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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JULY 20, 1908.

SECOND CHOICE VOTING.

At the election in June the people of this state adopted a constitutional amendment which was and is commonly called a proportional representation amendment. If asked what the purpose of this amendment is, the ordinary voter would say that it is designed to give minority parties representation in proportion to the number of voters. But the amendment contains other provisions, of which we shall perhaps learn much as time passes. The first part of the amendment provides for proportional representation. The amendment also says that "provision may be made by law for the voter's direct or indirect expression of his first, second or additional choices among candidates for any office. For an office which is filled by the election of one person, it may be required by law that the person elected shall be the final choice of a majority of the electors voting for the candidates for that office. These principles may be applied by law to nominations by political parties and organizations."

This provision for an expression of second choice is now in effect in the direct-primary law in the State of Washington, and in September we shall see a practical demonstration of how it works. The purpose of this portion of the amendment, and of a law which may be enacted under the amendment, is to prevent the nomination of persons who are the choice of a small minority of the voters. Such a system of voting would have made a great difference in the result of the nomination for Senator in this state in 1906. In the primary contest in that year there were five candidates, Mr. Bourne winning over Mr. Cake by a few votes. As everyone knows, it was a Bourne and anti-Bourne fight. Mr. Bourne had a certain definite support, but the opposition to him was divided among four candidates. As a result, Bourne received more votes than any one of his opponents. He was the first choice of those who voted for him, but he was not the second choice of any considerable number of voters. Those who wanted him nominated, voted for him; those who did not want him scattered their votes and wasted them. Under a plan which permitted the expression of a second choice, Mr. Cake would have received many second-choice votes from the supporters of Lowell, Smith and Watson, while Mr. Bourne would have received very few. The vote at the primary election stood thus:

Bourne	12,877
Cake	12,252
Lowell	7,055
Smith	6,383
Watson	4,241
Total	42,808

Mr. Bourne was nominated by about 30 per cent of the Republicans of the state. It was a fight with Bourne against the field, and the field votes would have been distributed among the field candidates for second choice, and would not have been given to Bourne. Cake, presumably, would have had the larger number, but in Eastern Oregon both Smith and Lowell would have been the second choice of large numbers of the voters who made Bourne or Cake first choice. There was no particular objection to these candidates, or to Watson, so that they and Mr. Cake could reasonably expect to receive second choice votes from all sources. Mr. Bourne could not expect to get any considerable number of second-choice votes, for those who did not vote for him were against him. It is quite possible that if second-choice votes had been added to first-choice votes, Smith and Lowell, as well as Cake, would have had more votes than Bourne, for, where a second choice is permitted at all, it is made compulsory. This is necessary in order to make the system effective. The Bourne supporters would have had to distribute their second-choice votes somewhere in the field. Under the second-choice system a ballot upon which no second choice is marked cannot be counted at all.

These figures and circumstances are set forth as an example of how the second-choice plan of voting might and probably would work. Whether it is a desirable plan or not remains for experience to determine. It is designed to permit voters not only to express themselves in favor of certain candidates, but, to some extent, against certain others. It increases the chances of defeating a candidate who may be particularly objectionable. Under the Washington law, a candidate must receive 40 per cent of the votes in order to be nominated by the first-choice votes. If no candidate receives 40 per cent, the second-choice votes are added to the first, and a comparison again made, and the person receiving the highest number of votes is declared the nominee. The Oregon amendment permits enactment of a law which will provide for a third choice as well as a second, and permits a requirement that the successful candidate shall be the choice of over 50 per cent of the voters. The amendment does not require that such a law shall be enacted, but it permits it to be placed upon the statute books.

Public officials occupy positions of special trust and have opportunities to cover up their delinquencies. For that reason laws against conversion of public funds should be drawn so as to provide special precautions against theft. Among other things, the statute of limitations should provide a longer time within which embezzlement of public funds may be prosecuted. A public officer keeps a public record. His records should be a perpetual evidence in his own behalf. He cannot complain, therefore, if ten years, instead of three years, be fixed as the time within which he may be prosecuted for embezzlement. The public official who wants to be safe against prosecution has only to be honest and make an honest record of his transactions.

REPEAL INSURANCE DEPOSIT LAW?

Demand for the repeal of the insurance deposit law would have much force if it could be shown that such repeal would bring about a reduction of insurance rates without subjecting insurers to the danger of loss through irresponsible insurance companies. There is no room for doubt that Oregon property-owners are now paying too much for their insurance. Relief should be had. It does not appear, however, that the deposit law protects a combination which would not exist but for that law. Nor does it appear that repeal of the law would result in a lowering of rates. At the same time, the subject is one that is worthy of careful investigation with a view to such legislative action as may be advisable in order to secure for the people of the state reasonable insurance rates.

It would be interesting and perhaps profitable to know whether Pacific Coast States having no deposit law have more favorable insurance rates than has Oregon. If they have, this fact would be an argument in favor of repeal of the deposit law. But it would be necessary to know, also, whether the people of those other states suffer losses which they cannot collect because of the irresponsibility of the companies from which they receive policies.

The ostensible purpose of the deposit law was to guarantee to every policyholder the payment of any legitimate claim he may have against any company doing business in this state. The deposit law places within the reach of the policyholder property of the insurance company upon which he can levy execution if his claim be not paid. Repeal of the deposit law would remove this security. We should like to know whether policyholders in other states have any difficulty in collecting the amount of losses they sustain. The whole subject is one that should be given an impartial investigation in which both the advocates and the opponents of the deposit law would have opportunity to make a showing of facts. Owing to the importance of the subject, the people and the Legislature can reasonably expect the Governor or the Insurance Commissioner to present to the next Legislature a complete statement of facts and well-considered recommendations which will enable that body to act advisedly in an effort to secure for the people lower insurance rates.

RAILROADS HERE AND ABROAD.

President Hill again repeats the oft-heard excuse for advancing freight rates that freight rates in this country are much lower than in Europe. Like others who have advanced the same argument, he omits to mention other points of difference which go far to invalidate the excuse.

The European railroads were built in a country already densely populated, where almost all the land had passed into private ownership and had a high value. Charters for railroads were only granted subject to strict regulations defining the route and requiring liberal payment for right of way. It cost enormous sums to obtain these charters, for in England Parliament only passed them after exhaustive inquiry before special committees conducted by the highest-paid lawyers in the country. It cost £750,000 to obtain the right for the Manchester Ship Canal even to begin buying right of way.

Almost from the first, European railroads had double tracks and were of the most solid construction. The companies were compelled to provide crossings above or below their tracks for highways, by means of stone bridges. No tracks are allowed on streets or public roads. All tracks are fenced and in cities have stone or brick retaining walls or tunnels for miles. Their terminals in the cities had to be bought at the market price, and are of the most solid construction.

On the other hand, so eager were the American people to secure railroads that they gave right of way with a lavish hand, and accompanied it by gifts of bonds from city, county, state and Nation, to pay part of the cost of construction. The Western railroads were also aided by immense land grants from the Government. They were allowed to run trains on city streets, to cross streets and roads at grade, and were not required to fence their tracks for many years after the roads were built.

True, Mr. Hill's Pacific extension was built without a land grant, but the way had been blazed for him by the Northern Pacific. But Congress allowed him to select land of any kind anywhere along his lines in lieu of land awarded to settlers in the Red River Valley. He wisely selected a large tract of iron land in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and some of the best timber land in the West. When he leased the iron land to the steel trust, he cut the juiciest melon for his stockholders that any railroad ever cut. European railroads have no melons.

Rates on American railroads ought not to be as high as in Europe, because the American railroads did not cost the companies nearly as much. The people should not be required to pay dividends on their own contributions to the construction of the roads. The interest on that part of the investment ought to remain in the pockets of the shippers and the traveling public.

Another radical difference between American and European railroads which must be taken into consideration concerns the volume of traffic. While the density of population is much less in America than in Europe, the volume of traffic per capita is much greater. The American people are a nation of travelers. A New York business man thinks no more of a 1000-mile trip to Chicago than a Liverpool business man thinks of a forty-mile trip to Manchester or a Londoner of a 100-mile trip to Birmingham. Further, Americans of the poorest class travel, while the poorest Europeans are too poor to travel except rarely, and within a very circumscribed area. The higher general standard of comfort in America also produces a much larger movement of freight traffic per capita.

American railroads have been allowed to do as they pleased regarding safety of life and limb until recent years, while European roads have been required to make this a first consideration and to install the most costly devices for the purpose as fast as such devices were invented.

It has been possible for American railroads to carry freight at a profit at lower rates than prevail in Europe, partly because of their superior enterprise. In Europe freight cars are little larger than an ordinary farm wagon, while in America cars have attained a capacity of 100,000 pounds. The saving in dead weight is enormous. In many other respects they have shown superior enterprise, for which they are entitled to full credit. But do not ask the people to pay interest on their own free gifts.

Finally, where did Mr. Hill get his authority for the statement that American freight rates are lower than European?

HASTENING THE CRISIS.

The Council of the Empire, as the "upper house" in Russia is known, was on Saturday adjourned by ukase until October 8, the closing scenes being enlivened by an onslaught from Count Witte directed against the Deputies for their unseemly haste in demanding an increase in salaries. This increase was provided for in a bill which came up to the Council from the Douma, which closed its sessions a week earlier. It may have been only the natural resentment which a man like Witte would feel towards such a bunch of grafters as shape the policies and pass the laws for Russia that caused him to rebuke the Deputies, but it is probable that it was more of an outburst of indignation at the failure of the Douma to display interest in any legislation aside from the budget.

The Douma has been in session since last November. Its only important act has been sanction of a plan for raising a revenue of $1,250,000,000, a portion of which will of course be added to the salaries of the Deputies who passed the bill. As to disposal of the remainder of this vast sum, there is nothing in the past performances of Russian aristocracy that would indicate that the money will not be expended. The disappointing action of the Third Douma would indicate that whatever hope there might have been of reform through this slight semblance of constitutional government has been dissipated, and that the Liberal party is, to all intents and purposes, as voiceless and helpless as it was before the First Douma appeared.

The real measures of reform of which Russia stands most in need were not even considered by the Douma, which probably took warning from the fate of its predecessors. But one result can follow this failure of the overlords of Russia to grant any of the demands of the Liberals, and that will be an increased amount of bloodshed, assassination, fire and pillage. That the Czar and the men behind the throne do not realize the fate they are inviting, or at least that they have great contempt for the Liberals, is shown by recent wholesale pardons of the murderers who were convicted of direct participation in the massacres and robberies of the Jews at Nikolaief, Shimkof, Kishineff and a number of other places. These murderers—and they must have been caught red-handed in order to be convicted in a land where the feeling against the Jews runs so high—would in any civilized country have been punished by death or life imprisonment, but in Russia a few months in jail are deemed sufficient for a "make-believe" punishment, and they are again free to murder others.

Tolstoi makes a terrible arraignment of Russian policy, and Witte and other far-seeing statesmen not directly connected with the Liberal party protest in vain against the injustice that is heaped on the people. But neither the invective of Tolstoi nor the reproofs of Witte are hastening the day of reckoning as it is being hastened by the tyrannical despots who today are plundering and murdering the best people in Russia.

THE ANNUAL WASTE.

It is, of course, only a coincidence, brought about by carelessness, that the first season following the White House conference of Governors to consider the conservation of our natural resources should be attended by greater loss than usual from forest fires. In Oregon the belated arrival of hot, dry weather has prevented the landscape from becoming smudged over with smoke from forest fires to as great an extent as has been the case in some former seasons; but there has been considerable loss in Washington; and in the forest sections of New England, where forests are scarce indeed in comparison with conditions in the West, the loss this season is already placed at $1,000,000 and a number of people have been seriously injured in fighting the fires.

In New England many of these forest conflagrations are caused by lightning, an element with which we are not obliged to cope in Oregon, but in New England, as in the Pacific Northwest, the greater part of the damage is the result of carelessness on the part of hunters, timber cruisers, inexperienced woodsmen or settlers, who become reckless in burning "slashings." There has been much complaint over the manner in which the great corporations have secured such immense areas of timber in the Pacific forests, but in favor of these corporations it must be said that they exercise much more care in protecting their holdings from fire than is shown by smaller holders or by the Government, with its limited number of "rangers."

It is one of the characteristics of the great American people to fail to lock the stable door until after the horse is stolen. We shall probably fail to get around to an adequate system of forest protection until all of our standing timber is destroyed. The model system of forest protection in use in Germany and other foreign countries is often mentioned as worthy of imitation in this country. It is unquestionably a good one, but its application is vastly easier in Germany than it would be in this country. The wasteful American who finds the timber burned off one quarter-section, moves on to the next one, and, when the fire destroys that, there are still plenty of others.

In Germany and a number of other European countries destruction of a forest would necessitate importation of timber to the amount destroyed, as demand has long ago overtaken supply in that country, just as it will do in the United States a few years hence. The treeless age is being hastened in this country because our theories on forest protection far outclass our practice.

A dozen years hence, when all the cherry orchards now young have come into full bearing, it will require as many men, women and children to harvest the cherry crop as are now required to gather the hop crop. Multiplication of canneries and increasing acreage of fruits of all kinds will make the Willamette Valley a distinctly fruitgrowing section, giving almost steady employment, through the Summer, to people who wish to help in the fruit harvest. As soon as the public schools close for the Summer vacation, the strawberry fields will offer employment for all who want it. When the strawberries have been picked there will be work of gathering raspberries, blackberries, cherries and loganberries. This fruit harvest will last from the time schools close until after the middle of July. For a month there will be time for rest and recreation, and then the hop and prune harvests will begin. Apple gathering will close the fruit harvest in October. Lucrative and healthful employment will be assured all the young people of the Valley during the Summer vacation. This, in itself, should be a strong inducement for people of the one-crop states to look favorably upon Oregon as a place in which to make a home.

The swift flights of the big Cunarder Lusitania were watched with intense interest last Fall, when she carried in her treasure boxes vast sums in gold to be used in quieting the panic in this country. Now the fleet liner again comes into the public eye with the fate of a nation hinging on her safe arrival as per schedule. The treasure which is so eagerly awaited on the Lusitania's present trip is Mr. William Randolph Hearst, proprietor of the Independence party, which is to hold its convention in Chicago on the morning of July 27. The usual schedule from Liverpool to Chicago would give Mr. Hearst about 48 hours' leeway. If the Lusitania, going at full speed, should meet an iceberg or drop a propeller, she might use up that 48 hours on the voyage, and President Hearst would be too late to save the country. The sorrow resultant from such a disaster could be mitigated if the "wireless" remained intact, and Willie could send a few waves of thought regarding Bryan and his "hotch-potch" platform.

From the reports now coming to hand, it would appear that Mr. Samuel Gompers had "overplayed his hand" in pledging the united support of union labor to Mr. Bryan. Mr. Gompers seems to have mistaken himself for the proprietor of "labor," instead of merely one of labor's hired men, and it is quite natural that so large a number of intelligent labor men should sharply resent any such assumption of power on the part of the professional jawsmith. It was an insult to the labor people to have Mr. Gompers pledging their votes to a man whose theories and policies have always been inimical to labor's interests, but, even had they been anxious for the election of Mr. Bryan, the more sensible members of the labor element would have cautioned silence on the part of Gompers. They remember what happened when Mr. Gompers "fought" Littlefield down in Maine. There is of course a possibility that some of Mr. Taft's friends have induced Gompers to announce publicly that he was fighting Taft.

The bid of the Willamette Iron Works of this city for a fireboat for the City of Seattle is about $33,000 lower than the lowest bid submitted by Puget Sound builders. There is nothing unusual in this fact, for Portland builders have in the past sent a large number of fine vessels to Puget Sound. The yards in this city have within the past year turned out steamboats for China, Siberia, Alaska and South America, as well as for a number of local points outside of Portland. The steamer Flyer, now running between Seattle and Tacoma, is a Portland-built craft, and in the seventeen years since she was built has steamed more than 1,280,000 miles, a record unequalled by any other craft in existence. There are so many reasons why the Seattle fireboat should be built at Portland that the enterprising Portland firm will undoubtedly get the contract.

"Kern of Kokomo." There's a battle cry that ought to win votes. The Vice-Presidential candidate was given a reception at the city with the sonorous name on Saturday, at which Republicans and Prohibitionists joined with the Democrats to do honor to the man who had so suddenly made his birthplace famous. "Kern of Kokomo." Suppose that Terre "Ho," Loogootee, Nappanee or some other Indiana town had been selected by the parents of the coming running mate of Bryan as a birthplace for John W.; what show would he have had for an alliterative slogan?

There should be no trouble over enactment of an ordinance prohibiting women from saloons. No woman of the right sort wants to go into a saloon.

Although both Taft and Bryan refuse the money of the corporations, probably the corporations will find somebody who wants it.

Since Senator Bourne has thought Bryan will defeat Taft, one would suppose he would first ask Bryan not to dictate his successor.

It always was better to be poor on your own money than flush on other people's.

Strange that more doctors don't "butt in" on the free advertising.

Does the same fate overtake all who try to "handle" the labor vote?

Mr. Bryan's newspapers are rather chameleon-hued themselves.

One of these days Fitzsimmons will be a "has-been" even in brawls.

As much interest in the land-fraud trials as in a thrice-told tale.

LIFE IN THE OREGON COUNTRY

Dear, Dear! And in Paradise, Too.

Paradise Cor. Wallowa Chieftain.

Several parties have left Paradise lately, leaving their debts. It is time such people were dealt with according to law.

How Sam Ray Was Paralyzed.

Dallas Itemizer.

By leaning against a wire fence during Sunday morning's thunder storm, Sam Ray got a shock that paralyzed him for a time.

Nothing Doing.

Jefferson Review.

Democratic managers announce that they will not accept a campaign contribution of over $10,000 from an individual. In that case we won't give a cent.

Mr. Stevenson's Good Intentions.

Condon Times.

J. G. Stevenson is not going to do without a housekeeper any longer. He left on Monday for Portland, where he expects to hire a lady to keep house. Perhaps when he gets her he may conclude to keep her all the time.

Hard Lines for the Family Cow.

Moro Observer.

The town-cow, that good old auxiliary to the family support, is of all animals the one most deserving of sympathy. Annually, at this time of the year in this country, she is left without a morsel of green feed, and the industry of her chase after noxious weeds even is returned with a brutal kick or a club. God help the family cow.

And She Has Eight Children.

Junction City Times.

A provoking error occurred last week in our report of the baby show. Mrs. Annie Winter, whose baby received second prize, was listed as "Miss." Great care is exercised in reading proofs, but errors will happen once in awhile. Mrs. Winter is the mother of eight children, as is well known hereabouts.

Frank Myrick's Chicken.

Union Scout.

Frank Myrick says he has a fine spring chicken and invites the people of Union to call in and see it. The "chicken" is a three months old American eagle. Mr. George Baxter of Cove captured two of the birds from their nest shortly after they were hatched and raised them. One got away and he presented this one to Frank. It measures six feet across its wings from tip to tip.

Cure for Seasickness.

Pilot Rock Record.

To pick up your home paper in a strange city produces a feeling akin to seeing your nation's flag floating in a foreign country. That we knew, but we did not know that sight of the home paper would cure sea sickness until last week. A lady on board the steamer State of California, on her trip from San Francisco to Portland, was shown a copy of The Pilot Rock Record, and the effect was marvelous. The lady was on her way to Pilot Rock to pay a visit to her parents, but had been confined to her berth almost from the hour of leaving San Francisco. At sight of her home paper she came on deck and enjoyed the remainder of the trip immensely.

An Editor on the Night Shift.

Wallowa Chieftain.

Had any member of the city council been in hearing distance of the editor of this paper Monday morning when he arose at 3 A. M., arrayed in his nightshirt and his dignity, to chase about seventeen cows out of the front yard, alternately "cussing" the aggravating quadrupeds and the dog that wouldn't come out from under the porch to take part in the proceedings, he might have expected to have seen an article in this week's issue calling their attention to the fact that the cows are running at large in the streets and lawns and everywhere else, but we have refrained. If the owner of the brindle brute with the crumpled horn and only three teats will return the padlock to the front gate, which the breachy milker forgot to leave when she picked the lock, we will not prosecute.

Bryan in a Jesting Mood.

Lincoln, (Neb.) Dispatch to the New York World.

At a jesting reference to his status as a personal candidate Mr. Bryan laughed heartily. "That reminds me," said he, "that in 1904, when I was not a candidate, an old lady stopped me in the street to ask, 'Say, Mr. Bryan, who is running against you this year?'"

Before the laugh subsided Mr. Bryan had started another story on himself.

"I am creditably informed," said he, "that a good Democrat hereabouts, when asked a few days ago about his vote, said: 'I'm going to vote for Taft.' 'What's that?' asked the surprised questioner. 'Sure thing,' was the answer. 'You see, I can vote for Bryan any time.'"

When the bulletin told of delays in the convention, the candidate grew impatient.

"My fix," he said, "reminds me of the righteous old Quaker, who started home from the harvest field with a load of hay. It was going to rain and the Quaker was in a hurry. Off fell the load and our friend pitchforked it back again without a word. Down it went again, and he again reloaded without a murmur.

"Just as he reached the barn door the storm broke, the hind wheel struck a rock and over went the wagon. His wife watched the spill from her window and hurried to help him.

"'Go back, Phoebe,' he shouted, 'I'm about to express my feelings.'

"That's my fix."

Mr. Roosevelt Now Shirt-Sleeve Man.

Oyster Bay Dispatch to North American

No longer need the shirtsleeve man, who believes in comfort ahead of style, fear a scolding by the female members of his family for appearing so clad on his front piazza.

President Roosevelt set the fashion the other day, when he discarded his coat, rolled his shirtsleeves half-way to his elbows, and settled down in an easy-chair on the veranda at Sagamore Hill to read about Africa and big game hunting. A servant deposited an armful of books near the chair, and the President read for two hours. He is devouring everything he can find on the dark continent and its denizens.

He suffered so much with the heat that he did not take his customary horseback ride. He called up the White House at 3 o'clock to inquire the temperature. When told that it was 94 in Washington, he replied:

"Pshaw, that's nothing! It's 96 here and getting hotter every minute—just like Africa."

Mr. Taft's Flower Is the Carnation.

Cincinnati (O.) Dispatch.

Rev. J. Frederick, of Newport, Ky., vice-president of the Evangelical Protestant Ministers' Alliance, wrote to Judge Taft, asking him what is his favorite flower. He received a reply today stating that the white carnation is the Republican nominee's most admired bloom. It is Frederick's idea to have the white carnation used in the present campaign.

Son's Drowning Turns Father's Hair.

Philadelphia Record.

The hair of Benjamin Rosenberg, of Chester, Pa., turned gray in a day as the result of shock to his nerves caused by the drowning of his son.

Sneeze Helps to Restore Eyesight.

St. Louis (Mo.) Dispatch.

The sight of Nicholas Cazart, of St. Louis, who was recently stricken blind, was partly restored by a sneeze.

THE REAL HISTORY OF OXALURIA

Mr. Murphy Throws Light on a Perplexing Subject.

PORTLAND, July 19.—(To the Editor.)—History records that all doctors are full of oxaluria. In order that I may not arouse any excitement or unnecessary fears on the part of the doctors, I will say that oxaluria is a symptom and not a disease. I cite this from an authority of great antiquity. Democedes, who lived in the sixth century, B. C., is the first physician of whom we have any trustworthy history, and is credited with the discovery that "All hollow things are sonorous."

The great Galens relates that he was called in to the sick chamber of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, where three surgeons were holding a council of war. It wasn't professional to pry open the entrails those days, so the surgeons declared there were symptoms of fever. Galens felt of the emperor's pulse and told him he had the stomach ache. He ordered a bumper of wine with a mixture of hot stuff. The emperor drank and gave an oxaluria grunt. "You the first of physicians and the one philosopher," said the emperor to Galens, "all the other doctors are money chasers, contentious, ambitious and envious."

Hippocrates of Cos, the "father of medicine," was the most original thinker and clinical historian up to the time of Woods Hutchinson, A.M., M.D. He originated prognosis as is practised today with an indelible pencil on the ribs, ad arbitrium. Rondibilis, the physician made famous by Rabelais, was a great oxaluriaist. He declared the symptom was aggravated by over indulgence in what is known today as Pocatello spring water or liquid alkali or an immoderate use of swill-down house. Burton, in his Anatomy of Melancholy, intimates that oxaluria so called today is a humidity in the stomach and an aridity in that circumrotatory cavity behind the spectacles, and as we said in the beginning, all hollow things are sonorous, but all sonorous things are not lime juice.

J. HENNESSY MURPHY.

BUSINESS IS GOOD IN CALIFORNIA

Returns Indicate That This Will Be Best Fruit Year Known There.

(From the Bulletin of Progress, issued by the California Promotion Committee, San Francisco.)

June has been a month of great promise in all material ways to California. In mining matters there has been considerable increase of interest and output, and many new mines have been brought into paying conditions, while a number of old ones have been developed to increased paying ability. There has also been marked increase in the output of petroleum and many new wells have been opened.

The ripening of all fruits has borne out the advance statements of The California Promotion Committee, and reports from all sources to the committee show that this will be the heaviest fruit year ever recorded. Already there is promise of double the number of cars of deciduous fruits for export shipment this year over 1907.

Colonization effort is receiving great impetus, and large owners are bringing desirable colonists to California to settle on the subdivided tracts in all parts of the state. Many new colonization plans have developed, and special terms and other inducements are being offered to prospective settlers.

The demand for labor in agricultural districts continues strong, with good wages and promise of permanent employment. There is especial demand for women and girls in the canning and fruit-drying districts, and also as domestics in all parts of the state. Difficulties between shippers and carriers cause a slackening of work in lumber districts with a stoppage of demand for labor there.

Renewed impetus has been given to railroad work and there is increased demand for laborers on lines in several parts of the state.

The following summary shows California conditions from May 29 to June 28, inclusive:

San Francisco building permits	$ 2,567,245.00
San Francisco building permits since the fire	107,795,859.00
Los Angeles building permits	705,197.00
Oakland building permits	438,467.00
San Francisco real estate sales, 600; value	1,675,000.00
San Francisco bank clearings.	131,365,447.72
San Francisco bank clearings, June, 1907	177,307,217.96
Los Angeles bank clearings	39,487,803.00
Oakland bank clearings	5,972,466.10
Sacramento bank clearings	3,173,939.55
Fresno bank clearings	1,910,746.98
Stockton bank clearings	2,902,198.25
San Jose bank clearings	1,643,624.37
San Francisco customs receipts	545,250.02

Is Mr. Bryan Really "Agin" the Irish?

Des Moines Capital.

Has the Hon. William J. Bryan, perpetual candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, some special antipathy against the Irish?

We certainly should dislike to believe that anyone actuated by such noble ideals as the peerless has ever professed would be actuated in any degree by sentiments of race prejudice, but really as the doughty Nebraska warrior stalks across the National political arena, the number of fine old Irish scalps dangling from his belt helps to make up a most interesting spectacle.

And thus are the trophies labelled:

Colonel John M. Guffey, of Pennsylvania.

Hon. Pat McCarren, of New York.

Hon. Thomas Grady, of New York.

Hon. Roger C. Sullivan, of Illinois.

Hon. John T. McGraw, of Virginia.

Hon. Robert Burke, of Illinois.

The list of Irish Democrats who have felt the hot blasts of Bryanic wrath could probably be extended indefinitely, but the above conspicuous illustrations would seem to furnish ample basis for the charge that Mr. Bryan seems to be at war with a very large Irish contingent, whose influence and votes he will sorely need on the coming November election day.

Successful Exploits Begun Fridays.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Here are a few of the successful exploits which were undertaken on Friday:

August 1, 1492—Columbus set out on his voyage.

October 12, 1492—Columbus first sighted land.

March 15, 1493—Columbus arrived at Palos.

November 22, 1493—Columbus arrived at Hispanola on his second voyage.

January 13, 1494—Columbus discovered North America.

September 7, 1565—Menendez founded St. Augustine, the oldest city in America.

December 22, 1620—Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

In addition to these instances, George Washington was born on Friday and a number of other historical events of importance, among them the seizing of Bunker Hill, took place on the supposedly ill-omened day.

Enterprising Democrats.

Aberdeen (Wash.) World.

Oregon is the only state one thinks of on the spur of the moment where a Democrat would take a chance on such a political plum as the Democratic Vice-Presidential nomination. The brethren overlook nothing in that state. Why should they? There's Statement No. 1.

Merry Widow Hat Twists Critic's Neck

Baltimore News.

Miss Lillian Beck, of Rockaway Beach, N. Y., twisted her neck out of joint looking at a merry widow hat worn by a woman.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME IDAHO

Means "Gem of the Mountains," and Comes Out of Sunrise.

The name "Idaho" is ascribed to Colonel Craig by his friend, Joaquin Miller, the "poet of the Sierras." All authorities do not agree with Mr. Miller, but his letter on the subject is at least interesting, if not authoritative:

Guelph, Ontario, Canada, July 30, 1880.—Dear Sir: The distinction of naming "Idaho" certainly belongs to my old friend, Colonel Craig (since deceased), of Craig's Mountain, Nez Perce County. As for some fellow naming it in Congress, bah! The name was familiar in 5000 men's mouths as they wallowed through the snow in '61, on their way to the Oro Fino mines—long before Congress, or any man of Congress, had even heard of the new discovery.

The facts are these: I was riding pony express at the time rumors reached us, through the Nez Perce Indians, that gold was to be found on the headwaters and tributaries of the Salmon River. I had lived with the Indians; and Colonel Craig, who had spent most of his life with them, often talked with me about possible discoveries in the mountains to the right as we rode to Orofino, and of what the Indians said of the then unknown region.

Gallop your horse, as I have done a hundred times, against the rising sun. As you climb the Sweetwater Mountains, far away to your right you will see the name of "Idaho" written on the mountain top—at least you will see a peculiar and beautiful light at sunrise, a sort of diadem on two grand clusters of mountains that bear away under the clouds fifty miles distant. I called Colonel Craig's attention to this peculiar and beautifully arched light.

"That," said he, "is what the Indians call E-dah-hoe, which means the light or diadem on the line of the mountains."

That was the first time I ever heard the name. Later, in September, '61, when I rode into the newly discovered camp to establish an express office, I took with me an Indian from Lapwai. We followed an Indian trail, crossing Craig's Mountains, and had, all the time, E-dah-hoe Mount for one objective point.

On my return to Lewiston I wrote a letter containing a brief account of our trip and of the mines, and it was published in one of the Oregon papers, which one I have now forgotten. In that account I often mentioned E-dah-hoe, but spelt it I-da-ho, leaving the pronunciation unmarked by any diacritical signs. So that, perhaps, I may have been the first to give it its present spelling, but I certainly did not originate the word. Yours sincerely,

JOAQUIN MILLER.

Ex-Senator Nesmith, of Oregon, gave the following version of the origin of "Idaho":

Derry, Polk County, Oregon, April 20, 1881: I noticed a few days since an editorial paragraph in your paper making inquiry as to the origin or meaning of the name "Idaho." Without professing to be able to communicate the exact information you desire, I will give you the little I have upon the subject.

The bill first passed the House of Representatives designating the present territory of Idaho as "Montana." When it came up for consideration in the Senate the 3d of March, 1863, Senator Wilson of Massachusetts moved to strike out "Montana" and insert "Idaho." Mr. Harding of Oregon said: "I think the name 'Idaho' is preferable to 'Montana.' 'Idaho,' in English, signifies 'the gem of the mountains.' I heard others suggest that it meant, in the Indian tongue, 'shining mountain,' all of which are synonymous."

I do not know from which of the Indian tongues the two words Ida-ho come. I think, however, if you will pursue the inquiry among those familiar with the Nez Perce, Shoshone and Flathead tribes, that you will find the origin of the two words as I have given it above. J. W. NESMITH.

TRAINING FOR BOYS IN VACATION

What Manual Training Does for Them in Summer.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The popularity of the vacation schools is gratifying to all who are interested in the success of the St. Paul public schools. The attendance at the end of last week had increased to 700, and the demand for manual training was so great that it was found advisable to arrange classes to accommodate the larger boys. It was not expected that there would be a large attendance of boys from the sixth and seventh grades, and those in charge of the schools were not ready for the number that appeared for enrollment. Preparation was made at once to accommodate the larger boys in classes where they may receive instruction in manual training. And there is no more encouraging feature than the desire of the more advanced pupils to spend their vacation days profitably.

The large number of those enrolled at the opening sessions of the schools demonstrate the change in opinion that is taking place concerning Summer vacations. The popular idea, both with grown-ups and with the children, has been that vacation was a period of idleness as well as one for recreation; that the children should have nothing to do during the Summer except to amuse themselves in any way they might see fit. The attendance at the Summer schools bears witness to the fact that the parents and pupils realize that vacation may be converted into a period of useful recreation; that rest does not necessarily mean idleness.

The instruction the larger boys will get at the manual training sessions will be practical and particularly valuable to them. Most of those who will attend are those whose education will not be extended beyond the grades. It is encouraging to find that those who will have to cut short their elementary schooling are improving the opportunity to add to their equipment for the struggle of life.

Those in charge of the vacation schools seem to be planning their work wisely. The sessions are so timed and arranged as not to be irksome. The work is made interesting as well as practical. While the instructors insist upon order and good deportment, the discipline is not of the sort that will become tedious to the pupils. The children are amused as well as instructed. They have a good time, and are picking up information that will be of much value to them in after life. The vacation school does not eliminate vacation, but converts a period of useless idleness into one of profitable recreation.

Physique of Several Presidents.

New York Press.

Washington was the tallest of the Presidents, and had the longest name. Taft, the steam roller, if elected, will be the biggest all-around man that ever held down a White House throne. When he orders a pair of trousers he says, "extra stout." His girth measure is 72 inches. Abe Lincoln's was 31. Roosevelt's is 45. Mr. Cleveland was a big man in his physical prime, measuring 58 inches in the waist. He lost 100 pounds in his recent illness. Taft is the most active big man I ever saw. Dixon H. Lewis was much stouter, weighing nearly 500 pounds—the heaviest man that ever sat in Congress. He was chiefly distinguished for cutting out a pane of glass in the Senate chamber with a diamond ring, so as to hear one of Webster's speeches.

Postal Savings Banks in India.

New York World.

The postal savings bank of India was established in 1882, in which year the depositors numbered 39,121 and the deposits amounted to $932,243. In 1907 the depositors numbered 1,190,220 and the deposits amounted to $49,222,282, which, perhaps, should not be considered large in a country having a population of some 300,000,000, but the average Indian farmer, mechanic, servant or laborer never deposits money in a bank, but hides it away in a pot or box in the ground or in some other place which he may consider safe.

Determined to Lose No Time.

Indianapolis News.

A sign on West Broadway, New York, reads: "Your hat blocked and your pants pressed while you are having your shoes shined."