

**La Grande Evening Observer**

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EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS

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**BEWARE OF THESE.**

It is unlawful on election day—  
To hire vehicles to haul voters to and from the polls;

To hire any one to work at the polls, except to challenge persons not qualified to vote;

To wear any political badge or insignia at the polls;

To distribute cards or campaign literature at the polls; or to work at the polls in any way to influence voters;

To do anything to influence voters. Under the terms of Oregon's new corrupt practice act, passed by the people last June, the presidential election November 3 will be just a plain election, without any frills—nothing but the polls, the election board and the voters. The time-honored gauntlet of political workers handing out cards, which the voter has always had to run, is now illegal.

The weather a few days ago gave us an object lesson on bad temper, and how it disturbs everything that comes in contact with it. Grande Ronde never experienced such cold weather in October before, until the weather man in the east lost his temper, piled up the snow in many states, blocked trains, and made life miserable generally, over a large section of the country, and even affected usually calm and peaceful Grande Ronde.

The man who waits to be hauled to the polls on election day this year may wait quite a while. Liverymen will be affected to a considerable extent under the provisions of the new law. It will lessen the campaign expenses. This has always been no small item to the individual candidates and to the campaign committees.

Every youth who went to school in La Grande this morning, certainly took in a good-sized chunk of sunshine with them. This was no blue Monday.

One week from tomorrow and the battle of the ballots will be waged.

**Medals for Heroes.**

New York, Oct. 26.—Heroes of the metropolitan fire department today received public recognition of their bravery at the imposing ceremonies which accompanied the annual presentation of medals. The exercises were held at 86th street and Riverside drive, enabling both the land and water branches of the fire department to give an exhibition of their prowess and skill for the benefit of the wildly applauding spectators. The presentation of medals was made by Mrs. McClellan, wife of the mayor. Nine fire boats were assembled in the North River and performed various evolutions, including an exhibition of water throwing.

**Roosevelt's Birthday.**

Washington, Oct. 26.—President Roosevelt will celebrate his 50th birthday tomorrow, and already congratulations are beginning to arrive at the White House. A dinner party will probably be held tomorrow evening to commemorate the anniversary.

**Missionary Social.**

The Missionary society of the Presbyterian church, will give a social at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Hanra next Wednesday evening. The social will be given in the interest of the Sitka training school. A silver offering will be accepted.

**The Wildcat Candidate—Bryan and Business Interests.**

In his writings dealing with the early part of the war Albert D. Richardson tells of going to bed one evening with \$70 in his pocket and waking up with \$20. Nobody had touched his pocket. The bank bills were there, but between the hours of retiring and rising those bank bills had diminished in value from \$70 to \$20.

That was Democratic money. The Democratic party had just gone out of power. It had been in power for many, many years, and its idea of the sort of currency for American men of business to try to do business with is indicated in the incident related by Mr. Richardson. History tells how the Republican party took hold of Democratic wildcat money and throttled it with the national banking law, and dollars no longer melt away in pockets while the owner is sleeping.

The Democratic wildcat, however, is still on the rampage. It has the same fur and claws and tail, the worse for age, it is true, and considerably the worse for experience. Like the Bourbons, it has neither learned nor forgotten anything and is just as ready to make cats and dogs of American currency and American business interests as it was in the days of Buchanan.

Bryan's guaranty of bank deposits means, in brief, that the safe, careful, conservative bank in which John Smith deposits his money is to be made responsible for the wildcat concern in which John Jones deposits his and whose funds have been loaned out, perhaps under cover of legality, on worthless paper to speculators and schemers. The Democrats were always tenderly inclined toward institutions of the class last mentioned, and it is not strange to find the Democratic candidate for the presidency wanting to safeguard the delinquent bank and its wildcat loans with the money belonging to the stockholders of banks that are faithfully and soundly managed.

The scheme, which is just about as sound as Bryan's free silver penance of twelve years ago, is a fair measure of the caliber of the man and of his capacity for doing mischief to the business interests of the United States should he be endowed with the power which attaches to the office of president. It also indicates to business men the folly of giving any comfort or encouragement to the Bryanite agitation.

**How Has Bryan Grown?**

One of the pleas most insistently urged in behalf of Mr. Bryan is that he has grown and broadened since his last campaign and is therefore more worthy of public confidence. There is something in this plea. That there was room for improvement in Mr. Bryan's intellectual structure is sufficiently indicated by the following remarkable extract from his speech in Salem, Ill., Oct. 8, 1900:

"The Republicans will buy every vote that can be bought. They will coerce every vote that can be coerced. They will intimidate every laboring man who can be intimidated. They will bribe every election judge who can be bribed. They will corrupt every court that can be corrupted."

That utterance, be it remembered, came from the presidential candidate of a great political party. It was launched against another great party then engaged in the honorable campaign to re-elect President William McKinley, whose victory four years before had sounded the knell of Bryanism and rescued the government from impending repudiation and dishonor.

Never before had the people heard from a presidential candidate an utterance so base and vulgar as that of which Mr. Bryan was guilty in his Salem speech. And, inasmuch as the Democratic party, in spite of all its shortcomings, has always insisted upon a certain amount of dignity and self-respect on the part of its candidates for the presidency, it is reasonably certain that there will be no repetition of the offense by its representative in the present campaign.

Truly, Mr. Bryan has grown, but how—in real wisdom or merely in self-restraint and craftiness? He appeals for harmony, yet he has never recanted the doctrines which plunged his party into confusion and twice defeated it. He begs for popular confidence, yet at heart he is still pledged to the reckless policies which in two successive campaigns made him an object of national suspicion. He has grown in discretion, but there is no evidence to show that beneath the surface he is really other than Bryan, the cheap politician, who maliciously insulted the supporters of William McKinley in his vulgar speech at Salem eight years ago.

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