

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, August 11, 1911.

THE AUDITORIUM SITE.

The selection of the Market block for the site of the Auditorium is satisfactory for many reasons, of which economy is not the smallest. The location is easy of access, and is at least fairly central. There are objections to it, of course, but none of these were held to be sufficient weight to overcome the fact that the city owns the ground, thus permitting the entire sum of the authorized bond issue to be applied to construction and the expenses incident thereto.

The Auditorium committee has given time and careful consideration to this selection, and it is the part of good citizenship to acquiesce in the decision without carping. It is to be regretted the building cannot be completed in time for the Elias convention next year, but it is obvious that work of this nature must proceed at a pace compatible with a structure that is expected to endure for many years.

MR. TAFT'S MOTIVES.

Mr. C. N. Page, whose extremely suggestive communication to The Oregonian appears in the paper this morning, writes from the point of view of a man who has been thoroughly indoctrinated with the precepts of the anti-Administration magazines. To his mind everything that Mr. Taft says or does is to be regarded with suspicion, while his enemies can do no wrong.

PEACH PLUMS AND THE PARCELS POST.

A traveler through the rural districts of Oregon and Washington at this season of the year sees one of those economic phenomena which bewilder the intelligence and astound the imagination. Peach plums and early apples are now ripening and falling from the trees to the ground. Unless there happens to be a drove of pigs in the field where the trees grow, the fruit lies on the ground and decays. Why it is not gathered and marketed in order to market perishable fruit, the farmer has to solve the transportation problem and overcome the barrier of the middleman.

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF THE STATE FAIR.

The State Board of Agriculture is preparing to observe in a suitable manner the fiftieth anniversary of the Oregon State Fair. Fifty years! In what large numbers the incidents of Oregon history are beginning to be forgotten! The State Fair, the first battle year of the Civil War—runs the record—Oregon's first state fair was held on grounds selected for that purpose near Oregon City. Of its chief promoters and managers, perhaps not one survives, of those who were in at the beginning, few remain to recall the primitive, yet promising, exhibits of orchard and garden, field and meadow; of simple home manufactures that had been wrought in the hand-loom of the Middle West, or of stunted New England trees that bore the golden apples, plums and lavender, sweet marjoram and pennyroyal that grew in far away gardens; of horses and cows and sheep and hogs and poultry, the careful breeding of which had already begun.

Gleanings of the Day

A reduction of the regular armies of Europe to the proportion of the Regular Army of the United States would effect a direct saving of \$500,000,000 annually to the nations, and would restore to productive industries 2,750,000 men, whose earnings, conservatively estimated, would amount to \$500,000,000 more.

Let us not be misled by the fact that the Duke-to-Dick charge against the President is being changed to the Failed-to-Stick charge. It is perfectly reasonable for Mr. La Follette to have a slight swelling in his chest as a result of recent legislation. But let it extend to his head it may be observed that there's many a slip 'twixt a legislative coup and a Presidential election.

Consuelo, Duchess of Marlborough, is now devoting her time and her money to a society which provides decent lodgings for poor and widowed women. The aim of the society, to quote the words of the Duchess, is "to build new or adapt existing houses in crowded districts where a woman can get a clean bed, plain, but cheap, food, and, above all, decent surroundings for 6 or 10 cents a night."

JUDICIAL RECALL AS AN ISSUE.

President Taft's announced determination to veto the statehood bill because it does not annul Arizona's obnoxious recall of the Judiciary will make that subject an issue in the next campaign and fasten National attention on it. It is probable that both Senate and House will pass the bill, and the President's convictions on the subject are so strong that he considers neither the prospect of carrying his point nor political expediency in deciding on his course.

ILLNESS OF THE POPE.

The illness of Pope Pius X has naturally caused alarm to the millions of adherents of the Catholic church, following closely upon the severe attack of laryngitis, from which he has recently suffered, may sap his strength to such a degree that a fatal result may be feared, although his physicians are as sanguine optimistic.

SHARKS, BLACK FLISH, SEALLONS AND OTHER MARINE MONSTERS.

Sharks, black fish, seallons and other marine monsters have been seen at Neahkahnie Mountain. What is the favorite beverage in that locality?

THE PEREGRINE IN THEIR RIGHT SUMMER COSTUMES.

The peregrines in their right summer costumes are making the observation of the House of Lords a gay society event.

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MR. TAFT AND THE TARIFF.

Hypercritical View of the President's Policies. CARSON, Wash., Aug. 8.—(To the Editor).—For some time I have been carefully reading and digesting your editorial articles regarding the political situation of today.

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