

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, February 9, 1912.

Taft and Roosevelt

The Oregonian is indebted to the New York World for a painstaking search of its history for the purpose of disclosing the real opinion of Colonel Roosevelt about President Taft.

March 15, 1905, Theodore Roosevelt wrote from the White House to William H. Taft:

My belief is that all the men that have appeared so far, you are the man who is most likely to receive the Republican nomination. I think you are the most manly to receive it.

June 13, 1908, after Mr. Taft had been nominated for President, Mr. Roosevelt said:

I do not believe there can be found in the whole country a man so well fitted to be President. He is not only absolutely fearless, absolutely honest, but he has the widest acquaintance with the nation's needs, without and within, and the broadest sympathy for the people.

September 9, 1908, Mr. Roosevelt wrote to Konrad Kohrs, of Helena:

In Mr. Taft's view a clean man who combines all these qualities is a great rarity. He needs more of it than any other man since the civil war has passed.

September 18, 1905, the Success Magazine made public an interview with Mr. Roosevelt in which he said of Mr. Taft:

Mr. Taft is a man of the ordinary type, but he does them exceptionally well. That is why I say he will make one of our greatest Presidents.

September 20, 1905, a letter from Mr. Roosevelt to William B. McKinley was made public in which the President said:

It is urgently necessary that the standard be set high in electing Mr. Taft and a Republican Congress which will support him.

September 21, 1905, Mr. Roosevelt issued a statement in regard to the President's disclosures in which he said of Mr. Taft:

His attitude on this question, as well as on countless other questions, convinced me that he is the man to lead the nation.

There are other laudatory Roosevelt opinions, but these do.

Two Nations Iching For War

Frequent evidences of irritation over every little incident serve to strengthen the opinion that war between Great Britain and Germany is inevitable. Each nation is sending out spies to learn the military secrets of the other.

Great Britain has reason to welcome an early struggle, while Germany may be presumed to desire delay until her navy can meet that of Britain on some-where near equal terms.

Germany's naval strategy, growing that Britain's resources will have to be strained in order to maintain a navy at a strength equal to the navies of any two other powers.

Germany has already stepped past the United States into second place, and Lord Charles Bamber has already disappeared, so far as battle craft are concerned.

Germany and the United States were to combine, they would have five more battle craft than Britain and, if the present building programme is carried out, they will have seven more than Britain five years hence.

The only ships now considered in calculating the fighting effectiveness of the first line of battle are dreadnaughts. Of these Britain has twelve to Germany's seven, while we have but five.

Germany's battle fleet is just equal to the German and American combined, in this respect. But when the ships now authorized and building are completed, Britain will have twenty-two to Germany's sixteen and the United States ten, and will therefore be outnumbered by four.

The second line of battle is composed of the older type of battleship and the new type of battle cruiser. Of battleships Britain has forty-two, Germany twenty-one and the United States twenty-five.

The two latter powers thus outnumbering the first by four. Of battle cruisers Britain and Germany have the older type of the American and German combined, in this respect.

But when the ships now authorized and building are completed, Britain will have twenty-two to Germany's sixteen and the United States ten, and will therefore be outnumbered by four.

Germany has a definite, consistent shipbuilding programme, which is reaching after equality with Britain. The latter country cannot long endure the strain of building two ships to Germany's one.

Germany's one ship to the superiority, but the only hope of maintaining it is to crush the German navy before it becomes a match. Delay also may bring a new grouping of the European powers which would deprive Germany of the aid, whether open and active or secret, of France and Russia.

Though Lord Roberts says her army is miserably unprepared, she may not be able to keep a war entirely on the sea, and escape the necessity of using her army. If by delay that ability is lost, greater risk is run of defeat at sea, followed by invasion. If she must fight, Britain would better fight now and be done with it.

DO WOMEN WANT TO VOTE? Colonel Roosevelt is for woman suffrage, if the women want it. He is against woman suffrage if the women do not want it. He proposes a referendum of the women.

The difficulties of getting a fair and representative expression through a referendum of the women are obvious. The women who want to vote would go to the polls. The women who do not want to vote, or are indifferent, would, nearly all of them, remain away.

But have spent more money on new construction in these obsolete locations. We have absolutely ignored economy, for in ten years ending last June we spent \$7,185,408 in new construction at posts where the cost of construction and maintenance of the maximum. Successful Secretaries of War have worked to induce Congress to carry out the concentration policy, but they have succeeded only in reducing the number of posts from sixty-five to forty-nine. They have had to face the opposition of Senators and Representatives who have insisted on the profits of the interested communities.

One of them frankly said: "We would find it hard to square ourselves with the community if our promises were not made good."

SAVING AT THE WRONG PLACE. President Taft could carry through all his plans for economy in the public service, he could not only increase the efficiency of every department, but could save a total estimated at \$100,000,000 a year.

But his economy plans would abolish graft and the pork barrel, with many jobs, and the other pickings. The Democrats do not want that kind of economy. They regard the graft, the pork barrel and the offices as sacred, and would economize in other ways.

Their course has the ardent approval of many Republicans and innumerable private and local interests.

A demand is made for \$16,000,000 for public buildings, which is quite moderate, since the passage of all the public building bills now before Congress would cost \$255,510,000.

There is a demand for a large increase in the House which would build one battleship this year. The public building faction in effect retorts: "No buildings, no battleships."

Hence Congress must stand for a \$16,000,000 hold-up in order to prevent the decadence of the Navy.

THE COST. Governor West was a lot of eloquence in making his appeal for good roads, but he was not so eloquent in making his appeal for good roads.

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THE MONUMENT TO SAM L. SIMPSON. The proposition of Dr. C. L. Large to provide a suitable monument to mark the grave of Sam L. Simpson, Oregon's poet laureate, is set forth in a communication published last Monday.

Dr. Large proposes to be one of one hundred citizens of Oregon, or personal friends of the late poet, to give \$20 for the purpose named.

Response to this falling, he suggests that the poet of the entire state be invited to contribute to a fund for this purpose.

A fitting monument to the memory of Sam L. Simpson should mark his grave in Lone Fir Cemetery. This statement is amply supported by the place he occupied in the thought movement of his time.

There will be no end to the dissension in the Agricultural Department until it has a new head. Until all the facts are disclosed it will be impossible to form an opinion on the Everglades dispute.

Solicitor McCabe's conduct towards Dr. Wiley has put his every action under suspicion. An efficient Secretary would long since have unloaded such a disgruntler.

It is a strange turn of affairs when a woman born in the American republic proposes to finance the overthrow of the Portuguese republic that she may become a queen.

At best she would gain but an unsteady throne and she would risk the loss of her head and her crown at the same time.

If Chinese were allowed to settle their differences in their own way, the gain to the community would be great; but law must be respected and murderers restrained.

Foreigners in China, however, resent native interference, but that is another matter.

Will Tacoma ever finish tinkering with her charter? That city is as restless as the woman who changes the position of her furniture once a week.

This is, indeed, a world of contrasts. The author of "The Family Beautiful" is seeking divorce from an unsympathetic husband.

Garrison, the Coos County murderer to have been hanged today, will have ten more months for contemplation.

Another man is "out" for Coroner. There is grim humor in the desire of many to hold this position.

What a profound blessing it is that these warring habitues do not get into the dynamite habit!

Headlights on baby buggies! What next? Airbrakes on boys' speeders perhaps.

Abu Ruef deserves credit for keeping knowledge of his crimes from his aged mother.

The news from Belfast is disappointing. There was no riot and no ruction.

Tom word stopped gambling and Tom words determined to keep it stopped.

That was joyous news from the California mine that all escaped without injury.

There are about forty trembling dynamiters in the United States today.

Russia is manufacturing fine excuses for interference in China.

Local equal suffragists think Roosevelt is doing a two-horse act.

Fifty new policemen and just one old jail!

MORTGAGE AND THE SINGLE TAX. Real Estate Loans Threatened by Proposed Revenue System.

PORTLAND, OR., Feb. 7.—(To the Editor.)—When the writer was a boy the maker of a mortgage was thought to be on the verge of bankruptcy; but as the people have progressed in financial matters, mortgages have been found to be a blessing when not too freely indulged in.

What relation would these mortgages bear to the socialistic scheme of taxing the land which stands idle and unproductive?

It is very evident that the burdens of the mortgages would be very much increased by taxing the land on the taxes which should be paid by the owners of personal property.

This would be especially grievous to the owners of lands and lots in Multnomah County on account of the vast amount of personal property in Portland to be relieved of taxes.

These added burdens would certainly cause many mortgages to fail, and the holder usually would for a bright future and takes on all the load that he— and the lender—thinks he can carry under existing conditions.

What would a borrower think of his mortgage who would vote to increase the amount of a loan which stands idle and unproductive?

It is in the nature of things that a scheme to destroy the title altogether.

NATIONAL AIR NOT MADE BY LAW. Alaskan Cities Yankee Doodle Demonstration in Dawson.

JUNEAU, Alaska, Jan. 23.—(To the Editor.)—I have noticed that every once in a while some person or persons have something to say about the National Air of the United States.

An article appearing in The Oregonian, January 7, under the heading "Few in Portland Know 'The Star-Spangled Banner,'" was included, which attracted my attention, and I would be pleased to inform the writer of that article that it had been in Dawson, Alaska, for a number of years.

The "Star-Spangled Banner" was first played there when the orchestra would play a medley of overtures of National airs in the "Yankee Doodle" section.

It was in a theater one night in Dawson, Y. T., in the winter of 1899, when the orchestra played an overture of National airs, among which was "The Star-Spangled Banner."

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Why Not Apply Direct Primary? SALEM, OR., Feb. 6.—(To the Editor.)—The writer desires to express a couple of opinions upon the recent and bitterly fought contest for Republican Congressional Committee seat from Oregon.

It is a strange turn of affairs when a woman born in the American republic proposes to finance the overthrow of the Portuguese republic that she may become a queen.

At best she would gain but an unsteady throne and she would risk the loss of her head and her crown at the same time.

If Chinese were allowed to settle their differences in their own way, the gain to the community would be great; but law must be respected and murderers restrained.

Foreigners in China, however, resent native interference, but that is another matter.

Will Tacoma ever finish tinkering with her charter? That city is as restless as the woman who changes the position of her furniture once a week.

This is, indeed, a world of contrasts. The author of "The Family Beautiful" is seeking divorce from an unsympathetic husband.

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Headlights on baby buggies! What next? Airbrakes on boys' speeders perhaps.

Abu Ruef deserves credit for keeping knowledge of his crimes from his aged mother.

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Tom word stopped gambling and Tom words determined to keep it stopped.

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MORTGAGE AND THE SINGLE TAX. Real Estate Loans Threatened by Proposed Revenue System.

PORTLAND, OR., Feb. 7.—(To the Editor.)—I came to this country from Germany in 1912 at the age of 13 years. I came of age, I served nine years in the United States Army, then settled in Portland two years ago.

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PORTLAND, OR., Feb. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Grossly exaggerated accounts of the "actual conditions here at the present time," and a malicious misrepresentation of the causes that have led to the alleged state of affairs are given in The Oregonian, of January 20, under the caption "Single Tax Argument Smashed—Vancouver Now Running Soudhouse and Having Hard Times."

Your correspondent, F. S. Myers, is badly out on his facts and suppositions. In the first place there is no soup-house being run in Vancouver, and the statement "thousands are being fed daily by the city" is absolutely without foundation.

It is true that in common with other Coast cities Vancouver is dispensing free meals and bread, and in the case of men with families orders are given for groceries, fuel, etc.

Only on an average of 200 men are given meal tickets a day at the present time, and out of that number a large percentage are given a few days' employment every two weeks which covers the most of their expenses for their labor.

It is estimated that there are only about 600 unemployed in this city at the present time, and the majority of the regular work for the city will provide nearly all of them with jobs if they want them.

The records kept by the city's relief bureau show that the majority of the men who apply for relief are newcomers. A great many of them spent their last cent in railroad fares to get back to their homes during the arduous winter of the prairies.

With men migrating here from the East, North and South as soon as the winter season starts, it is hardly to be wondered that there is a large floating population in Vancouver at this season.

Because the relief department is kept busy looking after the men who have recently come to this city and become a public charge, there is not the slightest grounds for the belief that any of the unemployed are being advanced that they, shows a woeful lack of knowledge of political economy, or as he puts it, "the index of the community's demand."

Under the exemption of improvements from taxation system, Vancouver has advanced in every line of commercial development fully 30 per cent, whether you take the monthly, weekly or daily records as a criterion.

This assertion can be easily verified by consulting Bradstreet's, an authority which can hardly be said to be biased in any respect.

Real estate values are not affected on account of the influx of out-of-work; no signs of a financial panic are discernible; building activity here is as great as ever, and the records of daily bank clearings show that bank clearings continue to be broken almost daily, and the prosperity which Vancouver has been enjoying is the result of a noticeably better business environment were exempted, is still as pronounced as ever.

Spotlight Civilization

By Dean Collins. Still another Ishi story; how the lonely redborn's glory spread abroad throughout the country and continued spreading till Managers began to fly to the archaic man to try to sign him up to do a little stunt in modern vaudeville.

"You shall stand with buck-and-winders and rear-operative singers, and your name shall shine as bright as Elbert Hubbard's on the bills. Ishi, you will never rue it. All the greater people do it—Ex-pugilists and novelists and men who peddle pills."

What a marvel it will be then, when he acts his talents first then. As "Expositor of things-that-used-to-be-one-time-but-ain't", shows And, for twenty minutes daily, shows Of the prehistoric people's many customs strange and quaint.

Megaphone annunciator shall proclaim to the "Theater" Ishi's entrance. In the background woodland scenery will sag. And the glowing, the tom-tom, Kettle Will lead color to his acting, with a "Prehistoric Rag."

They will teach him fancy dancing and will have him neatly prancing. As they think in times primeval, men archaic should have done, And when you'll see him in a rondo, into which, of course, they'll bundle Something 'bout "My sweet archaic maid, you've got me on the run."

Oh, indeed! With little training, there will soon be naught remaining. But to trot the dark phenomenon before the gaudy public's eyes. To disclose, in proper setting, all the notions he's been getting. Of how primeval men behaved in prehistoric times, at the olden days, Portland, February 7.

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

Agents have sucker lists, which they trade with each other. Is your name on a sucker list?

Some women are so thin that there is hardly enough of them to dress.