

Republican Progress

Printed each Tuesday Morning, by
WILLIAM A. GAGE, Editor and Publisher.

—Indianapolis Review: This is going to be a hard year on Democratic orators. They cannot advocate protection to American industries, for the Republicans can point to Speaker Carlisle and his free trade committee. They cannot advocate civil service reform, for Republicans can point to Pendleton, the author of civil service reform, and say to the Democrats, "you slaughtered him." They cannot advocate purity in politics, for the Republicans point to Senator Payne, and say that he bought his election. We are a little anxious to know what the Democratic orators will say when they begin to paw the air.

Neatest thing in the world. They will do as Voorhees always did: make a speech, and if policy to change front in a week or two, deny to the very men who heard him that he ever used such language. No trouble for a Democratic politician to turn summersaults.

Old Time Incidents.

A well-known and highly respected citizen of Monroe county, now over three score and ten years of age, handed the Progress, a few days ago, the following incidents of early times. The old gentleman read his manuscript without glasses, having recently come to his "second sight."

—AN INCIDENT OF AN EDITOR'S LIFE.—When the State of Indiana was organized in 1816, and after the removal of archives of the Territorial government to the city of Indianapolis as the new and permanent Capital of the State, their regular public printer Mr. Jesse B. was left behind at Corydon, the former capital. After looking around and prospecting for a favorable location, finally determined to cast his lot with the people of Monroe county, and in the town of Bloomington put up his press and publish a good county "newspaper," which thing at that time of "small things" was considered a matter of great honor and an evidence of much progress in a community. But let it be remembered that this Jesse B. was a man of excellent morals, a very modest, honest and sociable bachelor, but not burdened with a great weight of literary attainments. And why he remained a bachelor, whether it was because of his repugnance to a state of matrimony or on account of his rather hard features, making him rather repulsive to the ladies, we cannot say. But being very zealous in his undertaking and believing that the diffusion of knowledge and general intelligence in a country are the bulwarks of American liberty and independence, he proposed to a number of subscribers who lived rather remote from his office to deliver their papers to them at their homes, himself in person, each week. Only one postoffice in the county at the time, he had to set in the capacity of carrier as well as editor and publisher. And whilst engaged on one occasion in distributing his paper, he called at the house of an old and intimate friend and subscriber, at a late hour in the afternoon, with the intention of remaining over night with Uncle Billy W. On entering the room he saw the familiar faces of Uncle Billy's family, his wife, two grown sons, a grown daughter and a neighbor's daughter, all seated and in social chat. The weather being warm and the nights short, and but one room to occupy as was usual in that day, no light in the room but one candle on the occasion. Our editor and the old farmer soon engaged in a very agreeable and interesting conversation, and during which unnoticed by them the candle burst out, and in looking around found themselves alone, the family having all retired. Uncle Billy said, Jesse we had better lie down too, there is your bed. The old man started to one in the corner of the room, Jesse to one in the opposite corner and having doffed his clothes and reached the side of the bed, by the exercise of one of his sensitive powers found his bed already occupied by two persons, one on each side, giving most room in the middle for him. Supposing them to be the two sons of Uncle Billy, lay down between them and was very soon sleeping soundly. But when after daylight, Jesse being awakened by a touch opened his eyes and saw two young ladies sitting, one on each side of him, in the act of removing their "night caps." O, the perplexity of mind—the excessive desire to depart in a ruined man to parts unknown. So soon as the way was made clear, he arose, adjusted his clothing and in this state of embarrassment immediately left. Uncle Billy being out attending to his chores heard Jesse letting down a bar is getting out of the yard, called him, saying, hold on Jesse; as he came up to our confused editor, said, you are not leaving Yes, Jesse replied; I am a ruined man. Why so, Jesse, asked the old man. By sleeping between the two girls last night thinking at the time I was between the two boys. Pshaw, says Uncle Billy, we all know it was a mistake, I will say nothing about it and of course the

girls will not tell it, it will go no further and cannot affect your standing, you being consciously clear of all improprieties. Come back and stay for breakfast. And after much solicitation prevailed on him to return. For some years this was kept a profound secret while Jesse got along swimmingly. But in the course of time Uncle Billy became too people to keep the secret without help. So he let it out to some faithful old friends who were able to tell it to good advantage in crowds of others, and in Jesse's presence. With him it was unpleasant but to others a great source of merriment.

A SPECIMEN OF LEGAL A-CUMEN.—In an early day, in township No. 9 north, range No. three west, lived Justice B: Neighbor D. made his appearance and filed his complaint, vs. neighbor E, and demanded a summons. The Docket of the Justice did not show an "action on the case" for damages, nor an action of "Trover and Conversion," but simply stated that the defendant E. had fugled him out of a Turkey. The summons, after being served and duly returned and at the proper hour set for trial, the parties appeared, the defendant pleading the "general issue." All the evidence being taken and the case submitted, the court remarked to the parties that they would take the case under advisement for the number of days specified by law. So at the expiration of four days claimed by the court the parties returned to know the result. The Justice announced to the parties that he had entered a non-suit for the reason that he had searched diligently and was unable to find "Turkey" in the whole statute.

Letter from Washington Territory.

Ed. Progress: Dear Sir: Having promised to write you what I could of this country some time and thinking this as good a time as any I make the attempt, but will not try any description outside the former Co. of Spokane on account of not being much acquainted. By the action of the Territorial Legislature just adjourned, in dividing Spokane Co. and forming the western portion into a new Co. called Lincoln, that body has formed a county that are long will rank second to none in Eastern Washington as regards influence or productions.

Spokane county was divided from north to south, with Cheney remaining as the county seat of Spokane, notwithstanding the fact that Spokane Falls the county seat was the object in view by the friends of division, but by the determined fight of Cheney she holds the offices as before.

From various sources we gather the following facts in regard to the new formed county. Emigrants destined for Spokane and Lincoln counties leave the railroad at either Spokane Falls, Cheney and Sprague and as nearly all the choice land near the railroad is taken land hunters must keep going further west to what is known as the big bend of the Columbia or Badger mountain country, all of which, before division, was in Spokane county and are now in Lincoln.

Standing on one of the high hills near the Columbia and looking south and east one can see, what seems like an unlimited extent of slightly rolling and, except along streams, treeless prairie, but the mountains are almost all heavily timbered with pine, fir and tamarack.

Scattered all over this section are cabins indicating the growth of this section as a year ago not a cabin could be seen, and as much of the land has been taken up by men who intend to occupy and improve next summer, this country will look much more civilized at the end of another year than it does now. The estimated population now is 5,000.

As to the productions, judging from the eastern part, which has been under cultivation several years, the prospect is as good or better than eastern Spokane county, as it is not so rolling as the country along the railroad in eastern Spokane and is nearly free from sand land.

The principal crops are Wheat, Oats, Barley, and last, but not least, Potatoes, which, so far, have always done well. Oregon apples (picked) are selling in Cheyenne for fifteen cents per lb. This high price is caused by the almost entire absence of fruit in Oregon last season. The soil of the Badger mountain country is a dark loam, and is from 1½ to 3 feet deep, underlaid with a clay subsoil, and after the first or second plowing is always mellow.

The first plowing, or breaking the sod, is the worst, and where there is wool-grass it is a terror to beginners, requiring four and six horses, while where there is no wool-grass two horses can go right along with a twelve inch breaking plow, and turn 1½ and 2 acres per day.

The county seat of Lincoln county is Davenport, a town in the eastern end of the county, and was selected by the Legislature against the wishes of Sprague, but as Sprague was within two miles of the south line, she stood no show.

The Northern Pacific railroad car shops, round house, &c., are at Sprague, making it quite a business town. Washington Territory is not all it is said to be, on advertising papers, but to any one willing to rough it awhile, it certainly affords better opportunities than continual renting of farms in the States.

The winter season here is long, and sometimes very cold, that it is so dry and generally clear, that it does not appear to affect a person as much as some places where it is not cold but changeable. In last February the mercury stood at 36° below zero, just one day, and it was the coldest.

Our moisture here comes mostly in the form of snow during the winter and while we may have two or three rains during the summer it is not unfrequently the case for a crop to grow and mature without a drop of rain. Why the soil here holds moisture so much longer than places in the east I can't find out, but such is the case undoubtedly.

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