

DAILY INTER MOUNTAIN

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MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 1899.

FIRST BLOOD.

At high noon today the Sixth legislative assembly of the state of Montana convened in Helena, and the scroll of history will be treated to another invoice of statesmanship during the next two months. Last night the democratic majority in that body overcame its religious scruples and held a caucus. In the contest over speaker the anti-Clark men scored first blood in the election of Hon. H. C. Stiff of Missoula. The successful candidate lacked five votes, however, of the number supposed to be in solid senatorial array against Mr. Clark. Hon. E. C. Day, the candidate of the Clark contingent, received five fewer votes than Mr. Stiff.

While the selection of a speaker by the democratic caucus does not absolutely draw the lines on the senatorial fight, it is unquestionably a reliable index to the present situation. On the face of things it shows a clear majority for the anti-Clark men, but not so large a majority by any means as has been so freely predicted by that gentleman's enemies. The closeness of the vote indicates that the Clark men are near the heels of their competitors and are likely to put up a pretty strong fight. The anti-Clark men used their slight margin to good advantage, however, and secured the speaker pro tem in the person of Mr. Lamb of Silver Bow.

If the Clark men go into a caucus on senator they will undoubtedly be worsted, but if they keep clear from entanglements of that type they will be in a position to hold their own in good shape. The contingent known as the Daly men will probably vote as a unit for the candidate to be put forward as soon as the veil of secrecy shall have been lifted from the ark of the covenant. Nevertheless, it is believed those gentlemen will support the caucus nominee—unless he happens to be Clark. In that case they will bolt the legislative caucus, and play a lone hand as they did six years ago.

The situation in Helena is getting interesting, in that it shows that the senatorial toga is nobody's property just yet, notwithstanding the return of that campaign check of \$500. The conviction is growing that when the arena is finally cleared for action the gladiators will prove to be the two eminent leaders of the democratic party in this state—Mr. Clark the leader of the anti-fusion wing, and Mr. Daly the leader of the other anti-fusion wing.

THAT INVESTIGATION.

The Anaconda Standard this morning expresses regret that it finds upon its editorial table unfinished business from last year. If we mistake not it will find a great deal of the political business transacted by itself and democratic contemporaries in the campaign of 1898 in an "unfinished" condition even as late as 1900. Preliminary to the political chickens which will then come home to roost, the Standard is making a desperate effort to have it appear that the attitude of the democracy in this state, in repudiating the fusion plans of Bryan and Jones, meets the unqualified approval of the silver democrats of the United States. Having itself been one of the most prominent advocates of that plan, until it weakly surrendered a political conviction to a political greed, it feels the necessity of justifying its

course by seeking the tacit approval of public men of its conspicuous treachery to a great cause.

Hence, it takes issue with the statements of the Inter Mountain's Washington correspondent relative to the expressions of regret made by prominent democrats over the course pursued by the party in repudiating the plans of Bryan and Jones, looking to the co-operation of the silver forces. In challenging their veracity the Standard registered itself in favor of making an investigation into the statements made. To such an investigation the Inter Mountain readily assented, whereupon the Standard immediately proceeded to arbitrarily dictate the terms and conditions upon which such an investigation should be conducted. As the challenged party the Inter Mountain assumed the right to a voice in the matter, and indicated what it believed to be the proper course of procedure in the settlement of a question of a purely political type.

This morning the Standard again returns to the question with the assumption that the Inter Mountain has backed down and dares not investigate the matter. In making a demagogical by-play of this character the Standard betrays the same lofty type of journalism that it does when it offers to wager that it is right on some proposition, and feels the proud consciousness of victory when nobody accepts its bet! It is not the Inter Mountain but the Standard itself that betrays cowardice in the matters covered by our Washington correspondent. In his own language that gentleman stated that prominent democrats had expressed their regrets that the democracy of the state of Montana had not followed out the plans of the national silver leaders and effected a combination with the other silver parties, the cause of such regrets resting on the probable effect of this course on the interests of the free coinage issue in 1900.

In denying that any such regrets have been expressed by prominent democrats, the Standard wishes to confine its investigation of the facts to one proposition, shorn entirely of its qualifications. That is, it wants to have prominent democrats make a direct affirmation or denial of whether they did or did not say they regretted the course pursued by the party in Montana, without reference to any qualifications made as to why such regrets were expressed. It wants to eliminate from the proposition regrets expressed on account of the effect upon the influence of Bryan and Jones, through the rejection of their plans for the promotion of the free coinage issue. It wants to lay aside regrets expressed because the action was one calculated to antagonize the silver men of other parties and prevent future co-operation. In short, it wants to put the matter in a technical form something like this: "The democrats of Montana elected a congressman, secured an overwhelming majority in the legislature, and will elect a United States senator. Now, sir, as a prominent democrat, do you or do you not regret their action?"

If the investigation was confined to the narrow limits prescribed by the Standard it is not hard to foresee how prominent democrats would "go on record," even though they had repeatedly expressed their regrets that any portion of their party saw fit to administer a kick to the silver men of other parties, who had done so much to assist them in the campaign of 1896 and whose assistance would be indispensable in 1900 were silver the dominant issue and the democratic party its champion.

To any fair minded man the contention of the Inter Mountain, as expressed in our issue of Saturday, is correct. To determine whether prominent democrats made the expressions of regret ascribed to them by our Washington correspondent—to ascertain whether there are prominent members of the party in Washington who still believe that Bryan and Jones were right and the democracy of Montana wrong in laying the foundation for a fight for free coinage in 1900—let the statements of men be taken who have heard prominent democrats express themselves along these lines. Quite likely no prominent democrat regrets the victory achieved by the democracy of this state, insofar as the present purposes of the party are concerned, and would express himself accordingly if asked to give a statement to the press. The Stand-

ard is altogether too cute in wishing to focus the issue on such a point.

But that democrats who believe now as they believed two years ago, that the co-operation of the silver forces in 1900 is necessary to the success of the silver cause, have expressed regrets that the free coinage forces did not work together in the campaign in Montana, and thus strengthen the hands of the bimetallic leaders, cannot be successfully denied. The Inter Mountain repeats what it has heretofore stated, that it will leave no proposition of this kind open to doubt. Expressions of regret over the failure of co-operation in Montana were heard on all sides in Washington among the comparatively few democrats who still hug to their bosoms the delusion that their party proposes to accord honorable treatment to the free coinage question in 1900.

Those men know that in repudiating the plans of the silver leaders as to co-operation, the democracy of this state administered a blow to the cause from which it will find it difficult to rally, for it served notice on the silver men in other parties, that their services were not required by the silver wing of the democracy in the next presidential campaign. The Standard knows that this opinion prevails among silver men elsewhere, and that the democracy of Montana is looked upon as having set the pace for a straight party fight in 1900—a proposition that suits the taste of the gold wing of that political organization to a dot.

It is easy to understand the anxiety of the Standard to have it appear that silver men abroad endorse the local action of the party, that its prestige may be maintained. But while prominent silver democrats would not care to go on record in apparent antagonism to any branch of the party that is professedly for silver, they nevertheless keenly realize that insofar as the interests of the cause in 1900 are concerned the leaders of the democracy in Montana permitted their greed for office to lead them into an irretrievable error.

DIVISION OF MINES.

There has been a great deal of agitation throughout the west relative to the organization of a mining bureau under national supervision. The Inter Mountain has discussed the subject at some length, in the belief that steps of that kind would prove beneficial to the mining interests. Upon the occasion of a recent visit to this section of the country, Hon. Charles D. Walcott, who is at the head of the United States Geological Survey, expressed to the writer his warm sympathy with the movement. Unable to bring about legislation for the creation of a department of mines, he has secured the introduction of a joint resolution providing for a division of mines in connection with the department over which he presides. This is regarded as a long step in the right direction and entitles Mr. Walcott to the thanks of mining men. The resolution referred to reads as follows:

Joint resolution to provide for a division of mines and mining in the United States Geological Survey. Whereas the mining interests of the United States, which yielded during the calendar year eighteen hundred and ninety-seven an increase to the nation's wealth of five hundred ninety-four million nine hundred and ninety-one thousand dollars, have not a clearly defined representation in the organization of the government; and

Whereas it is desirable that there should be such a representation for the purpose of gathering and publishing statistics relating to mines and mining, including the statistics of gold and silver as mineral products from each state and district, in addition to the statistics now gathered by the director of the mint, and statistics in relation to labor employed and wages earned in mines and mining, and for the purpose of compiling and publishing the laws relating to prospecting, prospectors, and mining generally, and recommending revisions of the same; and

Whereas mining and mineral statistics of all kinds should be simplified and prompt publication be made of them; Therefore Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a division of mines and mining be, and is hereby established in the United States Geological Survey, to be organized by the director of said survey, for the purpose of gathering and publishing statistics of the mineral resources of the United States, including the products of gold and silver, based upon the actual mined product of each state, and statistics of labor employed and wages earned in mining operations, and making investigations in relation to mines and mining generally, and publishing the results thereof, and for the purpose of compiling and publishing the laws relating to prospecting, prospectors, and mining, and recommending revisions of the same; and that there be appropriated for the purposes of this division one hundred and fifty thousand dollars; Provided, That the statistics and information gathered by the division of mines and mining and by the division of geol-

ogy of the geological survey may be published as a part of or a special appendix to the annual report of the director of the survey, or as special papers where early publication is desired, the size of the edition of each such special paper to be controlled by its economic importance and to be determined by the director of the geological survey and approved by the secretary of the interior; Provided further, That the entire cost of composition, paper, printing, illustrations, and binding of such special papers shall not exceed ten thousand dollars, the cost of which shall be charged against the appropriation for the division of mines and mining; Provided further, That all statistics for each calendar year shall be published and delivered to congress by the first day of December of the succeeding calendar year; Provided further, That the separate chapters on any given mineral product, such as gold, silver, iron, coal, building stone, and so forth, shall be printed and bound as a separate pamphlet for publication; That a pamphlet edition of any chapter shall be printed for distribution on request of the director of the survey, approved by the secretary of the interior, the size of the edition to be controlled by the economic importance of the mineral product and to be determined by the director of the survey and approved by the secretary of the interior; Provided further, That the entire cost of paper, printing, and binding of all of such separate chapters shall not exceed five thousand dollars, and that this cost shall be charged against the appropriation for the survey and approved by the secretary of the interior; Provided further, That the entire cost of engraving and engraving for the annual report of the director of the survey.

This is the season when the pastoral poets of the country press write eulogistic editorials on the passing of the old year. In half a column of sporadic spread-eagleism the Livingston Post decorates the retiring twelfth-month. Hear it: "Loud and deep were heard the muttering thunders of war." This is better than if it had said: "Hear the fearful shriek of war's resentful whisper." The thundering mutter is more euphonic, although it means the same thing. Referring to the tilt with Spain the Post adds: "The smoke rose from the hot altars of the battle gods." Had the battle gods used smokeless powder, or kept their altars reasonably cool, this thrilling sentence would have been lost to the inhabitants of Park county. Finally, the Post accuses the passing year of being gone but not forgotten. Well, we should say not. There were several freckles on the countenance of the old year that will not be soon forgotten, some of which clustered painfully close to the sides of November.

The Madisonian contains the following kind reference to Senator Mantle: "Hon. Lee Mantle will retire from the senate on the fourth of next March. That he has been a faithful, loyal servant of the people of Montana no one will deny. No man, speaking without prejudice, can say that he has not been a credit to the state and to the northwest. He is a young man, as statesmen go, and he has the world before him, and in the years to come will again serve his people in high places. Just now he is being mentioned as the possible successor of Governor Smith. His candidacy for this position would certainly meet with the cordial endorsement of a host of friends in Madison county."

Two years ago democrats in the legislative assembly sat down hard upon the then reigning governor, a populist by the name of Bob Smith. This year they will sing eulogiums to the present executive, the Hon. Robert B. Smith.

With a clear majority in the legislature of 54 votes, backed by a democratic governor and the Chinook winds of the Prickly Pear valley, the democracy of this state ought to see that public purity reigns supreme.

The Livingston Post works itself up into a double-gearred frenzy over the fears expressed by the Inter Mountain that the democracy will drop the free

coinage issue in 1900. It accuses this paper of a large and carefully selected variety of crimes for harboring such an idea. Our cheerful, but painfully bewhiskered contemporary, ought to realize that a good cause is never strengthened by shutting one's eyes to the trend of events. If the democracy of this state really intends to hold aloft the free coinage banner in 1900 it is high time it quit pushing its head into the sand like the ostrich and other idiotic bipeds, and proceeded to wage war on the gold wing of that party.

It is too early to speculate as to what the present legislative assembly is likely to do in the way of legislation. After it has thoroughly digested Governor Smith's recommendations it is pretty safe to predict what it will not do.

MAN'S ADVANTAGE.

"I don't see why a man should worry about Christmas," she said. "Why not?" he asked. "Presents cost money, don't they?" she replied, "but if a man only uses a little diplomacy and judgment there is no reason why he should not give a very handsome present in such a way that he will get it back with interest." "How?" he inquired. "Suppose his present should take the shape of a diamond ring," she suggested. "Well," she explained, "putting to think he should be so obtuse, 'a man who can't present a girl with a diamond ring in such a way that he will get the ring back with the wearer of it thrown in hasn't any business calling on her two or three evenings a week.'"

WAS PREPARED.

Bishop Potter presided at the meeting of the American National Red Cross Relief committee, held the other evening. He said that when he informed the relief committee that he would lend his approval to a benefit for soldiers the committee put on a horrified expression, and he was asked if he knew there was a battle in the show. "Mr. Dodge promptly came to my rescue," said the bishop, "and assured the committee that if it were so he had a large supply of pajamas."

LOVE WITH HOPE.

The young doctor and his friend, the drug clerk, were sitting at the club window when a richly dressed lady passed by. "There goes the only woman I ever loved," remarked the young M. D. "That so," queried the other. "Then why don't you marry her?" "Can't afford to," replied the doctor. "She is my best patient."

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