

The Oregonian

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Mr. Cherry began serving his government at Astoria, and today, wherever steam and sail craft are plowing the seven seas will be found shipmasters who, when their old sailing craft reached the Columbia River, during Mr. Cherry's long term in office, had climbed the old stairway to the "Consul's Office" in Astoria.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1908.

THE HUMOR OF IT.

The country most greatly enjoy the humorous work of the Denver convention. It was humorous all over and through and through. It eulogized Cleveland, who was repudiated by his party, and intensely hated, so long as he was in place and power.

"Whereas," says this deliverance, "the 190th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln will occur February 12, 1899; resolved, by the Democratic convention, that we recommend its appropriate celebration throughout the land."

To think that within the memory of men yet living, who knew Abraham Lincoln, and who remember the fierceness of the Democratic assaults upon him, from the time his great speeches in Illinois first brought him National fame, to the day of his death by the hand of an assassin inspired to his deed by this abuse—to think of such eulogy of him by this party now!

But the convention had prepared itself for this effort by its eulogy of Grover Cleveland, who was at variance with his own party on the great matters of his time, yet could not possibly be hated by it as Lincoln was earlier. Yet having eulogized Cleveland, Denver proceeded to completion of the palinode by extraordinary eulogy of Lincoln.

So long as he lived the mildest of the epithets this party applied to him were, "destroyer of the Constitution," "bloody tyrant," and "the ape of Illinois." All force and fury and opprobrium were summed up in one epithet—"abolitionist." He was denounced as "a traitor engaged in the subjugation of states"; he had "disregarded and trampled on the Constitution in every part"; under his direction there had been "suppression of the civil by the military law"; "suppression of freedom of speech and of the press, and of the right of asylum, open and avowed in the subject states"; and "interference with and denial of the right of the people to bear arms."

Moreover, the convention, then and there adopted, declared that the restoration of the Union "a failure," and demanded that "immediate efforts be made for a cessation of hostilities." It will be said, of course, that all this is ancient history, and has no pertinency now. Yet it may very properly be reproduced now as a reminder to the party that made the record, yet now eulogizes Abraham Lincoln.

On the morrow, after all this, came the announcement: "Sherman has carried Atlanta!" Next, "Farragut has carried the defenses of Mobile!" And Seward exclaimed, when called out for a speech at Washington, "Sherman and Farragut have knocked the bottom out of the Democratic nominations at Chicago!"

And, after a lapse of more than forty years, this party dimly discerns that Lincoln was right; and it proceeds to eulogize him. It goes further—it recommends celebration next year by the whole people of his natal day, though it never accorded even to its prophet and founder, Jefferson. It wants to forget its whole past—silver, too; about which it has not now one word. It seems to the Oregonian a fair presumption from the history of this party that it can hardly be thought a safe guide for the future. But whatever may be the conclusion of the American people on this subject, none will deny that the eulogy of Abraham Lincoln, proceeding from Denver, has a humorous quality exceeding that of any former utterance in our politics.

The Oregonian has not willingly recalled the history of the politics of a time when his party was tragic and politics were tragedy; but this utterance at Denver challenges the recall.

Portlanders. The timid, uninformed element refused to join in an effort to secure battleships for Portland for fear that "something might happen," the knowledge of channel conditions possessed by this element having been secured about twenty years ago.

These two cases, one of the nature of course, due to blind ignorance of conditions, and it was ignorance that led a representative of another branch of Columbia River misrepresentatives in a public meeting in this city a few nights ago to declare boldly that we now had a sufficient depth of water for all requirements on the Columbia below Portland.

IT IS AN ADVERTISEMENT.

A Pendleton paper makes this statement: It is worth \$25,000, the amount which Pendleton saloons have contributed to the city during the past year in license, to a drunken man on the streets of the city and not a solitary drunken inmate in the Jail.

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Opportunity is not by any means the fitful, fugitive creature which some of the poets have said she is. Nor is it true that she has no hair but a forelock, being bald on the top and back of her head, so that if you run past her like a frightened upstart, you can never get hold of her afterwards.

The American battleship fleet has departed from the Pacific Coast and is now steaming westward to the Far East. Now that the last of the great sea fighters is hull-down on the horizon and the respective communities visited by them are straightening out their social rows and paying the bills, it may be permissible to refer to a dispassionate and retrospective manner to the gross injustice shown Portland by the Navy Department's refusal to send any of the battleships to Portland.

With the knowledge that this was a safe port of entry for vessels of 26 feet of water, the Portland people who were in closest touch with the situation naturally felt no hesitancy about inviting the Government to send a few battleships, none of which equalled in draft the tramp steamers plying regularly in and out of the port.

Who could have supposed the time ever would come when the great Democratic party, famed for its everlasting principles, would abandon free coinage of silver and offer special eulogy to Abraham Lincoln that it never offered to Thomas Jefferson?

Pennsylvania was to the Democratic just what Mississippi was to the Republican convention. Their political activities ceased entirely as soon as the convention adjourned.

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Mr. Bryan says the Presidency is the greatest office in the world; but the Sultan of Sulu wouldn't swap his job for it.

There is a true story of a man near Grants Pass who arrived there from the "East" without a penny in his pocket. He hired out to work on a farm and saved enough before Spring to buy a span of horses and a wagon.

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AS TOLD BY J. P. MORGAN.

The Story of the Famous Gold Sale to the Government. J. P. Morgan, in the New York Evening Post, tells the story of the famous gold sale to the Government.

Mr. Morgan then turned to Mr. Olney and asked him to read the act of Congress of 1861, authorizing the Treasurer of the United States to buy gold.

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WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN'S RECORD

Life Story of Man Thrice Named for Presidency by Democrats.

BY E. F. YOUNGER. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN, at the age of 48, has been nominated three times for the Presidency of the United States by the Democratic party.

Defeated at the polls in that campaign, he has contrived, by sheer force and ability, which have made him the political figure he is, to maintain himself in a commanding position in the Democratic party for 15 years.

Nominated again, and again defeated in 1900, he now stands for the third time before the Nation as candidate for the Presidency.

The man who has this remarkable record is a native of Illinois. He was born in Salem, Ill., March 19, 1860. His father was Silar Lillard Bryan, a Judge of the Circuit Court, and one of the big men of the bar in Illinois.

Mr. Bryan comes, on both sides of his family, from stalwart American stock, and as a boy was reared in an atmosphere of old-fashioned Democratic beliefs and strict religious observance.

Mr. Bryan remained in Jacksonville until 1887. In the Fall of that year business called him to Nebraska and he settled in Lincoln. He opened a law office there the same year, and in the following month he was elected to the National political arena.

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What One Editor Found, and He Calls Them Revelations. Harper's Weekly.

One reason why a good many Eastern men don't go West is that they have to work for a living and cannot spare the time. This may seem strange to those who have been led to believe that the streets of New York flow with milk and that honey constantly drips from the eaves of high buildings.

That there is more robust patriotism in the Far West than in the East. That there is keener civic pride. That there is less drunkenness and profanity.

That the people are more hospitable than anywhere else except in the South. That the men, the women, the children, are more self-reliant, more accurately informed, more self-reliant.

That the women dress better than their sisters in New England, though less attractively than their cousins in New York.

That the results of public-school teaching surpass those of private tuition.

That refinement in manners and conversation is so marked as to be noticeable.

That all old and young are quick to receive, and give, an appreciative of the most subtle humor.

That jealousy of the East does not exist—only a curiously vague resentment of what might be termed presumption.

That the wisdom of woman suffrage has been demonstrated wherever the experiment has been made.

That Western people care less for money than anywhere else.

That everybody knows everything about mining.

That almost everybody speculates—a little.

That the best music is popular, and that in Salt Lake City is the most effective organ in the world.