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Our Candidate for President
JOSEPH BENSON FORAKER
Of Ohio

EDITORIAL

A CHANGE NEEDED.

If the police and detective force of Portland were more intent and put more time on watching for and following up burglars and other real and dangerous criminals rather than men who sit down to play an innocent game of cards in a public place, or raiding resorts where immoral women have comparatively secluded quarters and do not affront the public, the town would be a good deal better served by this arm of the city government. That the police force spend so much time and effort on trivial and venial offense, while allowing murderers and house robbers to escape, is not their fault so much as that of the system, of the policy, pursued in deference to some impractical busy bodies who want to make everybody conform to their little moods.

A few evenings ago several colored men who were openly playing a social game of cards in a bar room were arrested and hustled off to the police station, and a dollar that was found on or near one of them was "evidence" that they were engaged in the terrible crime of gambling. Probably they may have had an arrangement that the one who lost the game had to buy the beer, and the dollar was in sight to pay for it and for this great crime two or three policemen arrested four or five men and required them to put up bonds or go to jail, and hire a lawyer and perhaps pay a fine, and the city government thought it had done a fine thing and was establishing a record to which it could point with pride. Yet the same night men were being held up on the streets, and houses were being robbed, and a murder or two might have been committed, but nobody would have been caught for the police were too busy watching to see if they could find anybody playing a game of cards in a saloon, or a parcel of Chinamen playing fan tan among themselves in some secluded back room of one of their rookeries.

What a farce and Pecksniffian pretense it all is. What harm is done to society at large by two, three, four or half a dozen men sitting down and playing a social game of cards. Even if they should bet a dime or two on the result? True, they might be better employed, but to make such an act a crime, and to watch and hunt for it above all other crimes, is preposterous, and an outrage on good sense. A city government that has such a disproportionate idea of crime as to make a tiny little gambling game among friends the greatest offense in the criminal calendar or equal to any, or that does that to curry favor with the pulpit cranks, ought to be turned out at the first opportunity as incompetent or hypocritical. A little quiet game of cards for pastime among acquaintances, and where gambling is not the main object and the game is not devised to win money off of "suckers," may be made a crime by ordinance, as drinking beer might be, but in the nature of things it is not a crime, and it is ridiculous for a mayor and his police force to spend a large part of their time and effort hunting down "criminals" of this class.

And what harm is done to society at large by games played away back out of sight in their own quarters by a lot of "drinks"? If one of them wins and another loses, and nobody but themselves know anything about it, where does the harm to the public come in? Or if there is any harm is it one worth all this effort and fuss to detect and punish? If the object

be to collect fines to help maintain the city government, that is good as far as it goes, but let it be honestly announced that this is the object, and not make a false pretense of preserving public purity. And even if some fines are obtained in this way, would not the detectives and police be better employed in running down murderers and robbers most of whom would become murderers if cornered?

And there is a whole lot of hypocritical false pretense too about the suppression of vice in connection with immoral women. Why are some places continually raided and other no better and even worse let alone? What right anyway have the city authorities to say that certain crimes may be committed on one street or a portion of it, and not on the next street? Why should not the interests of property owners and business men, whether for or against, be considered in one case as much as in the other? Where is the authority in the charter to allow the mayor or chief of police to establish a "deadline," or a "prescribed district"? If he can do so in one place, why not in another? It sometimes looks very much as if there were favorites in the business.

The present mayor left the city without a chief of police for over a year and a half. He has had an "acting" chief, but no reason has ever been given and there appears to be none why no chief was not appointed. If "Acting Chief" Gritmacher was or is fit for the position, he ought to have been appointed to it outright, in the first place; if not, he should not have been allowed to be a "bad actor" in that place. He is universally esteemed as a worthy man and has made a good subordinate officer, but we have never heard anybody say that he was exactly cut out for chief of police in a city of Portland's size. He has done the best he could, and everybody believes he is honest, but this is not all that is necessary; for that position a man is needed who is especially, peculiarly capable as well as honest, and who not only does as well as he can but who can do well. Yet during nearly his whole term so far Mayor Lane stubbornly refused to try even to put such a man in this place. Instead of that he foisted Captain Bruin on the department. And what has he done? So far as we remember he put out a little smoldering fire in an old stove in a second hand joint, and had it reported that he had prevented a great conflagration.

This town needs a change of policy in these respects. It wants an administration that while it will stand for reasonable morality and "civic righteousness" will not be dictated to by a coterie of pulpit dudes with about brains enough to spout platitudes to a class of Sunday school girls.

TOO MUCH EXPENSE.

That crank legislators and voters can cause the people a lot of needless expense is shown by a statement of the cost of submitting certain matters to a vote of the people on the petition of a small fraction of them, mostly busy bodies who are always wanting something that would not be good for the body politic. A Salem dispatch in the Oregonian says: It will cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000 for the people to exercise their right of suffrage upon legislative matters, if the Secretary of State follows out his instructions as prescribed. This estimate, however, does not include the payment of interest accruing upon certificates of claim against any fund that may have been held up on account of invoking the referendum, which, in the case of the general appropriation bill two years ago, amounted to \$20,000.

In order to let the people vote on a proposition that nine-tenths of them care nothing about and the enactment of which would not do them a dime's worth of good in a generation, the secretary of state must mail to every legal voter in the state a pamphlet copy of the measure to be voted upon at the election, together with the arguments, pro and con, which must also be printed and bound in pamphlet form, at the expense of the parties advancing

them. There are over 100,000 legal voters in the state, and the postage expense alone will amount to more than \$3,000. The aggregate expense before the vote is taken mounts up to over \$23,000, and the chances are two to one that the proposition will be rejected, and ten to one that it ought to be.

In cases of the referring of acts passed by the Legislative Assembly, such as the appropriation of \$250,000 for the State University, the \$100,000 armory act, etc., to a vote of the people, as has been proposed, where arguments for and against the measures are most certain to be advanced, it will be necessary to provide a copy of the measure also for public distribution, which will increase the expense proportionately. It is believed in official circles that once the law is put to the test and the people have an opportunity to realize the enormous expense attached it will be no easy matter to invoke the initiative and referendum upon any measure, except those of extraordinary importance or which are construed to be vicious or detrimental to the interests of the commonwealth.

The state will tire before many years of being U'Renned, and will return to the representative system that has always been in vogue. If representatives don't enact such laws as the majority of the people want, they can turn those men down and elect men who will serve them better. A city should be allowed to make its own charter, and the people should vote on it, and on proposed amendments, but the taxpayers of the state ought not to be subjected to thousands of dollars of expense every time a small percentage of voters want to pass or knock out a law.

A TRUE VIEW OF THE SOUTH.

Ray Stannard Baker begins in the current issue of the American magazine a series of articles on the South, and the relations there between the whites and blacks that promises to be fair, reasonable and enlightening and of a very different character from the lugubrious maunderings of Thos. Page Nelson, and the prejudiced screeds of other negrohobists. Mr. Baker does not take the negroes' side, any more than the white men's side; he doesn't argue through a column from a single doubtful fact; but he shows that he went south without prejudice to observe, to inquire, to find out, exact truths, and to present exact facts, and let others do the arguing. As Collier's Weekly says:

"He has listened patiently to every class, black and white, ignorant and enlightened, virtuous and depraved. His tone is neither hortatory nor one-sided. What he gives is explanation; facts, facts; the truth of sympathy; the help of understanding. Of all our country the South has the most discouraging obstacles to overcome. The effort requires courage, industry, openness of mind, and that knowledge which so few of us possess about the conditions which lie most near about us. Of the spirit in which to approach the gigantic problem there could be no juster illustration than the first installment of Mr. Baker's study."

From the publication of the results of such a study the colored people have nothing to fear. It is to be acknowledged that there is much in them to criticize, but this is true of white people also. And it is always to be remembered that the blacks have been free only a little over one generation, after hundreds of years of slavery.

In trying to lynch a negro accused but not known to be guilty of a crime, one dark night this week in Louisiana, some of the lynchers became excited and shot one another, wounding a few, allowing their intended victim to escape, but they got and lynched him the next day. The wonder is that the cowardly murderers did not accuse some other negroes of doing the shooting and lynch them. This would have been quite as justifiable as most lynchings of colored men.

The proposition of Mr. Wagoner for "free water" is a delusion and a

snare and most voters see through it, or will before election day. He may be honest and sincere, but what he proposes would ultimately be an injury rather than a benefit to poor householders, as most of them can see for themselves. Besides, the proposition was surreptitiously tied up with a repeal of the bridge tax provision of the character, which it would be unwise to repeal at this time.

Senator Fulton will soon start out on his campaigning tour of the state in advance of next year's primaries. If anybody is going to contest the nomination with him, he will have to begin "rustling" also before long. In this connection Initiative referendum primary nomination U'Ren is spoken of; also ex-Senator Mulkey, H. M. Cake and perhaps others. Of course Governor Chamberlain will be the democratic nominee if he will accept.

It is generally supposed that the mayor will "come out independent" after the party nominations are made, but his wisest friends will advise him not to do so. Of course he could get several times the number of votes that Thomas could, but in all probability not enough. This looks very much like a republican year in Portland.

That "terrible conspiracy" against the President and his policies seems to be another White House mare's nest. Hasn't a man who happens to be largely interested in a railroad, or to have become rich, a right to an opinion, or to express it to his friends, in this country any more?

R. L. McCormick of Tacoma is prominently mentioned as a candidate for United States senator in the primaries next year to succeed Senator Ankeny. If nominated and elected he would make a fine senator for that state.

When the governor runs for senator the people will remember the veto of that very meritorious road bill. That act will delay many good roads in Oregon for two years at least.

The federal court will soon be busy and Uncle Sam has on hand a very capable and faithful district attorney, a fact that it might be well for Senator Fulton to observe.

After a woman had shown the police who the "pink domino" burglar was, three stout policemen, by all falling on him unexpectedly at once, managed to capture him.

Portland never had a better police judge than the present incumbent of that office, and the people are going to keep him right there for two years more.

About one voter in four is a democrat and Mr. Thomas, if Lane runs, won't get one democratic vote in four, so his election is not probable.

A Republican will undoubtedly be the next mayor of Portland, but which republican candidate for the nomination nobody can tell.

The criticisms of Councilman Beiding will not hurt him among his neighbors who know him and have full confidence in him.

Ex-Receiver Nolan of The Dalles has wisely quit talking or writing for publication. He properly sinks into obscurity.

It would be only fair to give Prof. Withycombe another chance in 1910—but that is a long time ahead yet.

Judge Cameron should be overwhelmingly re-nominated and re-elected.

George Baker is confident it will turn out a comedy, not a tragedy.

Mr. McKenna's ordinance is done for already, which is just as well.

First ward voters seem disposed to make a change.

The city doesn't want to be Max Cohened.

Evidently the Irish vote will be split.

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