

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1912.

NO SYSTEM OF FAILURE?

No system of government is better than the one we have. The Oregon system will be determined to be a success or a failure in the degree that it is efficient, prudent, economical, honest and safe.

Theodore Roosevelt once said that the Oregon system is an experiment, and that its success must be measured and its results noted. No more obvious truth was ever spoken.

What has been the fruit of the Oregon system as distinguished from old methods? Lower taxes for the individual citizen? Greater security of life and property? More orderly processes of government? More strict administration of justice in the courts? Better public officials? More faithful and useful public service by public employees? More comforts, conveniences, liberties, privileges, rights for the individual?

The Oregonians will not attempt to answer the questions. But the Oregonian is just now impressed greatly by the imperative duty that devolves upon every citizen to do more for the public through the Oregon system than has heretofore been done. The task of judicious and discriminating selection of public officials is again imposed upon them. The Oregon legislative nominees especially ought to be chosen with care and judgment. Eighteen legislators are to be nominated in April for Multnomah alone. Heretofore we have sent men to Salem without respect to their qualifications or experience. This question is an old one and has excited deep disturbance in many minds, particularly in minds opposed to women's voting. The baby wailing all by itself in the lonesome home while the mother gaily gads away to the polls has been the cause of more tears than almost any other sight. The baby wailing for food while the father gambles away his week's earnings in the saloon is not nearly so pathetic.

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THE COLONEL'S NEW DISCOVERY.

When Colonel Roosevelt finally threw his hat to the ring and announced himself a candidate for the Republican nomination, he found that conventions had been called for the election of delegates in a number of the states, but that in a few states delegates were to be elected at direct primaries whereat Republican voters were to exercise their preference for a Presidential candidate. He demanded that all states should adopt the latter method of expressing their choice. He asked that those states which adhered to the old convention system should change the rules after the game was begun.

It was not ever thus. In 1904, when he himself was seeking the nomination, and in 1908, when he was seeking it for Taft, he had no word of complaint against the convention system, no word of condemnation for official pressure in the South, which he now accuses Taft of exercising in a way so rough for him then, when he had the power of office and could exercise pressure himself. Only since he quarreled with Taft and saw a chance to win popular favor by declamatory speeches in favor of novel and revolutionary measures, which he miscalls reforms, has he become impressed with the innate viciousness of the convention system and with the merits of the Presidential primary.

The Colonel's charge that official pressure is being used in behalf of Taft in the South is flatly denied by Joseph C. Manning, a Republican leader of Birmingham, Ala., who opposed Taft in 1908 but now supports him, and who said to the Boston Transcript:

The charges that Taft is using his patronage to secure his nomination, and his influence in the South than at the present time. Under his Administration, a public official who opposed him was removed from office. There are no such public officials today who oppose Taft, but they still retain their positions. This is the Taft attitude.

Roosevelt has had things his way in North Dakota, so far as regards the method of electing delegates, and has heard from the people of that state, who have spoken in no uncertain tone. He will hear from Wisconsin on April 2, and may expect again to be repudiated as the insurgent leader in favor of La Follette; from Oregon and Nebraska on April 19, when he has little to hope for from Oregon, though he may get some comfort from Nebraska; from California, where the women voters have taken up the cudgels for Taft, on May 14; and from New Jersey, where the drift of pseudo-progressivism is all to Governor Wilson, on May 21.

When the Colonel has heard from all the states he may again become impressed with the merits of the convention system which was so satisfactory to him in 1904 and 1908, and may find in the Presidential primary votes which have not yet been revealed to him.

The special edition of the Coos Bay Times, Mr. M. C. Maloney's paper at Marshfield, is a remarkable product of a "country" printing office. It contains forty-four pages on book paper, profusely illustrated to show the resources of Coos County. In the minds of many that county is devoted to lumber exclusively, but this issue of the Times has facts and pictures to show just what is being done in agriculture

and dairying, mining, fishing, fruit-raising, and all the combinations of diversified industry that sustain a region of Oregon that is an empire in itself. At present railroads in its sole outlet, but the railroad is going to be established the land will come into its own. In the meantime the men like the Maloney of what awaits the homeseeker and investor on Coos Bay, the coming region of Oregon.

BOURNE AND THE PARTY.

Senator Bourne issues a long address to the people of Oregon, which was first reproduced in the Salem Capital Journal. We have perused the document from beginning to end wherein to find any suggestion or intimation or declaration by the Senator that he is a candidate for the Republican nomination, bore a Republican primary, but he has any interest whatever in the platform or principles or record or organization of future or present or past of the Republican party. But we do find these significant sentences, among many others:

Recognizing the evils of the misuse of Federal patronage since February 21, 1911, I delivered in the Senate a severe but deserved arraignment of the political methods of the President. It is the duty of every citizen to see to it that the President is a servant of the people, and not a servant of his own whims and caprices. I believe that he has better select some other party.

The people of Oregon do not require that any Senator be a subservient follower of the President; but they desire the President to have his support in the great matters of policy and principle to which both are committed through the party organization to which both belong. Else why the party?

It should never be forgotten by the people of Oregon that Jonathan Bourne, nominated in 1896 by a bare plurality, over four other candidates of the Republican primary with less than a third of the total Republican vote, made his appeal to party as the regular party nominee for election; and party, and party alone, elected him. Now he repudiates party. Very well, let him. But why should Bourne think that party will not repudiate him?

TAKING CARE OF THE BABY.

Mrs. Zena Hartwell Wallace has contributed a suggestion of some importance and much interest to the current discussion of the suffrage problem. At a conference of the Methodist Church in Kansas City, Kan., the inquiry arose, "What shall be done with the baby while its mother goes to vote?" This question is an old one and has excited deep disturbance in many minds, particularly in minds opposed to women's voting. The baby wailing all by itself in the lonesome home while the mother gaily gads away to the polls has been the cause of more tears than almost any other sight. The baby wailing for food while the father gambles away his week's earnings in the saloon is not nearly so pathetic.

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BJORNSTJERNE'S LETTERS.

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Necessarily the work there has been confined almost solely to encouraging the growing of vegetables and flowers by the school children. At that it not only promotes the health of the children, but encourages knowledge and interest in soil tillage. If it is wise to instill a love for agricultural pursuits and a knowledge of their importance in the child of the rural districts, it is also important that the city child who may have a latent adaptability and liking for farming should be encouraged in the formative period. Moreover, the coming citizen of the metropolis, with scarcely an exception, will find the knowledge of gardening a profitable and healthful accomplishment.

In comparison with what has been accomplished in Eastern cities, the movement in Portland promises to be on an ambitious scale. For example, the Garden School Contest Association of the Woodlawn School has obtained a tract of two and one-half acres for the use of children whose parents' homes provide no opportunities for gardening. Patrons as well as teachers, instructors of the school have been enlisted. Not only will the work on the specially provided tract be supervised, but directors in the movement will visit the home plots and lend their advice and assistance. The schools that take up the movement will offer

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Bjornstjerne Bjornson's letters to his daughter Bergliot were at first printed privately in an edition of no more than fifty copies, but as soon as the admirers of the Norwegian national writer found that the precious documents were in print the demand became so large that she was finally moved to publish them. They are now accessible to all the world and through them it is possible to obtain a much more intimate knowledge of the great poet, novelist and dramatist. Bergliot was studying singing in Paris under the famous teacher Madame Marchesi when most of the letters were written, though some of them are of later date. In 1892 Bjornson's daughter was married to the son of the late King of Norway. The letters were written after that event. Bjornson made a lecture tour in the United States in 1890 and Sigurd Ibsen was connected with the diplomatic corps at Washington for a number of years, so that Americans may feel that they have some connection, remote though it may be, with the life of the Norwegian author and statesman.

Bjornstjerne Bjornson was endeared to the Norwegian nation almost as much by his political activities as by his writings. From his boyhood he advocated radical social theories and took the side of the revolutionary Republicans in politics. He agitated for the independence of Norway at a time when it was half a crime to think of separation from Sweden. His writings and speeches taught the people what their rights were and how they could be secured. When finally Norway became an independent nation, Bjornson was King of his own more credit for the achievement was accorded to Bjornson than to any other man. He will be remembered not only as the most truly national of Norwegian authors, but in a certain sense, as the Father of his Country.

It is gratifying to learn that the effort is growing not only there, but that it will not be left wholly to these communities. It is possible and practicable to devote a share of the time of school instructors to similar work in the densely populated urban districts. Garden school contests have been carried out in several large Eastern cities where available lands are not so plentiful. Patrons as well as teachers, instructors of the school have been enlisted. Not only will the work on the specially provided tract be supervised, but directors in the movement will visit the home plots and lend their advice and assistance. The schools that take up the movement will offer

ing perhaps to Ibsen's cantankerous disposition. It is said by some that the author of "Brand" and "Peer Gynt" felt more or less envy at the rapid and brilliant success of his rival. For a few years the two eminent Norwegians were estranged, but as they approached old age the intimacy of their youth was renewed.

Ibsen never became as popular as Bjornson in Norway, partly because his themes were not so intimately connected with the life of the people, partly because they were frequently repellent to themselves. But in the great world of letters Ibsen holds the higher rank. Bjornson had to pay the penalty of his local vogue. The qualities in his work and personality which endeared his books to the Norwegians somewhat diminished their importance on the wider stage of the world.

Ibsen's appeal is to humanity, while Bjornson's is to Norway. The latter is a patriot, the former a cosmopolitan. In its legal powers, threatening to paralyze the whole trade of the country. When such a condition arises, and the legal powers of the organization in question include political power in the lawmaking body, but one course seems to be open to the government. That is, to embody in law the principle of the demands of the organization.

Press and Politics

Oregon Newspapers Comment on Presidential and Senatorial Campaigns.

Selling is Favorite. Tillamook Herald. Ben Selling appears to be a strong favorite in this section of the country for the Republican nominee for United States Senator.

Wastebasket Yawps for Literature. Weston Leader. The leader is overwhelmed with Woodrow Wilson and Champ Clark literature; that is, it would be overwhelmed if it did not have a convenient depository for this sort of plunder.

Selling Logical Candidate. The Dalles Optimist. People who desire the defeat of Bourne should get behind Selling, regardless of personal preference or sectionalism, and thus bring about the end which the majority of the people want.

Betrayal of Friends Condemns Him. Hopper Gazette-Times. Roosevelt has many very admirable qualities, but the easy way he has of going back on his friends on the plea of expediency is a serious defect.

Will Be Taken at His Word. Dallas Observer. It is evident that the Sage of Oyster Bay is not so popular as he once was.

Call for T. R. Imaginary. Weston Leader. The trouble with Roosevelt is that he mistakes the voice of the people for the cry of his return to the White House as the roar of Niagara.

Selling Has Warm Heart. Sutherlin Sun. Perhaps no man in Oregon has given more of his money and time in aid of the cause of the poor than Ben Selling.

T. R.'s Press Agent Also Stronuous. Eugene Guard. "Strenuous Teddy" has a press agent who is doing his best to please him.

Where Bourne's Record is Known. Newberg Graphic. Senator Bourne is just now interesting himself in the enforcement of the corrupt practice act in Oregon, so the word comes from Washington.

Voters Have Great Opportunity. Canby Irrigator. The people now have the opportunity of electing to the United States Senate one of the very best men Oregon has ever sent to the National Capitol.

Selling's Fitness Proved. Pilot Rock Record. Ben Selling has not considered himself any too good to give up his time and talents to service in the Oregon legislature.

Third Term Not Desirable. Hood River News. A third term might indeed, be no more objectionable than a 13th, but it would be a long step in the direction of the monarchy which would have been established by the time the 13th term were reached.

Tide Drifting to Selling. Newberg Graphic. Since Ben Selling announced his candidacy for the United States Senate it is evident that things have been drifting his way at a rapid rate.

"Select" Campaign Commended. Tillamook Herald. We doubt whether there has ever been another Senatorial campaign in the United States, wherein the burden of the election has been thrown entirely upon the people.

Oregon Citizens Will Succeed Bourne. Amity Standard. For the past five years Jonathan Bourne has squandered around in the official capacity of United States Senator from Oregon.

Record Makes Selling Trustworthy. Grants Pass Observer. Ben Selling, a long established business man of Portland, and