

THE TETON CHRONICLE.

BY JOHN E. LOW.

Published every Friday at Choteau, Teton County, Montana.

Entered at the post-office at Choteau, Montana, as second class matter.

Subscription \$2.00 per annum.
Advertising rates on application.

ALL ADVERTISING BILLS PAYABLE THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1898

The Sixth Legislative Assembly.

There is no question about democratic responsibility for the acts of the sixth legislative assembly of Montana. Because of its overwhelming majority in both branches of the legislature, democracy can not even share the responsibility with any other party, and it will not seek to do so.

The republicans have elected four senators, and these, with one hold over, will give them five votes in that body, in the house they will have but 10 members out of the 70 elected. A total of fourteen senators and representatives is all the republicans secured in the late balloting, which may be taken as a fair indication of the rebuke administered to Senator Carter.

We hold it as fortunate that the democratic party has complete control of the legislative and executive branches of state government. It will mean a return to democratic simplicity and to sound and conservative legislation. This is assured by the character of the men who will make up that body. They are, as a rule, representative citizens of the state, and among them are many of the ablest and most sagacious leaders of the young democracy of Montana. The Sixth legislative assembly will excel in all essential particulars any like body chosen since Montana became a state, and the Independent has no doubt its record as a law making body will be of like excellence. The standing and character of the men who will be leaders on the floor of either house are an assurance that no loose or vicious legislation will be able to run the gantlet.

The legislative halls will be a chilly place for the professional lobbyist this winter. There will be few glad hands extended to him, and he will be lucky if he is not requested by resolution to keep without the bar of the house and senate.

The Sixth legislative assembly may be counted upon to stand for conservatism and true economy. The clerks will not be so thick around the halls and lobbies as to stumble over each other. Reform in this direction will be promptly put in force. The committees that do not need clerks will not be provided with them simply for ornamental purposes.

The question of fees and salaries for public officials will be considered in a fair and conservative way and such action taken, in the interest of economy, as the situation demands. No lobby will be able to prevent proper action in this particular and the salary bill will be neither lost, strayed or stolen.

There will be no time wasted on woman suffrage or the referendum. These questions and others of their kind will be relegated to the debating clubs. The more important affairs of state, looking to the amendment of existing statutes, as needed, and to such new and practical legislation as the conditions demand, will engross the attention of the members.

One of the early duties to devolve upon the Sixth legislative assembly will be the election of a United States senator to succeed Lee Mantle. The gentleman who may be chosen will be a democrat, a silver man and one who will not betray the people of Montana.—Helena Independent.

The United States Senate.

It is useless to deny that the cause of silver got no slight blow in the results of the late election so far as the United States senate is concerned. We have lost some strong silver men there such as Turpie, of Indiana, and Allen, of Nebraska, though most of the losses in the senate to the re-

publicans were seats held by gold democrats, so called. As far as that goes, silver men would just about as soon see their places filled with avowed republicans as men masquerading under the name of democracy, and voting with the republicans whenever the interests of the money power demanded it. The following table shows how the next senate will stand between the republicans and the opposition. It concedes all the administration silver republicans such as Shoup, of Idaho, Chandler, of New Hampshire, and Kyle of South Dakota, who was elected by populist and republican votes and calls himself an "independent," to the republican column. The opposition comprises 30 democrats, three populists and three silver men, Teller, Stewart and Jones. The republicans are given every possible advantage in this table. Probably it would be hard to find any party question on which their strength would equal that conceded them with the possible exception of senate organization. Here is the table:

	R.	O.
Alabama	2	2
Arkansas	2	2
California	2	2
Colorado	1	1
Connecticut	2	2
Delaware	1	1
Florida	2	2
Georgia	2	2
Idaho	1	1
Illinois	2	2
Indiana	2	2
Iowa	2	2
Kansas	1	1
Kentucky	1	1
Louisiana	2	2
Maine	2	2
Maryland	2	2
Massachusetts	2	2
Michigan	2	2
Minnesota	2	2
Mississippi	2	2
Missouri	2	2
Montana	1	1
Nebraska	2	2
Nevada	2	2
New Hampshire	2	2
New Jersey	2	2
New York	2	2
North Carolina	1	1
North Dakota	2	2
Ohio	2	2
Oregon	2	2
Pennsylvania	2	2
Rhode Island	2	2
South Carolina	2	2
South Dakota	1	1
Tennessee	2	2
Texas	2	2
Utah	2	2
Vermont	2	2
Virginia	2	2
Washington	1	1
West Virginia	1	1
Wisconsin	2	2
Wyoming	2	2
Total	54	36

Republican majority, 18.

A close study of this table will show that it is not by any means sure that a gold standard-currency bill could pass the senate during the next two years. There are for instance, several republican senators like Kunto Nelson, of Minnesota, and Foraker, of Ohio, who, while opposed to free silver by independent action are also on record as opposing any gold standard legislation. There are also at least nine republican senators in the list who have declared themselves as favoring the theory of bimetallism. There is no comfort in the change in the senate from a silver standpoint, but yet it is not so solidly gold standard as some of our contemporaries would have us believe. What is the chance of reversing the political complexion of the senate two years from now? That is a question fraught with the deepest interest to silver men. Many silly and pessimistic assertions are being made of the hopelessness of democratic control of the senate for many years to come by alleged silver men who are either ignorant of the facts, or have a selfish reason for painting the prospects as darkly as possible. Here are the facts in a nutshell. Two years from now the terms of 30 senators will expire. Of these 17 are republican, 11 are democrats, one populist and the other a silver republican. The democrats whose terms expire then are from Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina,

Tennessee, Texas and Virginia, states that can be relied upon to return democratic successors.

The republicans whose terms expire in 1901 are from Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, West Virginia and Wyoming. The populist is Marion Butler, of North Carolina, and the silver republican is R. F. Pettigrew, of South Dakota.

The only state where it is at all possible for the democrats to lose a senator in 1901 is Delaware, and that was carried by Bryan in 1896. Counting that democrats hold their own we have seven states where the chances are altogether in favor of their winning seats from the republicans. They are Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, West Virginia, Kansas and Wyoming. That would reduce the republican majority to four, counting Kyle as a republican. There would still remain the states of Illinois, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Oregon in which republican senators retire, and in which democrats have a fighting show at least to win. If they carried two out of the five they would have wiped out the republican majority in the senate. A considerable smaller measure of success than this would insure the passage of a free coinage bill, as Kyle and other counted republicans would undoubtedly vote for it. A sweeping victory for Bryan in 1900 is likely to carry both houses of congress in with a clear democratic silver majority.—Great Falls Tribune.

Both the amendments voted on at the last election were carried by large majorities. In the amendment relating to the county commissioners it provides for the election at the general election in 1902 of a commission for a term of two years and two for a term of four years, their term to begin in January 1903. In that way the boards of county commissioners in no case may be composed of entirely new men, but there will be on each board at least one who has had previous service. In the amendment relating to the supreme court, hereafter the supreme court will have power to call district judges to the bench when a justice is disqualified in the consideration of an appeal.

The state board of canvassers, consisting of the state auditor, state treasurer and attorney general, will meet in the secretary of state's office December 5th to canvass the returns. The board will count the returns only as they relate to the state ticket. The only man in doubt on the democratic ticket is Wm. Y. Pemberton, who is thought to be defeated.

It has been definitely settled that Mr. McKinley will in his annual message to congress, recommend that the regular army be increased to 100,000 men, and that he will indorse the recommendation of Secretary Long that three battleships and twelve cruisers be built, and twenty thousand men and boys be enlisted in the navy.

Thanksgiving day was not observed generally in Choteau. No community on the footstool had more cause to be thankful and it was the duty of every resident of our city to abstain from ordinary advocations and attend divine service to give thanks for the many blessings of the past year.

Some enterprising townsman can invest his money to good advantage by building dwelling houses to rent. Choteau is badly in need of more tenement buildings.

Tom Sharkey won out with Jim Corbett in New York Tuesday. Although Sharkey was awarded the fight on a foul, he had Jim whipped.

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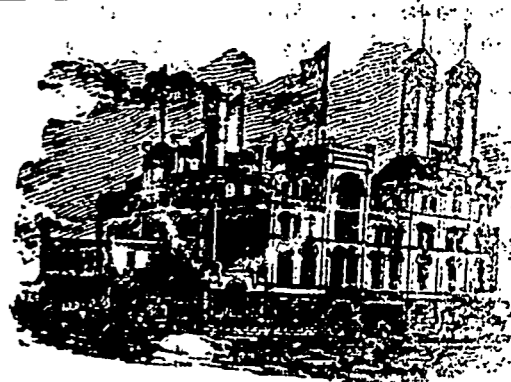
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