

The Oregonian

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to charge the disaster up to the public schools. One might say that the school board is the best man to select to deliver the letters.

IS OREGON READY FOR THIS?

There is to be voted on under the initiative in November an act for proportional representation. Its provisions were set forth fully and analyzed in detail in The Oregonian August 7. The readers of The Oregonian are again directed to that article for a complete and accurate statement of its most astonishing measure.

TEACHING RELIGION.

The Oregonian printed a letter yesterday from Mr. Dermot Finnerty which touched upon the teaching of Catholic religion in this country and elsewhere.

THE REAL FIRE SACRIFICE.

Loss of Pinchot-conserved timber is smallest part of these fire disasters. Loss of houses and barns, fences and crops, mills and factories, and the loss of human life—this is the worst of the injury.

TO DEVELOP A NEW FIELD.

Only a small percentage of railroad companies which file articles of incorporation get much beyond the preliminary stage. For that reason the public is inclined to be skeptical regarding many of the projected railroads that are always numerous during good times.

THE RESTLESS FARMER.

From the earliest centuries down to this, the farmer has been laughed at as "tied to the soil." He has been an emblem of stability, and to be regarded as a wanderer was to be regarded as a fool.

CONSEQUENCE OF BROKEN FAITH.

It is useless for Mr. Aldrich to talk about the misrepresentations of the progressors and the ignorance of their followers. The Republican leaders who are dissatisfied with the Payne-Aldrich tariff law are not wholly engaged in the work of misrepresentation.

Minnesota and come to Oregon. They stay three weeks and then write back that they can't imagine how any money can be made in Oregon, and make ready for a further flight.

REPEALING THE PRIMARY.

If I am here at the time of the general election any assembly man who needs nomination, and there are no anti-assembly candidates from the Republican party opposing them, will vote for the Democratic candidate, provided he is opposed to the assembly, and is a competent man.

HORROR FROM OKLAHOMA.

Oklahoma Indians needed money from sale of their lands and influence in Congress to gain permit to sell. So they made "contracts" with politicians for a price ranging from 10 to 25 per cent of the whole.

CHILD PROBLEM IN CITIES.

Cities are just awakening to the fact that clean-souled, strong-limbed children are an important part of the physical health of a city as clean streets are to its physical health.

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Why Not Abolish Legislatures? The People Can Rule by Holding Elections Every Month. THE DALLIES, Or., Aug. 24.—(To the Editor.)—I am not a politician, nor running for office and wouldn't have one as a gift, and I am not interested in any way in any candidate or any petition to be voted on, but I am one of the great, free and intelligent voters of Oregon, who are going to be called upon to decide at the coming election on 32 various and sundry bills proposed to become laws, and also to elect state and county officers.

WHY NOT ABOLISH LEGISLATURES?

Also, we are to nominate and elect responsible officials, and we are to elect a man to represent us in the legislature. The only way we know them is by the amount of advertising matter they send us, and we are to elect a man to represent us in the legislature.

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High Tax Reduces Drunkenness. England Furnishes an Object Lesson for Practical Reformers. Springfield (Mass.) Republican. It is a little surprising that such militant temperance organizations in this country as the Anti-Saloon League whose campaigns for county option and state-wide prohibition in the South and West have created so much political disturbance, have as yet displayed no appreciation of the possible application in the United States of the lesson taught by the spirit druties of the last two Lloyd-George budgets in Great Britain and Ireland.

HIGH TAX REDUCES DRUNKENNESS.

In his first budget, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer raised the tax on spirits and various kinds of intoxicating drinks, and the result was a decrease in consumption throughout the United Kingdom had diminished so much, on account of the increased cost of the liquors, that the government lost money on the tax.

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In the United States the Federal Internal Revenue receipts from spirits and fermented liquors in the last fiscal year were \$10,000,000. The increase in the number of convictions for drunkenness and like offenses showed a marked decrease during the past dozen years.

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During the past decade, the Anti-Saloon League has been making tremendous exertions to place large sections of the United States under the legal status of prohibition. The "dry" territory has increased from 10 to 20 per cent of the population in 1907 was 1.02 gallons of spirits, 14.94 gallons of malt liquors, which brought the total for each and every member of the body politic, including his arms, to 16.50 gallons per year.

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Life's Sunny Side. Down at the Sprague school playground the other day the teacher was trying to teach her children to box the compass, and began by teaching them the cardinal points.

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