

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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THAT NEW ELECTION PLAN.

Proportional representation or, as its advocates prefer to call it, "the unanimous constituency system of representation," already is in successful use in Sweden, Denmark, Japan, parts of Germany, South Africa and the state of Tasmania in Australia. It is now the big political issue in France, where it is proposed in the elections for the national house of deputies.

The claims of this system now are being pushed in this country, especially for municipal elections. It is said that by this method a representation of minorities is possible and that it thus brings about a share in the government by all classes in the city.

The system in brief is to allow the voter not only a first choice vote but a second, third, fourth or any number, depending on the total of candidates running. Where one or more of the candidates receive enough votes to be the unanimous choice of the fractional unit decided on they are declared elected. In picking out the rest the second, third and other choices are counted in a way which ends by making men elected the unanimous selection of a certain group. The details that tell just how this is done are given in a pamphlet issued by the American Proportional Representative league, C. G. Hoag, of Tamworth, N. H., secretary. The explanation of the system covers several pages of this document and its ramifications are such that they are not easily summarized.

The strongest argument for the innovation is that it does away with our present tyranny by bare majorities. As applied to the city government, it enables the voter not only to vote for a man of his own ward, but for the candidates in other wards if he wishes. It frequently happens now that there are on a ticket more than one or two men whom citizens would like a share in electing. They are confined, however, by ward boundaries and hence can have a voice only in the selection of their own direct representatives. If they vote for a loser they are without representation in the

council. Under the proportional representation plan as worked out in the countries which have adopted it every class that can make a respectable showing at the polls has its spokesman in the governing body.

Next to listening to an agent explain a vacuum cleaner the hardest thing in the listening line is being judge in a debating contest.

Three more women are to be added to the San Francisco police force. If Japan starts anything, there's one city that will be prepared.

Harold McCormick of Chicago will go to his office every day in an airship. That is one way to beat the slow elevator service.

Bulgaria asks for only \$400,000,000 war indemnity when it wouldn't have cost her anything to add on a few more ciphers.

Philadelphia has organized a school for milkmen. One of the facts that should be taught is that two pints make a quart.

But the question arises as to how the grape-juice administration is going to christen its battleships.

A paper hanger never complains because a rush of business drives him to the wall.

The slash skirt, if banished, will come into play all right as a bathing suit.

THE BEAR THAT JOKED
By M. QUAD
Copyright, 1913, by Associated Literary Press.

"I might have haws to sell but fur the b'ars, and I might have bacon in my smokin' house but fur the darkies. 'Twixt the one and t'other I'm driven to eat oon and possam most most of the time. Dawg-gone b'ars and dawg-gone darkies!"

The Arkansas squatter, having delivered himself of the above, filled his cornucob anew, drew several long puffs and continued:

"Everybody knows what a taste the darky has fur bacon, but you will meet up with mighty few people who know that a b'ar will face most any odds to git hold of fresh pork.

"Aside from the pork question, the b'ar is also smart in hevlin' a sense of humor. I never heird one go haw, haw, haw, but I've seen 'em wearin' a grin and feelin' tickled.

"It was one night about five years ago that a b'ar come along at night and took my pig out of the pen. I was lyin' sick at the time and couldn't git out to shoot him, but I reckoned he'd hang around till I got a show to git even.

"It was a month befo' I was out, and then spring had come, and fur was no good. All I could do was to play a joke on that varmint and make him feel bad. I got some barbed wire and strung it across the pen, and when all was ready I killed a woodchuck and dragged him around the pen and throwed his carcass in. The old woman seen what was goin' on and said: "Jim, are yo' gwine to tangle that

b'ar up in that barbed wire?"
"That's what it's fur," said I.
"Whut yo' got ag'in him?"
"Ye carried off our bawg."
"That was becase yo' was too lazy to roof the pen in. I wouldn't do any foolin' with that b'ar. He cum loatin' round yere the other day when yo' was away, and he looked mighty serious and solemn. He ain't no critter to joke with.

"But he'll, how to stand it just the same. If he git among them wires he'll feel tickled to death."
"Waal, said she, 'yo' go ahead, but I'm tellin' yo' 'bout if yo' joke with that b'ar he'll cum out ahead. That's b'ars and b'ars. Some goes in fur fun, and some don't."

"That night about 'leven o'clock that b'ar cum spokin' round. I was awake and heard him sniffin', but I kept quiet till he climbed up the logs of the pen and dropped down inside. He knowed woodchuck from bawg, of co'se, but woodchuck was good 'nuff fur him jest then. If he saw them barbed wires he took 'em fur strings. Leastwise he leaped right down, and next minit he was makin' fuss 'nuff fur three dog fights. They heard him howlin' way over to Jim Tanner's place. Lawd, sah, but it made my ha'r stand up to hear him take on! But I got on my clothes and went out to rub it into him a little. Lookin' down into the pen, I called him a bawg thief and lots of other names, and every time he roared I laughed in his face. I jest poked fun at that critter till I was tired. How the varmint got free and got out of the pen I dunno, but he was gone in the mawnin'. Thar was blood and fur all over the pen, and thar was fur scattered all round the yard, and I reckon he'd had a bad time of it. That was the last I seen of that b'ar fur a long time—in fact, so many weeks had gone by I'd clean forgotten him when I cum home on day and the old woman said to me:

"Jim, camp meetin' begins tomorrer at Coon Creek, and we'll tote ourselves over thar."

"Too much shoutin'," said I.
"Ye never mind the shoutin', but git ready."

"I didn't keer to go, but I didn't want to fuss, and so the next mawnin' we toted along. We reckoned to stay fo' days, but on the second day the old woman said to me:

"Jim, yo' member that b'ar yo' joked with?"

"I reckon."

"Ever seen him sence?"

"Noap."

"Waal, I've had a vision. I was puttin' the beans over to cook while I listened to the preachin' when that b'ar seemed to rise right up befo' me, and he was grinin'."

"What about?"

"I couldn't say, but he was feelin' powerful good natured over sunthin'. Don't yo' reckon we'd better go home?"

"What fur?"

"To see if that varmint hain't bin up to sunthin'. He may hev got the cabin doah open."

"I laughed at her fur a spell, but she got so anxious that we finally sot out fur home. We was still half a mile away when a cloud of feathers came flyin' through the air, and we both groaned. When we got a little nearer we saw the front door open, and later on we looked in upon such a scene as no cyclone ever left behind. That b'ar had bin in the cabin fur a day or two, and he had jist clawed and scratched and bit and destroyed till the fireplace was about the only thing left. We stood thar fur awhile and didn't say nuthin'. Then the old woman quietly turned to me and asked:

"Are this Jim Hope of Arkansas?"

"She are, I said.

"Waal, Jim Hope," she said as she p'inted to the destruction inside and made me a kerchy. "yo' are altogether too funny fur me, and I'll walk over to mother's and stay till yo' git ready to buy \$200 worth of new things and git over crackin' barbed wire jokes!"

A DEED AND A WORD.
A little stream had lost its way
Amid the grass and fern.
A passing stranger scooped a well.

Where weary men might turn.
He walled it in and hung with care
A ladle at the brink.

He thought not of the deed he did.
But judged that all might drink.
He passed again, and, lo, the well,
By summer never dried.

Had cooled ten thousand parching tongues
And saved a life beside.

A nameless man amid a crowd
That thronged the daily mart
Let fall a word of hope and love,
Unstudied, from the heart.

A whisper on the tumult thrown,
A transitory breath—
It raised a brother from the dust.
It saved a soul from death.

O germ, O fount, O word of love,
O thought at random cast,
Ye were but little at the first,
But mighty at the last.
—Charles Mackay.

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FILIPINO NINE COMING.

Team Will Play in Japan Too—Due Here June 25.

An All Filipino baseball team, composed of fourteen of the fastest players in the Philippines, will go on a tour of Japan and the United States this summer. The team is due to arrive in San Francisco about June 25 under the direction of Alejandro Albert and E. F. Willets, the team manager.

The Filipino has made wonderful strides in the progress of the national game in the Philippines since American occupation, and the management of the team is confident that the players will make a creditable showing. The members of this team represent several different tribes of the Philippines, including the Tagalog, Ilocano, Visayan, Pampangan, Bicol and Macabebe.

PERSONALS.

Lou Larison went to Baker this morning.

J. T. Corbett returned home this morning from Portland.

N. K. West returned home from Portland this morning.

Miss Mable Wallace who has been attending school in Spokane returned home this morning.

Miss Helen Anette of Boise, passed through La Grande this morning, returning home from Moscow, where she attended the graduation exercises. She was met at the train by a number of her La Grande friends.

Delile Green returned home last night from Salem where he was called by his father's illness.

Gene Good returned home last night from Eugene where he has been attending the university.

Edith Adams returned home from Baker last evening.

Jas. E. Bannon, Portland; J. A. Haran, Portland; D. Belding, Portland; E. W. Steel, Enterprise; Mrs. Geo. W. Hyatt, Enterprise; N. Bisalton, Portland; H. W. Hamilton, Enterprise; Ora Hamilton, Enterprise; W. W. Reed, Seattle; Chas. Steward, Pendleton; E. F. Tucker, Salt Lake; and W. F. Hatch, of San Francisco, are among those stopping at the Sommer.

R. F. Weed, Baker; D. H. Strauss, ...

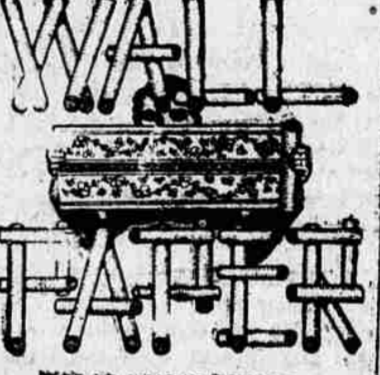
Salt Lake; M. Kirts, Pomeroy, Wash.; S. E. Price, San Francisco; W. B. Starkey, Portland; J. W. McCommach, Pendleton; W. C. Elliott, Perry; A. J. Leonard, Portland; C. E. Colar, Portland, and C. F. Robertson of Seattle, are among the guests stopping at the Foley.

F. L. Morley, Wallowa; J. E. Weaver, Union; C. A. Saxton, Union; W. S. Burnett, Starkey; Mrs. L. M. Duncan, Joseph; Mrs. G. E. Mitchell, Joseph; R. F. Faulk, Pasco; Mrs. C. Dennis,

Elgin; V. Kennedy, Medical Springs; H. Remillard, Elgin; C. W. Chandler, Banks, Idaho; and John Cobel, of Imbler, are among those stopping at the Savoy.

Harry Hyde, county assessor of Baker county, is in the city today on business matters.

B. B. NUTTER WALL PAPER



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