

The Oregonian

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NO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

It is probable the Legislature will not now adopt the resolution to call a constitutional convention. A majority of the members do not think it necessary now. It is not deemed urgent, certainly though there are several arguments for it.

The Oregonian sees no prospect of the Legislature taking any step to settle the question without its, nor any way to bring the state institutions into reasonable limits, nor any way to bring public corporations within control of the requirements of modern life.

The chief interest in the Oregonian has arisen from its desire to refute the assumption, which is utterly absurd, that the call for a constitutional convention is a device to kill the initiative and referendum. Such convention is itself, initiative in the highest degree.

A TRUE LOCAL OPTION.

If the Legislature will amend the present misnamed local-option law, so that it can be offered to the people as a plain and simple local-option measure, the act will be approved by ten to twenty thousand majority.

Probably the amended act will go to the referendum; and it is advisable that it should. The Governor would not be likely to hold that any such emergency existed as requires the law to be put immediately in operation.

WHERE LEGISLATION IS POWERLESS.

The attempt to apply the ordinary rules of finance, through Indiana, to the management of the funds that have accrued from the sale of their lands, is about as hopeless as the attempt to instill into the Indian mind the principles of New England thrift.

Valuable Helpmet.

Mr. W. S. Wigham, of Moreland, would be glad to know if any lady in this part of the state can beat her record for 1904. She sold 489 worth of strawberries, \$17.75 and 137.50 worth of raspberries.

General Buys Ink.

A good idea of the extent to which red tape is carried by the British army is given by the following paragraph from recent station orders at Aden: "Stationery—258. The G. O. C. sanctioned the purchase locally of a bottle of red ink under the Indian purchase grants to him in A. R. I. (Army Regulations, India) Volume III, Paragraph 5.

There will be no protest against it. As it now stands, it is called a local-option law, "false nominee"; for its main features are those of a prohibition law, in disguise. There isn't an honest feature in it, nor was there intended to be. Hence the uproar among the local-option element that supplied the greater part of the votes that had carried it.

THE GOVERNOR TO THE RESCUE.

The royal family of the state, the members of which subsidize themselves and their friends out of institution "betterment funds" supplied by the taxpayers, is more numerous than has been supposed. "They all do it," says the Governor, in defense of the titled families at the Penitentiary, in regard to the life of ease and luxury in which they live at the expense of the state.

The Oregonian quite agrees with the Governor that the official do-nothing system of all these institutions should be investigated by the Legislature, and, if not satisfactory, a rule should be formulated for the government of these departments of the several state institutions. "It is to the interest of the state," says the Governor, "that these families should live at the several institutions of which they are in charge. Very well, but is it therefore necessary for them to subsidize out of the state commissary?"

DRAWING THE LONG BOW.

Captain "Ubiquitous" Scott, a man who made considerable steamboat history on the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, used to excuse the speed shortcomings of a boat by saying, "It's a crackin' good twenty-mile boat that I've got on my hands here."

These figures open up wonderful possibilities for mathematical calculations on the shrinkage took place, but the Seattle paper, announced that the steamer took out a full cargo of 36,000 tons. A decrease of 6000 tons in carrying capacity was, of course, heavy, but the best Tacoma could do with her steamer Keemun, sailing about the same time, was 18,000 tons; so Seattle was happy.

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pressed, that the Reform School is not an institution to which it is an honor to go and from which it is an honor to graduate. The Senate concurred by voting almost unanimously to postpone the bill. With the purpose of the Reform School the Oregonian is in sympathy, but it does not comprehend in this purpose the desire to make the institution a place that, as expressed by Senator Halme, "boys would afterward refer to with pride as the place where they received their education."

From different parts of the city the old complaint is renewed that the rock used for macadam on the streets grinds up quickly, wears into holes, turns to mud in winter and to dust in summer, and that the money expended for such work is practically wasted.

OREGON FORESTS.

The Nation, the state, the railroads, the syndicates, big and little, and the small owner, must approve the passage of the forest fires bill at Salem. And this, although the clause prohibiting fires between August 1 and September 15 is struck out. Much better half a loaf than no bread. Let's hope the right to sever fire between June 1 and October 1 on permit from the County Clerk will not be abused.

There can be no justification whatever for the reported resolve of a group of members of the Common Council to take \$1500 out of the City Treasury for expenses of a trip to Los Angeles, on pretense of making inspection of the telephone system of that city. This is not the real object, and if it were it would come to nothing.

Now that Germany has expressed views coinciding with those of Americans on the matter of Chinese neutrality, Russia is likely to carry out her campaign against the Peking government, whether it is instituted for the purpose of involving China in the present struggle or of a future annexation of territory.

One of the large religious weeklies in London has just published the report of a special commissioner sent to South Africa to see how the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony are progressing under their new conditions. He says that the two races, Boer and English, are getting together, and that racial animosity is fast disappearing.

A juror trying a murder case in Reno had a revelation that the defendant was innocent, and held out for acquittal against his eleven fellow-jurymen. Smoot declares that if he thought he had a revelation requiring him to do something contrary to the Nation's laws or customs, he would leave for another country, a very suitable plan for the Reno juror to follow.

We shall have to make the best of President Roosevelt's decision that he cannot attend the Lewis and Clark Fair. There is only slight consolation in the reflection that the Fair's glory will not be dimmed by the presence of a superior attraction.

Ballots amounting to about a third of the total were fraudulently cast in the Colorado election, the other two-thirds being probably the work of persons who didn't know enough to vote more than once.

In the Sunday Oregonian of two weeks back appeared an illustrated account of the poverty and distress in the East End of London, where 200,000 people were said to be unemployed and suffering. The English papers confirm this, but say that two great causes are at work. The war and the unrest in Russia have driven over to refuge in London thousands and thousands of Russian and Polish Jews, unacquainted with a trade where to support life, and absolutely destitute.

The bill to change the name of the State Reform School to State School for Boys, introduced by Senator Nottingham, of the Multnomah delegation, has met upon the motion of its author its final quietus through indefinite postponement. The unwisdom, not to say the absurdity, of the proposed change was pointed out by the Oregonian in a recent issue, and the bill has been dropped.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

"The Beef Trust" my meat.—T. R.

And the "Little Father" didn't even tell his Russian subjects that it hurt him more than it did them.

Again the home critic carp at Kuro-patkin. From the way they talk of his mismanagement one would think there was no mismanagement within a thousand miles of St. Petersburg.

It is no longer "when my ship comes in," but "when my automobile rolls up to the door."

The St. Louis Star refers to the czar as "our extinguished friend."

Why He Succeeded. Nit by O. S. Marden in Success. He robbed his employer. He blackmailed a millionaire. He embezzled a million.

Ducks must be provided with ponds in which to lave themselves, according to the Illinois Humane Society, which is organized for the prevention of unkind-like conduct toward animals.

The W. C. T. U. branch which recently deprecated the increasing use by women of such sulphurous phrases as "Good Heavens," should have attended a trial in a Chicago court last week. A telephone girl from the Hyde Park exchange had a man arrested for swearing at her over the phone, but in the course of her remarks she made it clear that the worst offense in this respect were the women most prominent in South Side society.

Some light on the manner in which Hoch won the hearts and hands of a score of women is afforded by the statement of Mrs. Kimmer, the landlady of the house in which he was captured in New York. Hoch engaged rooms on Saturday and hadn't been in the house 20 minutes when he asked to be allowed to peel the potatoes for the landlady. On Sunday he made an offer of marriage. Here is a lesson to the bachelor desirous of coping with a wife. First show your sympathy and your domestic accomplishments by peeling a lot of onions. It is well to practice this first, however, for it's no easy task to peel potatoes rapidly and yet with due regard for the importance of not paring them too small. Then, before the good impression has faded, offer yourself in marriage. Carry the heart by assault; the slow sapping of the lover who holds himself too cheap is not half so effective. Hoch das Wein!

Senator-elect Pileas had to kiss a number of Olympia girls the other day. His official tribulations began early.

The Irrigon irrigator man admits keeping tab on the birthdays of all the girls in Irrigon, and adds that it is an easy job, "for the average irrigator over 10 years old only has a birthday every four years." We have puzzled over this statement for three or four hours, but in the absence of a diagram have been unable to understand it. Were all the girls in Irrigon born on February 25, or does two girls' birthdays slip away unnoticed?

A juror trying a murder case in Reno had a revelation that the defendant was innocent, and held out for acquittal against his eleven fellow-jurymen. Smoot declares that if he thought he had a revelation requiring him to do something contrary to the Nation's laws or customs, he would leave for another country, a very suitable plan for the Reno juror to follow.

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THE STORY OF POLAND.

How a Kingdom Was Dismembered and Divided Among the Neighboring Powers.

POLAND, a nation renowned for centuries as the great champion of Christendom against the Turks, entered upon its later period of blood and tears with the partition of a great part of its territory in 1772 between Russia, Prussia and Austria. The prime mover in this partition was Frederick the Great, and it is related that when Maria Theresa of Austria was about to affix her signature to the agreement she propheticly exclaimed: "Long after I am dead, the effects of this violation of all which has hitherto been considered right and holy will be manifest." In 1783 another partition was made between Russia and Prussia, and in 1795 the remainder of the Polish territory was divided between Russia, Prussia and Austria, the result being the complete annihilation of Poland as a nation. The Polish constitution and statutes were abolished, and a censorship established over the press and the speech of the people. To all this was added a cruel system of police, and the fixing of Russian garrisons in Warsaw and the other principal towns of the country.

No other outbreak occurred till 1831, but for some time previously the country had been disturbed. On November 23, 1830, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the revolution of 1830, many secret conspirators were killed both in the churches and streets, and portraits of Kosciuszko and Kilinski, a patriot of the time of the last partition, were destroyed. The common soldiers were transferred to the Russian army. The Polish constitution and statutes were abolished, and a censorship established over the press and the speech of the people. To all this was added a cruel system of police, and the fixing of Russian garrisons in Warsaw and the other principal towns of the country.

MONROE DOCTRINE COROLLARY.

San Domingo Protectorate a Less Evil Than Danger of Great Foreign War.

New York Sun. In Santo Domingo, in Venezuela or somewhere else within the broad area covered by the Monroe doctrine, our alterable determination to maintain the equally resolute determination of a free European power to protect its own subjects and their pecuniary interest in spite of the doctrine.

The proposition, as presented from the European side, has never before been met so squarely and fairly by the statesmanship or diplomacy of Washington. It is this: A substantial American protectorate over Santo Domingo.

Mr. Roosevelt's answer is made in the course of his speech on the 22nd of the 22nd of January, and is unusually free from irritants. It is substantially the answer that has been foreshadowed in his various speeches and writings. It has been called by the name of a corollary, and several other names, pleasant or harsh according to the mental attitude of the observer. "Yes," he says, "the burdens of a protectorate are a heavy one, but the danger of a great foreign war, if not now in the case of Santo Domingo, certainly later in the case of some other American republic. We are prepared in this instance at least to accept the corollary and do the police work."

Although February 1 is the date said to be fixed by the protocol for the establishment of tutelar control and authority in Santo Domingo, we assume that this contract of far-reaching importance will be executed with due regard to the forms of law. The time is short, but with the energetic character of Mr. Roosevelt's administration, there is every probability for the preparation of the requisite treaty with the Dominican Government, its submission to the Senate for consideration, and its ratification by that body at an early date.

The Memory of Jefferson Davis.

New York World, Dem. Governor Terrell of Georgia said at the Lee birthday celebration in Atlanta: "I must admire President Roosevelt's action in some things, but I can never endorse him generally. He has not contributed to the cause of the South. He has done more for the memory of Jefferson Davis than any other man of his generation." From Herodotus to Froide they have been caught tripping on facts, and Mr. Roosevelt may have been no more just in his judgments than his countrymen, but the memory of Jefferson Davis is the most important thing that presses upon the attention of the South?

Might it not be better for Theodore Roosevelt, the historian, while it concerns itself about Theodore Roosevelt the President, who is trying to allay sectional feeling?

Three American Deficiencies.

Andrew D. White in the Century. As a result of observation and reflection during a long life touching public men and measures in wide variety, I would advise for my country three things above all others to supplement American civilization: From Great Britain her administration of criminal justice; from Germany her theater, and from any or every European country, save Russia, Spain and Turkey, its government of cities.

The Eastern Blizzard.

Pacific Coast Paper. I remember, I remember. The house where I was born—Back there among the blizzards—That struck it yester morn. The snow's piled up around it. While I tried to stir, I tried to stir, I tried to stir. I'm glad I'm not there.

ASSURED SUCCESS OF THE FAIR.

And Good Words for Portland From a Neighbor.

Tacoma Ledger. The Lewis and Clark Exposition offers the best opportunity that has ever been afforded to advertise the Pacific Northwest and attract desirable home-seekers to Washington and Oregon. The Legislature of Washington has acted with commendable promptness in its appropriation, not as large as many would have preferred, but adequate for a creditable and effective exhibit of Washington's resources and products, if wisely handled. The personnel of the commission named by the Governor is such as to inspire confidence and give promise of splendid results.

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