

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, NOV. 12, 1909.

NOMINATIONS IN THE PRIMARIES.

A plan offered for the elimination of some of the principal objections urged against the primary law is worth attention and study. It is universally admitted that the law, in its present form, is crude and defective. It was among the first essays in legislation of this kind, and although it has undergone numerous amendments, it has never been developed through experience since, could not then be foreseen. The letter is an intelligent statement of some of the principal objections, and an attempt to offer a remedy for them.

The principle of the direct primary, under strict regulation of law, is to be maintained, since the purpose is to give the body of the voters of each party, or of any considerable group, opportunity to make nominations for office, and to protect the operation of process against abuse and fraud. We think the plan suggested by this letter would be an improvement, in that it would provide a way whereby plurality candidates of a party might receive through the canvass of votes and transfers of ballots on a closely prescribed system from the lower to the higher candidates, the sanction of majority nomination. How satisfactory it might be could be determined only after trial. The plan is ingenious, and it obviates one objection made to the Washington law, which invites candidates virtually to make their chief effort and object to obtain second-choice votes; and it might have a tendency to bring a class of men more capable, efficient, and worthy into candidacy for important positions.

But how to meet the fundamental objection, most serious of all, the writer does not attempt to explain. Indeed, our knowledge from experience so far offers no remedy. This evil, the intrusion of party politics into the affairs of another, for the purpose of controlling that other party's nominations. The basis of it is false statement, deliberately made, at the time of registration. Thus men of one party are able to stuff the ballot lists of the other. The purpose always is political or partisan mischief, without regard to the bearing of consequences on the general welfare of the state. In short, it is dishonorable citizenship. But what is the remedy? It is the main defect of the direct primary system, as it stands now.

THE MISSING LINK.

It was natural to expect that the new find of fossils in the river clays of Northwestern Texas would be regarded as "missing links." The phrase has not just quite all of its old heretical and damatory significance, and it adds, therefore, a distinct flavor of interest to a news item; but as a matter of fact almost any newly discovered fossil is likely enough to be a missing link in the series of animal remains which have been preserved for us in the rocks, the gaps are innumerable. Geologists have managed to fill many of them by conjectures more or less speculative, but they habitually refuse to discover a fossil which fits in. A true scientist always prefers a fact to a theory, however plausible the latter may be. The importance of the find in Texas does not lie in the fact that the fossils are huge. A little skeleton is as valuable as a big one to the investigator. These new remains seem to be of special interest because they fit into the rather wide space which has heretofore separated the mammals from the reptiles.

The succession of life forms on the earth has not been nearly so neatly regular as many people suppose. The geological ages cannot be chopped off into periods when all former animal species disappeared and new ones evolved. The species overlap one another in a perplexing way. Usually geologists can make a shrewd estimate of the date when a new genus began to exist, but this never coincides with the annihilation of any other race. Throughout all time, just as they do today, many varieties of living beings have dwelt side by side upon the earth in more or less harmony and mutual love. But in succeeding periods one race of animals after another has been predominant. The conditions of soil, moisture and heat were in constant change, and they became particularly favorable first to one type of life, then to another. Consequently, we see the molluscs succeeded a type of animal by the fishes, though even in the Devonian age, when fishes and insects made their entrance into life, there were quite as many molluscs as there ever had been. Then came an Egyptian plague of toads and frogs in the carboniferous age, followed by the reptiles, and finally by our own family, the mammals.

The changes from one geological age to another were often made by upheavals of land or subsidence which drew great areas under water. Hence the last representatives of some species were buried so deep that we never have been able to dig them up, or else they were covered by the water and vanished in the process of decay. It follows that in mapping out the development of life we stumble every now and then upon a gap. Scientific men are convinced that evolution has been fairly continuous. It is not denied that pretty wide leaps, or mutations, may have occurred, but they were not frequent. The rule has been a gradual flux of one species into another by variations almost imperceptibly minute. This is the inference which geologists are constrained to draw from the facts as a whole, but the "missing links" impair its validity somewhat, and for this reason, there is always a gap in scientific circles when one of them is discovered. It cements

lands of their Old World provinces. In their view, exploitation and development must cease for fear of marring the natural wildness of the country. The poor man who happens to have a patch of power on his land must sell it, for fear some man with a "swollen fortune" would harness the power and make it work.

Ballingier, being a man of the West and for the West, naturally cannot regard these matters from the same standpoint as Pinchot. He did not believe in the policy of keeping vast areas of public land from the people who wished to develop it and make it productive. Yet nothing in his official career has shown that the interests of the people have suffered by his policy. Mr. Pinchot was desirous that the Government should retain certain water rights along the Owyhee River. Under the free hand given him by Roosevelt, he withdrew from settlement vast tracts of land on both sides of the river.

Mr. Ballingier recognized the necessity for conserving the water rights of the Owyhee, but he protected the interests of the Government and the people fully as effectually as they were protected by Pinchot, and at the same time cut down the Pinchot withdrawals to such an extent that hundreds of square miles of fine land were made available for settlement. The West needs capital and development more than it needs increased areas in its forest reserves or natural unhampered wildness in its water powers. Therefore it needs Ballingier more than it needs Pinchot.

DECREASING WHEAT EXPORTS.

The Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor has issued an interesting statement intended to explain the steady decline in the amount of American wheat marketed abroad. Although the 1909 crop is generally estimated as being more than 50,000,000 bushels greater than the preceding year's, the exports (those included) for the nine months ending with September were 54,000,000 bushels less than for the same period last year. This decrease, as shown by the Government figures, is due more to increased consumption at home than to any decrease in production. For the five years ending with July 1, 1909, the total of wheat exports (those included) reached a total of 171,000,000 bushels, while the average crop yield for that five-year period was 51,200,000 bushels.

The five-year period ending with 1904 witnessed annual exportations of 125,000,000 bushels, the highest in our history; but the yield for the five years averaged but 525,000,000 bushels. Since 1904 the decline has been rapid, the annual exports averaging but 113,000,000 bushels, while the yield has increased to an average of 655,000,000 bushels, and this year's crop is estimated at 690,000,000 bushels. So striking a change, and one which seems certain soon to place the United States outside the ranks of exporting countries, would seem almost unbelievable were it not so accurately reflected in the local situation. Less than twenty years ago California proposed an exportation duty on wheat of 40 cents per bushel, or about one-fourth of the total amount exported from the United States. So rapid has been the change in the situation that today California, instead of being an exporter, is obliged to import annually from Oregon and Washington about \$3,000,000 worth of wheat for local consumption, and, despite a yield in the Pacific Northwest in excess of the total yield of the entire Pacific Coast region twenty years ago, the exportable surplus is steadily decreasing under the increasing drain for home consumption.

GREEN CAPS.

Among the laws enacted by the advanced students at the State University of Northwestern Texas, one which prescribes green caps for their headgear. A freshman may prefer a hat to a cap, but that makes no difference. He may like a purple cap better than a green one, but law is law, and if he dares to rebel against the mandate of his superiors he is to be "ostracized."

It is said that the young women at the university are particularly active in this petty persecution of new students. If the charge is true, it supplies an argument against co-education. The remark has been made by some observers that in co-educational colleges the women imitate the worst traits of the worst men they associate with. They become the most abject slaves to cruel traditions and monkish fetichas to be found in the student body. How true this may be we do not know, but if it is not wholly false then one would be compelled to believe that there are more wholesome places for women than co-educational colleges. Girls are not cruel by nature, and surely the best education is not one that makes them cruel.

What is there in the atmosphere at Eugene which makes it impossible for the students who have been there a year or two to mind their own business? What a freshman means on his head is his own concern and nobody else's, so long as it is not indecent. There is no rule of the faculty or regents prescribing a green cap. There is no reason in the nature of things why a green cap is preferable to a black derby hat. If a freshman desires to wear a hat of his own choice, it is his right to do so, and if he has the true American love of personal liberty, he will assert the right. In the land of Washington no man can begin too young to defend his individuality against impudent invasion.

BALLINGER OR PINCHOT?

If the superintendent of a great railway is asked for the fullest confidence of the manager and directors, were to be continually pestered and misrepresented in the public prints by his subordinates, the services of the latter would soon be dispensed with. The good of the service, if nothing else, would demand that these subordinates be rebuked for interesting themselves for which the superintendent, and not they, would be held responsible. A situation similar to this now exists in the office of the Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Ballinger is the administrative head of that department, and was selected in preference to Mr. Glavis or Mr. Pinchot, because it was believed that he was well qualified for the position. The unqualified vindication given him by President Taft, when the Pinchot attacks began, would indicate that his services are appreciated by the President.

From the beginning of his term as Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Ballinger has been hampered and misrepresented by Mr. Pinchot's friends. Pinchot is a theorist and a friend, and being a man of great wealth, which he inherited, is naturally out of sympathy with the great West, where men are in the strictest sense the architects of their own fortunes. Pinchot and his aristocratic followers in the East regard the West as a wilderness, and undeveloped land in much the same light as the feudal barons of old regarded the

have found which is more than the equivalent of conquering and annexing one of the small nations. "Everybody's Magazine," is overjoyed to have secured access for its colonists to Corea, which is already thickly populated. Here is a tillable area a third as large as all Corea, and absolutely uninhabited.

Here indeed is the "land of tomorrow." Here is a food mine of undeveloped wealth, the extent and productivity of which even in perspective are sufficient to dispel the gloomy forebodings of Malthus. To insure the working of this vast mine this All-Canadian Railway starts boldly out from Moncton, New Brunswick, at the head of the Bay of Fundy, and makes its way westward and northward to Prince Rupert, on the North Pacific Coast. The feat is so stupendous as to baffle computation; so big in its resultant possibilities as to stagger imagination; so bold in its conception as to put everything but engineering skill and human determination to rout.

From Boston comes news of a gigantic railroad merger by which the Boston & Maine, the New York, New Haven & Hartford, the Pennsylvania and Santa Fe systems are to be amalgamated under one head. The West needs capital and development more than it needs increased areas in its forest reserves or natural unhampered wildness in its water powers. Therefore it needs Ballingier more than it needs Pinchot.

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Washington has a law forbidding the smoking of cigarettes and penalizing the possession by any person even of the "makins." Now comes the North Yakima Sheriff, who honestly tried to enforce the law, and announces that he will make no more arrests. The law is absurd, and is universally disregarded, and is therefore a dead letter. Oregon has no monopoly of silly legislation.

Friends of Governor Benson think he should be relieved of the stress and agony of pardons by a pardoning board. But what is a man Governor for if not to face the troubles and responsibilities of the position? For a study-spired man the duties of the Executive need not be made easier.

AN UNDEVELOPED FOOD MINE.

If we are to believe magazine writers and railroad promoters and builders, the wonderland of the North American continent lies in the Dominion of Canada north of the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In its vast extent, in the abundance of its native resources and in its possible contribution to the agricultural wealth of the world, the vast region skirting Hudson's Bay and stretching northward even to the Arctic circle and westward to the Gulf of St. Lawrence in its hidden wealth the most extravagant dreams of avarice. Upon its millions of arable acres the sturdy yeomanry of Northern Europe will find in a few years home and plenty, and in tapping its mineral stores men will find a fulfillment of the wildest dreams of fortune.

Cobalt, Ontario, the New Eldorado of this region, is some 850 miles from New York, and less than half that distance due north of Toronto. It was discovered, as stated by a writer in Harper's Weekly, by the "engineer's level" in 1902. The tremendous value of the "find" was not realized until in 1908 the cobalt mines produced nearly one-tenth of the entire silver output of the world, which is officially stated at 200,000,000 ounces; this year they will produce one-seventh.

This is the story on the mineral side of the great middle empire of Canada, the exploitation of which was begun in the opening years of the twentieth century. Not less wonderful—more wonderful indeed—is the agricultural opportunities that have not yet advanced beyond the stage of discovery and promise, the development of which awaits the completion of the All-Canadian Railway, which has been in process of construction, including the surveys, for five or six years. This line, when completed, will be 3600 miles long, will constitute the "newest, remotest, shortest route across the Western Hemisphere between Liverpool and Yokohama."

The region traversed is simply immense, and at the present time it is mostly unpeopled. The new line leaves the settled sections of Canada in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario to the south, invades the silence of the great Hudson's Bay section, runs westward through the "rough country," with its mineral wealth still untapped, veering now to the north, now to the south, but always westward. It taps a great agricultural basin of 16,000,000 acres, to

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NOMINATIONS IN THE PRIMARIES.

Outline of a Plan to Secure Nominations by Majorities.

PORTLAND, Nov. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Since the Oregon direct primary law was adopted, a very simple and successful improvement has been made elsewhere by which the successful candidate is always chosen by an absolute majority of the electors voting instead of a mere plurality. The new plan is effective at any election where there are more than two candidates for a position to which only one person is to be chosen. By an absolute majority is meant more than one-half of all the electors voting.

This improvement removes the three principal objections justly made by the Oregonian and many others against the operation of the Oregon law, both for nomination and election. These three defects are:

First, that the successful candidate is usually the choice of less than one-third of the electors voting, and the remaining two-thirds of the electors vote for a candidate to whom they do not declare themselves.

Second, that many of the most capable and efficient men who do declare themselves as candidates are not nominated or elected, as the case may be.

By the improved plan the voter marks the names of the candidates on the ballot in the order of his preference with the figures 1, 2, 3, and so on. In the case of the electors, the candidate is marked first choice on more than one-half of the ballots cast, the person having the smallest number of first choice votes is declared defeated, and the ballots on which he is marked second choice are transferred to the remaining candidates according as their names are marked next in the order of their preference on the ballots. This process of cutting out the lowest choice electors and trying his ballots to his supporters' next choice is continued upward until one candidate is the choice on more than one-half of all the ballots.

The successful candidate is always one of the two or three who are the first choice of the largest number of voters, so that no man dares to make his name principally for the second choice votes, as under the Washington state plan, lest he be eliminated on the count for the first choice votes. The electors' ballots are marked in the final count, because the voters failed to mark their second, third, or additional preference among the candidates.

Now suppose there are four candidates:

Brown is first choice on 46,230 ballots
 Jones is first choice on 35,210 ballots
 Smith is first choice on 24,190 ballots
 Wilkinson is first choice on 8,500 ballots

An absolute majority is 54,231.

Each candidate has a majority of the first choice votes, Wilkinson's ballots are distributed to the other candidates in accordance with the voters' second preferences indicated on Wilkinson's ballots as follows:

To Brown, from Wilkinson's first choice ballots 4,230
 To Jones, from Wilkinson's first choice ballots 4,230
 To Smith, from Wilkinson's first choice ballots 4,230

On 2140 of Wilkinson's ballots no second choice was marked. The result of these transfers is:

Brown, first choice ballots and second choice transfers from Wilkinson, 50,460
 Jones, first choice ballots and second choice transfers from Wilkinson, 39,440
 Smith, first choice ballots, no second choice transfers, 24,190
 Wilkinson, no second choice transfers, 8,500

The absolute majority thus becomes 53,141.

As no candidate has a majority, the ballots given for Smith are transferred to Jones, and the voters' second or additional preferences, indicated on the ballot, as follows:

To Brown, second choice on Smith's ballots 12,160
 To Jones, second choice on Smith's ballots 12,160
 To Smith, second choice on Jones's ballots 12,160
 To Jones, second choice on Brown's ballots 12,160

The result of these transfers is:

Brown 62,620
 Jones 51,600
 Smith 24,190
 Total 142,410

Brown therefore nominated by 12,780 clear majority of all the ballots on the last count, and it is done at one election.

Candidates would be put forth by petition by their friends or by conventions or assemblies. Because the successful candidate must always be the choice of more than half of all the electors voting, there is no possibility of boss rule or machine control under this improved plan.

The principal change to adapt the law to the conditions of Oregon would be to have two separate ballots. On one ballot would be the county and local candidates, with measures referred to the people, and these ballots would contain the names of candidates for state and district offices for districts of two or more counties, and these would be counted at Salem.

The above plan and illustrations are adopted from a bill introduced in the British House of Commons by Mr. John Robertson in July, 1906. It was adopted in Australia in the province of Tasmania and voted successfully at the general election last April. The adoption of the plan in Oregon would not be so radical a change as was our adaptation of the Australian ballot law to our conditions.

If there is any real and general demand among the Republican leaders and members of the Legislature for true majority nomination, and election by ballot, it can be easily adapted to Oregon conditions and made operative for the general election next year.

Boy With an Almsman's Memory.
 London Dispatch.
 An imbecile boy of 10 years with a most marvelous "almsman's" memory has just been introduced in the Yinness "Psychological Society." Armed with a quart of various years and kinds, the scientist posed the boy with questions on dates covering all the centuries from the 16th to the 20th. Without a moment's pause and always correctly the boy answered such questions as: When is Ascension Day 1927? How long is the week did June 14, 1908, fall on? When is Ascension Day 1927? How long is the carnival season in 1924?

Carpets Being Made of Paper.
 London Globe.
 In Halmstad, Sweden, Pontas Holmstrom is about to start a spinning mill for making yarn out of paper. Such mills already exist in Germany and France. So far the manufacture of rugs and carpets seems to be the best business in the world. It is said that people in Sweden, especially in the provinces of Osterjotland, are already making carpets with paper. The narrow rolls of paper tape are used, but this, of course, is not spun.

Growth of News Paper Production.
 Kansas City Star.
 The growth of the news paper production shows an increase of 570 per cent for this year as compared with the output in 1860. In that year the daily production of all the papers was 620 tons. It has been estimated that the average daily output for 1909 will be 425 tons.

THE ASSEMBLY PLAN.

Method of Selection of Delegates to Carry It Into Execution.

CARLTON, Ore., Nov. 10.—(To the Editor.)—As the assembly plan is being discussed at considerable length of late by the various newspapers throughout the state, I thought that a few remarks upon the subject from one of the rank and file of the party might not be inappropriate at this time.

As arguments favoring an assembly have been so ably presented from time to time, I thought it might be well to say upon that part of the subject. But as I have only in a few instances noticed any reference to the plan of selecting the delegates, it is upon this phase of the subject I am constrained to venture a few suggestions.

In this connection, while I favor the assembly plan, yet I do not deem it good policy that the delegates to either the county or state assemblies be selected by the county central committees, as has been recommended in some instances—for the reason, first, that it places entirely too much power at the disposal of a few in each county, thereby enabling them practically to elect themselves to the respective counties, and the state as well. In fact, they would be the "whole thing." To illustrate: When they would meet at their respective county seats for the selection of delegates, there would probably be, in most cases, approximately about as many delegates to be chosen as the county committee would, through courtesy, be permitted to name one delegate to the State Assembly, and all the delegates from the county would be chosen by the county committee. It would also be natural to suppose they would choose people in harmony with their own views, while a little of the seats would be reserved for the county.

Second: As county central committees are elected at the general election two years before the county assembly to meet and select delegates, entirely too much time would thus be afforded them, and especially the scheming one, to form a party, and to bring to the front at this time they would be a prey to designing and unscrupulous politicians from the outside, to say nothing of that class of men who, with a little of the ranks, can thus readily be seen what a grand opportunity would be afforded for the introduction and development of bossism. The state assembly would be too much time would thus be afforded them, and especially the scheming one, to form a party, and to bring to the front at this time they would be a prey to designing and unscrupulous politicians from the outside, to say nothing of that class of men who, with a little of the ranks, can thus readily be seen what a grand opportunity would be afforded for the introduction and development of bossism.

In order, therefore, to prevent such a condition, let the Republican voters of the various precincts, first, meet and elect delegates to their respective county assemblies, and said assemblies may elect delegates to the state assembly, and also suggest candidates for the various county offices. Only have the assembly members elected by the county, represented by a much larger proportion of delegates than formerly. The number should not be too large, however, so as to form a party, and to bring to the front at this time they would be a prey to designing and unscrupulous politicians from the outside, to say nothing of that class of men who, with a little of the ranks, can thus readily be seen what a grand opportunity would be afforded for the introduction and development of bossism.

PLANS FOR A "CITY BEAUTIFUL."
 Usually They Are Made, and Then Noting Being.

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 10.—(To the Editor.)—Much good may, and should, result from the proposed employment of an expert to prepare plans for beautifying the city of Portland. The city of Portland may serve to promote aesthetic ideas in connection with civic improvements.

It would certainly be lamentable if the work of the expert were to be a mere matter of profit as a little value as it has in some other Western cities. A short time before the San Francisco earthquake and fire, elaborate plans for remodeling that city were prepared at a great expense. One of the leading features of these plans was a civic center, where all public buildings should be grouped in a central point.

As if to aid in making this plan a possibility, the municipal buildings were destroyed in the great catastrophe of 1906, and the people of the city were constrained to build them in accordance with the suggestions made by Burnham, who had prepared the plans for the civic center. The city of Portland has a fine set of streets, and the City Hall, Courthouse, Hall of Justice and libraries will be as widely scattered as they were previously.

England's Best-Dressed Debutantes.
 London Dispatch.
 Lady Winifred Gore, half sister of the Earl of Arran, 18 years old, enjoys the distinction of being one of the best dressed as well as the most handsome debutantes in London society of the year. She lives with her mother, the Dowager Countess of Arran, at Queen Anne's Mead, near Windsor.

Italian King as an Author.
 New York Press.
 King Victor Emmanuel will publish a book shortly on the history of the Italian monarchy. It is written by himself. The King has been a coin collector for years and has already written a treatise on the subject, which was issued for private circulation among his friends.

Pearl Worth \$3000 Found in River.
 Des Moines, Iowa, Dispatch.
 James Gray, of Washington, D. C., has sold at Terre Haute, Ind., for \$3000 a pearl which he found in a narrow river in the State of Indiana. The pearl weighed 34 1/2 grains, and was the finest as far as is known, ever found in Indiana. Gray found it two years ago which he sold for \$250.

Life's Sunny Side

Among Mr. Carnegie's innumerable Scotch stories is one about a caddie of St. Andrews.

"This caddie's wife—so Mr. Carnegie's story runs—was much troubled by her husband's loose way of life. He could never have a good day on the links but he must end it with a wet night at the tavern. So, to cure him, the woman lay in wait on the road one evening, dressed in a white sheet.

When her husband appeared she rose from behind a hedge, an awful white figure, with outspread arms.

"Who the d'ill are you?" asked the in-temperate caddie.

"I'm Addie Nickie," said the figure, in a hollow voice.

"Gie's a shake o' yer hand, then," said the tipsy caddie. "I'm married ta a sister o' yours. She'll be wair for us up at the house an' nae doot she'll mak' ye welcome."—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

The minister was spending the afternoon at the home of one of his members. The father told his little son to bring some apples from the cellar. The child obeyed, and in the kitchen found an especially large red one which he had brought up the day before, so placed it on the dish with the others.

When they were passed this was the apple, the minister took a bite and, as he munched, remarked to his host that the cellar must be very warm.

"Did you not bring these apples from the cellar?"

"Yes, father, all but the one pastor has; it was in the kitchen."

"Why did you not tell me?" asked the pastor.

"Well," with childish frankness, "I didn't think you would take the biggest one on the dish!"—Delineator.

In ante-bellum days Colonel Moore, of Kentucky, owned a large number of slaves. He was a kind master, and never punished with the whip. One day one of the field hands, named Japs, was guilty of some negligence and was sent to the woods at one to cut down and split up a black gum tree, practically an impossible task.

Japs cut down the tree and labored hard to split the tough wood, but in vain. In the meantime a thunder storm came and an angry wind blew the Japs under a brush heap. Directly the lightning struck a large poplar near by, splitting it into kindling wood.

After the storm had passed Japs crawled out from his place of security and after taking a careful look at the remains of the poplar tree, which were scattered all over the woods, said: "Mr. Moore, I wish you had just tried 'o' han' on dis black gum. Any blame fool can split a poplar!"—Cleveland Leader.

The young Iowa Scott girl confided to her mistress, after a few days, some of the trials of her journey from her old home. "Twas an awful time I had on the boat, 'ma'am," she said dolefully, "I wish you had just tried 'o' han' on dis black gum. Any