

**THE NEW AGE**  
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**EDITORIAL**

**CONVENTION NEXT WEEK.**

Next week the democrats will hold their county convention, and then the county nominees of the two principal parties can be compared by the voters, who take interest enough in them to do so, though unless in one or two cases there is no doubt of the success of the very good republican ticket already nominated, and which will poll about the full party strength. Some dissatisfied republicans, it is still rumored, will oppose one of the candidates for state senator, but this feeling of opposition may die down before the day of election. Sheriff Storey has announced himself as an independent candidate for the same office he now holds, and he will, no doubt, poll a large vote, as he is considered a "rustler." If the democrats put up a strong candidate for this office the fight between the three will perhaps be the most interesting of any, because as to most other candidates, no body will have much doubt of the result.

The republican congressional and state conventions will also be held next week, and the main point of interest will center upon the nomination for representative in congress, for strong pressure will be brought to bear upon delegates to give Moody some support, after he has made so strong a showing in Eastern Oregon. So far, however, there is no positive indication that any of the delegates will do otherwise than to follow their instructions. Senators Mitchell and Fulton are anxious to have Williamson returned, and their wishes are likely to prevail. If Moody, however, comes down with a strong majority from Eastern Oregon, many Multnomah delegates will feel inclined to support him.

There will also be some hard work done in the state convention by aspirants for presidential electors and delegates to the national republican convention, positions that are coveted by many good men. The selection of a candidate for food and dairy commissioner, and for district attorneys in this county, will also arouse considerable interest.

**LOCAL OPTION.**

Local option is a good thing in theory, and on general principles, but the application of it may be misdirected, and a local option law, framed by extremists, or impractical people, may be made to serve purposes that are injurious to large business interests. This seems to be the case with the proposed local option law to be voted upon next June. Apparently it is intended to give any community or contiguous territory the right to decide for itself by ballot whether it will have prohibition of the liquor traffic within its borders. This is all right, but as a matter of fact such is the law now. That is, a majority of the voters of any precinct can defeat the petition for a saloon therein, and often do so. No saloon can be established and maintained in any country or suburban precinct except upon the petition of a majority of the legal voters thereof, and if opposed by a remonstrance containing the names of more voters than those attached to the petition, the license cannot be granted. This seems to be a reasonable degree of local option as to the liquor traffic.

The proposed law is in several respects more drastic and is calculated to injure business interests, that help in their way to make up the life and prosperity of a large town. While the liquor traffic results in much evil, it is a necessary evil, except as it is brought upon themselves by persons who indulge in liquor drinking to excess, and local option, nor prohibition will now reform humanity in this respect to any appreciable extent, and along with this industry of making and selling beer and liquors other and innocent industries are intimately associated and bound up. This industry supplies a great number of tenants for buildings, employs a great army of working men, buys a considerable portion of the farmers' and vineyardists' crops, and pays a big fraction of national and local tax-

tion. On such a question there are always two sides to be considered, and both are entitled to a hearing.

**CRIME AND PUNISHMENT.**

There are lead colored people, of course, and when a negro resorts to violence and crime he is likely to prove a pretty tough customer. But a good deal of the trouble in the South, and occasionally in Northern communities, is that so many white people forget or do not recognize the fact that the Negro has rights as a man and a citizen, even if he goes wrong. He is no more a criminal under the laws on account of his misdeeds than a white man is who does the same things. But it is the common fashion to treat him as an ultra criminal, a creature who, chiefly on account of his race and color, and not because of the especial enormity of his crime, must be exterminated, and that, too often, with barbarous cruelty. And when the Negro perceives that there is one punishment—or often none—for the offense of the white man, and another punishment for the black man who has done no worse, his human nature asserts itself in protest, and sometimes in acts that do his own race great harm. When he becomes desperate he ceases to care for either personal or general consequences. The Negro is not to be excused for his acts of violence or crime, but in some instances there has been great provocation, and considering that he has not had the white man's advantages he is often more rather than less excusable for his acts.

**A. FOOLISH MOVE.**

Some colored people, it is reported are planning to hold a national political convention and nominate a candidate for president. This may serve to amuse them, but it will not be an act calculated to be of benefit to the Negro race. It is well enough for colored people to take an interest in politics, and even to ask for some recognition in political affairs, but it is not wise either to accentuate "the race question" by such a move, or to throw away votes that would better be cast for the party and candidate that best will serve their interests. By voting together in some of the Northern states for a Negro candidate, the Negroes might possibly render such states doubtful, or more doubtful than they would otherwise be, but it would be pure folly thus to aid in the election of a democratic president, and in the restoration of power of the Southern democrats, who deny Negroes the right of citizenship. It is not likely that a Negro candidate would get enough votes to put President Roosevelt's election in jeopardy, but it would be foolish for several reasons to offer Negro voters this temptation. They are frequently charged now with trying to put themselves in a position of antagonistic equality with the whites, and they would better do nothing like this, even for amusement, to encourage and justify this accusation.

**HERMANN AND HARRIS.**

It is looking brighter in the first district for Representative Hermann than it did soon after Harris first announced his candidacy. For, although Marion county has elected delegates, a majority of whom are for Harris, a considerable number of them favor Hermann, and they may not adopt the unit rule; and in some other counties, especially Douglas, Coos and Jackson, the Hermann sentiment has grown stronger and more solid. The result will depend, likely, on Clackamas and Washington, which are yet unknown quantities. But Hermann has many friends in them, as elsewhere, who think he can do more good for them than a new man can. And some of them argue that he is getting old and will in the course of nature have to let go some day during their probable lifetime, while a young man like Harris would want to stay term after term till he too was old. The result will be in doubt till the convention meets next Tuesday.

**CAMPAIGN NOTES**

Will N. H. Bird fly to his coveted goal this time.

Perhaps the opposition of some lawyers to Judge Frazer is a recommendation for him.

A good state dairy and food commissioner is sure to make many enemies.

What will Mr. Moody's friends do

if Williamson wins?

Hearst may pick up some delegates, but he could get few votes in the election.

Judge Carey's advice will have great weight with the delegates, though he has resigned his chairmanship.

Sheriff Storey doesn't have to contribute to the campaign fund.

Finley can do justice to the job of holding an inquest on the Multnomah county democrats.

The democrats will concentrate their fight at a few points.

Will the late independents mostly vote straight?

There will be plenty of candidates for sheriff to select from.

Brownell will cut a figure in the convention again.

There promises to be a lively fight in the democratic county convention next Wednesday.

Assessor and county commissioner are important offices, and politics should not be alone considered in filling them.



Edward W. Townsend's new book, "Sure," containing "Chimmie Fadden" material, will be published by Dodd, Mead & Co. in an attractive form.

McClure, Phillips & Co. report that Charlotte Perkins Gilman's new book, "The Home; Its Work and Its Influence," has gone into a second edition.

Mrs. Burnham's first Christian Science novel, "The Right Princess," published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., is now reported in its twenty-fourth thousand.

"Moonlight and Six Feet of Romance," by Dan Beard, the famous illustrator, is announced for immediate publication by Albert Brandt, publisher, Trenton, N. J.

Probably no cover was ever put on a work of fiction that received so much favorable comment as has the cover of "The Fortunes of Flin," Molly Elliott Seawell's new novel.

Jules Verne declares that among boys' books his favorite is the "Swiss Family Robinson," while among "up-grown" authors Dickens and Scott afford him the most inexhaustible pleasure.

Of all our humorists, alive or dead, Mark Twain is the most widely popular and the most typically American. It is not too much to say that he is the most popular because he is the most typically American.

One of Mrs. Humphrey Ward's daughters, Miss Janet Ward, has lately translated a work of Prof. A. J. Licher, entitled "Introduction to the New Testament." It will be published by Smith, Elder & Co., who are Mrs. Humphrey Ward's English publishers. Mrs. Ward has contributed a preface to her daughter's work.

Edmund Gosse, joint author with Dr. Garnett of the monumental "Illustrated History of English Literature," that has recently appeared in four large volumes, occupies the position of translator to the Board of Trade, having held the post ever since 1875. He was born in London in 1849, the oldest son of the late P. H. Gosse, F. R. S., the eminent zoologist.

W. H. Mallock's new volume will be issued here by G. P. Putnam's Sons. It is entitled "The Veil of the Temple." Mr. Mallock is the author of several volumes on religion and science, economic and social science, verses and novels. The chief aim of his writings has been to expose the fallacies of radicalism and socialism and to show that science taken by itself can supply man with no basis for religion.

The Century Company publishes Helen R. Martin's "Tillie, a Mennonite Maid," in unusually tempting form. The cover of green cloth has a charming medallion head in tint of Tillie, framed in a conventionalized scroll design, and the numerous full page illustrations, by Florence Scovel Shinn, are printed in brown tones on deep cream paper, the tinted insets helping to make an exceedingly attractive book. The story deals with life among the Pennsylvania Dutch.

Samuel Merwin, co-author with Henry K. Webster of "The Short Line War" and "Calumet K.," has sent to the Macmillan Company a new story entitled "The Merry Anne." This is described as a vigorous smuggling story—a conspiracy of smugglers to bring contraband whisky from Canada across the great lakes. One of the chief characters is a United States revenue agent, who goes on the trail of the conspiracy. Interspersed is a love story. The book will have colored illustrations and decorations by Thomas Fogarty.

Some soup is pretty watery.

Age of Deception.

Miss Elderleigh—If I had my life to live over again—

Miss Springer (interrupting)—Why, I thought that's what you were doing.

Miss Elderleigh—What do you mean?

Miss Springer—Mr. Huggins said you told him you were 23 last month.

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