

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter. Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance.

PORTLAND, OREGON, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1911.

CAUCUS AND PARTY DUTY.

Candidate Sheehan assumes a fine air of outraged virtue when he repeats in his letter to Governor Dix that he will remain as his (his) party's candidate for United States Senator as long as the party desires me to do so, no matter what the personal consequences to me may be.

But is a caucus nomination binding on all the members or representatives of a party in a caucus? What is a caucus? When is a caucus entitled to speak for a party? The binding effect of a caucus on its participants depends absolutely on the good faith of its deliberations and the representative character of its members.

Candidate Shepard, in his letter of withdrawal, truly stated the facts as to that caucus when he said: "Under the discipline of Tammany Hall the votes of a majority of the participants in the alleged caucus had been put into a trust and were to be cast by one voting trustee."

The assumption of Tammany, which has usurped the driver's seat on the New York Democratic wagon, and of Mr. Sheehan, who proposes to martyrize himself for Tammany's sake, is that the minority was under compulsion, by the unwritten law of party procedure, to go into caucus and abide by the results.

COAST INSURANCE TRUST. The existence of an "insurance trust" which from its San Francisco office controls fire insurance rates in all Pacific Coast cities and towns has been something of a mystery for a long time. Now the Insurance Code Commission of the State of Washington has made public evidence fully justifying the suspicions.

A PLAIN AND FULL STATEMENT.

The School Board has made specific answer to the charges of inefficiency and mismanagement, which having had their beginning in criticisms made by the Civic Council, have extended in lines more or less restricted throughout the community.

That the expenses of the public schools of the district have increased very largely in the last ten years is apparent. That this increase has been in response to general demand for school facilities in accordance with the growth of the city in population, in sanitary regulations, in the additional number of teachers required and in civic pride are matters of common knowledge.

There are many who imagine themselves capable of running the schools on a more economical basis—and that without in the least impairing their efficiency—than have those who have given their time and attention to the details of school management in the past ten years. It is the history of all criticism and all critics in regard to public enterprises that involve the use of public moneys.

One thing has been made clear by this tempest in school affairs. This is that there is no such thing in general as a school. On the contrary, the expense of maintaining the public schools is large, and necessarily so. It is moreover increasingly large since civic pride and the best interests of the community demand that these schools be kept abreast of the times; that the best teachers be employed in them; that ample room be provided for all the children of the district who apply for entrance; that old and decaying buildings be supplanted by modern structures; that due attention be given to sanitation, and in brief that the schools be kept in the van of progress.

SCIENCE AND HULLIN. The investigations of students like Forel and Krafft-Ebbing have thrown much light on the conduct of persons who commit apparently unaccountable trespasses. Stuart Morris Hullin's predilection for slipping off locks of his door which he has no right to handle is hardly stranger than a multitude of other obsessions which are duly recorded in the books dealing with abnormal psychology.

CHEAPER STEEL NEEDED. In the readjustment which the railroads will find necessary now that the Interstate Commerce Commission has denied their right to advance rates, there is a possibility that some of the "increased cost of living" may be shifted to other industries which can stand it to better advantage than even the steel industry could.

TILLAMOOK BAR IMPROVEMENT. Mr. Russell Hawkins of the Whitney Timber Company, who has spent nearly all of his time for the past two years endeavoring to secure an appropriation for improving Tillamook bar, has returned from Washington with the discouraging news that no relief can be granted before next December.

Timber resources will be great, but Portland and all of the intermediate territory will also suffer in degree. The mills and logging camps of the Whitney company alone would give employment to nearly a thousand men, if water transportation were available, and these workers would create a demand for farm, garden and dairy products which would thus make employment for hundreds of others.

OUR INTEREST IN CONSERVATION. The resignation of the Oregon Conservation Commission is a shock that the public will somehow endeavor to withstand. We are assured that it is not failure of the Legislature to make an appropriation for its maintenance that has caused the Commission to strike its flag and abandon the field, but desire to relieve the Governor of any embarrassment he might feel through finding a left-over board on his hands, and to give him an opportunity to start anew.

The Commission's retirement from its voluntary and unappreciated service is about the most popular act of its career. The role of public benefactor is an ungrateful one. The public has an instinctive aversion somehow to being made the special object of the benevolence and philanthropy of its self-called guardians and custodians.

EXTRAVAGANCE IN TAXATION. In Seattle the subject of taxes has taken a place among the uppermost topics in the public mind. The problem presented is not one of method in the levying of taxes but of reducing them. As a first lesson a committee of the Chamber of Commerce has published the results of a careful investigation.

Without going into details that affect local property-owners in Salem, the Mayor's veto of the Salem, Falls City & Western's plan to build a trolley line is an example of shortsightedness. The plan would have been a blessing in disguise.

Some people who come from Eastern States to Eastern Oregon this Spring will be disappointed, for they will find conditions far from ideal. The land is as well as unutilized by their activities. Yet more will find them just right and they are the people who will aid in development.

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Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, March 7, 1861. The telegraph meeting at the Council rooms night before last was very frangible in numbers. Nothing was done but to appoint a chairman and secretary. An adjourned meeting is set for Friday evening next.

A 300-yard horse race came off yesterday on the bottom, below the distillery. The race was won by Charles Lawrence's "Big Lummux" and George Fuller's "Fancy Grey," and the wager was \$15 a side. "Big Lummux" won easily by three lengths.

At our last dates from Washington it was understood that Colonel Hayne, in behalf of the nation of South Carolina, had demanded of the President the possession of Fort Sumpter. The President would send his answer to Governor Pickens. If this answer is not satisfactory it is surmised that an attempt will be made to take the fort by force.

What is Cafeteria? ALBANY, Or., March 2.—(To the Editor.)—In reading "Timely Tales of the Day" in The Oregonian of March 1, we were much interested in that one of a banker and his friend going to a cafeteria for luncheon, and the friend not understanding the situation.

THE SINGLE TAX REQUIEM. There rose the legislators' laugh of scorn. The single tax bill, battered, bruised and rent, a mournful corpse, came hurtling through the air.

THE BAR RESOLUTION. PORTLAND, Or., March 5.—(To the Editor.)—The Multnomah Bar Association has adopted a resolution in favor of the passage of the bill.

WHY THE VETOS? Grants Pass Courier. Governor West has certainly made a reputation for himself by his vetoes some time as the veto Governor of Oregon. Some men seek reputation at the cannon's mouth, others head great indignation and build up a reputation in the States.

DEAN COLLINS. She cannot get a divorce on the sole ground of desertion until one year has elapsed, during which period the husband has not returned.

BOY CAPTURES A BRITISH ARMY

Playful Young American Bewilders Two Warring Armies in Bermuda. Single-handed, William Earl Dodge Stokes, Jr., captured a British army near the City of Hamilton, Bermuda, several days ago.

The two regiments of infantry and one of artillery that constitute the Hamilton garrison were ordered by the British War Office to conduct their annual war game. When the hostile officers took to the field they could give no more account of themselves than young Stokes and the chosen American girls and boys who, under proper chaperonage, make up his army.

The British army divided into the Blue and Red Armies, and with military umpires looking on, played at war with much seriousness for two days. Stokes is expert at wireless telegraphy and telephony and is familiar with heliography. So it was comparatively easy for him to decipher the signals which the British army made with the heliograph and by "wigwagging."

Early last Tuesday morning he rode to the top of Hamilton Hill, which the Blue Army occupied. As soon as the sun was up he ordered his British army and heliographed in its secret code to the Red Army on the opposite hill at St. George.

How shall we ever get to an effective direct popular choice of Presidential nominees if it is thought desirable? Mr. Raymond said that it must come through the National organizations of the political parties themselves or through Congressional legislation, for which perhaps a constitutional amendment may be proposed.

Statistics of German Universities. Germany is not only well provided with universities, but the seats of learning, 21 in all, cannot complain of a shortage of students. For there are enrolled for the Winter session 54,823 students, compared with 52,407 last year.

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Timely Tales of the Day

In public school examinations last term Portland's precocious youngsters answers to questions were easily up to the mark of classroom comedy recorded by Myra Kelly.

"Downtown," was a little boy's answer. At the Highland school to the question, "What is the Klondike?" a tiny girl replied, "It is the place that keeps water away from Holland."

In answering questions in civil government the youngsters invariably referred to the President as "Mr. Taft" and to his predecessor as "Teddy" Roosevelt.

When dentists examined the mouths of the school children recently many were found to have adenoids, and the pupils so affected were told to inform their family physician. One little girl at the Falling school presented a bad case of adenoids, and when the dentist had charred her bad teeth, he cautioned her to tell her parents she had adenoids in her nose and should be taken to a doctor.

Straightway the little one ran home to her mother, all in a flurry, announced to her mother: "Mamma, the doctor says I have a big word up my nose."

When Harvey Beckwith, toastmaster at the Commercial Club banquet held on Thursday night, introduced R. W. Raymond, in charge of the Industrial Bureau, he remarked that there was something mysteriously about the man's name.

How two families were thrown into hysterics is told by Rev. Walter I. Eck, pastor of St. Paul's English Lutheran Church, of the following incident: "I found Beckwith's vest was out on his own clothesline for an airing so as to be ready for tonight's banquet."

As Seen Through a Girl's Eyes. A man doesn't give his heart to a woman any longer; he merely leases it to her for a few weeks at a time.

Compensation of Country Life. Portland, with her large population, and a series of murders, robberies, suicides, grafting, etc., is scarcely to be envied by the people of our little city, where nothing of the kind (or any other kind) ever happens.