The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, OCT. 27, 1910.

THE COMING ELECTIONS.

New York State is in the heat of a strenuous and doubtful political campaign. So are other Eastern States, but New York has such heavy weight in the balance of the Nation's political affairs and the responsibility of carrying it Republican has devolved so largely upon the eminent Big-Stick politician, Colonel Roosevelt, that that commonwealth occupies the center of the country's gaze.

Democrats are trying hard to elect Dix Governor and to win the next Legislature and the House delegation in Congress. The present Legislature stands 95 Republicans and 55 Democrats. The state is represented in the lower house of Congress by 26 Republicans and 10 Democrats. Democrats think they see omens of victory in their party triumph in Maine and in the victories of Foss, elected to Congress this year in Massachusetts, and Havens, elected in New York.

Roosevelt's assumption of Republican leadership in the Empire State has made him responsible for his party's outcome. He kicked out the old Republican organization of the state, made himself the leader or the boss, and now finds himself in the thick of a very hot campaign. He is doing his level best to elect his candidate, Stimson, Governor, and is traveling the state on a stumping tour. He and Dix have been exchanging heavy broadsides. The Colonel has accused Dix of being a member of the wallpaper trust, and Dix has demanded apology, which he has not yet received. The Democratic speakers have turned their batteries on Roosevelt's "new nationalism" and on his Osawatomie speech, charging him with radical utterances in the West and with "smooth-over" utterances in the conservative East.

Certain it is that the Colonel has felt himself constrained to modify his extreme utterances in New York. That state turned from Bryan because of his antagonism to property and business. Roosevelt, however, while a radical in many respects, has not proved himself hitherto dangerous to the safety of property; in fact, he was bred in silk stockings and inherited considerable wealth, so that he does not belong to the one-gallus democracy that Bryan tried to speak for.

Intimately connected with New York State are the commonwealths of Massachusetts and Indiana. The Colonel has undertaken to help Republicans elect the Legislature of Massachusetts for success of Lodge and of Indiana for success of Senator Beveridge. All over the country the Colonel is wielding his influence for Republican harmony and for defeat of the rising Democratic strength.

The country has been so deeply stirred with discontent that the result of the elections twelve days hence, as to control of the next House of Representatives and of high state offices in several large Eastern commonwealths, is extremely doubtful. Prosperity has never dealt so kindly with the people, yet a powerful element seeks change of party control.

Is it reasonable to suppose that Democrats would do better for the country? Hitherto they have not done so. They promise tariff reforms, yet promise nothing definite except low duty or free trade in wool, the great product of the Pacific Northwest. It is known well enough beforehand that Democrats in power would only shift tariff duties, as they did when in power before, and would continue the spoils game in "protecting" the raw products and the manufactures of their pet districts.

One cannot see how Oregon and Washington, for example, would benefit from election of Democrats to the National House of Representatives. On the contrary, these states would lose in position and influence from sacrifice of old members and would be exposed to the uncertain shiftings of protective tariff at the hands of a political party chiefly interested in conserving protective spoils for Eastern and Southern States.

The individual chiefly concerned in the National outcome is Roosevelt. Should New York State and the country preserve Republican ascendancy, the Oyster Bay Colonel will be a great political power, indeed. But should Democrats win, the blow to Roosevelt will be the worst and really the first damaging setback he has ever received.

The name of Nome has been added to the list—the long, dreary list—of deserted mining camps. Within ten years this place in the far North has changed from a bleak, forbidding, lonely shore of a lonely sea to a busy, prosperous town, where, urged on by the greed of gold and made feverish by the sight of fortunes to be had for the taking, men have strained and toiled and hoped—the few to be rewarded by fabulous wealth—the many to suffer hardships and disappointment. First a city of tents, then of rudely improvised wooden shacks; a little later, as the stories of the free gold taken from the tundra were repeated with added emphasis, a town of more or less pretentious buildings, it flourished and grew. Now it is practically deserted, its houses vainly seeking tenants—more vainly still, purchasers at figures that a few years ago would not have bought a tent. "Now," says a correspondent, "it looks as though a plague had struck Nome and all of its people had fled from it in terror, leaving everything behind." This is the history of the mining camp, from the guiches of California to the shores and mountains of Alaska. Here and there throughout the great Rocky Mountain region, there are deserted towns once populous given over to the occupancy of the creatures of the wild. Nothing new has happened in the case of Nome. It has merely taken its place in the history of mining camps.

OREGON'S TWO REPRESENTATIVES.

A correspondent writes to The Oregonian to ask its opinion as to the reasons for the decided victory—he describes it as the "unexpected success"—of Mr. Lafferty in the recent Congressional primary for the Second Oregon District. There were four candidates. Lafferty was not widely known. The incumbent supposedly had an impregnable advantage. The opposition to him was divided. Yet Lafferty won.

The victory of Mr. Lafferty was due doubtless to his aggressive campaign methods, to the general desire for a change, and to the favorable impression he made upon the many audiences he addressed. Lafferty appeared at the psychological moment. He advocated policies in the Government's land and forest-reserve methods that met general approval. His nomination is without question in a large measure a demonstration of the attitude of the State of Oregon for sane conservation, with proper regard and respect for the state's interests, against the radical and undiscriminating Pinchot scheme.

Lafferty won the nomination fairly. He deserves election, and The Oregonian hopes he will be elected. He will make an active colleague with Representative Hawley, who has "made good" at Washington and whom the voters of the First District will of course not make the grave mistake of keeping at home. They certainly cannot make that blunder when they become more and more familiar with the gale of wind, blowing in all directions, nominated against him.

BONDS FOR GOOD ROADS.

Alarm over wholly unlikely and even impossible procedure in the event the good roads amendment to the constitution is approved in the November election is expressed by Mr. Connelly in a communication published in another column. In the amendment it is proposed only to remove a constitutional restriction now imposed by the constitution on counties incurring an indebtedness of more than $5000 and permitting a greater indebtedness than $5000 for permanent roads when incurred by a majority voting on the question.

The intimation that there is a conspiracy among the idle rich to impose vast financial burdens on the counties in order that the bankers may buy the bonds and the automobile owners indulge in extended joy rides surely cannot be given thoughtful consideration when the fact remains that the people of each county must decide whether the county shall be bonded for highway construction. The vote of the idle rich, the bankers and the automobile-owners would not alone carry a measure in any county in the state.

The question as to who is behind the proposed change is answered in the official pamphlet. There is incorporated therein a resolution, adopted by the Oregon State Grange, a farmers' organization, on May 17, 1910, in which hearty indorsement is given to any proposal to remove any constitutional restrictions on the people's power to obtain and pay for good roads.

The amendment is also indorsed by the Oregon Good Roads Association, of which Dr. Andrew C. Smith is president and Lionel R. Webster, chairman of the Executive Committee. In addition, the Oregon State Threshers' Association, through its secretary, Philip S. Bates, is devoting time and energy in support of the amendment.

Nor can the expressed fear be realized that any county refusing to bond itself to build roads may have bonds forced upon it through the initiative and by the votes of the electors of the state at large. The Constitution expressly reserves to the legal voters of every municipality and district the initiative and referendum powers as to all local, special and municipal legislation of every character, in and for their respective municipalities and districts. In another section of the Constitution the state is prohibited from enacting special or local laws for the laying, opening and working on highways.

Taxpayers who oppose permanent road work on the score of its high cost generally fail to take into consideration the increase in value that will accrue to their property as the result of good roads. Much mischief has undoubtedly been done in forming sentiment in certain communities by unskilled and unscientific attempts at permanent highway construction. Properly-built macadam roads cost more than $600 per mile, it must be admitted. Union County is paying about $3000 per mile for such highways and Marion County from $2500 to $3000. In Marion County, however, along such highways, the land it is asserted, has doubled and even trebled in value since the roads were constructed. Along one of these roads the improvement has affected the value of property for a distance of two miles on either side to the extent that the increased value provides a sufficient tax to pay for the road.

On the other hand, Washington County, without skilled supervision, spent nearly $110,000 last year on road building, and in macadam construction got either poor results or total failures.

The good roads amendment does not tie the state or counties to any plan of construction, either of strictly local roads or trunk lines. It does not compel any county to change its methods of road building or of replenishing its road funds in any particular. The year-to-year taxation method may still be followed. It does not impose any liability on the state at large for assistance in road construction. Happily the state funds are now safeguarded against their expenditure in aid of local highways, and The Oregonian is firm in its conviction that this safeguard should not be removed.

In those counties that may approve bond issues for permanent roadbuilding under this amendment it is possible that part of the burden of paying for the roads will devolve on the children of the present generation of taxpayers. But they will have handed down to them smooth, permanent roads, not chuckholes or corduroy, and lands and other property that would otherwise be of much less value. If the roadbuilding is done intermittently, a little this year and a little the next, the next generation of taxpayers will still have to complete what has been commenced and the present generation will get none of the benefits that might be shared and paid for by both. The increase in the value of the property benefited in most instances will provide sufficient taxes to pay the interest on the road bonds. So let us leave this bogy of unconsidered future generations to the monopoly of Eastern conservationists and hand down to our children and our children's children good roads, developed water power and cultivated fields, even if they do share some of the cost with us.

The Oregonian can see no reasonable possibility of harm and a certainty of much good being accomplished in the adoption of the good roads amendment.

"PREVENTING" RAILROAD BUILDING.

Eastern Oregon had been bottled up for years by the Harriman railroad system when Jim Hill began construction of the Deschutes road into the interior of that section. It was Jay Bowerman, assembly nominee for Governor, who brought the injunction proceedings in behalf of the Harriman road to stop Hill's invasion. This proceeding was brought before Judge Butler, law partner of Bowerman, and the injunction was promptly granted. Then the case was transferred to the Federal Court, and Hill won out, just as he deserved to and Eastern Oregon was invaded by railroads.

The Democratic paper falsely calling itself "independent," that vouches for the above mean falsehood, is the Eugene Guard. The Guard got it from some other single-eyed Bourne-Chamberlain organ and does its partisan office of passing it along. The Bourne-Chamberlain press has raked and scraped the Capitol at Salem from dome to basement in a persistent endeavor to find something discreditable or embarrassing in Bowerman's legislative record, and has got nothing but vicious and untrue fiction like the foregoing.

Bowerman was an attorney at Condon, a village lawyer with much time, much ability, much energy and little practice; and he acted in several right-of-way and injunction suits for the O. R. & N. Company, and was paid for it, and was glad to get the money. He rendered efficient service there as he does elsewhere. But no railroad, and no other employer or principal who was fortunate enough to have Bowerman for an attorney, ever assumed or attempted to control his action as a public legislator.

Here is, briefly, the truth about Bowerman's "attempt" to keep railroads out of Central Oregon: The Harriman railroad had started to build up Deschutes Canyon. Bowerman had aided in right-of-way and other matters. Then Hill began work, too. There were mighty conflicts at several strategic points. Bowerman as attorney sued out an injunction before Judge Butler (a Judge appointed by Governor Chamberlain, by the way) to restrain the Hill people from interfering at a particular point with the Harriman construction crew. The injunction was granted. It stands to this day. It was not taken to the Federal Court. The Harriman construction proceeded and the Hill builders crossed the river and proceeded with their work. Thus Mr. Bowerman "prevented" building of a railroad to Central Oregon.

At Salem Bowerman as President of the Senate aided the effort to force Harriman to build into Central Oregon by casting the deciding vote for the Constitutional amendment authorizing the state to go into the railroad business. It was not an altogether wise proceeding, but it had the enthusiastic support of many anti-railroad people and of newspapers like the Guard, which are always for anything that will upset the established order. Bowerman "stood in" vigorously. Will the Guard have the decency and fairness to commend Bowerman for that act now as it doubtless did then? Hardly.

DEFYING THE PUBLIC?

Opposition of the Port of Portland Commission to the Broadway bridge project may delay the viaduct but will not defeat it. Authority of the Commission will either be set aside or will be brought into conformity with popular demand and municipal needs.

This attitude of the Commission has caused public inquiry into the membership of that body; into the method of choosing its members, and into the Commission's responsibility to voting citizens. It is brought to public notice more forcefully than ever before that the Commission is a perpetual body; that vacancies are filled by the remaining members until the next meeting of the Legislature, when they are filled by election in the lawmaking assembly of the state.

Further, it is brought to notice that under decision of the Supreme Court of the state the port district is a municipal corporation, like a town or a city, and that its charter and its laws are subject to the local authority of home-rule legislation, under constitutional amendments giving legal voters of every municipality "power to enact and amend their municipal charter, subject to the constitution and criminal laws of the State of Oregon"; and "reserving the initiative and referendum powers to the legal voters of every municipality and district, as to all local, special and municipal legislation of every character, in or for their respective municipalities and districts."

Power to alter the Commission or its charter, therefore, appears vested in the voters of the port district under the initiative. This power can be called into play in a near-by election.

The Port Commission is a creation of the lawmaking power of the state, and that power is really exercised, in this case, to conform with desires of the people of Portland.

It is hard to believe that the Port Commission will defy the demand of people of Portland for Broadway bridge. It is conceivable that the members misjudge the temper of the public, but not that they hold their Commission superior to the will of the electorate. Disregard for that will is certain to cause the downfall of the present Commission.

This river span surely will be built. Members of the Commission who oppose it would better bring themselves into closer touch with public opinion, and think again.

The agricultural possibilities of Central Oregon, especially that portion of this vast expanse that lies between Prineville and Ontario, have been very thoroughly inspected during the past few months by Professor Shaw, late of the University of Minnesota, employed for this purpose by James J. Hill. This announcement is significant of the changes that will take place in that region during the next ten years, whether through irrigation or dry farming. Known, since it has been known at all, as a vast grazing section of which Prineville was the center and freighting point, much of this region will without doubt be added to the agricultural area of the state, by irrigation where this is feasible, by "dry farming" where water cannot be lifted for the purposes of irrigation. To furnish adequate transportation for what this land, thus served, will yield is the business of the railroad builder; but first his mission is to exploit these lands so that settlers induced by veritable data may flock in and possess them. The scheme is a grand one. That it will in due time be worked out cannot be doubted.

There is a fellow at Corvallis, running a paper called the Gazette-Times, who complains in the issue of October 24 that The Oregonian misrepresented through its correspondent the attendance at the Bowerman-Hawley meeting last Saturday by overstating the facts as to attendance. "Exactly 225 people heard Bowerman and Hawley at the Republican rally at the Courthouse," he declares. The Corvallis editor counted them, it may be supposed. Yet it may be supposed also that he was kept so busy with other things at that meeting that he may have overlooked a few people, though 225 is a pretty fair crowd. This same newspaper editor was responsible for a statement circulated on his authority all over Oregon that Mr. Bowerman was drunk in Portland at the assembly in July. Called to account for his falsehood at the Saturday meeting, the editor made a shambling public apology, admitting that he was mistaken. He was. Yet what sort of petty slanderer is this Corvallis editor that he would print such a lie, declaring that he had personally seen the Gubernatorial candidate in an intoxicated condition? What is his testimony on any subject worth? The Oregonian mentions this painful incident only because other newspapers throughout Oregon—the so-called "independent" press—have eagerly reprinted this infamous Corvallis yarn. How many of them will have the fairness now to print the facts? Not one. How many of them also have suddenly been converted to the view that drunkenness in a public man is a grave offense?

Los Angeles is a truly exciting town to live in. To say nothing of its heavenly climate and its bombs, there is always something stimulating in the occult line going on. Just the other day a widow of the angelic city began to long for a sight of one of her schoolmates whom she had not seen for forty-five years. The longing brought its fulfillment. A spirit told her to look for him in Brooklyn. She obeyed, met him on the street a few hours after she arrived, and promptly married him. It is worth while to live in a city where things like this happen, even at the risk of being blown up now and then.

The publicity methods of the Bourne-Chamberlain machine are one of the significant features of the campaign. Has anyone even seen West called by the machine, or any of its newspaper agencies, the "Democratic candidate for Governor," which he is. Reference to his supposed Democratic allegiance is everywhere and always carefully omitted. He has been uniformly described as the "anti-assembly candidate," which he is not. How does the Democracy like it?

Extreme prohibitionists lose votes when they assert that every person opposed to them is in league with saloon-keepers and brewers and is controlled by them. For there are great many moral citizens who deplore liquor vices and oppose the tyranny and the farce of prohibition. These are the citizens from whose ranks prohibitionists seek votes. It would seem better politics to refrain from calling them henchmen of saloon-keepers.

Harry Lane has taken the stump, ostensibly to make votes for West for Governor and "Josephine" Smith for Congressman, yet really to advertise himself for office again. He neglects to tell how the present city administration set the house in business order after his slipshod and flapdoodle career as Mayor. It was a distinct gain to the community when Lane went out and the present Mayor went in.

An assembly of citizens is to be held to protest against the Port Commission's obstruction of Broadway bridge. "Anti-assemblyites" who think the people should not confer together in meeting can stay away.

The Aleuts are reported to be nearing extinction. The diseases of civilization are said to be the cause. This may be true, but it is more than likely the dissipations of civilized life are the real reason.

Another farmer has suffered injury from an infuriated bull, this time in Clark County. It would seem by this time that people would learn not to take chances with the head of the herd.

The law on the subject says that any member of an election board who has accepted the appointment and neglects to do the work is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to fine and imprisonment.

Diogenes was out with his lighted lantern last night looking for friends of the Port of Portland. It is understood that the old man met with difficulty.

The white slave traffic would be effectually nipped in the bud at home by prompt application of the parental slipper, and example, early and often.

It is announced that "Springfield will get gas from Eugene," which might mean that Publicity Promoter Freeman is warming up.

Is it not about time that the Colonel ceased talking platitudes and came down to the relation of the tariff to cost of living?

Eastern people continue to buy farming land at Medford for $1000 an acre. The supply is unlimited and worth the money.

Having become old-fashioned, the police automobile has been discarded. It certainly did not match those military caps.

Promotion will be rapid in the Haytien army, with ten Generals drowned in the sinking of the gunboat Liberte.

Johnstone wears the American aerial record for going up and Walter Wellman for going down.

FUNNY STUDY OF TWO COLONELS

"Marse" Henry Weighs Mr. Bryan and Mr. Roosevelt; Finds Them Wanting.

Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal.

Colonel Roosevelt has not only stolen Colonel Bryan's clothes, but he has crowded Colonel Bryan off the stage and taken his place before the footlights; and, as if to add insult to injury, ex-Vice-President Fairbanks introduces him as "the mighty commoner."

Meanwhile, Roosevelt, the merest Colonel of the Second Part, quite outBryans Bryan, the original Colonel of the First Part, and more's the pity, the fickle audiences are beginning to like him just as well. In some quarters they seem actually to prefer him, their preference being perhaps like that of the clowns at the fair in Salamanca described by Gil Blas, that thought the showman who, upon an open platform imitated the squealing of a pig, gave a more natural and agreeable performance than his rustic rival, who pinched the tail of a real, living pig, hid beneath the folds of a cloak. This, indeed, would appear to be the difference between the two Colonels. Colonel Bryan actually believed his fancies. It is safe to say that Colonel Roosevelt is just a play-actor.

In 1908, the voters, alike discrediting Bryan and Roosevelt in favor of Taft, elected Taft because they believed he would make a safer President than Roosevelt had been or Bryan would be. The Colonel of the First Part is out of the running for 1912. The Colonel of the Second Part has not declared himself, but in case he does, will the voters turn about and reverse their former judgment? Colonel Roosevelt evidently thinks so, or he would not appropriate Colonel Bryan's wearing apparel, his political assets and his parts of speech.

The Courier-Journal's objection to Colonel Bryan turned mainly upon the point that he was a dreamer. He promised both the people and himself too much. His voluble simplicity and innocent transparency subjected him to every manner of misconception and misrepresentation. He was a moral philosopher rather than a statesman. He was a captivating pleader; not a man of affairs.

Had Colonel Bryan been elected President he could have achieved few, if any of the idealisms to which he had committed his party and himself with such spontaneous and confident belief. Things would have gone on measurably in the accustomed way. The President of the United States is neither a lawgiver nor a lord high executioner; unless, indeed, we decree that he be by taking Theodore Roosevelt at his word and returning the Colonel of the Second Part to power, charged with the life work of uplifting private morals and beautifying the public service.

Casting the score and striking a balance, we do not believe the Colonel of the Second Part will fare any better than the Colonel of the First Part. As Hans Breitman observed, the people are not "a dam fool yet, already," as was the saloonkeeper's wife who joined the Good Templars. Most of them are pleased by the spectacular. Many of them like to be humbugged. Some are carried away by gush and gammon. But when the crowds that gather so noisily about the lion-hunter of Africa disperse and go home, there will be found a residuum of good sense, of sober thinking, which will dispose of the one Colonel as they disposed of the other Colonel, who, in his day, was equally renowned and popular, and drew as great and as enthusiastic audiences. That is in point of fact the impression made upon Arthur Krock, the Courier-Journal's correspondent, who accompanied the Roosevelt party across Indiana.

In the case of Bryan the popular fear was imaginary. The Colonel of the First Part menaced nothing the people need to hold sacred. In the character of a humanitarian he was ahead of time. In the character of a radical he was misjudged. He paid the forfeit exacted by society of the agitator. The case of Roosevelt is far more serious. Yet, if the Colonel of the Second Part looks to reap the fruitage denied the Colonel of the First Part, he will, in our opinion, find himself equally disappointed.

With every footstep Colonel Roosevelt's record in office stares him in the face and disputes his right of way. As an open and avowed candidate, his self-seeking would be as obvious as Colonel Bryan's artlessness. The people would say: "We turned Colonel Bryan down because we thought him a simpleton, and we will turn you down because you take us for simpletons."

The Colonel of the Second Part made a mistake in putting all upon the hazard of the die in the coming New York election. There is every reason to believe he will lose it. If he does he is himself lost; because the issue there is nothing except Rooseveltism, which translated into plain English spells third-termism, which, elaborated and explained, can only mean life-tenure, absolutism and arbitrary power.

SPECIMENS OF BABOO ENGLISH.

East Indian Students in a Struggle With Their Adopted Language.

Crooke's "Things Indian."

The headmaster is a man of great anger, the boys suffer so much from corporal punishment that no man can return from school without shedding his tears. Under him the school is changed to butcher's shop.

Dear She—My wife has returned from your hospital cured. Provided males are allowed at your bungalow, I would like to do you the honor of presenting myself there this afternoon. But I will not try to repay you. Vengeance belongeth unto God. Yours noticeably.

Dear and Fair Madame—I have much pleasure to inform you that my dearly unfortunate wife will be no longer under your kind treatment, she having left this world for the other on the night of 27th ult. For your help in the matter I shall ever remain grateful. Yours reverently.

The sub-postmaster report that last evening a mice come out from behind office door and after walking a little stammered and breathed its last in the presence of sub-postmaster. As this is prognostic of plague, please arrange.

Bowerman's Fitness.

Burns News.

Jay Bowerman, candidate for Governor, has had six years' training in the state senate, one term as president of that body and for several months has been Acting Governor of the state, all of which gives him a knowledge of state affairs and an intimacy with the business of the office that will enable him to fit into the executive chair with ease and dignity.

A Mean Fling.

Irrigon Irrigator.

It is now reported that Seattle is to have a building 41 stories high, but we believe that is one of the 57 varieties of "stories," commonly called lies, periodically emanating from that town. They had better fill up a few hundred of the thousands of vacant office rooms before starting any other skyscrapers.

Nothing Different.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

Same old speeches, same old booms;
Same old tiresome hunt for rooms.

Same old weeds that bend and nod;
Same old pesky goldenrod.

Same old oysters, same old quail;
Same old bills by every mail.

Same old freckles, same old tan;
Same old padded moving van.

Same old asters in the mail;
Same old cider, same old Fall.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM MEASURES

Woman's "Taxpaying" Suffrage Amendment Is a Misnomer, for It Will Confer Ballot on All Adult Female Persons—Results of Investigation by Ladies' Home Journal in States Where There Is Suffrage for Both Sexes.

ARTICLE NO. 9.

Women's taxpaying suffrage amendment, granting to taxpayers regardless of sex, the right of suffrage.
300 Yes.
301 No.

It is undoubtedly unsafe to assume that the woman's suffrage amendment to the constitution enfranchises only women who are taxpayers. The amendment as submitted contains nowhere the word "male." It provides that every citizen of the United States, of the age of 21 years and upwards and who shall have resided in the state during the six months preceding an election shall be entitled to vote. A similar provision applies to foreign-born persons who have declared their intention to become citizens one year preceding such election.

The only reference to taxpayers is in the last sentence which expressly provides that no citizen who is not a taxpayer shall be denied the right to vote on account of sex.

Inasmuch as the preceding words of the amendment grant the right to vote to all citizens, and women are citizens, the last sentence of the measure is surplusage.

This feature is pointed out in the argument opposing the amendment as published in the official pamphlet. The sole question then is "shall women have the full right to vote in Oregon?"

* * *

There are four states in the Union in which women have held this for a number of years—Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Idaho. The right to vote was granted in each state in the order named. In Wyoming women have had it 41 years and Idaho women 14 years. It may naturally be considered good policy, before adopting woman's suffrage in Oregon, to look to these four states for results. Statements on each side of the woman's suffrage question as a rule are largely argumentative; but an exception to this rule is found in the issue of November 1 of the Ladies Home Journal. The Ladies Home Journal is recognized as the highest type of woman's magazine devoted to the interests of women that is published. From policy it is opposed to woman's suffrage; but recently it commissioned Richard Barry to go to the four states where women vote and ascertain what the women there had actually accomplished in the matter of reforms promised by the advocates of "votes for women." The Journal announces that it stood ready and prepared to print the results of Mr. Barry's investigations, no matter which side the investigations favored, and that it believes the actual truth from the actual authoritative records of the four states has been presented.

* * *

Briefly expressed, Mr. Barry found that women in the four states named had failed to accomplish the four results generally promised by the leaders of women's suffrage movements. These promised results include "higher wages and better hours for working women; great reforms in child labor laws; a decided decrease in divorce suits; better marriage laws and a positive regulation of the social evil."

In presenting an argument in favor of the constitutional amendment the Oregon State Equal Suffrage Association has made none of these promises unless the first two of those enumerated are to be construed from the paragraph in which it is declared that "a disfranchised class, brought necessarily into ruinous competition with an enfranchised class, creates demoralization in business, and works special hardship upon all men and women who toil for a livelihood, thus adding an ever increasing menace to the stability of the home."

Mr. Barry's article goes quite extensively into a comparison of child-labor laws and laws for the betterment of working women in the four woman's suffrage states with similar laws in force in other states.

He found that "Wyoming and Utah, where women vote, prohibit the employment of children in mines only, while the States of Nebraska, Oregon, New York, Wisconsin and Illinois, as well as several others, where men only vote, prohibit the working of children under 14 years of age in 12 specified employments during school hours. . . . Montana, where men only vote, and which is as free from factories as Wyoming, Utah or Idaho, all three states where women vote, has a constitutional amendment prohibiting the working of all children under 16 years of age."

* * *

A remarkable picture of one result of women participating in general elections is contained in the following paragraph dealing with child labor laws, from Mr. Barry's article:

While I was in Denver, one of the newspapers undertook the expose of a revolting child-labor condition near the city. As it was the paper of the party out of power and as an election was in progress, the opposition papers and every man in office pooh-poohed the expose. Nothing came of it. Nor did the voting women of Denver even investigate whether it were true or not that children were being overworked and abused in the outskirts of their own city. I sought the reason for this and found, for example, that the most prominent political women's organization of Denver was absorbed in a factional fight. In Feburary, when knowledge of the condition of the abuse of child labor first became public, this women's political organization held a meeting at which the members fought with fists. Women, who wore false hair lost it, and one woman lost a handful of real hair. Their debate was not over the outrages committed on children in their state, it concerned the choice of one of their number for indorsement to an unimportant office. In May, when I was there and the employment of children in factories was more widely discussed, this same woman's political organization was absorbed in a more desperate fight; one faction was striving to have the treasurer arrested for refusing to distribute the funds of the organization as this minor faction desired.

* * *

Furthermore, Mr. Barry asserts, the mere statement of the child or parent is accepted as proof of age in each of the four states, whereas 19 other states require documentary proof. In not one of the four woman's suffrage states is there a law limiting the hours of women's employment, yet 20 other states where men only vote, have such enactments. Three states have laws prohibiting night work by women. Neither Wyoming, Colorado, Utah nor Idaho has such a law.

Mr. Barry found that cashgirls and salesgirls in Salt Lake and Denver receive exactly the same wages as girls similarly employed in Chicago and that it costs more to live in Salt Lake and Denver than it does in Chicago. He found that in Denver girl stenographers just out of school could be had in plenty for $5 and $6 a week, whereas the greenest boy received $7.50. Women domestics received, in the two large cities in Utah and Colorado, $18 to $25 per month, whereas the Japanese "boy" received $25 to $40. In none of the four states could he find a woman real estate operator or promoter, a woman in the executive management of a corporation or a woman bank cashier. Salaries and sex proportion in teaching vocations were found to be exactly like those in the East. He found eight women attorneys in Denver and quotes the leader of them as saying that woman's political enfranchisement had been a hindrance rather than a help to her and that it does not aid industrial equality.

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As to the social evil Mr. Barry quotes Mrs. Kate Waller Barrett, National President of the Florence Crittenton Home for Wayward Girls as declaring:

"In all the 78 Florence Crittenton homes in the United States I never saw such a collection of young, innocent girls of the better class as there are in the Denver homes. There are 58 girls there, most of them still in their 'teens. The number of illegitimate births among young girls is increasing at an alarming rate. So-called 'free love' is also alarmingly on the increase."

On the authority of the Chiefs of Police in Denver and Salt Lake, Mr. Barry asserts that prostitution is largely on the increase in Utah and Colorado. Salt Lake City has the only "stockade" in America. This consists of a walled space in the center of the city where the social evil has police protection.

Mr. Barry also publishes statistics showing that divorce is laregly on the increase in Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Idaho. He found that, with the exception that each state requires a year's residence, the divorce laws are as lax as in notorious Nevada and South Dakota. Denver newspapers constantly carry advertisements of divorce attorneys.

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As to uplift and purification of politics, here is Mr. Barry's statement as published in the Ladies Home Journal:

I was in Denver at the time of the last election, and had, therefore, a first-hand opportunity to study the question of woman's honesty in politics. I saw scores of women accept money for the election held in Denver on May 17, 1910. An incalculable amount of money was spent on that day. In my own very restricted sphere I saw about $17,000 paid out to women in five, ten and twenty-dollar lots.

Two issues were before the people. First, the temperance question; should the town be wet or dry? Second, the water franchise question; should the city own its own water plant or let a corporation have it?

On the temperance question every one of age could vote and the ballots were about half male and half female. On the franchise only taxpayers could vote and the ballots were about two-thirds male and one-third female. The great bulk of the money was spent by the saloonkeepers to keep the town wet, and by the corporation to get the franchise.

"The corporation, though it spent hundreds of thousands of dollars, could not purchase the male electorate. Municipal ownership won by a comfortable majority.

But on the temperance question the vote was: For the drys, 17,237; for the wets, 33,191; the wets' majority, 15,954. With the votes half female and half male the saloonkeepers won almost two to one.

For two weeks before that election the women and children of the working classes paraded the streets making strenuous appeals for a "dry" town. Three nights before the election the Auditorium held 5000 people, largely women, fighting desperately for temperance.

That same day I sat in the office of the campaign manager of the "wets" and saw a stream of "political" women pass in and out. Each woman took with her a ten-dollar note and instructions how to work her precinct. There were 211 precincts and four women workers to each precinct. The night before election each of them got another $10; the committee-women $25 and the chairwomen $75 apiece.

It has been possible to give only a partial review of Mr. Barry's article. It is an extended report on conditions as he found them in the four states where women vote, but in his report not a single improvement in moral, civic or labor conditions is mentioned as having been brought about through the enfranchisement of women. On the contrary he has found much to be condemned. Inasmuch as the report of his investigations treats the question from the standpoint of existing conditions and not theories, it should prove a valuable guidance to the voters of Oregon in the coming election.

Because of the recognized standard of the journal in which it appears The Oregonian is ready to accept the article as a fair statement of what women have actually done in the four states in which they vote.

Woman suffrage has been defeated four times at the polls in Oregon.

WORLD'S VAST COAL SUPPLY

No Need of Tying It Up for Sake of "Conservation."

Tacoma Ledger.

Now they have discovered large coal beds in Chile. The other day great discoveries were reported in Brazil. In the last few months China has been sending coal to the Pacific Coast of the United States. China is rich in coal and although it is a very old nation little coal has ever been used. The people used wood and grass for fuel. New coal discoveries are being made in Alaska as agents of the United States Geological Survey and prospectors penetrate new districts. Here in Washington more of this fuel is being found every year.

Extremists in the conservation movement used to tell the country that the coal supply was rapidly being exhausted and it was intimated that the second or third generation from the present might freeze to death or suffer terrible inconvenience. This fright was employed in support of a policy of "tying up" the coal mines.

Not much is heard today about the dire prospect of early exhaustion of the coal supply. It appears that the more the United States Geological Survey investigates the more coal it finds. What is true in the United States is true to some extent in other countries. Nobody knows how much coal there is in China, though it is known the quantity is immense. Nobody knows how much there is in the United States or Alaska. The estimates of the supply for this year may be less than the estimate will be for next. The earth is as yet but slightly investigated. It contains treasures of which no man has ever yet dreamed.

It is not improbable that earth and air will afford fuels superior to coal, gas, electricity or wood. And it may be that mankind of the future will have less need of fire than we have today.

Certainly we should not waste coal simply because there is a large supply in the earth. Neither should we waste timber. Still it is wise to take into consideration the discovery and employment of new building materials and the probable discovery of new and more economic fuels.

It is indefensible to compel residents of Alaska to buy high-priced coal imported from British Columbia or Washington when mines are near by with an enormous supply of the fuel. The present generation deserves fair consideration, though it should not be permitted to waste natural resources.

An Explanation.

Prairie City Miner.

If the public could be placed in the position of an editor of a newspaper, there would be a better understanding of the man who gets up the copy. Some people are wondering if we worked out a grudge last week when we neglected to mention some very deserving persons. The paper is run irrespective of any personal feeling and if any one does not get his or her dues it is from some other cause. The trouble last week was merely an oversight. We have reference to the programme given at the hall by the Episcopal people and their friends.

Pointed Paragraphs.

Chicago News.

Beauty unadorned is barely tolerated.

Frowns are free, but a smile costs 15 cents.

Some men are born great—then they begin to shrink.

Not all gushing letters are written with fountain pens.

Words are the making of wise men and the unmaking of fools.

It isn't the depth of love that counts so much as the length.

Some people seem to think that he who laughs loudest laughs best.

How important a woman feels the first time she takes her baby to church!