

The Oregonian

Portland, Oregon.

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Portland, Wednesday, May 11, 1910.

MR. UREN'S 'FREAKS.'

In defense of a system of direct legislation that will confront Oregon voters next November with the choice of which the State really needs, many of which are freaks and most of which are forced upon the electorate by the agitators, Mr. Uren writes a letter, printed in another column, advocating the new 'reform'.

Mr. Uren says that no freak measure can become a law unless approved by the people and the people have not yet made a freak law, also that it will be cheaper for taxpayers to pay the new expenses that he proposes than to allow special privilege to remain in power and misrepresent political parties in National conventions.

Only by direct legislation can the sober element of the voters of Oregon be able to defeat the many crazy measures that have been thrust upon them. Now they must go through turmoil again this year.

Now here is a list of laws that do not deliberate legislative body would enact nor would the people enact them in existing form, if they could amend them according to right principles of lawmaking.

THE FOREST FIRE EVIL.

It is something unusual so early in the season to read of extensive forest fires, but the reports tell of several big fires which are raging in Washington, Idaho and British Columbia.

The passing into control of large companies, of great areas of timber land, has resulted in a much more forest wealth than ever before. The large syndicates which have such large sums of money invested in timber, have not only maintained in many districts, a private patrol system, but they have also been instrumental in securing very effective publicity work in the interest of the cause.

literature calling attention to the forest fire evil, and has recently appealed to the railroad companies for assistance in spreading warnings.

HOW THE MUCKRAKER WORKS.

Just consider for a moment the miserable character of this Ballinger 'prosecution.' It is throughout a concerted effort to ruin the Secretary's character by showing that he had a mercenary motive behind his action.

PROHIBITION AGAIN REPELLED.

Within six months, prohibition in Alabama has received two decisive set-backs. Last week the Prohibition Anti-Saloon league candidate for governor was defeated by a majority of 30,000 in the Democratic primaries.

The well-known fact is that Sweeney was a candidate for Senator and threw his strength finally to Piles as a result of a political combination.

AN IDLE SUBJECT.

The subject of "Non-Partisan Judges," which the State Bar Association has selected to discuss, is one of those harmless topics around which may be gathered a number of people who are not troubled with an excess of partisanship on the bench and never has been.

Beware the Docks Scheme.

Why sell dock bonds and pay big interest before the city is ready to use the money? Even from the viewpoint that the city should go in on the wharf or dock business, it would seem that the municipality would better make up its mind where it wishes to buy or build docks and how much it is willing to spend.

PRICES AND TAXES.

In current discussions of the cost of living, it seems quite the fashion to assume that taxes have nothing to do with it. The United States Government spends a billion dollars a year, and this vast sum must be contributed by somebody.

put a speedy end to the wearisome chicanery if he chose, but he does not choose. To him an excuse is an excuse. Whether good or bad, it is all the same. Everything goes. A spectator from another planet would inevitably conclude that the main purpose of our court procedure is to string out every cause as long as possible and never bring anything to an end if it can be prevented.

NO-PARTY PAD IS FLEETING.

The Government crop report which appeared Monday maintained the reputation of the Department of Agriculture. The condition of wheat was placed at \$2.1, compared with \$2.5 on May 1, 1909, and a ten years' average of \$2.7.

HAIRSPPLITTING IN CONGRESS.

How microscopic the issues over which Washington divides and as to which the country is asked to grow excited! Consider the latest roll-call in the Senate on the Commerce bill.

CEMENT SEWER PIPE FAVORED.

By Dropping Clay-Pipe Competition Will Be Established. PORTLAND, May 10.—(To the Editor.)—As a taxpayer I have noted with considerable interest the controversy of the past few weeks in regard to the introduction of cement sewer pipe.

Musical Bed Induces Sleep.

A furniture dealer in Paris is showing a novelty in the form of a bed which induces sleep. The inventor is a Frenchman, whose name is not given.

English Girls Compared With Ours.

American girls are gay, and more independent in their 'teens' than English girls are at the same age. An English girl, who has recently returned from a year in a nuthall when bewailing the fact that some of the best parties in England were being captured by American women.

New Idea for Memorial Day.

The Grand Army post in Brockton, Mass., proposes this year to decorate the soldiers' graves on Memorial Day with baskets of growing pansies rather than with cut flowers.

Where Both Agreed.

Norah had been guilty of what was considered an indiscretion, so the mistress of the house called her to 'step back the carpet.' 'If such a thing occurs again, Norah,' said the mistress, 'I shall have to get another servant!'

A Rare Figure.

A hero who is not his own horn-blower is a rare and inspiring figure in the modern world. Miss Mary Harriman will marry a sculptor. Well, she can afford it.

agent income that it did not do when taxes were more moderate? The difference is sheer waste. It is the same in Oregon and everywhere else. Money wrung in the form of taxes from the industrious is lavished on wasteful officeholders of our courts.

ALABAMA AGAINST PROHIBITION.

The result of the Democratic primary in Alabama forecasts the end of the prohibition wave and the return of sane conditions. A politician who is a promoter of temperance has been fully demoralized by his own party.

Lesson for the Negro.

Portland Advocate (colored). The craze for automobile and taxicab riding in the clothing and hat of other useless extravagance is keeping the colored man back.

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Editor Watterson Says Recent Primaries Forecast Return to 'Sanity.' Louisville Courier-Journal. The result of the Democratic primary in Alabama forecasts the end of the prohibition wave and the return of sane conditions.

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The wife of the clergyman of a certain suburban parish was wearing clothes the other day when a visitor was announced. The hostess went with her sewing, for the caller was a well-known party to the house.

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LIFE'S SUNNY SIDE

Having recounted her 17 parcels for the 17th time and reassured herself for the 22d time that she had her ticket all safe in her reticule, the old lady in the black-beaded bonnet thrust her head out of the carriage window and ejaculated:

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