

The Oregonian

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ant and impatient youth, drawn close about Rome in her august old age; such ought to be the future aspect of the Latin world."

A DISPUTE ABOUT NOTHING.

There is some contention among Republicans, or so-called Republicans, about Statement No. 1. Some insist on it; others oppose.

It is but a new source of party division, but we're all used to that, and one more source of division can't matter much.

Great numbers of the Republicans long ago ceased to have any principle of action except to wield the knife against each other and "get even."

Question is whether Republican candidates for the Legislature shall pledge to Statement No. 1, or not. Every one will do as he pleases, of course.

But why should those Republicans who insist on Statement No. 1 wish to send any Republican to the Legislature?

They are sure that there would be no politics in the Legislature, or in the state, except in election of Senators and Representatives in Congress and choice of Presidential electors.

There could be no politics in election of any state, county or municipal officer; and Republicans have practically abandoned this argument.

Control of the state and of the City of Portland to the Democrats—who, the argument requires us to believe, have no politics.

Through commitment to Statement No. 1 there can be no politics at all in the Legislature.

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Pacific Northwest. For that reason we hope to see the reserve in the New York banks pile up to such colossal figures that it will be hunting borrowers who will build railroads with it.

There will be a great crop of fruit in Oregon this year. The misguided buds that began to swell a week ago and the sap that had not lain dormant through the winter—

for there was no winter—and had begun to push its way up the tree, received a gentle reminder Friday that there was such a thing as pushing the season, and concluded to await developments.

They came yesterday, and served notice on all things horticultural to bide a bit, until the middle of March, before putting on Spring attire. For that reliable prophet of weather, who has the official bureau beaten in his forecast about five weeks and five days, came out of his hole yesterday morning, saw his shadow and hopped back into it to resume hibernation for six weeks.

People may scoff, but he makes good. Just wait and see. Great is the groundhog!

The dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria on Saturday night, given by the Standard Oil Company to its parasites and political claqueurs, was a highly interesting affair.

Two objects of the dinner were the denunciation of the Roosevelt Administration; the other, laudation of the virtues of the Standard Oil magnates and other shining suns in the constellation of predatory wealth.

Why, you see there would have been no interruption of prosperity, had not the tariff methods of the oligarch barons of the country been interrupted. These "philanthropists," as they were called at the dinner, have received contumely, where they were entitled to honor, immunity and worship!

There has been the hard lot of men going about in the world doing good. It's an awful thing to plunge a country into distress by cutting off the license of good men to rob it.

Walla Walla farmers have just purchased 1,400,000 Calcutta grain bags at 7 1/2 cents each, which is 3 1/2 cents less than the prevailing price last year.

A news dispatch says that by this large purchase the farmers of Walla Walla County have saved \$50,000. There is a possibility that it might be full early to determine whether they have saved this amount or lost something.

Calcutta grain bags have sold as low as 4 1/2 cents, which is no much prospect that the market will sink to that figure the coming season, failure of the California barley crop and a light wheat crop in the Pacific Northwest would work surprising changes in the market.

Answer to an inquiry by several persons: The author of the lines, familiar in the schoolboy days of past generations, beginning—

You'd scarce expect one of my age To speak in public on the stage. Was David Everett, a native of Preston, Mass.; born in 1770; died at Marietta, O., in 1813. He was a journalist, playwright and versemaker of note, and for several years was a writer on Boston newspapers.

He wrote the lines on which his fame rests, as an exercise for the spokesman of a juvenile club while a schoolteacher at North Ipswich, Mass.

The plutocrats of the Waldorf-Astoria dinner and their satellites show a striking obliquity of mind and judgment when they say "the reacti against Roosevelt has set in."

That was seen through glasses of "sweetened rainwater," or what Chicago's vintage, many times filled and drained, to the confusion of T. Roosevelt. That's the medium through which these brethren of predatory wealth so clearly see the thing that is not.

In response to proposals by the War Department, forty-one bids were received for flying machines heavier than air. Navigating the atmosphere is no longer a dream.

With so many scientific men engaged in mechanical application of principles that have been laid down for the past three years, it cannot be long before an airplane as an aid to military operations will be perfected.

Denunciation of C. W. Hodson because he said he wouldn't vote for any Republican candidate for the Legislature who might take Statement No. 1, is a Republican will be wholly unnecessary in that body.

Now is the time for perfectly independent and non-partisan voting for members of the Legislature. A party candidate for a seat in that body is an absurdity.

The North Bank road is now officially known as the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway Company. As it will reach neither Seattle nor Spokane over its own rails, and begins and ends on the north bank of the Columbia River, the original name will undoubtedly find greatest favor with its patrons.

It is not probable that the members of the Thaw jury were able to put it out of their minds that Stanford White was a most villainous scoundrel who, though it was a crime to kill him, got his deserts.

Judges in the Commercial Club's prize essay contest who are to examine 300 productions must be prepared to have their literary judgments questioned if not condemned, by 299 contributors.

THE BRYAN CAMPAIGN FUND

How the Silverite-Financier Bryan and Sidelined the Tariff Question.

The World has given to the public the names of the principal contributors to the Democratic National campaign fund in 1896. Nearly 90 per cent of the money came from silver mine owners.

Mr. Bryan, like Mr. Roosevelt, is now an ardent advocate of publicity of campaign contributions. Yet it has been nearly 12 years since the silver mine owners financed his 1896 campaign, and not one of them has ever thrown upon the sources of the money spent by his committee.

It has remained for the World to print the list of contributors to Mr. Bryan's 1896 campaign fund, precisely as it was left to 'The World' to print the Harriman list of contributions to Mr. Roosevelt's 1894 campaign.

We observe likewise that Mr. Bryan has reached a new stage of his "warfare on special interests." In the Commoner he warns his followers not to be deceived by Democrats who regard tariff revision as the paramount issue of the campaign.

Least this demand shall deceive some of the rank and file of the party it may be well to recall a bit of history. The men who are so zealous now in their consideration of tariff revision above all other issues had a chance in 1896 to show their interest in this subject; yet some of those who are now posing as the special guardians of the tariff did not hesitate to support the Republican ticket.

The Chicago convention of 1896 subordinated the tariff question at the desire of the silver interests. The World pleaded with Mr. Bryan to meet this issue of a McKinley tariff and thus enable the Democrats to support the ticket in spite of the 16 to 1 lullaby. Mr. Bryan refused on the ground that he would thereby alienate the Populists and Silver Republicans who were his high protectors.

It was William J. Bryan, not the Gold Democrats, who buried the tariff issue in 1896, and he did it for the benefit of the silver mine owners who financed his campaign for President. Why Mr. Bryan should be seeking to sacrifice the tariff issue again this year The World has no means of knowing. It, therefore, respectfully presents the list of silver contributors to Mr. Bryan's campaign fund; it presents his 1896 record on the question of tariff revision, and it will be glad to print any explanations he may have to offer.

The Harriman Operations.

In the Union Pacific's scheme of finance, during the past decade, control of Southern Pacific was only a single factor. Mr. Harriman has used the credit and surplus of his own system of water works and railroads on a scale of unexampled recklessness.

Purchase of stocks, with a view to getting a voice in the management, if not complete control, has been carried to an extent which left the public mind in absolute dismay as to the possible limitations of the movement.

For the time, a very decided limit has been set by the panic of 1907, for the severity of which the Union Pacific's Stock Exchange operations were very largely responsible—a fact virtually admitted by Harriman himself in the crisis of the panic.

Half Hydraphob.

Philadelphia Ledger.

"I was down in a little Southern town, the other day," said a commercial traveler, "when I saw a man drinking water just before he died. All the drinking water for the town was pumped in from an artesian well on the outskirts of the town. The inhabitants were immensely proud of their water, and at the same time I stopped it was urged to take a drink of it, being assured that the same time with great impressiveness that it had been analyzed and found to be half hydrogen."

And the Cat Comes Back.

Catskill Dispatch to the New York.

The Reed & Powell Transportation Company, of Coxsack, N. Y., keeps cats in its storehouse as a protection against rats.

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Judges in the Commercial Club's prize essay contest who are to examine 300 productions must be prepared to have their literary judgments questioned if not condemned, by 299 contributors.

In the absence of midwinter outdoor sports, an expectant and responsive community would welcome a group picture of certain pennant-winners for the season of 1908.

The picture of Mrs. Eddy's \$100,000 home in Boston provokes suspicion that some one has made a handsome profit on the new owner.

It is just as well, however, for the man who makes garden to begin to plan on planting a few rows of peas and take a chance.

Wash. Estheticism.

Spire-rib, spule and kraut are now in season. For some reasons we prefer them to mince pies and turtle soup.

Jim Kyle Just Looking Around.

James Kyle is in Portland looking around and feeling about in the political world. He is a good man and would make a good County Commissioner.

Where the Divorces Come From.

Comments of the Portland newspapers on the multiplicity of divorces in the Clatsop County Circuit Court are less than 50 per cent of them come from Portland.

Domestic Disturbance.

Mrs. Klecker returned from her Pullman trip last Friday. We believe the break made by the professor in last week's Irigoin caused the most little friction at home, and he is now sleeping in the doghouse.

Prophecy.

Baker City Democrat.

Before we know it Springtime will be here, the fields and the flowers will be showing their new, clothes of the brightest colors, buds will be swelling, leaves will be opening up, flowers will be peeping from their winter beds and telling us the Springtime is here.

Inevitable.

The Dalles Optimist.

We have been waiting for several weeks, ever since it became a cliché that Roosevelt would not again run, to announce our ticket for the Presidential cup, to be run off next November. And here it is.

Brother Dave's Long-Deferred Reward.

Harney County News.

Thirty-one years ago last October the editor of the News began his long fight for the success and continuation of the public principles, and he has kept it up ever since by voice and pen and action, with no pecuniary reward.

Doing Away With the Saloon.

Pilot Rock Record.

If the Record were to publish the names of the prominent sheep men, farmers and farm hands, men who are now and have been for many years patrons of the saloon, who have notified me of their intention to vote for local option in June it would require a full page in the Record.

When Trout Are at Their Best.

Klamath Falls Herald.

Klamath people are permitted to eat Lake River trout at this season of the year. The trout are in excellent condition for eating. This is entirely due to an oversight on the part of the last Legislature, but the oversight in providing fish protection is fully appreciated by the Watlonses, who daily line the banks of the river and usually succeed in landing about a half dozen trout which are exceptionally large for the time of the year.

Troubles of a Chief of Police.

Corvallis Gazette.

NATIONAL GUARD

While the National Guard law shortly to be placed before Congress does not provide any change of name for the state troops, yet in effect it creates of the organized militia a National reserve, liable for any kind of service except the regular army.

This bill marks the first stage in a climax that saw its beginning in the National American War when the National Guard turned out for foreign service and did the lion's share of the fighting. It makes sweeping changes so that hereafter the state troops must be looked upon essentially as a part of the system of National defense rather than as an organization for suppression of lawlessness.

The most important part of the new enactment is that all Guardsmen must answer the call to arms whether for home or foreign service. No one may be kept on active duty during the full term of enlistment. This term is now 10 years. The new law requires of the brightest colors, buds will be swelling, leaves will be opening up, flowers will be peeping from their winter beds and telling us the Springtime is here.

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Time to Call a Halt.

Cottage Grove Leader.

The Leader has heretofore looked with some favor upon the initiative and referendum, but when it comes to tackling on the state election ballot from 18 to 20 measures to be voted on besides the various candidates, making the ballot about three feet long and containing enough matter to keep the ordinary citizen busy six months in trying to digest mentally that he may vote reasonably intelligently, we think it time to call a halt.

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