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SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1891.

THE COAL CREEK AFFAIR.

Tennessee, unfortunately, has a law upon her statutes providing for the leasing of convict labor to the highest bidder. Not long since, owing to causes which it is not necessary here to enumerate, a company who has coal mines at Coal creek leased the convict labor of the state penitentiary and brought them to the place. Opposition was immediately made to their working in the mines and the convicts were driven away. They were taken back, supported by a company of militia. The miners captured the militia and sent the soldiers and convicts to Knoxville. The coal company represented to the governor the state of affairs and requested help to place and keep the convicts in the mines. The situation was one which required the utmost care to prevent bloodshed and the governor visited the grounds in person.

After hearing both sides of the affair he offered the following as his ultimatum. The convicts should return to the mines and go to work. If the miners offered no opposition the militia would be withdrawn. In the meantime the governor would call an extra session of the legislature to amend or repeal the convict labor law and thus put an end to the present difficulty. The committee that received the governor's proposition did not, owing to the great interests involved, wish to assume the responsibility to accept or reject it, but went to Coal Creek and laid it before the miners. At this writing no agreement has been reached and the situation at Coal Creek wears a forbidding look.

Unless the miners accept the governor's terms blood will be shed. The convict lease law may be a bad law, but it is a law of that state and its chief executive Governor Buchanan must see that it be enforced. He has no other alternative, and the miners must submit or be able to whip the militia of the state. In the event the militia fail to respond to the governor's call that official will doubtless call upon the president for aid. It is a matter of doubt whether the president will extend it unless the legislature ask for it in the name of the state. And that's the way the matter stands at present. A few hours may work a radical change in the situation for the better or for worse.

HOME RULE FOR IRELAND.

It is stated that the English government will soon introduce a measure providing practical home rule for Ireland. The provisions of the bill are not yet made public, but assurance is given that it will meet the present exigencies of the situation in that unfortunate little island. The reported improvement in its condition is said to be largely due to the confidence of the people that home rule will soon be accorded them. Crime in agricultural districts has greatly diminished; evictions are rapidly becoming things of the past; boycotting has almost ceased and emigration has decreased. In addition to these there is a marked gain in business and banking corporations have declared dividends—some of them as high as 10 per cent each.

These are hopeful signs. Ireland will enjoy home rule, and while it may not be all that the more ultra desire it will lead to a system of home government under which the people may enjoy an entire freedom from offensive surveillance and a measure of prosperity to which they have been strangers for years. Let the day be hastened when all these things may be written as living facts!

THE North Montana Fair association may well feel proud of its grounds. The history of the west does not record an instance where a track and all its equipments approached so near perfection at the day of its first opening to the general public as do the track and buildings at this city. They would be a credit to much older cities with three times its population. The public spirit and enterprise of the North Montana Fair association have, to a marked degree, found expression in the construction and finish of its track, stables, grand stand, and environments.

BLAINE a representative republican? What does he represent? High tariff? No. The McKinley tariff? No. Reciprocity? Yes, and reciprocity means free trade. Then Mr. Blaine as a free trader is earning the admiration of 63,000,000 people. That is what the Leader attempted to prove last evening in its column gush about Blaine.

THE Leader man has "got 'em" again. Vermifuge and disinfectants are sadly needed in the neighborhood of the Leader office.

THE AMERICAN HOG.

It is gratifying to American pride to learn that the great American hog is asserting himself in European countries where he has been most persistently taboeed and dishonored for many years. His restoration to all his pristine glory and dignity, even in France would mean much to the corn growing, pork-fattening farmers of the Mississippi valley. It would mean an extended market to his products and a great profit for his labor.

There ia every reason to believe that he is about to receive both. France has taken the initiative step in rescinding the prohibition of American pork. While the French as a rule are not partial to pork still the lower classes take kindly to it and may, as the taste become cultivated, enjoy the rich chops, the fine hams and toothsome sausages which the well-fed porker can contributes to the table.

The French know the American hog as pork, or salted meat. They are comparative straagers to his spareribs and chops, but even in the salted form they would with no prohibitory or obstructive legislation against the meat be large consumers. The outlook encourages the belief that the time is not far distant when the American porker will be heartily welcomed on French soil. Speed the day!

THE farmers can hold back their wheat for an advance in price if they can get along without the money which the wheat will bring. There is the rub. But very few of them in the wheat growing sections have made a dollar during the past two years while the great majority can show nothing upon the credit side of their ledger. If they can borrow money to pay off harvest hands and to tide over the ensuing two or three months they may be able to hold their wheat. But the outlook is not encouraging. National banks held about $28,000,000 of government money not long ago, but Secretary Foster has recently called in $10,000,000, which means just that amount of money withdrawn from circulation, where it has done the most good—in farming communities. Still many wheat growers may be able to respond to the suggestions of the alliance.

IT is presumed that when Editor McKnight of the Journal shakes the dust of Butte from his feet he will be a much more learned man in the ways of Montana courts than he was when he came to the state a year ago a pilgrim and a stranger. The newspaper man does not always tread a primrose path to glory and renown, and in many places where the flowers are most abundant and fragrant lie the deepest and most dangerous pitfalls to catch the unsuspecting and confiding faber pusher. Brother McKnight knows how it is himself. He is treading the mill which it is appointed many newspaper writers shall tread who have not learned to put a break upon their pen when "going after" some person, place or thing.

THE friends of Secretary Blaine will doubtless rest much easier after reading what Mr. James H. Manley of Augusta, Me., has to say concerning the health of the Maine statesman. If Mr. Manley may be relied upon—and he certainly may be for what politician would deceive the public in such a trifling matter—Mr. Blaine will soon be able to pose as Samson as he carried away the pillars of the temple and brought down it and its occupants upon his head. As that is about the size of what Blaine will do if he fully regain his health within the year his posing as Samson would be in accord with the fitness of things. The Harrisons would be lost in the wreck of matter which would follow his recovery.

MCKAY, the Kansas farmer judge, didn't know his jaw was so badly loaded and promises the supreme court of his state not to go off again half-cocked; the others who were arraigned with him also make the same promise. All of them will leave Topeka, and the presence of the irate judges of the supreme court with lost appetites for overruling decisions or disobeying mandates of a superior tribunal.

THE redoubtable John L., the great champion, shies his castor in the ring and announces himself willing to meet Slavin. Whether that $1,000 mean a fake or a fight, or an advertising dodge to be used in his Australian tour remains to be seen. If Sullivan can best Slavin he can gather in shekels enough to keep the wolf from the door for some time.

Pioneer Press: The statement that the czar has to speak kindly to his watch dog before letting himself into the palace with his latch key—a statement made by the New York Recorder—simply shows the natural kindness of the august ruler's heart. He doesn't want the dog to break off his front teeth on the bosom of a pair of chilled steel pants.

THE Independent announces in big capitals that Jay Gould is coming to Helena. Yes, Mr. Gould may possibly stop off at the Last Chance city over night on his way to or from Great Falls.

COL. BOB INGERSOLL is a pretty good good one to interview. But no one will believe that the voluble colonel would "put up a game" on a pilgrim editor without giving the stopcock a hard twist.

THE McKNIGHT CASE.

Editor McKnight is languishing in a Butte jail, or at least he was there yesterday. He is not only in the jail, but locked in a cell. The immediate offense for which he is thus punished is his refusal to give to the court at Butte the name of the person with whom he had the conversation for the publishing of which he was arrested and his presence required before Judge McHatton. As it is not within the province of any newspaper to comment upon the merits or demerits of a case before it is heard, or while being heard, the TRIBUNE will refrain from expressing any opinion concerning it. Editor McKnight is on trial. He is now being punished, not for what he said in his paper, but for what he will not say.

Under our fearfully and wonderfully made statutes the refusal of an editor to divulge the name of a person who imparts certain information, which information is published by the editor, subjects the latter to imprisonment for contempt of the court that may require the name of such person. On the other hand there is an unwritten law, but one as irrevocable as that of the Medes and Persians among newspaper men, which binds the editor to guard with jealous care and to preserve inviolably the name of a correspondent or informant when secrecy is required. This law is just as binding upon newspaper men as is the unwritten law which forever seals the secrets of the confessional within the breast of the priest, or the admission of a client in the ears of his counsel.

In his refusal Editor McKnight, as an editor, obeys the latter law. Without reference to the subject matter published in the Journal, for which he is under arrest, we believe there is not an editor in Montana who would not obey it let the consequences be what they may. As the custodian of his correspondent's name he would betray a solemn trust were he to give it at the request of any court without the consent of its bearer. That is the unwritten law among newspaper men. But it must be understood that all editors do not publish all they hear upon the streets or all they learn through their correspondents. If they did they would soon have communities by the ears and find themselves looking at the rows they imprudently created through the bars of their county jail. Hence discretion must be observed in the publication of matter. All is not fish that comes to the net of the editor. Much is rejected that the better may find a place. Therefore it is not so much what an editor puts in his paper as what he keeps out of it that makes it a conservator of the public peace and the public good. It is quite possible Mr. McKnight will hereafter be very particular in the wording of interviews he may publish in Montana. Many editors iu the state learned to be particular about them years ago.

THE Leader, which professes to feel something akin to holy horror in the face of a garbled quotation or a misquotation, took advantage last evening of a typographical error in the Montana Democrat to publish an excerpt from that paper which was directed at the Leader, but which, through the fault of the proofreader, is made to read "TRIBUNE." As our evening contemporary was so kind as to publish the first half of the article in question the TRIBUNE will go it one better and publish it all. Here it is:

The negro seems to possess a strange fascination for the editor of the Great Falls TRIBUNE (Leader), and the columns of that senile sheet are daily filled with a putrid mass trying to establish the superiority of the African. It is passing strange to us what motive agitates a man when he is engaged in the promulgation of such idiotic and abominable sentiments. Every sensible man well knows that the negro was created inferior, is now inferior, and always will be inferior to the Caucasian. But such colossal asses as the editors of the Argus and Leader will seek to perpetuate this question of equality, hoping thereby to still further intensify the extreme partisanship so characteristic of the negro.

RAIN MAKER METBOURNE is no slouch after all. He has made himself solid with old Pluvius. For the eighth time he has commanded him to precipitate moisture upon the earth, and for the eighth time he has obeyed. His last experiment was made at Canton, Ohio, the 26th inst., and was a complete success. If Metbourne would tackle the arid regions of the west during one of their dryest seasons and coax refreshing showers upon the parched earth he would make ten blades of grass grow where only one would show itself and thus become a many times benefactor. Bring out your kit to the bench lands of Montana, Mr. Metbourne! There would be "millions in it."

EVERY horseman in north Montana, every breeder of horses and every man who is interested in the development of the horse industry in the state in general and in north Montana in particular, should be at the fair grounds in this city during the three days racing next month.

HERE is a pointer for you Boos. Give out that you propose to move the Journal to Butte where its editor is, and presto! change! See how quick the "press gang" over there will break its neck in an effort to get him out of jail.

COL. JOHN B. READ, stop laughing! Editor Quinn, where is your meal ticket?

Ladies' Wrappers at 25 per cent off regular prices at Joe Conrad's.

AS TO MR. QUAY.

How Matthew Stanley Quay's resignation appears to be becalmed in that sea of uncertainty in which Bar Harbor reporters have dumped Secretary Blaine's health. Not unlike the little "joker" it is "now you see it and now you don't see it." Or in square-toed English, Quay has not resigned the chairmanship of the national republican committee, and yet the whole country is looking for it. Now, coming right down to cases, why should Quay resign? Has he committed any crime political or otherwise since Harrison was inaugurated? Has he done anything to forfeit the confidence, and respect and esteem of his party during the past two years? If not the question may again be asked: Why should he resign, even though certain virtuous republican citizens of that very godly city of Philadelphia have signed a solemn supplication to the republican head center declaring that Quay is a very wicked person who must go?

As so well stated by the New York Sun: Most of the wickedness attributed to him antedates in fact the year 1888, when he was a good enough man to be entrusted with the task of electing the Hon. Benjamin Harrison president. "Mr. Harrison would now be carrying a green bag in Indianapolis and the Hon. William Henry Harrison Miller and the Hon. Benjamin Harrison McKee would not be mighty men, the one at the department of justice and the other in national politics, if Mr. Quay had not been employed to grease the wheels of the republican machine in 1888. If Mr. Quay is a bad man Gen. Harrison must at least admit that good has come out of evil. There would have been no silver cup in Benjamin's bag had it not been for the astute Mr. Quay."

The Pennsylvania man was fawned upon in 1888 by the same men who denounce him in 1891. Had he succeeded in electing Delamater governor last fall, there would have been no outburst of Philadelphia morality this summer. Be his political or private morals or immorals what they may, he is essentially the same man who was thought worthy to plan and execute the campaign of 1888. It is impossible to avoid suspecting that he is to be punished for want of success and not for want of character. One would suppose, to read the philippic of his censors, that the republican politics of Pennsylvania was purer than the unfallen snow until his appearance. This is not the case, as any Pennsylvanian who knows enough to eat must know. Whatever his faults, hypocrisy is not among them. If it were he would find less severity in Philadelphia. The republican party is in a bad way, and a scapegoat must be found for it. So Quay is to be slaughtered.

If Philadelphia and Pennsylvania seek a victim who represents the most sordid, self-seeking and degraded form of politics, and has brought the most disgrace and contempt upon the republican party, they should fall upon John Wanamaker of the Bargain Counter and the Keystone bank.

TEN years ago Montana's copper output was not felt in the markets of the world. The great copper properties at Butte were an unknown quantity. But a decade has wrought a wonderful change. Today Montana leads every other copper producing state in the union in the output of the metal. The five leading states in its production are Montana with 98,222,444 pounds to its credit. Then comes Michigan with 87,455,675 pounds; Arizona with 35,586,185 pounds; New Mexico with 3,686,137 pounds and Colorado with 1,170,053 pounds. These are the figures given by the census bulletin relating to copper production in the United States for the year 1889. Last year's output from this state was still larger. Heretofore Michigan was the leading producer, but Montana has captured the banner and leads the procession in the copper output as she leads every other state in the production of silver.

IF a saddle and bridle be found under the bed of a sick man it does not follow he has swallowed a horse. Nor would it follow that the town is afflicted with the itch because a case had been developed in the Leader office, or is it reasonable to assume that disease and death lurk at every street corner and pestilence broods in the air because some one is attacked with the typhoid fever. No one outside of the Leader sanctum would draw such conclusions.

"BRAINS" is the name of a semi-monthly journal published at Meadville, Pennsylvania, the first number of which is just issued. Our esteemed evening contemporary should order a car load.

Now a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether for the August meeting of the North Montana Fair association. First-class horses will be upon the grounds. A first-class attendance should be there also.

THERE is money in number one horseflesh, and the way to get it is to breed to the best. The race track is the test of speed, lung power and endurance. The best answer to the test.

THE ad interim editor of the Helena Journal is on the war path. The fool-killer would reap a rich harvest at the corner of Jackson and Broadway, Helena.

THE latch-string of the Helena Journal sanctum is pulled in until further notice.

THE UNKNOWN LAW.

It now transpires that Governor Merriam squelched the contemplated prize fight between Hall and Fitzsimmons because there is a law upon the statute books of Minnesota which provides that "any person who engages in, instigates, aids or encourages a contention commonly called a sparring match in which the combatants are provided with gloves shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the common jail for a term of not less than thirty days." This law by an oversight of the compiler was not indexed and but few knew of its existence. The promoters of the fight, the principals nor the club under whose auspices it was to take place knew nothing of it. But it was dug up by some one and shown to the governor who was compelled to see that it was obeyed in this instance. Therefore the fight was indefinitely postponed, and a case of notably open lawbreaking prevented.

But according to the Pioneer Press the Young Men's Christian Association of St. Paul has been ignorant violators of that particular statute. It appears that association has long maintained a gymnasium in its building in that city as a means of recreation and physical culture, and more than that it has employed a professor in the manly art to give lessons in sparring. Of course it was not permitted for the purpose of training members of the association for the prize ring, but as has been stated, as a means of physical culture. But members boxed each other around the ring, encouraged and aided by the officers of the association, who doubtless admired "muscular christianity." Though ignorant of the law they were its innocent violators, and as the Pioneer Press says: "They are guilty of misdemeanor and liable to punishment by imprisonment in the county jail. So far, therefore, as violating the law is concerned, the Y. M. C. A. is exactly in the same boat as the Minnesota Athletic club."

These facts are not in the nature of flattering comments upon the intelligence of the average citizen of the great state of Minnesota. Still the fact may justly be offered in extenuation of their apparent ignorance of their own law upon such an important point, that inasmuch as the governor of the state, the mayor of the city of St. Paul and the editors of its daily papers were not aware of the existence of such a sweeping statute, it cannot reasonably be presumed that the ordinary layman is familiar with it. The error, however, will not be repeated. Minnesota no longer has any use for boxing gloves.

CONVICT LABOR.

Montanians will remember that a few years ago a proposition was made by a syndicate to build a penitentiary down on the Yellowstone somewhere with convict labor. It is well the proposition was not favorably entertained. The recent trouble over convict labor in Tennessee was but a reflection of the sentiment of the people everywhere concerning its employment in either private or public works. Bringing the matter right up to the level of good, hard common sense it will be seen that its employment is making the honest labor of a state fight for a chance to earn its bread against worse than pauper labor. In the first place honest labor must pay for the arrest, trial, incarceration and maintenance of multitudes of criminals. In the second place the leasing of this degraded, criminal labor to mine or factory operators at prices with which free, honest labor cannot compete and live, is the most villainous, murderous form of oppression a community, state or nation can inflict upon its wage earners. The law which admits or permits such a thing to be done is repulsive to the sense of justice which dignifies a man above a miserable money-clutching miser.

The legislature of Tennessee should repeal its convict contract law as soon as it meets. The farming out of such labor where honest labor can be had is a disgrace to our civilization and a libel upon humanity. Honest labor cannot compete with convict labor. The latter takes the bread from the mouths of the wives and children of honest toil while contractors who farm out the convicts put the profits in their pockets while want and starvation assail idle but honest laboring men.

KANSAS democrats propose to paddle their own canoe in the elections and therefore respectfully decline to enter into any fusion or entangling alliances with other parties. They have shown good judgment and good sense in this determination. A temporary advantage may be gained in a fusion with a third party but in the end it always results disastrously to the larger body. Let democrats stand or fall by their platform. Compromise in nothing. By pursuing this course they will win in the long run.

GREAT FALLS has abundant reason to congratulate itself upon possessing such an able and efficient fire department. In the presence of a danger which all realized every member seemed imbued with a determination to conquer the hidden flames, though the contest at times appeared almost hopeless. For nearly three hours they waged their battle, which only ceased when the last spark in the buring building had died out. All hail to the firemen of Great Falls.

THE TIMBER REGUL

Commissioner Carter, in governing the cutting of timber lic lands, requires that parties such timber for sale within must first obtain a permit from retary of the interior. It is those who have given the matt that if the regulations be enf will work a great hardship not large body of laboring men, the mining, smelting and resp terests of the state. There numbers of men who support and families by cutting, hauling posing of small lots of wood who are engaged in other which put it out of their pow the forest personally and obta fuel supplies. These same men nish mining, smelting and companies with much of their fuel. The formalities attending curement of such permits; the of advertising as required regulations; of obtaining wit -ouchers, and of employing make out all the necessary pa deter many from engaging in supply business.

These hindrances to the pre mining camps are so plainly Butte parties have formulated to be presented to the interior ment praying for the rescind much of the ruling as will restrictions on the cutting of the public domain. In addition reasons above given the petition tended that companies engaged business on a large scale would less be first in their applicati cure permits at places where the most convenient, leaving to dealers the chance to cut timber or less accessible places. The further add that:

While competition in the wood is free and open, or is left vidual enterprise, the cost of in a great degree be regulated cost of cutting and delivering, few companies or individuals can the market it offers at once the tion and opportunity for temptation which is rarely if ever

This would amount to a publ ity in a region like this, where necessity in the prosecution of and smelting ores—by far the industry of the country, and gives not only a vast capital employment to a vast number ers.

For these and other reasons character it would appear that scinding of the restrictions would be in line with the int all affected. If timber be cut the public domain, and all necessity of it, nothing should be the way of free competition in ness. It is therefore hoped that terior department will lend a ear to the petitioners.

THE validity of the Kansas was recently tested in the courts state. The American Cotton which was organized in London capital of $25,000,000, sent its Kansas City to purchase an 100 acres of land just across the line. The last legislature of Kansas ing passed a law forbidding foreign talists from buying large tracts of within the state, a case was and decided against the foreigners less the decision be reversed by a court it will establish the validity state law of like nature. While it desirable that large portions of the lic domain should be owned by syndicates, it is questionable the interests of the country would better subserved by shutting out capitalists from acquiring landed erties for manufacturing establish

BLAINE'S friends will breathe and Harrison harder when they that Blaine took a drive last Sat for an hour and a half in the open try with Emmons Blaine by his and he held the lines, too. The was very particular in stating the lines. And then the drive was in an open carriage; that fact was added. It shows that Blaine is st enough to hold the business end pair of lines and snaps his finger sunstrokes and thunder showers elements generally, for he drove open carriage. The doubting Thomas can now invest in Blaine stock new-born confidence for there is not the matter with him. Blaine is all

THAT silver will have to be added the world's currency to sustain the fabric of international commerce is clusively evidenced by the keen now going on among a few nations obtain and retain gold, and by the approach of the volume of silver to that of gold.

AS PREDICTED by the TRIBUNE John Bardsley's friends are circulating petition for his pardon, and this too fore he has hardly warmed the seat the librarian's chair at Moyamensing son. It is alleged he is suffering paresis. That is another name for a ving for liberty.

THE question of the hour: Who McKnight's informant?

NEGROMANIA seems to be added to ills with which our esteemed evening contemporary is afflicted. It may vive its worms and its itch without plications incidental to the first name Miscegenation will kill it.