

The Oregonian

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Portland, Saturday, Feb. 6, 1909.

A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

By a heavy majority on Thursday the House passed Honorable's bill to submit to the electors of the state a proposal for a convention to frame a constitution for the state. Probably it will also pass the Senate and become a law.

There is reason to believe that the people now are ready to vote for a constitutional convention. The old constitution of 50 years has been practically abandoned. What is left of it is wholly at the mercy of a state legislative committee, which may be carried by a plurality vote in any election.

While it is not probable a convention would restore fully the old constitution, some features of which would no longer be deemed suitable to new conditions of the country, it pretty certainly would endeavor to make a certain number of changes in the present constitution, which now are in chaos or worse.

Since the formation of the old constitution there has been great and radical change of the general conditions of the country; enormous extension of the use of corporations in business affairs, with revolutionary changes in nearly all departments of industry, business and labor.

It could be settled, too, whether after our experience of past years the people desire to retain the features brought into prominence under the method established by initiative and referendum, or to return to the legislative or representative system, and power of nullification of what remains of the constitution at a single election by a plurality vote.

THE WELSH CASE. The enlightened decision of the United States Circuit Court in the case of Welsh against the Barber Asphalt Company in no sense sustains the principle of automatic compensation for injured workmen.

OUR INLAND EMPIRE GUESTS. More than 200 residents of Spokane and surrounding territory will reach Portland this morning on the Southern Pacific.

GROWTH OF A GREAT INDUSTRY. Livestock men from east, west, north and south of Portland gathered in this city this week at the meeting of the Oregon Pure-Bred Livestock Association.

considerable extent responsible for the location at Portland of the mammoth Swift packing plant, and from that source there will be an ever-increasing demand for all of the cattle, hogs and sheep that can be produced in the entire territory tributary to this city.

THE MOVEMENT IS HALTED. Secretary Ellhu Root, upon his election to the Senate by the Legislature of New York a few days ago, made a speech which contained this passage: I am opposed to the direct election of Senators.

THE UPROAR OF THE JAPANESE. The uproar in some of our Pacific States about the Japanese is discreditable to their intelligence. It is the work of men of the lowest order of our electorate.

THE PAINFUL INCIDENT. It illustrates the Perils of Direct Nominations. An insult of considerable magnitude has been put upon the people of Wisconsin by Senator La Follette.

A REMARKABLE PROPHECY. A satirical sketch, printed last September, forecasted great events. (Shortly after Mr. Harriman returned to New York from his Oregon vacation last summer, the New York Journal of Commerce printed a satirical sketch on "Edward K. Harriman, Commander-in-Chief of the numerous railroads Mr. Harriman has picked up since through his purchases.")

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ARGENTINE WHEAT SHIPMENTS THIS week reached the enormous total of 5,112,000 bushels. These shipments, which amount to 1,000,000 bushels more than the total from these two countries up to more than 8,000,000 bushels, a figure so far above the weekly requirements of the United Kingdom, toward which most of it is directed, that it is small wonder the foreign market is sluggish in response.

THE RECKLESS GAMBLERS' CLUTCH ON California's throat has been loosened; the passage of the anti-betting bill is a long step forward toward decency and morality in the Golden State.

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Mr. Dooley IN THE Sunday Oregonian TOMORROW After an absence of three years, Finley Peter Dunne, whose conversations with Mr. Hennessy have made the English-speaking world laugh, has come back to his first love—the newspaper. In the Sunday Oregonian tomorrow he will have a characteristic letter on "Our Retiring President," in which he indulges in his well-known satire. "Mr. Dooley" will contribute regularly to The Sunday Oregonian.