

The Oregonian

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Portland, Wednesday, April 24, 1912.

Parties and the Primary.

The Oregonian desires to present for the thoughtful consideration of all voters—friends of the Oregon system, and enemies of the Oregon system, all points of view.

The following statistics of all parties registered in the state for the past three bienniums:

Table with 3 columns: Party, 1910, 1912. Rows include Republican, Democratic, Socialist, and others.

The strict party vote in the election of 1908 was as follows:

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The normal Republican plurality in Oregon over the Democrats is 24,481.

The ratio of Republican registration in Multnomah County is 1.5 to 1.

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fluence the increased supply of money has had in advancing prices is to be found chiefly in the increase of \$1,300,000,000 in the gold and uncovered notes of the United States.

The increased production of gold in the last few years has been entirely in the hands of that district which now about reached its maximum output.

It is expected to begin showing a decrease in a few years. Unless new gold fields should be discovered, or new processes should make profitable low grade deposits, a decrease may be expected in the world's output.

When the State Legislature of 1911 was assembled by the Lane County delegation to make an exceptionally large appropriation for the University of Oregon, the Oregonian registered its protest in the following prophetic language:

It is with some reluctance and at the risk of misunderstanding that the Oregonian mentions the appropriation for the State University.

The University is a growing and beneficent institution, and it is not the case that it must have adequate funds.

But the appropriation was put through by the practical politicians of the seat of the State University.

They did not observe the rising tide of protest against the rising tide of the delicate position of the university before the people.

They had made a deal with Governor West and he signed the bill, though he made a large noise about his veto of innumerable other small appropriations.

But the State University should be placed upon a fixed financial basis, with a definite income, and should be removed from the vicissitudes of political changes.

It would be a boon to the institution and a relief to the state.

MR. LUCAS WANTS TO KNOW.

PORTLAND, Or., April 23.—(To the Editor.)—Why don't you print more about the timberman and I have some Eastern clients who want to know more about the money from them if there is single tax.

The Oregonian has told over and over about the single tax. It invites Mr. Lucas to an attentive reading of its files; or, if that is not practicable, let him send in his subscription and we will do the rest.

Meaning of the Oregon rule. Because they rule, they ruled in 1910, through an initiative amendment to the constitution, for the single (land) tax by counties, and besides they ruled to tie the hands of the Legislature so that it could not hereafter enact any tax laws whatever without their specific approval.

Now it is up to the counties. If they want the single tax, they may have it, if the sovereign people thereof vote for it. The people in Oregon rule by counties, too.

Meaning of the Legislature has submitted to the referendum of the people for their sovereign action a constitutional amendment repealing the amendment of 1910.

If the people rule in 1912 (November) that the people in 1910 made a mistake in voting for the single tax by counties, that settles it. The counties can do nothing, no matter whether they want single tax or not.

If Multnomah County, for example, in 1912 should vote for single tax and the state at the same election should wipe out single tax, Multnomah's action counts for nothing.

Oregon is not a single-tax state. The 1910 act was carried through gross deception by its promoters as to its purpose. Now the people understand, and when they understand, they act in accordance with the voice of the majority.

Spring is passing.

The pussy-willows have come and gone. Easter has passed, the dogwoods are showing their beauties, the dandelions are dotting the fields, the primary colors are over, and the voices of the crafty campaigners are hushed.

The baseball season has been "on" for over a week, frugal housewives may be seen beating carpets in backyards and all nature seems renewed, rejuvenated and rehabilitated—for "Spring is coming."

Spring, the time of love-making and mating, the season of the year when the first breath of the morning brings sweetness and calls for activity.

During the winter we lay, in a measure, dormant, inactive, dependent on the elements. Now the blood courses more swiftly, the brain seems more active, ambition less halting, the mental horizon more beautiful.

Yes, "Spring is come," and we, of this Springtime Pacific Northwest, where the spring days are so full, so fine, so splendid and so glorious, ought to be ready to labor as we never did before.

All Nature is busy. The leaves are shooting out, the grasses springing up, the fruit buds are swelling and on many of the cherry, peach, apricot and apple trees the blossoms hang in myriads.

king has held thrall for several months. But Spring is much the same in every section where the seasons are at all variable. That is, it is much the same with all things animate; but here, where Nature robs herself during the month of April in garbs so beautiful and so fragrant, the seasons are more frozen north, where night shuts them in for weary sunless weeks.

Let us not only make the most of it; that is, let us not only drink in its beauties to the very utmost, but let us start life afresh, "spring" our lives afresh, vowing to our fellow creatures we will try to keep our hearts as beautiful as the Spring, as pure and as sweet as Spring's choicest habilliments—the lovely flowers of the field and forest.

RUBBISH IN THE HARBOR.

If the report is true that debris of one sort and kind is being dumped into the harbor, the situation is serious. Some cities are blessed with harbors of depth so great that no amount of rubbish dumped into them year after year can be seen.

The water in the Willamette is deep enough for all the purposes of commerce, the river is not bottomless, by any means. Nor can we assume without evidence that the current washes out of the harbor whatever is dumped into it.

The objection to laws passed by the separate countries is that they will very likely be conflicting. Some will be excellent, some mere makeshifts.

The American law upon the subject is defective. It is not the case that we have a law which is not the case.

That a harbor may be destroyed by the accumulation of rubbish is one of the commonplaces of history. There are accounts of many cities to which in former times large ships had access, but now no ship can reach them.

As the consumption of wheat in the Eastern states approaches the supply and as the production in the Pacific Northwest is not meeting the demand, the home consumption, the exports will decline almost to the vanishing point at Atlantic ports and will increase at Pacific ports.

The five lunatics who, after entrapping their keeper, bound him and escaped from the asylum at Salem have certainly retained some vestiges of intelligence.

The "general strike" idea seems to be spreading in the world of labor as rapidly as the plague.

When necessity arises for a judge on the bench to call the attention of the police department to a disorderly house masquerading as a hotel, it is time municipal government awakened to the existence of an evil that discredits the city.

The biennial force of voting on Oregon University appropriations will be up to the people in November.

This method of sprinkling sand on the smooth streets makes painful walking for tenderfooted people, but the benefit to horses more than balances the score.

People who have moved in the past few months will save a number of hard-worked officials much trouble by giving the new address to Postmaster Merrick.

Let a stop be put to torture and murder of Americans in Mexico and since talk is wasted upon that government, there must be immediate action.

Four lunatics are at large from the asylum, which means much suspicion of many inoffensive men until the elopers are captured.

Mr. Bryan was best man in a ceremony yesterday at Philadelphia, an estimation of him shared by many the four years round.

Life at best is a gamble, but the cards are stacked for people who must live in the land of tornado and cyclone.

The Colonel will need an astute disabusing agent to get the South from Mr. Tatt.

The senior Senator from Oregon knows exactly how it happened. Just so!

IRKENHEAD WRECK RECALLED. Statement of Captain's Son Confirming Details of Behavior of Men.

OAK POINT, Wash., April 18.—(To the Editor.)—It is gratifying and inspiring to learn that the men of the Titanic, in the recent great ocean disaster, sustained the traditions of the sailor and worked to death after they had given up the last chance for life—simply because it was the thing they ought to do.

It is glorious to think that the eminent men who met their deaths in that greatest of all marine disasters, men who wielded such tremendous power in the world, with their work unfinished, stepped aside in the face of death so that some peasant girl from Central Europe might live. It is rarely that the world, with their work unfinished, stepped aside in the face of death so that some peasant girl from Central Europe might live.

No doubt Major Butt's soldierly instinct rebelled against accepting any part of the blame for the disaster. He was a man of high character and a man of high character.

Major Butt nobly emulated another soldier—Major Wright, who, 65 years ago, with a sword in hand, with Captain Salmon in the gateway of the Birkenhead and passed the women and children into the boats when that famous ship was sinking.

I was intimately acquainted with Pedro Gafon Salmon, who was a student at the Royal Naval School at Woolwich, England, at the time his father's ship was lost, and he was shipmate with me on board the famous New York clipper ship Tornado in 57 years ago.

The Titanic was a magnificent ship, and he always spoke of Major Wright and the troops under his command fighting a volley as the ship went down.

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WOMAN SEEKS HER TRUE PLACE. Demand for Suffrage Due to Desire to Perform Sex Function.

PORTLAND, April 22.—(To the Editor.)—With much satisfaction do we read your able editorial answering the communication entitled "Lemay and Woman Passengers" in The Oregonian of April 17.

There are many delights that cast their cross section reflection on the suffrage question and equality of the sexes. We would, however, go you one step further and substitute the word "brute" or "brutality" in criticizing that letter.

Granted that women have had to fight the question of life in their struggle to maintain their existence, there is a cause that lies behind that will prove itself to be the dominant factor in this condition and we have a right to state it here.

Within the proper period of every normal woman's existence there is a desire above all others, to reproduce her kind in bearing children. It is not, as many suppose, but is crowded out by existing conditions and will reassert itself when conditions are righted.

The tendency of the French as well as other nations to race suicide is the direct cause of the economic conditions that afflict both classes.

Having now the beginning, been the primitive civilization of the race and finding it now out of joint, she unconsciously, of known purpose, seeks the ballot to restore the race to its equilibrium, with herself again placed in her natural sphere.

This she will do by setting in order the things of our lives, and that will be Socialism, with the man and woman reconciled jointly to themselves.

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The Unburied. By Dean Collins.

I wander o'er the landscape And my soul was glad and free; I thought of fishing and baseball, And whistled merrily.

"Since primaries are past and gone, With all their 'B' and 'I' strife, 'I'll ditch all politics,' I thought, 'And lead the simple life.'"

"No more I'll be annoyed by men Who seek to lure my vote. I'll leave their useless cards from out The pockets of my coat."

"For, face to face I found, A dappled fence, and o'er its sides Were posters posted round."

A thousand thousand posters said "Vote for this and showed the faces Of scores of those who got the hook In last week's election."

"Oh, must I gaze at these?" I sighed, And bowed my head in gloom, Choking a sob, for it was like A message from the tomb.

"Oh, must it be that, ten years hence, My mournful eyes must greet Pictures of those who, just last week, Were swallowed in defeat? Must the dead past unburied leave Its load on every wall?"

The answer, 'Yes, please wake 'em down— At least before next Fall."

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian of April 24, 1862.

Corvallis, April 18.—The so-called Democratic convention assembled in this place on the 16th inst. There were but two candidates for Governor, Anthony O'Meara and John Powell.

The platform presented by Dr. Lortye, amended by Pat Malone, was adopted. It was a platform of peace, an abolition war, and as a necessary implication, those who support the war were abolitionists.

The following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Union County convention: St. John's precinct, Dr. William Caplan, James H. Gifford, Anthony Whitaker and John Powell; Powell's Valley, Jackson Dowell, James Wilson, Gilmore Kelly.

The Metropolis Hotel—Yesterday we paid a visit to this newly-vested-up hotel, and we can assure our readers that no pains have been spared in its improvements. Messrs. Quinn & Kinney, to make it a first-class house.

Every room in the house has been newly painted and furnished with beautiful furniture and the best kind of bedding. The kitchen has had new hearths and ovens, and the proprietors promise to supply the table with the best the market affords.

The friends of the late Mike Mitchell have this day placed a beautiful tombstone to place at the head of his grave. It can be seen at Young's Marley-yard, Front street.

Benefit of Mr. Mortimer—This is announced for tonight. The great American tragedians, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bowen, have been engaged to perform at the Metropolis Hotel.

Mr. George Walling, of Clackamas County, has been troubled recently with thieves. The first was a large panther, which visited his farm on Saturday night and began to devour his sheep.

The panther was soon killed by Mr. W., and by this time we suppose it has a place in Buchtel's collection. The next thief was a two-legged one, who entered the house and appropriated several articles of clothing, etc., of not much value, however.

The last named thief was captured in the last named "varmint."

As "Ed" Howe Sees Life. Can't you get along better with those you've habitually wrangle with? Ever try?

We are all in favor of reform; why are we unable to put it into effect? In politics, a thing that should be done promptly, is placed on the table, or ruled out of order, or referred to a committee.

If Abe Lincoln had the right to become the greatest statesman of his time, had John D. Rockefeller the right to become the greatest financier of his time?

It may be all right to recall the judges, but give us a chance, also, at the vicious clients and lawyers who bring unjust suits which result in costs to the public and annoyance to busy men summoned as jurors.

You can pleasantly speculate and plan for tomorrow; but in practice, tomorrow will turn out very much like today.

I can get along with nearly any man until he begins telling that he doesn't care for himself, that it is the general good he is seeking.

With many people, opportunity means no more than a chance to earn \$25 a day, providing they work hard.

A good many of us don't know much; that's another trouble.

AN ECHO OF CIVIL WAR DAYS. Veteran Sailor Gives an Account of the New Orleans Attack.

SCAPOOSE, Or., April 22.—(To the Editor.)—In an editorial in The Oregonian of recent date, as to the capture of New Orleans, during the Civil War, I don't know what meant was stated that the Hartford and the Brooklyn "remained behind."

I was a seaman on the Hartford and one of the crew of the Independence. The Itaska did not break the chain that stretched across the river; neither did the fleet proceed to New Orleans on the same day they were released. She was a side-wheel boat, not much larger than the Potter, but without guards, except to protect the boiler. When she struck the rock, she broke a hole in her side and as soon as she found she was filling, the men were ordered to throw the boiler overboard. She was filled and she sank. The survivors were taken off the island by a whaler in Magdalena Bay, and taken to San Francisco. G. F. MERRILL.