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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1909.

SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES.

There seems much reason to fear that the municipal business of the City of Portland will fall into a most troublesome and practically inextricable muddle, as the result of the voting on the multitude of subjects that will go to the electorate in June. It is wholly impossible to foresee what the result will be, since the new charter proposed on the one hand, and a score or more of amendments to the present charter offered on the other, are directly in conflict. Moreover, alternative propositions are offered in the new charter itself, whose intricacies will defeat or nonplus the research of ordinary intelligence. What will be the effect of the adoption of the charter of fifteen, and of the adoption of all or any of the large number of amendments for changes proposed by others, and submitted by resolution of the Common Council, utterly at variance with the charter itself and with the proposed charter, if not with each other?

For example: The new charter proposes to distribute the executive and administrative business of the city among six bureaus, at the head of each of which shall be a member of the Council. The Executive Board is to be abolished. One of these bureaus is to have control of the whole business of water supply. Section 227 of the new, as well as of the old, charter goes into detail about the management; and in the new charter radical changes are proposed to accommodate the provisions to the general spirit and purposes of the document. But in the new charter alternative propositions are offered which vary greatly, and the elector is to decide between them; and the one that may receive the largest vote is to prevail. On these subjects men will vote blindly, if they vote at all. And if they fear to vote, others will vote, who have no knowledge, yet no fear or scruple.

Question is whether Section 227, which is concerned with administration of the water supply, shall be formulated in one way or another. Are we to vote for this method or that? It requires close examination of two intricate propositions—or of one intricate proposition and its intricate alternative. Representative or republican government, under democratic forms, and for democratic purposes, is based on the idea that the whole electorate may not be so well prepared to examine and decide as representatives chosen for the purpose. But now it is assumed that every elector, every voter, will know all principles, all details and all consequences.

For which of the two propositions, as to supply of water and administration of the supply, offered in the new charter, will you vote, and why? A pamphlet of nearly 200 pages has been published, which contains these propositions, with a multitude of others. We shall have luck doubtless, in the solution or outcome; at least we shall hope for it. But who can foresee consequences? It is impossible. Therefore, changes in the orderly movement of public affairs should be made slowly. Improvement must be made; progress must be made. But in case of the new remedies, most of which are remedies of tentative kind, there always should be caution. In the affairs of the state there always are practices, or courses, that need reform. But it is a most critical and delicate business. We are apt to produce greater evils than we cure. And so, as Burke finely says, we should be as cautious and as full of solicitude in this business as when we approach the wounds of a father.

One of the alternatives proposed by the new charter will require all new water bonds and interest thereon to be paid from taxation of property; and moreover, that the City of Portland is to pay into the water fund $50,000 a year, also raised from taxation of property. This would throw the whole burden of water supply on the owners of property; and such income as might be obtained from water supply would go to new extensions, for the benefit of tenants, or for new or suburban districts. The alternative is that the interest and principal are to be paid from the water rates, as heretofore—which undoubtedly is the juster way. How is this to be decided? On one side people who have supplied themselves with water and built up their property, are to be taxed for supply of water to others. On the other side, people who want supply of water at expense of the older parts of the city are to be given opportunity for it; but if they seize it most surely it will recoil on them. Question is, therefore, on principles of justice and economic right, which policy ought to prevail? The tenant, in the central districts, will be as much concerned in it as the owner of the property; for if these unusual changes are to be established, rents must be raised to compensate them.

But this isn't the whole muddle; for here is a proposition submitted through the Council by a body of citizens for an initiative act to abolish the Water Board, the Park Board and Health Board by consolidation of the same with the Executive Board, and to make the principal and interest of the new water bonds and the cost of laying water mains payable out of the water fund, instead of by general or local assessment. Suppose this should carry, and the new charter should carry, and the whole business should get an affirmative vote—which is not unlikely. Where, then, should we find ourselves? Doubtless many who vote carelessly or waywardly would say, "No matter where."

In all this entanglement there is possibility of infinite difficulty, obstruction, cost and delay. No man can see a way through it. Before we get done with it we shall find out whether the people, acting in a mass, without possibility of deliberation, can make better laws for themselves than they can obtain through the representative system.

NORTH CAROLINA'S CELEBRATION.

Proclamation of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, in May, 1775, more than one year before the Declaration at Philadelphia, is a well-attested fact; and much of the phraseology of the former was repeated in the latter. The Legislature of North Carolina, in 1831, ordered an investigation of the Mecklenburg Declaration, and the result was so convincing that May 20 was made a state holiday. This is the occasion, or anniversary, that President Taft now attends.

The resolutions adopted at Mecklenburg in May, 1775, have been preserved—though the book that contained the original draft was destroyed by fire at Raleigh, in April, 1800.

The newspaper copy contains expressions identical with those wrought later into the draft presented by Jefferson at Philadelphia. For examples: "We, the citizens of Mecklenburg County, do hereby dissolve the political bands that have connected us with the mother country." "We do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people; are, and of right ought to be, a sovereign and self-governing association." "To the maintenance of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual co-operation, our lives, our fortunes and our most sacred honor." Autographs of the members of the committee that drew up the Declaration are preserved in the archives of North Carolina.

There is no reason to doubt North Carolina's claim to this document for priority, nor the fact that when Jefferson drew up the Declaration at Philadelphia, a year later, this document was before him; nor again the fact that he drew upon it for ideas and expressions that he embodied in the draft made for the Continental Congress. But Jefferson's draft was not so brief as his copy. He loaded it up with a lot of his so-called philosophical verbiage, which weakened rather than improved the Mecklenburg declaration.

MR. TAFT AT PETERSBURG.

As Mr. Taft suggested in his speech at Petersburg, the difference between a tariff of $2 a thousand laid on lumber for revenue and the same tariff laid for protection may not amount to much. Whatever motive the Congressman who votes for the duty has in his secret heart, the effect on the price of lumber and the comfort of the consumer will be substantially the same. His theories will not alter the effect of his deeds. This is an unhappy law of the universe which applies in other fields besides tariff legislation. Still, the difference between a $2 tax for revenue and a $2 tax for protection is not quite so obscure as that between tweedledee and tweedledum. We may remark, for one thing, that it will produce the protection, while the revenue it will not produce. It has grown a little wearisome to reiterate the obvious truth that a tariff which prohibits importation cannot possibly yield revenue, and yet Congressmen go on gravely denying it. One is almost forced to conclude that Congress has a special code of facts and natural laws, and even morality, for its own exclusive use of which the rest of the world knows nothing.

Mr. Taft seems to think that the Southern Congressmen who advocate a $2 tariff on lumber "for revenue" obey a mandate from their constituents. The newspapers may reproach them, he says, for deserting the sacred cause of free trade, but probably the Congressmen "came about as close to knowing what their constituents at home want as do the leading papers of the same community." It is difficult to agree with the President on this point. Congressmen cannot usually find out what their constituents want by any magical process or by intuition. They must reach the knowledge through some medium, and the only medium available in most cases is the newspapers. It is a fact that most members of Congress study their home papers with particular care, in order to keep themselves informed of what is going on in their districts and how their constituents feel. How could a man spending his time in Washington enveloped in the mists of delusion and intrigue which notoriously surround the Capitol know as much as the local papers in his district of his constituents' wants?

It is quite likely that the Southern Congressmen who have deserted the principles of their party and consented to vote for extortionate duties on lumber and other articles do know what some of their constituents want. There are a few sawmills in Alabama, and their owners have undoubtedly made it exceedingly clear to Congressmen just what they want in the way of a duty. The $2 a thousand on lumber will put a handsome sum into their pockets at the expense of the people who build houses and barns. This sum will accrue to them without any particular exertion on their own part of either brain or muscle. It will come as an easy blessing obtained by the use of the power of the Government to extort money from their neighbors. The Southern Congressman who votes for a high tariff on lumber will do so because he has listened to the seductive persuasions of the little band of sawmill men, but he does not dare to confess to the great body of his constituents that this is his reason. He does not dare to tell them that he has helped make it more expensive for them to shelter themselves and their cattle in order that the lumbermen may grow rich a little faster. So he invents a fable for their bewilderment in the hope that they will be fools enough to believe it. He tells his wondering constituents that he has voted for a tariff on lumber which will prevent any importations of lumber for the sake of the revenue which it will produce.

In spite of his admiration for the intuitional knowledge of their constituents' wants which these Southern Congressmen possess, Mr. Taft does not agree with them on the subject of the lumber tariff. He says he "is not in favor of the $2 tariff on lumber for any purpose." He is not in favor of it for revenue purposes, because he has sense enough to know that it would produce a great deal less revenue than the dollar tariff of the Payne bill. He does not favor it on the ground of protection, because he knows that the American lumberman needs no protection. To a man whom the Lord has given standing timber in superabundance, water power and coal accessible and exhaustless, and the most intelligent labor in the world, protection is entirely superfluous. His demand for it shows either that he does not know how to use his natural advantages or that he is not satisfied with a reasonable return for his exertions, but desires to rob somebody else. Historians of the future will recount with contempt how the Almighty gave the American people coal, ore, petroleum, timber and every other natural resource in quantities never before paralleled, and how this people, instead of taking the good of what the Lord had given them, imposed heavy taxes upon the use of it, which they paid out of their own pockets, while a few privileged citizens and the inhabitants of other countries reaped the benefit. Nothing quite so idiotic has been seen in the history of the world before, and yet we are in the habit of boasting of our National shrewdness. Some of us are shrewd, but it is not those who submit to tariff extortion. While Mr. Taft was discoursing on fools, as he did last Wednesday, he might well have added a few words about that vast category of them who cheerfully pay tariff taxes for the benefit of the trust barons in America and the European consumers.

PRAYER AND THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT.

The debate about the efficacy of prayer is useless. As the man thinks, so is he. One can't make the rule for another. Strong men believe their success depends on their own judgment and effort. Others feel they need help and support which they may obtain through prayer. Cromwell was a deeply religious man, but he didn't rely on prayer. He commanded his men both to trust in God and keep their powder dry.

But the truth is that dependence on the power of prayer and on intervention of the deity is very apt to enfeeble effort, in ordinary life.

If the belief in a religion is strong, and if it has no restraint, it becomes fierce and intolerant. No matter what the form or denomination of the religion is. Any form of it, having power, will persecute. Progress in toleration and peace and liberty is made only through doubt and skepticism.

Never has any religion, not even the religion of the Turk today, been more intolerant than Christianity—of course through perversion of the teaching of Jesus, which itself was a protest against formalism and intolerance,—a protest that cost him his life. Ever since, in the name of him who thus was put to death as an unbeliever, people have been proscribed for unbelief; and tens of thousands have been put to death for liberty of religious opinion, as he was.

In his name men and women still maintain by exhortation and prayer an exclusive spirit of religion, and are so sincere in it that they would still persecute "unbelievers," if they could. The like can still be done in Russia, in the name of Jesus, and in Turkey, in the name of Mahomet. But intelligent skepticism has destroyed it, in Western Europe and in America. It is this spirit of skepticism that has made the world fit to live in. It got the ascendancy in Northern Europe long ago, and thence passed to America. Now it has obtained the ascendant in France and Italy, and has begun the redemption of Spain.

Prayer may have a use and function for support of the individual spirit. That is for the closet. It is not a matter for public debate. When it becomes a function of political life it is dangerous. It runs into cant and intolerance, and it would become an agent of ineffable mischief but for the spirit of skepticism.

It doesn't become Protestantism to sneer at skepticism, for the root of Protestantism is skepticism.

THE DESCHUTES DELAY.

The United States Land Commissioner has announced that his office would be unable to act on the Harriman application for right of way for the upper sixty miles of the Deschutes Railroad before June 6. On that date Secretary Ballinger will rule on the motion for review of his recent decision dismissing the protest of private power companies against the granting of any right of way for a railroad up the Deschutes Canyon. Considering the almost numberless years that we have waited for a railroad into Central Oregon, this additional delay will hardly make much difference. The interesting point for Portland and for all of Oregon, however, is what we may expect in the way of delays after the decision of June 6 is rendered.

The Harriman interests are pledged to immediate construction of the railroad up the Deschutes Canyon as soon as right-of-way difficulties shall be disposed of. No other provisions have been mentioned as standing in the way of early construction of the road, and with this sole remaining obstacle removed there is no possible way by which Mr. Harriman can refuse to proceed, unless he wishes the people of Oregon to lose all faith in his promises. The increasing pressure of competition in the Pacific Northwest, with the necessity for opening up new territory to supply long-haul traffic for his main lines, however, is an even greater incentive for construction of this road than could ever be offered by public opinion. Some criticism has been made over the persistent attempts of the Harriman interests to enter Central Oregon by way of the Deschutes Canyon, instead of by an extension of the Columbia Southern or the Corvallis & Eastern, both of these routes being under Harriman control and offering opportunities for reaching Central Oregon at much less expense than would be involved in the costly line up the Deschutes Canyon.

In view of the ever-increasing tendency of American railroads to get down to water-level grades, this criticism is hardly just. Mr. Harriman has made his world-wide reputation as a rebuilder of railroads, and with him water-level grades and elimination of curves are almost a hobby. The proposed line up the Deschutes would be strictly in keeping with his water-level route along the Columbia and along the Snake. By such a route, and by no other, can the big freight tonnage which will develop in Central Oregon be hauled out to the north as economically as it could move southward over the lines which are already reaching up into the state from California. The people of Oregon are not unmindful of the value of water power and irrigation projects, but these interests, which are said to be responsible for the interference with the railroad plans, are small in comparison with the benefits which will immediately follow construction of a water-level railroad into the greatest agricultural region that remains undeveloped in the United States today.

June 6, the date on which this decision is to be rendered, will be awaited with great interest by the people of Portland and of Central Oregon. If no definite action is taken at that time, the commercial organizations of the city should immediately get busy and ascertain the cause for these delays. Once definitely located, it would seem that sufficient pressure could be brought to bear to settle the matter speedily. The destinies of an empire are at stake, and delays are costly and aggravating.

With that fine consideration for the public good that is noticeable in the sugar trust when it advances the price of sugar as soon as the demand for preserving season becomes heavy, the Puget Sound transportation companies have advanced the fare from Seattle to Victoria from $1 to $5 for the round trip. The war has been on for many months, and at times the rate has fallen as low as 25 cents; but, as the vanguard of fair visitors began to appear, the dove of peace, which was supposed to be off on a long, long flight, came hurriedly back, and thus appears another means for extracting a few extra dollars from the Easterners who come out to visit the great Northwest.

"Skinny" Madden, president of the Associated Building Trades Council of Chicago, and two of his pals are under arrest, charged with conspiracy to extort money. According to the testimony, Mr. Madden, who has for years been a bright and shining light in union labor circles in Chicago, was paid $1500 for calling off a strike which should not have been ordered. This popular method by which labor leaders bartered the rights of their followers is said to have originated in San Francisco, but since the arrest and conviction of Mayor Schmitz the practice has been discontinued except in a quiet, unobtrusive manner.

It's a dull day in Olympia in these "parlous" times when some new form of official dereliction, scandal, jobbery or robbery does not come to light. A good many years ago a prominent city official in Portland whose knowledge on mythological matters was somewhat limited, in a heated protest against some alleged illegal practice that had been complained of, vehemently declared that it was high time to "clean out these Oregon stables." It would seem that the Evergreen State was offering a promising field for some modern Hercules to "clean out the Washington stables."

Do owners of property abutting streets which are to be graded wish the city to appropriate the earth that is removed—though the owners are required to pay for removing it—or do they think they should have it for their own uses? This question comes up on initiative amendment—yes, or no. Is the city to appropriate for itself the earth it forces you to pay for removing—even though you fill with it on your own land? That such a question is to be voted on presents one of the beauties of the initiative system.

Rev. Sidney Goodman, pastor of a fashionable congregation at Atlantic City, N. J., proposes to have a church for men only, where they can smoke during service, with clubrooms, a stage for vaudeville and a moving-picture outfit. Religion seems in danger of becoming a joke in parts of this country, and when the American people weary of its thousand and one trimmings, they will go back to the single-issue hellfire doctrine for relief.

The need of a Deputy Clerk of the Municipal Court of Portland, for which initiative petition has been filed, is not apparent. There is a clerk already who gets a good salary. But the man who holds such an office usually wants a deputy to do his work, so he will have nothing to do but hold the office. Good deed to vote "No" on this proposition to provide for the appointment of a useless deputy at $100 a month.

The call of the bright sunshine lured a trusty from the state prison Tuesday, but the chill air that night and next sent him knocking at the gates for admission at midnight, and the kind-hearted officials took him in. The weak impulse that caused his crime of larceny probably led him to elope, and, naturally, to return when slight suffering began. There is no hope for such people.

There is no need of any repeal of "the law" as to Statement One. It is not a law at all, but only a demagogic suggestion, that even gudgeons will not bite at another time. Republicans will not wish to continue to elect Democrats and Populists to the United States Senate.

The late W. S. Byers, of Pendleton, the man who put the town on the flour sack and made it, never took a vacation. He had the working habit and kept it up for half a century. Yet he enjoyed life in his own way.

Now that the Thompson heirs have at last got their fortune, their troubles are beginning. Yet some people are so constituted that they can have trouble even without money.

Brother Edgar P. Hill was not elected moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly. He is not so big a man there as he thought he was here.

Some day a man named Johnson may be able to whip an O'Brien, but not yet. It will take a McSomething or O'Something else to do it.

Mrs. Tucker will have to get along with $2000 a year. Colonel Tucker is prepared to testify that she cannot get along with anything.

Mr. Kellaher won't get out for Mr. Albee; Mr. Albee won't get out for Mr. Kellaher. Go it, Betsy; go it, bear!

Meanwhile, Mr. Simon is saying very little, but is largely increasing his woodpile.

A few days of hot sunshine will bring out the roses.

There will be a June flood—of roses.

MR. POLLOCK AND SHAKESPEARE

Absurdity of the Critic's Remark That the Great Bard Has Passed.

PORTLAND, May 18.—(To the Editor.)—I have read with amusement Channing Pollock's argument under the title, "Shakespeare Draws No More," in your issue of yesterday. From Mr. Pollock's opening statement I infer he wishes to suggest people would no more desire to go and see a Shakespearean play than they would go down the Columbia River in one of Robert Fulton's river boats.

Is it not rather an absurd argument to compare the literature of a country with the means of conveyance? It has been argued that the great writers are all passed, and while I cannot agree with this, it would be absurd to believe Shakespeare was not to be numbered among the great ones—almost as absurd as some of your interstate commerce laws.

We don't want plays by Shakespeare, but rather by modern and more sensible writers, critic, author and writer Pollock would have us believe. As sensible an argument it would be to decry the old pictures, the work of the old composers.

Perhaps Mr. Pollock would prefer the comic supplement to the works of Raphael, the masterpieces of Titian or the compositions of a Turner. Possibly to him George Cohan's music is nectar as compared with Wagner, Sullivan or Strauss.

Old and deservedly famous statuary must be abhorrent to the decrier of the master mind, for his taste one would believe a billiken would satisfy his inmost longings.

"Were Shakespeare among us," asks Pollock, "would he not be the first to realize the changed state of sentiment and sensibility?"

To that I must return with a query. Is the change for better or for worse? Is there a writer today who can build the characters created by Shakespeare? As complete as his?

Emphatically, no!

Is there any writer who shows so much respect for womankind? Must not his mother have been a beautiful woman, with a beautiful mind? Shakespeare has a beautiful mind. He thinks and speaks no evil of a woman or womankind.

In an address Channing Pollock delivered before the Society of Dramatic Authors, he went further than saying Shakespeare does not draw. He declaimed that Shakespeare was done, he was no further good for theater or stage. He was wordy and uninteresting.

Shakespeare uninteresting! Ye gods! I wonder if this highly, self-esteemed gentleman bearing two such names as his, names highly respected both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, ever thought what Shakespeare means to an actor devoted to his work. Can he comprehend what Shakespeare is to the whole life study of an actor?

I certainly think the actor is the man to decide if Shakespeare is a thing of the past—not a new-born scribbler of melodramatic twaddle.

One can understand Mr. Pollock's disappointed feelings by remembering his own play was not a success. But why should he be ungrateful on that score and revile his schoolmaster, just because he, the pupil, has failed to pass his examinations?

Might I advise Mr. Pollock to follow more closely the teachings of his great master, Shakespeare, and then I think we will have the good luck in his work I wish him with all my heart.

GEORGE T. VIVIAN

PARTY RECOVERING ITS SANITY

Outside Comment on the Political situation in Portland.

Los Angeles Times.

Up in Oregon an appeal has been taken from the court of the people crazy to the people sane. A wave of radical fanaticism swept over Oregon politics a couple of years ago which carried everything before it, as a cyclone on a Kansas prairie. The older Oregon of pioneer days, inhabited by an intelligent people most from the Atlantic seaboard, reaching from Maine to Maryland, was marked by an even unusual degree of conservative thought. The original Oregon Constitution was, in many ways, a model. Pretty nearly all the important principles in that old organic law were carried away in the populistic storm of a couple of years ago. It was a marvelous thing that 58 per cent of the people of the state voted for the extremely queer notions of a vagrant politician named U'Ren, whose immediate forebears and himself had tramped the world from a Welsh blacksmith shop to the Legislative halls of Oregon.

In a momentary fit of frenzy the people adopted the fads of this wandering political mountebank, and they have been trying to conduct their political life under the provisions of the new Constitution mostly devised and prompted by U'Ren. They have found it a hard road to travel. It looks today, after two years' practice, a very different thing from what it was represented to be by its promulgator and promoter.

Under the new light cast upon these queer fads by practical experiment, the people of Oregon have evidently awakened from the nightmare which was oppressing them. Portland is about to have a municipal election and it is plain that U'Renism is to receive on the banks of the Willamette its first setback when that election takes place.

One of the pet notions of this tramp statesman was the elimination of everything bearing the mark of party. The Republicans of the state of Oregon, under the hallucination which afflicted all the people there, surrendered their great advantage in being the dominant party of the state by yielding up their trade-mark at the dictation of the great political revolutionist. They have now reap the worth of the advantage they gave up, and being, in spite of their blindness, real Republicans at heart, believing that Republican principles are the truest American principles and the best principles under which America can be governed, whether in National or state matters, they propose to get back their rights.

A straight fight is to be joined in Portland in the coming municipal election between the Republican organization and the faddists of every name. This is evidenced by the selection for the office of Mayor of Joseph Simon. What the result of the fight will be remains to be seen. The thing which interests us so far away is the recovery of political sanity by a very large portion of the community in Portland.

The Power of Prayer.

PORTLAND, May 20.—(To the Editor.)—I have taken notice of the discussion in your columns about the power of prayer. It may be a very good thing.

But I have noticed that whenever men like Brother Thorburn Ross get in on a skin game and rob somebody, they attribute their success to the power of prayer.

And all students of history know that they, in all ages, who have been controlled most by sentimental religiosity have been guilty of greatest crimes. The Turks, massacring the Armenian Christians, pray to Allah, hourly, to give them strength for new slaughter. J. W. B.

Molasses Tangles Up Mail Matter.

Indianapolis News.

A man near Corunna, Ind., sent a gallon of molasses by mail, paying $1.28 postage on it. Part of the mails are thrown off, and the molasses being in one of these packs, the result was disastrous to the other mail matter.

PORTLAND REPUBLICANS.

These Remarks Show Insight and Are Worth Attentive Consideration.

Oregon Observer, Grants Pass.

The Portland city election will be held next month. The primary nominating election was held on May 8.

The primary law has so far given Portland a Democratic administration not at all satisfactory to the bulk of the taxpayers. This year the Republicans took the bull by the horns, and ventured means to overcome the vagaries of the primary law. A convention was called to select civic candidates, and a full ticket was chosen and recommended for the nomination. Joseph Simon, a former United States Senator from Oregon, was recommended for Mayor. These alleged Republicans who swear by the primary law, apparently in the hope of personal benefit from it, were indignant because of the recommending convention, which they denounced as a machine; but nevertheless, a little clique of them got together and recommended A. G. Rushlight for nomination as the opponent of the principle of recommending candidates and the champion of the primary law in its nude imbecility. There were two other Mayoralty candidates for nomination. One of them was on his merits without regard to conventions or primary law. The other hoped to win by posing as a great admirer of the U'Ren fake.

Now, there were 28,000 registered Republican votes, and less than one quarter that many Democratic votes, indicating that some thousands of Democrats had practiced the old trick of registering as Republicans. These Democrats would, of course, vote solid against the convention nominee and in favor of one or other of the primary law candidates. Nevertheless, the Republican convention nominee not only received the popular nomination, but obtained more votes than all his three opponents together, notwithstanding the disguised Democratic vote. There is only one meaning to that outcome, and it is that intelligent Republican voters have weakened on the primary law, are tired of incapables who cheek themselves forward, and are glad of the opportunity to support a competent man.

Yet the inconsistent, and one might say unprincipled, Republican upholders of the primary law, are not willing to accept the choice of the Republican voters at the primary elections, and propose to bring out an alleged "independent" candidate to defeat, if possible, the will of the Republican voters as expressed at the primary election. Isn't it utterly inconsistent and altogether contemptible? This primary law breeds all sorts of "cussedness."

To people who desire honest elections the above is a cheerful message from the Portland primary. But let us not yet be too sure. In two former elections Republicans, candidates for Mayor of Portland received splendid nominations at the primary elections only to be defeated at the regular election. But there was this difference, that on the two former occasions disguised Democrats helped to nominate the winning Republican candidates at the primary and afterwards helped to defeat them at the regular election. On the late occasion, Mr. Simon received the nomination in spite of the disguised Democratic vote, and has therefore nothing to lose from it. If that Democratic vote be subtracted from the vote polled by Mr. Simon's three alleged Republican opponents, it will appear that of the actual Republican vote cast the convention candidates received about two-thirds.

In regard to the Republican convention ticket for the other civic offices, with one exception all the candidates recommended were nominated.

The Democrats nominated Judge M. G. Munly, and he will, of course, get the full Democratic vote. He may, too, get a considerable vote from disgruntled alleged Republicans, and perhaps win. But at any rate the Portland Mayoralty election next month will show pretty clearly where real Republicans stand in regard to the primary law.

LINCOLN IN 1848.

How His Oratory Struck a Reporter Sixty-one Years Ago.

Taunton (Mass.) Herald-News.

Abraham Lincoln visited Taunton in 1848. Some of the older residents of this city remember the occasion, but the details of the visit and the impression it made have become dimmed. Indeed practically long has the lapse of years. In its report of the meeting the Bristol County (Mass.) Democrat said on September 28, 1848:

The Taylor men were well entertained at Union Hall by an address from the Hon. Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois. The address as well as the speaker was such as to give unlimited satisfaction to the disheartened Taylorites. Such a treat it is indeed seldom their good luck to get, and they were in ecstacies! At former meetings their spleen were too low for a good hearty cheer, but on this occasion "the steam was up." It was reviving to hear a man speak as he believed what he was saying and had a grain or two of feeling mixed up with it; one who could not only speak highly of Taylor but could successfully unravel with indignation or burst in hatred on the Free Soilers. When political spite runs high nothing can be too pungent or severe, and the speaker is appreciated in proportion as his statements are rash and unscrupulous. So it was on this occasion.

The speaker was far inferior as a reasoner to others who hold the same views, but then he was more unscrupulous, more facetious and with his sneers he mixed up a good deal of humor. His awkward gesticulations, the ludicrous management of his voice and the comical expression of his countenance all conspired to make his hearers laugh at the mere anticipation of the joke before it appeared. But enough concerning the speaker; let us examine his arguments.

LOOK TO THE CONSEQUENCE

The Effect of the So-called McKenna Ordinance on the Liquor Trade.

PORTLAND, May 20.—(To the Editor.)—Permit me a word of protest against the proposed excise bill, or McKenna ordinance, as it is known.

While there are many inconsistencies in this measure, I would call attention, at this time, to one unjust feature which takes from the wholesaler the privilege of selling to the family trade, as he has done in the past.

As a wholesale liquor dealer, I have for 27 years paid taxes into the city treasury and now it is proposed to deprive me of the right to sell to a private citizen a case of wine or a dozen of beer or lager. On the other hand, the dealer from Seattle or San Francisco or Vancouver can ship in his goods in any quantity yet contributes nothing, either in taxes or license to the revenues of our city.

We wholesalers of Portland pay the taxes and the dealers from other cities do the business.

I submit this feature of the bill to all fair-minded people and ask, is it just or is there anything gained by it, in the aggregation of the liquor traffic in our city?

CHARLES KOHN.

This Paper Always Genuine.

Albany (Or.) Democrat.

There is one good thing about The Oregonian, whatever people may say about some features of it. It keeps out of questionable schemes and seeks to build up a patronage on its merits as a newspaper along reputable lines, without sensation. Other papers can have as many heads reaching across the sheet as they please. The Oregonian keeps going ahead with its single heads, giving the news with remarkable reliability and faithfulness. Its enterprise is genuine.

CITY ELECTION MATTERS

Explanation of Measures Pertaining to Appropriations.

The Oregonian will publish from day to day, explanations of the numerous measures that are to be voted on in the city election June 7, under the initiative and referendum. The following group of subjects include four measures relating to salaries of municipal officers.

Of the proposed charter amendments submitted by the special committee appointed by the Council, four relate to salaries of municipal officers. Provision is made for an additional clerk of the Municipal Court at $100 a month and authority is conferred on the Council to increase the salaries of the City Engineer, City Attorney and City Treasurer. Under the present charter the salary of these officials is fixed at $2400 per annum.

The proposed amendments touching on the salary of these officials propose that the City Council shall fix the salary of each and that such salary shall be "not less than $2400 per annum, payable monthly out of the general fund in the same manner as other salaries are paid." Two years ago proposed amendments to the charter increasing the salary of the City Treasurer and City Attorney from $2400 to $3600 were rejected by the voters. Members of the Council are of the opinion that the services rendered by these three officials is worth more to the city than $2400 per annum. Before the compensation of either of these officers can be increased, the charter must be amended and authority for such increased compensation conferred on that body.

An additional clerk of the Municipal Court is asked that the work of that department may be facilitated. The duties of this proposed clerk will be to be in attendance on the Police Court and be available as an officer of the court at night when there is need for issuing warrants in criminal cases. In this regard the additional clerk is to have the authority of Municipal Judge in issuing such warrants. In support of this amendment it is argued that under the present organization of the Municipal Court there is frequently annoying delay in the issuance of warrants of arrest, entailed by reason of the fact that it is necessary to hunt up the clerk of the Municipal Court before the warrants can be issued properly. The amendment provides a salary of $100 a month for the deputy clerk, who will serve as clerk of the Police Court and be in attendance at the City Jail for the discharge of his duties.

WHY FILTH PAYS IN NEW YORK

Sufferers From Depressed Nerves Are Numerous in Metropolitan Audiences.

Samuel Hopkins Adams in American Magazine.

It is on the neurotic side, I am convinced, that we shall find in part an explanation of the present dramatic tendency. New York is a city of abnormal and unhealthy nervous tension. The New Yorker works, keyed up to a strained pitch. After work ends the whole psychologic being droops. Nervously, the man is spent and flaccid. If you will track the average man of affairs after he leaves his business, you will find him making an alcoholic progress uptown from bar to bar. This does not mean that he is getting drunk. It means, simply, that he is striving to bring his depressed and fagged out nerves up to the concert pitch at which the normal person lives.

After dinner he is ready for amusement. Often it is gambling, the excitement of which keys him up. Or it is the theater. Of this he says: "I don't want to see anything that makes me think. I'm too tired. Let's take in something with go to it. What he really and unconsciously means is, not that he is too tired to think, but that he needs a mental cocktail; something that will spur his jaded nerve centers up again. Shock will do it; the appeal to the sensual and the animal within him will do it. Hence the success of the prurient drama, amidst a theater-going public largely composed of sufferers from depressed nerves.

Reflections of a Bachelor.

New York Press.

A way to live a long life is not to have a very good time doing it.

The reason hardly any man in the world can save money is bachelors don't have to and married men can't.

People who are married act as if it was against the law for either one of them ever to admit that the other was right about anything.

Making love to a girl so she feels you mean it is being able to say the same thing over several times just as if it was a new inspiration.

A woman's idea of law is a placard notice in a railroad station telling you what gate to go through; and of rules one of those cranky men in court who wants to annoy her by making her carry out her father's will.

Who Are Legal Voters?

Oregon Observer (Grants Pass).

Judge Bronaugh, of Portland, has given a decision that legal voters, who are not registered, are entitled to sign initiative petitions. This is an unfortunate decision, and is likely to lead to a great deal of fraud. Moreover, it is an anomaly, since no man in Oregon is a legal voter until registered, or unless certified to by six registered voters and freeholders under oath.

IN THE MAGAZINE SECTION OF THE

SUNDAY OREGONIAN

OREGON'S EXHIBIT AT THE SEATTLE FAIR

Display of grains makes one of the handsomest pictures ever created by man. What Oregonians and Eastern folk will see and admire.

IN THE HEART OF THE AFRICAN JUNGLE

Experiences and adventures that must befall Roosevelt when he strikes across the country.

ROSEBURG'S CARNIVAL OF STRAWBERRIES

Something new in the way of outdoor festivities that was unqualifiedly successful.

IS CONGRESS A CAREER OR AN INCIDENT?

Opinion of men of National fame as to how long a young man should serve.

AMERICA'S GREATEST HORSE BEFORE ROYALTY

The Emperor of Germany has invited the owner of Lou Dillon to exhibit the renowned trotter in Berlin.