

PRACTICAL POLITICS

George W. Curtis Defined Mugwumpery As Such.

GAME OF GIVE AND TAKE

Union Party, Composed of Conservative Element of Reformers, Is What Is Needed Now.

NORWAY, Or., Feb. 12.—(Editor of The Courier)—I have just had time since moving to visit the postoffice and find in The Courier a reply of C. S. Howard to some of my previous communications about the Socialist problem. Perhaps I have not sufficiently studied the Socialistic philosophy (I was a Populist before the party was founded), but am a firm believer in practical politics and do not propose to follow a chimera without results where results are obtainable. The Abolitionists, the Know-Nothings, the Free Soilers, the American party or any of the parties that favored abolition before the war could not succeed under those names because the people as a whole or even as a half were not committed to one line of policy or reform and could not be converted in any one or two or half a dozen campaigns. A few level-headed men—practical politicians who were reformers—got together and founded the Republican party. I have this on the authority of George William Curtis, whom I interviewed at his country home in New England some years before his death and who with Horace Greeley, Henry J. Raymond and Thurlow Weed were the four journalists who cut the most ice in the formation of the G. O. P. Mr. Curtis informed me that the Republican party was composed of the most conservative element of the old-line Whigs, Free Soil Democrats and Know-Nothings, etc. When the Republican party became intolerant, Greeley became a Liberal Republican and twelve years later Curtis renounced his allegiance and was classed as a mugwump. Mr. Curtis defined mugwumpery as practical politics, which at that time meant civil service reform, and practical politics is what we still want. The Populists, Democrats and Free Silver Republicans were united on the currency question but could not get together on other issues, hence they lost the game. The writer proposed a union instead of fusion and a state meeting was the result but each faction had its own axes to grind and fusion was agreed upon instead of union, with the result that the People's party ultimately went to pieces, the Free Silver Republicans got back into the fold, and the Democrats, who hogged it all, were never able to regain their power nationally. Curtis and his allies were disinterested politicians who had no personal axes to grind and conservative enough to give and take, hence they succeeded and we must give and take today or we will come out at the little end of the horn in the game of politics. It is all right to cry, "Socialism or nothing," "no half-way ground," etc., but it will not lead to results. We had to have the Missouri and other compromises before the people were ready to abolish slavery and we'll have to deal with the people as we find them today. If it is a fact—as Mr. Howard asserts—that the Socialist must be a thinker, a scientist and a scholar, it is a foregone conclusion that his party will never rule in a republic for the common people, who don't fly so high to the regions of economic determinism will be stubborn and remain on the level with humanity. A Union party, composed of the conservative element of all reform parties is needed today, the opinion of Mr. Howard, the honorable secretary of the Socialist party to the contrary notwithstanding, and as in union there is strength, reformers can by that means and that alone, gain what they are fighting for. I would not eliminate the needed reforms to which the Socialist party now stands committed, such as the initiative and referendum, government ownership, etc., but we're not just ready to usher in the millennium by whacking up what we've earned with our neighbor who has howled calamity while we have been at work or adopting a system that does away with profit. It is present conditions that we have to deal with and we should seek to reverse it and gain the greatest good for the greatest number. That is all any party can hope to accomplish and it will fall far short of that if it succeeds in the main object.

CHARLES A. REESE.

School Report.

Following is the school report of Highland school for the month ending February 9. Number of pupils enrolled, 31; days taught, 20. Total days' attendance, 549; average daily attendance, 28. Those who were present every day are:

Harold Vols, Herbert Vols, Eddie Vols, Sadie Fellows, Eva Schram, Roy Schram, Edna Vols, Stella Hehn, Dwight Fairfowl. Visitors present, Mrs. Ada Stevens, Misses Mary Adams, Gertie Shackley, and D. Miller, director. Visitors always welcome. ROBERT GINTHER, Teacher.

Desideratum.

If we could read this life aright,
The shadows chased by gleams of light,
That come and go;
The darkened days, the months, the years,
So given o'er to doubts and fears,
We need not know.
We wish for grace, we wish for joy,
For earthly love without alloy,
Which cannot be;
Ah! we should read, and read aright
We walk by faith and not by sight,
Thus faith and love agree.

OLIVE E. M'CORD.

THIS IS FOR YOUR BENEFIT

Plan to Compile Brands and Marks of Stock.

We propose to compile in book form the name of every stock owner we can secure, together with his marks, brands and postoffice address. Before we can publish such a book, however, we must have the necessary information, and we ask every farmer in Clackamas county to send us as soon as possible his (1) name, (2) postoffice address, (3) marks, (4) brands.

Just as rapidly as this information reaches us, we will make the necessary classifications. If your mark or brand is the same as the man who lives not far away, we will notify you promptly and a slight alteration may be made, which will avoid probable confusion because of a similarity. Such a work as we propose to produce would be of immense benefit to this county and its stockmen. While we cannot put a price on it at this time, we believe we can sell it for 25 or 30 cents, and still realize a small profit on our work.

How many farmers have fed another's cow or horse for days because he had no means of ascertaining the owner. Some of you have purchased stolen cattle, and hundreds have journeyed miles in cold and rainy weather in search of stock.

A stray animal comes to your place; you look at his marks or brands, refer to your book and get the name and postoffice address of the owner, then telephone or write him at once and he will come after his property.

You can readily see the benefit of this work. You are under no obligations to buy. First of all we need the information. Fill out the following form and mail to us, and ask your neighbors to do the same.

Name.....
Address.....
Marks.....
Brands.....

REESE IN COOS COUNTY.

One-Tenth of Standing Timber of the United States Said to Be There.

NORWAY, Coos County, Oregon, Feb. 12.—(Editor of The Courier)—As several of my friends in Mt. Pleasant wanted me to write a description of Coos county and my trip down here to The Courier, I will submit a hastily-written account, for I am 'baching it' on the farm, my wife having been called as soon as we arrived to the bedside of Grandma Russell, who suffered a stroke of paralysis at her home near Myrtle Point last week, and is reported to be dying. The people of Oregon City and Mt. Pleasant will remember good old Grandma Russell, who never had an enemy, and who was a consistent member of the Congregational church at Oregon City. She was a visitor at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. A. Reese, during the summer of 1905, and said then that it was her last trip over the mountain. She had made fourteen trips in all since the family removed to Coos county.

We left Oregon City a week ago Monday afternoon by boat and finding out at the wharves that we could not leave for a week took rooms at the Rheinglutz hotel and bided our time. It was a profitable week in more ways than one, as the children had the opportunity to visit the city hall and the zoo, than which there is none better west of the Mississippi, and the writer paid his way by work at a printing office and a warehouse. Saturday night the Alliance pulled out but encountered a fog and only made 80 miles. In crossing the Astoria bar Sunday evening, nearly all the passengers experienced seasickness. Aside from these inconveniences, it was a delightful trip, but everybody longed for that projected railroad. Captain Kelly is the most careful of skippers and proposes to be slow but sure. Half of the passengers got off at Northend. Marshfield was reached Monday evening about 5 o'clock. We found the little traffic of one coach, one baggage car and several freights crowded and business lively all along the line to Norway. There were several flag stations along the route, principally lumber and coal camps. It is said that the Coos Bay country has one-tenth of the standing timber of the United States. It is not in evidence near the railroads, as it has been cut off, and only second growth is in sight, but back further we are told that it is great. From Schroeder station to Myrtle Point, which we have since visited, the farm land is similar to that around Oregon City—forty-acre patches—and oldtimers have been here about as long, although the tide of emigration didn't set in until a later period. Mr. Schoeder, who met me at the depot and informed us of the condition of Grandma Russell, is a '59-er and came via the isthmus to Empire City—the oldest settlement of the county. Farm land here is held at a lower figure than in the Willamette valley, \$40 per acre being the average for improved tracts. Homesteads are plentiful in the backwoods. Will write at greater length after I get settled if The Courier desires it.

CHARLES A. REESE.

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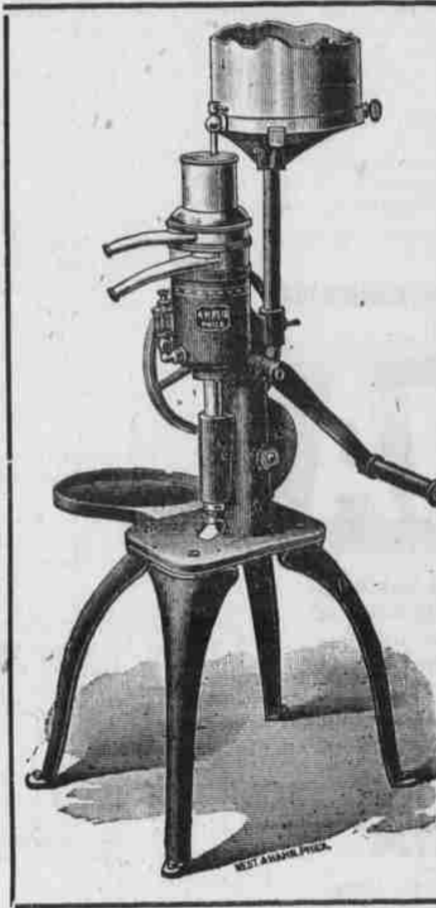
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The Oregon City Courier will give to the person receiving the highest number of Votes up to Saturday, April 7, 1906, at 5 P. M., a Daisy No. 3 Reid Separator, Capacity 350 pounds per hour, Worth \$85.

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One vote will be given for each 5 cents paid on Subscription until 5 P. M., Saturday April 7, 1906

This is Election year and of course you want to keep in touch with conditions. The Courier has made complete and special arrangements to print all the news about the candidates of all parties, who and what they are, their good points and their failings. Our news reports will be fair and impartial and you cannot get all the news of the County except through the columns of THE COURIER.



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