

The Oregonian

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Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - Portland, Tuesday, May 14, 1907.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - A Change of Mind.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - Those who doubt Mr. Roosevelt's sincerity in deciding to resign the Presidency a second time, must find it difficult to understand the present condition of affairs in Ohio.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - Every politician in that state who wishes to be numbered among the President's friends is supporting Mr. Taft, and there can be no question whatever that they are doing it with the President's knowledge and approval.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - Of course it is conceivable that all this is nothing but a blind to deceive the unwary. We may, if we wish, imagine that Mr. Taft is but a pawn in the game to be pushed forward in the initial moves of a strategy.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - Mr. Roosevelt thinks the psychological moment has come to advance a more powerful plea, namely himself. But to adopt this theory one must make two or three rather difficult assumptions.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - We must suppose in the first place that Mr. Roosevelt is a man of craft, words being his weapon, and with insidious wriggings and ready to sacrifice the political future of his friend for his own advantage.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - How does this estimate of the President's character coincide with what we know of him? Is it the way a man of his frankness, his impulsive nature, his desire to speak out on the spur of the moment regardless of consequences, would have gone about such a task?

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - The enemies of the President have taught us to believe that the great defect of his character is a lack of that very deliberation and serpentine guile with which they are now ready to charge him.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - We have also been taught that Mr. Roosevelt is improperly loyal to his friends, carrying his predilections for some of them so far as to appoint them to high offices, for which they are not worthy.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - We believe that this contingency he stands ready to ruin the man who has been his closest friend and most devoted auxiliary for years. Not only that, but to ruin him in the face of his own solemn pledge not to stand for a second elective term.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - Unless Mr. Roosevelt is sincere in his resignation as a candidate for the Presidency again his words and the whole course of his conduct prove him to be a hypocrite consummately artful, without scruple or remorse.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - But if the Ohio drama is nothing but a curtain raiser preliminary to the triumphant re-ascension of the great hero upon the stage, who must we think of Mr. Taft, is he a conscious tool, or merely a simpleton who serves Mr. Roosevelt's clandestine purpose without knowing it.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - Like most other men who have played a great part in public life, Mr. Taft has made mistakes, but he has done no more than implied servility or dishonor. It is difficult at this late period of his history to believe that he would lend himself to a game of deceit if he knew what he was doing.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - But if Mr. Roosevelt intends to become a candidate again he is playing a game of deceit with few parallels in the annals of this or any other country, and if Mr. Taft is helping it he is forced to conclude that he does not understand what he is doing. Unless, therefore, we can accept the President's statement of his own purpose and believe that he is sincere, there is no escape from the conclusion that Mr. Taft is either a blockhead or a knave. No sane person could concede for an instant that he is either the one or the other.

Keit on Sale: Portland, Ore. - Clearly Mr. Foraker believes that the Taft candidacy is genuine. In his mind there does not seem to be the faintest doubt that the Roosevelt influence behind Mr. Taft is forging toward his nomination with resolute purpose. To put the case mildly, Mr. Foraker is scared. When the conference was held at Columbus next Wednesday was first broached he made no objections. At this conference the Republican Central Committee of the state will meet the county executive committees to agree if possible upon a Presidential candidate. It was called by Senator Dick. Mr. Foraker's junior colleague, who is in close sympathy with his purposes and his faithful ally. Practically, after the notice was published, Mr. Cox of Cincinnati proposed to make the conference an opportunity for establishing harmony in the Republican party. He suggested the course, vitally interested in development of its western territory. The work is rendered easier by reason of there being no such large cities in Eastern Canada as there are on the Atlantic coast of the United States, and accordingly less temptation for the new arrivals to huddle in and intensify the already strained situation. The ability of this country to assimilate immigration at the rate of 5000 per day, or 130,000 per month, will not be fully tested until we encounter one of those periodical waves of hard times which sweep over the land at intervals. When we again experience one of these unpleasant eras, the attractions of the congested cities of the East will appeal to the new arrival much less forcibly than they do now.

Notwithstanding all this, Mr. Foraker now repudiates the conference. He says that he will not attend it himself, and it is reported that he will urge his political friends to stay away. Why this change of purpose? There can be only one reason for it. Mr. Foraker perceives already that the Republican Central Committee and through the county executives who are close to the people, will have nothing to do with his senatorial candidacy. The adherents of Mr. Taft have clearly stated their wish that the proposed conference shall deal only with the question of a Presidential candidate, and not with the matter of later decision, and Mr. Foraker sees that their wish will prevail. Were there a fair prospect of an endorsement for himself as Senator, Mr. Foraker would notwithstand the conference, and would notwithstand the official denials, which he is now receiving. Such a thing is not, he believes, the meeting, declares that it can decide nothing, denies the delegation of both Mr. Dick and Mr. Cox from himself, and again appeals to a state convention to be chosen at popular primaries. Evidently he relies upon the fact that his own party will not be so easily influenced. No matter how the delegates may be chosen, nor what mandate they bring from the people, Mr. Foraker knows that there is a fair chance of his winning them to some treacherous, or some compromise involving the party, by those very methods of which he has often supposed to be a master.

THE RISK OF HIGH SPEED.

The disaster which befell a Shriners' excursion train in Southern California was one of those frightful accidents, paragoned of modern horror, of which we cannot think without dismay and horror. To those who perish, it brings death in the most frightful form; to those who escape with injuries more or less severe, and even to unharmed spectators, the result is a nervous shock from which recovery is slow. The wreck of an excursion train has its counterpart in all of these features, it is true, in the coal mine disaster in coal mines, the modern horror of which we cannot think without dismay and horror. To those who perish, it brings death in the most frightful form; to those who escape with injuries more or less severe, and even to unharmed spectators, the result is a nervous shock from which recovery is slow. The wreck of an excursion train has its counterpart in all of these features, it is true, in the coal mine disaster in coal mines, the modern horror of which we cannot think without dismay and horror. To those who perish, it brings death in the most frightful form; to those who escape with injuries more or less severe, and even to unharmed spectators, the result is a nervous shock from which recovery is slow.

WOMEN AND CLEAN STREETS.

In her new enthusiasm over clean streets and hygienic surroundings Portland may be interested in some of Miss Jane Addams' latest thoughts upon similar matters. These thoughts are all the more pertinent to our situation in view of the clean streets of Portland. Addams are still a pious hope rather than a beautiful reality. Miss Addams, who is an authority upon these matters, ventures the belief that keeping a city in good order and its inhabitants in good health presents on a large scale a problem entirely similar to those of housecleaning. In her conception of it a city is a huge household where all of us try to live together in a sort of an exaggerated family with as much decency and as little friction as may be.

Now, according to Miss Addams, from some immemorial women have been the guardians of the health and cleanliness of the household. Men have paid little attention to such matters. They have rather held it beneath the dignity of the male to mop, to sweep, to scrub, while soap suds is woman's native element and the broom is her weapon. Suppose all the men in the country should become seized with a sudden notion to exclude women from their ancient privilege of housecleaning; suppose the gentler sex were forbidden to do the children with their hands, and put a hat on their heads, and travel in the presence of evidence such as this? Whether the high speed of trains is dictated by the insane efforts of competing roads to clip a few more minutes off the schedule, or to a genuine American desire for speed for speed's sake, it is manifest that the same conditions have been compelled to exist in the case of the automobile. This is the last assumption correct? Is an advertising agency "worth while" that carries a risk of disaster so tremendous—a risk that becomes in a moment a reality too horrible to contemplate with composure? Is it possible to over-estimate the value of a travel in the presence of evidence such as this? Whether the high speed of trains is dictated by the insane efforts of competing roads to clip a few more minutes off the schedule, or to a genuine American desire for speed for speed's sake, it is manifest that the same conditions have been compelled to exist in the case of the automobile.

SPokane RATE AGAIN.

A St. Paul dispatch announces that the Hill-Harriman traffic managers, at a conference held in St. Paul yesterday, decided to grant a reduction in freight rates on wheat from Spokane to the coast. The rate reduction was stated to be about 10 per cent. This was brought about by the threatened competition of the Soo route which has just reached Spokane over the new Corbin line to that city, which forms a connection with the Canadian Pacific. The rate reduction is being fought for lower jobbing rates, the basis of her contention being that the lower rates granted the Pacific coast cities were unjustifiable. The Spokane demand for lower rates has always been based on the long and short haul feature of the rate situation, while the railroads have been compelled to refuse the Spokane demands on account of the water competition.

The infusion of this new element into the situation, is fraught with great possibilities. At the Interstate Commerce Commission hearing in January, 1906, the money was introduced showing that the water rate on a great number of commodities from Atlantic coast ports to Spokane by way of Portland and Puget Sound including the rail haul from points as far inland as Detroit and Cleveland, was much higher than the rate from the eastern points to Spokane. It was also demonstrated that the steamers now engaged in the ocean carrying trade between the Atlantic coast and Pacific coast ports were handling practically all classes of freight that was handled by the railroads. The manifest of these steamers showed that ninety-five per cent of the commodities named in the Western classification used by the railroads had in greater or less quantity been handled by the steamers. Water transportation was shown to be cheaper than land transportation, and it is hardly within the range of possibilities that the Soo line or any other line will cut rates to a figure below that which can be met with the steamships.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has never assumed jurisdiction over rates which were affected by water transportation, and the new rate which it is reported will be granted Spokane will of necessity be obliged to meet the attacks of jobbers more favorably situated. Spokane has fought long and hard for a reduction in jobbing rates, and it now remains to be seen whether or not she will be happy under the new schedule. To pacify the Spokane jobbers whenever they exhibited special irritation over the lower rates enjoyed by the Pacific coast cities, the railroads from time to time granted the inland city low distributive rates which were denied the coast jobbers. These rates

enabled the Spokane men to sell goods in a wide zone which could not be reached by the coast jobbers. The injustice of this policy did not escape the notice of the Portland and Puget Sound jobbers, but on account of their advantageous location they have never made a concerted effort to secure as low a per-ton-per-mile distributive rate as was granted the Spokane jobbers.

The reported reduction in the rail jobbing rate to Spokane, will, however, put a different face on the matter. The Hill-Harriman interests have apparently been forced by rail competition to make a lower rate, but there is nothing in the long and short haul theory, or in the rail and water competition, that compels them to give Spokane a better per-ton-per-mile distributive rate than they grant Portland. From appearances, with Spokane and the railroads, it will now be the duty of the coast jobbers to fight the sweet, and it remains to be seen whether their jobbing trade will be any more prosperous under a reduction in the jobbing rate and an advance in the distributive rate than it has been in the past.

WILLIAM H. HEARST'S NEW PARTY.

As It Is Regarded by William Jennings Bryan. From the Commoner.

Attention has already been called to Mr. Hearst's New York speech on the evening of April 23, in which he expressed dissatisfaction with existing party conditions and his determination to organize a new party through the instrumentality of the Independence League. That Mr. Hearst means well will be admitted, but there will be a difference of opinion as to the wisdom of his action. In joining a party a man naturally asks two questions: First, what does the party stand for? And, second, what chance has the party of accomplishing its purpose? The second question is scarcely less important than the first, for, unless a party has a prospect of putting its principles into law, it strives in vain, and because it strives in vain it does not appeal to the people.

Of course, a party may do educational work without dominating the Government, and all parties, however small, do educational work, but the great majority of voters prefer to see results rather than to do pioneer work. Mr. Hearst complains that the Democratic party is not harmonious—that it is true. But, unfortunately, there is no chance of securing absolute harmony in any party of any size. If a party has as many as two members, the conservative and radical elements will appear. Even where all agree in principle, there will be differences of opinion as to methods, and such differences cause much trouble as differences in principle. The Republican party seemed to be a united party when it came into power in 1861, and yet before Lincoln had been in office three years the radical element of the party thought him too conservative, and before eight years elapsed a Republican Congress tried to impeach a Republican President.

The Independence League must grow in order to exert a great influence, and it cannot draw to itself any considerable number of thinking men without becoming a debating society.

Whether the new party is really needed is a matter which time alone can decide. Mr. Hearst has a large personal following, and his papers exert a marked influence. He has left the Democratic party because he has lost faith in its power to secure reforms, and the Independence League will offer a political home to those who desire relief through either the Democratic or Republican parties, but it cannot hope to attract those Democrats who still believe that the Democratic party can be made an effective instrument in the hands of the people for the securing of remedial legislation; neither can it expect to attract reform Republicans unless those Republicans believe that the Independence League can bring reform sooner than the Democrats can.

In the meantime the Democratic papers should treat Mr. Hearst and the new party as an ally rather than as an enemy. We are going in the same direction, even though we march under different banners, and there ought to be no quarrel so long as we are trying to "cast our devils," although we invoke the name of Democracy, while Mr. Hearst and his associates invoke the name of the Independence League.

Will It Be: "The Fat Mr. Bryan?"

New York Sun.

Mr. Bryan now weighs 234 1/2 pounds. The truth is that the tavern of Hale, Wells River, Vt., which is headquarters of the New England Fat Men's Club. No man of girth escapes the scrutiny of mine host, who has the club's interests at heart. Mr. Bryan was led up to the scales and bravely paid the initiation fee.

Mr. Bryan's fighting weight was 165 pounds in 1896, when his career as a Presidential candidate, lecturer, and preacher began. Prosperity has filled him out. He is become too fat for war, but is a fine figure of a man for peace.

Hard times he can never talk about again. As well might Jack Falstaff discourse of soup kitchens and a scarcity of sack. Mr. Bryan may be President yet—president of the National Society of Fat Men and one of its amplest specimens.

The Postoffice.

Hannah G. Fernald in St. Nicholas.

It's the secret thing that ever you knew! It's down come out at last, and now we know! Nobody knows it but Marie and me, and our fathers and mothers and sisters and brothers.

And aunts and uncles and one or two others.

And you!

It's our little postoffice box! It's a dear little postoffice box!— You won't tell a soul?—

And we drop down whatever we please: In a secret place, one doesn't need keys:— And looks!

Our mail isn't like grown folk's quite. We send post-cards and apples and peaches. And things like that, for which one cares. We write the letters that by and by— We don't care a bit for the date and— Can't write!

The tablet placed in the Y. M. C. A. building to the memory of Mr. E. M. Hutchinson was a tender tribute of fellow-workers to the earnest endeavor of one whose life was cut off in its morning. The tribute paid to the purposeful life of Reno Hutchinson, both in bronze and in eulogy, was a just recognition of faithfulness to duty as he saw it.

Millions of dollars are spent in the United States every year for perfume. And this in spite of the assertion of Henry Ward Beecher, who in his time was considered authority upon most matters upon which he spoke that "no smel at all is vastly superior to any smel whatsoever."

Seasons come and seasons go but Patrick Henry Scullin and his National Industrial Peace Association goes on forever, and the strangest part of his dove-like scheme is that, wherever it is proposed, the industrial workers as a rule begin heaving brooktraps in its direction.

Modern Mammon worship is aptly illustrated in news reports from Los Angeles, which specify that floral decorations for one vehicle in the festa parade cost \$750. You can't employ money to measure the beauty of a rose—at least not in Oregon.

Evidently the Rev. John Rentzen who thundered against dancing from the pulpit must have confounded the comic opera variety with that form in vogue among normal young folk of good blood and breeding.

There would be more enthusiasm tomorrow when McCredle holds the pen-ant if the Beavers were higher up in the percentage column.

Last week's rain and the bulge in Chicago wheat are a happy coincidence for the farmers of the Columbia River Valley.

Following Salem's move for a cherry fair in June, why not Albany or Eugene get up a strawberry fair and Ashland a peach fair?

Good morning! Have you registered for the June election?

FULTON URGES PARTY CONVENTION

Faults of Oregon Primary Law Would Be Removed, He Says, by Securing Declaration of Party Principles and Lessening Cost of Primary Campaigns to Candidates.

THE State Government of Oregon more nearly approaches a pure democracy," says C. W. Fulton, United States Senator for Oregon. In an article entitled "The People as Legislators," in the North American Review, "than does that of any other state of the Union. This is due to the amendment to its constitution, adopted by a vote of the people in 1902, and known as the Initiative and Referendum Amendment."

The direct primary, with its many advantages, is not, however, without its disadvantages. I speak of the direct primary for nomination of candidates, not the primary for election of officers. It has never been preceded neither by a convention nor by any other representative body to select candidates, promulgate a declaration of party principles and promote party organization, and in judgment, the holding of such a convention in advance of the primary would be a distinct improvement, and would in no wise militate against the Initiative and Referendum Amendment.

Senator Fulton points out the merits of the system of nominating candidates by direct vote of the people, but cites the well-known faults of that system—great cost of primary campaigns to candidates and lack of party platform and party organization.

The remedy, he thinks, would be a party convention, prior to the primaries, "to declare party principles and promote party organization . . . and recommend to the voters a list of candidates."

"The advantages of the convention," says Senator Fulton, "would be a reasonably fair distribution of candidates geographically, a careful preliminary consideration and weighing of the merits of the several candidates by the delegates, a declaration of party principles and party organization for the campaign." He recommends that the direct primary law be amended "so as to place a limit on the amount that a candidate may expend in his campaign for a nomination, and as well for his election."

The direct legislation method, Senator Fulton recommends, by declaring the people as conservative and capable legislators as their representatives in legislative assemblies.

After detailing the history of the Initiative and Referendum and the direct primary law and briefly describing their provisions, Senator Fulton says: "The first nominating election under the law occurred in April, 1905, to nominate candidates to be voted for at the general election to be held in June of that year. A Senator in Congress for the first time in many years was then to be elected. A very considerable majority of the candidates for the Legislature signed Statement No. 1, and when the Legislature was elected it was found that signers of that statement constituted a clear majority on joint ballot. The result was that a United States Senator from Oregon was elected by the first ballot. It was, indeed, a most welcome change, for so bitter had been the factional differences in the Republican ranks in Oregon during the last twenty years that people had ceased to expect an election of a Senator to occur before the last ballot on the last night of the session; and it was always possible that people had no election, as indeed was the case in two instances. In fact, I am confident that the bitter and long-drawn-out contests that had become the custom in Senatorial elections in Oregon contributed more than all else to arouse the people to take the matter into their own hands."

Of course, the people know that the Legislature cannot constitutionally be required to elect to the Senate the candidate in favor of whom they declare, but they also know that few men of ability and high character in political future by declining so to do. Furthermore, if a candidate for the Legislature signs Statement No. 1, he is, in case of election, bound by an obligation as solemn as his oath of office to conform to it, and it is quite apparent that a candidate who signs that statement will always occupy a much stronger position before the voters than one who declines to sign it. Consequently, we may reasonably expect that every Legislature will be composed of members of whom a majority cannot constitutionally be required to elect to the Senate the candidate in favor of whom they declare, but they also know that few men of ability and high character in political future by declining so to do. 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