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THE OREGON ELECTION.

The state election last week in Oregon was of more than local interest because of Mr. Bryan's identification with the campaign. He journeyed to Oregon and made several speeches, making special reference to silver. There was complete fusion of all the Bryan elements, the democrats, silver republicans and populists.

The combined vote, however, was less than that of the democrats alone a year ago. It was also less than that received by Bryan in 1896. If Bryan has become weaker in the western states, where the silver sentiment has always been the most pronounced, where is he to gain the electoral votes required to make him president?

CONSISTENT.

The Bailey-Bryan "Chump" Clark style of statesmanship which brought on the Spanish war, and boasted of its intimidation of McKinley in that regard, is now, with revolutionary wrath, denouncing the fruits of its own impetuous idiocy. Precinct, county and state conventions are denouncing McKinley's administration as responsible for the Spanish war and all of its expensive and unpleasant consequences. These conventions are made up of the followers of the boasting law-makers who vehemently declared that their courage, their insistent demand for war with Spain, and not the republicans had made that war. These consistent men never forget to denounce the Philippine war, its cost in blood and dollars. They attribute all calamities arising from the Philippine Islands as a direct result of

wicked and blundering McKinleyism. But these same denunciators declared, only a few months ago, that the treaty with Spain, by which the United States, for twenty millions of dollars, got the islands and slavery and polygamy with ten million brown-skinned people and the bubonic plague—would never have been ratified except for the efforts of Colonel Bryan, among senators. The Bryanarchists all over the country glorified their leader for the pathos and bathos with which he implored, threatened and, at last, forced United States senators to vote for the ratification of the Paris treaty. Then alliance with McKinleyism, on the part of Bryanarchy for the purposes of expansion and possibilities for imperialism, was patriotic. Now for the maintenance of the gold standard, any alliance, between republicans and gold democrats, is treason. Bryanarchy, however, is always consistently inconsistent.

CUBA.

The probing of Cuban postal affairs reveals a worse condition than first reported. The Neeley defalcation thus far amounts to a cash shortage of \$85,000, together with \$411,000 surcharged stamps. It is reported that the lavish outlay for expenses, alleged to have been made by Rathbone, will not account for the entire sum charged against the Cuban treasury. In order to effect even a partial restoration of public confidence in his administration, President McKinley should make some sweeping changes among those entrusted with the management of affairs in Cuba. He will, in a measure, compensate for past blunders by recognizing, in future appointments, individual fitness and worth instead of yielding to personal and political pressure exclusively. He could not do better than to extend to Cuba the rules governing the civil service at home and make merit the basis for all appointments.

IMPERIAL.

Allen, Pettigrew, and in short all the leading populists and Bryanarchists in the United States, denounce banks and bankers as menaces to the plain people. All of the large-brained, experienced and mature statesmen of the discontent school in the United States favor the policy of government itself doing all the bill-issuing for the people. These learned and philanthropic benefactors

would place the power to make paper-money in the hands of the congress of the United States and nowhere else. Under their scheme of finance there would be no plutocratic possibility of "a contraction" for the purpose of putting up the rates of interest. The plain people would be protected forever against the incursions and ravages of the omnivorous octopus.

The Despot.

But the members of the house of representatives and of the senate of the congress of the United States would have unlimited power over the currency of the country. This power could be used and would be used by each succeeding congress to either expand or contract the monetary circulation. The caprice of congress and not the commerce of the country would determine the volume of circulating money that the American people might need.

Talk of imperialism, of centralized power, of despotism; where on earth can be found a more potent concentration of power than in the vested right to say how much money may circulate in a given country at any time? Congress would be a czar. It could limit or increase the currency at will. It could be, and would be, the vilest, cruelest, wickedest despotism on the globe. For it the populist party and all its allies labor.

ANOTHER PROPHECY.

In his speech at Hornellsville, N. Y., Aug. 25, 1896, Mr. Bryan thus declaimed against the gold standard:

"They know the gold standard encourages the hoarding of money, instead of expanding it in the development of the resources of the country. And now this policy of hoarding is driving thousands and tens of thousands, and hundreds of thousands of workmen out in the streets, where they beg for the privilege of working for their daily bread."

It was not the gold standard that created the conditions to which he referred, but the fear of repudiation and depreciation drove capital from the usual channels of investment. If there was any doubt about this at the time it has been removed by later events. The defeat of Mr. Bryan, the consequent restoration of public confidence in our financial integrity brought the gold from hiding and employed it "in developing the resources of the country" and thus gave employment to labor.