

The Oregonian.

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

Editorial Rooms—100 Business Office—101

REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES. By Mail (postage prepaid), in Advance: Daily, 10 cents per month; 1.20 per quarter; 3.50 per year; Sunday, 5 cents per month; 1.50 per quarter; 4.50 per year. Single Copies, 5 cents.

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Portland, Thursday, May 3, 1906

Nothing is more apparent and certain than the fact that the Democratic party, on its present platform and under its present leadership, has virtually abandoned the vast body of citizenship that feels its responsibility for the economic welfare of the country.

The natural waterways of the Pacific Northwest have made Portland great, and every dollar spent in improving them has made returns that have proved satisfactory in the extreme.

The addition of another sixty-mile division to the already extensive water transportation system of the Northwest cannot be other than profitable from a trade standpoint, and no effort should be spared to secure the money needed for opening the Upper Snake River.

ALASKA UNDER THE FLAG.

Alaska is finally to have an individuality of its own, and civil government and statutory laws. The Carter bill has passed the Senate, and will undoubtedly receive the sanction of the House without material amendment.

The proposed act contains an elaborate code of civil procedure, provides a certain form of organized government, and reposes large administrative as well as judicial power in the courts. From an inchoate and neglected dependency, working clumsily and helplessly under borrowed ordinances, the rich northern land is transformed into a real territorial entity, with efficient machinery of government and adequate power to operate it.

A complete summary of the new code is to be found in this issue of The Oregonian. It gives evidence of painstaking care and judicious thought, and it was framed with intelligent consideration for the unique northern conditions. It is not at all probable that it will suit all the residents of the new territory; nor is it likely that, of the several pressing questions it settles, all are right.

There were only meager appreciations of the act, and these were largely for the Indians. No real amendment of this unjust policy is proposed. Court expenses are to be paid directly from the license revenues, and, furthermore, one-half the income in incorporated towns is to be devoted to the public schools.

UPPER SNAKE'S POSSIBILITIES. The recent failure of the steamer Spokane to ascend Snake River any farther than Wild Goose rapids is a matter of regret, not only to the settlers who have cast their lot along that stream above the rapids, but to the business men of the Northwest, who are ever seeking opportunities to extend their field of operations.

The testimony of experienced river men is to the effect that beyond Wild Goose rapids there is a splendid stretch of over fifty miles of river which can be easily navigated for the greater part of the year.

The trip of the Spokane demonstrated that, owing to swift water, it will always be a difficult and perhaps impossible feat to climb Wild Goose rapids by following the main channel of the river. At the same time, the steamer's experience in trying to get above the falls by going through what is known as the slopway was quite encouraging.

Men who have sufficient courage and pluck to go into a country like that along the Upper Snake are certainly entitled to assistance in developing their new field. When they can prove, as they have in the present case, that their isolated territory is productive of great wealth, their fight for better transportation to markets should become the fight of the business men who will share in the benefits arising from their efforts.

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has made a most serious problem for the county. The tax-shirkers have taken a test case to the highest court of the state. It is probably the most important case that was ever before the court. It is an amazing doctrine that taxpaying is or should be voluntary merely, not compulsory.

These interesting social and industrial traits illustrate the unique quality and merit of the best history of the United States. It is the best because it deals with the social life and growth of this country, a subject that is of far deeper interest to a thoughtful man than the shifting phases of transient politics.

SOCIAL PROGRESS IN THE UNITED STATES. Lord Macaulay was the first to point out that the great historians of antiquity, despite their literary excellence, gave small information concerning the social life of the people.

It is becoming difficult for a discriminating public to understand how a County Treasurer can be cashier of a prominent bank and do his full duty as a public officer.

Reports of local fusion conventions throughout the state show that the Populists generally have received but scant courtesy from their political associates. This is but natural.

Pierce Mays, a satellite of McBride, and a protégé of Mitchell, is paying his debts by accepting a candidacy on the Adulante Legislative ticket.

Nothing Heppburn could say would be so severe to characterize the base treachery of those professed friends of the Nicaragua Canal, like Cannon, deny themselves no weapon that may compass their defeat.

Libraries put an end to an opportunity for future fees. "If the lawmakers," adds the Press, "had set to work to devise a scheme for encouraging the officers of the law to keep the rules about open, they could not have done a better one than the so-called Sincerist enforcement act."

AN END OF QUAY. And the Difference Between His Claim and Corbett's. Springfield Republican. The Pennsylvania boss falls in his attempt to break into the United States Senate, by the slender margin of a single vote.

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NOTE AND COMMENT. When in doubt, the Boers set and beat a few traps. A man is known by the company he keeps. So is a theatrical manager.

Let Chicago bow itself hoarse. May is Dewey's month. So is not November. The promoters of the egg trust might have expected that it would be easily smashed.

Depew—What is a Nemesis, Teddy? Roosevelt—That's easy. It's a Vice-Presidential nomination.

It is not always necessary for a millionaire who wants to die poor to go into the Senate. He can spend a few days at the Paris exposition.

It is now rumored that Lord Kitchener is about to be married. He is certainly undergoing a course of preparation for some kind of a strenuous life.

Quite a novel method of carrying on the extensive egg trade between France and England is rapidly growing up. The new system involves the breaking of the egg shell and packing the whites and yolks in air-tight vessels or drums, each containing the contents of about 1000 eggs.

Under the spreading chestnut tree The village lawyer stands; The smith a windy man is he, Who waves around his hands, And lingers as far as he can From the language of commands.