit for work the closing days of the week.

Senator Billie Mason, of Illinois, is altogether too mouthy for his own good. To the average Westerner he is trying to blow hot and blow cold at the same time. If Mason is going to support McKinley he ought to quit talking through his hat to Pop papers, and if he is going to support Bryan he should come out like a man and say so. God hates a coward, and the man that blows hot and cold on political questions is a political coward. But a few days ago The Times, a Pop paper, published a long interview from Senator Mason, which indirectly denounced the McKinley administration; a few days later the Post-Intelligencer published an interview from Senator Mason declaring that he was hurrying homeward to stomp the state of Illinois for McKinley. Mason must like to see his name in flaming headlines, which accounts for him rushing into print on first one side of the public question and then on the other. Take a stand, Billie, and then stand as long as the stand stands.

Perhaps some Seattle folk were inclined to think that the Pie-maker at times criticized too severely one Thomas P. Fisk, of this city, sent here by Levi Ankeny to run the Republican politics in the interest of Ankeny's senatorial candidacy, if so, the following from the Cowlitz Advocate, from whence Mr. Fisk came, may throw some light on the situation:

The Hon. Thomas Polonius Fisk, who from his obscurity as a "country lawyer, ventured out upon a sea of glory" as an Ankeny booster and was carried by the tide into some prominence as a politician, moved to Seattle, and has been laboring for Humes, now finds his "high-blown" bladder has been pricked, and he is likely to be left "naked before his enemies." Alas for Thomas! Alas for all young men of modest talent who would seek fame and fortune in politics.

It begins to look as though even Seattle folk are waking up to their sense of moral duty from a political standpoint, and do not propose to continue to elect men to office who have no other fitness for the place they seek than that they are able to swing a certain tenderloin vote. Men who cater to such a lot of voting cattle should be let severely alone by the good citizens of any city or community, for you can rest assured that they never support any man without first obtaining from him a promise or a pledge that so far as they are concerned such officers of the law will do all in their power to always be looking the other way when a tenderloiner is trying to escape the clutches of the law. While it cannot be said that only tenderloiners supported Mr. McElroy, yet it can be said that tenderloiners almost unanimously supported him. Mr. Ronald is something of a church man and allies himself to that class of citizens in preference to the tenderloiners, and in the late primary contest it was the moral element that pulled him through. In other words, it was not that the Democrats loved McElroy less or Ronald more,

but decency slapping indecency in the face. It looks now as if the Demo-Fusionists would nominate Charley Voorhees, of Spokane, for governor, and J. T. Ronald, of Seattle, as one of the congressmen.

From a Republican standpoint, McElroy is the man that the Democrats should have endorsed, for he would have been the easier of the two to defeat at the polls, but Mr. Ronald will have a hard enough time to pull through, his morality backing to the contrary notwithstanding. When Mr. Ronald will have been nominated, as he will be, then his former mayoralty record will loom up before him like Banquo's ghost, and will haunt him during the entire campaign. It will cost him a good many votes all over the state, as well as in Seattle, where his record as mayor of Seattle is public property. Then the fact that Mr. Ronald is a Southern Democrat, who still believes that the South should have won in its contest with the North, will also cost him many votes. The Pie-maker is of the opinion that it is utterly wrong for Northern states to elect men to congress whose former homes were in the South and who still believe in the political idiosyncrasies of the South. Instead of cutting down the number of representatives from the South the election of such men as J. T. Ronald, however good they may be on general principles, but gives the South one vote more in its endeavor to undo the work which was done by the immortal Lincoln and his followers.

Speaking about the Democratic primaries, a good story has come to the Pie-maker, which is worth repeating. It will be remembered that Lee Hart did the Piper-Humes combine quite a good turn in the municipal primary election last spring, which was to be reciprocated by the Piper-Humes combine in the Democratic contest in the summer. Well, the combine did not do so, and here hangs a tale. It seems that although J. C. Whitlock is holding a position under Mr. McElroy, he threw his strength to the Ronald forces. Now, Mr. Whitlock has quite a friend among the Piper-Humes people, and he is none other than Tom Paine, Ankeny's manager in this county. Paine on the day of the Democratic primaries delivered over to Whitlock, so goes the story, all of the Republican primary precinct poll books, showing those persons voting the Republican tickets, and armed with these the Ronald folk announced that no one who voted in the Republican primaries the week before would be permitted to vote in the Democratic primaries on that occasion. The McElroy folk had no books, while the Ronald folk were able to say who should and who should not vote. The sum and substance of it all was that McElroy was skinned all over the city, and skinned by his Republican friends. When Piper, Fisk and Lysons heard how their own guns had been turned against their own friends, they roared and swore like troopers, and it took quite a bit of explaining to square things with Lee Hart, but it was finally done and all enjoyed a hearty laugh. Paine "had been there before," for if reports be true, he has many times before turned a smooth political trick. It is now reported that Mr. Ankeny has dropped Tom Paine from his King county pay roll and that J. C. Whitlock will lose his deputyship in McElroy's office.

Rumor has it that Col. R. H. Ballinger worked like a Dick nailer in the Democratic primaries for the Ronald folk. The Pie-maker sees nothing wrong in that for Col. Ballinger or Col. Anyone else has a right to work for whomsoever they want, whether in a Republican, Democratic or Populist primary, but it does look strange to see such a rabid Republican (?) as Col. Ballinger working at a Democratic primary. J. T. Ronald is a partner of Col. Ballinger's son, which, of course, makes them very close friends. Now rumor has it that a number of the Piper-Humes Republicans, contemplate knifing the Republican congressional ticket, and especially Hon. F. C. Cushman, and this they expect to more effectually do by pushing the "Seattle should have a congressman" racket. Now, the Pie-maker would like to know if that was the beginning of that political move. If it is, good Republicans should rally all the harder for the Republican nominees. King county Republicans can not afford to have one of its state nominees run behind the ticket in King county, and they will not, mark these words.

Owing to the failure of the conventions to provide notification committees the nominees of the minor political organizations will be compelled to learn of their honors in a roundabout manner.

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