

THE NEW AGE
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Office 43 1/2 Second St., cor. Ash, Rooms 1 and 2
Portland, Oregon.

Entered at the postoffice at Portland, Oregon,
as second-class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION.
One Year, payable in advance.....\$ 2.00

EDITORIAL

THE LAND FRAUD CASES.

The many defendants in the land fraud cases are being arraigned, and a few weeks later some, if not all of them, will be tried, with what probable result it would not be proper to say, even if we thought we could guess correctly. Just how convincing and convicting the evidence will be remains to be seen.

It may properly be said, however, in a general way, with reference to these fraudulent methods of acquiring government lands, particularly timber lands, that they have been in vogue throughout the country for many years; have been practiced by everybody who ever acquired large tracts of land, and who always had assistants and confederates in and out of office; and that if this was not well known and understood at Washington the government must have been asleep or looking very earnestly and persistently in some other direction. In fact, the government must have known all along that other men, all over the West—in California, Washington, Montana, Idaho and other states—have been doing just what these defendants are charged with doing. Everybody knew in a vague, if not a distinct, way that such wholesale frauds were being perpetrated, and everybody supposed the Government winked at their perpetration. Indeed, so common, general and notorious had such transactions become that there was scarcely any attempt to conceal or disguise them, and to many people it looks as if these defendants, in consequence of the government's long tacit consent to such operations, had some sort of right to suppose that they were not considered criminal by the government.

It looks, besides, as if the government, through some of its land laws and its forest reserve policy, was purposely playing into the hands of the timber land grabbers, and their agents and attorneys, in and out of congress and other places of public service. The withdrawal of great areas of forest reserves clearly gave the scrippers just the opportunity they wanted, and from one point of view, and a very practical, reasonable one too, they had a right to suppose that the government purposely offered them this opportunity and invited them to avail themselves of it. In other words, and, briefly, if these men are guilty the government is particeps criminis, for it had long tolerated if not encouraged just such transactions, and had opened the way for conducting them more easily and on a larger scale.

We do not say that this is sufficient to entirely excuse the defendants, if the evidence against them is all that Mr. Heney says it is; but we do know and say that if they are criminals so are a great many others, and in fact most people, in a greater or less degree, who have acquired government land.

We suppose this stirring up of the land-fraud business is one consequence of Roosevelt's election. With many another man as president, he would have looked at the matter more leniently, perhaps we might say more philosophically if not more justly, and overlooking what had been done, because it had become a custom apparently sanctioned by the government itself, would have only warned people that such practices must henceforth cease.

Certainly, however, if the defendants are clearly proven guilty, let them be convicted and suitably punished, but shouldn't Uncle Sam blush scarlet when he executes sentence upon them?

OUR VERSATILE PRESIDENT.

Probably the United States never had so virile and versatile a President

as Roosevelt. Considered only as statesman there have been greater presidents, perhaps, and there have been presidents who knew what "roughing it" meant. There have been presidents who were good soldiers and commanders, and Roosevelt has the military instinct too, and would doubtless have made a great general if a great war had given him the opportunity. Some of our Presidents may have been more profound scholars along some lines, and abler from a purely literary point of view, yet Roosevelt is the author of a number of well-written and instructive books, and is as handy with his pen as with a "big stick," a gun, a sword or "the gloves."

Roosevelt is a man of intense activity, of marvelous capacity for a mixture of mental and physical exercise. What would be hard work to most people he seems to consider play or at most work in which he takes great pleasure. It is said that he is impulsive, yet, if so, he rarely makes bad mistakes. The truth is he is exceedingly quick-witted. Grave questions of state that some presidents would have pondered over wearily for weeks he decides offhand in as many minutes, and decides them as well, because of his quick, broad grasp of the main points of any situation or problem. He will "handle" more visitors than any four former presidents. He will do as much work as any half a dozen ordinary or even extraordinary men, during business hours in the White House, and then throwing off care as he might an office coat, he is off and away for a swift canter through the country or a boxing or wrestling bout with some trained antagonist.

Within the past month he has visited New York twice and Philadelphia once, making quite different and very interesting speeches; on his way south he had something apt to say at all stopping places; he was up at daylight and enjoyed the journey like a boy who is traveling for the first time; and now he will spend two or three weeks in the mountain wilds of Oklahoma and Colorado hunting wolves and catamounts, living on game, sowlbely and ordinary camping-out grub, and play harder than any man in 10,000 could or would if he could.

No, the country has never had such a president as this exceedingly virile, versatile, lively, democratic young man of aristocratic lineage and breeding. Among our presidents he has no prototype, and future generations are not likely to see his like in the presidential office. He may be there again, though, after 1912. Then he will be only 50 years old. Our Teddy may make some mistakes; he may not be in all respects the wisest of men; but he is both a wonderful and an admirable figure.

ROBERT A. PRESTON.

For Councilman, First Ward.

The people have begun already to see the beneficial results from the new



ROBERT A. PRESTON
Republican Aspirant for Nomination as Candidate for Councilman from the First Ward

primary election law. It gives to the people the right to name candidates of their choice to represent them, and it effectually destroys "boss" rule and "machine" control.

This thought is suggested by the character and high standing of the gentlemen aspiring to the office of councilman in the various wards of the city. Never before in the history of Portland have so many business men consented to serve in official capacity. This in itself is sufficient to convince all of the value of the new law and points to a not distant day when our municipal affairs, at least, will be in the hands of capable business men, who can be relied upon to give us honest and economical administrations.

The announcement of the candidacy of Mr. Robert A. Preston, a progressive and popular young business man, for the Republican nomination as councilman in the First ward is in line with a general movement all over the city, which has for its object the nomination of the best available men as candidates on the Republican ticket.

Mr. Preston is a young man of excellent character and good abilities, and has entered the race at the earnest solicitation of a large number of business men and taxpayers of the ward, who recognize in him the material of which good and faithful officials are made.

The New Age heartily endorses Mr. Preston, and bespeaks for him a large vote at the primaries on May 6th, and his subsequent nomination and election.

Remember Robert A. Preston on the day of the primaries.

CITY TREASURER WERLEIN.

City Treasurer J. E. Werlein will, in all probability, be nominated at the primaries and re-elected by a very large majority, as he well deserves to be. He is a perfectly safe and entirely competent man for this important office, and there is no occasion for a change. Mr. Werlein has had a little difficulty with the civil service board over one of his deputies, but the public believes that he is in the right, and will say so overwhelmingly at the polls. Mr. Werlein, not the members of this board, is personally responsible to the public for the great amount of money that passes through his hands, for correct accounts thereof, and for the proper conduct of his office generally, and he ought to be free to choose deputies that he knows he can rely upon, if he has to assume personal responsibility for his acts. The board means well, no doubt, but in such a case it should have yielded to Mr. Werlein's wishes. The voters will approve and sustain him.

RESULTS OF REVIVALS.

The squad of revivalists closed their two weeks' efforts early this week, and have departed for other fields, where souls are to be converted and dollars are to be easily acquired in large numbers from emotional people. According to some of their estimates furnished to the daily papers, the number of "conversions" in Portland was 1600, though others only claimed 1000. We all—or most of us do—know about what this amounts to. Doubtless a portion of them will join

with, are only temporary. They are like New Year resolutions, to be broken as soon as the ebullient enthusiasm evaporates. This, too, is as it should be, for people should not go on professing what they do not believe and what they cannot live up to, and few people who think at all can long retain as an intelligent basis of religious thought and action many of the utterances and theories of these revivalists. In much of what they said and did they made a travesty of religion, rather than exemplified and rationally explained it.

The New Age is not saying a word against religion, or churches, or regular preachers, or Christian workers. On the contrary it recognizes them as a necessary adjunct of civilization. But it confesses to no great admiration for a worked-up, highly-paid-for and attemptedly sensational episode like this, a sort of a nineringed traveling religious circus, where the preachers assume to know all religious truth, and try almost forcibly to cram their ideas and notions and often crude and even mischievous conceptions down the mental throats of all auditors.

"O, Liberty, how many crimes are committed in thy name," exclaimed Madame Roland just before the executioner cut off her head, and this might be paraphrased by saying: "O, Religion, how many fakes and follies are perpetrated in thy name."

A BUSINESS MAN FOR MAYOR.

The idea of a business man candidate and a purely business administration appears to be gaining favor and is likely to become more and more popular with the people, especially business men and their employes, who properly put business before politics.

The pre-eminently "business" candidate before the primaries is Mr. W. B. Glafke, himself a prominent business man of Front street. In that part of the city he is supported with practical unanimity because that portion of town is filled with practical business men who know him well, and have the utmost confidence in him. They may call him "Bill" when they meet him, but they know that he is a man fit to be called "Mayor" and to fill that important office well.

Mr. Glafke has never been a politician, though always a republican and a supporter of that party. We do not remember that he ever sought to become even a delegate to a convention. He has never run after office, or wanted it, but has attended strictly to business. But he and a great many of his friends think that since the regular political parties are pretty well broken up here now it would be a good time to give the regular politicians and chronic office-seekers a rest, and elect as mayor a man who would conduct the city's affairs on purely business principles, a strong believer in and exemplar of the principle of "a square deal," and who would not allow the petty ambitions and squabbles of politicians to interfere with his work or influence his action.

Large and enthusiastic Glafke meetings were held Tuesday evening, and it is evident that the movement to make Mr. Glafke the republican candidate for mayor is growing rapidly and before May 6, when the primaries are held, will assume large proportions.

GOOD COLORED WOMEN.

A large number of prominent women, having for their object "the betterment of womanhood and childhood," assembled in Washington, D. C., last week, among them such women of national reputation as Miss Susan B. Anthony, Mrs. Ellen Foster, May Wright Sewell, and others. Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, in speaking of citizenship from a women's point of view, said:

"The colored women of the country are doing as much to promote good citizenship as their more fortunate sisters in white. This is interpreted by them to mean an intelligent regard and tender care of their children and a conscientious and careful consideration of every question which concerns the welfare of the race. Colored women believe that good citizenship means the protection of the womanhood of the race, insisting that the men who transgress the moral

laws shall be banished from good society as inevitably as the women they destroy."

It is gratifying to the hosts of good, faithful colored women throughout the country to hear such words of appreciation and commendation from such a source, and in such a place. Too many people, because there are some bad colored as well as white women, are prone to overlook the fact that the vast majority of colored as well as white women are good, true, faithful daughters, wives, mothers, sisters and friends, and thus are doing their share toward the gradual betterment of the colored people.

WHO WILL BE MAYOR.

The registration of republicans and democrats is over, and indicates nothing as to what will happen on May 6, when the primaries are held. Apparently about seven-eighths of the voters registered are republicans, and the interesting question from now on will be: Whom will they nominate? Who will get a plurality of the votes cast at the primaries? For among so many candidates, all with considerable strength, it is certain that no one will have a majority. The man who can get that plurality will probably be the next mayor of Portland, though one or more independent republican candidates might render this uncertain. In city elections many voters don't care much about party. The vote will be divided between Williams, Albee, Glafke, Rowe and Merrill, and all of them, with perhaps one exception, apparently expect to win out. May the best man win. Then the democrats may show up surprisingly in the election, if Lane should be the candidate. So it's doubtful if anybody can be dead sure of the result till the votes are counted on the first Monday in June.

W. G. ROWEN.

For Councilman Second Ward.

W. G. Rowen, who is a candidate for the Republican nomination for councilman from the Second ward, is an energetic business man and one of the most popular residents of the Second ward.

Mr. Rowen, for a time was superintendent of the Northwest Electric Engineering Company, but is now engaged in electric wiring and construction work on his own account, at 305 Stark street, and employs from ten to thirty men.

Mr. Rowen will enter the primaries with a very strong following and that he will be the Republican nominee is almost a foregone conclusion.

The Second ward needs just such a man as W. G. Rowen to represent it in the council, one familiar with its wants and who has the courage and ability to demand them.

There has not, so far developed any opposition to Mr. Rowen and it looks like he will have none.

Don't forget W. G. Rowen on the day of the primaries, May 6th.

HIT OR MISS.

Now for three week's hustling.
Merrill is a rustler—no doubt of that.
County officials are not worrying this year.
Do we want an open, a closed, or a half-and-half town?
There won't be any lack of candidates for councilmen.
It seems to be generally acknowledged that Sheriff Word is victor.
Will republicans run independent? is what is bothering some candidates.
Perhaps a good many democrats were ashamed to register their politics.
When the fair opens Hon. George H. Williams will be mayor. Will he be when it closes?
The candidates are all good men—at least if you believe what they say about themselves.
Nearly all the present councilmen want no more of it—or else know they couldn't get in again.
Chief Hunt, Joe Day and some others will be considerable of a handicap on the "Grand Old Man."
It is reported that the liquor and brewing interests are solid for Williams, but it may not turn out so.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



One Hundred Years Ago.

Sweden was obliged by the remonstrance of Prussia to decline the proffered subsidy of England.

The city of Lubbeck, Germany, was surrounded by French troops to prevent English products from being introduced.

Eighteen American vessels were at the port of Amsterdam.

The French government passed a law granting pensions to all emigrants from Santo Domingo.

Three thousand French troops were ordered to The Hague to prevent an uprising which was daily expected.

Re-enforcements of French troops arrived at Santo Domingo and effectually repulsed Emperor Dessalines' army.

Portugal purchased with the concurrence of England the suzerainty of France to remain neutral in the war.

Seventy-five Years Ago.

Yucatan declared itself independent. Pasturing of cows on the Boston common was forbidden by law.

Sioux Indians annihilated the Sac and Fox tribes near Dubuque, Iowa.

The first light of the Blackrock lighthouse at Liverpool appeared.

Congress provided for a boundary line to be run between Louisiana and Arkansas territories.

Petroleum was discovered in Kentucky, and as it was supposed to have healing properties it was bottled and sold throughout the United States and Europe for medicine.

The first gold from Georgia mines was received at the United States mint.

Fifty Years Ago.

Don Carlos, the Spanish pretender, died at Trieste.

The Niagara suspension bridge was completed.

A free public school system was established in Illinois.

The Atlantic and St. Lawrence railroad was leased to the Grand Trunk railroad for 999 years.

Nassau hall at Princeton university, built in 1756, was destroyed by fire.

Several persons were killed by the falling in of the floor of the town hall at Meredith, N. H.

The plenipotentiaries at Vienna exchanged powers and commenced proceedings toward agreeing upon the terms of Russo-Turkish peace.

Forty Years Ago.

The panic in gold carried quotations down to 175 1/4, a drop of 14 1/4 points in three days.

The Parliament at Quebec adopted the confederation scheme by a large vote.

Reports of Sheridan and Sherman's successes sent gold down to 180 1/2. A short time before it was quoted at 220 and over.

News reached the North that the Confederate Congress had passed a bill to arm and equip the negroes as soldiers.

Richmond (Va.) papers published an exposure of an alleged conspiracy to oust Davis and Stephens, make Hunter president, and end the war.

President Lincoln issued a proclamation ordering that all citizens or domiciled agents trafficking with Confederates be arrested and held as prisoners of war.

Thirty Years Ago.

The Hawaiian treaty was being fought in the Senate by sugar interests.

At a consistory held at the Vatican Archbishop McCloskey of New York was made a cardinal.

The French Assembly passed the military reorganization bill, the constitution having been adopted several weeks previously.

A tornado devastated the town of Ritzel, Miss. The river bottoms in the Northwest States were flooded.

Quite a sensation was caused in England by the outcome of the Mordant divorce case in which Lady Mordant was decreed guilty.

Twenty Years Ago.

The militia was mobilized at Sedalia and other points in Missouri to suppress riots incident to the railroad strike on the Gould system.

London papers admitted that the relations between England and Russia were strained almost to the breaking point over the latter's Afghan frontier aggression.

President Cleveland issued a proclamation barring the "boomers" from Oklahoma.

Ten thousand of the 12,000 coal miners in the Pittsburg district struck for higher wages.

The powers agreed to a conference to be held in Paris to determine the status of the Suez canal.