# The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1909.


## THE PROPOSED CHARTER.

What are the electors to do with it? Will they vote to adopt it or to reject it? If adopted it will supersede the present charter, of course. It contains some features which The Oregonian would approve. Nevertheless, The Oregonian would advise rejection of it.

For two main reasons. First: It would create too many highly-paid officials. The Mayor would receive $6000 a year, and his secretary would receive $1800. The Councilmen (six) would receive $5000 a year each. Six bureaus would be created. At the head of each of them would stand a member of the Council. All the legislative and administrative business of the city would be concentrated in these bureaus. But the members of the Council, the nominal heads of the bureaus, would know nothing about the business. They would simply hold the offices, and rely on subordinates for knowledge and detail. To these deputies, if the capable men they should be, it would be necessary to pay high salaries. And to other executive and administrative subordinates, all the way down the line.

Under the proposed charter, the city, consequently, would be under control of a bureaucracy, over-officered and overpaid. And this bureaucracy would have absolute power, beyond restraint or appeal.

The second reason why The Oregonian would advise rejection of the proposed charter is this: These frequent changes should be avoided. Hardly has one charter been adopted till another is presented as a substitute. Let us at least "see where we are at," before we make further changes—especially radical changes.

Besides, there is immense uncertainty what the consequences would be. The proposed charter itself contains alternative propositions which the mass of the electors cannot take the time or make the effort to study. This embarrassment is further increased by offer on the ballot of a great number of propositions at variance with the proposed charter and with each other. The most careful, studious, intelligent and conscientious elector cannot tell what the effect of his ballot will be. This class of voters, generally, fearing mistake, will probably vote "No" on every proposition from the top to the bottom of the list. This certainly, unless one perfectly understands the proposition and approves its purpose and consequences, will be the safest way. And yet there are certain affirmative propositions which The Oregonian thinks should be adopted. One of them is for payment of principal and interest of the unissued $2,000,000 water bonds from the water fund, instead of by general or local taxation. Another is the proposal for the high bridge at or near Broadway, to unite the northern sections of the city.

But, to relieve their perplexity, since they don't know and can't find out what they ought to do, in an affirmative way, a multitude of conscientious voters will take refuge in the universal "No." There could be no more emphatic condemnation of this system of legislation, which requires the whole electorate to discriminate between and to pass upon contradictory and uncertain propositions, offered for enactment into law.

## MONEY PANICS.

A reader of The Oregonian inquires what was the cause of the financial panic of 1873. The credit of the United States, broken by the Civil War, had not been re-established. Our paper currency then was irredeemable. But men in business were making contracts in terms of money, on the gold basis. A group that had obtained, for the time, great power in finance, had "cornered" the gold then available, and to an extent controlled the paper currency, too. This group "worked it." The panic was one of the incidents of the transition from irredeemable paper to the gold money standard. That is, from a fictitious condition of money, to the money standard of the world.

The credit of the United States had been lost during the Civil War. This panic was one of the incidents that attended recovery of it.

The panic of 1893 was similar, in that it involved the basis or standard of money, yet much different in appearance and in detail. Question in 1893 was whether gold should continue to be the standard, or whether gold was to be lost and the standard shifted to silver. This doubt destroyed all credit and upset all business.

Different again was the panic of 1907. This time the money standard was not in dispute. But speculators who had obtained very large credit, and upon it great command of money, had gone to every kind of excess in speculation. A house of cards had been built up, which would collapse, of course, at point of greatest strain. It broke down on copper speculations, which had been carried to greatest of extremes.

In their effects all money panics seem to most people very much alike. But no two have precisely the same origin, and all are distinguished from each other by many incidents. All, however, are consequences of abuse of credit. Use of credit, within limits, is a great agent of progress. Abuse of credit upsets everything. Here again, as in all things, balance of human judgment is the controlling force. Wise men, in finance and business, don't lose their soundings.

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Initiative measures proposed for the city election contain many gems of statecraft and rhetoric. Sponsors of the measures tell us that is the fact, and examination proves it true. One of the jewels of verbiage is the following amendment to Section 73 of the charter, subdivision 45: (The Council has power and authority) "to make compulsory under this Charter to protect human life and to adopt and enforce the use of live-saving devices wherever the same insures safety to life." Now, wouldn't that jar a High School teacher of rhetoric or a Grammar School teacher? When crude and redundant English like this is all that visionary law-givers have to express their statecraft, is it any wonder that the proposed measures are conflicting, puzzling and some of them almost impossible of understanding?

## THE MAYORALTY CANDIDATES.

From present indications, so good judges declare, Mr. Simon will receive as many votes, or nearly as many, as all other candidates for the Mayoralty. Mr. Munly will get a large part of the Democratic vote, but not all of it. He is much concerned about "bossism," and presses his own claims on the ground that he is "no boss" and never will be one. With all respect to him, there is good reason why. Estimable man as he is, none yet has had confidence enough in his judgment, or been sufficiently impressed by his intellectual activity, to follow his leadership.

Neither Mr. Albee nor Mr. Kellaher stands for a definite purpose or policy. They represent only frayed-out fragments or rag-ends of Republican party faction, contending for nothing but some kind of position or advantage in future party movements. The heads of Kellaher and Albee were turned by the votes they got last year when they were elected to the State Senate—votes that came to them from the Republican side through party loyalty, since they were the "regular" candidates, and votes that came to them from the Democratic side because, having pronounced for "Statement One," Democrats expected to entrap them to vote for Chamberlain for the United States Senate, which actually came to pass. But most of the Democrats now are supporting Munly, and the great body of Republicans are giving their support to Simon. Albee and Kellaher, therefore, will "find where they live," next Monday.

Other candidates, those of the Socialist and Prohibitionist parties, will get a considerable aggregate vote, yet the whole vote of the city is likely to fall below 20,000, with distribution of which conjecture may busy itself in advance, how it will.

## IT IS A POSER.

Senator Bailey, of Texas, is reported in the Congressional Record as saying this, which certainly is worth reading:

> To Senators who think it a Democratic virtue to proclaim that they are free traders, I put this question: Suppose we should come into power at the next election? Suppose that a great change in public sentiment would elevate our candidate to the Presidency, return a majority to the House of Representatives and give us control of this body? Does any man imagine that we could keep a free trade pledge? No, sir! Obligated by the necessities of the Government, as we would be, to raise a vast sum of money we would be compelled to resort to collections through the custom-houses, and I warn Democrats who allow their imagination and their emotion to take possession of their judgment against the wrath of that day when we come into power and are unable to fulfill the rash promises which they make to the people.

Now, men and brethren, you see what problem the Democratic party finds itself confronted with. Is it worth while to turn to the Democratic party in expectation of free trade?

## TAFT AND THE REGULAR ARMY.

In his Memorial day speech at Gettysburg, Mr. Taft made some references to the regular Army of the United States which the people of the country ought to ponder thoroughly. The tendency to depreciate the profession of the soldier has run somewhat to an excess, and it is well enough for us to reflect how much we owe to him and how little we could get along without him either in peace or war.

Mr. Taft's reference to the services of the Regular Army in aiding the settlement of the West was particularly notable. Oregon still remembers her debt to the soldiers during the long and harrowing period of the Indian wars. Arizona, Wyoming, Washington and many other communities are under similar obligations. The record of the regular troops in warfare with the Indians has been excellent in almost every particular. They have been patient, forbearing and brave, and have endured hardships in a service where little glory was to be won with unbroken fortitude and without complaint. It is doubtful indeed whether the time will ever come when armies can be dispensed with, but if it ever should then we must contrive in some way to retain the training of the soldier for a portion of our youth or else there will be lost from the world a type of self-sacrifice and manly courage which seems to be obtainable in no other way.

## RECORD BUILDING PERMITS.

Portland building permits for the month closing yesterday reached a total of $1,142,800, and for the first five months of the year the total is $5,441,235, a gain of $1,400,000 over the corresponding period last year. Real estate transfers for the month were more than $3,250,000, the largest on record for the month of May. There is probably no other feature of our industrial operations which reflects so accurately the actual financial conditions as building permits. There has never been any speculative building in Portland, and whenever a permit is taken out, regardless of what class of building it may be for, it is practically a certainty that a tenant is waiting for the structure as soon as it will be completed. Building permit figures are accordingly of exceptional value, as showing the legitimate, healthy growth of the city.

By comparison with other figures of less than a decade ago, the striking growth of the city is shown. The total valuation of building permits issued for the entire year 1900 was $944,085, or nearly $200,000 less than the permits for the single month of May this year. Preparations for the 1905 Fair gave Portland's building operations their great start five years ago. In 1904 the permits reached a total of $4,029,225, and a year later, when the big show was on, the total was increased to $4,178,945 for the calendar year. It will be easily remembered that there were many predictions that this terrific pace could not be maintained after the Fair was over, but it is now pleasing to note that the value of the permits issued in the first five months of 1909 was more than $1,250,000 greater than the value of all permits issued during the entire year of the Lewis and Clark Exposition. As this record has been made in the face of a bad start, due to unfavorable climatic conditions in January and February, it is regarded as a certainty that the average will be easily maintained and probably exceeded, so that the year's total will be in excess of $13,000,000. It is a showing which, all things considered, will be difficult for any other Coast city to excel.

## TODAY AT SEATTLE.

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition will open at Seattle today. It is a great show, thoroughly representative of the community which stands sponser for it. Despite a few little jealousies ...at have cropped out, and endeavored to make it exclusively a Seattle affair, the exposition is not entirely for Seattle. It is an enterprise in which the whole Coast has an interest, and Portland and Oregon especially, will share with Seattle and Washington in the benefit which must certainly follow.

The exposition is entitled to the same generous support that the better element of Washington's population extended to the Lewis and Clark Exposition in this city. Our neighboring state profited largely by that exposition, and we will now profit by theirs. The knocker with a loud voice and a big hammer may attract more attention that the one who speaks softly in our praise, but the latter is generally more influential, and while our Rose Carnival may not receive from Seattle the support which in different circumstances would be accorded it, Portland will not forget her duty to the A.-Y.-P. Exposition.

## MIDDLE WEST ALONE GAINS.

The breezy air of confidence with which Spokane set out to overturn the existing system of jobbing freight rates in the West, about two years ago, has vanished. It has been replaced by an attitude of fear and trembling; the Spokane countenance is distorted by a look of terrible anxiety. Heedless of all warnings, uttered by her own jobbers more than two years ago, Spokane proceeded to saw off the limb on which she was seated, and not until the Interstate Commerce Commission rendered its decision, a few weeks ago, did the Inland Empire metropolis fully realize the serious nature of her predicament. Spokane fired the train to the powder magazine in the belief that it would blow the Coast jobbing cities off the commercial map, and leave Spokane alone in her glory in the Inland Empire trade. The blast "kicked back," however, and, while the Coast ports have been hurt by the result, Spokane will feel it worse than any other distributing point.

When the fight was opened, Spokane had only the Coast cities and her own protected jobbers to fight. She still has the original contestants, and must also fight the Interstate Commerce Commission, which through the agitation stirred up by Spokane, has shown the jobbers of the Middle West how they can enter a field from which Spokane's specially constructed jobbing zone barred them prior to the decision. Realizing that elimination of that protected jobbing zone has practically ruined, or threatens to ruin, the jobbing trade out of Spokane, the Spokesman-Review is now claiming that the fight was waged in the interest of the consumers in the territory served by the Spokane wholesalers. It is also urging a demand for a rate from the East to Spokane 15 per cent. lower than terminal rates.

It is certainly self-sacrificing and praiseworthy in a Spokane paper to endeavor to confer benefits on the consumers of the erstwhile protected zone at the expense of the Spokane jobbing interests. Unfortunately the elimination of the protected zone has demoralized Spokane's jobbing trade without in the slightest degree benefitting the consumers, who in the past have been served through the distributing center of Spokane. The reasons for this result are not far to seek. Under the old system Spokane jobbers purchasing heavily of all commodities and shipping them West in carload lots, received all the advantages of buying in large lots and also on freights. This enabled them to build up a big trade, more than 200 salesmen traveling out of the city in the distributive trade alone.

Elimination of Spokane's jobbing zone, which could not be avoided when the matter was brought before the Interstate Commerce Commission, has, in effect, made jobbing centers of every town within that 200-mile protected radius. No single one of these towns can do very much in buying and shipping in car lots, and the dealer must consequently buy in small lots, paying more for the goods and a higher freight rate in less than carload lots, thus absolutely preventing the consumer from reaping any benefits whatever by the shifting of the jobbing center from Spokane to the Middle West.

There is no denying that Portland has felt a harmful effect from the Spokane disturbance of rates, but by no possible chain of circumstances can we be made to suffer as much as the chief offender, on the eastern edge of the State of Washington.

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The limitations of mortal man are ever being unfolded to our gaze. Take for example, the mighty hunter who is now leaving a trail of blood through Africa. When the expedition was ready for the final photographs, it was believed to be perfectly equipped. Kermit had 300 pipes and enough tobacco and cigarette papers to last a year; there were ammunition and negative plates by the cartload. Everything, in fact, seemed to be complete—and yet, see what we are up against. Nairobi cables bring the vexatious news that Mr. Roosevelt's departure for Kijabo has been delayed three days, because many of the skins of the animals shot have not been packed. Think of an expedition, apparently otherwise complete and perfect in all its details, going into darkest Africa improperly provided with taxidermists. From the amount of killing that has been going on, it is clearly apparent that there could not be more than ten or twelve men engaged in taking care of the skins, or there would be no congestion, such as has prevented the march on Kijabo. The Smithsonian Institution should immediately rush to the front not less than fifty "skinners."

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Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canadian Prime Minister, is desirous of leaving the political field, but the pressure of the Liberal party leaders to have him remain is so strong that it is believed he will remain. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been a commanding figure in Canadian politics for many years, and whatever criticism his Conservative opponents may offer regarding his policies, the fact remains that during his administration, Canada has advanced more rapidly in population, wealth and general development, than at any previous period in her history. It will require a pretty big man to fill the position that will be vacated by the retirement of Sir Wilfrid.

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An energetic correspondent calls The Oregonian's attention to a slip of memory in quoting from Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of The Republic." The Oregonian printed it "In the Spring among the lilies," while, as every school child knows, it really runs "In the beauty of the lilies." This makes no difference with our point, however, which was that the birth of Jesus occurred at Christmas and not in the time of lilies. The correspondent referred to vigorously maintains that nobody knows when Jesus was born, but this is aside from the question. The common belief is well settled and that is the only thing of consequence in poetry. It is noteworthy that the great beauty of Julia Ward Howe's poem has obscured to the popular mind the defect in her chronology.

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The latest report from Cipriano Castro, deposed President of Venezuela, is that he is at Santander, Spain, a hopeless victim of morphine and under menace of paresis. The loss of practical power, the fact that he was compelled to flee the country which he once ruled, his exile from the land that he had come to consider his own, all this is as nothing compared to the tyranny under which he writhes, the tyranny of a habit, the horrors of which only the pen of a De Quincey could depict. The pity of mankind is indeed the due of a man completely at the mercy of a seductive, unconquerable destroying demon.

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The task of making a memorial speech at Gettysburg is, in the light of history, awesome. To essay a patriotic address upon that consecrated ground after Lincoln's immortal words is like essaying an apostrophe to light—after Milton or an apostrophe to the ocean after Byron. Lincoln's brief speech at Gettysburg on a memorial occasion makes the task of all who follow him one of supererogation, since he said in simple, unaffected words all there was or yet is to say.

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It is such a situation that citizens, even those of most experience in municipal affairs, can't possibly decide how to vote on the various opposite and contradictory propositions presented now under the initiative system. The system is an abomination. Multitudes, unable to see their way through the labyrinth, will think it safest, as certainly it will be easiest, to vote "No." These experiences are likely to give the electors enough of the system, right soon.

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Mr. Kellaher says that the rate for electric light at Seattle is "nearly 100 per cent less than the majority of consumers are now paying in Portland." Ingenious Mr. Kellaher! Reduction of 100 per cent would make the light free of cost. It is in this brilliant way that municipal statesmen of the Kellaher type figure up "profits for the people."

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It is reported that Senator Bailey of Texas will run for Governor on the Democratic ticket in order to complete the vindication which he sought and so narrowly escaped missing two years ago. Some one ought to tell the oily gentleman the story of the man who appealed from a verdict carrying a jail sentence, and on another trial was sentenced to be hanged.

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The Seattle Fair management has been obliged to give up its scheme of placing cheap selling booths on the grounds of the various states. The states had protested of course. But why should such a proposal ever have been made, and made persistently? It all has the aspect of graft somewhere.

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Neither Mr. Albee nor Mr. Kellaher will observe the direct primary law. But if their opponents should refuse to abide by that law, wouldn't Mr. Kellaher and Mr. Albee think it awful? However, Mr. Albee and Mr. Kellaher each think they have a monopoly of political righteousness.

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Mr. Puter has returned from Washington, telling what the Government purposes to do further in land matters. The Government is particularly friendly toward Mr. Puter perhaps, because he is one of the very few "land thieves" with whom its prosecutions have been successful.

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Roses by thousands burst into bloom in the hedges and gardens of this city yesterday. Hurrah for the Rose Festival, still a week off! Its fragrance is already in the air and the promise of its beauty is on every hand.

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"Men of larger mold" say the advocates of the proposed new charter, "will be attracted to official position by the greater salaries." Will they, indeed? Under the direct primary?

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Now we are going to see next Monday the real estimation in which the public holds Mr. Albee and Mr. Kellaher. This time they are running on their merits.

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For a lad of his age, Count Zeppelin has done excellently. Even the Wright boys must admit that for a foreigner, he is at the head of the procession.

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Perhaps the Republican party may re-establish itself in Oregon. That may depend, to no small extent, on the result of the election in Portland next Monday.

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Prophets of evil are having hard times this year; roses are blooming for the show, there is no flood, and Portland is growing faster than ever.

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Candidate Munly's friends expect Mayor Lane to speak for him on the stump. Now they will find out how busy the Mayor really is.

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Sunday's rain helped Monday's sun make the memorial flowers look their daintiest. Pin your faith to the rain.

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What is so rare as a day in June? For example, the 31st day of May in Portland.

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Dr. Brougher is out for Albee. That makes two.

## LIFE IN THE OREGON COUNTRY

### For Whom Is This Gigantic Shoe?

Gervais Star.

Victor Demacon is to make a wooden shoe to send to the fair at Seattle, said shoe is to be six feet long and 18 inches deep.

### But What About the Milk?

McMinnville News-Reporter.

It may be news to some of our citizens to know that the milk condenser uses 1,000,000 gallons of water per month, and the planing mill 128,000 gallons.

### Imitating Edward Payson Weston.

Gervais Star.

Banker Bush, of Salem, the richest banker in Marion County, takes frequent walks from Salem to Brooks for his health. He came down Sunday, then walked on to Chemeketa and rode home on an electric car.

### Apparel to Match the Weather.

Dufur Dispatch.

A Tygh Ridge farmer was in town one day last week wearing a straw hat and an overcoat. He should have completed the extreme with woolen gloves and seersucker pants. This May weather has caused many new styles of apparel to come into vogue.

### Portland Amenable to Bunco Sharps.

Prineville Review.

Two of the Portland papers are having a tilt over the mysterious Mr. Raffles, who recently invaded that city. While knowing nothing about the matter, this paper will make a bet that The Oregonian is right about it. Some people in Portland enjoy being "bunked" as well as others.

### Fishing License Free to Boys.

Salem Journal.

The Attorney-General, in an opinion regarding the anglers' license law, exempts no one from being permitted to handle the rod and line without a legally procured license. Boys under 15 years of age must possess licenses, although they are not compelled to purchase them, the County Clerk having authority to issue the licenses free.

### Record Strawberry Plant.

Hillsboro Argus.

George Schulmerich has a strawberry plant, of the Landess variety, that is growing 217 berries. Schulmerich contemplates buying an extra sack of flour and a can of baking powder when he gets ready to bake the product into a shortcake. The Argus suggests that he also lease the brick kiln for a bakeoven when he performs the culinary work. This "217-berry" plant is the record, so far.

### Sheep With Seven Feet.

Echo Register.

William Barker has at his livery stable in Echo a freak sheep, which is certainly a wonder and a freak of nature. The little fellow is only four months old, but is hearty, well and sound in every particular. In all, the sheep has seven feet, four of the feet being on the right front leg.

Mr. Barker is making arrangements to take the freak to the Seattle fair, where it will be placed on exhibition. It is certainly a curiosity and should prove a good drawing card.

### Vancouver's Float in Our Parade.

Vancouver Independent.

Vancouver's float in the parade at the Rose Festival in Portland will be a miniature of the drawbridge of the S. P. & S. Railway bridge across the Columbia. The draw span will be open, and on the draw will be a freight train loaded with fruit and vegetables. On either side of the draw an ocean-going vessel, loaded with lumber, will be represented. The ships will be decorated with roses and flags, and on top of the drawbridge, seated in state, will be Vancouver's Carnival queen.

### Hungry for the Genuine Article.

Albany Democrat.

A neat caricature in The Oregonian shows the strawberry, a big luscious fellow, to be the next thing on the programme. For some time Oregonians have been eating an article sent here from California, a fair article, but not to be compared with the Oregon product. The strawberry-eater here waits anxiously for the home product and rejoices with a great big smile when it arrives in sufficient quantities to meet his demand. The taste of the Oregon berry is far ahead of the one coming from California, a fact, not a sentiment. We are decidedly glad that the season has arrived, a glorious one for the lover of one of the best dishes in the world.

## DOCTORS ADVISED TO ADVERTISE

### Closer Relations Advocated Between Them and Newspapers.

Commercial Union.

Closer relations between physicians and the press were advocated by Dr. J. W. Pettit, of Ottawa, president of the Illinois State Medical Society, in his recent address at the 59th annual meeting of the society at Quincy, Ill. While deprecating advertising of a sensational or untruthful nature, he called attention to the public good that could be accomplished through publicity of the right sort.

"No agency is more potent for good or evil than the secular press," said Dr. Pettit. "By secular press I mean more particularly the newspaper, which each day reaches fully 90 per cent of the reading public. By far the larger part of the public, especially busy people, get about all their general information from the newspaper.

"The newspaper is the only source of information for fully one-half of the reading public. It is the purveyor as well as the conveyor of information, and the average editor is actuated by as praiseworthy motives in his field of activity as we are in ours. From being simply a record of events, the newspaper now covers almost every field of human endeavor, even to the extent of maintaining departments for the teaching of technical knowledge, which, though crude and imperfect as yet, is an effort in the right direction."

Concerning advertisements Dr. Pettit said in part:

"A broad definition of advertising would include everything in an advertisement, whether paid or otherwise, which is intended to benefit the individual. If such an advertisement contained the truth there could be no logical objection to it. It is the element of fraud, intentional or otherwise, which makes advertising by our profession so objectionable. Any advertisement devoid of exaggeration, either expressed or implied, should be regarded as legitimate."

### Outside Investors on the Bond Issue.

SALEM, May 29.—(To the Editor.)—The various measures before the Portland electorate at the coming June election are commanding considerable attention from your country cousins up the valley. Whatever affects our big metropolis directly or indirectly affects us. A large amount of money has been invested by Marion County citizens in Portland property, which we hope eventually will prove quite remunerative. We are apprehensive that if all the bond issues proposed are acted upon favorably on June 7 it will increase the tax rate enormously and deter future investments in your city for a long time. ANTI-BOND.

### Wind Carries Trees Two Miles.

Indianapolis News.

During a recent storm near Ellwood, Ind., a funnel-shaped cloud tore 12 apple trees of eight years' growth from the ground and scattered them in the bottoms two miles away.

## ATTACK ON THE NEW CHARTER

### This Citizen Tells Why It Should Be Defeated.

PORTLAND, Or., May 31.—(To the Editor.)—"When in doubt, vote no," is another form of the expression, "Let well enough alone." It spells caution when results are unforeseen and consequences likely to be disastrous. It is in obedience to this sentiment that the new charter, with most of the proposed amendments, will probably be snowed under by an avalanche of adverse votes on the 7th of June.

There is little if anything wrong with the present charter. In the hands of the right sort of men the business of the city under it would proceed in an orderly way, turmoil would cease and all public interests move along in a satisfactory manner. The trouble is that in these latter days of freak notions, professional reformers and one-lunged meddlers with other people's affairs, the first remedy proposed for any real or imagined deflection from the straight and narrow way is a resort to the ballot box.

Among the many heaven-born provisions of the new charter is that contained in Section 17, which emphatically abolishes political parties in city elections or any reference to political parties in muncipal campaigns. "It is expressly declared, however, that the object and one of the main objects of the provisions herein made for municipal elections is to abolish the choice of municipal officers by political parties, it being the intention to secure the best citizens for the city's service without regard to political party or affiliations, etc." "But one form of tally shall be issued instead of one for each political party." "No political or party name or designation whatever shall appear on the ballot," and a page or two of similar sanctified rot follows.

To the ordinary American citizen this is really a direct affront. Or, rather, it would be if it were worthy of serious consideration. Unless such provisions would make John Smith and Tom Jones better citizens it would not give the city better officers. And it would not make them better citizens to subject them to the severe process of political emasculation in May and June of this year if the operation were so poorly done that during May and June of next year they are permitted the unrestrained freedom of the political range, with their powers wholly unimpaired.

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If men are to be made good by legislative restraint common sense dictates that it be made a continuing inhibition. If the voter is to be made to do good work on a municipal election day by making him wear an Oregon boot on that occasion, it follows that other election days and other occasions will be made to suffer by withdrawing that restraint and uplifting conversial argument—the straight-jacket and the padded wall.

The way to make a voter honest and to imbue him with a sacred desire for noble results on an election day is to disembowel him politically. But why should he be permitted to rehabilitate himself for destructive work on the pillars of our free institutions when a state or National election occurs? Are our state affairs of less concern than those of our cities? Is our National Government of no value to us that the errant citizen is to be given free hand as he slashes through its vitals with his little ballot—he who is not to be trusted to express himself politically on local elections on account of his lack of honesty—presumably his lack of honesty?

The logic of this raw effort at human regeneration by the third reading of the bill through the short-cut of the initiatory process of baptismal purification, if it may be called logic, is that a voter is naturally and by association a dishonest man and cannot, therefore, be trusted if he is permitted to mingle with his fellows in a political way. Two men, if they put their heads together and consult politically, are rascals and plotters, "machine men," but if they can be kept apart and prevented from acting together will be stimulated by an unrestrainable desire to "put country above party"—to call into requisition a well-remembered Chamberlainism which is plainly at the back and bottom of this attempt to thrust a "non-partisan" charter upon the people of a city which has a Republican majority of from 5000 to 8000, feeling certain that if the party can be effaced in this city its vitality in the entire state can be effectually sapped by the influences of an attack of sleeping-sickness superinduced by the bites of this political tsetse fly.

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Of course, the first thing desired in the administration of a city's affairs is efficiency and honesty, but this result will never be attained through the disfranchisement of men as to their party preferences and tendencies. Besides, it is doubtful if a man can be constitutionally deprived of his right to express himself politically in the choice of public servants. An American citizen should always have the guaranteed right of the benefit of clergy and of politics.

And where is the sacred principle of Jeffersonianism that we, the people, are to be deprived of the privilege of political expression at the polls lest evil shall get the upper hand and the robes of Justice be trailed in the lowly dust? Where is the spirit of General Jackson, that the red-blooded American voter, the time-honored Democrat, is to be no longer clothed with the inalienable right of political selection, but is on the toboggan slide toward the land of Goody-Goodyism, where the anesthetic of Mugwumpery beckons into the domain of Innocence—where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest?

Is the 8th of January to be forgotten and the Declaration of Independence given the glassy eye? Is the dawn of the Millennium appearing and is the human race to be dissolved into a harmless mass of sexless men and women, subsisting on an airless atmosphere, where opinions are tabooed and the highest ambitions of life are the accomplishment of resultless achievements? The 7th of June will answer.

Unless the Republicans of Portland are willing further to contribute to the destruction of their organization in this state, in obedience to the cunning methods adopted by the non-partisan machine which has been using them for its own steam roller during recent years, they will overwhelmingly defeat the proposed new charter next month, since it is unnecessary, unprecedented and un-American.

PIONEER REPUBLICAN.

### New Lincoln Cents in August.

Boston Evening Transcript.

The new Lincoln cents will be distributed the first week in August. They will supplant the cent with the familiar Indian head upon it. The stock of the new coin is now being accumulated, and as soon as it is large enough to supply all parts of the country at the same time the new cents will be handed out to the public. The Lincoln design is the work of Victor D. Brenner, a New York sculptor. A number of proofs for the new cent dies have been examined by Director of the Mint Leach and found satisfactory. The Lincoln penny will remain in circulation for 25 years. The law forbids more than one change in the design of a coin in each period of a quarter of a century.

The next coin to undergo alterations will be the nickel. The time limit of the present design has expired, but as it gives general satisfaction, there has been no disposition to supplant it.

The $20 gold double eagles of the famous Roosevelt design are selling at great premiums. The high relief design which was withdrawn because the coins could not be "stacked" sell from $40 to $60 each.

## WHY NOT ANTICIPATE THE CANAL?

### Portland Can Bring Railroads to Terms by Chartering Tramp Steamers.

PORTLAND, May 31.—(To the Editor.)—I read in the Sunday edition of your paper the account of the controversy had between the merchants of Portland and of the Coast generally, and the transcontinental railroad management. Isn't there an easier method than by going to law about it? An inspection of westbound tariff rates from the East to the westward seaboard demonstrates that the cost of transportation varies as to the article from $60 to $15 per ton for carload rates; almost everything being from $40 to $60 per ton, and not over $8 out of the thousands of enumerated classifications are put at $15 per ton or slightly under. It will easily average up to $30 per ton on all classes of freight, and it is to this general average that we will address ourselves.

If the merchants of Portland would engage four tramp steamers of 10,000 tons capacity each, having two to ply from New York to Tehuantepec and the others from Salinas Cruz to Portland, delivering to and receiving from the Tehuantepec Railroad Company their respective cargoes, there would be no necessity to go to law.

The tramp steamers can be easily had for charter for cargoes at $3.50 per ton each, and the freight rate across the Isthmus will probably not exceed $5 per ton, inasmuch as it is fixed by the Mexican government. Adding these items together totals $12 per ton as against the railroads' $30. The Tehuantepec Railroad has a carrying capacity of 5000 tons per day and is speedily to bring it to double that amount. Fortunately for Portland, her river navigation subtends to aid her in her efforts not to be dictated to.

I saw in your columns the other day that freight by steamer from here to Lewiston is only half the railroad rates. Why not anticipate the coming of the Panama Canal and create for Portland at once the opportunity that she must otherwise wait five years for? Or are the merchants of Portland so lazy, inert and cowardly that they will not or dare not lift their arms before the tyrant that has awed them so long? Appeal to the law means an interminable delay, during which time all the excesses of the railroads must be submitted to. In asserting their rights in an independent and fearless spirit, Portland shippers will prove that they are worthy of the trust the city imposes in them to build up our natural supremacy rather than like cowards cringe where there is no necessity.

CHARLES P. CHURCH.

## CROOK COUNTY CROP CONDITIONS

### Some Districts Have Had Abundant Rainfall the Past Five Months.

MADRAS, Or., May 29. (To the Editor.)—In view of the inaccuracies in the item from Prineville, this county, appearing in your issue of the 27th inst. purporting to be a resume of crop conditions in Crook County, and especially concerning conditions in the Agency Plains district, I am sending you an account of the weather and crop conditions as they have been observed at this point.

Crook County is as large as several of the New England states and weather conditions vary considerably in different parts of it. The weather at Prineville, the county seat, has undoubtedly been dry this year, as your correspondent states, but it has not been the case here. Up to date the total precipitation at this point has amounted to exactly five inches since January 1. The crops in this, the Agency Plains district, have not suffered any from a lack of moisture, and have only been backward on account of the cold, unnatural Spring which has been prevalent all over the Northwest.

In the Agency Plains and Haystack districts, where most of the grain in Interior Oregon is raised, there are more than 100,000 acres of grain planted and growing now. During the past few days some soaking rains have fallen, which insure more than an average crop.

Items from this part of Oregon are read with a great deal of interest by people in Portland on account of the capital which has been invested here during the past two or three years by Portland people; and the general public has more or less interest in news from here on account of Mr. Harriman's projected Deschutes Railroad, which will traverse this particular section. On that account we feel that you should have trustworthy and truthful information, and we feel that, in justice to us and the county, you print this in refutation of the misleading article appearing in your issue of the 27th inst.

DON P. REA.

The rainfall to date:

| | Inches. |
|---|---|
| January | 2.02 |
| February | 1.29 |
| March | .32 |
| April | .7 |
| May (to date) | .47 |
| Total | 5.00 |

### World's Wine Production in 1908.

London Financial Times.

Interesting statistics have been compiled by authorities in France and this country (England) from which it appears that the world's production of wine in 1908 amounted to 3,866,575,000 gallons, a falling off of 30,889,000 gallons as compared with the previous year. By far and away the most important producer is France, whose output last year amounted to 1,331,995,000 gallons as compared with the previous year's production of 1,453,546,000 gallons. Italy comes next with 1,064,800,000 gallons, also showing a reduction as compared with the previous year amounting to 121,000,000 gallons. The other big producers, in order of volume of output are: Spain, 473,000,000 gallons; Algeria, 171,682,000 gallons; Austria, 136,400,000 gallons; Hungary, 121,000,000 gallons; Portugal, 85,800,000 gallons; Bulgaria, 63,800,000 gallons; Russia, 61,600,000 gallons; Chili, 52,800,000 gallons; Germany, 50,600,000 gallons; Roumania, 48,400,000 gallons; Turkey and Cyprus, 39,600,000 gallons; Greece, 39,600,000 gallons; United States, 29,600,000 gallons, and the Argentine Republic, 27,500,000 gallons. The outstanding feature of the statistics is the great increase recorded in the production of Spain, amounting to 73,000,000 gallons; of Germany, amounting to 9,000,000 gallons, and of Austria and Hungary, amounting to 59,000,000 gallons and 53,000,000 gallons, respectively.

### Spring, U. S. Senators, and Shortcake.

Washington (D. C.) Dispatch.

Spring has come at last. The one infallible sign of this fact has been slow in coming, but it has finally appeared. The price of strawberry shortcake in the Senate resturant has been reduced to 25 cents. Hitherto it has been 35 cents. It is always a sure symptom that Winter is over and gone when the rules committee gets to work and puts shortcake down to a price that is not prohibitive to everybody but Senators and millionaires.

### Rat in Bottle Poses as Cork.

Baltimore News.

It was discovered at Mount Holly, N. J., that an old bottle thrown into a garbage barrel had served the purpose of a trap for three rats, while a fourth rat had involuntarily substituted himself for a cork. It is supposed that the rats inside became imprisoned when unable to turn around and crawl out on account of the shape of the bottle, and that the one wedged so tightly that it could not release itself had tackled a hole too small for its body.