

The Oasis

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ALLEN T. BIRD - - - Editor and Prop.

Amazing, beautiful change,
A world created new;
"The thoughts with transport range
"This lovely scene to view."

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Saturday, Feb. 5, 1898.

PASTOR BROWN should have stuck to his lie to the end or acknowledged the truth at the outset.

FORMERLY chaplains of legislatures prayed; now they "deliver an invocation." It is assumed that all legislative bodies are past praying for.

THE Illinois house of representatives has passed a resolution in favor of Hawaiian annexation. Illinois was and always will be patriotic.

THE Teller resolution went through the house like the boy went through college—"walked in at the front door and was kicked out at the back door."

A PRESIDENTIAL order which will wrench away from the pap seat no less than forty-five hundred democrats who are now holding on by grace of Grover Cleveland, is daily expected.

AN EASTERN exchange remarks that the logical termination of some of the arguments against Hawaiian annexation would be the position that a nation without territory would be in the most happy condition. Is not that the case with the Jews?

AN EASTERN magazine essayist has sapiently announced the discovery that the political boss is the product of a demand for such an individual. Monopolists find it cheaper to deal with one man and buy legislatures before election than dealing with individual legislators after election.

MANY American newspapers seem much exercised because Canada is about to levy a special and burdensome tax upon foreign miners on the Klondike. But even that would be better than the United States does. Here the foreign miner is shut out entirely. Whose ox is gored makes a very great difference.

A REVOLUTION IN MINING.

In iron mining Thos. A. Edison has wrought a tremendous revolution, reducing greatly the expense of handling ferruginous rock, making possible its reduction in vast quantities, and so reducing the cost that ground or rock bearing only two per cent of iron can be profitably handled. He asserts that the same system can be applied to gold and silver mining, making possible the handling at a profit of many millions of tons of earth and rock which bear only traces of the precious metals.

In New Jersey where Mr. Edison's iron mining operations are being successfully conducted, there are vast areas of land which all carry to a great depth about two per cent of iron. Under the old system of working that proportion of metal would not justify handling. But with steam shovels Mr. Edison loads hundreds of thousands of tons daily upon the cars of a steam railway, which convey the ferruginous rock and earth to the mill and dump it directly in the rolls. These latter are great machines consisting of toothed cylinders and crushers revolving at high rates of speed, in the capacious maws of which thousands of tons are speedily ground to powder as fine as flour. As this dust is discharged from the machinery by an air blast powerful magnets divert the infinitesimal particles of iron from the earth, and deposit them in a heap by themselves, whence they are conveyed to other machinery which mixes them with coal tar and presses the composition into bricks of a size convenient for handling, in which form they are conveyed to the smelter and the iron speedily converted into pigs. With the large capital and tremendous machinery employed the entire operation is simple and rapid, vast quantities of very low grade rock are daily reduced and the iron therein separated at a profit.

As hereinbefore stated Mr. Edison claims that he can apply his new machinery to the reduction of gold, silver and other ores as successfully as he does to iron, and at an equally great saving in cost. As is well known the country rock adjoining mineral veins and ledges is mineralized for long distances. Mr. Edison claims that with his machinery all such ground can be worked at a profit. He proposes to put up his rolls, crushers and other appliances with the steam railway and steam shovels at a point convenient for operations and instead of burrowing into the ledge, for pay rock, as is now done, attack the hill or mountain where the ledge is located at the best point, moving it all away, and extracting at a profit the gold and silver, or other metals the country rock carries in small quantities. In due course of time the ledge will be laid bare, and all it contains secured at the very minimum of cost.

If Mr. Edison can accomplish all this his genius will effect a revolu-

tion in mining before which all improvements made heretofore will pale into insignificance. A recent number of Scribner's magazine presented an illustrated article describing the successful operation of the Edison process in iron. Its success in that field will cause no little expectancy in the mining world until it is tried on a grand scale in other branches of mining.

THE COURSE OF HUMAN NATURE.

In his "Story of the Revolution" Senator Lodge in describing the action of the second continental congress, says:

"Thus while they proclaimed the king, shrank from independence, and sought conciliation and peace by addresses and memorials, the second American congress took into their service an army already in the field, and sent the greatest soldier of the time to command it and to fight the sovereign whom they still acknowledged. Very contradictory yet very human and natural all this, for great causes are not carried out nor do great forces move upon the straight line marked by the critic or by the student, but along the devious and winding paths which human nature always traces for itself when it is brought face to face with difficulties and trials which it would fain avoid and must meet."

The paragraph quoted is a complete reply to the charge so frequently reiterated by the Bryan press and orators that the republican party has abandoned the people on the silver question. That the party has changed front on that great question there can be no doubt; but that it has abandoned the people is most positively denied. Bi-metallism as it now exists in the United States is the monetary system of the people and for the people. That system is the single gold standard, with the use of silver, coined on government account, as a subsidiary coin, and so coined in much greater quantities than ever before known in the history of the country, but every silver dollar so coined worth a dollar in gold. Under that system the wage earners, the workers in whatever walk of life, and they constitute the people, are paid in money which enjoys the highest purchasing power of any money coined in the world. Under the alternate system of free coinage of silver no gold would be coined, all now in circulation would go to the melting pot, and the business of the country would come down to a basis of a silver dollar, worth only the bullion value of its weight. The purchasing power of wages would be cut in half.

With the clamor of the free silverites these facts were at first unperceived, and the republican party allowed itself to be perfunctorily committed to the doctrine of free coinage. But the logic of events—production of silver at a ratio of above thirty ounces of silver to one of gold, and an annual fluctuation of that ratio of production, where formerly it had been constant at thirteen to one through centuries—has convinced the people, and the republican party today stands, like the second continental congress,

with diverse declarations and pursuing a monetary policy it one time condemned.

WILL THEY TUMBLE?

The Bisbee Orb, which never was an advocate of the appointment of Governor McCord, and is also a democratic paper, has the following to say:

"Some of the territorial papers are raising various kicks against Governor McCord. We see no reason for this, and in the end it will be of great damage to the territory. If the authorities at Washington see that we cannot be satisfied with a governor of our own territory, they will hereafter appoint men from Ohio or other eastern states. As it is now we have a man in power who knows the wants of the territory and is doing his utmost toward advancing the territory's interests. It would be well for these disgruntled publishers to take a tumble to themselves."

THURSDAY a number of cattlemen from Calabasas were in Nogales, and they expressed no little indignation at what they believe a move by interested parties to trick the cattle sanitary board into removing the present very efficient live stock inspector, Mr. W. H. Walker, and supplant him with the same man he relieved a short time ago. Mr. Walker is in every way satisfactory to the people of the district, does his work well and is a good republican. It is said that a petition in favor of Wise was circulated which many were induced to sign under misapprehension, and was forwarded to the board Wednesday evening. Thursday decided action was taken by the cattlemen in the vicinity opposed to any change, and the board was wired a request to refrain from action until the matter can be presented to that body in the proper light. It is hoped the board will not act without full information.

THE OASIS has heard it said that some two weeks ago the Citizen asserted that more money had been expended by Pima county on roads in the southern part than those precincts had contributed to the county road fund. In making that assertion the Citizen was certainly misinformed, for it is widely at variance with the facts. Nogales alone pays about twelve hundred dollars annually into the road fund. Not one-half that sum is expended on roads in the district.

CAPTAIN RAY of the regular army, sent to Klondike to investigate the outlook, has recommended that immigration to that country be restricted this year, and that no one be permitted to enter the country without two years supplies. It is a great country to prospect where all prospectors must provide a two year's grubstake. A goodly sized mule train would be required to pack it all.

THE Ohio situation does not seem to clarify with investigation. Mr. Hanna's friends still assert that he remains unscathed, while his enemies are positive that he is in the toils.