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Missouri River Improvement.

The Kansas City Commercial club has made arrangements for a convention to be held in that city the 15th and 16th of next month, for the purpose of formulating a policy respecting the improvement of the Missouri river from Montana to the Gulf of Mexico and to provide for its execution. The ensuing congress is to be asked for \$20,000,000 of which \$2,000,000 are to be annually expended in the improvement of this great water highway until the appropriation be exhausted. The convention will be an important one. It will be, no sense, local in its scope and therefore all the northwestern states drained by the Missouri should send representatives to it. Whether Montana will be represented in the convention the Tribune is not advised. But it should be. There will be no lack of men in it to advance the claims of the lower Missouri for improvement. That portion of the river will have delegates fully equipped with facts and figures to show what should be done and there should be those present to speak for the upper Missouri.

There is a large agricultural country lying between Great Falls and Gallatin city which would be immeasurably benefited if the river between the two points were made navigable. The land is very fertile and productive but the farmers are handicapped by want of cheap transportation to a market. Long hauls by wagon must now be made to reach it. These cut off profits. It will not require much to make the river navigable for light draught boats and for barges. If this were done a great impetus would be given to the fuller development of the agricultural resources of the section named and not only the farmers but those depending upon them for soil products would be large gainers. This matter of the improvement of the Upper Missouri should receive more attention than it seems to be receiving. It is a more important question than those who have not given it careful consideration may apprehend. The proposed convention will present an excellent opportunity for well informed men to make its importance known. Governor Toole should see to it that Montana shall be represented in it.

There is some very poor champagne or some remarkably temperate editors in Texas. At a recent reunion of the east Texas press gang the members returned a basket of the sparkling beverage unopened to the donor. One paper of that state accounts for the very singular act upon the theory that the editors didn't know how to open the stuff. This is a libel upon their intelligence. Another says they took it for ginger-pop. Still another declares they preferred whisky straight, while the fourth asserts their meeting was a purely business one and not for the purpose of getting "inside points on irrigation." Whatever may have been their motive the fact remains that the champagne was returned unopened and the journals of the country are at a loss to account for it. The Tribune, however, has no hesitation in saying they didn't want it.

The New Orleans Picayune is authority for the statement that bounty law permits covering over 500,000,000 pounds of sugar were provided for in Louisiana alone. The bounty under the McKinley tariff is two cents per pound, which would give that state \$10,000,000 of bounty money. Nearly or quite as much again will be paid for cane, maple and beet sugars grown in other states in the union. Although the bounty is paid by the government the money is collected from the people who foot all the bills in the long run. It looks like free sugar but this bounty business knocks very much of the "free" part out of it.

It is now pretty generally conceded that Mills can read his title clear to the speakership's chair. Bryan's withdrawal in his favor has strengthened his prospects and as he stands as an unyielding champion of tariff reform, and as that question will be a prominent one before the new congress his election would not only emphasize the sentiment of the democrats of the house upon tariff revision but it would be in the direct line of its interests.

Massachusetts county comes to the front with two democratic clubs organized during the past 30 days. That beats the record of Montana counties for an off year and, in business, for any other year. The democracy of Massachusetts county evidently believes in preparing for war in times of peace. Now let other counties of the state emulate Massachusetts in the good work.

HOW CAN THEY WIN?

How can the republicans win at the next presidential election? Where are the 224 electoral votes to come from to give them the electoral college? These are questions which others besides politicians are asking themselves and each other. Nothing has occurred since 1888 to indicate that a single southern state will break its democratic record. The south may be counted solid for the democratic candidates. How about the north and west? What states can the republicans claim in those sections of the union? Such radical changes have occurred during the past three years in the political complexion of several of them that the element of doubt is conspicuous by its presence. New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Indiana were generally classed among the doubtful states. The last state election threw New York out of the class, New Jersey may be regarded as safe for the democrats. Connecticut has given democratic pluralities in the last five elections. Indiana none of the four remains among the doubtful ones.

But the face of the old list is changed. Democratic triumphs have placed Massachusetts, Iowa, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and Illinois in the doubtful column. The former has elected a democratic governor twice in succession. The democrats swept Iowa this year; last year they elected their candidate for governor. Wisconsin elected a democratic governor last year by 28,000 plurality and gave a democratic plurality of 35,000 on congressmen. Rhode Island not only gave a democratic majority for representatives last year, but for three years has given democratic pluralities for governor. Illinois made a new departure last year by giving a democratic plurality of nearly 10,000 for state treasurer and a democratic plurality of 31,000 on congressmen. The republicans cannot count on any of these states. They must fight as they have never before fought to get them all. They are doubtful in the extreme.

The congressional district system in Michigan will give the democrats a fair share of the electoral votes of that state. Among the new states Montana may be counted democratic. The others may be conceded to the republicans, although it would not be surprising if North Dakota went democratic. Minnesota is not safe for the republicans. In fact, with the exception of Maine, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wyoming, Idaho and the Pacific coast states the republicans must canvass doubtful ground to get an electoral vote. To win the republicans must carry either New York or Indiana with the doubtful states named. The democrats are as likely to carry Iowa and Montana as are the republicans to carry Indiana. In view of all these facts there does not seem grounds for the belief that the republicans can win next year. There must be a remarkable change in political sentiment among the people if they do.

The Helena Journal has arrived at the sage conclusion that the present silver law "practically amounts to the free coinage of American silver," and adds, "the champions of the white metal have throttled their own best interests." Just how they have throttled their own best interests, if the present silver law practically amounts to the free coinage of American silver, is not made clear by the astute Helena gold bug sheet. No silver dollars are now coined nor has one been coined since the first of last July. Silver certificates are issued upon the market value of silver bullion, not upon the standard silver dollar. If this be free coinage the people want none of it and if in opposing the present gold bug silver law they throttle their own best interests they will go right along in the throttling business.

Sometime ago the czar of Russia issued a ukase or proclamation forbidding the exportation of rye from that country. The act stiffened the price of wheat. Quite recently a ukase has been issued forbidding the exportation of wheat. That is a notice that Russia can spare no wheat and the effect is to advance the price all along the line of breadstuffs. The American farmer holds the key to the situation this year.

American tourists spent nearly \$100,000,000 in Europe the present year, and now it is coming back and more with it to pay for meat and breadstuffs they bought of American farmers. That is a kind of reciprocity not contemplated by the McKinley tariff. Speaking of American tourists in foreign lands reminds one that none of them saw such grand natural sights in all of Europe as may be seen in our National park and other portions of the west.

Now that Mr. Carter has prepared the form of permits to be granted to applicants to cut timber upon the public domain there will be some anxiety to learn whether he will grant them for the full area of lands already applied for. Some of the areas are of mammoth proportions.

The Louisville Courier-Journal says: "There is a perfect understanding between Mr. Blaine and Mr. Harrison. Mr. Harrison understands that Mr. Blaine would like to be president and Mr. Blaine understands that Mr. Harrison means years for a second term." If a better understanding ever existed between two aspirants to an exalted office it has never been made public.

THE FREE LIST.

Our republican contemporaries boast that the McKinley tariff places more articles on the free list than did the Mills bill which they opposed with so much fervor and so little knowledge of its merits. This list, which they content is such a blessed boon to the poor man, but which they never publish, is a thing of beauty if not a joy forever. It is arranged in alphabetical order and the very first article named is acorns. As all know the poor man can't get along very well without his acorns they are unhesitatingly classed among the boons. Ground acorns, however, are tarified, but it is supposed the poor man denies himself the luxury of ground ones and takes his whole. Then comes blue clay. What would the workman with a large family do without blue clay? His children must have it to make mud pies on street corners. Thanks to McKinley it is on the free list. Human hair, the raw material, is also untaxed. Here is another boon to the hard-fisted son of toil for which he is ever grateful to Mr. McKinley. Human hair enters largely into the domestic economy of some cheap boarding houses and as the poor day laborer, who often patronizes them, can tell when a change of coats has been made by the color of the hair in his boots and button and thus saved time and breath in making inquiries, he rises up from the table and calls McKinley blessed.

Sisal grass is on the free list. What a boon to the Nebraska dozers of this day and generation. When they turn themselves out to grass they may rejoice that sisal is not tarified. And so does the cordage and binder twine trust rejoice that it is not tarified, for it gets the grass free and is protected on the manufactured article. Home hair is on the free list. That is a boon which all appreciate in the spring time when one takes his gentle Annie out for a drive behind an unencumbered animal. Then the air is full of free hair. No thanks to Mr. McKinley. And then there is sand. Do not start, dear reader, for sand is truly on the free list. "Sand" is wanted every day in the year and every hour in the day. It takes a heap of "sand" in a man to support the McKinley tariff. That gentleman knew it and so he put it on the free list. And free sand is wanted by the sugar trust to put in free sugar. Ah, what a boon is free sand.

Mr. McKinley, in the bitterness of his heart, didn't stop at free sand. His bowels of compassion yearned for the poor and so he put guts on the free list. There is a boon for the cavilling to chew on. Though they gain the whole world what profiteth it them if they lose that article in the free list. Considerate McKinley! Unreasonable cavillers! These are by no means all the necessities Mr. McKinley transferred to the free list. Among them are found beeswax, punice stone, dandelion roots, tobacco stems, chicory root, tar and turpentine, unmediated wafers, potash, caustic, alginate, divi divi, cobalt, human teeth, shot-gun barrels and crude opium. The latter is worked up into the salable article by our northern neighbors and smuggled into this country. Everyone can see what a blessing is the free list to the laboring men of the country. With this free list in sight they should not grumble when they are merely taxed on their hats and caps, and coats and pants and boots and shoes and underwear, and on their knives and forks and plates and cups and saucers and tin pans and tin vessels of all kinds, and on their lumber and coal and salt, and blankets, window glass, glassware, iron, steel and all kinds of farming implements. For don't they get common blue clay, and bone-hair, and sisal grass, and guts, and human hair and teeth, and sand and many other like necessities of life free of duty? Certainly. And the poor man is made to exclaim: God bless McKinley for his wonderfully and fearfully constructed free list.

TAXED TO DEATH.

There is just such a thing as a business being taxed to death under the McKinley tariff. The New York World mentions a case which illustrates this fact. On the 20th of this month the Gilmore-Eustis Rolling mills of Cambridgeport, Mass., permanently went out of business. It was the largest establishment in that state and probably the largest in all New England. The reason assigned is that the McKinley tariff taxed the raw material. That and the inter-state law made the business no longer profitable.

The World thus comments upon the matter: "The business of iron-working is dying in New England because the McKinley tariff forbids it the materials to work with. The men engaged in it must hunt for other employment, and the tendency is strong for the woolen manufacture to follow the example under stress of tariff-taxed materials in spite of the imposition of an additional cloth tax upon the people to support it."

While winter is prevailing in Minnesota and the beaux and belles of St. Paul and Minneapolis are enjoying sleigh-rides to the music of jingling bells the people of Montana are bathing in the glorious sunlight of almost tropical days. And the fact is the more remarkable when it is understood that those two cities are nearly two degrees of latitude farther south than Great Falls.

ABOUT WHISKEY.

It is said that by the Takernine process whatever that may be ten-year old whiskey can be made in one day after the product leaves the still. The importance of this discovery may be better understood by the average temperance man when he learns that whiskey is not considered fit to drink until it has rested in wood for at least two or three years, in order that the fusil oil in the liquor may be absorbed. But now comes a Kentucky paper vigorously attacking the one-day-old Takernine whiskey. It says:

Thousands of ones have been known in Kentucky where men of strong constitution have, without drawing a sober breath in fifty years, passed the age of fourscore years with clear minds and steady habits. Should the Takernine process become of general use, five years will be the extreme limit to habitual drinking, and the insanable ayslams of the country will have to be enlarged in size and increased in numbers almost beyond conception.

The meaning of this excerpt is that a man can keep drunk for fifty years on good old bourbon and die in five on the Takernine article. If this be so, Democrats as well as Republicans will continue to patronize the blue grass article.

There is a great deal of truth in the following from the Dubuque Herald and the people of Great Falls and of other cities in the state will lose nothing by studying and heeding it. It may very properly be labeled "The Gospel of Home Patronage." "To buy from a local merchant is to encourage him to renewed efforts to please his customers and to present them with a better grade of goods, if possible, and at lower prices. To send away for goods that can be purchased at home is but assisting just that much in putting the shutters on the stores here at home and increasing the number of 'For Rent' signs on business streets." These few words contain a volume of meaning. If the people wish cheaper goods next year buy of your home merchants this year. This same advice applies to merchants and other business who send out for their printing. Patronize your home printers this year. You will get the work done cheaper next year. This is reciprocity in trade. Make the application at home. Buy nothing abroad which you can buy at home.

And now comes the republican state central committee of Ohio to engage in an attempt to steal a seat in the United States senate. It is a dirty business which few republicans except the politicians of that party endorse. The admission by many of the committee that Senator Brien had established his citizenship should have shamed the others into silence. It did not, however, and John Sherman, who helped steal the presidency in 1876, will be consulted as to the best means to oust Brien from the senate. The committee might get a few points from Jack and Hall and Sanders and Power of Montana, and from those New York republicans who are now trying to steal the legislature of that state. But what has the republican central committee of Ohio got to do with the matter anyhow?

The suggestion made by the St. Louis Republic that the house should attack the McKinley tariff by several repealing or modifying bills receives the unqualified approval of a large number of leading democrats and democratic journals. One of the first bills should provide for putting binding twine on the free list in the interest of the grain growers of the country. The manufacture of the article is now in the hands of a huge trust which owns every coilage and binder twine plant in the country. The farmers should have free binding twine.

When Cleveland as president recommended a revision of the tariff for the purpose of reducing the revenues of the government, which were increasing at the expense of the pockets of the people, the republicans replied that it was easier to handle a surplus than a deficit. Now they have handled the surplus out of sight and the question is how to avoid the deficit which is staring the government in the face. They have handled the surplus; they must handle the deficit.

It is said that Mrs. Potter Palmer, who will drive the last nail in the woman's building at the world's fair, has been in training for several weeks and can now hit a nail squarely on the head once in 17 blows. It is thought if the lady keep up her practice she will not miss it more than four times out of five at the supreme moment.

HELENA may not have much of a chance for a federal building during Harrison's administration but there is nothing in the world to hinder her from having a cracker factory if she put up for it.

It may be stated as a matter of news and for consideration by speculative minds that the Italian government has dropped the New Orleans affair with the hope that time will bring about a satisfactory solution of the differences existing over the subject between that nation and the United States. Italy was irate and basty at the first. She has cooled off.

The latest story is that Raun will stand the fire of the new house and then pose before his party as a martyr to its cause. Raun should resign; the martyr act has been played threadbare.

THE ABANDONMENT OF SILVER.

Under the above caption the Inter Mountain asks:

How is it that the only democratic newspapers in this state that are capable of argument have ignored the letter which Senator Carlisle this week sent to Congressmen Warner advising the election of Mills to the speakership and the abandonment of the silver issue? Where do the Helena Independent, Anaconda Standard and Missoula Gazette stand upon the proposition, and where, oh, where does our able friend, Daniel Seabury, of the Great Falls Tribune, the only democrat in the state who can write an intelligible article on silver—where does he stand? Let him not in answer to this question call the Inter Mountain a liar or abuse the republican party, but let him answer truthfully and give the temperature of his blood when he reads the following part of Mr. Carlisle's letter wherein the silver issue is cast to the dogs.

Then follows that part of Mr. Carlisle's letter wherein the Inter Mountain charges: "the silver issue is cast to the dogs." In order that our Butte gold bug contemporary may not rest under the unjust charge of telling the truth the excerpt from Mr. Carlisle's letter as reproduced by the Inter Mountain is given:

Upon the tariff question we are practically united, while upon the silver question and perhaps upon some others, there are wide and honest differences of opinion among members of our party which can only be reconciled by patient deliberation. Why shall we on the eve of a great national contest, when victory is almost within our grasp, abandon or ignore the vital issue upon which we are united and waste strength in fruitless controversy over questions which can better be adjusted after it has been determined what part of the carrying of the people they shall be permitted to keep?

If there is a man in this broad land who, after reading the above, will solemnly declare that Mr. Carlisle advises throwing the silver issue to the dogs his friends should immediately provide him with a straight jacket. Mr. Carlisle advises nothing of the kind. What he does advise is this: That the democratic party hold the silver question in obedience and make its fight on the tariff question upon which it is practically united. He thinks the silver question can better be adjusted after the people learn what part of their earnings they shall be permitted to keep. In other words, he would settle the silver question after the tariff question shall be settled, as he conceives the latter is the more important one at this juncture.

The Inter Mountain very well understands why Mr. Carlisle offered the advice he did to Congressman Warner. He knows as every one knows that as a party the republicans are united in opposition to free coinage of silver. It has never formulated a state or national platform in which free coinage of silver was supported. On the other hand every state democratic platform which has been adopted since the silver question became a prominent issue has, with the exception of those of New York and Massachusetts, contained a free coinage plank. These are indisputable facts. Now right here comes a question forced upon democratic leaders by the logic of events. Major McKinley won his victory not so much upon the tariff as upon the silver issue.

In view of this fact and in view of the further fact that many eastern democrats oppose free coinage at the present time, and in view of the still further fact that all democrats are united in opposition to the McKinley tariff, the question, as we have stated, is forced upon democratic leaders whether it is not the better policy to make next year's fight upon the tariff alone rather than harness it with the silver issue. Mr. Carlisle prefers taking tariff straight, leaving silver for the time being just where the republican party has put it—among articles of commerce. If the democratic party win upon the tariff question it will be in a position to rescue the white metal from the degraded position it now occupies. This, as we understand it, is the motive which prompted Mr. Carlisle to offer the advice he did.

Neither the Inter Mountain nor any other republican journal can justly accuse the democratic party with a desire to abandon the silver issue. The vote of the party as represented in past congresses and their platforms as adopted by state conventions disprove the charge. The party stands today where it stood when it passed the Bland bill, and where it stood when battling for free coinage. It is the friend and only friend of the white metal. The Inter Mountain would make it appear that the present attitude of Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Carlisle toward silver is the attitude of the democratic party toward the white metal. This silly assumption may be met with the inquiry: Are the expressions of Senator John Sherman, Secretary of the Treasury, Foster, Maj. McKinley, ex-Speaker Reed and every other leading republican in the United States—except Senators Stewart, Teller, and Wolcott—against free coinage to be taken as those of the republican party as a body? If so why should the Inter Mountain find fault with Carlisle's advice or Cleveland's suggestions? Indeed if the democrats abandon the silver issue, as the Inter Mountain would make it appear they propose to, would not both parties soon find themselves in the same boat as far as that question may be concerned?

But Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Mills do not constitute the democratic party. They are very able men and conscientious party leaders, but they are only three among thousands in the democratic party who speak for it. Therefore the Inter Mountain should not disturb its line of attempt to reform Mr. Carlisle. He should abide in patience until the democratic party takes its position on the silver question at its national convention next year when it may then commend its free coinage plank.

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SECRETARY RUSK'S ADVICE.

Advice is cheap save that of lawyers-at-law. Mr. Carlisle gave some to Congressman Warner, and Secretary Agriculture Rusk gave some to President Harrison. It may not be in either instance but it has given much comment by newspapers. Mr. Carlisle provoked the notable Inter Mountain to demand that every democratic paper in the union rise up and explain. But in the hubbub it is over Mr. Carlisle's letter to Congressmen Warner it forgot to notice that Secretary Rusk advised the president to tax coffee, and ten after Jan. 1 next, Jerry Rusk sees that bunch grass is getting pretty short on the administrative ranges, and so he advises the president to tax hides in order to start the picking. Now, where, oh, where, our able friend Johnnie head of Inter Mountain, the only republican in the state who can write an intelligible article on hides—where does he stand? Let him answer truthfully and give the temperature of his blood when he reads Secretary Rusk's advice. And what is about it will be please give his assent to the constitutionality of a law which attempts to clothe the president with the power to levy national duty belonging to congress and then will he continue his answer, let us know whether it is true or not that the Arnours and Swifts and the ricks of the great dressed beef trust of Chicago are the ones who demand that hides be taxed and put in the form of "no duty, no hides." Will the Inter Mountain say what it knows about this matter?

There is a heap of humbug about creating a home market for farm products. Ever since the tariff for corn during the year 1895, famine up to the present day and will be interchanged products and shall will unless prevented by tariff laws, law should prevent a man from buying where he can buy the cheapest or selling where he can sell for the most. But we have just such a tariff law some people say it creates a home market for our home surplus. What sense!

The Penrose murder trial is set for hearing this week. The importance seems to prevail in Butte that a change of venue would just about fit the case of justice. The case has excited some interest and comment that great injury will be experienced in obtaining jury there, hence if the trial takes place—say at Deer Lodge, the people of Butte and elsewhere would be quite satisfied.

It is said John Wanamaker is to be made his life for \$5,000,000. Mr. Wanamaker evidently proposes that his shall be rich enough to buy a secretary in the cabinet of the president, his day and generation. John knows how it is done himself.

OFFICERS of the law should lay their weather eye upon the hip-pockets of would-be toughs in the city. No possible, quiet man will carry a concealed deadly weapon and no quarrelsome should be permitted to carry one.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for all bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, sore throat, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Lapere Bros.

HERE ARE BARGAINS.

Two double corners on Fourth and one north. One double corner on Seventh and one south. Corner lot First avenue south and Fourth street. Corner lot Second avenue south and Fourth street. Corner lot Central avenue and Eighth street. Fifty feet front Third street, opposite the postoffice. Lots in South Great Falls, \$500 to \$200. Special bargains in acres, mineral stocks, houses and lots. All choice property; sure profit investors. J. K. CLARK & CO. C. E. LeMunyon is now making a specialty of photographing mines, buildings, etc. The high grade of his work is known to all.