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HOME TALENT PERFORMANCES

The home talent drama should be encouraged in La Grande if we would round out the children and make them at ease before an audience. And along this line but it is right and proper to offer a word of praise for such excellent productions as the Mikado, which was rendered Saturday evening by request. It had been produced here once before and was such a pleasurable event that the demand was unanimous among playgoers for home talent to appear the second time.

The day of public speaking is fast going unless something is done to cultivate the art. In years gone by the political convention brought out oratorical powers in boys and developed them in the art of speaking, but today there are scarcely any gatherings of that nature where men mingle and associate. Naturally, we must turn to the public schools and demand that the error be corrected. Just as we demand almost everything else from the schools, and to get the best results teachers have found it necessary to place the pupil firm in the harness of public work.

For this, and other reasons, aside from the pleasure an audience receives, the Mikado and all kindred events should be heartily encouraged.

UNCLE JOE'S REPUBLICANISM

Strickland Gillilan, brother of J. D. Gillilan, one of Eastern Oregon's prominent men, had a story of Joe Cannon's republicanism in the Baltimore Sun several days ago from which we take the following:

"What is Republicanism?"
You see, there has been such a riot and orgy of individualism since this man Roosevelt went on the job some eight and a half years ago; party lines have been so tampered with and smeared—not to say erased in large spots and long streaks—that the terms Democratic and Republican had taken on (in the mind of the proletariat, whatever that is) a meaning almost as vague as the shadow of a cloud. Therefore, guiding in my judgment by the wonder in my-

self as to what our Uncle Joe meant when he wrote to the Sads City lady about the "principles of the Republican party," I made up my mind impetuously, just as I and Roosevelt always do things, that I would go right up to the smoking Cannon's muzzle and ask him what Republicanism is. As one of the sole survivors of old partyism, he ought to know, oughtn't he? His answer ought to be an interesting relic of dear departed days—days so dear to the man of moderate income that he is glad they are so nearly departed.

Arrived at the entrance of the Congressional warren, I sent in my card to the Hon. J. F. C. Talbott, alias Fred. That gentleman came out and looked very eskance at me. At first he was not favorably impressed with my appearance, but when I reminded him that I was a Roland Park high brow in permanent disguise and had taken the stump against him in 1908 his gratitude not only knew bounds but didn't even suspect any. Thanking me heartily for my help in electing him he asked what he could do for me. I spoke falteringly of my vaunting ambition to seek the bubble reputation at the usual place and he said he'd do his best. I followed him fearlessly to the erie of the old Gray Eagle of Danville, and there waited in the lobby until a few other people from various wheres got through talking to the speaker. (Mr. Cannon is a very careless man; he stays away from the speaker's desk when Congressmen from various places are talking, thereby missing many eloquent expressions of great thoughts).

Finally the well known face and figure came out of the inner sanctissimus, circulated about the reception room, glad handing some visitors, patting them on the shoulders, pulled them affectionately closer to tell them in a sotto voice a story or two, and—it was my turn.

Mr. Talbott introduced me and with drew, probably feeling he had done enough unkindness for one day, both to Mr. Cannon and myself. The speaker led me into the inner shrine and we were seated.

"Mr. Speaker," said I (with the worst case of stage fright I've had since childhood) "I'm going to ask you a question. I don't know whether—"

"Maybe I'd know more about it if you'd ask it."

Biff! And it was coming to me right, too. The jolt brought me out of my trance and I said:

"Since there's been such an individualism debauch in national politics for a few years, I'd like to have you, as the most eminent old-line party man, tell me what you regard as Republicanism today."

Uncle Joe looked straight ahead of him for a minute and then sonorously replied in the tones of a prize elocution pupil:

"Republicanism today is the same it was in 1904, 1906 and 1896. The Republican party, from an economical standpoint, has not changed. When it does cease from fidelity to its principles and platform from 1860 down

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to the present time, it will cease to exist."
"Is any such change impending?" I asked, unexpectedly to both of us.
Out Uncle Joe arose to his feet and pulled the diapason and octave-couple stops before he replied:
"Not the slightest! One generation comes and goes"—a pause while he gazed dreamily out of the window—then, "Oh, yes! One generation comes and goes and is succeeded by another. The policies of the Republican party under the leadership of Lincoln and from that time on down to the present are known to favor protection to American labor and production. The wisdom of that policy" (here he walked close and pointed his finger at me as I wrote) "is demonstrated by the progress of the country so that a wayfaring man though a fool, can read as he runs. And a majority of the people will stand for this policy as faithfully during the swing of the twentieth century as the party of old did from 1860 to the present time."
Gee! Didn't that sound familiar! I could have stayed at home and written the same thing and not had to submit it to Private Secretary Busby's censorship. Just so much sonorous, well-regulated, time-tried pillie that has put every one of us to sleep for the past twenty years when we listened to partisan oratory.
And I had so hoped that, with all the baiting he'd had recently, he might say something!
No use talking—a man who can remember the lines and gestures of his declamation under fire is going to be mighty hard to convince that his bell has rung. I took one of his cigars and learned why he always wears it perpendicularly. It has to be set like a chimney before it will draw. I have it at home now, in moth balls.

Mrs. Hetty Green has announced that she will retire from business life

at an early date. She will never quit, although she may be honest in thinking she will. When a woman, or a man, has led the active life that she has the only time they quit is when either physical disability or death claims them.
Binger Hermann's life now hangs by a thread. He may recover and live several years and he may not. And now that the old man is practically closing his life's chapter there will be many perhaps who will look with considerable charity upon his alleged misdeeds. Binger Hermann can lay his downfall wholly to his political ambition. He never profited by the transaction that are charged against him, for today he is a poor man. But he was ambitious, and like every other man who has strong aspirations, he paid the price.

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D. E. COX,
Recorder of the City of La Grande.

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