

DAILY INTER MOUNTAIN

Issued Every Evening, Except Sunday.

INTER MOUNTAIN PUBLISHING CO

M. A. BERGER, Manager.

26 West Granite Street, Butte City, Mont.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Per year, by mail, in advance\$7.50
By carrier, per month75
Semi-Weekly, per year, in advance.. 2.00

Subscribers who do not receive the paper regularly are requested to notify this office.

Official Paper of Silver Bow County.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1899.

Democracy and Silver.

The Standard is one of the newspapers that have felt that an exact statement of the ratio is not a vital factor in silver's restoration. The ratio is a matter of law; it has varied slightly in our own currency; our ratio has also varied slightly from that one that has ruled in some other countries. The world's exchanges practically fix the ratio—Anaconda Standard, January 9, 1899.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

In the whole range of classical poetry, from Homer's "Odyssey" to Senator Eggleston's "When Bryan Comes to Butte" there is nothing that so neatly adjusts itself to the mistakes of mankind as those beautiful lines, so dear to the Anaconda Standard at this time: Of all sad words of tongue or pen The saddest are these: It might have been.

Yes, it might have been. Had the Standard remained true to the fusion idea, which it at one time so ably advocated, Mr. Clark would not have been elected to the senate of the United States. When the managing editor of that great family newspaper got the senatorial bee in his own bonnet, and conceived the idea that fusion might re-elect Senator Mantle, he thought it better to take chances on defeating Clark by indorsing the anti-fusion plans of that wing of the democracy. He played his hand only to discover that he had more ambition than trumps in the uncertain game of politics.

No one can calmly review the senatorial fight from its inception when the state conventions were held, up to the concluding chapters in that great political controversy, without realizing that Mr. Clark's final success was largely due to the Anaconda Standard. We say this in all kindness, but it is true. From the mistake that personal ambition inspired—the repudiation of the fusion idea which was first advocated by that newspaper—up to the grand finale in the comedy of errors, the Standard has played an important part.

No wonder it writhes in the throes of defeat which it invited and slashes the air with impotent rage. In the history of politics in this state no set of men ever received dirtier treatment than that accorded the silver republicans and populists by the wing of the democracy that was professedly their friend. Although its punishment is due alone to its own mistakes, and not to the non-partisan course pursued by the silver republicans and populists in a great democratic contest, the Standard must keenly feel the force of the words: It might have been.

OVERLOOKING HARTMAN.

As the Inter Mountain expected, when it referred to the vote received by Mr. Hartman in the joint assembly, the Anaconda Standard exultingly claims that while the Sourdough statesman received the support of three silver republicans in that body, Senator Mantle received the support of but one. From this fact our Warm Springs contemporary draws the conclusion, with its usual phenomenal political astuteness, that Mr. Hartman is three times as popular among

silver republicans as is Mr. Mantle. The Standard would hardly care to apply this rule to the vote received by Mr. Clark, on account of its profound respect for Mr. Clark's enemies. However, we will let that go.

In drawing a comparison between Mr. Mantle and Mr. Hartman, the Standard overlooks the fact that the former was not a candidate before the joint assembly. The logic of the situation was clearly against any proposition of that character, for there was nothing in the political conditions that existed to justify the hope that the state chairman of the silver republican party could expect any votes from other political organizations. The four silver republican members, therefore, were under no party restraints in the matter of voting for a senator. They were free in every sense of the word to support any one avowedly in favor of the free coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1.

But the case was different with Mr. Hartman. He had entered into a compact with the Standard's branch of the democratic party, heretofore known as the dominant wing, under which he labored zealously to promote its interests through the election of Mr. A. J. Campbell to congress. In fact, no political move was made by Mr. Hartman during the campaign without the consent and approval of the Standard people, and almost invariably at their suggestion. Under the circumstances, Mr. Hartman had a right to expect some consideration at their hands when it could be accorded.

The opportunity came in the senatorial fight. It was evident to the dullest politician that Mr. Conrad could not in the nature of things be elected. There was no rule in the algebra of politics under which his election could be figured out. Under these conditions, Mr. Hartman had a right to expect the Standard votes to come to him. He was entitled to a fair start on the senatorial race track by the people he had so diligently served and for whom he had sacrificed all that most men hold dear in political life.

No one can doubt the ingratitude with which Mr. Hartman was treated by his favorite wing of the democracy. Two-thirds of the silver republican vote was given him for the purpose of indicating to the Standard people that he was groomed and ready to be entered as a dark horse. To be overlooked under such circumstances is very discouraging to men who contemplate emulating the example set by Mr. Hartman in the late campaign. It is enough to make even Mr. Whiteside wonder whether he may expect to find a balm in Gilead sprouting from the Anaconda Standard's branch of the democracy. But, as an astute philosopher once remarked, it is very peculiar how curious some strange things are.

HOBSON'S CHOICE.

That the records of the senatorial contest may be made complete, as the facts are unfolded, we publish on page seven the open letter written by Senator Hobson of Fergus county in explanation of the reasons why the republicans voted for Mr. Clark for senator. Mr. Hobson's high standing as a man in the community in which he resides, as well as his unimpeachable private and public character, adds interest to the statements which he has made.

In brief, he refers to the inability of the republicans to elect and the necessity of securing if possible a senator who would stand loyally by the doctrine of protection to Montana industries. He says that his first choice was Mr. Conrad, a protectionist, but when it became evident that he could not be elected, and that a new candidate whose views on that question could not be relied upon was about to be sprung to defeat Mr. Clark, he believed it to be time for the republicans to act. Mr. Clark, he continues, pledged himself to oppose the democratic doctrine of free trade and to stand by the doctrine of protection as it affects the interests of Montana, and therefore was given the republican vote. Mr. Hobson refers to the allegation that Senator Mantle and ex-Senator Power interfered with the republicans, as follows:

The Anaconda Standard also states that Senator Mantle and ex-Senator Power were instrumental in bringing about the election of Mr. Clark. In justice to these gentlemen, I will say that this statement is also false. No communications whatever were received from Senator Mantle who is in Washington City, attending to his official duties there, and ex-Senator

Power was the strongest opponent in Helena of Mr. Clark's election, as 90 per cent of the people of this city will testify.

It is now in order for the Anaconda Standard to either acknowledge its mistake, when it accused these gentlemen of interference, or prove its statements. In its entirety, Senator Hobson's letter is a document that will attract widespread attention and be quite generally discussed in political circles in this state.

While republicans throughout the state may deplore the action of Mr. Hobson and others as a grave political mistake, and many may believe they were actuated by improper motives, no one who is personally acquainted with the gentleman from Fergus will impute to him dishonesty of conduct.

A PROSPEROUS YEAR.

It is gratifying to note that 1898 was one of the most prosperous years ever known in the United States. The pendulum of poverty swung the other way, and commercial activity reinstated itself in the affection of the people. An analysis of the reports indicate the following record for the year:

- 1. Largest wheat crop except that of 1891.
2. Highest price recorded for wheat except that in 1888.
3. Largest cotton crop.
4. Largest exports of breadstuffs.
5. Largest exports of manufactured goods.
6. Largest aggregate exports of produce and merchandise.
7. Largest production of iron ore.
8. Largest production of pig iron.
9. Largest production of coal.
10. Largest production of copper.
11. Largest production of silver except that of 1892.
12. Largest production of gold.
13. Largest gold holdings.
14. Largest per capita circulation of all forms of money.
15. Largest aggregate bank clearings.
16. Largest aggregate railroad earnings.
17. Largest aggregate sales of bonds.
18. Largest aggregate sales of stocks on New York Exchange since 1882.
19. Smallest number of failures and smallest aggregate liabilities since 1892.

To the foregoing might be added the fact that aside from one that hit the esteemed Anaconda Standard between the eyes, there have been few really great disasters of late to cool down the enthusiasm felt by the people of the United States over the era of prosperity that has set in.

A few months ago the Anaconda Standard said "it is all over but the shouting." Then why don't the Standard shout?

The Talk of the Day.

The desire of the Roman Catholics of Quebec, Canada, to have the educational system of the province revised may cause trouble. At the time of confederation the school tax paid by property-owners was divided according to population, and as a consequence the Roman Catholics received a large percentage of the whole. In 1868, however, the Protestant property-owners of the city of Montreal asked that the tax which they paid, instead of being distributed according to population, should be given entirely to the Protestant School board. Although that proposal had the effect of depriving the Roman Catholic board of about 50 per cent of its revenue, it was accepted. Since that time now over thirty years, the school taxes have been divided into three funds. There is the Protestant fund, made up of taxes paid by the Protestants who at the time of payment signify their desire that their taxes should be so used; there is the Roman Catholic fund, made up of the taxes paid by the Roman Catholic proprietors, and there is a neutral fund, made up of taxes paid either by joint stock companies or by proprietors who do not indicate any preference as to which fund their taxes should go. The result has been that in 1897, for instance, the Protestants, with 8,908 children, received \$153,472, while the Roman Catholics, with 16,970 children, received only \$168,090.

"Excuse me, sir," said Barker to a boorish traveller, "but what is your business?" "I am a gentleman, sir—that's my business." "Ah," said Barker, "I see. You are taking a holiday."—Tit-Bits.

The Toronto courts are about to be called upon to decide whether a man may legally perform his own wedding ceremony. The case in point is that of the Rev. J. W. Pfohler, who on October 12, 1898, married himself to Lois Markle. This is the first time that a man has performed the rite for himself in Canada, and both Pfohler and his wife now want the validity of their marriage established. It would have been much cheaper for the divine to have enlisted the services of another clergyman in the first place.

A woman who has been a victim of indigestion and is kept to dyspeptics' diet most of the time was recently invited to a dinner, which she was anxious to attend. She went to her telephone, and, trusting to a somewhat unreliable messenger, she asked to be connected by the ever-obliging "Central" with telephone 2,394. When the connection had been made she began her plaintive query without any prefatory "Is that you, doctor?"

"I want very much to go to a little dinner tomorrow night," she began rapidly, "and do you think it would hurt me if I ate just a taste of soup, and perhaps a little fish, or the least trifle of game and a bit of salad or ice? I really think my stomach."

Here she was interrupted by a voice from the other end of the wire. "Ma-

dam," it said, coldly, "eat whatever you please. This is the Meteor Rubber Company."—Youth's Companion.

Henry Allen, of Atchison, Kan., recently delivered an address to young men, cautioning them against wasting their talents in a rush for political positions. It was printed in nearly every paper in the state, followed in a few days by the announcement that Mr. Allen had accepted the position of private secretary to Governor Stanley.

Mrs. Jibbins (after gazing on a globe in a shop window)—Well, nothing won't persuade me but what the world's flat. Mrs. Trimmings—Well, Marlar, if the world's flat, 'ow can ye account for 'Averstock Hill?—London Punch.

This is how a Bartlett, Tex., reporter recently began an account of a local marriage: "Thursday was a most beautiful day. Not a cloud flecked the blue sky, and the sun placed a mantle of gold on the earth. It was a winter day by the cycles of the earth; it was a summer day by the temper of the air, the pulsation of hearts, and the smile of radiant faces. While unseen angels sang the marriage anthem, visible forms whispered o'er and o'er the old, old song of love that the heart fosters through the valleys overgrown with shadowy trees."

It was at a matinee performance. A well-known actor was annoyed by two young ladies behind him. One was telling the other that he was a periodical visitor at her home, while two other girls asked any number of impudent questions about him. After the performance the actor approached the quartet and grasped the talkative girl's hand, exclaiming: "Why, Annie, how do you do? How is your mother?"

The girl was indignant, of course, but he kept on, and, showing several of his cards in her hand, he said: "Give the girls one of my cards, won't you, Annie, and introduce 'em." The girl saw the name and wilted.—Philadelphia Call.

A novel use has been found for the Eiffel Tower. The Paris chief of police has placed on its summit certain agents, whose sole duty it is to note all those chimneys which throw up a denser volume of smoke than is allowed by law.

At the special request of the pope the Vatican has been lighted with electricity.

Easily Accomplished.—"Did you ever have any trouble in getting out of town?" asked the friend to whom Mr. Stormington Barnes was relating his theatrical experiences.

"None whatever," was the answer. "The towns we played were so small that all we had to do was to walk two or three blocks."—Washington Star.

RAM'S HORN WRINKLES.

Politeness never has a stiff neck. Every blessing brings an obligation. Heart worship will mean hand work. The real N. G. man is the No Good man.

You need not watch yourself when you are alone. There is no fool so sad a fool as the smart fool.

Truth never loses any of its power by being spoken in love.

Your destiny will be decided independent of your funeral sermon.

Don't preach patience to the people, and practice petulance at home.

The profanity of man's thoughts is not always equal to the depth of his silence.

The men who have made a noise in the world have not used their mouths alone.

The man who cannot change his opinion belongs either to the grave or the asylum.

The important thing is not what men say about you, but what you make them believe.

CONUNDRUMS WITH ANSWERS.

Who is a ghostly relative? H-aunt.

Who is your sourest relative? Mother in vinegar.

What relative is most welcome in a foreign land? Mother-tongue.

Why is a kitchen chair as good as one in the drawing-room? Because both are sat in (satin).

Why are good church members not human? Because they are in sects (insects).—Youth's Companion.

WHAT MAN'S BODY CONTAINS.

A bowlful of sugar.

Enough salt to provide a dinner party.

Enough iron to make five carpet tacks.

Enough gas to fill a gas meter of 3,640 feet.

Enough carbon to make 9,360 lead pencils.

Phosphorus enough to make 8,064 boxes of matches.

Enough hydrogen to fill a balloon that would lift himself.

There is enough fat to make from four to eight pounds of candles.

HE STOOD CORRECTED.

Atlanta Constitution: "I sentence the prisoner to be lynched," said the rural justice. "But you can't do that, your honor," objected the lawyer for the defense. "Come to think of it," said the justice, "you air right, fer my bailiff informs me they ain't three yards o' rope in town."

EVIDENCE.

Detroit Free Press: Parker—I don't believe Castleton was ever with one girl more than a day at a time. Lane—Why? "He said the other day he never met a woman he couldn't understand."

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