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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1916.

UP TO THE PEOPLE.

A referendum vote is to be had by the electors of Oregon City tomorrow on the freight franchise that is asked by the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company.

Advocates of the franchise in its present form argue that the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company cannot penetrate the interior of the county under its present policy of operating freight trains through Oregon City.

On the other hand the opponents of the franchise contend that in passing the franchise as it has been submitted will result in the conversion of Main street, the only retail business street the city has or can have by reason of the peculiar topography of this place, into a freight road.

It is now up to the voters of Oregon City and no elector should cast his ballot tomorrow until he has given the question a mature consideration and carefully studied the franchise and satisfied himself as to the merits of the matter.

THE COUNTRY EDITOR.

A recent editorial in the Portland Oregonian under the caption "The Country Editor" has called forth some replies by the editors of numerous publications in the interior of the state.

The "Country Editor" as he is styled, with his paper, in a measure at least, fills the same position and serves the same purpose in his particular neighborhood and county that the "metropolitan daily" serves in the city.

The extensive rural free delivery of mails, that is being inaugurated throughout the state, is operating to the detriment of the country weekly. However, the weekly paper will continue to be published. It has a particular field to cover and it is of value to its readers in proportion as the news of the county is gathered and presented in interesting and readable style.

THE ANTI-GRAFT FIGHT IN PHILADELPHIA.

A stirring appeal for independence and civic honesty and decency is embodied in the platform of the "City Party" of Philadelphia, which has just held a convention and nominated candidates for sheriff, coroner and county commissioners in opposition to the candidates of the "regular organization," the machine controlled by ringmen, gangsters and looters which Secretary Root publicly denounced some time ago as "a corrupt and criminal combination" hypocritically using the designation "Republican" as a mask and shield.

result under the bold leadership of Mayor Weaver, who is thoroughly familiar with the machine's schemes and methods, is making a west of fact to persuade the loyal partisans that it has retreated and returned. Recently it withdrew its ticket, overbilled it and some respectable names on it and assumed the waters that all grounds for disaffection had been removed.

Major Weaver, however, tells the people of Philadelphia that the alleged "reform within" the machine is a half-breed machine and sham. The reform, he is convinced, have not removed their original sin, which originally entered the city's water works and its increase of the tax rate.

Behind the nomination of an independent man, to try head-on with the corrupt combination, to give effective expression to the aroused sentiment of the honest citizenship, to give the people a chance to redeem the city.

The platform is impressively simple. It is a paraphrase of the "Three Hail not now" commitment. It calls for an end to government by and for municipal contractors and political grafters, and for the substitution of a government for and by citizens.

One weapon has been knifed out of the hands of the gang. The verdict of the assassin's hand has resulted in a net decrease of \$1,000,000 in the pockets of notorious persons. Fraud has not been completely eliminated, however, and the machine will make a hard, desperate fight at the polls. The issue lies with the people—the upright, intelligent, industrious voters of Philadelphia. If business appeals to irrelevant partisan labels do not mislead them, they will redeem their city—Exchange.

UNIFORMITY OF LEGISLATION.

In the United States there is less uniformity of legislation over the whole land than in any one of the other great federal governments that the last half century has seen created in Germany the whole field of private law is under the control of the imperial government. In Canada not only are the specified powers of the Dominion parliament much wider than those of our Congress, but also all legislative powers are reserved to the Dominion instead of to the individual states as with us.

Our own troubles arising out of lack of uniformity in matters which it is to the interest of all citizens to have uniformity are well known. Commercial law is the most important illustration. Only by slow process has it been possible to induce a few states to adopt a similar commercial code. The best hope of it, although it machinery existed for securing uniformity, is said to say it would be wisely based in diverse legislation, a need of uniformity is keenly felt, especially because the free movement of the population makes it possible for individuals to escape almost any restrictions at individual states may desire to impose on them.

It would be absurd to propose at this stage of our development that the whole field of private law be turned over to Congress. It would be impossible to give Congress the necessary powers. Proposals for constitutional amendments to give power in special matters are often made, but it will doubtless be long before any of them matters have enough votes to enter upon the preliminary stages of the adoption of an amendment. But for the Australian scheme much more can be said as the scheme was devised with a recognition of this very difficulty and after a careful study of our own and the other federal constitutions.

The plan of allowing states to refer matters of which they wish uniformity to Congress, which they can act in their state, is flexible and broadly based. It provides machinery, but does not itself make any change in the actual existing relations between states and federal government. It does not give the advocate of any particular line of uniformity all that he wants, but it gives him as much as the separate states, each for itself, are prepared to grant. It could probably secure co-operative support from persons interested in many different lines of legislation. It is at least worthy of discussion.—Chicago Record-Herald.

JUDGE PARKER AGAIN.

The accusations which Judge Parker made against President Roosevelt and Mr. Cortelyou last fall prompted the testimony of George W. Perkins concerning the contribution of the New York Life to the Republican campaign fund. Except for the assertion that the officials of other great life insurance companies, such as the Equitable and the Mutual, also contributed from the policy-holder's funds the new charges made are in general terms. They do not touch the issue raised by the judge in the campaign, which arose from the following paragraph in one of his speeches: "Congress creates a new department of Commerce and Labor. Of that new department the President of

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The United States attempts a secretary. That secretary was the private secretary within that department provision is made for the collection from large corporations, including the several trusts, of information which it is to be borne in mind is to be submitted to the President for public or private use as he may direct.

"It goes of the same executive, the secretary through whose department the information is collected, becomes the chairman of the Republican national committee. His chief duty is his best, and will be to collect funds for the purpose of securing the election of the President.

"And it is now notorious that there has resulted from this organized imposture—whatever may be the precise way in which it is made effective—an overflowing treasury to the committee, of which board is openly and continually made."

The President in his statement to the American people presented these imputations with great warmth, giving emphatic denial to the suggestion that he was under pledges to the corporations and that the secretary was acting as a sort of blackmailing agent. In a subsequent speech, whose delivery was awaited with great interest, the judge brought his campaign to a close with an anti-climax. He had no words to offer, nor has he any thing to say in his recent interview that throws light upon the general subject. From first to last his "relations" have been as valueless as those of the man in the street. Apparently he has learned of the check for \$100,000, like the rest of us, but if he is loaded with facts not generally known to should not with them. It is pertinent to add also that whatever may be said of the morality of life insurance contributions to campaign funds the work of last fall can hardly be explained by the "corruption of the electorate" and that our nation did not deprive "the apparently successful candidates of their offices." The popular vote was: Roosevelt, 7,421,945; Parker, 1,046,225. The electoral vote: Roosevelt, 225; Parker, 120.

THE ORIGIN OF REFORM.

The spirit of improvement in service rendered by our office-holders is something different from the old-fashioned sort of "reform" which, although related to it, the spirit began as a reaction from the abuses which became intolerable after the longest and unremedying years of Grant, and found their origin in the first Cleveland administration. It is the first politician since the war whom whose name attracted the attention of our honor. Mr. Roosevelt, a reformer from his youth, has been much to give momentum to the movement, and he will doubtless be more on the many points of vigorous work which that probably the before him. These agencies which are sometimes called for the emphasis they give to the demands for a wide and pervasive duty effort on the huge work of morality is enjoying. Men like Paul are the moral regeneration of this movement which includes commerce as well as politics. The Equitable as well as looking in Washington or St. Louis were good legislation as well as history or postal preservation. The outbreak of exposure literature in the magazine is a symptom also, an after which becomes in turn a cause. Much has been done, and much remains to do. All such improvements are vague alike in their beginnings and their ends, but perhaps the latest time to name as the beginning of the present wave is the date when Grover Cleveland defeated his enormously popular opponent because that magnetic Republican was suspected of being not wholly free from the money taint in politics.—Collier's.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The past week was warm and dry, except that a few small showers occurred in the northwest portion of the state. These showers were very beneficial to pastures and late crops, such as corn, potatoes, tomatoes, turnips and carrots. In the dry sections of the state pastures are very short and range stock is being fed and getting in bad condition to meet a rigorous winter should one occur. Hops and pines have nearly all been gathered. The hop crop turned out much better than expected both as to quality and quantity. Prunes, it is estimated, yielded about half a crop with sizes larger than usual. Potatoes digging is general. The crop is free from blight, but in consequence of the dry summer it is expected that the yields will not be so heavy as usual. Apples in well kept orchards will yield from fair to good returns; in other orchards the crop is poor. The soil is still too hard for fall plowing and seeding and but little of this work has been done. Good rains set in after most of the reports on which this bulletin is based had been mailed. These rains will

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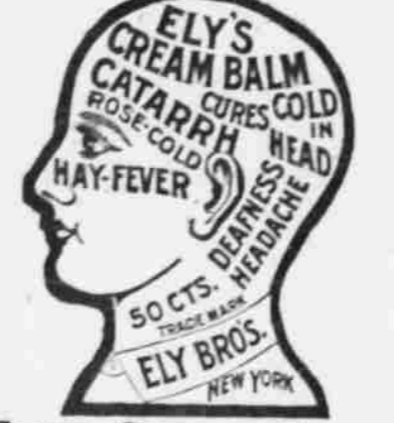
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