

The Oregonian

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter. Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance.

Portland, Wednesday, July 1, 1908.

THE METHODS AND RESULTS.

It probably has been forgotten or overlooked by most of those who have taken note of the discussion about the Oregon deposit law (for insurance companies) and the demand for its repeal, that this law belongs to the series of acts invented long ago, for the purpose of making unconstitutional fees and emoluments for state officials. It is, in short, a part of the self-same scheme of salary grab, recalled once more by the suit against F. I. Dunbar, formerly Secretary of the State, and now the subject of a suit against Governor Chamberlain.

One of those great reform works which effect such wonderful transformations rolled over Oregon in 1870-72. Ex-Confederates had been coming into the state in large numbers, during a long period. They were all intense partisan Democrats, and the eminent leaders of the Democratic party had been living in extremely exigent circumstances on the empty and innutritious husks of political exile for many a year. To them the arrival of so large a body of approved partisans, sure to "vote the ticket," no matter what excesses were committed by those who directed the action of the party, was a most happy circumstance.

Preceding administrations were, of course, denounced as incompetent and wasteful. There was immense need of reform. So the Grover and Chadwick administrations proceeded to "organize the offices," and to find means through invention of illegal and unconstitutional expenses to make them "more desirable," create new ones and get more money for the old wheelhorses who had so long had poor pickings on the arid heath.

This law, requiring heavy deposits to be made by insurance companies doing business in Oregon, was one of a series of acts passed by the Legislature in 1870 and approved by Governor Grover, to get emoluments for state officials in excess of the constitutional salaries. The Secretary of the State was to get twenty-five dollars for recording the certificate of deposit, and ten dollars for license to each insurance agent in the state, to be paid yearly.

reduce their policies and redouble their vigilance against the occurrence of fire. Between the trusts on one side and political grafters on the other, "the generalities of mankind in general" has had hard time of it.

Meanwhile, though the boasted that salary is in operation, the Governor of Oregon gets a salary as large and as much in excess of the constitutional limitation as he got before the reform began. Some say more. Great is reform, some say more. Great is reform, some say more.

IT HAS LITTLE SUPPORT. Censure is applied to the makers of the Chicago platform because they did not demand election of Senators of the United States by direct vote of the people. That is because the people of the Eastern States, whose delegates controlled the convention, are not disposed to accept the proposed change, but prefer to adhere to the method established by the Constitution of the United States.

Following this habit, the Denver convention doubtless will adopt a resolution calling for direct election. But that will be merely the device of an opposition party, willing to do anything to get the election away from the Democrats.

THE IDLE RICH. This Spring in his annual report President Hadley, of Yale, uses forcible language. "The idle rich are a curse to a college," he says, "just as they are to a community. So are the idle poor. An idle person is one who habitually declines to work."

One would be prone to decide that the miseries of the trip from Vancouver to Portland by ferry and trolley hardly admit of augmentation. And yet they do. The awful shadow of the approaching Fourth of July falls even upon this horrible experience and deepens its horror. Those who were making the annual pilgrimage to the other night relate that a half-drunk miscreant in the crowd had already begun to celebrate after the manner of his kind. First he set off a bunch of firecrackers among the women who were wearily waiting for the delayed trolley.

THE CROP IS MOVING. There have been but few seasons in recent years when the beginning of the crop movement was awaited with more interest than at the present time. Now wheat in small quantities has been trickling into the markets of the Southwest for nearly a month, but it will be at least another month before the movement is under full headway.

THE IDLE POOR CAN BE MADE TO WORK. If they have no visible means of support, the vagrancy laws will send them to the rockpile. But the law as it stands cannot reach the idle rich, though their offense is incomparably worse. The poor man who does not work simply starves or gets into jail. The rich idler debauches himself and his parasites. He wastes the product of dozens or hundreds of industrious toilers and returns to society nothing whatever except a bad example.

earthquake gives. There is more than one rich man in this country who wastes as much wealth every year as a great conflagration destroys. Truly President Hadley put it mildly when he said such men were a curse.

RAISING THE VALUATION. From the fact that the assessed valuation of the railroads has been raised in the State of Washington it does not necessarily follow that their taxes will be any higher. It would follow, of course, if no other values had been increased, but the truth is that farm land and timber have been treated like the railroads in this respect.

A Japanese-built steamship has just broken the record between San Francisco and the Orient. The time of the new flyer is much slower than that of the old Empress liners running out of Vancouver, but it was an exceptionally good performance, and the Japanese are entitled to credit for it.

A GREATER GRIEF. One would be prone to decide that the miseries of the trip from Vancouver to Portland by ferry and trolley hardly admit of augmentation. And yet they do.

More than 21,000 laborers were engaged on the Panama Canal in May. With an industrial army of such proportions, ably directed, it is small wonder that great progress is being made on the big ditch. Had France used American methods for making the lethargic a comparatively healthy place of residence, the history of the Panama Canal might have been very interesting to Americans.

Perhaps Mr. Bryan didn't think it before, but it may occur to him some day that the Chicago platform wasn't exactly framed with the idea of suiting him. It is big enough job for one man to write the platform of his own party, with or without an invitation.

THE OREGON DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION to Denver is going to take along a large bunch of disinterested and enlightened citizens to boost for Bryan and incidentally to be on hand in case any one inadvertently blows out the gas.

Judge Galloway is going to Denver, "but," says the judge, "my visit is not political." He's going to Denver just to keep away from all politics and politicians.

MR. EATON OFFERS A STATEMENT He Follows "the People" and Has No Party. EUGENE, Or., June 29.—(To the Editor)—In one of your editorials of June 28 you said "caught in the trap" of a paper of Statement No. 1. A. H. Eaton, of Lane County, who was elected on the statement, acknowledges his plight, but admits he can't get loose, and further on, "he has allowed the strap game artists to bump him, and he now confesses that he is helpless."

It is true that I am disappointed that the people of Oregon, as a whole, believe, by the attitude of the Oregonian, save Mr. Chamberlain a majority vote over Mr. C. C. C. Eaton, thus indicating their choice for United States Senator. But I understood the meaning of Statement No. 1 when I signed it, and had I known in advance that Mr. Chamberlain would receive the highest number of votes at the general election, I would have signed it just the same.

The Oregonian doesn't care to have me give the details showing that it is the only pledge that insures this result—because the Oregonian doesn't believe in this kind of a result—for reasons which I would not care to discuss generally. But it must be apparent to the Oregonian that Statement No. 1 is the thing that will insure the choice of the next Senator with more than 15 or 20 minutes' loss to the Legislature, beside relieving the people of the state (and incidentally the editor of the Oregonian) of any uneasiness as to the outcome.

The marvelous recuperative power of the New York financial institutions which went down before the storm of last October is shown in the statement that nearly all of them have reopened and are paying off depositors more rapidly than agreed on or expected. The Knickerbocker Trust Company, the largest of the suspended institutions, has already made payments which under the reorganization plan were not due until September, and other large banks have already paid from 25 per cent to 50 per cent. The lesson of those failures will remain long after the final settlement has been made if there is no weakening in the present powers of recovery.

GROWING SCARCITY OF WOOD PULP Wild Hemp and Corn Stalks as Substitutes in Making Paper. Indianapolis News. The paper industry is beginning to feel the pinch of a shortage of wood pulp, and for the early search for substitutes, scientists have made experimental tests to determine the availability of a substitute. The possibilities for wood pulp that may be used in manufacturing paper (in addition to those now commonly employed) are, as enumerated by the Bureau of Agriculture, D. C.: Wild hemp, growing in quantities in the Southwest; particularly along the Colorado River; untold millions of tons of corn stalks, which are now being burned in the fields, or cut and piled up, and which annually are plowed under or burned in Southern cotton fields; and a half-ton of flax stalks that remain after flaxseed is taken out; five hundred thousand tons of fiber that adheres to cotton seed and that is being wasted as the seed is like stock, depreciating the value of the seed.

NEWPORT PLACERS GET WALKING FAD. Newport, A. L., Cor. New York Times. Early rising and retiring, with plenty of exercise, are what the women of the cottage colony are engaging in this season. As soon as a woman gets up she has her friends call and advise open-air exercise.

POPULARITY IN PENDELTON. Weston Leader. It begins to look as though no citizen of Pendleton will possess much standing unless indicated by the United States and jury through the courtesy of his former townsman, John McCook.

PRIZES FOR DEEDS OF HUMANITY. The American Humane Association, of Albany, N. Y., is authorized to offer prizes, open to universal competition, subject to the following conditions: First—Claims for prizes or diplomas shall be presented by mail, or in person, to the secretary of the association before October 5, each year.

THE STATE OF MIND. You See in This Business "Ureanism" Gone to Seed. Salem Statesman. You have the law in these words: "He is engaged by the State of Oregon, hereby instruct our Legislature to assemble on the 15th day of August and elect the candidates for United States Senator from this state who receive the highest number of votes at the general election."

Settle Difference About Platform. The Cottage Grove Leader. Just now the platform adopted by the Republicans in the Chicago convention is the subject for much discussion. The platform is of little importance. The history of parties and the attitude of parties in relation to current affairs, as well as the character of the platform, are the actual platform, no matter what the convention may say or declare. It must be said that the outcome of the contention over the injunction or court procedure plank is disproportionate to the trouble taken in pressing it upon the convention.

Class Exclusion at Baltimore, Md. New York Sun. To the Editor—In a prominent position on the monkey cage in Druid Hill park, Baltimore, Md., there is a sign which reads: "None But Park Officials Admitted."

Gets 20 Cents After Forty Years. Dayton Letter to Columbus Dispatch. William Young, a Civil War veteran has received at the Soldiers' Home, a check for 20 cents from the Treasury Department, the amount of change due him when, 40 years ago, he purchased 5 cents' worth of paper and received no change when he tendered a quarter in payment therefor.

AMERICAN OF SCOTCH-IRISH ANCESTRY. PORTLAND, June 25.—(To the Editor.)—Is William J. Bryan an Irishman, an Irish descendant or an American? J. B. ...

Still, Dividends Are Whittled. Boston Herald. As the platform complacently remarks, the people now hail with confidence the signs now manifest of a complete restoration of business prosperity in all lines of trade, commerce and manufacture. But dividends are still being whittled down to temper the joyfulness.

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JOHN D. TELLS HIS LIFE STORY. Oil King in Magazine Articles Defends Robberies and Rival-Crushing. New York Special to Chicago Tribune. John D. Rockefeller is writing a series of autobiographical sketches of his life and business interests, which, as he will state in his introduction to the published work, is designed "to shed light on matters that have been somewhat discussed."

THE OREGONIAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY. In writing of the latter phase of the Standard Oil business and the long struggle between the company and the courts, the retired head of the trust will discuss frankly the question of relating the ethics of forcing smaller competitors out of business, and the question of road control and economy of energy and materials.

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