

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, Nov. 27, 1908.

Signs and Portents.

"They say" is the intention to push "Statement One" for all it may be worth, for control of the organization of the Legislature and for direction of the legislation of the session.

In the opinion of The Oregonian the course that shall be pursued during the coming session will determine the future course of political parties in Oregon, and in particular the Republican party in Oregon is to stand for anything hereafter, or be swallowed up in a "combine" with the Democrats.

"They say" further, that the Bourne and Chamberlain forces are working together to control the organization of both branches of the Legislature, in combination for control of the policy and legislation of the session.

These simply are forecasts. The forecaster's work rests on signs and probabilities; and the head of the Weather Bureau is not the only man in the business. It is a function also of active and vigilant journalism.

Origin of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving, as we have it, is of New England and of Puritan origin. After the year of terrible privation in 1621-1622 the Massachusetts exiles in 1623 obtained from the soil and from the rivers and forests of the country an abundance of food.

Presently, however, as a day of festivity, it was put into opposition to Christmas. The Puritan soul was scandalized by feasting and revelry on the holy days of Christmas.

This, however, gradually changed. Christmas as a day of festivity and cheer held its own in the other colonies, and their customs gradually reacted on New England. Both days held their ground as holidays; but Thanksgiving did not obtain much hold in the South.

Philippine Sugar Imports.

It is extremely improbable that the business of this country would be very much affected by free admission of Philippine sugar. While necessity for some revenue from imports is plain to all, and it may be advisable to levy a moderate duty on sugar imported from foreign countries, there are circumstances in connection with the Philippines which should make these island dependencies exempt from the toll levied on sugar from other countries.

A Trio of Unspeakers.

Princess Sagan, erratic and soiled daughter of the late Jay Gould, has made a most complete mess of marrying foreign titles. Some sympathy is still felt for her as a mother, who is about to lose the care and custody of her children, but even this is not held against her by her father for the trust and her conduct immediately preceding that event, she proved herself unfit to direct the lives and order the education and home associations of her young sons.

these figures that the danger of the price of American sugar being imperilled by Philippine competition is very remote. Imports of Cuban sugar, which comes in under a preferential duty of 29 per cent lower than the regular rate exacted from foreign countries, last year amounted to 2,309,159,256 pounds. It is not at all clear that the American sugar industry is in danger from any source, but there is decidedly less excuse for fear of Philippine competition than from any other quarter.

A Strange Story.

What the New York Tribune says about the political situation in Oregon is said sanely; yet question is whether the Tribune, saying sanely, is in position to judge of the political situation in Oregon.

The situation is without parallel. It can be judged only from inside knowledge, possessed by observers in Oregon who have watched the course of it from the beginning. Hitherto the majority in Oregon has been not more sane on this subject than it was on the subject of silver coinage and silver money, down to 1896, when the people began to recover their senses. On this subject also they will recover their senses.

Foolcap Paper.

This is a strange phrase, whose origin has puzzled many. From an old record it appears that Charles I of England granted numerous charters for the obtaining of money for his purposes, independently of the Parliamentary grants, among others, the manufacture of paper. The watermark of the best paper of the time was the royal arms of the king, and the assumption of this article was great and large fortunes were made by those who had purchased the exclusive right to vend it.

It Stables, Indeed.

It is a strange story about Judge Milo A. Root, that comes from Seattle. It is a story that has come to our office for the remainder of his term only, but will take the oath and resume the duties for the new term to which he has been elected.

The Automobile Boom.

The horseless carriage may not soon displace the horse-drawn animal which from the earliest ages in war and peace has borne a prominent part in the commercial and sporting life of mankind. There are so many places where the horse can be used and where the breeding industry will not suffer by the invasion of the automobile, and there will always be horse-lovers whose affection for the noblest of the brute creation will never be changed by the mechanical substitute.

The Turkey Trust That Failed.

It will be a matter of general rejoicing that the Portland market men who attempted to hold up the people for extravagant prices for turkeys were left with large stocks on hand, even after heavy sales at auction prices. The market for turkeys in this city is worked every year, and at times when there is a small supply of turkeys it has proved highly profitable. But the public has begun to understand the system, and Wednesday in large numbers the turkey trade in this city broke in price or purchased a less expensive centerpiece for the Thanksgiving dinner.

Merely as a Reminder.

Yesterday, in speaking of Dr. D. K. Pearsons and his work for the small colleges The Oregonian said that he had accumulated a fortune from real estate values in this city. Read "his city." Dr. Pearsons, a native of Vermont, has resided in Chicago since 1852.

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fusion of courage which would result in their killing each other. The un-American female whose wealth is the cause of the squabble is excusable only on the grounds of inebriety, for it seems inconceivable that any sane woman would fall so low as she has fallen. If it be true that the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children, the respectable brothers and sisters of Anna Gould are certainly suffering to the limit for all the iniquities that were ever charged up against Jay Gould, and there is also much trouble ahead for the innocent offspring of the Castellanes.

Conditions and people alike have changed since Sir Henry Morgan, Captain Kidd and others of their kind fared forth under the Jolly Roger. The indiscriminate removal of the heads of people who disagreed with the government was not usually attended with great risk. It is different now in these twentieth-century days. When General Leconte, Haytian Minister of the Interior, a few days ago promptly executed the commander of the government gendarmes and affected with two prominent citizens who protested against his action, the people rose up in their might and killed Leconte. A fiery disposition and a thirst for blood may come natural to the rulers of those "republican" lands, but in their enforcement of the law of "might makes right" it would be better for their health to ascertain just where the "might" is located.

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Import Duty on Paper and Pulp.

American Trust Advances Price of Product and Holds Down Wages. John Norris, chairman of committee on paper, American Newspaper Publishers' Association, has prepared and submitted a brief to the tariff revision committee in which he sets forth the conduct of the Paper Trust. He vigorously protests against "the methods of the dark lantern and the sandbag." Mr. Norris shows that the burden of higher cost has been borne by the labor engaged in its making, with decreased revenue to the Government and with disturbance to all interested in the trusts. Here are a few of the facts presented:

Newspapers have been made to bear an average burden of the advance of 1907-1908 of \$12 per ton in the price of paper. Approximately 1,200,000 tons of news print paper are consumed in the United States annually, costing consumers in excess of \$20,000,000 per annum. As a result of the 100 per cent advance in the price of the Baltimore American, was taxed \$40,000 per annum. Another paper, the Philadelphia Record, was taxed \$100,000 per annum. Preliminary I call attention to the fact that because of a labor dispute held in the general office of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, covering a period of three months, since August, 1908, the cost of news print paper has advanced about 100,000 tons. This curtailment of production has been availed of by paper makers and news printers to the extent of \$25 per ton New York, or \$20 per ton in excess of the price which would have been paid had the news print committee considered this schedule 12 years ago and \$15 per ton in excess of the time which would have been paid had the news print committee considered this schedule 12 years ago and \$15 per ton in excess of the time which would have been paid had the news print committee considered this schedule 12 years ago.

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Southern Democratic Opinion.

The South Ought to Take Direction of the Democratic Party. Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser. It is useless to be timid or evasive in the discussion of political affairs, past, present or future. The party which has just elected Bryan for President is a homeless and useless existence until annihilation ends it. Mr. Bryan has for 12 years been a drag on the Democracy and an insuperable bar to its success. He is a dreamer, a vagabond and a time-server who has tried to be all things to all men, who has junked the Democracy for his own purposes and dallied with the false doctrines of other parties with the hope of winning votes for himself. Thousands and hundreds of thousands of life-long Democrats supported him in three campaigns when they had no confidence in his political steadfastness, and in a political vision and no hope of winning, they supported him because of their loyalty to their party and not through confidence in him or hope of success.

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These Various Follies.

The Situation in Oregon and the Situation in Kansas. Kansas City Journal. Oregon has a law (if an admittedly unconstitutional act of the Legislature may be called a law) providing for the election of United States Senators by a vote of the people at large. The members of the Legislature are pledged to disregard their oath to support the Constitution of the United States and to voice the selection of a Senator made by the people, instead of themselves selecting a Senator as that Constitution requires them to do. This arrangement led to a strange complication. The people elected a Republican Legislature and a Democratic Senator. Now the question with the Republican Legislators is whether the most popular thing will be to take a vote of the people at large. Democratic United States Senator, or forsake the law and stick to the party and elect a Republican Senator. The latter course is a little less ridiculous. The Republican party chose Mr. Bristow for Senator, but elected to the Legislature only 22 Bristow men to a total of 118 Republican members. Eighty-six of the 118 were not Bristow men. It is generally believed that today Mr. Bristow would be elected to the Senate at an ordinary election at which all voters had the right to vote. The question was voted according to their own convictions as the United States Constitution requires them to do or be whipped into line by the primary election.

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Easy Divorce Ends in Dakota.

One Year's Residence by Applicant and Trial in Open Court. New York Sun. A moral lesson was run to the people of South Dakota November 2, when they were called upon to consider the new divorce law enacted on March 15, 1907, which provides for a year's residence by the applicant and a trial in the open court at a regular term. The petition for the referendum was signed by 2 per cent of the qualified voters of the state as required. The law was passed by a vote of 10,000 to 1,000. It was not astonishing that Sioux Falls, which notoriously profited by its divorce mills, was the only city in the state to vote against the law. The law would have stood as enacted. Challenged by the petitioners and their attorneys, who had the sanction of the people and the example set by South Dakota is likely to be followed in spirit of self-reproach by other states which have enacted a law in a position to cast a stone at her.

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