

Oregon City Courier

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Do the People Rule?

The prospect of the passage of the postal savings bank bill by this session of congress seems to be very dubious. A modified and satisfactory bill passed the senate but even this has met with such bitter opposition in the house that there is no probability of any kind of a bill becoming a law before the house adjourns. The republican party in their national platform solemnly declared themselves in favor of this law and in most of the congressional districts throughout the country this platform was unanimously endorsed and yet the congressmen elected on this platform as soon as they are safely in their seats suddenly exercised a change of heart and vote and act in direct opposition to the desires of the people who placed them in authority. The great mass of the people would like to know what subtle influence was brought to bear to bring about this sudden change of views on the part of their representatives and they ask themselves the question, "Do the People Rule?" It is hard to charge the great bankers of the nation with attempting to thwart the will of the people and yet they are the only ones that are seemingly interested in the defeat of this measure. Millions of money deposited in the solid banks of the country do not bear interest, and yet it is loaned out to business men at six per cent and upward. The bankers seem to be alarmed lest their deposits would be withdrawn and deposited where they will draw a small rate of interest. The bill now before congress is not intended to work hardship on any existing financial institutions, and its passage thus would in no way affect their business. The main object of the law is to cause a withdrawal of the vast sums of money stored away in safety deposit, vaults, cellars and attics and place the same in circulation. If the government did not pay any interest whatever it would still be a good law, as it would enable small depositors, many of whom have often been victimized in panicky times, to place their money where they know it would be absolutely safe. Postal savings banks are in successful operation in nearly every civilized country on earth and there is not the slightest reason why they could not be successfully operated in this country. It was said of the late Boss Tweed that he did not care what a man's opinions were before election it was after election that he did business with him. When one thinks over what congressmen promise to do and what they are actually doing they are apt to think that there are still some Tweeds in the country and that some of them are blocking the passage of the postal currency bill. If this congress does not act favorably upon this important measure another one will undoubtedly find that a future congress will not call on them for advice when a new measure was being considered.

The house military committee recently reported adversely on the bill placing the name of General Daniel E. Stokes on the retired list of the army with the rank of lieutenant general. While the committee highly appreciated the services the distinguished officer had rendered his country yet they could not see their way clear to place the name of a civilian on the retired list of the regular army. Gen. Stokes' name has been permanently before the country for more than half a century. He was elected to congress from New York City in 1866 having previously served in both branches of the New York legislature. In 1869, for alleged alienation of his wife's affections, he shot and instantly killed Philip Barton Key, a prominent attorney of the city of Washington and son of the author of the Star Spangled Banner. After a very sensational trial he was acquitted and returned to his seat in the house. At the breaking out of the war he was appointed a brigadier general, and for gallantry of action on many bloody battle fields he was rapidly promoted. At the battle of Gettysburg he was in command of a corps and led a leg in the sanguinary engagement. After the war he was for many years minister to Spain. Although probably not in indignant circumstances congress might have striven to place the name of the aged general's name on the roll of honor of his country's defenders for a short time.

New York state spends annually more than twenty-five million dollars for the support of insane hospitals. If the New York stock exchange could be abolished the taxpayers would probably be afforded great relief.

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EDWARD VII

King Edward VII died from pneumonia at 11:45 Friday, May 6th, at Buckingham Palace. Death claimed the greatest ruler of the world. King Edward was taken sick a week before his death. After three days a serious complication began to develop. The fourth day his physicians issued a bulletin that stirred the whole nation to its depths. On the sixth day the King was dead.

Nearly all members of the King's immediate family were at his bedside when the king died. Just before the end came the royal patient rallied and spoke weakly to those about him. "I know it is all over," he said, "but I think I've done my duty."

Those were his last words. The first official act of the new King, George V, was performed immediately after his father had breathed his last. He dispatched to the Lord Mayor of London the announcement of Edward VII's death, in pursuance of an age-old custom. His telegram read:

"I am deeply grieved to inform you that my beloved father, the King, passed away peacefully at 11:45 tonight. (Signed) 'George.'"

The news that the end of King Edward's reign had come was not a surprise at the last. The people had been expecting it any hour since the evening bulletin was posted at Buckingham Palace, and dashed throughout the kingdom. The capital received it without excitement but sadly, for the King with his own people was unquestionably one of the most popular rulers in the world. He was regarded as one of the strongest forces making for the stability of the peace of the empire.

The shock to Great Britain and to the world was tremendous. King Edward was sincerely loved throughout the length and breadth of England's possessions. He was loved as a great son of a noble mother, and he was loved for himself because he had in his character that rare commingling of domestic simplicity with kingly dignity which made him justly the "first gentleman of Great Britain."

Politically, the death of Edward VII contains grave potentialities. The commons is now engaged in "reforming the house of lords." To Edward a liberal ministry had looked with confidence for the creating of such peers as would carry out the will of the people as expressed at the last election. Now a new King steps forward to take Edward's place. What attitude he may assume in this the greatest political crisis England has faced in generations, remains a problem.

As a statesman he was active and successful particularly so in the field of foreign affairs. The fact that he was an active part of the people made him a useful instrument of the ministry and enabled him to wield more influence than had been given the throne in the past. He was an able diplomat and in all the more important questions of foreign policy during his short reign he made himself felt.

His influence with the ministers in an advisory capacity was much more pronounced than that of Queen Victoria, although his attitude on the political questions of the day was not defined. Edward VII assumed the throne on the death of Queen Victoria, January 22, 1901, so that he was king less than ten years.

In personal appearance King Edward was the typical Englishman. He was rather below the average stature, of strong and heavy build. His ruddy face befitting a man of age and good spirits up to a short time ago, and he was regarded as a model for quite refinement of dress and bearing. At state functions in which he participated, King Edward revived all the pomp and circumstance of mediaeval days. He drove to Westminster on the opening of parliament in one of the sumptuous royal coaches attended by heralds, equerries, outriders, and a vast retinue, forming a pageant of royal splendor. On these occasions the King wore the full robes of majesty.

Tactfulness, which he possessed to a marked degree, was a conspicuous characteristic of the late King. Although he was always frank, loyal and warm-hearted. He was born at Buckingham Palace, November 9, 1841, the son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Educated by private tutors on a plan outlined by his father, he later studied at Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge. A long period of travel followed, during which he went to Europe and the East. In 1869 he made a triumphant tour through the United States and Canada.

The Prince was married March 10, 1863 to Princess Alexandra, oldest daughter of the Danish Prince who some months later became King Christian IX. Six children were born, two of whom—the Duke of Clarence and Prince Alexander—died. The surviving children are George Frederick, Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall and York, who now becomes king; Princess Louise, who was married to the Duke of Fife; Prince Victoria Alexandra, and Princess Maud Charlotte, who was married to Prince Karl of Denmark, now King Haakon VII of Norway.

The King was of the house of Hanover, which dates from the succession to the throne of King George I in 1714.

Twice before ascending the throne Edward's life was despaired of. In the summer of 1860 the Prince of Wales started for a tour through Canada, in compliance with a promise given by Queen Victoria, and was everywhere received with great enthusiasm. As soon as the tour was arranged, the president of the United States wrote a personal letter to his "good friend," Queen Victoria, saying that her country would be glad if the Prince could visit America as well.

It would have been ungracious to have declined, but at the same time the position was not altogether easy to maintain. It was solved by the Queen's accepting President Buchanan's invitation, and explaining that the Prince would come to Washington, not as the prospective King of England, but as "Lord Renfrew," the name under which he traveled incognito.

St. Johns was the first spot reached by the Prince, who was accompanied on his travels by the Duke of Newcastle, General Bruce, Major Teesdale and a large suite. He was greeted with loyal warmth wherever he went, and acquitted himself under all kinds of circumstances with dignity and tact. At Montreal he was especially well received, and the city showed to great advantage with its fine decorations. He was in time to lay the last stone of the bridge over the St. Lawrence, thus completing an important piece of engineering.

Twice, at least, he went to see the Falls of Niagara, and on one occasion Blondin made his astonishing crossing on stilts, and even carried a man across the flaming waters safely. The intrepid athlete was presented to the prince, and was eager to have the honor of carrying him across on the tight rope, an offer which, needless to say, was declined with thanks. Not many Americans are aware that a relic of the Declaration of Independence owed its recovery to a place of honor to the Prince of Wales. When the prince was in America, for the first and last time as a young man, he was taken to Independence Hall, Philadelphia, which contains various mementoes of the chief historical events in the story of the United States. He was shown portraits of the chief protagonists, the manuscripts of the famous Declaration. But none of these affected him much. At last he was conducted to the garret where the bell was rung when the Declaration was proclaimed. Immediately his curiosity was aroused, and he asked where the bell was. It lay hidden among all sorts of debris in a back room. The prince gazed at the cracked bell, when it had been rescued from its obscurity, and said to those who stood around him: "This old bell is the greatest relic this republic has today. In stead of being here, covered with dust, it should be placed in the hall."

One of the happiest incidents of the American tour was the prince's visit to the tomb of George Washington. The spectacle of the great grandson of George I standing beside the grave of the great patriot touched every American heart. It was one of those sincerities which do more to weld nations together than all the treaties that can ever be signed. The event inspired E. W. H. Myers to write a poem which gained the chancellor's prize at Cambridge. His verses on the Prince of Wales at Washington's tomb had a certain happy phrasing and originality of thought which won attention.

After calling at Detroit and Chicago, the prince came to Washington to pay his respects as "Lord Renfrew" to the president. He arrived on October 30, and was President Buchanan's guest at the White House, the official home of the president. Mr. Buchanan had not only the charming duties of hospitality, his niece Miss Harriet Lane, acted as hostess. After the conclusion of the prince's stay in America, she received a fine portrait with his autograph as a memento of a pleasant visit.

Saturday is usually the busiest night in the week in London. On Friday, May 7, a Sabbath-like quiet pervaded the city. It was a capital in mourning. All theatres and music halls were closed down; band concerts in the parks, which drew tens of thousands of working people during the long spring twilight hours, were stopped. They wandered idly about the streets looking at portraits of Edward VII wreathed with crepe in the shop windows. Multitudes drifted into St. James' Park and stared at the darkened windows of Buckingham Palace, where the body lay, and Marlborough house, near by, through the gates of which officials and messengers came and went constantly.

There are 18 million acres of unoccupied land in Central and Southern Oregon, according to estimates made in Portland. The state of Oregon is the central part of the state by the Great Northern and Union Pacific Railroads is going to throw open a land full of opportunities for several hundred thousand settlers. Part of this land may be successfully farmed by new methods, part of it by dry irrigation. It is a vast new empire that will be opened, and every part of the Northwest will be benefited. The slogan of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, "What Benefits the Northwest, Benefits Seattle," applies to every other city in three states, Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The state universities of Washington, Oregon and Idaho will send their best athletes to California this week to meet with the track and field teams of the University of California and Stanford, at Palo Alto, May 14. It will be the largest and most representative athletic meet ever conducted in the West, and the winning university will carry away high honors. College athletes are moving forward rapidly in the Northwest. The trip of the University of Washington eight oared rowing crew to Wisconsin this year will serve to show the country at large that our western institutions can produce as fine athletes as any in the country.

Down at Topeka, Kansas, they have got a real live mayor. He was elected on the wide open ticket and as soon as he was inaugurated he endeavored to have the law changed so as to permit Sunday baseball. The council would not agree to this, so he looked over the ordinances and discovered one that did not permit any one to work for pay on Sunday. He proposes to enforce this ordinance to the letter. He will not permit the sale of newspapers, the street cars to run, ministers to preach, or choruses boys to sing, as they are paid for doing this work. Now there is a petition out for a recall.

The thirteenth census has been taken, and while no city is completely satisfied that everyone of its people have been counted, the enumerators and supervisors declare that it is hardly possible that more than 1 or 2 per cent have been missed. Seattle is confident of beating Portland by 25,000, but may be disappointed when the results are known next September. Spokane and Tacoma each have more than 100,000, and it is a question which one will take second rank in the state of Washington. The smaller cities of the Northwest have all grown so rapidly in ten years that it is impossible to even guess what order they will appear in when ranked according to population.

The "Help to Build the Fence" crusade of the Washington Children's Home Society proved highly successful, and demonstrated the open heartedness of the charitable people of the state, when they know that their gifts are well placed and will be carefully administered in a worthy cause. The campaign of publicity conducted by the society not only served to lay the foundation for an endowment fund, but interested the people of the state in the work of home finding for neglected children and informed them of the great work which the Children's Home Society is doing.

Society young ladies of Pittsburgh want a law passed to protect them from the flirtations of married men. They admit that they don't object to flirting, but they prefer pastures green to fields that have already been sown. Perhaps it would be a good scheme—in Pittsburgh—for the married women to wear some sort of insignia in order that modest young bachelors might be protected from the importunities of the married ladies.

Little Willie Stokes, aged 13, recently appeared before the senate committee on commerce and made an argument against the Dope bill regulating the use of wireless telegraphy. The youthful lobbyist well versed on all the technicalities of the wireless and wireless telegraphy listened to by the gray haired senators. He contended that the bill sought to place restrictions on the inventive genius of the younger Americans and ought not to pass.

Alice Roosevelt Longworth thinks she would like to be called Mrs. Gov. Longworth. She has carefully looked over the situation in Ohio and has come to the conclusion that her hubby is the only man who can make a successful campaign against Gov. Harmon. Alice says that women ought to take an active part in politics, as they are all interested in good government, although they would probably not be able to wield as much influence as men, even if allowed to vote.

Forty-nine governments have ratified a treaty establishing an international institute of agriculture at Rome. The object of the institute is to collect and disseminate official information regarding growing crops, the work at the institute will be all times be posted regarding the supply and demand of cereals, thus regulating the price and in a measure preventing a corner on products of the soil.

Down at Klamath Falls hotel suits to the amount of \$200,000 have been brought against a paper only one month old. This is all right for two or three months, but if it is to be kept up for the year the editor's balance will probably be on the wrong side of the ledger.

Uncle Joe Cannon has announced his willingness, to journey to San Francisco in 1910 to dance the Virginia reel in commemoration of the completion of the Panama canal. The governor says that if Uncle Joe declares a holiday.

George the Fifth, King of England, who has been on the throne of England have never enjoyed a wonderful degree of popularity in the United States. Perhaps this young man can see where George the Third failed.

Over in Washington the politicians are giving 99 reasons why Milnes Pondexter is not available for United States senator and should not be supported by the members of the legislature, even if he receives a majority in the primary. The 100th reason they don't give is that he has stood for the people and against the Plum-bird party in congress.

When the worker for some great cause complains bitterly of its slow advance, ask him how fast he expects it to go. If he says he looks for some phenomenal speed, ask him why. Ask him what events in history led him to assume any such development.

Hurry? What we need is to take a deep breath and relax. Not relax our efforts to steer things in the right direction; but rest from the needless waste of energy that pushes faster than the train.

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An "observing woman," writes: Will you allow me to enter my protest against the exploitation of great gifts of wealth men as utterly unworthy of our praise or attention. They give of their overflow, denying themselves absolutely nothing, and are doing less than is their duty to do. In some conspicuous cases the wealth has been gained by oppression and extortion. I know of a poor sick girl who has been kept for three years by two poor girl friends dividing her time between them. I know of a girl who works cleaning offices from 6 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock at night and at night freely gives her services to wash and iron for her frailer sister's family of six. I know still another who, after working in a factory all day, gives the last half of her nights to watching over an invalid sister (melancholia), to relieve the hard working husband. I could pile up these unending benevolences—and they mount much nearer heaven than those that conspicuously occupy the center of the stage and receive the fulsome praise of men. Let us be spared as much of the latter as possible.

In 1904 Mark Twain (Samuel L. Clemens) wrote of the "Ethics of Democracy," by Louis F. Post, that he prized it very much because of "its sanity, and its moderation, and because I believe its gospel." Its gospel is the gospel of Henry George. The People's Power League has proposed a number of good things in its amendments to Article IV, of the Constitution. Among these is the establishment of the principle that county divisions shall be settled by the parties and districts interested.

The Portland Commercial Club, which recently presented to President Taft a beautifully bound book of pictures of Oregon scenery, together with photographs taken at Portland at the time of his late visit, has just received a letter of thanks from the president. He says he will never forget the features of his reception in Portland.

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Items of Interest About the Young Men's Christian Association of Portland

The Young Men's Christian Association of Portland, Oregon, has had over 1,000 men and boys enrolled in its educational classes the past year, and the enrollment promises to be greatly increased during the summer months at a result of extensive plans that are being made for summer so cool work.

A summer course, designed especially for teachers, will be opened on July 5 to August 16. A course for boys above the sixth grade will also be given. Classes are this year to be conducted during July and August at the Boys' Camp at Mt. St. Helens. College and high school courses run throughout the year.

The Young Men's Christian Association is taking a leading place in the educational progress of the state and because of its expert instructors, well equipped laboratories, favorable location and the high standard of its work, it is destined to exert no small influence on the history of achievement in Oregon.

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Lack of Observation
Mr. Parsley—"Who was that woman that we just passed?"
Mrs. Parsley—"That woman with the chandelier hat, the plaid skirt waisted with the chiffon collar and the skirt trimmed with velvet braid and out steel spangled and the French beaded shoes and the hair ornament, with the near-diamond earrings and the sunburst at her throat and the monogram buckle on her belt, and the seven rings on her right hand that she kept holding in full view and the torn binding on the bottom of her skirt—is that the one you mean?"
Mr. Parsley—"Yes, I guess that's the one you mean?"
Mrs. Parsley—"Well, I didn't notice who she was."

The odoriferous Dopey of New York says he is going to be reelected to the United States senate. He should be. He represents the press trust, and what would it do without a representative in the American house of lords? His reelection would be a pointer on what to do with a party with a stomach strong enough to hold him.

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