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Portland, Saturday, March 16, 1912.

PLACED FROM THE BURNING.

Colonel Roosevelt is loudly demanding the selection and instruction of National delegates by direct vote of the people. The simple statement may not convey the impression that Colonel Roosevelt's attitude is incongruous, but the history of the Presidential primary puts the former President in an odd position.

The Presidential primary is an Oregon product. It was invented—or at least he says so—by Senator Bourne, of this state. Every other state that has enacted a Presidential primary has copied the Oregon idea. Let us investigate the conditions that caused the Oregon Senator to originate his new power of the people.

Senator Bourne unfolds the workings of his studious mind on the subject in a speech delivered in the Senate February 27, 1911. "Three years ago," he says, "we had a convincing exhibition of the power of the President to dictate the selection of his successor."

Who supplied the "horrible example" that made Senator Bourne tremble for the people? Who was the President of three years ago? Who exercised the "tremendous power of Chief Executive of the Federal machine" and caused the "People's Friend" to put this new power into the hands of the bullet-proof composite citizen?

A SLY EVASION. "Leave to print" is a gracious privilege. It saves the earnest statesman many dollars in postage. It permits the Senator or Representative to get before a wondering and anxious Nation as a public document all the burning words he emitted at the farmers' picnic at Pankindorf Station concerning the marvelous intelligence, or righteousness and the remark of the common people. The remarks may fit the tariff bill, the pension bill, or any other bill that may be under consideration, or they may not. "Leave to print" never asks questions. There is a fall in the price of raw sugar. The "leave to print" may present itself to the yawning body and inject the Pankindorf masterpiece without reason or excuse. It is a good thing—for an ambitious Congressman.

The "franking privilege" is another of our cherished and worthy imperfections of our government. "Leave to print" and the "franking privilege" advance hand in hand to meet ignorance among the people and inform an anxious constituency that the man it has honored is "no small potatoes" down in Washington. When under the generous provisions of "leave to print" and the "franking privilege" in filing against them the corrupt practices act shatters its lance or ineffectually bumps its head.

himself among his constituents during the height of a political campaign in which he is seeking re-election. It may interest a few but its main purpose and intent when sent to Oregon is that of the campaign document. It is the voters of Oregon under the Senator's frank. There is no accounting to be made under the Oregon corrupt practices act. But there is no "leave to print" or "franking privilege" for rivals. They must pay their own postage bills and commercial rates for printing. Each is limited in the nominating campaign to an expenditure of \$112 over what he pays for space in the publicity pamphlet.

Senator Bourne has contributed \$500 toward an independent effort to enforce the corrupt practices act in Oregon. In spirit this \$500 is an election expenditure. He expects it to aid his own campaign. Unfortunately, detection of a man who looks into a man's conscience do not exist and therefore cannot be employed. Nor can state laws override Federal enactments, Senator Bourne is doubtless safe in his evasion of the corrupt practices act. "Leave to print" and the "franking privilege" are noble institutions. They ably aid his pretense of making no campaign.

THE NEWER COLLEGE ORATORY.

One of the Judges at the recent Interstate oratorical contest at Forest Grove makes a comment upon the character of the orations which we are permitted to quote. "A dozen years ago," remarked this highly intelligent student of current tendencies, "the orations on occasions of this kind dealt with such subjects as the conquest of the West, and so on. It would have been impossible to imagine an intercollegiate oratorical contest without at least one speech lauding our country and magnifying its advantages over the rest of the world."

Capital, like a child recovering of the sulks, has learned that it cannot have its own way, and its free nose breaks into a smile in the hope of winning an answering smile from the strict but often indulgent parent.

CHANGING JAPAN.

In a recent address Thomas C. Mendenhall compares the condition of Japan in 1911 with what it was in 1851. At the latter date Mr. Mendenhall left Japan to return to this country after residing there several years as one of the professors in the Imperial university at Tokio. In 1911 he made another trip to Japan and found that great changes had taken place.

The new interpretation of Nirvana corresponds with the new spirit which has pervaded the Orient. We are now told that life Buddhaism is an energetic action of all the powers of the mind. Peace is to be attained, not by complete cessation of effort, but by victorious effort in all directions. Buddhism has always presented a certain attraction to the Western intelligence. Its deep humanitarianism makes a strong appeal to our best thinkers. Its ethical teaching is as noble as that of our own religion. But in spite of these excellent features the Buddhist doctrine of Nirvana, so nearly akin to annihilation, has been an obstacle to the acceptance of the faith even in the East. With this new interpretation of Nirvana, however, it seems to have attained fresh life and its advance is said by other observers as well as Professor Mendenhall to have become surprisingly rapid.

At the same time we learn from various sources that Confucianism has experienced a revival not only in China, but in the general revival of the national spirit among the Orientals has come a determination to satisfy their religious needs from native cults. This may or may not improve the outlook for the spread of Christianity in that part of the world. The new interpretation of Nirvana is not only identical with the Christian heaven where we have been taught that joy everlasting will be found in the exercise of our highest gifts. Confucianism is more remote from the Christian faith, externally at least, but history tells us that every religion under the sun has modifications and are required to adapt it to changing circumstances. We may therefore before a great while see both Buddhism and Confucianism merging into some form of Christianity. This is all the more likely since our Western faith has proved itself better suited to men of the East than any other that has ever existed.

Along with these changes in the Oriental religions Professor Mendenhall mentions others not so important which have taken place in Japan in the last thirty years. One of the most curious related to women's clothes. When the disposition to imitate everything European was in its first flush the Japanese women, to show that they were not behind the times, adopted Western clothes. The corset, the elaborate ornamentation, the décolleté gown, which adorned women, were to be seen in fashionable gatherings in Japan. It was supposed that inasmuch as Europe was far ahead of the Orient in everything else its modes of dress must also be preferable to those which had obtained in the island empire. Experience, however, did not confirm this superiority of European fashions in a little while the newly adopted attire was not so pretty as that which had been abandoned for it, while it was far less hygienic. Presently the imported styles were cast off and the Japanese women resumed their ancestral costume, with some modifications in the manner of dressing the hair. The old coiffure was excessively elaborate and not strikingly graceful. The new mode is simpler and prettier.

Moreover one reflects with satisfaction that it is not likely to be altered again for long. It is a curious fact, too, that Japanese women wore a doubt Japanese women wore a

every prospect that one will rage there next Summer. Most people now in middle life were taught at school that Alaska was a dreary waste of ice and snow, not worth the money we paid Russia for it. The child of today learns that it is fertile land of sunshine and Summer stored with timber, gold and coal and capable of supporting a numerous population. Before many years we shall be reading in the Congressional Record the great speeches of the Senators from Alaska.

BUSINESS DEPRESSION PASSING.

President Lovett returns East as a bearer of good tidings from the West. The general improvement in business, of which he tells, will spread eastward until it covers the whole country. Prosperity is as infectious as depression, and it cannot but inspire courage and confidence among the West.

Business depression is largely a state of mind. It often prevails when none of the causes known to economists—over-production, liquidation following a period of inflation, uncertainty as to war or politics—exist. There is reason to believe that the depression of which Mr. Lovett notes the passing was due mainly to an attack of the sulks among leading men in business. Railroad men were aured because forbidden to raise freight rates. Manufacturers were out of sorts because President Taft would not relent in his assaults on the trusts because of the political parties showed a determination to reduce the tariff. They protested until they realized that the purpose of the people was unchangeable. Now they show a disposition to accept the inevitable and to adjust their affairs to new conditions actual or impending. The change from depression to activity, it is helped along by the depletion of supplies caused by greater shrinkage in production, by the growing necessity of improvements long necessary, but postponed while the men who should have made them indulged in their fit of sulks.

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BLAME IS PUT ON THE POLICE.

Need Seen for Force to Distinguish Between Citizens and Hoodlums. ANABEL STATION, Or., March 12.—(To the Editor.)—What is the matter with our Mayor and Police Department? I don't know, but I should like to see an orderly meeting and distinguished visitors, like General Baden-Powell and our own Governor West? Has it always been the great trouble with the police—too much of hats and uniforms; too much air and high-mindedness of its members and not enough common sense, politeness and civility? I don't know, but I should like to see a meeting where our highly respected visitor, General Baden-Powell, got so shamefully insulted shows us that there should be something done, but now, when a downfall, what a shame! You might say all this work and this expenditure is done by a few fanatics.

Mr. Goodie, of Salem, had five children. Each of these had, upon the average, eight, or more nearly nine. The grandchildren number forty-seven. The grandchildren have thus far produced eighty-one offspring, which is a sad falling off, being less than two to the family. Of great-grandchildren only two have appeared in the world, though of course there is an expectation of more. But we would be willing to wager that the fourth generation will not do its duty to the country half so faithfully as the first and second did.

The conditions attached to the sale of the assets of bonds of the Portland Railway Light & Power Company insure that every dollar of the new securities will represent more than a dollar of actual investment. They also insure that the company's capitalization will not become top-heavy through additions for renewals. Were the same principle applied not only to corporations, but to the capital stock of corporations, the clamorers for physical valuation would be put to silence.

The Modern Woodmen of Kansas show very little sense by their secession from the National body. The pretext is the increase of insurance rates. Before long the seceders will be forced by the operation of natural law to raise their own rates and they may thus expect this foolish move of theirs to be imitated by a disgruntled party of irreconcilables. Fighting the laws of nature is a lost sport, but it is often expensive.

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Caruso was found not guilty of breach of promise, but must pay the costs—wiley hint not to do it again.

WHY SOCIALISTS OPOSE SCOUTS

They Are Sure to Grow into Men Who Have No Use for Doctrine. PORTLAND, March 13.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian's editorial on the Boy Scouts Monday suggests a few thoughts which I will ask you to publish. In commenting on the conduct of the Socialists on Saturday you say that if they would ask the trouble to inquire into the nature of the movement they would find that it is a pacific, not a military, one.

It is a pleasant thing to be able to buy the latest styles in gowns and bonnets, but it is bitterly unpleasant not to be able to buy them, and since the great majority are in the latter class it is a fair conclusion that our rapidly-changing fashions cause more misery than happiness. Perhaps the stability of Japanese costumes for women helps to account for the remarkable increase of well-being which Professor Mendel says he observed everywhere in the island empire during his recent visit.

Colonel Roosevelt's article on "The Conservation of Business" may be interpreted as an indorsement of the policy of President Taft. The President proposes the very measures for control of business which the Colonel outlines. He insists just as strongly that we shall conserve ideas, efficiency and up-to-date methods and that a corporation be not condemned on account of its mere size. The two men disagree about the application of the word "conservation" to the steel, harvester and shoe machinery trusts indicates that he would spare those which Taft attacks. Both men believe that the people must rule, but they disagree as to the best vehicle for giving proper expression to public opinion. The Colonel cannot enlighten us as to the difference between him and the President by repeating a statement of general principles. The people will judge between them according to their alliances and their application of those principles.

The murder of a judge, prosecutor and sheriff by mountaineers in a Virginia village reminds us that not all of the United States is civilized country. There are parts of this country where the law is successfully set at defiance by clans such as that which invaded Hillsville. Immunity from punishment emboldens these lawless men to greater crimes until a tragedy like that at Hillsville forces the state to act vigorously. If Virginia has any self-respect the triple murder committed by the Aliens will cause Virginia to establish her authority in the mountains.

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SERIOUSNESS OF MARRIAGE TIE

Tendency to Make Light of It is Deplored. PORTLAND, March 13.—(To the Editor.)—Recent dispatches from the East report not only the discovery of the South Pole, but the more romantic discovery "that 13 years after they went through the form of a wedding ceremony as a joke, a prominent couple find that they have been husband and wife all along." Years of bliss that might have been and were not. Assuming the story to be genuine, the penalty of course is too great for the unholy profanation of a sacred ceremony. Assuming, also, that a marriage license was not a necessary part of the ceremony, it is a pity that the Justice of the Peace, ex-officio, bound together all and everybody who paid the price of his administration, an interesting question, which is a point of moral suggestion. In the civil law governing marriage such a joke thing and such an unholy thing as lawyers and even the courts sometimes make it appear to be? Does the civil law of the states governing marriage recognize and presuppose the higher laws of God and humanity? Or is marriage looked upon as the nature of a "blind swap" without the necessity of the ordinary horse sense required for every other trade?

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Angels Unaware

He sat upon the curb and sobbed. As I came down the boulevard; The pavement round was littered o'er With bits of pasteboard, card on card; I passed to soothe his burning sighs, And wipe the teardrops from his eyes; "Why weep you so, as if to bust?" "Alas," he sighed, "I've been unjust."

"Among my many fellow men, With whom each day my elbows rub, I figured nearly everyone, Was just an ordinary cub. Like you and I. But look you here— This is the season of the year, When men, in market, street and hall Confess their merits unto all.

"I wandered down the street today And, without pausing in my gait, I gathered nigh a peck of cards, From many types of candid; And, lo! before me was unfiled, Every known virtue in the world; And candidly each noble wight, Hoisted his bushel from his light.

"Here is a man I one time thought A decent tailor and no more, Why did I blindly overlook His wondrous talents, and wherefore did I suppose that moral worth I figured nearly everyone, Made him the one best man on earth For Constable? His past-board scan, And see unmasked a noble man.

He stirred the cardboards with his cane; "Alas," he sighed, "we seldom know What angels loaf round unaware, Unless the angels tell us so. 'Most every man I counted on, I find I greatly underrated; Therefore I sigh thus deep, and must Announce again—I was unjust."

"Ah, he," he mused, "we never dream That mute inglorious Miltons may Be ditched within a butcher shop, Or whittled poor chops day by day, Nor that a good, well-served, well-bred, In him who does our laundry work, Till we approach election day— And then they give themselves away." Portland, March 12.

PROPOSED GUN BILL IS OPPOSED

Farmer Insists Repeater is Humane and Not Destructive. ALBANY, Or., March 14.—(To the Editor.)—At a banquet held at the Imperial Hotel, on the 13th inst., by the Game and Fish Protective League, Mr. Bean, of Lane County, a long-over State Senator, made a speech wherein he declared himself opposed to the next State Legislature to put the pump and automatic shotgun out of business.

Some experts may be able to get in four or five shots in a bunch of birds before they get out of range with a pump gun. Two shots is about my limit, and I have the remaining two shots in my pocket. For this last reason, I consider the pump gun a better gun than a double gun.

I have been told by gun and ammunition men that there are three magazine guns used to one double gun in the State of Oregon. In Mr. Bean going to legislate these laws, he is killing more game, he says, but because they scare it away? Mr. Bean has no more right to legislate the taxpayers out of these magazine guns than he has to legislate the farmer out of the modern combined harvester and compel him to take a step backwards and cut his grain with the old-fashioned hand sickle.

I have been told some of the million-aire duck clubs, who have duck preserves down on the Columbia River, are sportmen and nobody but a game hog would shoot a pump gun. Yet some of these same city would-be sportsmen, who are so fond of leaving their ducks in certain ponds to feed, the birds, if left alone, in a few days become quite tame. Now, in any range of these feeding grounds the would-be sportsman has a sink-bow, or blind, where he goes in and conceals himself, taking two single shots at the ducks, and then he leaves the gun in the blind with him. What for? Oh, to keep from scaring the birds away, I suppose.

I suppose the magazine gun that is exterminating the game. The man has nothing to do with it, but the gun has everything to do with it.

As long as a person respects the legal bag limit, what difference what kind of a gun is used? If we will, we can shoot a bag full of game with a double gun and put in nothing but good, live, honest game wardens, who will enforce the game laws, we will accomplish more good in the way of game than any certain type or make of gun.

A. G. PROBST.

NEW SPECIAL FEATURES

FOR THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN. Is Ireland Coming Into Her Own?—A review of great events in the Emerald Isle. Full page, timely and interesting, illustrated.

Mail-Order Swindlers—How they operate and how Uncle Sam is just now hard on their trail. Full page, illustrated.

Jinxes—In his eighth article, Christy Mathewson, the Giants' star pitcher, takes up the varied superstitions of the baseball-playing world. Illustrated, full page.

Girl Guides—How an auxiliary to the Boy Scouts is to be organized in the United States. It already flourishes in England.

Woman's Rights in Russia—An intimate study by a Moscow correspondent of Mme. Filosofoff, who has led the fight for her sex in the Czar's domain.

An Interrupted Game—Another thrilling romance of the business world, by Richard Spellaine.

Two Complete Short Stories—"The Blue Thistle," a channel isle romance, and "The Ring of the Ostriches," about two Yanks and their adventures in Patagonia.

The Jumpups—They give a swell dinner party, and some of their relatives call unexpectedly.

MANY OTHER FEATURES

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