

The Oregonian

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iveness. They are confined to no class of structures. About once a month some costly marble pile like Lawson's or Rogers' or McCall's is completed and photographed, but on the next page to a view of a palace costing a million or more will be some little workman's cottage built for a family of five or six. All classes of people seem to be interested in homebuilding. The architectural and decorative displays at St. Louis are constantly thronged with people who are evidently investigating with a view to actual needs. The whole country is busy building and planning homes.

Two thoughts are suggested by this architectural era. One is that the day of the family has not passed. A home with building craze is incompatible with "race suicide." Rich and poor alike are straining every nerve to possess a home, and obviously a home without children is only a feeble imitation of the real thing. The other thought is that the people must be doing well to sustain such a great body of architectural investigation and achievement. There was no homebuilding craze in the last few Democratic years from 1892 to 1897.

NEW POLITICAL METHODS.
The wise administrator is he who adapts his methods to the changing spirit of the times. Chairman Baker, of the Republican State Central Committee, is spending his money in letters written and sent to the individual voters. This is a new scheme in Oregon politics. It will "take," doubtless, because it is something new and because it comports with the popular mood of the hour, which is one of calm reflection rather than partisan frenzy.

Those who can remember Portland politics in 1856 will recall without effort the lively Buchanan-Fremont campaign. Other memories will run back to the Hayes-Tilden fight of 1876 and the Blaine-Cleveland battle of 1884. Those were the days of marching bands and flaming torches. The Republican spellbinder would get on his stump and all the Republicans would yell their respective hoarse, and then the Democratic spellbinder would get up on his stump and all the Democrats would yell themselves hoarse.

Great were the sacrifices and the sensations of those days. Many a boy of 18 went without a winter overcoat in order to get a marching suit. How often did a member of the Tilden Tigers or the Blaine Invincibles, in the torch of the man in front of him, rage because it had been inadvertently thrust in his face! How many times did rival processions fall afoul of each other and shed blood, each man in his own party's noble cause! Great was the anxiety of each side to outstrip the other in display, and when the result on election night was ascertained, every man occupied his personal pride in the winning side felt personal pride in the fact that again the country had been saved.

Perhaps it would be unsafe to say that that day has gone never to return; for it may come back. When we look at the devotion with which men of sound mind even in this day and age of the world will get out in the street all red silk and feathers to march with their noble and patriotic cause, or other, it would be some fool occasion the occupied by the cause of the present. These boyish operations are assigned to innocuous desuetude. It is more complimentary to our people that they are more moved by solid facts addressed to their calm judgment than by the smell of a kerosene torch or the time occupied by a parade in passing a given point. Whoever's cause it should be glad of dispassionate examination into the grounds of the issue. We shall see in November, as we saw in June, whether a quiet campaign is necessarily a feeble one.

DESIGNEDLY DEFECTIVE AND UNFAIR.
The dilemma in which County Clerk Roland, of Marion County, finds himself is one that will perplex the Clerks of several counties. In preparing for the election next month Mr. Roland must place the prohibition question on the ballot. He finds, however, that if he follows the form prescribed by law, many people cannot vote their opinions, while if he puts the question on the ballot in such a form that the people may all express their wishes, he must violate the law.

It is not a very pleasant position in which to place a public official, but it is just such a situation as was presented by those who studied the local option law in Marion County. The difficulty in Marion County is plain. A vote upon the liquor question has been ordered for the whole county, and for a subdivision composed of three Salem precincts. Under the provisions of the local option law a petition for the submission of the question in the entire county is in effect a petition for the submission of the question in each individual precinct of the county. In each of the Salem precincts referred to the voter himself confronted with three separate questions: "Do you want prohibition for your own precinct?" "Do you want it for the subdivision composed of three precincts?" "Do you want it for the entire county?" But in answering these three questions a man must make a single mark for or against prohibition for the entire county and for the subdivision composed of the three precincts. If a man votes for prohibition for his own precinct he must also vote for prohibition for the entire county, and vice versa. If he votes against prohibition for the county, he cannot vote in favor of prohibition for his home precinct. This inconsistency in what was paraded as a "local option" law arises from the fact that the liquor question can be placed upon the ballot in only one form, though there may really be a number of questions involved. Mr. Roland intends to follow the forms prescribed by law, thus relieving himself of responsibility for unsatisfactory results.

WHAT WILL THE WOMEN DO?
It is high time for a man who can stand barefaced, before an audience of intelligent Christian women with the declaration on his lips that half of the women of a great commonwealth and half the women of a city of 100,000 people are "bad women," to place his hand upon his mouth and his mouth in a dust. It is also high time for a great church, composed largely of women and supported to a considerable extent by woman's self-sacrificing endeavor, to force his relinquishment of the editorial control of one of its denominational newspapers, and for self-respecting women and women who have a sublime and just confidence in the virtue and true womanhood of a vast majority of their sex in this civilized and enlightened city to spur from their homes a journal that, under such control, is a menace to womanly ideals.

is likely at any time to make shameful allegations against womanhood.

A man who could so abuse the courtesy of a woman's convention, as D. L. Rader, preacher and editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate, is said to have done before the convention of the State W. C. T. U., whose invited guest he was Wednesday evening, is unworthy of public confidence. The only explanation of his conduct that suggests itself at this time is that he is a man of narrow, illiberal, illogical mind, who is incited to jealousy—the controlling element of such minds—during his residence in Colorado, whence he came recently, by finding there many women who were his superiors in intellect, as well as in energy and disinterested effort looking to the public welfare.

A man has a perfect right to doubt the expediency of granting the suffrage to women. Many broad-minded, generous and many men conscientiously oppose the extension of the ballot to women upon this ground. But no man worthy of the respect of self-respecting people would come into a community and boldly declare that half of its women were unworthy to be granted the right that womanly virtue would be subject to bargain-counter barter if women became voters. Out upon such indecent assertion, and shame, shame, to the man who thus uncovers his own moral nakedness before the public without being ashamed of the disgusting display!

CONSTRUCTIVE STATESMANSHIP.
In the dispatch of Secretary Taft to the isthmus of Panama the President discovers himself to be a constructive statesman. For seeing through the most complicated problem, for apprehending the sound and safe way out of a multiplicity of perplexities, Mr. Taft is perhaps the marvel of the day. He has so fine and true a nature, wherein noble impulses are deftly blended with acute discernment, that he picks out with intuition the happy solution of difficulties arising between a nation like this and a distant community of unfamiliar people. What he did in the Philippines he will do in Panama.

It might seem strange at first sight that so great a man as Taft should be sent on an errand of conciliation to so small a people; and it would be strange, except for one thing, and that is the President's sense of responsibility. If George Vanderbilt had a petty dispute with one of his poor neighbors in North Carolina, we should be glad to see him get the greatest and kindest lawyer in New York City to go down there and fix the thing up to the neighbor's satisfaction. But Theodore Roosevelt means to be even more particular with poor, weak Panama than he would be with Germany or Great Britain. So he sends Taft.

Now Taft is a man who will speak softly but never carries a big stick. He will present the Panama people every-thing he thinks is right, maybe a little more, and whatever he promises will be fulfilled by the Administration at Washington. For Taft is a man of peace. A lawyer and a Judge, he has been trained in the ways of peace. He went to the Philippines as an "anti-imperialist." He changed his views as he grew acquainted with the facts, but his sympathies with the people there remained. He became their advocate and champion at the White House. He stood between them and Congress. In a political sense he was father and mother to them. They love him for his superior brains, his generous heart, his steadfast devotion to their welfare, and the force and shrewdness he has manifested in securing benefits for them at the hands of President and Congress.

Nothing could more clearly reveal the attitude of President Taft toward the little people of the isthmus. Just what Taft is certain to say and do there is foreshadowed in his letter of instructions. He is to be just and even generous. He is to promise the isthmian population no wrong or harm, but only good and help. And Taft is just the man to inspire confidence there and then to secure the redemption of his promises here. This is constructive statesmanship of the highest kind. It is significant also to see two men of the marvelous mental and moral caliber of Root and Taft working steadily and enthusiastically as subordinates under Theodore Roosevelt and looking up to him with loyalty and confidence as an able and trustworthy administrator. It was one of Lincoln's marks of greatness that he got the greatest men that he could get as his assistants and maintain his assistants in the way of the sheer force of his dominating personality. It seems to be so with President Roosevelt.

IRRIGATION STATUTES NEEDED.
The Oregon Legislature will probably hesitate to pass an act creating a department of state government with as many officials as contemplated by the proposed irrigation code; and if such a law is passed, as it probably will be, an effort will doubtless be made to reduce the number of officers to the minimum. In order to do this and to secure the most efficient service, use should be made, so far as possible, of the present official system. While irrigation is of great importance to Oregon, it is not yet practiced to such an extent as to necessitate expensive supervision. In its general plan the irrigation code seems to be practical and, if enacted into law, will doubtless accomplish the ends desired—the encouragement of irrigation and the economical use of water. At the same time it would seem that perhaps some improvements could be made in the details of the law by fitting its provisions to existing conditions.

The proposed law provides for the appointment of a State Engineer at a salary of \$3000 a year and expenses, with one or more assistants at salaries of \$1500 a year and expenses, the appointment of the engineer to be made by the Governor, and the term of office to be six years. Now, as everyone knows, there has already been started in this state a system of irrigation under the provisions of the Carey Act, and the state law passed in accordance with that act, and the proceedings under this system are largely under the direction and control of the State Land Board, composed of the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer. Several times the State Land Board has found it necessary to employ an engineer, and in the next ten years or more while the irrigation systems are under construction the services of an engineer will be needed in order to see that the irrigation companies are fulfilling their contracts in a proper manner. In view of this situation it will be readily apparent to all that the State Engineer should be appointed by the State Land Board and be under its direction and control at all times.

The sad experience of the last year, when the State had, for all practical purposes, two land departments which were running independent of each other, shows the folly of such a course. One department knew little or nothing of what the other had done, and the result was confusion and conflict which brought the honor of the state in question. The possibility of a recurrence of such a condition should be scrupulously avoided, and to this end another suggestion may be made. The proposed law provides that the water-right records of the state shall be kept in the office of the State Engineer, while under present laws and contracts, the records relating to irrigation under the Carey Act are kept in the office of the clerk of the State Land Board. The nature of the State Engineer's work will make it necessary for him to be away from his office for a considerable part of the time, and for that reason it would not be convenient to the public to have the records kept in his office. These considerations indicate very strongly that it would not be best to create and maintain an Irrigation Department separate and distinct from departments already in existence.

The most money was to be made by the State Engineer, who would be in the State Land Office and have all his records kept there, where they will be accessible to the public at all times. This arrangement will make it unnecessary to employ a clerk to attend the office during the absence of the State Engineer. Under that arrangement, all irrigation records and proceedings would be controlled by one body instead of having one set of records in the office of the State Engineer and another set in the office of the State Engineer. At such times as the State Land Board needed the services of the engineer, he would be free to attend to outside work and an assistant would not be necessary for several years at least. Oregon has never been burdened with an expensive official system, and one should be avoided as long as possible. The proposed law also provides for the election of a Board of Water Commissioners, probably about six in number, one for each Water Division. The Commissioners are to have supervision of the apportionment of water under the licenses issued by the State Engineer and have power to appoint Water Masters in the several Water Divisions (subdivisions of Water Divisions). The Water Masters are to have immediate charge of the apportionment of water under the license of the State Engineer. The proposed law also provides for the election of a Board of Water Commissioners, probably about six in number, one for each Water Division. The Commissioners are to have supervision of the apportionment of water under the licenses issued by the State Engineer and have power to appoint Water Masters in the several Water Divisions (subdivisions of Water Divisions). The Water Masters are to have immediate charge of the apportionment of water under the license of the State Engineer.

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Philadelphia North American.
At the present moment we have in circulation in this country of money of all kinds about \$1,000,000,000. The paper and silver currency rests upon and obtains its value and effectiveness from the store of gold that we possess. The gold in the National Treasury and in circulation in September, 1904, was \$311,000,000. This there was about \$1 of gold for every \$3 of general currency. But the gold has another burden to carry and to impose, value of bank credit. The precise figures representing this bank credit are not available, but beyond question they amount upward far into thousands of millions of dollars and rest upon the country's stock of gold, is, therefore, manifestly a matter of first importance. No well-informed man need be told that if the National Treasury and in circulation in September, 1904, was \$311,000,000. This there was about \$1 of gold for every \$3 of general currency. But the gold has another burden to carry and to impose, value of bank credit. 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