

The Oregonian

SUBSCRIPTION RATES. INvariably in Advance. Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$5.00. Daily, Sunday included, six months, \$3.00.

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter. Postage paid at Portland, Oregon, under special permission of Postoffice Department.

Foreign postage, double rates. Newspapers on which postage is not fully prepaid are not forwarded.

KEPT ON SALE. Chicago—Auditorium Annex; Postoffice News Co., 178 Dearborn street; Empire News Co., 178 Dearborn street.

St. Paul, Minn.—N. St. Marie, Commercial. Colorado Springs, Colo.—H. H. Bell. Denver—Hamilton & Kendrick, 900-912 Seventeenth street.

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Portland, Monday, May 11, 1908. TO CHECK THE ABUSES. The Initiative and Referendum system...

Some railroad builders are disposed to disregard the rights and interests of the communities and individuals...

There are many other instances. The two initiative bills on salmon fishing are contradictory, and believed by those regarded as qualified to judge to be both wrong.

Another is the initiative petition for constitutional amendment to take the control and government of incorporated cities and towns away from the state...

The abuses are of two kinds, namely, those which spring from personal and private interest attempting to frame legislation for its own advantage...

This effort to get legislation "by the sneak method" would encounter an obstacle, if the suggestion of some of our granges were adopted...

Before the primary Mr. C. Cake declared himself, with emphasis, for Statement No. 1. Before the primary Mr. Fulton said he believed fully in the principle that the people were entitled to their choice in the election of Senator...

But a lot of Republican candidates have been named for the Legislature who have not pledged to Statement No. 1; indeed they refuse to pledge to it. Mr. C. Cake is unwilling to put himself in antagonism to these...

Thus it appears that the position of Mr. C. Cake, since the primaries, is the same as that of Mr. Fulton before the primaries. And still "we don't know where we are at."

"HOLDING UP" A RAILROAD. The building of electric lines through the length and breadth of the Willamette Valley, and through other parts of the state, must necessarily give rise to many vexatious problems...

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That nobody of ordinary common sense ever had any faith in the protective or curative powers of the "mad stone," while the assurance of safety contained in the latter may enable timid people to move about the streets during July and August without one eye out for a rabid dog.

We are now prepared to hear from the same source that there is no occult power of "good luck" in the rabbit's foot; that there is really and truly no healing virtue, beyond its possible cleansing power, in a feather from the wing of a black hen, drawn nine times through the mouth of an infant suffering from "thrush"; that it is not necessary for the housewife to make preparations for entertaining company to dinner merely because she "drops the dishcloth" when wiping the breakfast dishes; and that a death in the family is not presaged by the entrance of a bird into the house through an open window.

Shipbuilding on the Great Lakes continues, unhampered by the low freight rates that are driving steam tonnage into retirement in nearly all deep-sea ports throughout the world. During the month of April, out of a total of 114 new vessels of 2,176 tons registered in the United States by the Bureau of Navigation, twenty-one lake-built craft totaled 30,588 tons, and in this total were included five steamers which averaged 5780 tons register, the largest registering 6334 tons.

MR. BRYAN'S ARMY. Mr. Bryan, in addition to his duties as permanent candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency, is now engaged in the work of recruiting an army. He terms it the "Commoner Army," not because it is a commoner army than any other of the past, but because it is needed to produce funds for the Commoner, a very ordinary weekly paper which serves to keep the name of Bryan before the public between seasons when he is not appearing on the platform.

President Roosevelt wants Congress to understand that he does not propose to let the legislative branch of the Government infringe upon his constitutional prerogatives. At the same time he also wants it understood that if Congress does not perform its constitutional duties he will undertake to map out a course of conduct for it. So far he has made the people, at least, believe that he is big enough for both jobs.

A vote for either Manning or Cameron is a vote for a Democrat, since, if Cameron shall be elected District Attorney, his successor as Police Judge will be a Democrat appointed by Mayor Lane. Yet there are Republicans who will vote for Cameron, thinking they are voting to uphold the Republican party.

If there is an organization in Oregon that has not passed resolutions favoring the State University appropriation, it will be in the interest of the university to get it together as soon as possible. Time for even Brother Walker and Brother Palmer's grange to get out from under.

An Governor Chamberlain boasts that he is a Roosevelt fan and a non-partisan. But Roosevelt is not a non-partisan. We fear the Governor, though very versatile, is not much of a Roosevelt man.

Stearage rates between New York and Naples have been reduced to \$15. Considered on a mileage basis, this rate makes Mr. Schwerin's \$5 tickets to San Francisco look like cabin de luxe fares.

Now it is asserted that Mrs. Guinness is a relative of Kate Bender. Jesse James and the Younger boys ought to be admitted to the family somewhere. The Senate is to open war on the President this week. That second elective term movement is likely to get a boost from an unexpected quarter.

BILLS FROM "THE PEOPLE." The Opportunity of Our "Holy Rollers" of Politics.

The Dalles Optimist. In one of our exchanges, and we only noticed one, appeared last week an argument going to show that the people would have a much better opportunity to digest the 19 laws to be voted on in June than the members of the legislature have in the short session of 45 days.

What nonsense that is. Such an argument is only meant to fool and bamboozle the public, and can serve no good end. Every bill coming before the Legislature goes to a committee and is there threshed out. If it is not reported by the committee it is as a rule never heard of again, and vexes no one but the committee itself, and possibly the member who introduced it.

During the session of the Legislature the members make a business of trying to understand the bills offered. They are there for that purpose, and they are in constant consultation as to the various measures before them. And as a rule we send intelligent men to Salem to enact our laws, and they go over the bills carefully and generally discuss them thoroughly, and not one out of 20 that is passed comes through without being altered or amended, and usually so changed a good many times.

THE LIFE STORY OF A BRAVE BOY. Hard Struggle With Adverse Fate. Now a New-Made Grave. Corvallis Times. A new mound in Crystal Lake tells an unusual story of death. The mortal remains of Dean Knox were placed there Sunday. He was only a boy in years, but in the brief span of life that fate afforded him, he had exemplified many of the traits of manhood.

Farwell to Conductor Jo. Newberg Graphic. Conductor Jo Crocker, with his merry whistle, has exchanged runs with Conductor Webster, of the West Side line, the latter doing an easier run on account of advancing years, and the Yamhill division will know Jo no more forever. Twenty or more years ago Mr. Crocker came from California and first had a run on the East Side, but later took a job with old "Dundee" Reid on the little "Narrow Gauge," and all these years he has been a faithful and efficient man on this line, which is now the Yamhill division of the Southern Pacific.

What This Amendment Means. Catholic Sentinel. It is charged that the proposed constitutional amendment granting "home rule" to cities and towns in Oregon is merely an attempt to suspend the operation of the criminal laws of the state at the pleasure of the cities and towns in so far as those laws relate to the liquor traffic, poolrooms, racetracks, theaters, etc. The cities and towns of Oregon now have home rule as far as it is necessary in order to protect the public health and safety, and the amendment is superfluous and seemingly mischievous.

The Refect Courtesous. Philomath Review. Retributive justice seems not such an incorporeate thing as some suppose, in view of passing events. Two weeks ago a Corvallis paper sought to injure Philomath by publishing that there were cases of smallpox in the town. Today if there is any disease except bubonic plague and leprosy that Corvallis hasn't got we should like to know what it is.

His Busy Week. Prairie City Miner. The stork passed through Prairie City last week, and he was only here about 24 hours, but changed his roosting place several times. On Friday three sons were born, and on Saturday a daughter; a son and a daughter were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Donaldson, son to Mr. and Mrs. John Coombs, and a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Donaldson.

Tells of Coos Bay. In what it calls a "Beautiful America Edition," the Coos Bay Harbor, North Bend's excellent weekly paper, plays up the whole bay region in pointed articles during the past week. Illustrations. There are 24 pages of the kind of matter to make people take notice of that part of Oregon.

It's a Great Comfort to His Heirs. Eugene Guard. What good does it do the pedestrian, with no room to dodge, who sees a racing automobile whizzing straight for him to know that court decisions give him the right of way? "Three Weeks" in Missouri. An Invitation. Eugene Register. Now if they would only run one or two of those big battleships into Siuslaw Bay during the rhododendron carnival it would be very much appreciated.

Initiative and Referendum Measures. Plans for the State Grange. Eugene to Entertain Organization This Week.

For the information of voters there will be published on this page from day to day brief summaries of the initiative and referendum measures to be submitted to the people at the June election, together with a short statement of the arguments for and against each.

Two fishery bills, proposed under the Initiative, are awaiting the approval or disapproval of the people at the June election. One was prepared by Lower Columbia fishing interests and the other by Upper Columbia salmon packers. Each measure seeks to protect the interests of the people who drafted it. The bill prepared by the Upper River interests will be the tenth initiative and referendum measure upon the ballot. Briefly summarized, it proposes to prohibit fishing for salmon in the Columbia River below Astoria, to prohibit fishing in ship channels at night, to prohibit fishing on Sunday, to prohibit fishing between Astoria and a point near Astoria. Much of the still-net fishing is done at night when the boats drift where the tide takes them. To prohibit their drifting in ship channels would practically prohibit their fishing at all. These two limitations, stopping fishing below Astoria and in ship channels at night, would practically drive the still-nets and the Upper River fishermen to a monopoly of the industry.

The argument in favor of the bill is that the restrictions proposed are necessary for the protection of the industry. Against the bill it is shown that the measure is designed to completely annihilate the fishing industry of the Lower Columbia in behalf of the fish wheelmen of the Upper Columbia. Gill-net fishermen drift with the tide and their fish out as far as the Columbia River bar at a point near Astoria. Much of the still-net fishing is done at night when the boats drift where the tide takes them. To prohibit their drifting in ship channels would practically prohibit their fishing at all. These two limitations, stopping fishing below Astoria and in ship channels at night, would practically drive the still-nets and the Upper River fishermen to a monopoly of the industry.

EDITOR PALMER IS MISSING. Starts Paper at Elgin, but Meets Financial Distress, It Is Said. ELGIN, Or., May 10.—(Special.)—H. H. Palmer, who began the publication of a paper known as the Leader at Elgin three weeks ago, has disappeared as mysteriously as the dew before the sun. Wednesday evening Palmer and his wife went to La Grande, presumably on business, but the former has never been seen since 10 o'clock that night, and his whereabouts are not even known by his wife. All conditions point to the fact that Palmer left to avoid meeting financial failure.

DEAD OF THE NORTHWEST. S. L. Morse, Leading Citizen of Pilot Rock and Pioneer of 1852. PENDLETON, Or., May 10.—(Special.)—S. L. Morse, Pilot Rock's leading citizen, died at the hotel here this morning after a long illness of several weeks with pneumonia. He crossed the plains with an ox team in 1852, and was 75 years of age. He served as United States Deputy Marshal for several years and had always been considered one of the prominent citizens of the county, having moved from Vancouver, Wash., to this city in 1852. He was a brother of the late John H. Morse, of this city, the county's oldest inhabitant. He is survived by two daughters and three sons.

Mrs. Mary Coldren. HOOD RIVER, Or., May 10.—(Special.)—Mrs. Mary Coldren, aged over 86 years, died here Sunday afternoon of pneumonia. She was a native of New York, and had moved to Hood River, Mich., where she resided for many years. She was a member of the Methodist church, and had always been considered one of the prominent citizens of the county, having moved from Vancouver, Wash., to this city in 1852. She was a brother of the late John H. Morse, of this city, the county's oldest inhabitant. He is survived by two daughters and three sons.

WIDOWS NEED NOT APPLY. Those on Rolls Get Increased Pensions Automatically. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, May 10.—According to a ruling made by Hon. V. Warner, Commissioner of Pensions, it is not necessary for widows now on the pension rolls at a rate less than \$12 per month to make any formal application to the Department to obtain the increased rate provided for by the widow pension bill, signed by the President April 13 last. To all those now on the rolls the increase will take place automatically and the higher rate will be paid by the United States Pension Agent at the next quarterly payment upon receipt of the voucher properly executed. The rate of \$12 begins with the date of the act, April 13.

INDIANS GROW MERRY WIDOWS. Indianapolis News. Odd bugs with immense wings and protruding heads, which have been discovered near Evansville, Ind., have been called "Merry Widows."

A FEW SQUIBS. A man without a purpose in life is like a dog with no tail to wag—Philadelphia Record. "Yes," said Mrs. Newrich, "I treat my domestics as equals." "And don't they resent it?" queried Mrs. Oldgold—Chicago Daily News. "It's an extensive scheme. Let me unfold it." "Better adjourn to the street. No room to unfold anything in this flat."—Louisville Courier-Journal. "My friend over there is one of the greatest after-dinner speakers we have." "Really? How long has he been at it?" "About ten years."—Town and Country. "A young man who wants to get married has certainly contradictory preliminaries to go through." "What are they?" "First, he must pop the question, and then he must question the pop."—Baltimore American. "Ah! proud beauty!" exclaimed little Stefkins, "you spurn my love now, but let me tell you I will not always be a clerk." "That's so," interrupted the heartless girl, "you may lose your job."—Philadelphia Press. Book Agent—Missus, here's a family volume of medicine that tells you how to save doctors' bills—only five cents.

Water in Big Horn Canal. BARIN, Wyo., May 10.—Water was turned through the entire 31 miles of the Big Horn Canal for the first time today. It will irrigate 30,000 acres of land on the west side of the Big Horn river.