

The Oregonian

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Portland, Saturday, May 11, 1912.

THE VOTER AND HIS TASK.

The stupendous magnitude of the issues to be decided by the voters of Oregon in November under the initiative and referendum is disclosed by a summary of the principal measures proposed for adoption by them.

New constitution, abolishing the present state and county government and substituting an entirely new form with Governor and cabinet, one legislative body, and state and county business managers.

Abolition of the Commerce Court is a natural result of the spirit of the age. That spirit prompts the baseball crowd to mob the umpire if the home team loses. It prompts a candidate for office to approve of established political methods if they win delegates for him but to cry "fraud" if they win delegates for "the other fellow."

THE TRUE IMMIGRATION POLICY. The literary tests proposed by the Dillingham Committee on Immigration bills, now before Congress, have caused a great outcry among opponents of restriction on immigration.

EXTRAVAGANT YOUNG WOMEN. There is some real ground for Miss Frances Gage's apprehension that young women of limited means are disposed to spend too much money on their clothes.

THE "NEW IMMIGRATION" comes from the latter countries, where democratic ideas are of a household growth, where the struggle for liberty and reform is always identified in the people's minds with the bomb, the dagger and secret conspiracy.

Why do we wish to preserve our homogeneity as a nation, we must encourage the coming of immigrants of the old type and discourage that of the new type. The fact that the ratio of illiteracy is highest among immigrants of the new type makes the literacy test the readiest means of carrying out this policy.

we shall therefore exclude a very large proportion of the less assimilable races, but only a negligible proportion of the more assimilable. By so doing we may exclude some desirable people and admit some undesirable, but the general result would be to promote the development of a homogeneous race and to prevent the admission of great masses of undigested and indigestible material.

THE BOSS AND THE PRIMARY.

The Indianapolis News estimates that the Roosevelt campaign will cost one million dollars. Some one, or a group of some ones, is paying the million dollars. The Taft campaign, of course, is costing some one, or several some ones, a lot of money.

But the primary is not more costly than the old system, though it is the fashion of opponents of the new regime to say that it is. Besides, if the candidate does not like it, he has the option of staying out. The candidate who really wants to get in the contest, and who has a right to regard himself seriously as a factor, never has the slightest difficulty in finding a Perkins or a brother Charles or an old man Stephenson.

TRIBUTE OF THE "SQUEALERS." Abolition of the Commerce Court is a natural result of the spirit of the age. That spirit prompts the baseball crowd to mob the umpire if the home team loses.

MR. JOHNSON'S EDUCATIONAL TEST. Owen Johnson, the author of "Stover at Yale," has propounded a list of questions to the general public by which any person who wishes may test the completeness of his education. The list is printed in the Oregonian this morning. The reader will find it interesting to peruse even if he has not the moral courage to apply it to his own case.

THE BEST MEASURE OF THE PROSPERITY OF A CITY is the ability of the wage-earner to save. Since Portland ranks third in volume of postal savings bank deposits, it must, in view of the disparity in population with New York and Chicago, easily rank first in the general prosperity of its people.

THE DEATH OF B. G. WHITEHOUSE removes another human landmark in Portland's history. Brought into association with a large number of citizens by his business and by his high office in the Masonic order, he won friends by the legion by his amiable qualities and will be sadly missed.

THE RISE IN TEMPERATURE the other day that brought city people to their porches intensified desire for suburban life, where the cool northwest breeze ripples the grass and grain and soothes the ruffled brow. Yet there must be well-wishers to do the country's business.

THE BRITISH INVESTIGATION OF THE Titanic disaster is sparing nobody, no matter how high. Great Britain has a way of doing these things that betis a great nation.

FARMING IN ALASKA.

When Secretary Seward purchased Alaska from Russia in 1866, a large majority of the people of the country thought that Seward had gone stark mad, and that the \$7,200,000 paid for the territory had been worse than wasted.

But we have never figured that there was a field in that part of our territory to raise crops. We have allowed thousands of our people to be attracted by the alluring and misleading literature of the Dominion government north of us, in Saskatchewan and adjoining provinces, to go over there and waste their substance in territory that is not theirs.

Too much helter skelter information comes to the farmer from the newspaper and the magazine, and the mental ability does not want too much lumber lying around loose in his brain. He prefers to go to the sources of knowledge and look it up when he needs it.

THE OPENING OF THE PANAMA CANAL will effect a saving in distance for vessels that choose the new route of 6200 miles between Europe and San Francisco, of 1600 miles between England and New Zealand, and of approximately 2400 miles between New York and Australasian ports.

THE BRITISH TORIES may change their name, but they are Tories still, with all the word implies in the light of history. They were first the party of divine right of kings, then the party of divine right of birth and privilege, then the party of divine right of property and money, and now they acknowledge themselves the party of divine right of one nation to rule another without the consent of the other.

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TRAITS THAT MADE CARL GRAY

Writer Tells of Characteristics That Built Up His Success. PORTLAND, May 10.—(To the Editor.)—Many thousands of Oregonians have learned of the intended departure of President Carl R. Gray with regret, many of them with sorrow.

How well we remember when a railway president, especially of a great line or system, was supposed to be a superior being, one set apart to be approached with fear and caution, and then only by the elect. He was hedged around by door-openers, card-bearers, secretaries and assistant secretaries and finally a personal secretary so that to reach the august presence of the chief was almost impossible—entirely impossible for the poor, the weak and the insignificant.

Compare the rule of such officials with that of President Gray. He is the most approachable of men, the office of every one to all who seek him, his hand ever extended with a cheery welcome to the high and the low, the millionaire and the laborer, the merchant and the mechanic meeting with equally cordial welcomes. No matter how pressing his duties he always has a word of cheer and jollity for those whom he knows, and a quick, decisive, but civil dismissal for those who wish merely to monopolize his attention.

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CHALLENGE AMERICAN CULTURE

Author Submits Twenty Questions as Test of College Education. Owen Johnson declares that the college men of today have no general knowledge of real culture. Most of the colleges, he asserts, have become mere social clearing-houses, whose students know only a few facts hastily crammed for examinations and promptly forgotten.

In his new novel, "Stover at Yale," which takes up the whole subject of American colleges, Johnson makes a character propose a list of 40 general questions to a bunch of classmates. But as the story is laid in 1900, the test is not hard enough for today, and Johnson, though most of his readers admit that they cannot answer the questions in "Stover," Johnson has just prepared a new list, which, he says, every college student or graduate ought to be able to answer.

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Astral Campaigning

By Dean Collins. Not oft, I ween, although one search The histories with might and main, Will he disclose a case where ghosts Joined a political campaign.

For I have heard that it has come From the sad spirit's widow's lips, How from the Stygian borderland He peedles out election tips. And whisp'ers in the mystic dark: "Bet all your beans both ways on Clark."

Ah, what a vision comes to me I seem to see on ev'ry head. A swarm of spook spellbinders spiel, Along the Spook and through that land Where table-tipping folk belong. I hear a spectral hound dawd'le song: "Bet all your beans both ways on Clark!"

Why do the spooks turn out for Clark? Sooth, I should think they'd be in the near. To stand for Woodrow Wilson, who Hath got the high-brow, mystic mind. Instead of rapping in the dark, "Hades is solid—all for Clark!"

Yet I am glad that, in the end, When ballot-marking day draws near, No astral pen shall have a chance To scratch my little ballot here. I'll whistle gaily as I mark— And bid the spirits vote for Clark. Portland, May 10.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of May 12, 1862. The Governor of California has signed the Chinese tax bill and it is now a law. It imposes a tax of \$25 per month on all Chinese over 18 years of age, except those who are engaged in mining and pay the regular mining tax.

"Governor" George W. Johnson and the rest of the "Provisional Government" of Kentucky are at Decatur, Ala., having established the capital of Kentucky in a Sibley tent, near that General's headquarters.

The Nez Percés, Bannock and Crow Indians have recently had a fight with the Blackfeet and Sioux tribes in the buffalo country. Four Nez Percés were killed.

Lafayette, May 8, 1862—Our county Union convention met on Monday night, the following gentlemen were nominated: Representatives to the Legislature, Joel Palmer and John Cummins; County Judge, J. W. Cowley; County Clerk, S. Adams; County Coroner, T. M. Cochran and Sebastian Brucher; Sheriff, H. Warren; Treasurer, J. T. Hembré; School Superintendent, Rev. John Spencer; Surveyor, Charles Hanley.

On last Saturday morning snow fell to the depth of three inches on Portland. It was the heaviest snow west of the city.

As "Ed" Howe Sees Life

Every time I see the husband of a noted woman, I remark something that makes me think he doesn't like the job. If a widower gets along well after his bereavement, he should be ashamed to show it.

It is no disgrace to be poor; but we are all sensitive about it. Somehow it always seems disgraceful to see a horse hitched up with a mule.

After a woman has been married three or four years she begins to realize that her husband "He used to wait on me, but now, half the time he doesn't know I'm on earth."

When a married woman starts in to become stouter, her husband usually starts in to shrivel up.

Those of us who are not called upon to drown to prove our gallantry are very proud of the way the men acted when the Titanic was wrecked at sea.

A man who lives by politics can't understand why you don't take more interest in the primaries; and a bishop gives you rather more difficult tasks than you think necessary.

Probably no row is quite so red hot as that which gets two people into the divorce court.

Women have wrongs, as all the world knows; but if you want to know just how ruthless and terrible wrongs really are, ask a man to reel off his list.

Alarm Clock and Wedding Bells. Philadelphia Record. Wigg—What did she say when you kissed her? Wagge—She said: "This is just between ourselves."

MR. A. E. CLARK, 815 Johnston Street.

FEATURES OF THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN

John T. McOutcheon's Pirate Tales—In his second story the noted cartoonist and writer tells of the cruise of the Sun Dog. Illustrated by the best drawings McOutcheon has done in years.

How to Treat Your Husband—Laura Jean Libby gives advice to wives on just how to conduct a campaign for permanent retention of a husband.

The 37-Cent Suffrage Hat—Half a page is devoted to the remarkable creation that costs but 37 cents and yet is approved by fashion.

Justice in Persia—An unusual contribution from a Teheran correspondent about the unbelievable methods of dealing out retribution in that domain. Illustrated by photographs.

Our Ineffective Army—A study on America's military organization—or lack of organization, to be explicit. It is shown that we really haven't any army.

Young American Artists—They are forging ahead, says a Paris correspondent, who tells of the work and life of our painters abroad.

Our Best Sellers—Foreigners write them, so an investigator finds. Two Short Stories, complete.

The Jumpups—They invest in art treasures. Sambo stalks another giant, Hairbreadth Harry, Mrs. Timekiller, Slim Jim and Mr. Boss have fresh exploits. New puzzles in colors and cut-out clothes for the children.

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