

THE BLACK-LIST.

An article has been incorporated in the Constitution of North Dakota which prohibits railroad companies and all other similar corporations from keeping a "black-list" of the men they have discharged. It will be understood by the general reader that the so-called black-list is an unrighteous device resorted to by large companies to be used as a means of punishment to those discharged employees who have been directed in duty, or who have been guilty of some misdemeanor that has rendered them offensive to their employers. Of course, just enough publicity is given to this black-list to hinder the men whose names it contains from being employed by other companies. It is a cruel, unwarranted procedure and was promptly and more by a revenging spirit than anything else. It is quite enough for a wealthy firm to discharge a poor-day-laborer without publishing his record to the world. Once a man's name goes on this black-list, he is stigmatized as a wretch, unworthy the mercy of contractors or labor agents. Even employment offices will find him out and give him the cold-shoulder. Eminent jurists have even gone so far as to denounce the black-list dodge as contrary to the principles of common law and of the rights secured by the immortal magna carta of every child of a free and sovereign Commonwealth.

When, in A. D. 1215, King John gave to the English barons the "Great Charter," mankind, in civilized countries, took a long stride ahead. And when, in later times, King Henry III promulgated a similar edict to the common people and it was confirmed by Edward I, the poorest hind from that time became a freeman and the master of his own household, though he dwelt in a hut and was the born child of poverty. In the language of this great charter, "No man shall be deprived of his liberties and free customs, except by due process of law."

But it is rightly argued that the odious black-list does this very thing, in anticipating a discharged artisan's future career by publishing to the world that he is unworthy the patronage of the people with whom he lives. When may we expect certain arbitrary rules of a company or corporation, be discharged therefor, and become a faithful man in some other company or corporation.

An employer on paring with one of his men through some disagreement, may use his pleasure in giving him a recommendation, but he has no right to unduly bias the minds of other employers against the man whom he has discharged. The general manager of a popular Eastern railway company has been bold enough to publicly declare that the black-list system is an outrage and an alleged punishment that should not be tolerated. Let the delegates of the Washington Convention seriously deliberate on these things and provide some adequate remedy, and the future citizens of this State will rise up and call them blessed.

PROFANE.

The matter is waving and almost everybody was aware of the fact, at least in this city, that there is every indication that a lively fall and winter is before us. The influx of strangers is steadily on the increase, and at Olympia has twice the hotel accommodations she now has, they would all be full. It is an encouraging feature that the building industry is yet unabated. Scores of neat and showy dwelling houses are making their appearance in the southeastern portion of the city, and it is an encouraging fact that the property owners are at last doing something to meet the demands for family residences. Briskly as this work has been carried on, every completed house is occupied and there is a prospective tenant for every one now in course of erection.

The hotel builder promise that it will be finished in December. When it is finally thrown open to the public, with a first-class manager at its head, the present embarrassment in regard to the entertainment of strangers will be materially lessened, if it does not entirely disappear. The new bank building will also materially add to the "beauty and beauty of our city" while the hospital extension will more than double the capacity of that institution. Altogether, then, there is a hopeful outlook and the lesson we should glean is that everybody should keep right on working in his proper sphere. To stand still in a time like this, is to go backward. Public success is but the grand fruition of individual success. Everybody has a work to do.

A DISPATCH to the Oregonian, dated the 31st ult., says that a canvass among farmers elicits the fact that nobody is far made. A majority of the business men also object. As matters now stand, the Constitution promises to be voted down when submitted. The objection seems to be not only on account of the increased taxation, but a belief that the Convention is exceeding its powers and endeavoring to assume legislative functions. The prohibitionists, suffragists and radical reformers will surely oppose the document. The general belief is that too much time is being taken to formulate the same, and too many buncombe speeches are being made.

The Democratic Central Committee, which met in this city on the 1st inst., selected Ellensburgh as the place for holding the Territorial Convention, but the time has not yet been determined.

The Walla Walla Journal says Dr. Schlessinger, the spiritual medium, who visited this city a few weeks ago, is a fraud.

A SEVERE shock of an earthquake was felt in San Francisco Wednesday morning.

POLITICAL PROBABILITIES.

Many political rumors are being about, the existence of which is not specially sought out for this paper. However, it is within its province to note surface indications as they appear. To many aspiring would-be statesmen the coming of Steadholder with all its possibilities, will doubtless prove a mirage as deceitful and disappointing as it is now exhilarating. On either side of the political fence, eligible ones are eyeing each other with that degree of alertness supposed to animate a cat while watching a mouse. Most of the State-makers have already supplied (in their minds) a full quota of State officials. The Senatorship constitute the largest plum, and one can hardly discuss probabilities on the Republican side without getting into a condition of nebulous thought, wherein Allen, Brents, Turner, Cannon, Squire, Haines, Ferry, Sprague, Thompson and others flit lightly across the mental horizon in bewildering uncertainty. On the Democratic side, there is less talk, and a more evident disposition to get down to work as a condition precedent to homestead exhibitions of personal ambitions. For Congressman there are, thus far, three candidates on the Republican side—Messrs. R. O. Dunbar, of Goldendale, John L. Wilson, of Spokane Falls, and Allen Weir, of Fort Townsend. Mr. Dunbar is strong among the river counties, but is being attacked in his own party on account of his position in connection with the question of county bonded indebtedness. Mr. Wilson has been industriously electing for himself during his recent trip throughout the Territory. He is objected to by members of his own party who, allege that his mugwumpism a few years ago, when he assisted Mr. Voorhees in that gentleman's first campaign, has not yet been fully expiated through faithful party work. Mr. Weir will have a following among the northern counties of Puget Sound, but is objected to on the score that he is too young in this position.

On the Democratic side, the majority of the Convention should consist in favoring Uvas seed in the strong arm of M. M. Goodman of Columbia county, J. Hamilton Lewis of Jefferson county, and a few others are mentioned. For the Governorship, Republicans are talking of E. P. Ferry and J. R. Kinneer of King county, Col. Horwell of North Yakima, and Dr. G. V. Calhoun of Skagit county, while the Democrats are pretty generally united upon ex-Gov. Semple. For Supreme Court Judges, Messrs. Hanford, Turner, Pritchard, Bradshaw, Sturdevant, Hoyt and several others are recklessly exposing themselves among the Republican hosts, while of the Democrats there are: Ex-Chief Justice Burke, Judge Nash, Judge Allen and a few others. Altogether there is promise of a lively time ahead.

OMINOUS.

The last two burglaries that have been committed in this city, are small things in themselves, but they portend something more serious. In the present state of our police system there is anything but an encouraging outlook for the owners of property. House-breakers and footpads seem to be having it all to themselves throughout the length and breadth of our city, after honest people have gone to bed.

That there is a looseness somewhere in the nightly custodianship of Olympia is an unsavory fact. To watch the block surrounded by Main and Columbia, Fourth and Fifth streets, an able bodied man is paid \$50 per month by private parties, and yet a burglar had time and opportunity, last Wednesday evening, to pry open two doors in the rear of Mr. Squire's store, situated about midway on the Main street front of that block, enter the building, rifle the money drawer, select some choice boxes of cigars and then take his departure. In a store situated on another block, a light is left burning all night, and one of the instructions of the watchman who attends to that block is to look into the store every half hour, see that the light is all right and things generally as they should be. But that store was burglarized one night this week, the money-drawer robbed, the light turned off and the rear door which was found open had been left ajar. And yet strange as it may seem, the watchman did not know until he was told in the morning that the light had been extinguished in the night. By means of alleys and unoccupied ground there is ample opportunity for a vigilant watchman who attends to his business to thread the passage-ways of every block in the business portion of our city, but it would seem that these paths are unknown and untrod by the average night watchman. It would appear, indeed, that the intricacies of these devious ways were better known to the thieving fraternity than to any one else.

The late assaults upon safes and the big jewelry steel, speak in tones not to be misunderstood that our city is beset by a class of marauders of a higher type than the petty shop-lifter. To carry out their nefarious purposes, even more desperate means may be resorted to than mere house-breaking. Who knows but that we may be on the eve of a wide-spread conflagration, systematically arranged for the sole purpose of wholesale robbery? We do not believe in borrowing trouble, and although it is recorded in Holy Writ that, "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof," there is a sound philosophy in locking the stable door before the horse is stolen.

SEVERAL property owners of Olympia have taken a step in the right direction in the way of erecting substantial dwellings for incoming families. There is no better investment for even a limited amount of means than in buying a few suburban lots and building thereon cheap but convenient cottages for renting purposes. The Democratic State Convention will be held at Ellensburgh about the 1st of September. Each county will be allowed one delegate, and an additional delegate for every 150 votes cast for Voorhees.

The Hospital for the Insane, at Fort Steilacoom, now has 309 patients, more than double the number lately erroneously reported.

THE BURGH ACROSS THE HILLS

The Spokane Falls Daily Chronicle of the 29th ult., puts check upon the line and cry raised by Ellensburgh over the almost unanimous recommendation of the Committee to permanently locate the State Capital at Olympia by Constitutional provision. It asks: "Did not the people elect the delegates to Olympia and decide on such matters as should be brought before them? Did not the people, in all reasonable belief, presume that the delegates would do their duty, and act on that basis, on that of the people, or in any other way?" Just so. And it is one of the questions that it would be the part of wisdom to take out of politics. It is, of necessity, one that the longer it is left undetermined will the more surely engender local hatred, and become the object of corrupt barter and trade. Very few of the people of the Territory, not residents of aspiring places for the seat of government, care much where it goes. Railroads have shortened distances and the telegraph annihilated them. The two considerations that at one time generally influenced the selection of locations near to geographical centers.

As the Chronicle intimates, Ellensburgh has got a capital bee in her bonnet, and she has got it bad. She has thought so much on this subject, dreamt about it, talked of it, in season and out of season, that she seems to have come to the conclusion that she is mistress of the situation. She will find herself woefully foiled. There are many other cities whose claims are equal, if not superior to hers, and if the matter is left to the people to decide, the STANDARD predicts she will attain the age of Babylon before she attains the coveted honor.

The Walla Walla Union is unhappy over the rejection, by the Convention of the elaborate military article reported by the committee. Its editor writes: "In their desire to prevent the military from becoming independent of the civil power, the delegates have put the seeds of paralysis in the strong arm of the State." While it is a matter of regret that a majority of the Convention should consist in favoring Uvas seed in the strong arm of the State, we are relieved by the assurance that the Union editor is, as usual, "on deck," and announces it as his determination to bare his ample breast to this outrage in an earnest endeavor to remove these "seeds of decay."

Mr. Wm. Ragless, of Tenino, has achieved a remarkable record in potato-raising. He lately dug from a single hill of Vick's Extra Early, 127 distinct and well-formed potatoes. This was a fair average of the whole patch, and indicates a yield that is only possible in Washington Territory.

The Seattle Journal says that ex-Governor Ferry will shortly write a letter, relating to be a candidate for Governor or for any other office. This action is said to be in the interest of Squire and in opposition to the Hunt-Hoyt-Allen combination.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS. S. C. COX is the only living man in public life who voted for the admission of Oregon in 1859. He is likewise the man who retained the name of Washington for our State, when it was proposed to substitute for it the objectionable name of Tacoma.

OF WALLA WALLA, is one of the most distinguished members, as he is one of the ablest and most agreeable, of the Convention. No one can observe his fine, frank countenance without concluding, as if by intuition, that it reveals the noble, manly character of its possessor. No one can observe his face, the scholar and the faithful, warm-hearted friend. He is tall, well formed, fair complexioned with gray hair at the temples, and a nose which he would be pronounced handsome rather than pretty. He is a New Englander by birth, being a native of Maine, but he is of the higher type of Western man, being raised and educated in California. He studied law with Judge Sears, was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court of California in 1876 and came to this Territory in 1880 and has since been successfully engaged in the practice of his profession. He is regarded by the members of the Convention as one of the foremost and most earnest of its members, and by all who know him as one of "nature's noblemen." He has been for years the law partner of Hon. John B. Allen. Were he more ambitious and less modest and retiring, he would be a powerful element in the political world, and he may have to take a prominent place in the early organization of the State, in spite of his disinclination to do so. He is a fluent but not frequent speaker on the floor of the Convention, but what he has to say is always clothed in the best and most courteous language, and he is one of the few who know when to cease speaking. He is unmarried and only visits his family in the Territory of the new State of Washington, facts which doubtless the ladies will take note of.

OF SPOKANE FALLS, is one of the most interesting and well-known members of the Convention. His clear, strong, logical mind, and great devotion to the work in which he is engaged, give him a commanding influence. He is of medium height, with dark complexion, a bright, penetrating eye, dark hair, and save the roustache a shaven face, which is not at all handsome, but which portrays earnestness of purpose and great decision of character. Being exceedingly frank, fearless and outspoken, the public will all ways know where to find him out on all questions affecting their rights and interests, and moreover, he is always able to give a reason for his faith and the ground of his convictions. Actuated by a lofty, unselfish patriotism, he is an indefatigable worker to secure for the new State an exceptionally good Constitution. He is thoroughly acquainted in the structure of the great fundamental law. He is "working at it by night and by day," and will not let the step of his own soul in it, as he has done in the past.

He was born in Illinois; came to this Territory in 1884; was admitted to the bar in Illinois in 1880 and has since practiced his profession in which he has gained eminence and success; is 31 years of age, married and is accompanied by his wife, who is also an attractive and interesting woman. He is considered as one of the leading men of the Convention, and in the future of the State will probably be a prominent figure.

OF THE CASCADES, Skamania county, is a quiet, unobtrusive, but highly intelligent man, one who has a clear understanding of each and every subject as it comes before the Convention. His persistent silence is a mistake, but

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Mr. Kincaid has bought two lots in Lammon's block, on Dayton street, between Franklin and Jefferson streets, where he proposes to build a fine residence.

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Mr. Alexander Howard is grading the premises formerly occupied by Mr. J. H. Houghton on Adams street, where he will shortly erect a row of tenement houses.

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The second street approach to the Percival wharf has been closed to travel, and all business with the wharf now goes and comes through Third street.

The Signal Service Office reports minimum thermometer, 47 degrees; maximum thermometer, 71 degrees; weather cloudless, no rain; barometer falling to 29.96 inches.

To answer a question often asked we state that the sixteenth and thirty-sixth section in every township of every county in Washington Territory is reserved for school revenue. It will be seen that the school sections comprise about one-eighth of the land area of this Territory.

A farmer living twelve miles from Olympia, brings his young daughter to the city once a week to take a lesson in piano music. The girl has an organ to practice on at home, and is making about as good progress as the average school miss who has all the advantages the city can afford. It is only the old story, "Where there is a will there is a way."

The Olympia School Board have decided for use in Old Fellows hall, on Washington street, a patent black-board that never cracks, shrinks nor warps. It is made of several thicknesses of thin wood, cemented together, so as to cross the grain, somewhat analogous to the manner in which chair bottoms are made. It comes in any desired lengths and is sold by the square yard.

The late fire at Spokane Falls is the topic of comment through the Territory, and the question as to where the work of devastation is going to end is assuming more grave significance.

The Thurston Lumber company have resumed business under favorable auspices. The firm is composed of Messrs. J. P. Allison and Willis Township. They are prepared to furnish rough and dressed lumber, lath and pickets.

The Swiss Bell Ringers performed to a full house last night, and fully sustained the enviable reputation they have achieved throughout the country. The most elaborate programme of the season was carried out to the letter and everybody was made happy.

To keep posted in the building industry as it