

The Oregonian

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Portland, Monday, Sept. 5, 1910.

THE ST. PAUL CONGRESS.

Seven Western states are sending to the National Conservation Congress, which is assembling at St. Paul today, delegations of influential and trustworthy citizens who will endeavor to place before that great body the Western, or states, view of the correct method of caring for and developing the natural resources within the states.

If the story ended here, there would be no larring note in the universal shouts of praise showered on the hero of the National drama, Mr. Pinchot; but the sequel has had, and is having, consequences so costly and even dangerous to the most concerned in development of the plot that something is now to be said at St. Paul on their behalf.

The National Conservation Congress is organized to promote the Roosevelt-Pinchot idea of conservation, just what it is, broadly, that the natural resources belong to the people and should be held away from monopoly and for the public benefit under Federal control, or developed, when developed at all, so as to bring revenue to the National Treasury.

It would be no calamity to the Republic if the Roosevelt or the States or Nation, if a Republican progressive should win the Senatorship in Washington, or anywhere. But Pinchot is not a Republican. He is a Democrat masquerading as a Republican, and his highest purpose is apparently to exploit the public resources.

It is further the conviction of the states that the Roosevelt-Pinchot policy perpetrates a wrong on the states when it exploits these lands, forests, mines or water-powers for the benefit of Eastern people, just as wrong might be inflicted by turning them over to greedy monopolies or syndicates.

It would appear that a reasonable and patriotic attitude for the people of the East to take would be that the common welfare may best be promoted by a policy of conservation that will most satisfactorily promote the settlement, development and improvement of the Western States.

The miner is, of all workers, the most dependent for life on the guardianship and care of others. If there is a moment's recklessness on the part of a co-worker an explosion follows that involves hundreds in death.

This situation is discussed in the September World's Work under the caption "The Railroads Fight for Life." The article is of the opinion that "no man who studies the rail situation can believe that there will ever be anything like a perfect rate schedule in this country under the present system of making rates."

In all countries where mining is in progress the United States is far behind in this race for want of central authority to test, approve, and organize methods for protection of the miner and appliances for rescue in face of disaster. This is now in a fair way to be remedied by the Bureau of Mines at Washington, recently provided, and, still better, by the appointment by President Taft of Dr. Holmes as its head.

The program of the Portland Livestock and Fair Exposition is the most elaborate and interesting that has been offered in any similar event ever held west of the Mississippi River.

The normal Republican vote in Multnomah County is two Republicans to one Democrat, or nearly that. In the Presidential election of 1908 Taft received in Multnomah 17,819 votes and Bryan 10,700.

MR. ASHTON'S TURN NEXT. The retirement of Mr. John L. Wilson from the Senatorial contest in Washington is creditable alike to his political sagacity and to his sense of public duty.

It is not yet assured of defeat. Judge Burke is a formidable candidate against him, no doubt, but why does Ashton of Tacoma remain in the race, without the slightest chance on earth of success?

As reported in Washington advice, the Hill and Harriman lines are contemplating a further increase in lumber rates, we may expect another protracted struggle and disturbance of business while the Interstate Commerce Commission is thrashing out the grievances of the respective parties.

It is a fair example of the uncertainty and growing warfare between the railroads and the people. That it is having a detrimental effect on general business is unquestionably true. The railroads of the country employ a million men and pay a million dollars number are indirectly dependent on the railroads for their livelihood.

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of unfair methods on the part of the railroads is made clear in a statement of Commissioner Prouty at Chicago, Saturday, in which he said: "There is absolutely no suspicion in my mind, or as far as I know in the minds of any of the Commissioners, that the accounts of the railroads have been padded or juggled in any way."

PORTLAND'S DUTY. The program of the Portland Livestock and Fair Exposition is the most elaborate and interesting that has been offered in any similar event ever held west of the Mississippi River.

The actual financial loss by the forest fires in Washington is much less than was expected when the fires were raging. According to a statement of Chief Warden Simons, of the Washington Forest Fire Association, approximately 100,000 acres of timber and cut-over land in Western Washington were saved.

After throwing overboard 500 tons of general cargo, the steamship Watson, which ran aground on a reef off Waddah Island, near the entrance to the Straits of Fuca, has been floated and has reached Seattle under her own steam.

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APPEALS TO CLASS PREJUDICE

Low Estate into Which Anti-Assembly Campaign Has Fallen. ALBANY, Or., Sept. 3.—(To the Editor.)—Apparently the campaign by mail, by the office-seeker who desires to nominate himself to a lucrative position, is on; judging by the letters being received by "prominent citizens" who form the Oregon electorate at the approaching primary election.

A cursory glance at one of these letters shows but one feeble point in the argument, and that is that an opposing candidate for the Supreme Judgeship is a "corporation lawyer," which argument is simply and solely a dishonest and dishonorable appeal to a prejudice supposed to exist in the public mind against corporations.

By their methods they shall be known, and that method is neither good, wise nor reputable. S. S. TRAIN.

WHY THEY SMITE THE OLD GUARD. Give Us the Offices, and We'll Reform Everything, Say the Reformers. Weston Leader.

One is pained to reflect that the growth of new principles is perhaps the only concern of Oregon reformers. One would suppose that the example and precept of the illustrious U'Ren, the incomparable political blacksmith and lawgiver, would inspire them with lofty and united zeal; that they would advance as one man upon the "old guard" and smite the assembly tribesmen hip and thigh; that they would nip in the bud the entrails out of the Republic machine and watch its mangleman quiver; that they would shout anti-assembly, direct primary, initiative and referendum, recall, corrupt practices and Glory Hallelujah, and girding up their loins with a woolen string, dash nobly upon the foe.

Miss Edna Day, Ph. D. Kansas. Everybody's Magazine. At the University of Missouri the first group of graduates in home economics was gathered this last Spring. They were seven, and as most of them took likewise a degree in education, it may be assumed that they will go forth to spread the gospel. Their preceptor, Miss Edna D. Day, who next year will head the just-organized Department of Home Economics in the University of Kansas, is a novel type of new woman in that she has earned the degree of doctor of philosophy in "Women's Speeches" and has done her work in the Department of Home Administration in the University of Chicago and an excellent job.

May Blame It On Ballinger. Washington Herald. Responsibility for the forest fires in Oregon has not yet been fixed on Mr. Ballinger, but there is no certainty that it will not be after some fashion or other.

GRANTS PASS SOBER, HE SAYS

Statement That Local Option Law is an Entire Success. GRANTS PASS, Or., Sept. 3.—In The Oregonian Friday you reproduced an editorial from the Grants Pass Observer under the caption of "The Story of One 'Dry' Town," and editorially you say, "It is the frank and uncolored testimony of a Grants Pass paper."

Inquiries are already coming to me as to the statements made in that article, and I ask your courtesy in order that the other side may have as wide a circulation as has been given to the reports of prohibition.

One gain that has been made is in the direction of greater sobriety on the part of the laboring man, and a consequent increase in happiness and prosperity of the homes. It is the almost universal testimony of the business men that there is hardly a tittle of the liquor prohibition went into effect. That prohibition has been "a complete failure" is not the case.

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TALKING WHILE FORESTS BURN. More Practical Conservation Needed. New York World. The ravages of the forest fires in the Pacific Northwest reveal a radical weakness in a policy of conservation which leaves the forest to the mercy of its worst enemies while the embattled advocates of conservation do little but talk.

Tough on the Hoists. Kansas City Star. Enthusiastic Chicago citizens, in hoping to get up a list of initiates Knights Templars, decorated themselves with badges reading, "Ask Me; I Live Here." They left their badges at home the second day, because a majority of the men who stopped them did so simply to ask, "Why?"

A Morning Thought. Birmingham Age-Herald. "Geel! I hate to get up!"

O. Henry's Last Poem. (O. Henry did not often express himself in verse. The following is one of two poems found in a notebook after his death.)

Do You Believe This? Kansas City Star. The final inning of the game. The home team is behind and we are out. Upon the base there stands a sturdy frame; All that is needed is a healthy clout.

EDISON'S REAL TALKING-PICTURES

Wizard Shows Phonograph and Photographic Records. Taken at Same Time. New York World. "I take very great pleasure, gentlemen, in asking you to watch positively the last appearance of the stage door John." He simply can't fall in love, you know, with a girl one hundred-thousandth of an inch thick.

The picture that was thrown on the screen explained itself literally. The figure of a man stepped forward, bowed and then began to talk—the lips moving in perfect, unmistakable union with the words that couldn't have come from them and yet could have come from any place else, it seemed.

The great obstacle that Mr. Edison had to overcome was in getting a couple of years' worth of records far enough. At the beginning of the experiment the actor had to talk directly into the horn, which made the right kind of pictures impossible to get. Bit by bit, however, a machine was perfected which could "hear" so well that the actor could move at his pleasure within a radius of 30 feet. That is the machine which is now being used. A complete drama has already been "made" in these pictures, but only for experimental purposes. It will not be shown by our present Mayor, so because of his opposition to the temperance laws. No other reason for his appointment has been uncovered.

Nothing so demonstrative as the rapid strides of modern science as buttermilk. Buttermilk used to be made in a churn, which was worked on the back of a farmhouse by a fat hired girl who was expected to be married as soon as she could get the \$200 from her wages of \$6 per month.

Strategic Charlie. Harper's Bazaar. Maude—I should like to deliberately pick a quarrel with my fiancé. Claude—Yes, he said he simply had to. Wanted to stop buying flowers for a while, so he could pay his tailor.

Public Sentiment. Washington Herald. "Do you pay much attention to public sentiment?" "Always look the other way when I see a young couple holding hands in the park."

They Do Come Back. New York Mail. 1. Life insurance agents. 2. Grand opera singers. 3. John Drew. 4. Bosses, from vacations.

More Signs of Prosperity. Pittsburg Gazette Times. Latest sign of returning prosperity: more cases of appendicitis at Newport this season than ever before.

CURRENT NEWSPAPER JESTS. "He could show you some things about manners," said I, "I believe he's a crowd." "What?" "He could show you some things about manners," said I, "I believe he's a crowd." "What?" "He could show you some things about manners," said I, "I believe he's a crowd." "What?"