

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1909. A TIME TO CONSIDER. The situation as to taxes in Oregon, and especially in Portland and Multnomah County, is a situation that must give all citizens who realize their responsibilities deepest concern.

It is regarded as certain that the ratio-tax apportionment system that has stood for some years will now be held unconstitutional. This will force readjustment of the state tax. It will throw on Multnomah a charge more than \$100,000 in excess of that hitherto calculated.

But Portland and Oregon ought to realize that all things that may be wanted cannot be had now, or done now, or provided at once. We don't get all things we want, nor more than a small part of the things we want, in our private lives; nor should we expect to get them in our public affairs.

Failure of our tax system and necessary change to another will throw everything into confusion, with certainty of more burdens on the taxpayer, at every step. The Legislature therefore may be implored to scrutinize everything, keep appropriations within closest possible limits, authorize no additional expenditures beyond actual necessity, and reject all applications for increased salaries and more official places.

As to state taxes, the extraordinary increase of the assessment in Multnomah is bearing fruit. The assessed value of the property of Portland is more than one-half that of Chicago, and the per caput taxation twice as large.

WAIL OF THE GAMBLER. Somewhat lugubrious are the wails that are heard from California regarding the doom of racetrack gambling. The "sport of kings," which in the hands of blacklegs, crooks and gamblers has to an overwhelming extent degenerated into the "sport of knaves," is receiving the same kind of a drubbing at Sacramento that was given it at Albany, N. Y., and New Orleans.

The bill is aimed directly at the "pledged" candidate—the man who in order to obtain the nomination for office, or to secure a representative of his constituents, and is bound on his word of honor to support the man whom he has pledged to support.

It really makes a travesty of representative government—of government that represents the real will of the people—and destroys it. It invents or employs a system of "pledges" which substitutes the will of crazy factions of the people for the will of the whole people, and constitutes the greatest and gravest of all dangers to the rule of enlightened democracy.

New York has not suffered by closing racetrack gambling and California will not suffer by doing likewise. It may be a trifle severe at the beginning, but some of the parasites who have for so long lived off the earnings of their victims, now to be compelled to cease idling and go to work; but in the end it will work out all right. There will be fewer embezzlers, fewer suit-

olds, and innocent women and children will be spared a world of suffering if there is no longer an opportunity for the head of the house to be robbed by the poolrooms.

"THE MAD PURSUIT OF WEALTH." A lot of stuff is uttered about "the mad rush for money." This way of putting the statement is misleading. What is called the mad rush for money is simply an energetic desire to do business. It marks the difference between an inactive and inefficient man, and an earnest, energetic and enterprising one.

To do business it is necessary to have command of money. This means credit, also. It is right to push business or is it not? On the one hand we have a lot of people deploring the existence of drosses and muckshakes among us. These people ought to be the delight of all who reclaim against the mad rush for money.

It is the Oregonian's opinion that the mad rush for money in this country is not half mad enough. What the country needs is more energy, more industry, larger accumulations of wealth; more railroads or means of building them; more farms, more hogs, more mills, more lumber; and above all more willingness to work. There are too many who sit down and don't care to work or make money; who are too "tired" to join in the mad pursuit of wealth.

GREATEST OF PRESENT DANGERS. In Washington, as in Oregon, there is a feeling that pledges to "represent the people," and to "serve our constituents," are being abused and will almost certainly lead to abuse. In the Legislature of Oregon there is a bill to make it an offence—a legal offence—to take a pledge of the kind.

Therefore the bills, in the Legislature of the two states, are well founded. The general principle is that if a man who is a candidate for any office, say in any school board, or for county office or for any position whatever—if it should appear that he had made a pledge to support any person or to oppose him, or to support any measure or to oppose it, even on a contingency that might or might not arise—such person should be disqualified from taking the oath of office.

No section of the people—no section of the people—large or small—is exempt from the small factions banking on special favors, and potions of various kinds, that in no way are approved by the majority, obtain "pledges" from candidates for office, on condition of withholding their votes. Then chaos.

The escape of nine homicides out of twenty-five without arrest indicates a certain lack either of alertness or ability in the police department. Admitting that we have not police officers enough to patrol the city properly, and not enough detectives to investigate and apprehend criminals, still the paucity of the force will not account for everything. There is clearly some neglect of duty or some inability to understand and perform it. But, after imposing all the blame it deserves upon the police department, the glaring truth remains, and that is the probable cause for our excessive number of murders is the expectation of escaping punishment through legal technicalities.

Whenever a controversy is submitted to arbitration a majority of the arbitrators may decide the dispute. Why, then, should not a three-fourths majority of a jury find a verdict in any case tried before them upon the evidence?

Under our justly celebrated method of assessing at par, Multnomah must pay the state \$100,000 more than its proportionate share of state taxes. That ought to make everybody feel better.

President-elect Taft finds it necessary to go to Panama again to look after the canal, since there is no way to bring the canal here. But don't worry. The canal will be built.

Portland Elks who propose to strangle things up in Los Angeles next July, need to provide themselves with information concerning midsummer temperature in that region.

of coal, of which 75,575,000 tons were exported, the receipts from this industry being one of the most potent factors in the trade of the empire. The possibilities for development in American coal mines are striking in comparison, for West Virginia, which has only recently begun development of the industry on a large scale, has 62,000 miles of surface area of coal-bearing lands and the output last year was 53,000,000 tons.

The owners of the millions of acres in the Coast Range, being unable to market their timber, will, if the law shall pass, have no recourse but to get out from under the increased cost of holding by selling to speculators who are willing to take a chance on a repeal of the law or the coming of transportation which will enable them to denude the land.

LAST YEAR'S MURDERS. The alluring industry of murder received something of a check in Oregon last year, though the reader should not jump to the conclusion that it is threatened with extinction. The total number of homicides was reduced from 55 in 1907 to 52 in 1908, that is all. The reduction amounts to just 1-7 per cent. Since Portland had ten more homicides in 1908 than in 1907, the rest of the state country there was no mad pursuit of wealth about them.

Who, then, are to blame for the discouraging increase in Multnomah County? Here we had ten more murders in 1908 than in the preceding year, an increase of two-thirds. To say that the comparative immunity which murder enjoys here has been the cause of this increase would be somewhat like saying that the reason why a murderer is safe we must expect it to be frequent. Of the twenty-five persons who committed homicide in Multnomah County last year, nine have not been arrested and probably will not be.

Senator Chamberlain is in favor of protection of the products of Oregon—wool, lumber, hops, etc. No one, however, should have speeches from the Democratic orators and essays from the Democratic newspapers of Oregon on "the iniquities of protection."

The man who seeks the glory of suicide without the possible dangers which it may attend, and who would should ring the bell before he allows the poison. It is a pity that A. Zannoy could not have lived to profit by the obvious lesson of his experience.

Suppose, after all, it were discovered that the Maine was blown up from the inside? Nothing much would happen. "Remember the Maine" could easily be altered to "Forget the Maine," and a few bushes would finish the tale.

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COMPARISON OF RECORDS. Dr. Wheeler Makes Answer to Certain Criticisms. PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—In an article published in your paper of June 27, Mr. Rushlight is reported as saying "I know that Dr. Wheeler's quarantine methods were poor," and to substantiate his statement which he had with Dr. Wheeler. Now, if Mr. Rushlight will refer to his manuscript, he will remember that I did not send one man with a Gatling gun, but that the Chief of Police, by my request, did send two policemen one day and another by night, in order to prevent him from further spreading the small-pox.

In order to convince Mr. Rushlight and public generally that the results of my methods were good, I am compelled to make comparison of the year 1908, during which I served 11 months with the year 1907. We are told that the administration of the Health Department for 1908 was excellent; that the death rate was lower than ever before; that there was no epidemic among the children; that the City of Portland got just what it paid for, etc., etc.

Diphtheria. 1907. 1908. January 19 102. February 19 45. March 19 45. April 19 26. May 19 26. June 19 26. July 19 26. August 19 26. September 19 26. October 19 26. November 19 26. December 19 26. Total 198 419. Difference 221.

Scarlet Fever. 1907. 1908. January 19 102. February 19 45. March 19 45. April 19 26. May 19 26. June 19 26. July 19 26. August 19 26. September 19 26. October 19 26. November 19 26. December 19 26. Total 198 419. Difference 221.

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IT IS "LUDICROUS." Under Which King, Bezonian? Speak or Die! (Washington, D. C. Post.) The Republican State of Oregon is to be represented in part for the next six years by a Democrat, Governor Chamberlain, who was elected yesterday. The triumph of the people is complete—and ludicrous. Members of the Legislature, as a condition of election, pledged themselves to support for Senator the candidate receiving the largest popular vote. The people were forced to choose between a popular Democrat and a less popular Republican, and they chose the former.

It will be observed that all of the diseases were very materially less during my term. Now, as quarantine and fumigation enter very largely as preventive measures in diphtheria, scarlet fever and smallpox, by a comparison of the records of 1906-7 it will be readily seen that my methods produced good results and were not poor, as has been stated. Respectfully, C. H. WHEELER.

An Unhappy Lot. Beaver State Herald, Gresham, Mult. It is practically agreed that the series of events leading to the election of United States Senator reached a closing climax Tuesday, when they elected Senator George E. Chamberlain United States Senator for a term of six years, succeeding Charles W. Fulton. Not because we were interested in the success of Mr. Chamberlain, but because of our desire to see how a Senator is elected and an interest in seeing the popular will obeyed, the editor visited Salem on last Tuesday.

It goes without saying that the Republican members of the Legislature of Oregon did not of their own free will choose Mr. Chamberlain as Senator on a basis; and as an Oregon Democrat, he can insist that the reduction shall be made on everything except lumber and wool.

Both for the Constitution of the United States and for the Political Will of Oregon. The methods of the recent Senatorial election in this state did undoubtedly "beat" both the Constitution of the United States and the political sentiment of the people of Oregon. Says the New York Sun:

Here's a Cat 25 Years Old. New York World. Edward Malcolm, of 6 State street, Jersey City, has just celebrated the 25th birthday of his cat Grisel. The animal was born in 1883, but has grown like its name, into a sort of nondescript color, although its tail stays white. Grisel has been the mother of hundreds of kittens, and strangely enough, while the back fence has attractions, she has never been known to leave the premises. Mr. Malcolm's cat has lived with them ever since he bought the house where his family lives, 25 years ago. The animal is well, and besides gray hairs, does not show her age.

Cleopatra's Beauty Belongs to Mythland

Iconoclastic Italian Historian Declares Augustus Invented the Story in Order to Destroy Woman's Influence in Governmental Affairs.

Chicago Tribune. CLEOPATRA, Queen of Egypt, through all the centuries since her death, has been an enemy of the political advancement of her sex. So declared in Mandel hall yesterday Professor Guglielmo Ferrero, Italy's leading historian, the savant who exposed the Tammany hall of antiquated and compared Roosevelt to Caesar and Bryan to Catinine, and placed upon Horace the badge of wine agent.

The declaration was made in a lecture to the students and professors of the University of Chicago on Antony and Cleopatra. The distinguished lecturer, who is a specialist in the history of the Alexandria of pre-Christian times as with his native Turin, knocked all the romance out of the famous love affair, revealed in its luxuries, and at last even pretty, but had a visage like that of "an intractable mother-in-law."

As for the woman suffrage, it wasn't the Cleopatra of history, but the Cleopatra of historians, who did much to prevent the forward movement of womankind, for, according to the professor, the legend that has stood through the centuries, the truth with regard to the lady of the Nile was a deliberate falsehood, circulated by the victorious Augustus to inspire in the hearts of men a sense of woman's dominance in political affairs.

He pictured the intense virility of Rome, the Spartan lives of its great nobles, the sternness of its laws and its barbarism compared with the splendor and refinement of Alexandria, which he described as the Paris of the ancient world. He quoted the words of Plutarch showing the way in which Cleopatra was made to sympathize with the Roman cause by being housed in a golden chariot, with sails of purple and oars of silver, and the dip of the oars was rhythmic to the sound of the flutes and the music of the lyre. She herself, the queen, wondrously clad as Venus, was lying under an awning, gold embroidered. Boys dressed as Cupid stood by her side, gaily waving fans to refresh her. Her maidens, every one beautiful and clad as a Naiad or a Grace, directed the boat. Both banks of the stream were lined with the perfume-burning on the vessel.

But Ferrero Plutarch to the contrary notwithstanding, says: "Archaeologists have discovered in Rome, the Spartan lives of its great nobles, the sternness of its laws and its barbarism compared with the splendor and refinement of Alexandria, which he described as the Paris of the ancient world. He quoted the words of Plutarch showing the way in which Cleopatra was made to sympathize with the Roman cause by being housed in a golden chariot, with sails of purple and oars of silver, and the dip of the oars was rhythmic to the sound of the flutes and the music of the lyre. She herself, the queen, wondrously clad as Venus, was lying under an awning, gold embroidered. Boys dressed as Cupid stood by her side, gaily waving fans to refresh her. Her maidens, every one beautiful and clad as a Naiad or a Grace, directed the boat. Both banks of the stream were lined with the perfume-burning on the vessel."

REQUIRE A MAJORITY TO CHOOSE. One Amendment Suggested to the Present Primary Law. GASTON, Or., Jan. 24.—(By the Editor.)—The direct primary nominating system in some form has, without doubt, come to stay. Judging by the results we have seen in some minor candidates, Governor Chamberlain for some of the most important offices, the present system is not satisfactory. With a multiplicity of candidates who can be easily defeated, the voters are not voluntarily, a small organized minority can nominate their candidate with only a fraction of the party vote. This minority, if it is not a majority, is not a candidate he may be, then becomes the nominee with whom the party must stand or fall. This is intolerable and must be remedied.

Washington has adopted the plan of voting for a second choice where there are more than two candidates. The objection to this plan is that it is cumbersome and slow and that it always favors a minority candidate. Where there are two or three strong candidates, the second choice voters of each faction will vote for the candidate of their own party. Governor Cosgrove owes his election to this fact.

It seems to me a better plan would be to require a majority of the voters to elect local and county officers. Then in case no one receives a majority on first ballot, require the two leading candidates to compete in a second election, held as soon as practicable. The majority will then nominate and the candidate can be said fairly to represent his party.

Irrepressible Conflicts. Chicago News. Democratic boss of New York is an irrepressible soul, Taft and he have nothing in common. A few evenings ago he met Charles Bass in a crowded hall and pounced upon him in reckless jocularity. "Hello-o-o, Charley," he cried. "How the deuce are you, eh? How's Her? How's the wife?"

How's the health? asked Finley, giving the hand of the Judge a perfunctory shake. Then, stepping back as to afford more room, he said in a high, clear, gravelly voice: "How's Justice? How's the personality as a member of Finley's exuberance."

Turn to Senator as Husband-Provider. Albany (N. Y.) Dispatch. Although Mrs. Olive Brown Sears, of Ithaca, N. Y., has a large estate in the Catskills, she has gone to Cornell College of Agriculture to study poultry, and every morning in company with 50 young farmers, she goes out to the poultry house to feed the chickens and to study them.