

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, MAY 2, 1910.

DIRECT LEGISLATION FOLLOWS

Voters of Oregon will be confronted with a more vexing puzzle of initiative and referendum measures in the election next November than ever before. Between twenty-five and thirty questions of constitutional amendment and statutory enactment will be submitted to the electors.

So complicated is the outlook that sponsors of certain "improvements" have been demanding suppression of others, in order that the people may be "protected." Yet the system guarantees equal privilege in legislation to all classes of citizens.

Truth is the system is at fault. It has cut loose from representative, legislative government, and has become a method of non-deliberative legislation by the crowd.

Six county questions, in separate bills, must be passed upon by the electorate. They cannot be legislated upon by the people of the state according to their respective merits.

Normal schools are initiating bills to revive themselves at Weston, Ashland and Monmouth, without affording voters a chance to select alternative locations that would be more advantageous to state-wide interests.

Here are measures that should be enacted into law, if at all, only after due examination and proper amendment. In the cases of woman suffrage and prohibition, this is not so necessary.

The initiative and referendum in Oregon, especially the initiative, violates the most venerable and respected principles of our government.

first in surprise, then with appreciation. This generous acknowledgment, and in every newspaper throughout the land there appeared the next day, by the side of the pictured face of her stalwart son, the great financial and money cap...

There were those—and their name was legion—who recalled in conjunction with the honor thus accorded to his mother by James A. Garfield in the hour of his supreme triumph that Lucretia Garfield was but one of a vast number of women who had been left to discharge the double duty of father and mother to fatherless, or worse than fatherless, children had performed this task with energy, persistence and self-abnegation, not always to say, with success.

PORTLAND AGAIN AT THE TOP. With bank clearings in excess of \$46,000,000, building permits breaking all previous records for the month and other trade statistics in keeping, the month just closed has surprisingly exceeded the judgment of those who predicted an active movement this Spring.

From its earliest history, Portland has always been the commercial and financial clearing-house for an immense area and the growth of the city has always been in strict ratio with the growth of the country.

ADVERTISING OREGON APPLES. Someone suggests occasionally that the planting of orchards and the production of apples and other fruits is a greatly overdone in Oregon, and that very soon we shall reap the reward of our rashness in demoralized Eastern markets and greatly increased output there.

ROOSEVELT AND THE REPUBLIC. Mr. Roosevelt has said to crowns and people of the Old World that republic government, as exhibited in the United States, is on trial before the world and has yet to complete the proof of stability of popular sovereignty.

SPOKANE'S DISTORTED VIEW. The Spokane Spokesman-Review, with an inquiry regarding facts checked by The Oregonian with respect to "the railroads simply cannot afford to cut down their earnings on Spokane and other interior business."

UNIQUE STATE PAPER. Governor Hay of Washington has issued a proclamation, couched in grand and poetic language, setting apart Sunday, May 8, 1910, as a day to be observed throughout the Commonwealth as "Mother's Day."

This is something entirely new in the domain of state craft. We recall that President Garfield, immediately after taking the oath of office as Chief Magistrate of the Nation, turned and tenderly kissed his aged mother who had proudly witnessed his elevation to the highest office in the gift of the people.

does not state that the railroads can afford to grant a terminal rate to Spokane. It refrained from making this statement for the simple reason that any reduction in rates that might be ordered in order to cut down the excessive earnings would automatically reduce the rates on the coast terminals where the water carriers will always fix the rates.

Portland objects and will continue to object to any scheme by which these "excessive earnings" are to be distributed in the shape of reduced rates to interior points without a corresponding reduction being made at tide water where terminal rates are made.

IMPROVED ORIENTAL SERVICE NEEDED. The steamships Beaver and Bear, just arrived from the builder's hands, are magnificent vessels, which would be a credit to any route in the United States.

When we stop to think over the attractions those great theatrical philanthropists, Klaw & Erlanger, have been furnishing Portland during the past several years, there would really seem to be no occasion for any further effort to develop the fact that they have severed all diplomatic relations with our local magnates.

Just a little superfluous for the Republican State Central Committee of Washington to try to read Inaugural addresses to the people of the state, and read himself out of the party.

THE PESSIMISTS CONTINUE to be amazed that Rogue River and Hood River fruit land should sell as high as \$2300 per acre. That is higher than orchard land sells in the East.

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Now that it seems to be settled by the census experts—who didn't take the census, by the way, but that's no matter—that Portland has over 200,000 population, the way is clear for such a Republican as Mr. Smith.

Some people, very likely, were counted several times; yet it is impossible to satisfy everybody.

stitution, except in some matters respecting the rights of Western States as to conservation, and none of Roosevelt's critics in the thickly populated East see any menace in this to the perpetuity of dual government; in fact, all are clamoring for extension of conservation powers against state authority.

On the Fat of the Land. "Where Fruit Ripens Fast" is a slogan worthy of its name. The first of the week the family of C. H. Cranston having gooseberry trees from this year's berries, in most places the bushes are scarcely more than in bloom.

NON-PARTISAN "BUNCO GAME" Democrats are working it overtime to get and hold office. What does "non-partisan" judiciary mean? There is strong reason to believe that the King, who is now on the Supreme Bench through the good graces of a Democrat who was Governor and had the appointing power.

Japan and the Rose Festival. The rose trees sent from Yokohama as a contribution to the Portland Rose Festival made a deep and pleasant impression as many have gathered from the communications of Consul Numano (Portland) to Count Komura.

Why Should an "Assembly" Select Ball Players or Umpires? PORTLAND, May 1.—(To the Editor.) Baseball is called the National Game, but an inappropriate name to one with an imagination.

Therefore is Valueless. Philadelphia Inquirer. A Boston cynic complains because the football game more than any other is a student of Harvard. This is specious. We don't believe that the president knows anything about the game.

Unpopular Invention. Philadelphia Inquirer. Invited. It is safe, sane and admirable, and it won't sell worth a continental for these reasons.

Makes It Look Like a Piker. Houston Post. With T. E. blazing across creation Halley's comet must feel like a sick lightning bug.

LIFE IN THE OREGON COUNTRY

All Their Grievances Little Ones. Mayville Correspondent Condon Times. A nine-pound baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Dave Grievance Saturday morning.

On the Milky Way. Gervais Star. Gervais is a small town, yet one day last week we counted 40 cows all bunched together on one of the main streets.

The Last Sad Rites. Heppner Times. Billy Stewart brought 17 young coyotes to the County Clerk's office Tuesday, which he reports as having found in one nest.

The Deadly Gopher Gun. Dallas Observer. John Dehm, a farmer living in the Salt Creek neighborhood, was accidentally shot in the thigh yesterday while handling a gopher gun.

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SEALS ARE KILLED AT PRIBILOF

U. S. Senator Nelson Opposes Dr. Jordan in Letter's Statement of Facts. LAKEWOOD, Ohio, April 27.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian of April 23, 1910, I published a communication from Dr. David Starr Jordan, who says the "land killing of fur seals on the islands in Bering Sea never has and never can injure the herd."

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CHURCH PUTS OLD CREED ASIDE

New Haven Congregationalists Prefers Simple Teachings of Jesus. New York News. Centre Church, of New Haven, Conn., which is the oldest Congregational church in America, has abrogated the Apostles' Creed, so far as its confession of faith is concerned.

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His "Honorable-ambiguityness." Springfield Mass., Republican. The correspondents have been "Colonel Roosevelt's remarkable versatility in being able to understand the Hungarian language." But for his linguistic training there is nothing of an international honorific ambiguityness.

The Main Reason. Baltimore American. Local causes have had a considerable influence in producing the impressive series of Democratic victories this Spring, but the primary reason for these various manifestations of public dissatisfaction is the high cost of living.