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General Shafter weighs 350 pounds. What's the matter with him for a big, strong, running mate for Roosevelt?

Joseph W. Folk, of Missouri, refuses to preside at the St. Louis convention. He knows full well that in that conspicuous seat the presidential lightning would have a good chance at him.

There are abundant indications that the people of the United States have come to the conclusion that a party that has had absolute control for eight years is sure to be corrupt and ought to be superseded.

The declarations of Messrs. Bryan and Hearst that they both cheerfully expect to support the candidate who may be nominated at St. Louis defines their status creditably and agreeably.

The national treasury seems to have slumped. Instead of a surplus of \$14,000,000 as Secretary Shaw promised, there will be a deficit of about three times that amount. For a season of "unexampled prosperity," this is very depressing.

And now the ministers are accused by the railroads of misusing transportation permits by disposing of them to brokers. It is not supposed that St. Peter will have any such charge to make for those fortunate enough to get a pass will be likely to keep it for their own use.

The largest summer school in the world will open at Knoxville, Tennessee on June 28, for three months. It will consist principally of teachers from 24 states, and there will be 100 skilled lecturers on the various phases of educational work. The attendance last year was more than two thousand.

President Roosevelt says that if the Central and South American republics behave decently, pay their debts, and are orderly and prosperous, they need not fear an attack from us; but if they are disorderly, as we have occasionally been, and get in debt, as we are at this moment, why, then, they must look out.

If the Merchant Marine Commission is frank and honest, it will report to Congress that a ship subsidy is an expensive luxury. James J. Hill testifies that the two merchant ships which he built as an experiment, the largest in the world, cost him one-third more than they would have cost in England. "I've had enough," he exclaims.

Nothing was said about the illegality of floating mines till Japan was hit by them. If a rule is to be made, excluding them from neutral waters, neutrality should be defined to be ten miles from shore, instead of three miles, which latter distance was specified as the neutral zone because three miles was at that time the extreme range of artillery.

The Constitution created Congress, and yet the Supreme Court has decided that the creature is greater than the creator and that the constitution does not go to the Philippine Islands until Congress sends it. Editors O'Brien and Dorr, of the Manila Freedom, must now spend months in jail after having in vain demanded a jury trial. It will be interesting to know whether they will change the name of their paper when they remove the visible stripes which for some months will cover the invisible stripes.

It frequently takes more than one dreadful accident resulting in wholesale death to teach the public a lasting lesson. Immediately following the destruction of the Iriquois theatre in Chicago, many municipalities took up the matter of causing means of escape from public buildings to be provided but the work was not completed at that time and in some cases at least seems now to have been forgotten.

The movement for an increase in teachers' salaries, is one that has long been overdue. There is no class of professional people that must keep any more on the alert than a progressive teacher, and there is no other class of professional people so poorly paid. Thirty-five to fifty dollars per month for eight or nine months' work, is what the greater part of the teachers receive.

When the cost of a bare living is deducted there is nothing left and it is small wonder that many are leaving the profession.

The following bit of news has wandered across the sea for American consideration and it would probably offend Emperor William if he knew the American opinion of the two main points therein:

A stone monument, weighing fifty tons, is being raised in the Schorfelde, near Zehlendorf, Germany on the spot where the Emperor stood when he killed his 1,000th stag. The stone bears the inscription: "Our most illustrious marriage and lord, Emperor William II, stood here on September 20, Anno Domini 1898, when slaying his 1,000th stag of twenty tines."

The recent troubles in the Portland postoffice, which resulted in a change of postmasters, brings up the suggestion that postmasters in offices of the first and second class should be in the Civil Service and should attain their positions through promotion from the lower branches of the service. There is no question that the service would be freer from scandal and incompetency than it is now and that the heads of the great offices would have a more comprehensive view of the details of their work. As long as the office remains a part of party patronage, just so long will there be good, bad, and indifferent postmasters. The Civil Service is not above reproach, but on the whole it is an institution that has worked great good along the whole line.

Profiting by the experience of the Government, our state should adopt a Civil Service system and take its county offices out of politics. Such a measure should be proposed through the initiative and referendum.

The following is the view taken of the direct primary system by the Atlanta Constitution:

The agitation in Alabama in favor of a return to the old county convention plan of settling political contests, doing away with the recently adopted primary system, is hardly likely to meet with favor among the democratic masses however much it may be advocated by some of the politicians of our sister state. While we do not assume to be entirely familiar with the conditions in Alabama which have furnished the excuse for this reactionary movement, we believe that movement is doomed to failure, as it ought to be. It may be true that the primary method has been found expensive to candidates and that there may be other features of a local character to which Alabamians object, but these can be corrected in Alabama as they will be in Georgia without impairing the primary system.

The democrats of no southern state can afford to support any system for the selection of any party candidates which does not give every democratic voter the opportunity to give full voice to his choice. No state which has adopted the primary system has ever abandoned it; and if the democrats of Alabama permit themselves to be guided by the experiences of their fellow democrats in other states, they will turn their attention toward perfecting and strengthening the present system rather than toward a return to old methods which were fraught with dissatisfaction.

It is not so very long since the first experiments were made. Up to that time the rule was the county mass meeting called at the county court house, to which all democrats were invited, but where, as a matter of fact, the men who got there first ran things as they chose. It was a practical impossibility to get anything like a full vote under this method and the natural result was the constant charge of court house ring rule and much general dissatisfaction. The county executive committees were supreme in determining the method and as a rule the action of the committee was shaped in the interest of the candidate or set of candidates that controlled the committee.

ACTION VS. DISCUSSION.

Discussion necessarily precedes concerted action. The desirability of undertaking a specific work must first be agreed upon; this calls for more or less talk. The desirability having been recognized, the bolder outlines of the plan must be arranged; this calls for more talk. The general plan being arranged, minor details demand attention and call for another "season of talk." And so on, until too often, action is lost sight of and the whole undertaking is buried under a mass of talk, only to be resurrected at some future time and reinterred in the same manner.

Such has been the fate of the project for erecting a monument to the founder of Oregon City, Dr. John McLoughlin. How many times it has been resurrected and re-buried it would be hard to estimate. At the present time, it is apparently in a state of re-incarnation, but whether it will actually materialize or "wrap the drapery of its couch about it and lie down to pleasant dreams," remains to be seen.

The members of the Lewis and Clark Club of Oregon City have shown a commendable zeal in creating interest in the early history of this, the central historic spot of Oregon, and in plans for perpetuating the memory of the characters con-

nected with that history. It only remains for them to bring to a realization some of their plans. In order to do this, they should incorporate and thus be able to transact business. And this should be done at once. Discussion was a necessary preliminary; but do not stop with discussion. Go on, until "something accomplished, something done," has earned the gratitude of all who are interested in the beautifying of our city and in performing a duty we owe to the heroes who made the existence of our city a possibility.

ROOM FOR CONGRATULATIONS.

The Democracy of Clacamas county congratulates itself upon the showing it made in the recent election. Not since 1904 has there been a Democratic ticket in the field. In that year the Democrats polled about 600 votes, in the recent election, that number was doubled. The mere fact that we won no officers in the contest, is of comparatively little importance to the organization. The more important fact is that Democracy has shown a very decided gain, and this alone will cause the party in power to be more circumspect in their conduct of public affairs, more economical of the funds entrusted to them by the people. It is well known—having been admitted by the Democrats and heralded abroad by the Republicans—that the former went into the fight without any semblance of organization. In spite of this, a creditable campaign was waged and with results of which every Democrat in the county feels proud. The Republicans possessed two great advantages this year that they will not have two years hence. First, this is a presidential election year, and many an officer was carried through by the sophistry that "the election of the entire ticket is necessary as an indorsement of Roosevelt." Second, in this county the Republican nominees were all second term men. As it is customary to give an officer two terms, this gave them added strength. These conditions will not exist in 1906.

That this county is strongly Republican cannot be denied. That under ordinary circumstances the Democrats can elect the county ticket, cannot be claimed. But if the carelessness and extravagance of the past two years be continued during the next two, the people of all parties will see to it that Ring Rule is abolished. If true economy and fair dealing marks the conduct of county affairs during that time, then the Democracy can justly congratulate itself on producing this radical change by the vigorous blows struck during the recent campaign.

TRY YOUR OWN MEDICINE.

A few weeks ago the Courier contained the following:

"The fervent admiration of Hamilton and the disparagement of Jefferson by Republican newspapers and orators is a significant sign. Hamilton was the most pronounced monarchist of his time. He wanted a Senate elected for life, and a permanent President and nobility, and if he could have had his way the states would have been extinguished and subjected to a strong central power. If he were alive now he would hate the anti-imperialists as the arch enemies of mankind."

And now comes the Salem Statesman and advises the Courier that it "would be better to read our history."

Knowing full well that none but words of wisdom flow from the facile pen of the Statesman's erudite historian, we began reading history, and here are some of the things we found:

In Hamilton's "Plan of Government" submitted to the Constitutional Convention, Art III, Section 6, is written: "The Senators shall hold their places during good behavior, removable only by conviction on impeachment for some crime or misdemeanor." This establishes our contention that he wanted a Senate elected for life. Article IV, Section 9, of the same document, provides the "President shall hold office during good behavior, removable only by conviction upon impeachment for some crime or misdemeanor." Does that not provide for a permanent president?

In Madison's Journal of the Constitutional Convention under date of June 18 1787, is the following: "If they, (The State Governments), were extinguished, he was persuaded that great economy might be obtained by substituting a General Government." He did not mean however, to shock the public by proposing such a measure. On the other hand he saw no other necessity of declining it. They are not necessary for the great purposes of commerce, revenue, or agriculture. Subordinate authorities, district tribunals, corporations for local purposes, would be necessary. But of what good is the vast and expensive apparatus now appertaining to the states?"

Does not this make it perfectly plain that Hamilton wished to extinguish the States?

In debate in the Constitutional Convention, Hamilton acknowledged that he did not think well of Republican government; and that so far as the executive is concerned, the English was the only correct model. He could conceive of no better model of government than the English, with its House of Lords, House of Commons, and elective Monarchy. True, he did not urge the adopt-

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100 Acres, level, 60 in cultivation, good buildings, 1 1/2 miles from terminus of O. W. P. & Ry. line, at Springwater, \$40 per acre.

82 1-2 Acres in famous Logan country, 60 acres in A 1 cultivation, new frame dwelling cost \$1500, large barn, living water, \$50 per acre.

160-Acre Stock Ranch in Sec. 17, T. 4 S., R. 5 E., two acres cultivated, small house and barn, two million feet fir and cedar, land mostly good, range immense, \$5 per acre.

225 Acres at Logan, 100 acres in cultivation, 50 more nearly ready to break, house, barn, fruit, good neighborhood, \$30 per acre.

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