

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1910.

PARTY ASSEMBLY ESSENTIAL.

Popular vs. representative government. It is one of the absurd phrases that certain politicians in Oregon think will carry them to power. These politicians oppose organization of political party through assembly-convention, insisting that "the people" should supplant the representative system of government and participate with them in the non-deliberative democracy. Oregon, therefore, is a breeding ground for queer political doctrine. This doctrine does not thrive elsewhere as it does in this state, yet it should be admitted that in this state it will not thrive here either. Wisconsin, the original direct-primary state, has just held a state convention. Governor Hughes, of New York, a strong advocate of direct nominations, has just taken up any scheme that would dispense with party assembly or a recommended ticket for primary nomination. He does not deem himself to be in league with bosses for advocating retention of party assembly. He accepts the representative principle as necessary for successful operation of the direct primary. Here in Oregon the results of unguided primary, in inefficient and demagogic officialdom, obstruct every attempt at reform, despite frantic efforts of the political faction that has profited from the "system," to obscure them with platitudes about people and bosses. Governor Hughes' recent bill, yet it is the Hiram Green bill for direct primaries in New York. This bill embraced a wide plan for nomination of party candidates in direct primary, following recommendations by a central committee of the party assembly. This bill was defeated by machine politicians of both parties. Then followed the Cobb compromise bill, securing primary nomination of a great variety of officers but reserving the highest state offices to party assembly and city officers for convention nomination. The Cobb bill was also defeated. It is important to note that Governor Hughes steadfastly refused to cut down the party assembly, yet it is a party organization. In a speech at Batavia, N. Y., last Friday, he upheld "representative and responsible party organization." One of the passages in his speech was an admission that the measure known as the Hiram-Green bill embodied a plan applicable to state offices as well as to members of the Legislature and other officials. It was designed to meet the conditions in this state and to secure the highest state offices to party representative and responsible party organization and the enforcement of the rights of the party to nominate its candidates. I regard this as a grave mistake from every point of view. It is a mistake in any particular my opinion as to the merits of the measure.

Oregon is coming back to "representative and responsible party organization." The means at hand for accomplishing the reform is the Republican assembly, to be held next month in Portland, composed of more than 1300 members. Every office-seeker for a ticket of state candidates, as fit for nomination in the subsequent primaries. Too many office-seekers have "landed" without recommendation of representative citizens. Assembly is certainly not a disreputable agency of party. The Constitution of the United States and of every constitution frames in assembly. Every constitution guarantees the liberty of assembly.

"I tell you we run San Francisco and we run ourselves," said Mayor McCarthy in explanation of his statement that "you can bet your last dollar the big fight will be pulled off in my town just as advertised." The occasion of the emphatic language of the "Judy" Mayor was the fact that he attempted interference of the Governor of California with the prizefight. While there are so many features of the McCarthy administration that ought to cause any law-abiding American citizen to deny ownership or interest in "my town," the Mayor's language can hardly fail to cause a sensation even in McCarthyized San Francisco. "Upon what meat doth this cat grow?" Or, to make another play on the classics, "What a long tall our cat has grown!" An ignorant foreigner on the Liverpool embarking stage, when asked if he was going to San Francisco, shook his head and said: "No, me no go United States, me go San Francisco." In his violent interview at Chicago, Mayor McCarthy, like the foreigner, seemed to have no concept of the fact that San Francisco is not in the United States. If this were true, it would afford some relief to San Francisco's neighbors who are obliged to blush with shame often more than they can smile with joy over the conduct of the California metropolis. But there is evidence of a flaw in the title which Mayor McCarthy seems to think he holds in San Francisco. The taxpayers of the Bay City were not asked to purge the city of "reform" that, for a time after the election of McCarthy, there was not much objection to the McCarthy issue letters of marque to the numerous vultures who flocked to San Francisco from all over the world. As evidence accumulates, however, it becomes increasingly apparent that San Francisco made a swift jump from the frying pan into the fire,

when the heavenly twins, Ruef and Schmitz were replaced by the model McCarthy. The object of Mayor McCarthy's visit in the East was to appear before a Congressional committee to urge the prohibition of the proper celebration of the opening of the Panama Canal. As San Francisco enjoys the unenviable reputation of being the only city of impudence in the United States, it is not surprising that the fight could be staged it is easy to understand the hostile sentiment that would be awakened by any attempt to hold a National exposition in such a place. But McCarthy has thrown down the gauntlet and defied the power of the state and the Federal Government, so that there is a plain line drawn between vice and lawlessness on one side, and morality and law observance on the other. There is no question which side will win if the contest goes to a finish. As for McCarthy, he should read and reflect on Aesop's fable of the Frog and the Ox.

HILL LINES DIVIDED.

"Oh, that is a Wall Street institution," Wall street says a dollar whenever it can. The Great Northern is a St. Paul institution," said President Hill of the Great Northern in discussing the reported laying-off of a large number of men on the Northern Pacific railway. The laying-off of men in the Northern Pacific has for years been known as a Hill road. It was over the control of the Northern Pacific that Mr. James J. Hill and street fought out one of the most spectacular financial battles ever waged on the New York Stock Exchange. The Hill people are no doubt still heavily interested in the Northern Pacific. The Hill line, in fact, months there have been cropping up at various times significant incidents tending to show that the relationship between the two roads was not as close as it used to be.

With the Northern Pacific still known as a Hill road, we now see some very strong competition between that road and the Great Northern. With the Northern Pacific operating eight trains per day and the O. R. & N. operating only one, the competition between the two roads is not as close as it used to be. The Northern Pacific has for years been known as a Hill road. It was over the control of the Northern Pacific that Mr. James J. Hill and street fought out one of the most spectacular financial battles ever waged on the New York Stock Exchange. The Hill people are no doubt still heavily interested in the Northern Pacific. The Hill line, in fact, months there have been cropping up at various times significant incidents tending to show that the relationship between the two roads was not as close as it used to be.

It is able to presume, however, that the other Hill road, even though it is a "Wall Street institution," will stand still while the Great Northern and its affiliated lines are reaching out into new territory. Twenty trains a day to the Astoria & Columbia are two many, compared with the no trains per day that have thus far retarded development in many isolated regions in the Pacific Northwest, and in the North Pacific. It is to be expected that their attitude on certain matters of taxation and transportation charges is the product of business expediency and in their popular demands. Therefore, it is to be expected that their attitude on certain matters of taxation and transportation charges is the product of business expediency and in their popular demands. Therefore, it is to be expected that their attitude on certain matters of taxation and transportation charges is the product of business expediency and in their popular demands.

THE EASY AND LAWFUL METHOD.

Brother B. Lee Paget writes to the Oregonian to say that the Prohibitionists would not have held their recent state assembly, or convention, if they had been able under the primary law to nominate their candidates. He reads the primary law and provides that candidates may be nominated by petition. If the Prohibitionists had had any noted aversion to an assembly they might, and should, have adopted the petition method of placing their candidates on the ballot. But the natural, easy and lawful method of nomination is by petition. By pressing it is by assembly or convention, and therefore the Prohibitionists adopted it.

COLLEGE FRATERNITIES.

Outside of alumni associations and other professed college boomers the world has never been thoroughly convinced that Greek letter fraternities are an unalloyed benefit to the young men who belong to them. In fact, schools it is now agreed that they are a nuisance, and people of good common sense have united to try to abolish them, but in the colleges they flourish more vigorously every year. Dr. Penrose, of Whitman College, ventures this Spring in his annual report to criticize them a little. He cannot criticize himself, apparently, that it is any better for the general body of students to smoke and carouse generally with a fraternity house than in other places. The ordinary parent will be disposed to take the same view. Dr. Penrose urges his trustees to help him impose more severe restrictions on the fraternities than they have heretofore submitted to. Among other things he would have a member of the faculty resident in each house. This might help a little, but probably it would prove disappointing. If the resident professor really did his duty he would have to spy upon the boys day and night and would presently become so odious that they would make his life miserable. If he did not do his duty his presence would hardly help matters. Experience seems to show, too, that it is not a good plan to rely too implicitly upon the honor of students to keep their behavior straight. Honor is not at its zenith during college years. Youths permit themselves to do deeds at that time of which, without a twinge of conscience, which they would not dare to think of either before or after. It is the epoch of emergence from boyish savagery to manly responsibility and pertakes of the character of boyish pranks, with the addition of a spirit of wild adventure which belongs to neither. The best way to manage the Greek letter societies would be to abolish them, if it could be done, and substitute some other public and democratic clubs in their place. But this is too much of a revolution to expect. Colleges are the most conservative bodies in the world.

Twenty miles, with "enough good ground in sight to keep a thousand stamps at work for 1000 years." This reads well and might be partly true. Perhaps the strongest point in its favor is that it is comparatively close at hand. The Iditarod mining stampede is said to have been worked up for the purpose of supplying business for the steamships, but the Bitter Creek mines, where the Queen Charlotte find has been made, are so close at hand that it would hardly pay the transportation companies to engage in any elaborate publicity campaign such as marked the springing of the Iditarod trap.

TERMINAL RATE FIGHT ENDED.

The long fight over franchises for the North Coast line of the Great Northern, which was granted the franchises without any "terminal rate" or any other provision which would advance the public and democratic clubs in their place. But this is too much of a revolution to expect. Colleges are the most conservative bodies in the world.

Under the new naval programme, one of the battleships is to be built by a contractor and one at a navy-yard. It will be interesting to compare the cost of construction of the two vessels. The Government will be so much greater than that of the one built by private contract. The general belief that a Government job should always be a soft job has permeated nearly every department to such an extent that Government work almost invariably costs much more than is necessary to secure the same results in private business.

All this mushy stuff wherein No. 1 forgives the loss of a woman who lived a life of altruism. To the formation of the Rose Society and for years afterward, she gave her best efforts. In works of charity she was ever active and zealous. She endeared herself to her very old and infirm friends who held her in affectionate regard.

AN AMERICAN DELUSION.

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UP-STATE MEN COMING TO THE METROPOLIS.

Up-state men coming to the metropolis may get their eye-teeth cut if they go to the place where it is done. The latest is a Pendertonian who asserts he lost \$500.

IF PRAYER WON'T PAY FOR BUILDING MATERIAL AND LABOR.

Members of the Sunnyside M. E. Church, why don't they get busy and issue bonds?

IT IS NOT TO BE EXPECTED THAT SAN FRANCISCO WILL HAVE A SAFE AND SANE FOURTH.

Oregon at this time has good reason for self-felicitation over the fact that Hill's operations in this state are not controlled by Wall street.

KANSAS CALLS FOR 40,000 HARVEST HANDS.

Sorry, but we can't spare them. Oregon needs every mother's son to build railroads.

LETTERS SENT BY MR. TAFT, OF COURSE, WITH A RESPONSE.

The letter sent by Mr. Taft, of course, with a response. It is likely that the change of communications will show beyond a doubt both to the President and the ex-President just where each stands in the political system.

GOVERNOR GILLET IS RIGHT WHEN HE THINKS IT IS BAD POLICY FOR CALIFORNIA TO OFFEND THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

Little difference it makes whether they fight in California or in California's rotten borough.

Not likely to throw his influence until he sees things for himself. In view of the ex-President's return tomorrow, the following views are of more than passing interest. They are by Callan O'Laughlin, special correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, sent from Washington, June 11. Mr. O'Laughlin is a close personal friend of Theodore Roosevelt.

ROOSEVELT WILL BE IN NO HURRY.

Theodore Roosevelt is the burning question in Washington. He is an enigma to the politicians in the National capital, despite their years of association with him. He is to them a dynamic force with a short fuse. They expect an explosion when he sets his foot on American soil next Saturday and their only concern is the direction in which the debris will fly.

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LIFE'S SUNNY SIDE

Freddie was visiting relatives in Canada, and his mother constantly besought him to be on his good behavior and to avoid saying anything that might give offense, but one day when his aunt asked him at luncheon if he would have some curried chicken, he could not help showing his surprise. "Why, what's the matter, Freddie?" inquired the aunt; "don't you like curried chicken?" "Well, aunty, I can't really say," was his reply. "You see, down in the States we don't curry our chickens—we pick 'em."—Delinicator.

Ex-Governor Pennybacker, discussing in Harriburg the divorce evil, said with a smile: "Why, even the children are taking a filippine view of divorce. A Reno lady, I have been informed, was calling on a friend when a beautiful child entered the room. The lady drew the child to her. "'And whose little girl are you?' "'I don't know,' the urchin answered with a laugh. 'The decree isn't expected till next month.'"—Washington Star.

All yesterday James had played truant from school, and when the irate master raised his case threateningly James burst into a flood of tears. "Please don't lick me, sir," he sobbed. "Why should I not lick you, pray?" thundered the schoolmaster. "Well, sir, 'cos I think I've 'ad enough,'" gasped James. "Yesterday the boy as I was sitting at the table, he fell on, and he licked me; and a man we three stones as caught me and licked me; the driver of a cart we hung on to licked me; the owner of a cart we chased, and he licked me. Then, when I got home, mother licked me; and after that father licked me; and then another fellow came and he licked me; and a man we three stones as caught me and licked me; the driver of a cart we hung on to licked me; the owner of a cart we chased, and he licked me. 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