

The Oregonian

Portland, Oregon.

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Portland, Saturday, Oct. 3, 1908.

INSULT TO INTELLIGENCE.

What men call campaign expenses appear to be necessary; and hence campaign contributions are solicited and welcomed by all parties. Mr. Bryan's committee rejoices in the contribution of some \$90,000, or thereabout, secured through the appeal of newspapers to support him.

Whether an account of the contributions should be made public before or after election is a matter of some debate, but not an important matter. That says that the names of contributors before election would be a disclosure of party preference which many men—whether the sums given be large or small—would not want to make, and moreover that candidates would be subject to the unjust suspicion that they were under the control or influence of those making the contributions.

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However, it isn't important. What is surprising is that any man professing the purity of Bryan's principles should want a campaign fund. What for? The newspapers furnish, without other charge than their subscription price, the daily campaign matter of all parties. What is the party or parties to do, legitimately, with big sums of money?

But Bryan breaks here into one of his petulant moods, and says that Taft's statement on this subject is "an insult to the intelligence of the voters." Coming from such source this is worth noting.

What is Bryan's entire political career, what has it been, but an insult to the intelligence of the voters? This is the reason why the voters have always turned him down. What so great insult to the intelligence of the voters ever was offered as the attempt to persuade them that they should give up their money to support a government ownership of the railroads, or the loose, half-socialistic ideas that ran through the whole of Bryan's political schemes?

The platiitudinous pretender of the Platte has been insulting the intelligence of the voters these many years. In most things that he has done, he is merely a chattering or mountebank, and he never can be anything else—even if he should become President of the United States. It always has been recognized as a mistake to suppose that a mere spouter was a great man.

WASHINGTON'S FIRST PRIMARY.

Scores of defeated candidates all over the State of Washington who spent from a few hundreds to many thousands of dollars in an effort to win office are now in a position to offer indisputable evidence that the poor man has no show to secure office under the direct primary law. The result of the first primary election in Washington not only demonstrated that in nearly every case the man who won spent the most money, but it also proved quite conclusively that in some cases the winners lacked many of the qualifications for the office that were possessed by the losers.

The Washington direct primary law contains no such provision as the sacred Statement No. 1, under which Democrats "ride into office in Oregon by the aid of Republican votes, but as a stand-off for that provision, it has the second choice vote, which, in the contest just closed, has proven a perfect success in landing in nomination a number of candidates who on a straight first choice vote of the people would not have got within shouting distance of the greatest number of votes.

The prestige of the office, as under the old regime, proved to be an important factor where candidates were up for re-election, but in case of the Lieutenant-Governor, even this was insufficient to offset the free expenditure of money by the successful candidate. Mr. Egan, who was not yet elected, and must necessarily spend considerable more money before he is elected; but his certified expense account for the primaries is already in excess of the amount of salary that he will receive for the four years' term. It stands to reason that no poor man, regardless of his personality or qualification for the office, can enter any contest that must be fought out on such expensive lines.

There are very few men who would care to serve the state for four years with no remuneration, or in fact to pay for the privilege. In the case of the Attorney-General, Easterly, the candidate who received the greatest number of first choice votes and a man to whom the State of Washington owes a debt of gratitude for his tax reform measures, was defeated by a man who was never seriously considered as a winner, but who floated in with ease on the "second choice wave." Many a poor man not only spent all of his savings, but embarrassed his friends in an unsuccessful attempt to secure office under the new law which was fondly expected to place office strictly within the reach of those who had more merit than money.

The British steamship Magdala crossed into the Columbia River September 22 and arrived at Portland September 23. At this port she loaded 6720 tons of wheat, which, with 1460 tons of bunker coal, gave her a draft of more than twenty-five feet. The steamer finished loading September 29 and left down the river a day later, crossing out to sea yesterday afternoon, after a stay in the river of but ten days. The showing is a remarkably good one for the port, and the exporters who gave the vessel who chartered her through from Portland to the sea are entitled to great credit for the achievement. With vessels of twenty-five feet draft going through from Portland to the sea without detention, at a period of the lowest water of the season, the port of Portland is making an exceptionally fine showing.

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MR. BRYAN'S STAND ON "LAW HONESTY"

Some Just Observations on This Species of Error.

Kansas City Star, Ind. The President, in his answer to Mr. Bryan, makes the important distinction that the Democratic candidate takes his stand on "law honesty" in the case of Governor Haskell, and he reminds Mr. Bryan that respect for mere "law honesty" has been the bane of this people in endeavoring to get equity and fair dealing—as they should obtain among high-minded men—from great business corporations and from individuals.

You are on dangerous ground, Mr. Bryan. To stand by a man until the courts shall prove him guilty may be to stand by a man whose guilt is morally certain, and yet whose conviction is legally impossible. For instance, why should Mr. Haskell have been asked to resign from his position on the National Committee? Or, if he was not asked, why should his voluntary resignation have been accepted?

The answer is simply this, that public sentiment within the party, the moral convictions of the masses of honest Democrats, would have resented his retention. It is wholly impossible that any court will ever prove Senator Foraker guilty of the charges brought against him. Would Mr. Bryan stand by Foraker, if he were to stand by the place until the courts should be heard from? Presumably he would. He has never repudiated Senator Bailey. He stands by Governor Haskell.

There are many reasons clever enough to stay within the bounds of "law honesty" while defiantly violating the rules of moral law and inciting public opinion to a measure which is morally wrong and hardly affords full scope of the average public standard of morality in his display of loyalty to a favorite who happens to be under heavy fire.

MR. BRYAN'S ACROBATIC CAMPAIGN

In the West He Is Mr. Roosevelt's Heir, and in the East He's His Own.

New York Evening Post, Ind. In the West, Mr. Bryan was at pains to prove that he was Mr. Roosevelt's sole legitimate political heir. In the East, he is now developing the same rest in his inheritance. He is not worth having. Whether or not this acrobatic reasoning results from the fact that Mr. Roosevelt craves more violent in the West than in the East, or from the mere fact that Mr. Roosevelt has declared that Bryan's election would be a calamity to the country, is less bewildering. "What has the President done" was the note to which Mr. Bryan tuned his Buffalo speech. Has he imprisoned capital, or has he "disturbed the steel trust?" Has he "done anything to punish the Standard Oil?" Can he, in short, escape his own record?

Mr. Bryan's answer to these questions is that he has done nothing to punish the Standard Oil. He has, in short, escaped his own record. He has, in short, escaped his own record. He has, in short, escaped his own record. He has, in short, escaped his own record.

Alaska, a few years ago as mentioned in the word with the masses of its gold discoveries, no longer leads the list of American gold-producing states and territories. It may be surprising to many thousands who have rushed into the dangers of the Far North and suffered all of the discomforts and expense of an Alaskan trip to learn that civilized, easily accessible Colorado last year produced \$20,597,000 in gold, compared with \$18,488,400 produced in Alaska. Even California, a state in which gold mining can be followed with at least some of "the comforts of a home," was very close to Alaska with an output of \$16,855,500. These official figures, which have just been issued by the government, show that it is not yet necessary to go beyond the confines of the United States in order to find gold in paying quantities.

There seems to be a hitch somewhere in the attempt to compel state officers to pay back compensation received in violation of the constitution. The United States Senator, Charles D. Dunbar, a Republican, was prosecuted with vigor, but for some reason no suit has been brought against Chamberlain, a Democrat. Is there party politics back of this, Mr. McMahon?

If Mr. Bryan did not know the character and business address of the man who was named as treasurer of his campaign, is he a safe person to be trusted with the duty of forming Cabinet, and appointing Judges, District Attorneys and filling all the other appointive offices of the Government?

Mr. Bryan did not know the character and business address of the man