

FOREST RESERVES.

A government timber inspector having recommended to the interior department that a large portion of the Bitter Root valley be set off as a forest reserve, several prominent residents of that section have united in a protest to Land Commissioner Carter against the proposition. They advance several reasons why it should not be done, some of which deserve special consideration.

The object of forest reserves as we understand it is first, to prevent a too rapid melting of the snow which falls to great depths on the mountains and thus provide against floods and inundations and second to guard against long-continued drouths, the supposition being that trees upon mountain tops and sides induce or produce rains.

The Bitter Root settlers take the ground first; that fully 30 per cent of the area of the proposed reserve is protected from the axe by reason of its extremely rugged and precipitous character. Second; that the lumber pine is found only in the valleys and on the lower foothills where snow never lies late in the spring, being gone months before the irrigating season. Third; that it is an actual fact that the snow remains later on the open ground than in the heavy timber adjoining and fourth, that the undergrowth which springs up where the larger trees are removed is a far better protection for the snow than was the timber itself.

Those who have visited the Bitter Root valley can bear testimony as to the truth of the statements contained in the first and second grounds taken by the settlers and every observing Montanian is a witness to the facts contained in the third and fourth grounds. And these latter are points which call for consideration for what is true concerning the retention of snow in the Bitter Root mountains is true concerning its retention elsewhere in the state. If undergrowth and high bare areas in the Bitter Root country retain snow longer than do heavily wooded mountains the same conditions elsewhere would produce the same result. If these facts be established the whole theory upon which it is proposed to set apart forest reserves in the Rocky mountains falls to the ground.

It requires a longer article than the columns of the average daily newspaper can afford to discuss these questions exhaustively. But a point or two may be briefly touched upon. Every student of physical geography knows that the presence of trees upon mountains are not rain factors. Other causes produce rain. Here in Montana and to the westward and southward rainfalls are due to the evaporation of the warm waters of the great Japan current. The mists of Oregon, carried by the trade winds eastward, are condensed into the rain drops by the cold air on the high mountains over which they pass. It is the low temperature of the air at high altitudes, not the trees, that causes mists to condense and fall in the form of rain. Heat evaporates and cold contracts water. Here are the causes of rain and snow falls in a nut shell.

Snow is retained longer on the northern exposures of mountains than on southern, and still longer in the deep ravines and canyons on the northern side of mountains. No matter how thickly wooded a southern exposure may be snow rapidly disappears under a warm spring sun. If a mountain be bare, denuded of its timber, the snow drifts in immense heaps and presents but a limited area to the action of the sun's rays and is but slowly melted, whereas if it were evenly distributed over a larger area it would quickly disappear. This stands to reason. Snow remains longer in thick undergrowth than under large trees, for the reason that it is better sheltered, or rather that the sun's heat is more completely absorbed by the young shrubs.

The Bitter Root settlers are right on all their propositions. The value of forest preserves upon mountains does not lie in their rain producing or snow-retaining properties. They possess a great value from a sanitary point of view. Forests, however, exercise a powerful influence upon the climate in low elevation. In Germany, where the average altitude of the land does not much exceed 150 feet above the sea level, they are cultivated and preserved. In Montana nature has drawn the limits of our forest preserves. They are at the summits and sides of precipitous and practically inaccessible mountains. They should not be laid out on the valleys and foothills of the Bitter Root country. The timber was designed for domestic uses. There is an abundance in sight of it which will never be reached by the woodman. Mr. Carter, lend a favorable ear to the protests of the Bitter Root settlers!

JOHN SHERMAN must attend to his business in Ohio or Foraker will pasture on his domain. It is said the latter is making the senatorial race a mighty warm one for the great gold bug leader. Foraker is not looking for Brice's seat; he is after Sherman's.

CHILMAN statesmen, after reading President Harrison's message, refuse to make any apologies. They do not intimate but say that the president has misstated facts. It is now in order for Uncle Sam to lay Chili over his knee and give it a good spanking.

HOW THEY STAND.

Our Butte contemporary, the Inter Mountain, appears to take great pleasure in quoting Grover Cleveland on silver. The pleasure is doubtless intensified by the fact that Mr. Cleveland once stood upon silver coinage where the late ex-President Arthur stood, where the Inter Mountain stood, and where nearly all the republican leaders of their party now stand squarely against the free coinage of the metal. Mr. Arthur in a message to congress recommended the suspension of silver coinage. The Inter Mountain endorsed Mr. Arthur's recommendation. The present secretary of the treasury has, by the authority vested in him by the gold-bug silver law of last winter, suspended the coinage of stand and silver dollars and none has been coined since the first of last July. Mr. McKinley, one of the Inter Mountain's idols, stands squarely against silver coinage. Mr. Blaine, whom the same paper regards as the greatest man on earth, stands in with McKinley on the silver question. John Sherman, the republican leader on all questions of national finance, is the king gold bug of his party, while President Harrison is the obedient servant of Wall street goldites and will veto any free silver coinage bill congress may pass.

The Inter Mountain and the republican party generally may possibly pardon all these gentlemen for their hostility to the white metal in consideration of their services in building up great trusts and monopolies, through their robber tariff, to which trusts and monopolies they all look for "fat" to carry elections, but what can or will the Butte paper and its party in this state do with their little god, Tom Power, who is holding a fraudulently obtained seat in the United States senate. He is supposed to represent the sentiment of the people of Montana—especially the "brainy" men of the state—upon the question of free coinage. He is from a silver producing state and republicans at Washington will quite naturally regard him as the mouthpiece of their party in Montana, and as naturally adjust their actions in line with his sentiments upon the question. Mr. Power does not think free silver coinage the proper thing and has so expressed himself. He also declares that the "brainy" men of Montana are opposed to it. And more recently he wrote a letter to the New York Press in which he voiced the opinion that members of congress from silver states should not place themselves on record on the silver question.

Hereafter, when the Inter Mountain feels a desire to single out a private citizen—as Mr. Cleveland is—belonging to the democratic party and quote opinions he expressed upon the silver question seven or eight years ago it may be well for it to recall its own position and that of Mr. Arthur and Sherman, and Blaine and McKinley and Mr. Harrison and Secretary Foster and every other republican secretary of the treasury since 1878, upon the same question. The memorios of the past and the certainties of the present should destroy its appetite for quoting Mr. Cleveland's cast off opinions on free silver coinage. The leaders of the Inter Mountain's party are gold bugs.

New York will tackle the world's fair with a purse filled with \$800,000; that is a bill will be introduced in the legislative assembly of that state to appropriate that amount for the purpose. Montana—well, Montana has a few dollars left to collect an exhibition, but has nothing to maintain it and her dignity at Chicago unless more shokels are forthcoming. From whence are they to come? Echo answers: From whence?

Tom Power will not make a blooming success as chairman of the committee to examine the several branches of the civil service. What he doesn't know about that service would fill a mighty big book. He should have been made chairman of the committee on the improvement of the Mississippi. There is where he would shine. The Commodore would make it appear that the Mississippi flows by the doors of his Fort Benton house.

SPEAKER CRISP is still wreatling with the committee question. There are so many new members that in the face of the traditions of the house which oppose giving such members prominence on committees the speaker finds his task a very embarrassing one. A complete assignment of committeemen may not be expected before the holidays.

AND still Mr. Blaine preserves a provoking silence in regard to his candidacy or non-candidacy for the presidency next year. Washington gossips have had him writing a withdrawal letter for several days but it appears the great secretary of state hasn't yet reached the "Yours truly, James G. Blaine."

AS a member of the irrigation committee Col. Sanders will have an excellent opportunity to press the western idea of ending irrigable lands to the states in which they lie, upon his fellow members. The colonel is an irrigationist of pronounced type.

MR. HARRISON'S message is taken by many eastern republican journals as less a suggestion to congress than a declaration of party policy. Upon the two great questions of the day—the tariff and silver—the message is certainly an argument against any change of republican policy upon either.

COL. SANDERS' BILLS.

Sanders has his hands full of bills in the senate. Among those which he has introduced is one for the establishment of two new land offices in Montana—one at Dillon and one at Fort Benton. The colonel greatly mistakes the sentiment of the people of northern Montana if he thinks they favor the establishment of a land office at the venerable town down the river. A consensus of opinion points to but one place in northern Montana for a land office—Great Falls. The reason why it should be located at this city are too apparent to be enumerated. It is the metropolis of northern Montana. It is the market for the surplus soil products of this portion of the state. It is its commercial center and distributing point. It is a railroad center and can be easily reached from any point of the compass. Ranchmen find their best market and cheapest supplies here. It is really the only proper place for a land office in this portion of the state. The colonel should substitute the name of Great Falls for that of Fort Benton in his bill.

Col. Sanders can still further the interests of the people of northern Montana by attending to a couple more matters which demand attention and call for legislation. The office of the collector of customs for Montana should be moved to Great Falls, and an appropriation should be made for the erection of a postoffice, land office and custom house building at this city. One is needed to accommodate the rapidly increasing postoffice business of the city and it should be made large enough to supply apartments for land and custom house offices. The colonel has introduced bills for the erection of public buildings at Helena and Butte. A few movements of the pen can add the name of Great Falls also to the bill with provision for a generous appropriation for the construction of the building. The Tribune is satisfied that Colonel Sanders will lend a favorable ear to the above suggestions.

While we do not believe that congress will do much, if anything, in the public building line, there can be no harm in introducing bills providing for them. As Helena and Butte have the representatives in congress it may appear presumptuous upon the part of the third city in size in the state to ask for anything at the hands of congress, but it does and the Tribune hopes that its wishes may be gratified to the extent of a land office, a customs house office and a public building in which to put them.

THE PRESENT SENATE.

In view of the fact that tariff reform legislation of some kind will be attempted during this session of the Fifty-second congress the political complexion of the present senate and the sentiment of the majority upon the matter become a subject of interest. Counting Senator Brice of Ohio, and Senator Chilton, of Texas the senate is composed of thirty-nine democrats, forty-seven republicans and two alliance men, the latter being Peffer of Kansas and Irby of South Carolina.

The new members are Felton, rep. of California, Kyle, alliance, of South Dakota who succeeded Moody, rep. of Wisconsin, succeeds Spooner, rep. of Ohio succeeds Payne, dem., Irby, dem., of South Carolina succeeds Wade Hampton, dem., Hanebrough, rep. of North Dakota succeeds Pierce, rep. of Illinois, of New York succeeds Everts, rep. of Gallinger, rep. of New Hampshire succeeds Blair, rep. of Gibson, dem., of Maryland, succeeds Wilson, dem., Peffer, alliance, of Kansas, succeeds Ingalls, rep. of Idaho, succeeds Ingalls, rep. of Illinois succeeds Farwell, rep. The change gives the democrats greater strength in the senate, and hopes of carrying any reasonable revisions of the tariff through that body, as Peffer and Kyle, and Padlock and Plumb and Pettigrew, the last three of whom voted against McKinley's bill, are pretty sure to vote with the democrats upon any tariff reform measure.

Then there is Mr. Hanebrough of North Dakota, who is pledged against all high tariff legislation. Adding his vote to the five named above will make the vote in favor of reduction of tariffs 45 to 43 against. There is no question that on bills putting binding twine, and cotton ties, and barbed wire and certain other farm supplies on the free list will pass the senate by the vote as here given. Harrison may veto such bills but they certainly can pass the senate on a full vote of that body. The general desire for tariff reform is so pronounced that several other republican senators may fall in line with the less radical of their party and give it to the people.

THE decision of the interior department that the children of a white father and a half-blood Indian mother are citizens of the United States and cannot draw rations from the government will necessitate a revision of the ration roll at the Indian agencies of the country. A great many who are now drawing rations at the agencies in Montana will be affected by the decision unless their cases be provided for by the treaties between the Indians and the government.

CHAIRMAN CLARISON insists that the renomination of Harrison is inevitable and that this will be accepted as a fact within the next sixty days. Is Blaine going to write that letter to Clarkson?

NO HEDGING ATTEMPTED.

It is quite refreshing to know how the democratic newspapers in Montana attempt to "hedge" on the silver question, diverting public attention as far as possible from the mixed and inconsistent position of their party by referring to the acknowledged fact that the republican party is not a unit on the question. Avant Courier.

The Avant Courier is hardly honest in its statements. The Tribune, speaking for itself, has made no attempt to hedge on the silver question, and speaking for its democratic contemporaries in the state it does not know that any one of them has attempted to hedge on the question. The Tribune has repeatedly and earnestly advocated, and still does advocate, the free and unlimited coinage of silver. Its democratic contemporaries, as far as the Tribune knows, are consistent friends of the metal. What does the Courier mean? What democratic paper is hedging? Will the Courier please answer?

How does the Courier and Maj. Alderson stand on the question? How does every other republican newspaper in the state stand? Right along with Harrison and Sherman and Blaine and McKinley and Foster and the other gold-bug leaders of the republican party. An exception may be made in favor of the Inter Mountain, which, in its moments of sanity, has a good word or two to say about the white metal, but it and its republican contemporaries stand ready to drop right down on the gold-bug plank which will be inserted in the next national republican platform unless the question be eliminated from politics this winter by the passage of a free coinage bill. With the record of its party in congress upon the silver question we submit it is in bad taste for the Courier to criticize the position of democrats upon free coinage. The silence of the grave would better become it.

THE MAIN POINT.

The main point to be decided in the case against the McKinley act before the supreme court of the United States is this: Can the president of the United States be authorized by congress to impose a tariff tax on certain articles of import? The question is of the utmost importance. It is an arbitrary power to bestow upon the chief magistrate of the nation—a greater power than any king or queen in Europe possesses.

This is the way the matter stands. The McKinley tariff act provides that reciprocity treaties may be entered into between the United States and certain other foreign nations. It provides for the free admission of sugar, coffee and hides, but in case for instance Brazil—a nation does not see fit to exchange products with this country upon the basis of free admission then the president is authorized to levy a tariff tax upon the coffee, sugar and hides imported from such country. In other words if the laws of Brazil do not please the president; if they impose duties upon American products, the McKinley act permits him to tax every man and every family in the United States who use Brazilian coffee, or sugar or hides. Can the president be empowered to do this? That is the main point in the case now before the supreme court at Washington.

It requires no argument to show that by the same line of reasoning which would sustain this provision of the present tariff act, the national legislature might authorize the president or the secretary of the treasury or any other man to tax the cotton and woolen and iron manufacturers of the country if he thought best, or to take off a tax on any given article when in his opinion it should be done. The decision in the case is awaited with interest. The constitution provides that congress alone shall possess the taxing power. No provision is made for the delegation of that power; in fact it is forbidden. Now what will the supreme court do about it?

On the whole, Mr. Harrison and the secretary of the treasury have said nothing on the subject of the national finances that as party men they were not obliged to say. The latter doctored the figures in such a manner that they do not appear hopeless. That is all. But also they do not bear analysis. New York World.

THIS congress should admit Arizona and New Mexico to statehood. No valid reason exists for keeping them out longer. They are quite as much entitled to statehood as were Wyoming and Idaho at the date of their admission. If they be denied entrance among the sisterhood of states a great injustice will be done to them.

THAT young Hobb, from Massachusetts, is catching it right and left from the press of the country for his insistence that the democratic candidates for the speakership should declare themselves on the silver question before he would vote for either. Hobb evidently did not read the Congressional Record last winter.

THE weather bureau puts Montana down for continued warm and fair weather. Thanks, gentlemen. Come out and enjoy it.

THAT southwest silver convention at El Paso, Tex., will speak in no uncertain tones in favor of free silver coinage.

REED'S GAG RULES.

Czar Reed's gag rules of the last session were literally kicked out of the house by the democrats the other day. They were a stench in the nostrils of fair-minded men and a disgrace to a legislative body. They were formulated to tie and gag the minority, divest it of every right and ride over it rough shod. The democrats could have avenged themselves upon Reed and his handful of republican colleagues by adopting his rules for the government of the house and thus crammed his own medicine, concocted for democrats, down his throat. But they kicked his cowardly, oppressive rules out of the house and passed a resolution declaring the house would be bound by those of the fiftieth congress until such time as its own committee on rules shall make a report.

The action of the democratic majority in this matter is significant. It means that freedom is at an end in the national legislature, and that the precedent set by the last congress is to be ignored. It means there will be no illegal counting of quorums. It means that no rule will be adopted under which the speaker may practically suspend the rights, privileges and functions of a member by refusing to recognize him to make proper motions. It means that the house will not make the speaker a journal keeper with power to eliminate from or add to it such matter as suits his purposes. It means that members of both political parties shall enjoy equal rights and receive fair play. It means that the minority shall not be choked down and that while the majority shall rule it will not rule offensively or by brute force. The house has made a good beginning by kicking out Reed's obnoxious rules.

TIN NOT IN IT.

The reading public, no doubt, has noticed the graveyard silence republican journals have preserved since the last election about the production of tin and the manufacture of tinplate in the United States. Before the November elections their columns teemed with magnificent lies about the output of the Temescal tin mines, the brilliant future of the Black Hill mines, the great success of the Piqua tinplate plant, the Niedringhaus plant at St. Louis, and of numerous other mythical plants which had no existence outside the lively imaginations of republican politicians and strikers. The stories were manufactured out of whole cloth for the purpose of deceiving the people into the belief that the McKinley tariff, which is taxing them out of sight under the plea of building up an infant industry, is just what the country needs to insure its prosperity.

Well, the elections are over. McKinley succeeded in pulling the wool over the eyes of Ohio voters and was elected. That was all he wanted. Tin is not now in it. He is not making pilgrimages to Piqua any more to show gaping multitudes how tinplate is made. He stays at home and chuckles to himself when he recalls to mind how he fooled the gullible grangers and devising new schemes to fool them again next year. As to the mines, reports are occasionally circulated that they are "producing," but none of the block tin can be procured at any market in the United States. The article is being imported, as usual, from Wales.

Reliable parties who have recently returned from the Black Hills report that up to date only twenty-two tons of block tin have been mined there, which sold at \$500 a ton. It cost \$1,000 a ton to produce it. The Temescal mines make no better showing. All these tin mines are in the hands of British capitalists who are trying the experiment of working them with cheap Welsh labor. Americans are not "in it," neither is tin.

THE Louisville Courier-Journal contends there is nothing more delusive in international relations than the idea that we can punish another nation by taxing ourselves. The tariff is a tax paid by the consumer when he purchases the taxed article. No one will dispute this proposition. Brazil may see proper to refuse to admit certain American products into her ports free of duty, but how very foolish it would be for us to surrender free sugar and free coffee and free hides and tax ourselves to get those articles in order to punish that country. These remarks are suggested by the possibility that the president may restore the old duty on those articles if countries producing them do not enter into reciprocity treaties with the United States.

THE Inter Mountain makes the bold assertion that: "Heap roasting is nothing more nor less than attempted murder." Judging from the startlingly increased death-rate in Butte since heap roasting has been resumed it would appear there is an intimate connection between it and death. From all accounts Butte is not the most desirable place in the world to be in just at present.

THOSE papers that are talking about Crisp for the presidency are reckoning without their host. Mr. Crisp would doubtless make an excellent president, but he will never ask for the nomination so long as such men as Governor Hill are alive, if republican assertions that Hill made Crisp speaker, be true.

JUST received another large line of Ladies Fur-trimmed Jackets at the New York Cash Bazaar.

THAT SUGAR BOUNTY.

The New Orleans Picayune is suffering from the statement that considerable anxiety is felt among the sugar planters and capitalists interested in the article raised in this country. The article raised in this country, the people first pay the money to the government in the shape of tariff taxes on their woolen and cotton clothing, blankets and tinware and other necessities of life, and then the government pays this money over to sugar raisers. This is one of the ways the people pay free sugar. This year free sugar cost them about \$15,000,000 to be paid bounties to sugar raisers.

But it appears the government is very prompt in its bounty payments. Louisiana sugar has been coming into market over two months and only a few bounty claims have thus far been paid, although the inspection of the article has been prompt and satisfactory. According to the Picayune 175,000,000 pounds of Louisiana cane sugar has been marketed to date, the bounty of which amounts to \$2,500,000. Only a trifling portion of this sum has been paid. The planters want it to meet their obligations, and as the bounty really represents only their profits on their sugar crop the delay in its payment is seriously felt by them.

But now comes the rumor that the delay at Washington is intentional, as the treasury department is waiting to hear the decision of the United States supreme court in the case testing the constitutionality of the McKinley act. If the decision be against the act, no bounties will be paid, but if the act be sustained sugar raisers will get their money. That is the way the matter now stands.

NO ABANDONMENT OF SILVER.

Does the esteemed TRIBUNE remember Mills' letter of three weeks ago, in which that eminent free trader insisted on the total abandonment of silver as an issue of the democratic party?—Inter Mountain.

No, nor does the Inter Mountain remember it. What it probably recalls to mind and what the TRIBUNE distinctly remembers is this: In the remarks referred to Mr. Mills favored the holding of the silver issue in abeyance by the democratic party until the battle against the present outrageous tariff had been fought and won. He thinks the silver issue is the main issue before the people and that the energies of the democratic party should be directed toward the revision of the McKinley measure undisturbed by any other. The Inter Mountain cannot point to any letter of Mr. Mills' in which he insisted upon the total abandonment of silver as an issue of the democratic party.

MUCH may be said for and against the closing of the World's fair on Sundays. Every religious denomination which recognizes the first day of the week as the Sabbath or Lord's Day and which has expressed itself on the matter opposes the opening of the fair on that day, while quite as many who can see no harm in looking at the works of God and man on Sunday oppose the closing. If the fair be a wicked place, if the rights to be seen there be demoralizing it should, by all means, be closed, not only on the Sabbath day but on every day of the week. But if they be instructive and elevating they cannot be seen too often or too long.

WE publish elsewhere the request of many leading citizens of the First ward that Mr. E. W. Kelly make the race for alderman for that ward to fill a vacancy now existing. Mr. Kelly agrees to accept the position, if elected, and on that score there can hardly be a doubt. It is gratifying to note that this request comes from democrats and republicans alike who are prompted by the desire to see a man of good business qualifications on the city board, without the least regard to party advantage. The election occurs on the 22d and Mr. Kelly will doubtless be chosen alderman by the qualified voters of the First ward.

SPEAKING of the question of penny postage it may be put down as a fact that the man who writes but twenty letters a year is irrevocably opposed to paying the postage for the man who writes one thousand a year. And that is what the twenty letter man will do and now does unless the postal service is self-supporting. If the postoffice department will give the people a better mail service they will stand the two cent letter postage a while longer. It will be time enough to reduce the postage when the service shall be put upon a paying basis.

WHEN Mr. Cleveland or Mr. Mills or any other one man stands as an exponent of the sentiment of the great democratic party upon the silver question it will be time for the republican press of the state to attack the party through the man. Platforms, not men, voice the principles of a political party.

The Manhattan, Dunn block.

All Silver Goods bought at our store will be engraved free of charge. Dvay & Jones, Jewelers.

Holiday Goods in endless varieties at the New York Cash Bazaar.