

The Oregonian

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Portland, Monday, May 20, 1912.

Ballinger Roosevelt's Man.

Were Colonel Roosevelt a man of less facility in fighting inconvenient facts he would be continually harassed by the fact that his criticism of Taft's action in almost every instance is a criticism of himself.

Ballinger first entered the Federal service as General Land Commissioner at Roosevelt's personal solicitation. He had only recently completed a term of office as a member of the board of directors of the National Land Office.

When Taft became President, he needed a man for Secretary of the Interior in place of Garfield, who had resigned. Roosevelt's name was suggested.

Roosevelt's statement that every one knew the Cunningham claim to be fraudulent is a glaring exaggeration. Eastern people, whose judgment is warped by muckrakers and who have been bitten by the Pinchot conservation bug, may sincerely believe that the Cunningham claim is fraudulent.

As to the Lawlor letter in regard to the Glavis charges, it has been proved that that letter was a draft of what the President wished to say in reply to Ballinger. He rewrote it entirely with the exception of a few paragraphs, and therefore made it his own.

DO COURTS RESTRICT FREEDOM? So much is being made of the exercise by the courts of the power to annul acts of Congress or of State Legislatures that it is actually contended that the American Republic is less free than the constitutional monarchies of Europe.

GRAFT PROSECUTIONS NOT IN VIEW. Dismissal of the graft indictments against Ruff and Schmitz has caused a general feeling of relief among the people.

amendment, though even so conservative a state as Pennsylvania has several times amended its constitution, and in 1873 adopted an entirely new one.

Thus, when public opinion, in conflict with the constitution, the courts so declare and we can, and often do, reverse the decision by amending the Constitution and re-enacting the law.

THE DEAD HAND OF CONSERVATION. The reason why Herbert Hulthine has to travel 240 miles to reach Port Townsend, though he lives within fifty miles of that city, is that the Forestry Bureau has laid its blighting hands on the Olympic peninsula.

SWINDLES BY INITIATIVE. The stinging rebuke administered to the Fels war chest beneficiaries by the State Grange in resolutions opposing single tax were doubly justified.

A MOST WORTHY ENTERPRISE. The Portland Woman's Union, a nonsectarian organization, which controls a home for working girls in this city, is the pioneer, and in fact the only organization of its kind, purpose and scope in Portland or elsewhere in the world.

Denounced by Socialists and labor unions, I. W. W. is set down as what it is—an anarchist organization second only in viciousness to the French auto bandits, who committed robbery and murder ostensibly to serve the cause of the anarchist creed.

Politics and society have become tangled in Texas, and the Taft-Roosevelt quarrel is being taken up by the daughters of the politicians, even by those who are still in short dresses.

There is little wonder the demand for seats at Chicago is greater than at any convention of the party. The performance by the all-star aggregation will eclipse history.

There must be undiscovered millions in the junkshops of the land, since a California has bought for \$100,000 a masterpiece said to be worth \$200,000.

OREGON'S INVESTMENT IN AUTOS. The number of motor vehicles in use in Oregon last year was 7338, as shown by the licenses issued by the Secretary of State, and the number of licensed chauffeurs was 1671.

When Seattle is not occupied with the election of Miss G. amuses itself with considering whether to recall the one it has just elected.

THE BEAUTIFICATION OF A CITY. Building of More Pretentious Homes by Men of Wealth Urged. PORTLAND, May 18.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian, in an editorial published in the statement—alms in the spirit of boastfulness—that there was not a liveried servant in the City of Portland and that a coach and seat driven by a coachman in private employ was unknown.

Before the writer is a pretentious volume of some hundreds of pages published by the newspaper syndicate, containing photographs of the best of Portland residences. There are many pretty homes shown, but there is none that could be called handsome residences in the modern sense of the word.

Continued patrol of the English coast by a fancied menace from the German fleet seems absurd at this distance. Germany seeks not war with Great Britain other than for commercial supremacy.

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Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian of May 20, 1862. The Bulletin gives an account of the robbing of the banking funds of a gambling saloon in San Francisco the amount of \$30,000 by a clerk named Bundy.

The recent elections in Connecticut have resulted in an overwhelming Republican victory, electing a Governor by nearly 9000 majority, every member of the Senate and a large majority of the House.

The ship Dahpne was seized by the United States Marshal at San Francisco upon a libel for bringing to that port a larger number of Chinese passengers than is allowed by law.

Fendal Sutherland, nominated on the Seesh ticket in Douglas County for the Legislature, refuses to be a candidate.

Nick Henke, on the 14th took from his claim on Jackson Creek, Rogie River, a slug worth \$280.

The Salemites celebrated the victory at Yorktown with a salute and music by the band.

As soon as it was known among the Washington politicians that Lincoln had appointed Edwin M. Stanton Secretary of War, a strenuous delegation called upon him and protested in the strongest terms against the appointment of a Democrat to so important a post.

H. L. Preston, of Josephine County, and E. C. Appleton, of Marion County, will address the citizens this evening at the theater.

It is reported that the sloop Fanny, from the Siletz Indian reservation, is in the river coming up, having on board some very rich prospecting gold lately discovered.

A new steam screw built lately at Milwaukie, named the Adalade, and the St. Clair have started an opposition to the Dalles, crossing the portage on the Washington Territory side of the river. We understand that the Dalles has been taken up.

SOCIALIST APPROVES UREN PLAN

M. Barzee Calls for Favorable Consideration of New Constitution. PORTLAND, May 17.—(To the Editor.)—Mr. U'ren's delivery of his recent address to the Socialists of Branch 4 (local), Portland, there has been more or less comment from both the press and individuals relative to the merits and demerits of this new measure, proposed for the revision of the state constitution.

While we would not attempt, at this time, any special comment upon the measure, we do suggest that this letter will call forth criticism from both the Socialists and the non-Socialists. Some of the criticisms are of a capital measure, and the latter will criticize it because some Socialists are taking an interest in it.

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As "Ed" Howe Sees Life

Nearly everything of value a man knows was demonstrated with a lesson in which there was humiliation. A boy's idea of tough luck is to be unable to attend a circus on a bright afternoon, and then have a rainstorm come up at night. And it is tough luck for a man.

Get a doctor in a corner, and he will admit that nature does the healing. A man should be as polite all the time as a candidate for office.

Every brave man, when he makes a bluff, hopes his bluff will win peacefully; no bluff can enjoy risk of a bullet, a knife, or a black eye.

Meaning of Tax Exemption. COTTAGE GROVE, May 18.—(To the Editor.)—I have been asked to amend the constitution of Oregon, which has been circulated in this vicinity. In your judgment, what is the meaning of the following words: "Except that personal property?" I cannot understand them.

Section 10. The principle of single tax or tax on land only shall never be adopted. Taxation of property shall be by general laws operating equally on all property, exempting or relieving from its just share of taxes property of any kind whatsoever, including personal property or property used for municipal, educational, literary, scientific, or religious purposes, which shall be specially exempted by general law.

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