

The Oregonian

Portland, Oregon, Postoffice No. 1544. Second-Class Matter. Subscriptions: Invariably in Advance. (BY MAIL.) Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$10.00...

BY CARRIER. Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$10.00. Daily, Sunday included, six months, \$5.50...

PORTLAND, MONDAY, NOV. 20, 1911.

SPECIAL AGENTS AND IMMUNITY.

More power to Governor Hawley! He is thoroughly aroused over the surprising Robnett episode and he purposes to expose to the President the astounding infamy of the common practice of "special" Government prosecutors and "special" Government agents who purchase testimony with pardons or immunity.

There never was a more frivolous charge brought against any man than the indictment of Mr. Hanley for his purchase of well-known worthless juniper trees out from the widge of Steins Mountain. No grosser outrage in any citizen's eyes has ever perpetrated in the name of justice than the arrest and trial of Senator Borah for his connection with certain so-called timber-land frauds.

What is such suggested evidence worth? How easily may the accidental association of any man with a fellow be converted into a crime, these competitors would have him to break the law. How readily may any man unfortunate enough to be known by any malefactor find that he is called upon to explain acts and words that had no criminal intent except in the ingenious interpretations of a too zealous prosecutor.

THE COMING MESSAGE. The message which President Taft is now preparing and which he will submit to Congress in December will doubt be directed mainly to two topics—the tariff and the trusts.

The President has been assured that the report of the Tariff Board on the wool schedule will be presented in time for him to base recommendations for revision upon it. He expects it to recommend downward revision and to be unanimous. The board may report on the cotton schedule at the same time and this report is also expected to be unanimous for downward revision.

already been clearly voiced by Secretary Fisher. As the coming session will immediately precede the National conventions, there will be much jockeying for political position by both parties and all factions. The President will have the advantage of putting forward a constructive programme, based on ascertained facts as to its every feature, and of urging measures endorsed in advance as to principle by his opponents, both in his own and in the opposite party. He can put them in the hole, for, if they haggle over details, they defeat and themselves in the position of fighting that which they have championed and will be kept busy explaining. Senator La Follette in particular has made a hobby of Federal supervision of railroad securities and will have difficulty in remaining consistent on that subject without sacrificing his insurgency.

ADVICE THAT IS VALUELESS.

The Oregonian, perhaps, cannot chide Mr. H. W. Stone for not having familiarized himself with the Presidential preference bill adopted by the voters last Fall, and remain consistent for we have repeatedly asserted that the measure and issues then presented were so numerous and so complex that very few voters could spare the time necessary to give them proper consideration.

The Presidential preference law was presented to the voters last Fall with the official and emphatic endorsement of the People's Power League. Mr. Stone is a member of the executive committee of the league. His name is attached to the affirmative argument in the official pamphlet. Yet Mr. Stone, who readily admits that he has not studied the measure carefully enough to form a definite opinion concerning it, not only confirms the truth of the assertion, but also establishes the conviction that some, perhaps many, of the frankly admitted "special" Government agents are lending the influence of their names to measures devised by Mr. U'Ren and a few associates without having been fully advised of the import of the laws or amendments proposed.

Once again we say that Mr. Stone is not seriously to be blamed for not having fully performed the stupendous task heaped upon him through the industry of the "special" Government agents. Mr. Stone and the other members of the People's Power League who have not time to engage in the busy activities of Mr. U'Ren should retire from the organization. What does the advice of Mr. Stone amount to if he does not understand the provision of the measure on which he is advising?

BROMIDIOMS IN POLITICS.

Mr. Richard S. Childs, who has a letter in The Oregonian today, is the author of the book entitled "Short Ballot Principles." The work contains this statement: "The government should be a democracy, but the party should be an autocracy." In "Short Ballot Principles" Mr. Childs outlines his plan for the government of parties who claim to believe what he practically and successfully in his workings. This plan so closely resembles the assembly idea tried out in Oregon that The Oregonian recently expressed the conviction that it would not succeed. Nor are we now convinced to the contrary by Mr. Childs' letter.

Mr. Childs would turn to the first chapter of his little book and read over what he himself says in regard to the potency of catch phrases he might be able to discover what really defeated the assembly ticket in this state and in other States. But it is very patent that he would be knocked down out of hand if it again showed itself in Oregon.

Here are some extracts from the chapter of Mr. Childs' work dealing with catch phrases: "Read that referendum on a technical matter, the amendment of the constitution to change and the query, 'Don't you trust the people?' is supposed to retire you to a safe haven. That in our political reasoning we should be the slaves of these glib bromidioms is probably because the subject is the complexity of the thing to see. Perhaps it will help if I take the liberty of warning you against the greatest catch-phrase of all, namely, 'the people.' This word is used by the plain people" who, I believe, have certain supernatural virtues not possessed by "the people."

It does not give them immunity from prosecution under the Sherman law and the Bryan Democrats do not like it because it gives the Government too much power. As the reasonable people of both parties believe the trusts should not be given immunity and that the Government should be given more power over them, they are likely to vote for him and prove the truth of his remark.

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION.

While the center of population has moved westward 170 miles since the first census was taken, the difference between its farthest northward and its farthest southward movement is only twenty-one miles. It has hugged the 39th parallel of latitude pretty closely, and in 1910 was only 7 1/2 miles south of the point which it started in 1890. The greatest eastward movement was eighty-one miles between 1850 and 1860, its least fourteen miles between 1890 and 1900. In the decade ending in 1910 it moved westward thirty-nine miles.

The center of the population of the United States is in northern Kansas, ten miles north of Smith Center, the county seat of Smith County. That would be the center of population if the population were evenly distributed. It is 457 miles west and fifty-one miles north of the present center of population. While the movement of the population has been due to the settlement of the West, its movement north and south has closely corresponded with the acquisition of new territory. Thus the annexation of Louisiana caused a slight southward movement between 1803 and 1810, rather more than the increase in the increase of population in the north.

In the next decade the settlement of Mississippi, Alabama and Eastern Georgia again pulled it a little southward. Its most decided southward movement was between 1820 and 1830, due to the annexation of Texas and the extension of settlement in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas. From 1830 to 1840 rapid settlement in the prairie states and in Southern Michigan and Wisconsin turned the tide northward, but in the next decade the annexation of Texas brought a change in the southward.

In 1860 another slight northward movement was recorded, and in 1870 a most decided movement in the same direction of 13.3 miles was shown, due to the ravages of the Civil War and an imperfect enumeration of the negroes. In 1880 the national bank provided settlement southward in consequence of the partial recovery of the South and the better enumeration of the negroes. In 1890 foreign immigration and rapid settlement of the West almost exactly offset the southward movement of the negroes. In 1890 the settlement of Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Texas is shown to have more than counterbalanced the increase in northern population to the extent of a southward movement of about three miles.

SUPERVISION OF CORPORATIONS.

The movement for the regulation of interstate industrial corporations has at last reached the National Congress. The House of Representatives has passed a bill which is expected to raise their value to par. The only alternative seems to be an increase in the rate of interest to 3 per cent, at which rate they would be worth par without the circulation privilege. This matter is of more direct interest to the general public than the rate of interest on 3 1/2 per cent bonds is injurious to the postal savings bank system.

If the shipbuilders who have been clamoring for years for a ship subsidy and opposing every effort to secure the admission of foreign-built ships to American registry have really combined to build no ships for an independent Panama steamship line, they have adopted a course which has irreparably injured their own cause. They will find public indignation stirred up against them to such a pitch that not only will their long-deferred hopes of a subsidy be destroyed, but the passage of a ship bill will be brought within the range of practical politics.

The Hood River Indian, who forced his tribal wife of several years' standing to remarry like white people to offset and otherwise prevent any affinity trouble, is departing from the ways of his fathers. Effete civilization has degraded him with its heinous suckers and the tomahawk is dulled with rust. "Pure Food" Wiley's campaign against absinthe will receive the hearty support of every person who knows the ravages made in France by the absinthe and the destructive character of its effects. It attacks man, not only physically and mentally, but morally, as is depicted in Marie Corelli's novel, "Wormwood."

Gleanings of the Day

Sarah Josephine Hale, editress of Godday's Lady's Book during and after the Civil War, has the distinction of having suggested two National holidays which have been definitely established. At her suggestion President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November, 1864, to be a day of National Thanksgiving for Union victories, and since that date it has been a National holiday every year. At Mrs. Hale's suggestion Memorial day was first observed in 1866, and has also received general observance. The idea of a day set apart for public thanksgiving dates back to Roman times, when the Consul set apart days for public feasting over great victories. Even King George III found cause for thanksgiving at the close of the Revolutionary War. When asked what this cause was, when he had lost the American colonies, he replied: "Let us be thankful that things are no worse."

Colonel Hofer, jealous of his title of rainmaker, seeks to rob Gipsy Smith of his credit of stopping the storm at Portland with his prayers by calling it a coincidence. He goes further by reflecting on the morals of Portland, which, of course, need improving, and hence the Gipsy is doing his best to improve the morals of Portland. The greater glory by saying: "That it is quite another thing to secure the rain when there is a long period of drought and the people are suffering. That is all the Salem man claims to have done—broken the drought and made the state a better place for public prayer meetings that brought the rain."

The experience of the housekeepers' club of Brooklyn women, which was described in The Oregonian a few days ago, goes to show that the reduction in the cost of living can be effected by women themselves. All they need do is to combine in large enough numbers to buy at wholesale for cash, have the goods delivered at the headquarters of the club and carry them home themselves. By adopting this plan the Brooklyn women saved all the way from 25 to 75 per cent of the retail price. They also secured full weight and the best quality, which they often do not secure at retail stores. How they cut the cost of staples may be seen from the following table:

Table with 3 columns: Retail Price, Wholesale Price, and Savings. Items include Lard, Raisins, Apples, Canned Fruit, etc.

As the New York Sun points out, it requires consistent and regular business methods on the part of six or a dozen women in a community accessible to good wholesale markets to make such a club a success. On Friday evening each member calls on the woman who does the buying and hands over her cash and the list of things she wishes bought. The next morning, when the busiest time is over, the buyer goes to market and picks up bargains. The goods are delivered at her house early in the afternoon, and each housekeeper calls and takes home her own supplies. She receives any balance remaining of her advance or pays any deficiency then and there. This method requires cash, forethought and willingness to be one's own delivery boy. It also requires willingness of each in turn to buy for the whole club. Business is done at the last moment by telephone, nor will the neighborhood grocer be inclined to make prompt delivery of articles suddenly needed in an emergency when the customer buys the bulk of her supplies elsewhere. But when a woman finds that a dollar will go twice as far if she buys through a market club, she will probably be ready to put up with these drawbacks.

The British Tories now have an American-born leader in Andrew Bonar Law, a native of New Brunswick, who has been in the front of the fight between the protectionists headed by Austen Chamberlain and the true-blue Tories headed by Walter Hume Long ended in Law's selection as a compromise. Law has long lived in England, where he has proved a hustling campaigner, a ready debater and a good mixer with the masses. He has never served in the Cabinet and has only been in Parliament about ten years. He is by no means the first native of the continent to reach high office in England. Lord Lyndhurst, son of John Singleton Copley, was born in Boston and served as Lord Chancellor in three Conservative Cabinets. The two Barletts, who recently played leading parts in the Tory ranks and one of whom married the aged and kindly Countess of Lincoln, were both born in the United States. Edward Blake, a Canadian, who had a distinguished career in his native country, has been in Parliament as an Irish Nationalist for 16 years, but lacks the pugnacity requisite to success in that position. Joe Herbert Leaver, a native of Boston and a Harvard graduate, is also a member of Parliament. A Canadian who has pushed himself to the front in the Liberal party is Joseph Martin, who had a brief but stormy career in British Columbia. He was a party ally by himself in the Provincial Legislature, and when the Lieutenant-Governor quarreled with the leaders of both regular parties and the Cabinet resigned, Martin was appointed Premier. He had a hot skirmish to form a Cabinet, and for several weeks was the whole Cabinet. He was hopelessly beaten in the election and, after a brief career as a lawyer at Winnipeg, moved to England, where he is again a stormy petrel.

James R. McCreary, the Democratic Governor-elect of Kentucky, is dubbed the "prince of political comebacks" by the Chicago Inter-Ocean. He will return to the Governor's chair after a lapse of a third of a century and his election is a repudiation of the Oiler theory for Kentucky, for he is 73 years old. This is his second political "comeback," for after serving 13 years in the House, he was retired in 1897 only to be returned to Congress in 1905 as a Senator. He is almost the sole survivor of a group of brilliant Kentucky politicians which filled the stage when he was first elected Governor, including J. Frank Knott, John G. Carlisle and J. C. S. Blackburn.

The City Council should not stop at requiring that a pound loaf of bread weigh a pound. It should also insure that the bread be made of the right ingredients. Housewives should refuse to buy potatoes "by the sack" and insist upon measure by weight. The safest measure on earth is the "vegetable" man.

Whether it be intuition or plain hunch, woman is all right. One in Seattle, defendant in a case, refused to allow any of her sex on the jury.

The paroled prisoner finds it easy to come back.

MR. CHILDS DEFENDS HIS PLAN

Assembly All Right if Engaged by Certain Groups is Argument.

NEW YORK, Nov. 11.—(To the Editor.)—In an editorial November 1 The Oregonian associates the Short Ballot Organization with my suggestion for "short ballot" and asks you to refer to the preface of my book, in which I am careful to state that any short-ballot advocate is free to differ with me on that and many other matters making the book without any way impairing his orthodoxy. My "leadership party" idea has little, or nothing, to do with the short ballot, for the book includes many things which lie outside the short-ballot principle.

Now for the argument you make regarding the Oregon assembly. Of course that assembly was undoubtedly an attempt to upset the direct primary method and was properly rebuffed for that reason when the people declined to endorse it. The assembly was a revival of self-constituted leaders of the people had when they are excluded from the opportunity to make use of complicated machinery. Suppose a more popular group, such, for instance, as the "People's Power League" officers, had issued recommendations to the voters in the party primary. You might have found the people willing and glad to have such frank leadership. Carry the whole thing a step further by making the primary more public, just as they are in commission-governed cities, and you would soon have these leadership parties, based on my plan, for effecting a change in the Republican League in the California primaries in California constituted a leadership party. Put such a party against your assembly in Oregon with a non-partisan final election ballot as a battleground, and you will have a very simple, fair and practical system of government.

ART APPRECIATION IN PORTLAND

No Other Western City Has as Great Discrimination, Says Sculptor.

PORTLAND, Nov. 17.—(To the Editor.)—On turning to the always interesting editorial page of The Oregonian, this morning, my eye was caught by these words, "How many Portlanders know the great honor of an Art Club? Not half a dozen." Doubtless, this was not intended to be taken literally, but granting this, may I not be permitted, through my official connection with the Art Association, to draw public attention both for the sake of those who might consider the "half dozen" too literally and in behalf of what the actual figures represent? During the past year, the highest attendance during the free hours on any day was 220, the average attendance for free afternoons was 100, and 50. The total attendance for the year was more than 19,000. Not overwhelming numbers, certainly, but respectable considering the class of the city. The Art Association's collections and the fact that its acquisitions in the way of the more widely appealing objects—such as modern paintings and sculpture—were very small.

Whether or not the Athenians spent their time gazing on the Parthenon and listening to the plays of Sophocles, testimony to the wide domain of their artistic knowledge, feeling and skill, in the City of Pericles, is mutely borne by the excavation of innumerable small objects—such as the famous jars and other wonderful artistic quality. The statement of a visiting sculptor, A. Philaretos, who spent a few days in Western City is there the artistic appreciation and discrimination that he finds in Portland, proclaims an intellectual situation in the city which, if minimized, might well be placed by those attached to Portland, with her attractions of climate and scenery. These things deserve consideration. The Art Association's collections and the fact that its acquisitions in the way of the more widely appealing objects—such as modern paintings and sculpture—were very small.

GIpsy SMITH IN THE OREGONIAN

Committee Expresses Appreciation of Reports of Meetings.

PORTLAND, Nov. 18.—(To the Editor.)—In behalf of the Gipsy Smith committee, and also because prompted by my own inclination, I am writing a word expressive of our great appreciation of the work of the Gipsy Smith committee, and also because prompted by my own inclination, I am writing a word expressive of our great appreciation of the work of the Gipsy Smith committee, and also because prompted by my own inclination, I am writing a word expressive of our great appreciation of the work of the Gipsy Smith committee.

Pointless Bound to Go Up

SPRINGWATER, Or., Nov. 17.—(To the Editor.)—With a Government report of \$9,000,000 bushels of potatoes less than last year and tubers selling at \$2.50 and \$3.25 last Spring, I see no reason why the tuber will not reach enormous prices if not harvested by next May. So why should the farmer turn one-half his crop or the whole crop over to the dealer at the present price, thereby giving the dealer a chance to monopolize this short crop and fix the price far in excess of what the farmer should get for them? With Colorado, Idaho, California, Texas and Mexico, exporters, importing now, and California with a short crop, which has always produced more than half the total output of the Pacific Coast, and potatoes selling at \$2.40 in Chicago, it wouldn't surprise me to see the tubers go to \$4 before next May. I have a few to sell, but I will hold till next Spring. J. E. H.

Nitts on Exclusiveness

By Dean Collins. Nectus Nitts, he whose wisdom immense Made Punkindorf marvel with wonder intense Perched on the top rail of a stable worm fence, Filled the dust of the road with his nicotine dents, And spoke of "them exclusive candidate gents."

"It" peers the Great Commoner jest and asks, "What's in it for me?" A one of the prospects lined up for his side, Her Harmon near Wilson appears to him good, Fer Dimmycrat leaders, ner yet Underwood, Which "minds me of how Mr. Bill Benning Ryan In Punkindorf always for office was tryin'."

"Back there in the '80s, fer 'bout seven year, We had two main parties in Punkindorf here; The People's and Citizens', which last year, Each Spring at the polls, and receivin' a 'Hickin', Well, Bill lost three times, in consecutive order, As Citizens' man up fer City Recorder.

"About the fourth year they starts in and objects; 'Bill ain't just the man to win out, we suspects. And so they selects one Hercules Hickett. To run in the place, on the Citizens' ticket. When Bill Benning Ryan seen how these things be, He riz up in wrath and he sea thus, as seen: 'I don't approve Hickett to run fer the place, And the place he punches Hercules' face. And then these here Citizens picks out one Brown, Which same was the next best of prospects in town; But Bill, when he hear it, jest goes fer a gun, Brown moves to Baconhurst, plumb on the run.

"The Citizens, seein' him rampage and rage in a caucus in solemn convulse, And says, 'The best thing's to confer with the great honor of an Art Club? Of candidates upon Town Marshal Conner.' Next day they seen Conner a-doin' his best To run in Bill, who was restrin' arrest. "When Conner seen Bill was so set 'gin the thing, He says, 'I don't run fer Recorder this Spring!' Then Bill lets up Conner, and calls Dr. Main To pack up his wrist, which has suffered a sprain. 'I disapprove any one leadin', says he 'The citizens into defeat—'ceptin' me!'" Portland, November 18.

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

A man had three disagreeable relatives visiting him and complained to him about it. He advised him to tell them that their visit was not convenient. He thought a while and replied: "Do you know that it might be hard to do?" The greatest amount of good is performed by neighbors every day. If the little help afforded every day could be represented in a bulk sum, it would amount to millions. Every man knows there is dishonesty in business; he has been robbed too often not to know it. If a reform is adopted, it develops into a year or two that there is something the matter with it. The meanest things done in this world are done by rivals in business, and they are more numerous than any other class of mean things. Many other good things are as unpopular as a good day's work.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, Nov. 30, 1861. The last two Eastern States were received by Virginia dates to the 11th of October. Our Southern expedition had captured two rebel forts at Fort Royal, S. C.; also had taken Housatonic, Port Royal Island, Beaufort and other places. The rebels were leaving the Potomac as rapidly as possible for the South. A report was current at Annapolis, Md., that Charles Sumner, on the 11th of October, had been sent south from Housatonic, Md., some miles below Cairo. The last accounts from Price left him fortifying himself near the Arkansas line. The election in Maryland was overthrown for the Union. There was a manifest elongation of secession countenances in Portland yesterday.

The grand jury concluded their labors for the term yesterday and were discharged. Speaking of the penitentiary they say: "The convicts to run at large and as being placed as guard over others. It is unjust to the community and calculated to make war prizes regard the punishment as merely nominal and is contrary to the sentence of the court. We hope it will not be allowed hereafter." Benjamin Stark, United States Senator appointed by Governor Whiteaker, sailed on the steamer last night. In India, where the cholera in its most malignant form first emerged and spread throughout the world, it has again made its appearance and is terribly destructive to human life. It is probable that it may a second time pass over Europe and this country. General Hunter, the commander of Fremont in Missouri, succeeded the division which did the most fighting at Benton Bluff, and was severely wounded in that battle. He is called a gallant and accomplished soldier.