

THE IRRIGATION CONVENTION.

Sometime during the middle of next month a convention of representatives from several of the western and south-western states and territories will meet at Salt Lake City, Utah, for the purpose of considering the question of arid land irrigation.

It goes without saying that each delegate thoroughly understands the value of the irrigable land of the state or territory he represents, and the importance of obtaining the necessary supply of water to make them productive.

As a project carried on by the general government it would be quite possible to nurse it for an indefinite term of years in the interest of engineers, contractors, and surveyors and at an enormous cost.

The other plan suggested contemplates the ceding by the general government of the arid or irrigable lands to the state or territories in which such lands lie with iron-clad provisions compelling the reclamation of a certain area or section of such arid lands each year by such state or territories.

Take the state of Montana, for instance. It has, altogether, about 93,000,000 acres of lands, of which 45,000,000 acres are cultivable under a proper and complete system of irrigation.

The delegates to the irrigation convention doubtless will consider all these plans with others which may be suggested and embody the result of their deliberations in a series of resolutions to be presented to congress.

It has been decided by Assistant Secy Nettleton of the treasury department that Mr. Vanderbilt will have to pay a duty of 45 per cent on his new yacht, Conqueror, which was built in England.

Mr. Carter so stated in his letter to Mr. A. B. Kiser of the Madisonian, in which he uses these words: "On the suggestion of the secretary of the interior I have prepared a form of the permit to be used in pursuance of this law, but as the same has not been approved by the secretary and cannot be until his return (which will be several weeks yet), etc."

HEALTHY SENTIMENT WANTED.

The tea-drinking, hypocritical ogres of the country, whose sympathies gush out like bilge water from the seams of a rotten hulk, over alleged maltreatment of a few dirty, lousy Indians, or two or three moon-eyed, pestilence breeding, moral corrupting heathens, have not a word to say in condemnation of the recent massacre of white men in China and the indignities heaped upon American missionaries and their families by mobs of Chinamen.

The Missoula affair is a case in point. While the Tribune would counsel the observance of law and order and the dealing of even-handed justice to their violators, it can look with some degree of leniency upon the efforts of the Missoula white wage-earners to rid themselves of an unholy competition in their vocations.

EXPLAINED.

The following from "Globe Tower Shots" has a peculiar significance at this juncture and may help explain what would otherwise prove mystifying.

"Low tariff republicans," whatever that may mean, have read with pain the changed tariff leaders in the Chicago Tribune, which is dishing up the stuff about protection to our labor which it has so often ridiculed, and wonder why this is thus.

YOU KNOW IT.

If there ever was anything mean from secession down to polygamy, that democracy has not been allied with, we should be pleased to know it.—Virginia City Madisonian.

Well, there's the theft of a state, for one thing; and the Harrison administration for another.—Independent.

Let us go farther back. The democrats of the country are free from the rascalities practiced by the star route thieves; they had nothing to do with the stealings of the famous whisky ring under Grant, nor with the robberies of the navy department, in which \$200,000,000 were stolen from the government by a set of unscrupulous ship-repairing contractors, nor with the wholesale robberies of the treasury by the several Indian rings, nor with the stealing of the presidency by a band of political prostitutes by which Rutherford B. Hayes was placed in the executive chair of the nation to the exclusion of an honestly elected democrat.

Just when was the Tribune so fortunate as to secure Mr. Carter's word for it, that Secretary Noble would not return to Washington for several weeks?—Leader.

Mr. Carter so stated in his letter to Mr. A. B. Kiser of the Madisonian, in which he uses these words: "On the suggestion of the secretary of the interior I have prepared a form of the permit to be used in pursuance of this law, but as the same has not been approved by the secretary and cannot be until his return (which will be several weeks yet), etc."

Mr. Carter said Secretary Noble would not be in Washington for "several" weeks. The word "several" is defined by Webster as "more than two." The Tribune is right. Either Mr. Carter or the associated press agent is guilty of prevaricating.

THE SMUGGLED CHINAMEN.

Referring to the decision of a Seattle judge concerning the disposition which will ultimately be made of Chinamen smuggled into the United States from Canada, the Helena Independent has this to say: "When the Canadian government offered to admit Chinese immigrants into the dominion by the payment of a head money tax of \$50 at Victoria, it thought to turn a thrifty penny for itself and have no trouble with the undesirable immigrants who would readily be smuggled into the United States.

It would appear upon consideration that it would be more in the direct line of the interests of this country if smuggling Chinamen caught on this side of the line were sent direct to China rather than to Canada. If sent to their native land they would in all probability remain there, whereas if they were returned to Canada as "the place from whence they came," they would eventually turn up in this country; for with such an extended boundary line it is next to impossible to keep Chinamen in Canada out of the United States if they be determined to enter within their limits.

If the smuggled Chinamen were recently arrested at Fort Benton were returned to China their experience would doubtless deter many of their countrymen from leaving their native land with the object of going to Canada for the purpose of smuggling themselves into Montana or other border states. But if they be sent back to Canada they will simply await a more favorable opportunity to find a home among their brethren this side of the line.

HYDE AND JECKELS.

The subjoined excerpt from the St. Paul Globe suggests that within the purview of Bar Harbor there may be a case of Hyde and Jeckels so entertainingly described by Mr. Stevenson in his novel bearing the title announced in the headline above.

"Some things are made plainer by this report from Blaine—no, Bar Harbor—that there is a man there who is Blaine's double, and that it is he who is the very sick man with the pallid face who goes out riding wrapped in a heavy overcoat with the mercury up in the nineties whom correspondents have mistaken for the robustious Blaine. It is a wonder that the fertile and resourceful plumed knight has not discovered this convenient double before. How easy it would have been to have had it the double and not James who went down on his knees to Mulligan. Blaine never speculated on his speaker's ruling in the Fort Smith road, but it was that bad double of his. It was the French arms contract and it was the rascally double who stopped the seal negotiations until Blaine's friends could get their catch. We have no doubt that it was this same double who smashed that silk tile in the senate committee room because one McKinley was so foolish as to give the people of this country a taste of what free trade is by taking off the protective tax on sugar, and not the irate secretary of state."

The Tribune editor, in addition to being a liar, endeavors to make himself out an idiot. The Leader has repeatedly announced itself on the Montana side of the silver question, but the idiot on the Tribune can't read. He should soak his head and sober up.—Leader.

The Tribune does not propose to bandy words with the Leader over a matter which it so evidently proposes to be non-committal. It dare not place itself on record today as favoring the free and unlimited coinage of silver. The Tribune challenged it to do so and receives its reply in the above personal attack upon the writer of this article. The Tribune has no means of knowing who wrote the above excerpt, but the writer does know that the man who penned it is a dirty, cowardly sneak, devoid of manhood, a stranger to honor and courage, a spawn of corruption, a living lie, a libel upon manhood; hated by his Maker, loathed by satan and despised by men.

The prosecution in the Penrose murder trial has closed its testimony for the present and witnesses for the defense propose to impeach the testimony of several of the witnesses for the prosecution.

A NORTH DAKOTA farmer estimates that his crop of wheat this year is worth more than the land upon which it is raised. Few countries can exhibit such results.

BUTTE'S two great sensations—the Penrose murder examination and the Davis will case still hold the boards during these piping hot days. The reader who keeps track of both will be a fit candidate for Warm Springs when both are brought to a close.

BEGINNING OF THE END.

The utter defeat and complete rout of the government forces in Chili settles the fate of that country for the present. President Balmaceda is a fugitive and President-elect Vicuna is a refugee on board a German war ship. The city of Valparaiso and the country is now in the hands of the victorious insurgents, or, as they style themselves, the congressionalists. Chili is without a government and without a head, unless the insurgent, General Canto, be considered the head. The beginning of the end appears. A new government must be formed in which Balmaceda will not be permitted to take part.

If the regular succession or order of events had been permitted to follow each other, Balmaceda would have retired from office next month at the expiration of his term, and President-elect Vicuna would have taken the executive chair, but it appears the latter was quite as objectionable to the congressionalists as the former. He, like Balmaceda, may consider himself fortunate if he escape with his life. Both are past numbers, and unless they are men of push, nerve and perseverance both will soon be forgotten.

It does not appear at this distance that Balmaceda was altogether in the wrong. He had been elected president of the country upon a supposed fair vote of the people; at least no charge to the contrary has been made. The height of his offending appears to be his objection to some of the acts of the congress of the country. It was charged he sought to be a dictator rather than a president of the country. While these charges were being made his successor was elected in spite of the opposition of the congressional party. In this country the opposition would have accepted the situation and waited for a more opportune season to elect their man. The congressionalists appealed to arms. They won their cause at the point of the bayonet and will retain power until another successful revolution displace them. All of which go to show that hot Spanish blood will never maintain a republican form of government in all that the term implies. The people lack the element of patience.

THE ESTRAY LAW.

Scarcely an editor in the state favors the stray law passed by the last legislature. Its workings are entirely unsatisfactory and does not remedy the evil for which it was intended. No doubt the next legislature will pass a new law in which they will endeavor to cover the needs of the case.—Livingston Herald.

For several years Montana had no stray law. The condition of the range system were such that it was found almost impossible to frame one to meet all the exigencies of the situation. Finally a law was enacted which it was thought would cover every desirable point, but it proved to be clumsy and expensive and became a dead letter upon their statute books. Last winter State Veterinary surgeon Halloway, assisted by several prominent stockmen in the state among whom was Senator Cardwell drafted a bill which seemed to meet the requirements of an stray law adapted to the open range system.

One of the principal objections to former stray laws was that under its provisions any prairie tramp could take up, advertise and dispose of animals belonging to stockmen of a remote range without the owner being apprised of his loss. The object of the present law is to prevent the multitude of irresponsible Toms, Dicks and Harrys of the state from making a living off the herds of stockmen. Therefore it names who shall take up and dispose of strays and to whom they shall account for their acts. The intention of the law is good. It is simple and easily understood, and when properly administered it is satisfactory in its workings to all parties interested. Probably the Herald can name some points in which it is faulty and will suggest amendments which may properly and advantageously be made.

A STEAMBOAT made entirely of aluminum is now floating on the Lake of Zurich. It is only about half the weight of an ordinary boat of the same size; its permanent color is a beautiful dull white, while the chimneys, being of a polished aluminum, shine like silver. The trial trips were eminently successful and it is now thought all the lake transportation in Switzerland will be upon aluminum boats. Gen. C. S. Warren of Butte now has a fortune in sight in his great aluminum deposits. He has enough of the metal in sight to build light shipping for all the inland lakes in the country. The general has a better thing with his mine than peddling out its products for airships and flying-machines.

The Chicago Herald very pertinently observes that: "For some reason not yet explained Major McKinley failed in his great opening speech to refer to the fact that under his robber tariff on wools and woollens girls are making pantaloons in Chicago for 15 cents a dozen and sewing on cloaks at the rate of 40 cents for 15 hours. If protection makes wages high what is the matter with the employes of the Chicago sweaters?"

The leading and reliable dry goods house of Conrad is without doubt the best store in the state.

SILVER AND ITS ENEMIES.

United States Senator Sherman made one of his characteristic speeches on silver in Ohio for the benefit of McKinley's candidacy. It was emphatically an anti-silver, gold bug speech and reflected the sentiments of the republican party in the east and of McKinley upon the question of the free and unlimited coinage of the white metal. Mr. Sherman spoke for both, and being the recognized leader of his party upon financial questions his speech must be accepted as its expression upon the question.

The gentleman has not lost caste among his party leaders by his candid statements and the unbecoming position he takes concerning the free and unlimited coinage of silver. One knows where to find Sherman always in the Wall street gang, while the little fish of his party, like Peter of old, follows the master from afar—some of them indeed so far in the rear that, at times, they appear to be somewhat mixed up with free silver coinage democrats. And while in the neighborhood of the latter it is amusing to witness the dodgings and twistings and turnings of their organs, especially here in Montana, to keep in line with their party as represented by Sherman, and at the same time to appear before the people as free silverites. The republican organs of this state are doing the twisting and turning. They support McKinley and swear by Sherman and yet profess to be champions of free and unlimited silver coinage.

The Inter Mountain has discovered a new dodge by which it attempts to relieve itself of the embarrassment incidental to being supported by a silver producing community and of apologizing for McKinley's and Sherman's hostility to silver. That paper declares that "the chief organs of democracy in this state are owned and controlled and kept up by the banks." It may be remarked just here there is no truth in the statement. There is not a paper in the state owned and run by a bank, and the Inter Mountain knows it. But the assumption is the bases of the dodge referred to. It then goes on to say:

It is to the interest of the banks that no free coinage bill be passed by congress. The more contracted the currency is the higher rate of interest the banks can exact. Of course, therefore, the banks fully agree with John Sherman in his hostility to silver coinage and in his declaration that silver coinage "is all nonsense" because plentiful money would mean curtailment of the profits of the interest-gatherers of Montana as well as of Wall street. It is perfectly absurd therefore to suppose for a moment that there is the slightest sincerity in the bow of the democratic organs of this state against John Sherman and his gold-bug speech. They are in reality immensely tickled over it, though to hold the democratic vote at the next election they must needs abuse the Ohio senator in an idiotic way and make believe they are very indignant.

It must be conceded that this is an ingenious way, although false, of putting upon the position of democratic newspapers upon the question of free silver coinage. But the Tribune cannot see wherein the charge helps republican sheets out of their dilemma. They have only words of encouragement for the two bitterest enemies of silver in the country—McKinley and Sherman—and extol the Ohio republican platform which denounces free silver coinage. On the other hand they have only words of censure for Governor Campbell and his democratic platform. Their position is a ludicrous one and their efforts to get out of it would be more amusing if they were not contemptible.

ABOUT RAINMAKING.

The rainmakers have the floor, or, in baseball parlance, they are having their inning. They seem to do just what they promised to do, failing only once, when a slight sprinkle instead of a shower was produced. Still with all the manifest benefits to be derived from any mechanical appliance which will produce rain at the will of the operator, there are found objectors to the innovation. Some base their opposition upon the altitudinous moral grounds that artificial rainmaking is an attempted interference with the laws of God, and hence is sacrilegious; and, being sacrilegious, it could not succeed, for the Almighty would in the end visit his wrath or displeasure upon the offenders. They say the laws of the universe are fixed and should not be made subject to the control of man, for if they be in this respect rain would be produced quite as often to the detriment as to the good of man.

These objections seem weak and foolish but they are held by many who do not rank in the world as fools. Like the crucifiers of Christ and the persecutors of the early scientists, the objectors are largely in the majority in some places. One can hardly treat their objections seriously. There is really only one view to take of the matter. In the language of an exchange: "The rain producers should be given a chance. The experiments should be thoroughly conducted before a decision is rendered. If droughts can be broken in countries where they depend on the rainfall the good will be incalculable. In sections where they depend on irrigation, however, it is not likely the scheme would be practical. Even if they could get water by cannonading the skies they could not control the amount of the fall, but where they store the water in the mountains to be used as wanted through convenient ditches and pipes they know exactly what to count upon."

WANAMAKER'S NEW SCHEME.

A New Jersey newspaper is quoted for the statement that Postmaster General Wanamaker has been examining a peculiar system of mail transportation which has a switch attachment by which intermediate stations between the terminals can be reached. The carrying of the mail can be dispatched on the other as fast as they can be put in the tube, and each will go to its destination at almost any desired rate of speed.

Now, there is something more about that. If such mail conveyances were in operation from Great Falls points on the outside one could mail a letter or paper say to Helena or Butte with a reasonable degree of assurance that it would get to its destination, out first taking a run down to Missoula or without first making a stop to Salt Lake, or Portland, Oregon, before being dropped off to its address. It is hoped Mr. Wanamaker will give his wretched administration of the affairs by inaugurating the new scheme in the transmission of mail. It may appear impossible to the average observer, and so would the horrible service the west is now receiving. It has appeared to the onlooker a number of years ago. The country is prepared to be surprised from Mr. Wanamaker's pneumatic tube scheme is one of the most quite as practicable as any suggested for the improvement of mail service.

WILL LIE LIKE THUNDER.

It is seldom the Tribune will reduce the criticisms of contemporaries when directed against each other, the following from the Leader is no exception to the rule. The paper is so just to the River Press, and the latter is so pertinent and to the point and its indirect declaration that the Leader would rather lie like thunder than give the truth, so perfectly in line with the practice of that newspaper, that the Tribune gives the excerpts in both papers in full:

The Benton Press shows signs of regeneration. It has repudiated Governor Cleveland and says that Ohio will probably go republican.—Great Falls Leader. We suppose it would be more in line with the Leader's idea of editorial to lie like thunder politically, instead of giving to the public a fair, unbiased statement of the condition of affairs. It considered it quite probable that the Leader would go republican, because it is a republican state, and the elements of success are undoubtedly in favor of the republicans there. In New York the signs all point to an increased democratic majority. Will the Leader man honestly enough to admit this, or does he consider an honest political statement editorial crime? If it is the duty of an editor to persistently attempt to deceive his readers to the interests of his party we prefer to be excused.

The malice or spirit of vandalism which prompted a party or parties to destroy the city's hose the other night should receive a severe check in the infliction of the heaviest penalty upon the perpetrator or perpetrators of crime permissible under the statute. Such wanton destruction of valuable property is without the shadow of a case, and it is hoped the reward offered by Mayor Hotchkiss will lead to the arrest and conviction of the guilty party or parties.

NOTWITHSTANDING the efforts made to bring Blaine on the Ohio platform, McKinley speaker that gentleman persistently remains at Bar Harbor. He too seeks to help elect McKinley and to let Harrison get away with renomination. Blaine's health is a puzzle.

NEVER should it be forgotten, says the New York Sun, that the Hon. Benjamin Harrison of Indiana owes his nomination, election, and whatever distinction his administration has gained to the Hon. James G. Blaine of Pennsylvania and Maine.

BANKER JOSEPH A. HYDE of Phillipsburg says Davis' signature to the will now being contested in Butte is genuine. Mr. Hyde was cashier of the First National bank of Butte, of which the late A. J. Davis was president for several years, and is intimately acquainted with the signature of the deceased. His testimony concerning the genuineness of the signature will have great weight with the court and jury, for the gentleman well known to be a man of the strictest integrity and not liable to be mistaken in the matter of Davis' writing.

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