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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1909.

CONVENTION AID TO PRIMARY.

"It is admitted that the wide-open primary is a failure," says the Indianapolis News, until recently a champion of the direct primary, and even yet unwilling to give up its faith in it wholly. "It is a great disappointment. Nothing is gained by disguising that truth. If it were not a failure, its friends would not be so eager to amend it. In some way or other we must restore the convention feature as a supplement to the direct primary."

Such is a synopsis of an article from the Indianapolis paper, printed in another column today. There is no thought in the article of restoring the bosses or taking away rights of the people or returning to the old ring system, such as we hear in Oregon from shrieky persons and organs that oppose the rational plan of supplying deficiencies of direct primary with an advisory assembly or convention. Wherever the direct primary is used—Indiana, Maryland, Virginia, California, Oregon and elsewhere—it disrupts party, defeats majority will, gives obstructive power to minorities, keeps best men from seeking office, fills politics with fraud and perjury, and affords new opportunities for bosses and tricksters.

Portland found it necessary to eliminate large part of these evils last Spring by means of convention, which nominated a good Republican ticket. This ticket found the approval of more than a majority of the Republicans who voted in the primaries, and its candidate for Mayor was elected by a clear majority over all others. This corrective method will be extended to state politics next year. It is the rational solution of the primary trouble. Surprising thing about it is that any considerable number of citizens should oppose it as they are now doing in Oregon. The fact may be, however, that the foes of this primary reform are making more noise than they have votes. That was the case in Portland.

Men can meet political problems only by counseling together, same way as they counsel together to consider every other matter. A political convention is bound to be representative and controlled by popular demand when its work must meet the approval of the voters in the primaries and then again in the election. There is no hostile aim at direct primaries in this, nor any purpose to return to machine methods.

Indianapolis is learning these things quicker than we in this state permitted ourselves to learn them. Convention before primaries is necessary and is bound to become established in the new political system. It is American, republican and democratic. The representative principle is the safety of American politics, always has been and probably always will be. It is the best-known way the people have of ruling themselves and of carrying out their will.

BATTLE IN DESCHUTES.

Whatever the legal technicalities in the Deschutes, there is no mistaking the popular preference in Oregon for Hill's project up that river, if there must be choice between the two. This sentiment is firmly rooted and the Harriman attorneys, who are putting up the able battle in court for their chief, probably know it. Both roads are wanted by the public, but, if one of them is to be "shut out," there is a manifest popular desire that that one shall not be the Hill road. Perhaps, as numerous engineers tell us, there is room for both; if so, that will suit the people of Oregon finely.

There is no particular hostility toward Mr. Harriman in this matter, nor any opposition to his Central Oregon road; on the contrary, his new project is looked upon as teeming with promise and progress for a great neglected region and for the state at large. But injection of new railroad blood, as well as new railroad projects is needed by this state. Hill's is the new blood that is expected to start fresh activities and promote needed rivalries in railroad building and in transportation service.

Without reviving past criticisms or stirring up old animosities, it may be said that back of the popular preference in the Deschutes is the feeling that Harriman has had abundant opportunity to enter Central Oregon without obstacles and that now, when another railroad builder enters the field, the latter ought to have an opening on even terms. The welcome that Harriman has received in the State of Washington for new lines is the same kind that Hill has received for his Deschutes project.

This is the situation, so far as the public is concerned, stripped of claims about who was "there first." It is expected, however, that these technicalities will have to rule the issue in the courts, although the fighting attorneys appear not to think so wholly; each avers that the other's chief is simply in the game to hold up the rival line and that the court, in adjudicating the question, should be guided by this reserve argument.

Upon the result of the special election held in Tillamook today the hopes of a thriving, aggressive community for the creation of the "Port of Tillamook" depends. Tillamook, Hoquarton, Fairview and South Prairie precincts will be embraced in the new port, which will undoubtedly be created by the sanction of citizens to the act passed at the late session of the Legislature for that purpose. Realizing, from the stress of endeavor in the past, the value of self-help, the citizens of Tillamook propose to help the Government to help them by the levy of a small yearly tax to carry out the plans whereby nine feet of water will be secured on Tillamook bar at low tide—a depth that will enable vessels of that draft to reach Tillamook City. After that "just watch Tillamook grow."

CITY'S CONTRACT SYSTEM.

The City of Portland has undertaken to lay a water main in Everett street, to cost $4328.99 because bids of contractors were deemed too high. This episode is taken as text for argument that the city should dispense with the contract method wherever possible and go into construction work on a large scale.

This is dangerous and pernicious doctrine. The city may or may not save money by laying the water pipe in Everett street. That is to be proved. But it is a rule of experience, as old as the hills, that within lines of familiar undertakings, where unlimited capital and credit are not needed, government can more cheaply hire work done by contract than do it itself. The reasons are simple and many. They have been amply proved in our own city.

Does any rational person imagine the city could grade and improve and pave streets, build sewers, bridges, a crematory, and carry on other expensive improvements, beset as it is with chair-warmers, clock-watchers and labor-dodgers for employes—as cheaply as contractors, who are free from civil service rules and political influence, to hire the most efficient service? Portland has had enough inefficiency in its water department and its engineering department and its other departments, enough costly administration, enough overplus of jobholders and enough high taxes, without entering the field now occupied by contractors. High as is the cost of paving, it would be higher yet if the city had to pay directly for the wastes and the exactions of labor and inefficiencies of additional administration. Voters of Portland decided last election that a municipal light plant would make the cost of electric light higher to consumers and taxpayers. They were right. They had the correct idea. They will probably not be misled by the specious argument that the city can save money by discarding the contract system. Even if it should save in Everett street, it could not do so everywhere.

There is no probability that the city will ever give up contract work. There is no evidence that Mayor Simon plans to steer it in that direction. The city has too much government already. The less it has the better. That is good, old-fashioned doctrine, and it holds now just as always.

SAMUEL A. CLARKE.

Samuel A. Clarke, upon whose face age early set its serene and somewhat pathetic stamp, has passed from the ranks of Oregon pioneers in which he stood, at one time, sturdily, but of late years in the simple attitude of waiting, and is henceforth but a memory in their busy annals. Some years ago he retired from the ranks of Oregon jonrualism, of which he was long an active and aggressive member. Later he laid down the pen of the local historian, and later still he retired from the semi-political position to which he was advanced by the friends of a lifetime in order that he might not too long eat the bread of dependence. From the quiet, unobtrusive home life that was left to him under the gentle ministrations of a daughter, he has just made his final exit from the stage of life.

Few men were more widely known in the formative period of the state's life than was Samuel A. Clarke. He was a graceful, versatile writer and an acute observer. He knew the men of his active era, and with things pertaining to the state and its development he was in close touch. He was for many years interested in farming and won the esteem of the farmer-folk. Of naturally frail constitution and a somewhat excitable temperament, he grew early old in appearance, and the death of his wife when he was past middle life threw him into a state of despondency that added many lines to his thin face and gave the whitening touch of sorrow to his hair. Those who knew Samuel A. Clarke the best regarded him with the greatest kindness and consideration.

THE CARELESS CAMPER.

Forest fires in Washington, Idaho and British Columbia are raging with all of their old-time fury. Already more than $1,000,000 worth of timber has been destroyed in the Pend d'Oreille district, in Idaho, and a strip sixty miles long has burned over in British Columbia. Many settlers have been driven from their homes, and the property loss, aside from the timber destroyed, is very great. The spectacle of thousands of acres of fine timber being swept out of existence and of hundreds of settlers fleeing for their lives, leaving their savings of years to be swiped out, accounts for the intense feeling which the settler has against the careless camper, for to the latter are traceable more of the great forest fires that have ravaged the West than to any other source. Occasionally some settler, burning a slashing, permits the fire to get beyond his control, but these cases are rare in comparison with the others, for the reason that the settler is more fully impressed with the dangers that will result from any carelessness.

Twenty years ago, when stumpage could be bought for one-tenth of its present value, and when millions of acres of fine timber still remained in the hands of the Government, no determined effort was made to safeguard this great forest wealth, but with the advancing prices has come a greater degree of interest in forest preservation. Timber, from the time it is felled in the forest, until it reaches the consumer in the form of a manufactured product, pays a greater proportionate tribute to labor and, accordingly, is a more potent trade factor than any other big industry in the West. The saving of these forests from the needless annual forest fires, therefore, becomes a matter that concerns every individual, from laboring man to capitalist. In permitting the needless destruction of a single tree we are suffering a loss that is steadily growing in dimensions as the supply of timber decreases.

Over in the coal regions, where great Eastern syndicates have invested millions, a very rigid fire patrol system is maintained and losses by fires have been reduced to a minimum. The best fire patrol service that can be maintained cannot, however, guard against the carelessness of some of the irresponsible campers who roam the woods, leaving their smouldering camp fires to start these costly conflagrations. There is apparently great necessity for more stringent laws governing the situation. A penalty that would approximately fit the crime might have the effect of improving things.

HISTORIC "LONE FIR."

If conditions at Lone Fir Cemetery are half as bad as they are painted—that is to say, if burials are and have for years been made in the streets adjoining that burial place, and in its alleys, and if bodies, disinterred by the grading of these streets, notably East Stark street, have been reinterred eight in one grave—a dereliction of duty is shown by the superintendent that is shocking to the finer sensibilities of mankind, and a breach of faith between the cemetery association and lot-owners who bought exclusive individual or family privilege of interment in that opulent tract.

The public does not need to be told that this cemetery is bramble-grown and in a generally neglected and run-down condition. These are facts written all over the area wherein the bodies of full 25,000 of our one-time citizens and their families lie buried. It is a shame that this state of things exists; it will be a scandal if it is allowed to continue.

The location of the cemetery was unfortunate, as events have shown. When the first burial was made there the entire tract was but a wild spot in the bosom of a beautiful wilderness, far from any human habitation. The city has in recent years grown up to and surrounded it. It is no longer a suitable place in which to make graves. Sanitary reasons fully explain this, and, now that the vandal touch is added, it is high time to stop burials there; compel, if possible or necessary, the association that is said to have grown rich in tolls from a silent tenantry, to clean up and beautify the tract and to discontinue burials therein.

There are many monuments and slabs in the cemetery, some quaint, some beautiful and all sacred to memory. These may well be preserved, as are the tablets and monuments in Old Trinity, as memorials of the past and of those who peopled it. Beyond this all testimony of grewsome import might be removed, such as tottering old fences and wooden headboards, from which the names have been erased by the storms of years; straggling shrubbery, wild and unpruned; dilapidated copings and other evidences of transitory grief and unavailing sorrow. The tract thus cleared, seeded to grass or clover and reasonably well kept, would be a credit to the city, whereas in its present condition it is a disgrace.

UNSAVORY PLAYS.

One does not need to observe the stage in Portland or any other American town very long to come to the conclusion that the more salacious a play is the bigger the audience it draws. Of course everybody goes to see "Hamlet" when a famous actor stars in the title role, not because "Hamlet" is popular or ever will be, but because it is a convenient addition to the tittle-tattle of society to exclaim over the play. Lately Ibsen as acted by Mrs. Fiske and Madame Nazimova has risen to the same false illusion of popularity which Shakespeare enjoys when a Booth acts his dramas, but it is all a mere concession to good taste because good taste has become fashionable for the moment. For genuine, thorough-going public interest we must turn to plays like "The Girl From Rector's," which is so base in thought and language, it seems, that a respectable critic does not care to discuss it.

But respectable people go to see it all the same, and take their wives and daughters along. To language which they would not tolerate in their own households they listen complacently when it is used on the stage. If one of the innocent maidens who flock to witness such plays as "The Girl From Rector's" were to be caught looking at such a performance anywhere else than in the theater, she would die with shame and her death would be exceedingly timely, but at the theater she gazes and giggles and her parents by her side approvingly smile. Or if they do not approve, why are they there?

Who, in fact, will answer the question why decent, God-fearing people whose daily life is a pattern and exemplar seem after nightfall to shed their scruples like a garment and swarm by the hundred to see and hear things at the theater which would scandalize them anywhere else? Have the footlights some mysterious disinfecting power which takes the venom out of vice? It would be a comfort to think so, but, unhappily, everything goes to prove that the venom is still there and just as potent to do harm on the stage as anywhere else. Vice and wickedness behind the footlights are vice and wickedness still, just as much as when they crawl miserably in the slums. In the slums they are incomparably less pernicious than they are on the stage, because there their appeal shows for what it is, without the false allurements of gaiety and charming settings. In its true nature vice is hideously repulsive. To make it enticing on the stage it must be misrepresented in every possible way. Plays like "The Girl From Rector's" are evil not because they portray vice and its consequences, but because they portray them falsely. They picture wickedness as something which lends enduring joy to life, while the truth is that the pleasure is a very brief affair while the misery that is sure to follow goes with its victims to the grave. Why not show vice as it is if we must show it at all on the stage? Why make a business of mendacity, especially when the consequences are necessarily bad? To say that young persons can witness plays like "The Girl From Rector's" without soiling their minds is to talk nonsense. As well say that a man can handle tar and not daub his fingers.

Parallel with the strange liking for abominable plays which seems to be characteristic of our time there runs a tendency of the churches which is almost equally disheartening. The theaters make their appeal to the multitude with the most poisonous entertainment they dare to offer, the churches at the same time desert the multitude and follow their wealthy members to select quarters of the cities, leaving sin to riot as it likes so far as they are concerned. It almost seems as if they think nobody is worth saving unless he has a million dollars or so. Whether the common run of mankind are worth saving or not, their taste in dramas certainly shows that they need salvation and need it badly. Who or what is to rescue them from the slough of false idols and wicked entertainment they have wandered into if not the church? When the church forsakes its mission, who shall take it up? That its mission has been forsaken pretty largely in New York Ray Stannard Baker shows by startling figures in a late magazine. If ever sheep were left more shepherdless than the Protestant population of New York, it would be hard to find them. No wonder the forlorn creatures patronize the fetid drama. Where is the Boanerges to call them to repentance? Probably the churches have forsaken the multitude more completely in New York than in most other cities, but the doleful process is going on everywhere, and as the gospel retires the malodorous drama advances. What better proof could we have that the world needs faith to keep it sound?

Tillamook County has ordered another rock crusher, roller and engine and with arrival of the machine, will have more than $10,000 invested in equipment for road work. This will not seem surprising to anyone who has travelled over Tillamook County roads. Tillamook is a big county, with a small population and limited development which, of course, restricts the revenues and prevents elaborate improvement throughout the county. In the best developed portion of the county, however, in the vicinity of Tillamook City and Nehalem, will be found some of the best country roads that have been built anywhere in the State of Oregon. As all of the farmers and dairymen using these roads are highly prosperous, it is apparent that the value of good roads is fully appreciated in this remote county. The railroad will increase the population of Tillamook quite rapidly, but there will be a distinct advantage in continuing the present fine system of road building for many years.

More than one-half of all the world's shipments of wheat for the week ending last Saturday, poured out of Russian and Danubian ports, and the total from that quarter alone was 4,250,000 bushels. In the face of such a free marketing of wheat from that country, and with the American crop being rushed on the market as fast as it could be harvested, there was decided weakness in the world's wheat markets yesterday. While there is considerable strength in the statistical position of the cereal, and the decline may be arrested later in the season, so long as the Spring wheat harvest is following that of Winter wheat under ideal weather conditions, there is nothing to hasten the foreign buyers, and they will continue to hold off, in the belief that the price can be still further lowered before the scantiness of their stocks on hand forces them to enter the market.

If the New York stock market and the speculators who are responsible for the hysterical advances and declines which take place on the slightest pretext, or on no pretext, had their financial affairs in as good order as Mr. Harriman has his vast holdings, there would be no occasion for any drastic changes every time it is rumored that the railroad wizard is near death's door. The arrival of Mr. Harriman today will enable those who are best qualified to determine whether he is in immediate danger or not to render an opinion and, if the case is as bad as reported, Wall street may be depended on to throw the customary fit.

Japanese advices are that the insurance company's losses by the recent fire in Osaka were $2,500,000, and that few would be able to meet them. If the Japanese government had devoted some of the surplus funds which it has been donating to the ship-subsidy patriots toward maintaining a system of supervision over the insurance companies, the unfortunate losers would not now be confronted with bankruptcy because the protection for which they paid had failed to protect.

Rogue River Valley has a $1,000,000 fruit crop this year, and there will accordingly be no danger of the increasing population disarranging that record which some of the Southern Oregon fruit districts hold for having more automobiles than any other region of like population in the United States.

The Astoria & Columbia River Railroad invites its clients to help arrange its Winter time schedule, and promises to abide by the decision of the majority. Here's a railroad that recognizes a great truth. Every traveler knows exactly how to run a railroad.

By making it an official rather than a chafing-dish affair, Portland escapes the worry of Chicago and other cities in entertaining President Taft. The chafing dish is popularly thought to be a frying pan that has got into society.

There is no need for Wall street to get so excited over Mr. Harriman's health. Not he, but the natural resources of the great West, particularly the Pacific Coast, give value to Harriman stock holdings.

The president of the Washington Fruitgrowers' Association says apple prices are too high. They may be, over there, but not for Hood River, Yamhill and Rogue River fruit, all worth their cost.

Dr. Brougher might toss a penny and settle it. Naming Portland was a precedent. Though we wouldn't for the world intimate that the question of money ought to enter into so momentous a decision.

Let those who may be tempted by Uncle Sam's next land lottery in South Dakota come to Oregon. Every one who can secure as little as five acres here gets a prize. Oregon offers no blanks.

The bull elephant killed by Colonel Roosevelt and the hippopotamus "bagged" by Kermit were, possibly, kinsmen of some distinguished visitors in Portland.

Extra! Extra! Walter Wellman is going to try again for the North Pole. Why doesn't Wellman tackle something worth while and sail his balloon to Mars?

Stinging by bees enabled a Massachusetts paralytic to walk a mile. The yellow jacket has been known to relieve ennui.

Chicago, too, is going to raise the price of milk. It will not be surprising if all American cities imitate Portland.

The "Girl From Rector's" would better go back. There is where she belongs.

Reservations in the Dakotas will be opened in October. They are too far away

WIDE-OPEN PRIMARY A FAILURE.

Defender of New System Says "Convention Feature" Must Be Restored.

Indianapolis News.

We are not quite prepared to "renounce" the direct primary, though we are much less enamored of it than we once were. It was supposed that our law was excellent. It certainly is a real direct primary law. It will be remembered that in the beginning of the movement almost the fundamental idea was that the primary should be thrown wide open, that every one should have a chance to be a candidate, that there should be no control that might have the effect of limiting the people in their choice. All this was felt to be an essential and distinctive part of the system. All this we have in Indianapolis.

But now even those who favor the direct primary, including some who have rather criticised us for what we have said on the subject, are proposing reforms which will rob it of many of the features which were once supposed to be a necessary part of it. It is suggested, for instance, that party committees ought to nominate candidates to be voted for at the primary. To be sure other nominations—by petition—are to be permitted. But still we are asked to put ourselves again under the guidance of the bosses, and to ask them to pick out men for whom we shall vote.

In other words, the direct primary is to be made more effective by being made less direct. This is, of course, a return in part to the convention system, the committeemen constituting the convention. It is admitted that the wide open primary is a failure, that there must be some measure of control and guidance. Every scheme of reform that is proposed is based on the theory that a real direct primary—a primary at which the people are supposed to choose their candidates without guidance or control—is a failure. It is suggested, for instance, that in case no candidate receives a majority, all the candidates get together and elect a candidate from their own number. The theory here is that under this system good men would not hesitate to announce themselves, as they do under the present system, and that after the election the good men could combine against the ring candidates and elect one of their own number. This is ingenious, and it is quite possible that the plan would work.

But still there would be no need for any such arrangement if the direct primary as we have it here, the direct primary as originally advocated, worked as it was supposed it would work. As a matter of fact, it is a great disappointment. Nothing is gained by disguising that truth. It is actually true that the best men are deterred from becoming candidates because they are unwilling to go through two elections and campaigns, and also because they know that with several good men in the race the worst man of the lot is likely—nay, almost certain—to get through. Good men may actually be nominated by the gang for the purpose of dividing the vote of those who oppose the gang.

But the point we make now is that most of those who have discussed the question freely admit that in some way or other we must restore the convention feature as a supplement to the direct primary. Either there must be nominations beforehand, as suggested by those who would have nominations made by party committees, or else the direct primary must nominate candidates from whom the final selection shall be made by another convention held afterward—namely, a convention composed of the candidates themselves.

In our opinion good will come out of the agitation. Every one knows that the old convention system, as we used to know it, was most unsatisfactory. But it was unsatisfactory not because it was representative, but because it was not representative. This is a point that should be considered by those advocates of direct action who are opposed to representative government. If political conventions were fairly and honestly representative they would fulfill every purpose. People have become disgusted with them because they are not representative. It is possible that we may work out a combination of the two systems that will work well.

But one thing is certain, and that is that the direct primary in its extreme form, the wide open primary, the primary at which the people were supposed to act directly and not at all through representatives, is a failure. If it were not a failure, its friends would not be so eager to mend it. For our part, we hope that something may be done to improve our present machinery. But even then we shall get no good results unless the people themselves are interested enough to work for the nomination of good candidates, and even to become candidates themselves. No machinery will accomplish much unless the people are willing to do their part.

Revelations of Sutton's Inquiry.

Springfield Republican.

The most commendable aspect of the court of inquiry's finding concerning the death of Lieutenant Sutton of the Marine Corps is the sharp criticism of the lax discipline and low moral conditions in that branch of the service. The Sutton case possibly casts too dark a light, and the Marine Corps as a whole, perhaps, should not be judged by it, but when such cases arise and reveal shameful conditions in a particular circle the odium is inevitably visited upon the entire corps. The marines have a century of honorable history in war and peace, but undesirable officers are evidently to be found among them today. The notoriety of the Sutton case should have the ultimate effect of toning up the service.

Capitalizing a Voice.

London Chronicle.

Floating a young lady's voice as a limited-liability company sounds somewhat Gilbertian, yet it has actually been done in Australia. A syndicate with a capital of £1000 in £1 shares has been formed to send a young lady with a remarkable voice to be trained by Mme. Marchesi in Paris. She has entered into an engagement to give on her return a series of concerts in the principal Australian cities under the direction of the syndicate, whose members hope and expect in this way to get their capital back plus a substantial dividend.

Temporary Justice to a Few.

New York World.

The discovery that the Lincoln cent will fit the five-cent slot in pay telephones may for a brief period for a few people bring the price of telephoning down to what it ought to be for all the people all the time.

Why He Led.

New York Sun.

The angel was making up the list.

"I never asked my fellowman if it was hot enough for him," remarked Abou Ben Adhem.

And, lo! his name came in under the wire first.

FROM A GRATEFUL NEWCOMER

Hymn of Praise for the Natural Blessings of Oregon.

SPIRIT LAKE, Wash., Aug. 23.—To the Editor: I have lived in the Far East, and a number of the rural districts of the Middle West, and I wish to present a few facts on the difference of the East and the West.

About 12 months ago, when I left the East, en route to the West, and reached North Yakima's fruitful valley, and tasted of that fine, red Jonathan apple, I thought I was in the center of success and joy; still I could hear a continual cry from transient tongues of the beautiful, vernal country which lies west of the Cascades.

When landing in Portland, two months later, I found the Far West was the land of lands. An acre of Eastern ground will not produce as much as an acre of fine, fertile ground in the Willamette Valley. A small ranch in the Willamette Valley, where accessible to as good a market as Portland offers, will excel the profits and net more than many acres of Eastern wheat land, with about one-fifth the money invested in farm implements. I should have been here years ago had I known what I know now.

Portland, I believe, will be the Chicago of the West. If the Eastern young man could actually realize what a field of opportunity awaits him in the West, the star of success would not beckon him long. What opportunities are in the West for the young man? He can take up homesteads, timber land, coal land, mining claim, taking up water powers, etc. If the young Eastern man could realize all this he would not be long ascending the ladder of life, for here, and here only, is there room for another. There are already too many at the bottom of the Easten ladder.

The West has so many other blessings to offer, thanks to Providence, such as her temperate Summers and Winters, and a climate which cannot be excelled in the world; where the country suffers very little snow, and man is not subject to sunstroke, nor the Mississippi Valley's vile chills, malaria and poor water; where the chinook wind tempers the cool Winter breeze, and where the school children are never caught in some thunder storm, hail storm or awful tornado. These are only a few of the facts.

I have had more enjoyment the few months I have been out West than all the past years I spent in the East. I have had better health, lived in a better climate, drank better water, come in contact with less thunder, never been bothered with the chills, and, best of all, free from those howling roars of those awful tornadoes, cyclones and blizzards.

H. LUTHER DICKENS.

WOMEN CAN'T LET WOMEN VOTE

Mrs. Duniway Speaks of "Honk, Jawbone and Jimmy-Get-Along" Methods.

PORTLAND, Aug. 23.—To the Editor: A brief communication from Alice L. Park, of California, appearing in The Oregonian this morning, makes it necessary, on behalf of the Oregon State Equal Suffrage Association, to explain to the uninformed that our State Association has never maintained local suffrage clubs at all, except during the invasion of the National Association in 1905-6, when its archaic methods (which never win the ballot anywhere) plunged us into the quicksands by raising a storm of organized opposition among the voters, from which we have ever since been quietly struggling to extricate our entangled feet.

We have a conservative, self-respecting force of representative men and women in every county, allied with the State Association and keeping its own counsel.

Women can never enfranchise women. In every State where woman suffrage clubs are best organized and kept constantly in the limelight, there is the least possible show for success, either with the Legislature or at the ballot-box.

Both Mrs. Park and Mrs. Colby witnessed the melancholy result of women's promiscuous suffrage club work last month in the state of Washington—a result that has made the suffrage movement a roaring farce among the voters, and so handicapped the faithful wives and mothers who are unselfishly seeking the ballot that success is doubtful, although, prior to the introduction of the "Honk, jawbone, Jimmy-get-along" hurrah inspired by the visit of the National Association (of which a feeble aftermath has recently entered Oregon) there was no more organized opposition to the movement in the Evergreen State than there was in the Beaver State prior to the local club movement of 1905-6, or, than will, as we hope, be found in Oregon at the November election of 1910 if the voters of the state are not again nagged into stubbornness.

Meanwhile, our doors are always open and any man or woman is welcomed to full membership in our State Association, entitled to a delegate's vote at every annual meeting, or any special or general conference, by sending annual dues of $1, or life membership of $25, to our financial secretary, Mrs. A. Bonham, 220 Hibbard street; Mrs. W. E. Potter, 187 East Forty-ninth street, Portland, or the undersigned at 292 Clay street.

ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY,
President O. S. E. S. A.

Democrats and the Tariff.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

As to the future effect on political parties, there is room for all sorts of speculation. The country is disappointed at this outcome of the extra session, and many a member of the present Congress will be justly made a victim of that disappointment. The Republicans will suffer severely; would that the Democrats were in better position to profit by the shortcomings of their adversaries. That they will profit to some extent will be due to the fact, not that they are Democrats, but that they are the adversaries of the Republicans. For the country is indebted but little more to the Democrats in the present Congress than to the Republicans for relief from the burdens of a tariff for subsidy; the truth being that the bill as it went to conference was a product of Democrats as well as Republicans, and that several of its worst features could not have been incorporated in it except for the votes of Democrats, especially of Democrats in the Senate. And a still further and humiliatingly significant truth being that the chorus of opposition to the bill that is now going up from the Democrats in Congress is based upon the complaint, not that it is a highly protective measure, but that it makes an unfair division of the protection swag!

Contingent Miss.

Catholic Standard and Times.

"Now that you're living in the country," said Cityman, "don't you miss the early morning noise and bustle of the city?"

"I do," replied Subbubs, "if I miss the 7:10 train."

A Definition and Its Application.

Kansas City Journal.

A smart Kansas City editor has discovered after research that the word "chautauqua" means "bag tied in the middle," and is an Indian name. It isn't hard to see the modern application.

Requirements of Weight.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Of the 10 hours President Taft will be in St. Louis October 25 four will be spent at the breakfast and lunch table. It requires leisure to weigh 326 pounds.

After It Is Past.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The greatest trouble with the psychological moment is that you seldom know it until you see its number dangling behind as it speeds on its way.

FACTS ABOUT OLD NEW YORK

Marvelous Growth of the $24 Bargain Peter Minuet Got in 1626.

Pearson's Magazine.

Just 283 years ago the whole of Manhattan Island was bought by stout Peter Minuet, the New York governor of the West India Company, for a few trinkets valued at $24. The Indians were glad to get so much from the Dutch for their hunting grounds.

Several years ago ground at the corner of Broadway and Wall streets sold at $24 for six square inches, when a lot measuring 20 by 39 feet brought $700,000. So tremendous is the city's growth that one year's building plans represent a cost of $120,000,000.

It is bewildering, overwhelming, this city of many tongues and many bloods, where a procession of 50,000 Roman Catholics recently marched through festal streets to their great cathedral—although it was once a crime punishable by death for a "popish priest" to enter New York—and 800,000 Jews abide and flourish where once no Jews might vote.

There are nearly 10,000 policemen in the 3200 miles of streets. Their pay alone amounts yearly to $12,965,258. They made 244,822 arrests last year. To clean the streets they guard cost $7,418,299 for a single year.

The parks of the amazing city cover 14 square miles, including some of its choicest ground. It is said that they contain more than 2,500,000 trees and are valued at $1,500,000,000.

In other words, the parks owned by New York contain more land than the big city of Rochester, N. Y., and could be sold for enough to pay the entire national debts of Holland, Switzerland, Sweden and Turkey.

Think of a city that has built 514 schoolhouses at a cost of about $100,000,000 and that has more than 16,000 teachers and superintendents educating 651,000 children, the salaries alone being $17,581,000 a year. The Department of Education will spend $27,470,736 this year.

And if the giant skyline of New York staggers the imagination, what of the marvellous network of pipes and wires and tunnels under the streets? The separate wires buried under the pavements of the metropolis would reach 20 times around the world.

There is more than $12,000,000 of copper in them. Single cables carry a thousand wires. With thousands of wires under the streets and hundreds of wireless stations on the rooftops, millions of messages are whispered underground or overhead every day, and news comes trembling through the atmosphere from distant ships and continents.

Down beside the myriad electric channels hidden under the city rushes a daily supply of about 480,000,000 gallons of sparkling water, of which 335,000,000 gallons come from a clear mountain lake through two aqueducts, one of them tunnelled through rock and earth for 38 miles. New Yorkers pay their city $11,000,000 a year for drinking water.

It takes 10,000,000 pounds of food a day to supply the city. There are about 100 theaters, 1300 churches and nearly 10,000 saloons. In the midst of this rushing life 105,533 cases of contagious diseases are reported in a year.

On and over and under the streets of New York are 866 miles of surface, subway and elevated railway tracks owned by one corporation and capitalized in stocks and bonds at the well-nigh incredible sum of $761,135,911.

IMPERIAL SPIRIT OF THE WEST.

East Now Sings Praises of the "New Land Beyond the Rockies."

Chicago Tribune.

Henry Clay was an adept in picturing the future of the golden West in glowing words. To him the "West" meant Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. He urged the protection of its industries, the building of roads for its development, and the encouragement of its people in every way. Visitors from the East, attracted to the central states by the roseate descriptions of such leaders, went back home to sing the praises of the new land beyond the mountains.

The same sort of process is witnessed now. Visitors to the "West" are returning from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah and other commonwealths, telling of the glories they have seen. Many of them declare their intention to join the great army of homeseekers who are pressing into these new lands of promise. Their enthusiasm merely reflects the feeling of those already settled beyond a more distant range of mountains than that which formed a barrier for the pioneer of a century ago.

The expressions which come from the Irrigation Congress at Spokane indicate the belief of the "West" in itself. It knows what it wants. It does not hesitate to declare its needs. It does not use a foot rule or a pint cup in its measurements. Nothing but a large scale will satisfy it, as it looks out upon the possibilities. It must be confessed that there is something contagious in the confidence which every Western man feels in the certain future. As a stimulus to patriotic pride it cannot be surpassed.

The "West" wants money. It wants lots of it. Specifically, it wants $5,000,000,000. It will share part of it with the rest of the country, but its own projects will require much of the vast amount. The money is to be divided into five equal parts and is to be used for reclamation of arid lands by irrigation, for deep waterways, for good roads, for conservation of forest resources and for drainage of swamp land. $5,000,000,000 is a great amount, the vision of the Atlantic-coast citizen would never reach so for. It is the expectant "West" which sees far ahead, outlines the needs, and looks forward with a hopeful spirit in the direction of great accomplishments.

Measurement by Horsepower.

Boston Herald.

Isn't it about time for a new terminology of power? Measurement by horsepower has existed from time immemorial, and still serves its purpose. But for power upon the water a query of fitness arises, and as to airships in an element where no horse could possibly draw anything the use of the term horsepower makes for humor when you come to think of it.

Both Live and Learn.

Milwaukee Journal.

"A man lives and learns," remarked the husband with some bitterness.

"Well, the school of experience doesn't bar co-eds," retorted his wife.

Song of the Shave.

New York Sun.

With deadly razor in hand,
And a smile ineffably gay,
The barber leans o'er his victim and
Right merrily scrapes away.
Scrape—scrape—scrape!
While the customer tries to be brave;
Full well he knows there is no escape
When the barber pounds his face out of shape,
As he sings the song of the shave.

Pull—pull—pull!
Till the cuts are a half inch deep.
Ye gods! that razor should be so dull
And human blood so cheap.
Strop—strop—strop!
While the victim smothers a groan
He swings his lather brush like a mop,
Then cuts you into the bone.

Talk—talk—talk!
While the sufferer holds his breath;
'Tis not a case of "win in a walk,"
Thin race between life and death.
Tear—tear—tear!
Till pieces come off the chin,
And the stricken sufferer squirms—that's where
The powdered alum comes in.

And when the surgery's done,
The victim ambles away,
Asking himself why, under the sun,
He has such penance to pay.
"Thrice happy," he cries, "the elf
In this world of worry and woe,
Who, with an eye to patience and pelf,
Either wisely, prudently, shaves himself,
Or lets the alfalfa grow."