# The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1909.

### THE PROBLEM FOR PORTLAND,

Is the system a wise one that puts up to the body of electors a mass of difficult, intricate and contradictory problems, so that the general voter cannot possibly know what he is doing when he marks his ballot "yes," or

Unless nearly all the propositions are rejected, conflicts will arise their interpretation and application; and the larger the number adopted the more numerous the conflicting provisions and consequences. For there are opposites, alternatives and contradictions throughout the long list, beginning with the proposed charter itself. The most painstaking and conscientious study will not enable the elector to foresee the result or effect of his ballot, on the larger number of the propositionsunless he votes "No."

Interpretation of the hodge-podge will give laborious employment to the courts, and a rich harvest to the class of lawyers who revel in and profit by small and vexations litigation

The general tendency will be to "cinch" the owner of property-the small property as well as the large. Why, for example, should the city be required to pay into the treasury \$50,-000 a year, raised by taxation, for the water it uses for its own purposes, when it is also to pay interest and principal of the bonds by which the water supply is obtained? This socialistic tendency next will require the city to pay in similar sums for public use of the bridges and for the lights set in the streets-over and above principal and interest of the bonds. These are subtle methods of making property pay not only for "free" things, but more besides-so as to take away property accumulated by industry and to get money to spend for "the public good," in ways that never would be approved if nakedly presented. "The initiative" is the Socialists' method. To a man, they will vote for all schemes to take property away from its owners. Confiscation of property or appropriation of property, or use of property, if that can be had either by direct method of seizure or by indirect method of taxation, subtly advanced-when people who possess property fail to see the consequences is right in the line of the main creed of Socialism.

This notion or purpose permeates the proposed charter through and through. It is the root of the various amendments that have come from the "debates" in "the people's forum should alarm, and it does alarm, eve. person who owns property, expects to own property, or wishes to do business. That several features are offered which, if standing alone, would be approved, is undoubted. But most of them are so entangled with proposition, whose tendency may be feared, yet cannot be fully foreseen, that the safe way will be to vote "No," in general, and "Yes," only if you fully understand what you are voting for.

If the electors act on this principle there are but few of the propositions that will obtain an affirmative vote. There is a considerable vote, undoubtedly, that will be east in such direction as it may suppose will change the basis, and revolutionize the principles, of society. The larger number of the propositions effered to the electorate now are conceived on this idea. Beware of them. Vote "No."

In the judgment and experience of the general citizenry of Portland, this vagary or infatuation, as The Oregonian believes, has now reached the limit, the very list and utmost bound, of experimental folly and danger. To the elector, interested in the well-being and rational progress of the . Ity and tected the misrepresentation which state, The Oregonian has but one earnest word of counsel-namely. if you don't fully understand the proposition before you and the consequences of its adoption-and in most cases you cannot possibly understand-vote "No." There are yet five days till the election; and the more you examine the various conflicting and contradictory propositions, and ponder the consequences, the more you will be inclined in the polling booth to put the cross opposite the word "No." Yet, there remains a small number of simple propositions. The most important of them are the Broadway bridge and the provision for payment of interest and principal of water bonds out of the water fund. A few smaller propositions, indeed, have merit, but they have no great importance. But it is certain that many citizens will resolve every doubt and perplexity by employing the negative

vote, from top to bottom. In this perplexing and most difficult consummate flower and fruit of the system which rejects representative government and "puts up to the people" the vagaries of theorists whom the people never would trust as their rep.

that can befall a country is to aflow sophists and experimenters to fool with its laws and institutions. It is more dangerous than experimentation with the forces of electricity and dynamite. Were it simply the sport to see -Invariably in Advance. the engineer hoist with his own petard. it were well enough. But this is an attack on the fundamental principles of society and safeguards of government.

Only indirectly is all this involved in the contest for the Mayoralty. But it will not be overlooked that the candidacy of Joseph Simon stands for rational policy and efficient municipal government, against all sorts of fads, fallacies and follies.

#### MEN OF SMALL CALIBER

Nothing could be more ineptere going to say hypocritical-than the assertion of Mr. Albee and his friends, that the true and only way to preserve the direct primary law is to refuse to abide by its results, when they don't please you. And yet this s no bad deduction from the principle laid down by Mr. Thomas McCusker, to the effect that the prime defect of the primary law is that it tends to bring men of small caliber to the

McCusker, asserting that Rushlight and McDonell were men of small callber-which accounts for their fallure -immediately put up Albee; whom he offers, we may suppose, as a thirteen-inch gun. In this way the grand principle of the direct primary, whose re-sults were disastrous to Rushlight and McDonell, is to be saved by McCusker and Albee.

Why weren't McCusker and Albee consulted in the first place? Why didn't McCusker speak up and tell this great community of Portland, in advance of the primary, that Rushlight and McDonell were men of small callber and that Albee was a man of large callber;-then take Rushlight and Mc-Donell each by an ear and lead them out of the field?

Had this been done, the purpose of the direct primary would have been fulfilled, and the right of the people to nominate their candidates vindicated and established. But there would have been no boss, no bossism, in this business. In the name of the devil himself, not the slightest or faintest touch of it!

#### HARRIMAN, THE OPTIMIST.

There are now more acres under cultivation than ever before in the history of the country, and, if we have favorable weather and correspondingly large crops, I look for happy times," said E. H. Harriman on the eye of his departure for Europe. The railroad wizard also predicted a great burst of speculation with an attendant rise in prices, and offered a warning against improper employment of idle money. "We should be careful," said he, "that this money be not devoted to the development of fake projects, but on the ontrary it should be used in the upbuilding of real undertakings, resti upon solld foundations." Regardless of the skepticism with which the pub lic receives the opinions of Mr. Harriman on some matters, there will be no questioning the soundness of his

logic regarding the present situation.
At no previous time in the history of the country has the outlook for go crops and high prices been brighter than at present. There has been some complaint of damage to the growing wheat crop in the East and Southwest, but this damage to date is of small consequence, especially if the abnormal price is taken into considera tion. Coming as it does on the heels of a number of "fat years," in which the farmers have prospered even when other industries were temporarily halted, this big good crop and high prices will make its influence felt in all directions, and there will be an abundance of cheap money throughout the land. This cheap money, however, can work nsiderable havoc if it is not kept in

the proper channels. If it is diverted to stock gambling and the attendant inflating of values, it will in due season invite a crash that will prove harmful to legitimate as illegitimate projects. well country does not need a "boom," which almost invariably leaves a wake of wrecked fortunes, and causes immeas urable distress among the victims who lose hope along with their money. the immense amount of money which the 1909 crops will bring to the counis put to work in the development of our latent resources and in keeping business moving in its legitimate chan nels, no power on earth can prevent this country from enjoying a period of the greatest prosperity we have ever known.

### REJECTING A GOLD BRICK

A dispatch in The Oregonian yesterday announced the presence at Pull-man, Wash., of a strong delegation from Astoria seeking the aid of the Farmers' Union in a fight for terminal rates on grain to Astoria. An officia of the union is quoted as saying: "We shall bitterly oppose allowing the union to be used as a catspaw to rake the chestnuts out of the fire for the people of Astoria." This would indicate that the Farmers' Union had dewas made in order to induce the union to begin suit for the terminal rates. Manager Whyte, of the Astoria Cham-ber of Commerce, with unblushing effrontery assured the Farmers' Union at the Spokane meeting that ships could be chartered to load at Astoria at 50 cents per ton less than at Port-

Mr. Whyte made a number of other wild statements regarding the manner In which the grain business is handled at Portland and other Coast ports, and it was on the strength of these asser-tions, which could not be proven, that the Farmers' Union seriously considered the Asteria terminal rate proposition and permitted the filing of the suit. But Manager Whyte, of Astoria, has a very poor opinion of the intelligence of the Inland Empire wheatgrowers, if he believes for one moment that they will accept without investigation such unreasonable statements as were made by him at Spokane. This investigation has revealed to these farmers the fact that their wheat is being carried over the hundredmile stretch of river between Portland and Astoria in ocean vessels at a cost situation may be seen by all eyes the of 5 to 10 cents per ton, according to the type of vessel, the latter figure

being unusually high for the service. It is, of course, idle to assume that any railroad in existence can haul wheat, or any other kind of freight, people never would trust as their rep-resentatives, either in business, in poli-be made by ocean carriers. Any postics, or in anything. Greatest of evils sible legislation that would compel the of Russia, which has the highest pro-

the point where it could be delivered ous. Are they?

to the water carrier would thus have There is only time now to point out the effect of increasing the cost of delivering it from producer to consumer. If the rates between the interior and tidewater are too high, the Farmers' Union would, of course, be justified in asking the Interstate Commerce Com-

mission for a reduction. It would be the height of folly, however, for the union to ask that the present economical water haul between Portland and Astoria be supplanted by the rall haul, which would be much more expensive. If the river between Astoria and the sea were in better shape for the passage of deep-sea vessels than it is between Portland and Astoria, there might be some excuse for paying the extra charge for a rail haul as compared with the movement by water. Unfortunately, the only dif-ficulty experienced by Portland's ficulty wheat fleet is below Astoria, so that there is absolutely no advantage on that score. Mr. Whyte will find better market for his generalities and gold bricks at home than he will find in the Palouse.

#### A NUMBER OF FALLACIES.

The Oregonian has received another letter from its good friend Mr. John L. Gruber, the postmaster at Winlock, Wash., which is printed today. Mr. Gruber seems to be a little grieved at some remarks which the paper made upon his last communication, but he ought not to take them so much at heart. The Oregonian merely meant to suggest that a postmaster in a small town like Winlock must have a good deal of leisure time and to convey the impression that Mr. Gruber had employed his fleeting moments to excellent advantage, inasmuch as he has studied the tariff instead of playing checkers, as so many of the valnerminded do. That his opinions are not free as the wind which whistles around the snow-capped summit of Mt. Hood we had no thought of hinting. their value were equal to their freedom, Mr. Gruber would be the greatest of living statesmen. Unfortunately, that cannot be conceded. His principal faults seem to be the inability to make proper deductions from the facts before him and to allow that there must be exceptions to all general statements.

For an example of the first fault, take Mr. Gruber's remark concerning the tariff on razors. "Razors, under the Dingley rates, pay a duty of 56 per cent. The House proposes to raise this duty to 75 per cent, and the Sen-ate to 100 per cent. The object is obvious. The Dingley tariff has not be dequate to build up a razor industry of our own. The 'slow' British and Germans make a better razor for less money than the bright and intelligent Americans." If this is so, it is difficult to see how an increase of the tariff is going to better it. The only result will be either to compel us to pay more for a good foreign razor or shave our faces with a poor one, made in this country. Just who would be benefited by such a performance Mr. Gruber does not point out. If he thinks the workmen in the cutlery factories would get more wages with the tariff raised to 100 per cent, he displays a simplicity which is worthy of the Gar-den of Eden. The plain fact of the case is that as good razors are made In America as anywhere in the world The industry is so successful that our razors have invaded the European market and the only reason why the trust demands a higher duty is to make it possible to raise the price

orrespondingly to the home cons To illustrate Mr. Gruber's inability to allow for proper exceptions to gen-eral statements, take, for example, what he says about oriental rugs. "Our rugs can't hold a candle to those made by the semi-barbarians of the Orient." This he says in reply to The Oregonian's statement that the alert and ingent American workman can manufacture goods better and cheaper than "the poorly fed, down-trodden foreigner." Of course, the statement can only apply intelligently to those things which Americans have learned to do and for which they possess the materials. As for Oriental rugs, we do not produce the materials for weav ing them here, nor do we understand the art of dyeing them. Worse yet, the really good ones are not woven by machinery, but by hand. It is a fact which Mr. Gruber must have over-looked that sometimes a woman will spend her whole life in weaving a single rug. No American workman could be expected to devote himself to employment of this kind. Finally, the production of Oriental rugs is an art requiring a special genius, a pecu liar heredity and a long-established tradition. It is the most flagrant nonsense to expect anything of the sort to

be produced by a protective tariff Of those things to which American industry has devoted itself, the labor cost in this country is usually less than It is abroad. Steel rails are a good Thread is another. Watches are a third, and there are plenty more, Still, there are many things which we do not and cannot produce here. Indeed, it is well for us that this is so because unless other countries have something which we wish to buy, they cannot buy from us. Large as our home market is, it is not wide enough to absorb all our manufactures. Some of them must be sold to the foreigner or the mills must stand idle. But the foreigner cannot purchase unless he sells something in return. Commerce means exchange, which is another fact often forgotten by the advocates of extreme protection. Mr. Gruber is unwise to lament the sale of what he "pauper-made goods" in the United States. If the paupers sold us nothing, they could not buy anything

from us. By the way, what a queer thing it is for Mr. Gruber to stigmatize the workmen of Germany, France and Russia as paupers. These happy beings have lived under the blessings of a prohibitive tariff for many years. Russia has a tariff higher upon the whole than our own. Germany applies the doc-trine of protection with a ruthless vigor which makes even Mr. Aldrich envious, and France is not far behind her eastern neighbors. If their workmen are still paupers, with all this protection to elevate and enrich them there must be something wrong with Mr. Gruber's theories. The best paid workmen in Europe are those of England, the only country of any consequence in the world which under genuine free trade. If protection did for workmen what Gruber and his kind think it does, the workmen of England ought to be worst pauperized on earth and those

railroads to carry the wheat beyond | tection, ought to be the most prosper-

one more fallacy in a letter which contains so many of them that it makes one's head swim. Mr. Gruber says, When a foreign laborer comes to this increases the supply of labor, which has a depressing effect upon its price, but, mark you, he also becomes a consumer of the products of whereby he increases the demand for labor and stimulates its This is ingeniously perverse. Was he not a consumer at home? The demand for labor does not depend upon the number of hungry mouths to be fed, but upon the amount of capital which is willing to engage in productive industry. An influx of laborers does not increase this quantity of capital, while it does increase the number of those bidding for jobs and thus necessarily lowers wages. Any good text book of economics will set Mr. Gruber straight upon this point.

The quality of brains that take shelter under enormous hats piled high with flowers and the plumage of slaughtered birds is manifest wearers sit under them calmly in public assemblies, peering from beneath their rats, utterly unmindful of the fact that they are shutting off the view of sensible people who sit behind them. It does not need the added advertisement of selfishness and self-concelt to attest this quality when the wearers, with a show of virtuous indig nation, rise and flounce out, as did several women in a Vancouver church last Sunday when politely asked to remove their hats for the convenience of others. The whole panorama of cartwheel hat, the plumage of slaughtered birds, the indignant expression at the suggestion that possibly other people had some rights in a public assembly hall, the march, stiff-legged and imperious, down the aisle, is self-explanatory and all-sufficient.

There are two ways of doing this usiness, on the initiative propositions. One is to vote "No" straight down the list—excepting only the few simple measures you perfectly understand and approve. The other way is to vote Yes" on every proposition straight down the list, so as to make confusion worse confounded, and in the result lay a foundation, through disaster and reaction, for getting rid of the abomination. But this would resemble the method of abating the nuisance by pulling down the house

"The cumulative ballot in Illinois," says the Chicago Record-Herald, tended to give representation to minorities, has so evolved that it deprives the huge majority of citizens of all representation whatever and leaves all power in the hands of that minority which is composed of politicians of both parties who work for spoils only." Recent changes of election methods in Oregon have worked out a very similar Hence Senators Bourne and result. Chamberlain.

What a sport that man Kellaher is! The other day he offered to gamble with Munly and Albee to settle the question about the Mayoralty between Now he wants to bet Josselyn, of the electric company, \$100 that he has lied about the way he keeps his books. For a really sporty and ploturesque municipal statesman this town has been waiting a long timenot knowing, however, till recently that it had been entertaining one unawares.

Savings banks of the City of New York, representing \$956,000,000 of deposits, have decided to continue the 4 per cent interest rate on deposits after July 1. The state superintendent of banks has been urging, as a matter of economic safety, that the banks reduce the rate to 3 1/2 per cent. the demand for money for good investment is strong, and the banks are unwilling to diminish the inducement offered to depositors

The Reno Commercial Club, Reno, Nev., has joined forces with Spokane in an effort to secure terminal rates. The principal obstacle to be overcome by both of these inland cities is a good channel to the sea and ample harbor facilities for discharging the big freighters that carry merchandise for the Coast ports,

Father Kruttschnitt will be greatly surprised, of course, when he learns that his son has been promoted to a higher job on the Southern Pacific Railroad, of which Kruttschnitt is a leading light. The division superintendent who gave son the job must have hoped that father wouldn't hear

Wool is selling at 23 cents at Shan-iko, and what little wheat remains in the country is in demand at about per bushel. With everything else from hens to hogs bringing corre sponding figures, there will be Summer vacations due a number of the Oregon farmers this season.

County Judge Webster may resign. But what's the use? He wouldn't then get the salary as he does now, and perhaps couldn't take those many vacation trips at somebody else's expense. The duty on lemons will be in-creased. From the number that have

been handed the consumers in this tariff-revision farce, the reduction in duty may have been needed. Mayor Lane lost a day as Mayor of Portland when at the Seattle exposi-tion yesterday. But he had a chance

to make a speech that probably consoled him. The fellow who tried to extort money from Mr. Bush, of Salem, has been adjudged sane. There must be

a mistake somewhere Now how much will Senator Kellaher bet that after election he will not conclude that he didn't know what he was talking about?

Portland helped Seattle open the exsition yesterday, and of course Seattle will help Portland open the Rose Show next week.

Now that President Taft has indorsed the National game, we want to see McCredie's teams get busy and play it. Some persons think the war on Standard Oil too long drawn out. But

think of the war on the land thieves. Seattle missed the chance of a lifetime when it failed to have the census taken yesterday.

SOCIALISM OF THE DEBS BRAND MALHEUR IRRIGATION PROJECT It Is an Appeal to the Mob. Upon Which It Thrives and Fattens.

PORTLAND, May 20.—(To the Editor.)

This afternoon an ardent brother threw on the capitalistic steps of my rented house a copy of the "Appeal to Reason," which states its next issue will reveal a state of affairs today that "makes the senses reel and its publication will shock and stagger the American nation." It is hoped that the returns for the coming hoped that the returns for the coming "Red Special" edition will not be so barren of the 50-cent subscription price barren of the 50-cent subscription price to the "Appeal to Reason" as not to shock and stagger the calamity experts at Girard, Kansas. The capitalistic bunch of Socialists that run the "Appeal to Reason" are in clover all right, since they have the "largest circulation of any political paper in the world," so they say, due no doubt, to that kind of dope "that makes the senses reel." Between the so-called "criminal capitalists" and the prosperous moralists who shock and prosperous moralists who shock and the prosperous moralists who shock and stagger the American nation for 50 cents per shock, one is at times confused as to where this Socialism, or as the editor of the "Appeal to Reason" calls it, "organized conscious effort," comes in.

Organized conscious effort existed several milleniums before Karl Marx fretted out his puny hour or Debs spoke his little p.ecc. It was crying in the night. When organized conscious effort crystalized into Christianity, it was disconstituted to the constant of the constan organized into Christianity, it was dis-organized and dissipated by Socialistic reformers, much the same as it is today. Nay, from the first association of two or Nay, from the first association of two or more human beings, ascendency of one and the subordination of the others, due to the difference in physical and mental endowments have been the inevitable result. From the beginnings of primitive communities, by common consent, individual ownership of acquired property has been recognized and although justice at times seems to have fied, the ideal of the rights of the individual have always lived.

In the same way the principles of right and wrong. Historical civilization records undreamed of advances in man's material and spiritual wellbeing but no where recounts a change in human nature. This latter day Socialism may nature. This latter day Socialism may do it, perhaps. Is there any immorality today that has not existed since the first chapter of recorded time? Socialism can not cure it, nor amend it by eternally figurating it before us. Human progress is primarily due to man's converse and confidence in his God, his mastery over the forces of nature and the application of his discoveries to human comfort.

The first business o. a Socialist should be "know thyself," and learn humility; to recognize a purpose in this universe and become a part of that purpose as best he can. If once this is attained the plutocrat and his money does not concern him much for the plutocrat and his

ern him much for the plutocrat and his money is the envy of fools, as his hard-ened soul is the devil's commodity. Either that or 'life is but a walking shadow, that or "life is but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more. It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." Happy the man who can scan the pageant of history and in his intercourse with his fellows teach them the simple virtues that make for, and is making, the evolution toward the ideal state. If as charged by the "Appeal to Reason," the Government suppressed a portion of the "Homes Commission" report dealing with prostitution and allied portion of the "Homes Commission" re-port dealing with prostitution and allied evils, there was a reason for it; there have been many ac.s by Socialists as individuals and in a body that ought to have been suppressed; nothing has been gained by exploiting them. Truth is, Socialism of the Debs brand would make a Government of retainers. make a Government of retainers parasites. It lacks the initiative and parasites. It lacks the initiative and self-reliance, the fortitude and patient toll that builded up this great Northwest for the happiness and comfort of the generations to come. Socialism of the Debs brand, however sincere some of its votaries and devotees may be, will fail. It is scientifically ignorent of fundamentals and has no insight into the origin and development of our species, nor the onward march of human intelligence, much less of the possibilities of a race clinging to the heroic virtues of the pioneer fathers of this Republic. Socialism of the Debs brand is not an appeal to reason; it is an appeal to the mob, upon which it thrives and fattens.

JAMES HENNESSY MURPHY.

### JAMES HENNESSY MURPHY. Democrats and Protection

New York Evening Post.
The spectacle of 17 Democratic Senators voting against free lumber is one calculated to do an enormous amount of damage to their party. The Democrats in their platform specifically stated that if they should be given charge of the Nation's affairs, free lumber would be one of the first results of their administration. When the concertuality came vesterday. Senator suits of their administration. When the opportunity came yesterday. Senator Balley and his 16 associates voted for a tariff on lumber, just as if there had never been a Denver convention. Moreover, when childed for his action, Mr. Balley replied that he would not surrender his "conscience and judgment" to the delegates at Denver. . . . Men who delegates at Denver. . . Men who look for sincere and honest observance of campaign promises will be much less interested in the Democracy hereafter. That the Democratic party has protection traitors in its ranks, has been known since, the days of the Wilson bill. Yesterday's vote shows clearly how little encouragement the independent tariff-for-revenue men would have received had Mr. Bryan been elected, and had the tariff bill been in Mr. Bailey's hands for passage in the Senate. delegates at Denver.

### Watterson On Prohibition

Watterson On Prohibition.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

Writing the editor of the Courier-Journal, a correspondent puts these two questions: "If prohibition its working the great evils to Maine that you persist in saying it is, why, does not some Legislature revoke the measure? The people would certainly not retain a system all these years if it were detrimental to their best interests, would they?" The answer is very simple; it is easier to do than to undo; especially if the undoing crosses the path of an established system. In Maine fanatical religion is, and has been for 50 years, in league with corrupt politics. The prohibition act is a club to beat the contrabrand liquor dealers into line and a keen collector of Republican campaign funds. The lines are loosened or tightened, according to the exigencies of the Republican politicians, who or tightened, according to the exigen-cies of the Republican politicians, who rule the roost. It is as despotle as it is corrupt, the agent of higotry and proscription on one hand, and of smug-gling, extortion and adulteration on the other hand. It has divided the people of Maine between the merest slaves and the merest hypocrites. God save Kentucky from any such fate.

Kaufman (Tex.) Post, The ionesomest newspaper in America has been found. It is the Bird Mountain Journal, published at the town of Red Bird. Ark. The town is 35 miles from the nearest railroad stations, five miles

"Lonesomest" Newspaper in America

from the nearest postoffice and two miles from the nearest cabin. The "town" con-sists of one log house, one long table and one long newspaper office. It is situated in the middle of a two-acre clearing, sur-rounded by primeval forests.

Washington (D. C.) Dispatch.
Washington, D. C., is famous for its indifference to the glamor of its great men.
Two little newsboys were standing in front of the White House gates when Vice-President Sherman entered the grounds in his hig touring car.
"Gee! Willie," said one of them, "there goes the Vice-President." goes the Vice-President."
"Huh!" said Willie; "he ain nobody.
De Vice-President don do nothin;"

Meeting at Boise Favors Government

Action; Not Private Enterprise. ONTARIO, Or., May 31 .- (To the Editor.) -As a result of an irrigation meeting in Boise, Idaho, reported by the Capital News and the Statesman, both of these papers left the impression that a comtogether meeting between the so-called high line and the land owners was held. Representative landowners were reported to have been present from the entire Matheur project

Ontario, Vale, Weiser and Payette have all taken exceptions to the statements published in the Boise newspapers. On-tario and Vale called indignation meetings and asked the parties that attended the Boise meeting to repudiate this im-putation. The men that attended this meeting announced that they did not represent the people in any capacity ever. Mr. Mallett, who attended the ing entirely on his own account, said that he proposed to stay by the Government to the end. The meetings at both Vale and Ontario were largely attended and were indignation meetings of the genuine

Government trrigation. Irrigation is practically the only subject of discussion in this community. Vale, Welser and On-tario are standing firm for the Govern-ment in spite of the strenuous effort of the Bolse promoters to disorganize them. They are now trying to start a line of newspapers in Vale, Nyssa and Ontario to linger is expected here in 30 days and the only hope of the promoters of the control public sentiment. Secretary Balthe only hope of the promoters of the high line lies in creating dissention among the people before his arrival. Their project is impracticable and will cost the people here double the amount it would if built by the Government.

I send copy of resolutions passed by the

Ontario Commercial Club.

A. W. TROW, President Ontario Commercial Club.

At a public meeting called May 29 by the Ontario Commercial Club and which was largely attended by landowners under the Government Maiheur terigation project the following resolutions were passed:

Whereas, at a meeting held in the offices of the Boise-Owyhee Irrigation Company at Boise, Idaho, May 27, and reported by the Evening Capital News, May 28, and the Boise Daily Statesman, May 29, and the Boise Daily Statesman, May 29, and the Boise Ost is stated that at a meeting in Boise of representatives of landowners under the Boise-Owyhee High Line system as projected, which embraces the Maiheur project, that the following were present from Ontario. A. W. Bond, J. A. Lackey, Dr. J. Prinzing and W. H. Brook, and Whereas, several statements therein reported are misleading and calculated to isave a false impression on the Reclamation Service of the Government with regard to the feelings and sentiments of the landowners under the Government Maiheur project, and

landowners under the Government Malheur project, and Whereas, at a public meeting in Ontario held today, May 29, Messrs. Brook, Prinsing and Bond were present and publicly stated that they only represented their own interests at Bolse and were not sent as representatives of this community and were without any authority to speak for any other parties or landowners under this project, and Whereas, statements therein contained with regard to the financial condition of the irrigation fund of the Reclamation Service is also false and without foundation and fact; now, therefore be it Resolved. That it is the united sentiment of this meeting and for the best interest of the country, and the success of irrigation in this district that we stand firmly for the Government reclamation project, first, last and always.

WILLIAM MORFITT,
J. R. BLACKABY,
W. H. DOOLITTLE.
Committee.

PROVISIONS OF MR. HOSKINS' WILL Reason Why the Widow Now Seeks to

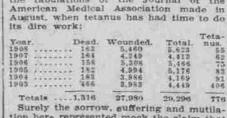
Set It Aside SPRINGBROOK, Or., May 31.—(To he Editor.)—With reference to the

The value of said estate has been materially over-rated in all reports, as Mr. Hoskins and family had been using their means freely for some years, travelling and otherwise, and it was ber of votes in the primary election for each office to be filled shall be the canhis expressed wish and intention that his very estimable wife should continue to do a second continue tinue to do so after he was gone, and was thought to be so provided in the will, but a leading attorney of this county holds and advises Mrs. Hoskins that under that document she can only have the net income from the property. Now, the said-estate consists largely of land which Mrs. Hoskins helped, as much as any woman helps, to earn. account of location this land is valu able, but is not in condition to yield an income that would give her the sup-port of which she is worthy. From this reason and on these grounds Mrs. Hoskins seeks to have the will

#### JULY 4 NOW A DAY OF TERROR About 5000 Dend and Injured In the Total of the Day's Casualties.

William Orr, in the June Atlantic. It is evident from the comments of the press on the present evils of our Fourth of July that there is urgent need of a definite control and wise direction of the popular use of this holiday. The roll of dead and wounded for the last 10 years, as compiled by the Chicago Tribune, is eloquent in its warning. The figures tell their own story of an insensate and reck-less abuse of the day's privileges:





tion here represented mock the claim that our July Fourth, as at present observed, is in any sense a festal day; rather is it is in any sense a restal day, rathe a day of terror, anxiety and dread.

### Our Earth 230,000,000 Years Old. London Dispatch. The perennial problem of the age of the

The perennial problem of the age of the world has received a new contribution. based on the antiquity of radio-active minerals. Geologists some time ago figured the age of the earth as at least 230,000,000 years, and the estimate held until mathematical physicists computed that the sun itself had not existed more than 115,600,000. The discovery of radium and the theories of radio-activities seem to be going to establish the geologists' contention. Lord Rayleigh's son, R. J. Strutt, who is already an eminent scientist, announces, as the result of a recent experiment with a chunk of thorianite containing belium, that the latter could not have accumulated in less than 240,000,000 years, while experiments on a larger scale, which are now going on, will probably lead to an extension of the time.

## CITY ELECTION MATTERS.

Some Features of "Commission" Charter Which Is to Be Voted On.

Administration of city government on the commission plan through a Mayor and six Councilmen and elimination of political parties, as such, from municipal affairs, are two of the most sweeping changes in the present charter proposed by the committee of 15 citizens. The revised charter, as prepared by this committee, will be voted on in the city election next Monday. If the proposed new charter is adopted, it will go into effect July 1, 1910. Provision is made for holding special election on the first Monday in June, 1910, for the election of all elective officers. Provision is also made for

the officers. Provision is also made for holding a primary nominating election 30 days prior to the date of the general election.

The revised charter carries several increased salaries for city officials. The salary of Mayor is increased from \$4800 to \$5000 per annum, while each of the six Councilmen is to receive \$5000 per annum. The other elective officers under the proposed new charter will be: City Auditor, salary \$3000, same as present; City Treasurer, salary \$3000, present salary \$2400; Municipal Judge, salary \$2000, present salary \$1800; City present salary \$2400; Municipal Judge, salary \$2000, present salary \$1800; City Attorney, salary \$4800, present salary \$2400. As under the present charter, the City Engineer is to be appointed by the Mayor, but the salary of this official is increased from \$2400 to \$4800 per annum. The Mayor is also authorized to appoint a secretary who shall not be subject to civil service regulations and who shall receive a salary of \$1800 per annum.

tions and who shall receive of \$1800 per annum.

All business of the city, not of a legislative or judicial character, shall be distributed among the following six bureaus: Public affairs, accounts and finances, public safety, streets and pub-lic improvements, parks and public lic improvements, parks and public property and water supply. The Mayor shall appoint one Councilman as the head of each bureau and may change his appointments at his pleasure. The work of the city may be apportioned among the various bureaus by the Council from time to time as it may see

It is provided that in a general way the provisions of the direct primary law as they apply to primary nominating and general elections shall apply in all elections provided for in the revised charter. The provisions of the primary law, however, will not apply to future municipal elections in the following

municipal elections in the following important particulars:

(a) The notice of primary election shall recite that the people of the City of Portland (not the political parties) will choose their candidates for city offices named.

(b) The oath as to membership in a political party required by section 5 of said primary law shall not be required.

(c) But one form of ballot shall be provided, upon which the names of all candidates, nominated as hereinafter provided, shall be placed in alphabetical order, without regard to political affiliations, and such hallots shall be insued to all qualified voters offering to vote. is shall be issued to an unity in to vote ing to vote ing to vote ing to receive the political of the direct instead of one for each political of instead of one for each political or instead of one for each political or instead of the direct one of the direct of the political or instead of the direct of the political or instead of the direct of the political or instead or ins party, as provided in section 2 of the direct primary law.

(e) No political or party name or designation whatever shall appear on the bailot.

(f) A candidate need not be registered as a member of any political party, as required by section 13 of said primary law, and may not add to his petition or declaration nor have printed after his name on the ballot the statement of measures or principles provided for in said section.

(g) Petitions shall contain no reference to political parties and the signers thereof, if otherwise qualified, need not be registered as members of political parties.

(h) No person offering to vote at a primary election shall be required nor permitted, nor shall any election officer be permitted, to announce the political party or affiliation of such voter.

(i) There shall be no election of political mitted, to announce the political party or affiliation of such voter.

(i) There shall be no election of political the Editor.)—With reference to the report in last Saturday's Oregonian of a meeting of the State Horticultural Society held the previous evening, under the caption of "Face Will Contest," we believe a few lines in explanation not out of order.

By the provisions of Cyrus E. Hoskins' will, the interest on the residue of his estate remaining after the death of his wife, and having been converted into cash by his present executors, shall be used for "promoting, advancing and developing the fruit and horticultural Society; the principal to remain a perpetual fund."

The value of said estate has here.

(1) There shall be no election of political committeemen at city elections.

Candidates for any elective city office committeemen at city elections.

Candidates for any elective city office rankel be astatement of their candidacy, together with a petition signed by at least 100 qualified by one or more persons as to the qualifications and residence, with street and precinct number of all signers of the petition. In substance the petition shall request that the ballot for nomination to the office he seeks in the principal to remain a perpetual fund."

We further state that we know him to be a qualified elector of said city and a man of good moral character, and gualified, in our judgment, for the duties of such office."

No provision is methy elections.

Candidates for any elective city office committeemen at city elections.

Candidates for any elective city office committeemen at city elections.

Candidates for any elective city office the matter of the perimary elections.

Candidates for any elective city office the follow file with the City Auditor a formal election file with the City Auditor at the petition signed by at least 100 qualified or their candidacy, together with a petition signed by at least the days petition signed by at least 100 qualified.

In the primary elections.

Candidates for any electi

each office to be filled shall be the can-didates and the only candidates whose names shall be placed on the ballot at the election next following, except that double the number of Councilmen to be elected shall be placed upon the ballot, such candidates to be those re-ceiving the highest number of votes" ballot, such candidates to be those re-ceiving the highest number of votes" Should a vacancy occur in the nomina-tions prior to the election, the Auditor shall cause such vacancy to be filled by substituting the name of the candi-date receiving the next highest num-ber of votes in the primary election, for the office in which the vacancy oc-curs.

curs.
(This review of the amendments pro posed by the Charter Revision Commission will be continued by The Ore gonian until all of the importan changes have been considered.) Important

### A \$3000 Building "Grows" On His Land. New York Herald. How would you like to have this happen to you? Harold W. Dangler, of Brooklyn, owns

a piece of property in Arlington, N. J. Without his knowledge a land office was erected on the tract at a cost of \$3000 by where the control of ing to be built. Then the Walker Brothers Lumber Company, of Arlington, that had furnished the lumber for the building filed a lien against Dangler's property.

The case was tried before Judge Black in Hackensack, N. J., and the jury was directed to find a verdict for the defendant, Mr. Dangler. This they did, and as a result the lumber company is out the price of the building material, the contractor has lost his building and the defendant, Mr. Dangler, was made the owner of something for which he paid owner of something for which he paid nothing.

Eugene Register. Some of the people of Portland (not many) who have been the strongest advocates of the direct primary are now trying to overthrow the primary be-cause, in an absolutely fair use of the law, Joe Simon was nominated for Mayor on the Republican ticket. If either Albee or Keliaher had been the primary choice, these same people would have torn their hair over inde-pendent opposition and would have declared with much vociferation that an effort was being made to overthrow the direct primary, the only weapon in the hands of the people by which they were able to maintain the "people's rule." Oh, Portland politics, what strange and incongruous things are done in thy name!

### Strauss Composes a New Opera.

Berlin Dispatch.

Berlin Dispatch.

Considerable interest has been aroused in musical circles in Germany by the statement that Richard Strauss, the composer of "Elektra" and "Salome," is about to start work on a light opera. Some details of the composer's new undertaking have now become known. The name of the opera will be "Sylvia and der Stern" (Sylvia and the Star) and, although the plot is kept secret, it has transpired that the scene is laid at the end of the Eighteenth century, a period which, it is believed, should lend itself well to light, meiodious music and handsome costumes.