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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1891.

AN OPERA HOUSE.

There is a good deal of quiet and earnest talk about providing Great Falls with an opera house, and we hope the scheme will soon take definite and practical form. The plan of erecting a one-story structure of sufficient size to meet the wants of Great Falls for a few years meets with general favor, and if a a proper effort were put forth a company could be organized and the good work of building an opera house commenced in a very short time. Mr. J Bookwalter, agent of the Townsite company informs the TRIBUNE that he is heartily in favor of the project, and hopes to see it carried out promptly. If it is desired to avoid the expense of purchasing the necessary ground, Mr. Bookwalter said his company would lease one or two lots in an elegible location at a rental that would not at all distress the opera house company, meaning that it would be simply a nominal figure. This is something to think of in connection with the scheme. Many, however, take the ground that it would be better for the opera house company to purchase the ground, in asmuch as they would then be absolute owners of the building and improvements, and for the further reason that the advance in the price of the realty would be in itself a handsome profit in course of time.

One thing is certain, Great Falls needs an opera house and at present it can only be secured by local enterprise. If forty or fifty persons take stock in the company, a small subscription on the part of each will secure the desired building with necessary equipment, and the TRIBUNE believes it would be a profitable investment. Who will start the ball rolling? Don't all speak at once.

FREE COINAGE.

One thing is admitted, even by the stanchest friends of Mr. Cleveland, and that is, that the democratic platform of 1892 must be a free coinage plank. The St. Louis Republic, the leading Cleveland organ of the United States, says:

"When the democratic convention meets in 1892, the Republic expects to advise it to demand the free coinage of silver. If it does, that demand will bind Mr. Cleveland as a democrat. Until then he is not bound on this issue. He is a private citizen, and it is quite clear from his letter on the coinage that he expects to remain so. If the party demands his service and authoritatively insists in its platform on a change of his views on coinage, a question will be presented that has not yet been presented at all. Until he refuses to accept the utterance of a democratic platform, he is in all respects a democrat in good standing. The Republic sees no reason whatever for discrediting Mr. Cleveland, and it sees many for giving him the credit he deserves as one of the sturdiest, most manly, most patriotic workers the party ever had."

IF the Great Falls TRIBUNE would refrain from slurring other localities and be careful how it imputes sinister motives to its contemporaries it would make more friends throughout the state for the ambitious young city in which it is published. Opinions may differ about the time and place for locating the agricultural college and yet those who differ may be equally desirous of acting for the best interest of the entire state. Let the matter be fully discussed—sensibly, good temperedly, intelligently and determined on its merits.—Helena Independent.

We wish simply to say that the TRIBUNE has never engaged in the work of "slurring" other localities, and that the very object it desired to secure in regard to the location of the agricultural college was discussion and fair consideration. On the other hand, the Independent wanted this institution located at Bozeman at once, without the least heed to the propriety of things. Its solicitude in the premises was sufficient ground for the belief that it was seeking to placate a prominent candidate for the capital which is the extent of the "sinister motives" imputed to that paper by the TRIBUNE.

THE scheme of the Bozemanites to secure the location of the agricultural college has failed, for which credit must be given to the effective work of Senator Gibson. When this institution is finally located and established it will be something more than an agricultural college. We might add here that will be erected at Great Falls.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

A Great Falls correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, signing himself "Silver," who appeared to be seeking light on the silver question, thinks the Tribune takes too strong a position in regard to the proposition for unlimited coinage, but agrees with its denunciation of the McKinley bill. He asks for a statement of the reasons why this paper opposes the Vest measure, and adds:

If the value of the Bland dollar is increased to 100 cents and the parity of gold and silver changed, do you still maintain that free coinage of the latter will drive all the gold out of circulation?

How can you persist in calling a silver dollar fiat currency when at present its intrinsic value is 79 or 80 cents and by inflation can be made 100 cents or thereabouts?

The reasons asked for were stated in our editorial columns of Feb. 17 and Feb. 21, under the titles "They Will Gain Nothing" and "Common Sense Way to Deal with Silver." The reasons there advanced are that the only gainers by the proposed measure would be the men who had silver to sell at or close to the time the bill became a law, and the impecunious debtors who would be permitted to pay their debts in dollars worth only about three-quarters as much as the dollars they agreed to pay; that most of our gold would be driven out of the country and then the silver mine owners would be no better off than now, because of the reduced purchasing power of the dollars coined out of their silver; that the bimetallic circulation of silver by the side of gold can only be restored on a basis of free coinage by agreement between the United States and other nations; and that probably this cannot be brought about without a change in the ratio of weights considered to be of equal value for the two metals. The Tribune has stated these points strongly because it believed the "success" of the unlimited coinage bill would have been one of the most disastrous things that could befall the people of the United States, injuring them far more than the passage of the McKinley bill. But the disaster would come through the foolish attempt to legislate that all the silver in the world shall be rated at far more than it is actually worth

If the quantity of silver in the Bland or any other silver dollar were increased to 100 cents in gold its free coinage on that true ratio would not drive the gold out of circulation, and the Tribune has never said it would

The Tribune has not called the silver dollar fiat currency. It has argued against an unlimited coinage of silver unless the number of grains of pure metal in the dollar be increased, and has also argued against the issue of a fiat currency. Both of these have been demanded by a lot of people who do not know the consequences that would follow the granting of their suicidal requests The Tribune has endeavored to prevent the people from perpetrating these follies, and to save them the sorrow of a repentance that would come too late.—Chicago Tribune.

GENERAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN EUROPE.

A large fraction of the European press, including even the Russian, regard the approaching visit of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, eldest nephew of the Emperor Francis Joseph, and presumptive heir to the Austrian throne, to the Russian court, as a fresh and potent guarantee of peace. The visit of the Czarewitch of Vienna, which took place some months ago, and the cordial reception there accorded him, have already broken the ice between the two courts; and hence the impending journey is considered a reliable pledge for the renewal of more friendly and peaceful relations between the two countries. It has produced a particularly good impression in Vienna, that even Russian journals of extreme Panslavist bias, such as the Nuovya Wremya and the Vydomosti, should greet the archduke as a welcome guest, and express the hope that a decided amelioration of the relations between Russia and Austria may be accomplished. As regards the rumors of a general disarmament, for now some little time in circulation, such rumors, strange as it may appear, may usually be traced back directly to the wish or intimation of the Emperor William. The emperor, in fact, has recently give emphasis to the conviction previously expressed, that the enormous progress made in modern armaments, the improved weapons and destructive appliances of modern warfare, have rendered war so deadly, uncertain and incalculable, that governments would cease to have recourse to such an extremity and shrink back from its responsibility. That the Russian journey of the Austrian successor to the throne has not the least share in the question of a disarmament requires no assurances emanating from a Russian source Russia is certainly the last power to adopt such a policy, and so long as Russia does not think of it, such thoughts are of little promise from the rest.

THESE WILL BE FIRST.

The "steering" committee of the legislature has had a session and decided upon giving precedence over other measures to the following bills. A few more bills will be added to the list, and if the two houses will now confine their labors to these important measures, there will be hope of averting the calamity of an extra session:

House bills—Providing for the assessment and collection of taxes; making appropriations for the support of the state government; for the appointment of a state examiner and defining his duties; continuing the work of the code commission; reapportioning the representatives in the legislature; for the selection, appraisal and disposition of school lands; regulating the fees of county officers; providing for a state insane asylum; providing for the organization of irrigating districts; relating to the right of way for irrigating ditches, flumes, etc.; for the protection of coal miners; to fill vacancies in the legislature; creating the county of Teton; relating to the right of way for railroads; prescribing the mode of ascertaining damages for a railroad right of way; for the submission of the question of the permanent location of the state capital; for the protection of game and fish; regulating railroad fares; for the appointment of a board of land commissioners and defining their duties; regulating the granting of pardons, commutations, etc.; to facilitate the recording of marks and brands; allowing the raising of the water of Jefferson river for irrigating purposes; prescribing the duties and compensation of the clerk of the supreme court; to pay for the care and keeping of the insane; to pay for the care and keeping of the state convicts; providing for the recording of deeds and the conveyancing of real estate; appropriating money for the support of the Montana law library; for the payment of bounties for the death of stock-destroying animals.

Senate Bills—For the protection of the title to school lands; extending the time of existence of corporations to fifty years; for the disposition of estrays found on public land; to pay bounties for the scalps of stock destroying animals; providing for advertising for supplies for state officers and members of the legislature; allowing educational institutions under the care of religious bodies to change their names; making the first Monday in September a legal holiday, to be known as Labor day; punishing the sale or giving of firearms to Indians and half-breeds; increasing the number of school trustees.

TARIFF PICTURES.

The beneficent effects of the McKinley high protective tariff law, as effecting the laboring man, are beautifully illustrated by recent events. In addition to the recent scaling down of wages of the 16,000 coke workers in the Connelsville district and the strike of the Trenton potters, the following reductions and notices of reductions are reported:

Hopedale Fabric mill, Hopedale, Mass., wages of weavers reduced 2½ cents a yard.

Silk mill at Warehouse Point, Conn., wages of winders and doublers reduced from $1.37 to $1 per day.

Sturtevant Blower works, Jamaica Plain, Mass., reduction of from 10 to 30 per cent.

Pottstown Iron company, Pottstown, Pa., reduction of about 7 per cent.

Bethlehem Iron company, Bethlehem, Pa., reduction of 10 per cent February 2.

Pennsylvania Steel company, Steelton, Pa., reduction of from 8 to 10 per cent February 1.

Lackawanna Iron and Coal company, Scranton, Pa., an average reduction of 20 cents a day on January 1.

Homestead Steel-Works, Carnegie, Phipps & Co., 10 per cent by agreement.

Otis Iron and Steel company, Cleveland, reduction of 30 per cent.

Coal mines, Duquoin, Ill., reduction from 60 to 60 cents per ton.

Ribbon-weavers in Patterson, N. J., reduction of 15 per cent.

Coal miners near Leavenworth, Kan., reduction of 11 per cent.

Cocheco Manufacturing company, wages of weavers reduced 4 per cent.

Saxony Knitting-Mill, Little Falls, N. Y., reduction of about 20 per cent.

Feb. 5 a cut of 10 per cent in wages announced by the Southern Steel company of Chattanooga, Tenn., was accepted by the men.

At the next election appeals will be made to these same workingmen to vote for high protective tariff candidates in order to protect the "infant industries" of the United States. But the appeal will be made in vain. The people are beginning to see that the protected manufacturer is the only beneficiary of the system.

DURING 1890 the total number of immigrants arriving in the United States from foreign countries was 491,026, a gain over the preceding year of 65,000, or 15 per cent. The bulk of the increase was found in arrivals from three countries in central and southern Europe—Austria-Hungary, Poland, Italy—and, in fact, these three countries may be credited alone with supplying more than the entire increase noted, as their total gain over 1889 was 69,000 or 4,000 more than the total net gain. The arrivals of British immigrants showed a heavy falling off. German arrivals gained slightly and Russian immigrants were also more numerous than in 1889.

THE Protestant Episcopal church has 4,163 clergy, 299 candidates for orders, 2,330 parishes and missions and 508,292 communicants. The number of baptisms last year was 61,665, of whom nearly 47,000 were infants. The contributions for the year are $12,754,767.

THE recent decision of the United States supreme court in the case of the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific roads awards the Great Northern legal title to the grant of the old St. Paul and Pacific railroad. The decision will affect millions of dollars of property in the Red river valley, and it is intimated that the title to a portion of Grand Forks and other cities in that valley may be affected by this decision.

THE Methodist Episcopal church, south, has adopted the Epworth League as its denominational young people's society. The young people of the Methodist Episcopal church, the Methodist church of Canada and the Methodist Episcopal church, south, are now enlisted under one denominational banner.

THE sentiment in favor of combining several of the educational institutions into one, thus rendering it at once a strong and influential college, is growing rapidly and two years hence this scheme is likely to receive the approbation of the legislature.

THE Teton county bill is among those suggested for immediate action by the steering committee of the legislature, but the Valley county bill, which has already passed the senate, seems to have been lost in the shuffle.

THE house has compromised on the salary bill by making it go into effect in January, 1892. Our gentlemanly officials are not raising much of a howl against the bill in its present form.

THERE are but six days of the legislative session remaining and it seems impossible to secure the passage even of the measures suggested by the steering committee.

THE Miner insists that Bozeman's loss of the agricultural college is due to the warm support given the bill by the Helena papers.

AN OLD-TIMER HEARD FROM.

He Can Hardly Believe What he Reads About the Development of North Montana.

THE TRIBUNE received yesterday the following letter from an old-timer of the upper Missouri who possibly may be remembered by some of our readers:

DEXTER, Mich., Feb. 16, 1897.

ED. TRIBUNE:—I received your holiday number for 1889, and would like to know how much of those predictions for 1890 has actually been fulfilled. I lived in Montana from 1864 to '68; knew the Missouri river well from Benton to the Musselshell; kept a wood yard at the Musselshell until the Crows and Sioux drove us out in '68. I did not then suppose that country would ever make the paradise for farming and stock growing that your book claims it has. I have been at Fort Shaw on Sun river and at Great Falls and liked that country better than the lower river. I have a farm here of 200 acres; am engaged in raising fine horses and cattle. The great drawback to this business here, is the long winters—hand feeding fully six months. If I could exchange my property here for ranch or city property at or near Great Falls, on a fair cash basis, I would, as I have a family of grown up boys. Would like to transfer my business to that locality.

PATRICK MCGUINNISS.

If Mr. McGuinniss should return to Montana now his eyes would meet a revelation. The change since the primitive wood yard days on the upper Missouri has been an astonishing one. As to Great Falls, everything, and much more, than was predicted in the TRIBUNE holiday number of 1889, has come to pass. Then we claimed but a population of 2,500, which in a year has swelled to 6,000. New and great industrial establishments have been located here, the Black Eagle falls has been harnessed, several railroads have been constructed—and still we are but at the entrance of the era of progress and prosperity.

The Silver Pool Investigation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The silver pool investigating committee made its report to the house this evening. The report, which is unanimous, gives the history of the investigation, alluding to more important testimony, but not reviewing it in detail. It dismisses the testimony of Owenby as the product of a "romancer" whose imagination is not restrained by the limitations of truth.