

The Oregonian

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Portland, Oregon, Friday, Sept. 25, 1908.

GOVERNOR HASKELL.

Governor Haskell's reply to Mr. Roosevelt will convince no intelligent person of his innocence. The logic of his letter is futile and its spirit is bad.

The public was aware of rumors which connected Governor Haskell with the everlastingly Standard Oil scandals in Ohio, but in its unconquerable good nature it was inclined to forget them.

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ROOSEVELT RESTORING CONFIDENCE. A decisive and substantial advance in the prices of nearly all of the leading industrial and railroad securities yesterday is a tribute to the tremendous influence wielded by President Roosevelt.

But for weeks these legitimate holders of the principal securities of the country have been much distressed over the possibility of Bryan's election.

Mr. Haskell's conduct in every direction seems to prove that he does not know what sincerity means. The Democratic party entered this campaign as the friend and champion of labor above everything else.

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he expect honest men of any class to support him? If he discards all the Haskell, who will be left to manage his campaign?

JUST WHAT IT MEANS. "What does The Oregonian mean by a strong government, a centralized government, a government of authority and power?" This question is pressed upon The Oregonian. The answer is simple.

The Oregonian means a government strong enough to quell any local rebellion, even of a dozen states; a government that can open a way with Gatling guns through Chicago, Sacramento, Richmond or New Orleans, when necessary; a government able to defy local mobs and state mobs and all sorts of obstructive combinations, and enforce national authority everywhere within its territory and jurisdiction.

And a government that is strong enough to deal with vast combinations of capital, like those of Standard Oil, the steel trust and the great railroad combines, the best trust, the sugar trust, and every other flagrant monopoly; a government not only that has the power, but the willingness and disposition to do these and other like things.

WHY ARE THEY SO ANGRY? The rage and fury with which publication by The Oregonian of those 533 names of change-coat Democrats has been received by the puny Democratic press of Oregon would appear to show that facts hurt.

When a man registers as a Democrat one year and as a Republican the next, it is up to him to explain. If he explains, as one brother did, that he joined the Republican party to vote for Fulton, but later voted for Chamberlain, he is not a Republican and it is a piece of extraordinary impudence for him to say that he is, or that he joined the party in good faith.

There are two classes of people who will rejoice over the proposed "enforcement" of the Sunday law in Portland, namely, big simpletons and bigger simpletons. The big simpletons will rejoice because they fondly imagine that the enforcement of this law will promote virtue.

Plainly the main purpose of this law is to deprive the people of their capital. Some time we may see the day when our laws shall be so rational that no decent man can refuse obedience to them, so clear that no intelligent man can fail to understand them, and so well enforced that no person can find profit in violating them.

The British steamship Aeon, which sailed from Portland with a cargo of lumber, was lost last month on a reef in the South Pacific, and the French bark Vender, with a cargo of wheat from Portland, has just been wrecked on Wallaston Island.

It is perhaps fortunate from a theatrical standpoint that Maxine Elliott and Nat Goodwin are playing with separate companies, for it would be waste of advertising if all of this publicity could draw through only one box office.

Blue Sundays and no red lights for Portland. Yet it doesn't seem to be anybody's idea.

Dr. Alida C. Avery, a pioneer in the ranks of women in medicine, and well known as a consistent and practical advocate of the right of woman to do anything that she can do acceptably and profitably.

The Yamhill County Fair held at McMinnville attracted a crowd of 6000 people on the opening day. McMinnville is as large as Portland, but the support given the fair was about four times as great as that extended to the Pacific National show in this city.

financial and industrial world until a few more blasts from Roosevelt leave the result of the election no longer in serious doubt.

THE HEIRDOM. Roosevelt is an advocate of Taft, because he knows that Taft would carry out all his policies. Roosevelt cut himself off from the succession, because he could not break away from, or break over, the two-term principle.

Portland bank clearings for the first three days of the week were \$4,788,748, compared with \$3,551,021 for the same date last year. This is a remarkably good showing when it is recalled that at this time last year we were floating on the top wave of a prosperity that had not yet felt the breath of the coming panic.

No Bryan journal in the Northwest nor, we think, in the Pacific States, prints the political news of both parties. The Oregonian does it steadily, and thus far it has given even more space to the Bryan than to the Taft people.

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WHITNEY'S BAIL IS INCREASED. Dentist, Unable to Secure Bonds, Goes to Jail. Dr. G. B. Whitney, the young forest grove dentist who must stand trial on a charge of manslaughter growing out of the death of his fiancée, Mabel Wirtz, is in jail.

Grand Jury Again Reports. Five more indictments were returned yesterday by the county grand jury. All are in minor criminal cases.

SETTLERS WIN A POINT. Made Party to Federal Suit to Annual Land Grant. In the case of the United States against the Oregon & California Railroad Company et al. the Government takes the stand that the terms of the grant allowing the railroad alternate sections of land along its route have been violated.

Do we want a naval force in the Pacific? Then we don't want Bryan. Do we desire to be prepared against emergencies in the Pacific? Then we don't want Bryan.

Possibly Mr. Bryan may have occasion to remember that one D. B. Hill, who is to manage his New York campaign, once managed a New York campaign so skillfully and successfully that he Hill was elected Governor, though the Democratic candidate for President lost the state and the Presidency.

Mayor Lane thinks that ten good policemen will make the North End a real paradise. No doubt. Ten is the right number. Just think what Sodom might have been with ten righteous men.

Somebody writes to ask The Oregonian why it wants Cannon defeated. It doesn't. It merely wants him hobbled, and scared just a little, and beaten for Speaker, and a few things like that.

As assured by the Bryan organ that the state registration is without guile, perfect in detail and results, Republicans may now confidently expect 52-123 plurality for Taft over Bryan.

gets long term in jail. Allen Collie, Who Beat Woman, Is Sentenced to 12 Years.

Twelve years in the Penitentiary. That was the awakening from a drunken revel which Harry Allen Collie had yesterday. One night in July he got drunk, broke into a suburban house and assaulted a woman of 57 years.

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SHALL THE CONSTITUTION BE OBEYED?

Then How Can Statement No. 1, "Mandatory Election of Senators" Have the Slightest Validity? Ask Judge Gemmer. Further Discussion of the Interesting Subject of "Untrammelled Legislators."

SEASIDE, Or., Sept. 23.—(To the Editor.)—I have seen few criticisms of my article of September 14. Some answer themselves. When following the Constitution is termed "fustian" and "claptrap," no reply is necessary. The fact that legislatures show that the article was not really read.

Complaint against the legislative system is an argument for changing the Constitution, but not for ignoring it; and inability to affect a change, no justification for violating law. One says the "old system" was rotten and sure, if it is nothing necessarily rotten in observing our National Constitution, another asserts because our Constitution permits a State Legislature to take the absence of legislation by Congress, temporarily to prescribe the time, place and manner of the election of senators by legislature and Oregon by legislature.

Law does regulate the manner in which we in Oregon shall vote, but it cannot instruct us, nor dictate to us, nor even require us to promise how we will vote. It merely prescribes the manner, but such can never include any power whatsoever to "instruct" legislators constitutionally vested with the right to elect themselves selecting, nor to dictate to them for whom they shall vote.

Even Congress, with all its constitutional power, could not transfer this privilege to the voters, or to the people, or to any other body. In the legislature, each legislator has a right to remain free from any dictation, or hold-up by any people, or by any voter owing good will to any party, or to any other person. It is also as plain as a plank that no constitutionally oath-bound member can divest himself, legally or morally, of his duty to choose, as supreme privilege and duty to choose, absolutely himself, unfettered and untrammelled; and for a law-respecting legislator to do otherwise, is to shackle himself in his known constitutional oath-bound duty, such action, when elected, is culpable and contrary to the part of good citizenship, either to demand or to accept of a law-respecting legislator to shackle himself in his known constitutional oath-bound duty, such action, when elected, is culpable and contrary to the part of good citizenship.

One criticizing paper sagely says "that the legislators make the people's choice, their choice," and "the people's choice is binding on the law." In other words, each legislator abdicates his own duty to choose, and allows some one else to choose for him, and then obeys the Constitution by foregoing his own duty, and blindly following the bidding of some one else. This is a constitutional duty by not doing it at all. And the beauty of it is that it all seems to be done "willingly." A hold-up victim who has been told, "I believe your gun is loaded, but if you won't shoot I will 'willingly' 'fork over,'" and thus he surrenders the gun-man's choice his own "choice."

An overwhelming Republican Legislature is to elect a Democrat to our highest political office because "it's our Republican legislators' choice now." Will they do it because it pleases them? Hardly. They do it, if they do it at all, because they feel fettered and not free to act. The excuse for them urged is that it is "the people's choice." No, it is not. It is absurd. All talk of "people's choice" in Oregon's Senatorial elections is not only in utter disregard of the legislative oath, but it is a direct violation of the people's choice in the United States—what demand personal freedom of action in Oregon legislators in choosing Senators for them, and for the whole Nation, and who each have reasonable ground for their faith and belief that the Republic is to be saved by electing Republican Senators, and that only Democratic Legislators choose Democratic Senators.

But aside from this, has there been any "people's choice" in Oregon morally binding? Every one feels that the people of Oregon are to be deceived, and never have wanted Governor Chamberlain for Senator. He never was, even at the so-called "election," the choice of a majority of voters, but he only received a plurality, and a small one at that. While pluralities here elect in regular elections, there is no binding law for "popular elections," or any moral efficacy in untrammelled choice arising from untrammelled and pure majority choice. In this case it certainly was not a majority choice, and it appears moreover that the "choice" was tainted, and badly tainted at that.

It is well understood that many who did "vote" for Governor Chamberlain, as Governor never wanted him for Senator, or expected that any Legislature would ever choose and elect him, but simply wanted, by their "votes," to put Chamberlain in Republican nomination. They knew that in law their ballots counted for naught.

Aside from all this, everybody is satisfied that under a pre-concerted movement to elect a Democrat, the Oregon Democrats registered themselves as Republicans—a few in each precinct, so as to fraudulently foist on Republicans the candidates for Senatorial office. One purpose was to nominate a Republican for Senator who they thought the weakest for Chamberlain at the polls. Probably the Democrats to "show" the "Republican" United States Senator, and of course it all was to further the naturally sold Democratic purpose in Oregon of electing Chamberlain to handicap the Republican party, and voters at the polls. Certainly it was for no good purpose. None of them had any right to vote there, and none of them voted throughout Oregon to taint with fraud the purity of "election choice."

No Democrat had any business in a Republican primary. Such was all a fraudulent violation of the primary enactment which distinctly declares on the face of the law, that a political party is useful and necessary, and entitled to protection from interference of persons not identified with it.

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