

the former, while only a bare majority is required in the latter. Where there are a number of candidates the two-thirds rule necessarily creates in earnest, and in many cases wild disorder.

The National Convention of the People's party will be held in Omaha on Monday, July the 4th next, a day well adapted for rhetorical amplification. Polk, Donnelly and Weaver will be there. This party is composed of the Farmers' Alliance and various allied reform movements. According to its programme, the number of delegates will be 1776, four from each Congressional district in the United States, and eight from each State in the Union. It may safely be predicted that its platform will contain a free silver plank irrespective of monetary conferences or what they propose to do.

The National Convention of the Prohibition party will assemble in the Music Hall, Cincinnati, on June 29th, so that a tourist after feasting on the grandeur of Democracy in Chicago can repair to Porkopolis and study St. John and the cold water politicians. The call provides for 1149 delegates and an equal number of alternates.

Mrs. Victoria Woodhull, now the wife of an Englishman of title, is said to be a candidate for the presidency. The date of her convention is not yet fixed. Her sister Jennie Claffen Cook accompanies her at present in Chicago. The latter lady has entered a libel suit against the Chicago *Mail* for an enormous sum. There is a race horse named "Tenny," a particular favorite in pool circles by the lake side. The *Mail* reporter got the two Tennies mixed, and ascribed to one ailments and mishaps which properly belonged to the other. Jennie Cook felt aggrieved and is now seeking the scalp of the *Mail* editor, while the other Jennie remains quite contented. The Woodhull convention will be duly announced if anything comes of this "boom" more than sound and hum-combe.

SILVER A PARTY ISSUE.

It is reported that Governor Pennoyer of Oregon, a Democrat, holted his party a short time ago, because at the State Convention he failed in having a plank calling for free and unlimited coinage of silver inserted in the platform. Furthermore, it is said that he has pronounced in favor of the People's party.

This, taken in connection with the establishment of silver clubs in the West, the avowed object of which is independent action of the character adopted by Governor Pennoyer, is somewhat significant. The treatment accorded the Bland bill in the House has caused more or less dissatisfaction among the free silver Democrats. The *Review of Reviews*, speaking entirely from a non-partisan view, says:

"Unlimited silver coinage at the present ratio is not a cause with which we are in sympathy; but it must be confessed that its discomfiture was won by inglorious means. Obstruction in a legislative body is the denial to the people of free and open rule. The silver question ought to have come to a vote at the appointed time."

The theory on which this criticism is based is that by the undefined attitude of the party as a whole on this issue the "gold bugs" of the East and the "silver fanatics" of the South are being frightened out of the party.

The *Review of Reviews* is of opinion that the People's party, or in other words, the Farmers' Alliance, will play a more important part in the pending campaign than is generally anticipated. The pronouncement of Oregon's governor would seem to give color to this supposition. The *Review* contends that from present indications the Minneapolis Republican platform will be more pronounced than the Chicago platform in its attitude towards silver, and consequently draw to it anti-silver Democrats, while free silver Democrats will take refuge in the People's party.

It must be remembered that since the *Review* article was written, and since Pennoyer's change, the holding of an international monetary conference has been declared an assured certainty. The most powerful nations of Europe are now in communication with the United States on this question. It is possible that the proposed conference will not accomplish all that is desirable, but no sensible Democrat or Republican will halt his party until the result of that congress is published.

According to Dr. Gordy's historical treatment of the slavery issue as a party question in 1854, free silver at present furnishes a sort of parallel. There are pro and anti-silver men now, as there were pro and anti-slavery men then, in both parties. The attitude of Southern Democrats at that time disrupted their party and finally they lost absolutely what they fought so vigorously for.

In view of the fact that a monetary conference is now a certainty, it would be folly for either Democrats or Republicans to precipitate a crisis that would only result in financial chaos for a considerable time. Polk, Weaver, and Donnelly, though active politicians and would-be reformers, are not the material of which great leaders are made. They will do everything possible to make capital out of the dissatisfaction caused by the Bland bill, but conservative men should remember that these agitators are idealists blown about by every chance zephyr, now greenback, now sub-treasury, now silver, and tomorrow who knows what?

LIMIT TRUSTS AND SYNDICATES.

The question of trusts and syndicates is being revived in a new form. It appears that recently all the Kentucky bourbon whiskey distilleries have been purchased by an English company for \$10,000,000, and the six great meat-packing concerns of Chicago sold to a similar company for \$8,500,000. It is contended that some steps should be taken to discourage such vast aggregations of capital, either by a system of taxation or by restriction, in the form of law.

It is admitted in the meantime, that corporations are as much entitled to

protection as individuals, and that a limit to the fortune of the former could not with propriety be imposed, without applying the same law to the latter.

The San Francisco *Chronicle* suggests the following:

"If it be desirable to put a check to the operations of aggregated capital, there would seem to be no more practicable method than to put a tax on production varying with the output. Thus a whisky trust which produced 1,000,000 gallons of whisky a month, or within a specified time, might be compelled to pay an internal revenue duty of \$3 or \$5 a gallon, while the individual distiller whose product was very small might pay only 50 cents a gallon, or something of that sort. The Chicago pork-packing syndicates might be taxed on the same basis, the principle being to encourage individual production and discourage the labor of trusts and syndicates."

The objection to this plan is that it discriminates for and against classes, and class legislation is opposed to the genius of the Constitution. Whatever plan is adopted must not invade the principle of equality of individuals and classes before the law. The subject is a perplexing one.

THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

On the 11th of May, 1792, the ship "Columbia" entered the great river which flows into the Northern Pacific ocean. Captain Gray gave the name of his ship to the new discovery, and hence we have the Columbia river, famed for its salmon and its beauty. On Wednesday last, the centennial anniversary of this discovery, the people of Astoria, Oregon, commemorated the event with due ceremonies and solemnities.

Astoria is the oldest town in the northwest coast. It dates back to 1811, when John Jacob Astor established a trading post at the mouth of the Columbia river which was called Astoria in honor of the great fur dealer and peddler. The place has an interesting history. Washington Irving's "Astoria" will repay perusal. It is a story of pioneer life of thrilling interest.

Great Britain obtained possession of this Territory in 1812, and it remained British soil until 1846, when Oregon and Washington were proclaimed United States property. The British fur-traders then moved further north. In 1849 a Federal custom house was established, and Astoria soon became a thriving little town. Its population at present is about 10,000. The people not alone of this town, but of the whole coast paid due honors to the Plymouth Rock anniversary of the Pacific.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN IDAHO.

The labor trouble in Idaho is assuming a rather peculiar phase. Mr. Alback, editor of the *Wallace* (Idaho) *Press*, has been enjoined from making any comments on the Mine Owners Association or its members. By reason of this injunction a large portion of the current issue cannot be delivered to subscribers. Mr. Alback in his paper repoused the cause of the miners,