

The Oregonian

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Portland, Thursday, Aug. 29, 1912.

THE MATTER WITH US.

The remarkable report of the vice commission kindled a fire in Portland that has raged with unabated fury through several days.

The Oregonian will not pass judgment on Governor West's motives in his crusade to clean up Oregon.

It is inclined to believe that the Governor's intentionality that will bring about better social or moral conditions is entitled to commendation and support.

But it cannot be blind to the fact that the Governor's legal authority for his unprecedented demand is exceedingly doubtful.

It is exceedingly doubtful that there will be any more permanent result to the present theatrical campaign than to other such affairs.

The Oregonian thinks the Governor of Oregon has no right to remove any District Attorney—even a District Attorney who might be removed by the Legislature.

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through their candidate for President, have abandoned their demand for immediate reduction to a revenue basis and have substituted the plan of gradual reduction to that level, adopting from their opponents the plan of schedule revision.

Perhaps there is no man in the country better qualified to handle the road question. If the business men of Portland, the owners of land along the route and the citizens of the various towns along the way could be made to understand the great factor such a road would be in the development of the country, increasing of land values and building up of business interests, some scheme could be developed at this meeting to finance the deal forthwith.

Lacking such interest, there ought to be enough shown to make a united start towards placing the project on the way to fulfillment.

The first straws showing how the political wind blows will be found in Vermont and Maine. The Green Mountain state holds its state election on September 3.

In the state election of 1908 in Vermont the Democrats polled 15,923 votes to 45,598 for the Republicans. Their success hinges on the extent to which they can draw Republican votes and on the approach to evenness in the division of hitherto Republican voters between the Republican and Progressive parties.

Manly, which is under complete Democratic control, has no Progressive state ticket, the Republicans and Roosevelt men getting together with some friction under a flag of truce until after the state election.

Perhaps those German scientists err somewhat in saying that Chicago and New York are not representative of the United States. Their purpose is to seek the genuine life of the Nation in the rural sections, but we fear they may not find it there.

The nature of Emperor William's illness is ominous. His father's began with trouble in the glands of the neck and proceeded rapidly to a fatal termination. William seems to have recovered somewhat from his attack and of course everybody hopes there will be no recurrence.

Mr. George Rodgers of Salem, has been thinking, it is said, of running for Congress on the Bull Moose ticket. That's the right ticket for him if he should decide to go into the contest. But very likely he will not go in, which would be a decision showing Mr. Rodgers' great prudence.

In view of the fact that Prohibitionists say "There is death in the cup," how can they say that liquor increases the cost of living? According to that theory, it increases the frequency of dyings.

Another American Cardinal is a step toward more equal distribution of honors, justified and almost demanded by the great Roman Catholic population of this country.

Representative Mann's opinion of Democratic performance may be laid in direct proportion to their wickedness. But coupled with him there is the contradictory instance of Shelley, whose vastly superior songs never sold for enough to pay for printing.

The man who nothing but an operation for appendicitis will induce to reveal a secret would make an ideal official for a trust.

Did Wilson feel complimented when told of his facial resemblance to the English statesman who was formerly known as "Brummagem Joe"?

The President who can hit hard and straight at golf is not much perturbed by the howling of the bull moose.

Give a thought today to General Booth for the good work he has done.

Now that Lucia Lottie Collins has gone from our midst and is headlining the Pantages bill in Seattle, it is interesting if homely to remember that when the elder Collins party, Lucia Lottie's ma, struck the Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-a-ditty that made her name and she adopted a washing which she jumped over a washbasin into \$800 a week in the London music halls.

Cathrine Countess says that in a year or two she is coming back to Portland, buy herself a house and a motor car, settle down, have children and a dramatic school. There's certainly a great field for a dramatic school in the Pacific Northwest and no one of our younger actresses is better fitted to direct such an institution than is Miss Countess.

Maude Hanford is at the Portland Hotel, pending the outcome of her divorce suit against her non-actor husband in Los Angeles. Later Miss Hanford goes to New York.

William Baseball Pangle, not to be outdone by George L. Baker, has contributed a daughter to the theatrical world. Her name is Miss Pheebe B. Beebe, which sounds like one of those "say it real quick" lines.

When W. H. Thompson, who is at the Orpheum in "An Object Lesson," appeared in Portland for the first time in 1882, W. A. Brady, now the celebrated play-producer, was his dressing-room boy.

It is pleasant to learn that there will be no relaxation of effort to bring the endowment fund of Willamette University up to the million mark. It now lacks but \$100,000 of that sum, and this comparatively small amount should be promptly subscribed.

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Stars and Star-Makers

By Leone Cass Beer.

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Socialists Have Falling Out

Factional Split Stirrs Up Ranks, Reports Mr. Wells.

PORTLAND, Aug. 21.—(To the Editor.)—The Socialists these days are giving us an inspiring example of that glorious harmony and unfraternal universal brotherhood which is to prevail when they get into the saddle and inaugurate a reign of terror by establishing the "co-operative commonwealth."

Do you know there is a most acrimonious rivalry raging in the ranks of the party of incorruptible world-savers and race-regenerators? Who would have thought it possible that sharp-protectors and trickery could be found among these righteous and perfectly fled beings? Yet here are the facts to show how the angels of economic and social light have fallen from their high estate and are acting just like ordinary office-hungry politicians—contrary to all the pretentious claims of the shouting street-corner propagandist who has been frothing at the mouth in telling of the baseness of the "capitalist class" and shed crocodile tears in cataloguing the woes of the oppressed, but ever ready to fight "working class," whose self-appointed champion he professes to be.

Some months ago J. Mahlon Barnes, secretary of the National Socialist League of America, was charged with irregularities in conducting his office. But his resignation did not prevent his being nominated at the National Socialist convention by Morris Hillquit, of New York City, as campaign manager for Eugene Debs, the anti-Barnes men now claim he was put in office by trickery, and Debs, who Barnes does not want him for manager and will not take much of an active interest in the campaign of Eugene Debs, did not quit.

The Barnes-Hillquit men retort by saying that the former's selection as campaign manager was no more in fact than a Debs nomination for President. In fact, they say that Debs knew in advance that he was to be named, when Morris Hillquit, who is a member of the campaign manager offered him. All this is in the approved political style of mutual recrimination.

On account of this internal dissension the party is rather short of enthusiasm. The attempt to oust Barnes by the cumbersome Socialist machinery is going to take some time, and whatever the outcome will lose thousands of votes if Barnes is retained as manager. Hillquit replies by pointing out that Debs' opposition to the American Federation of Labor was a matter of even more. The enterprising Mr. Barnes has lost no time in calling for a big campaign fund of \$500,000, which he has already raised by the simple and speedy process of having each member of the Socialist party donate one-fourth of a week's wage to the cause.

A motion to recall Barnes has been submitted to the party locals, but the Barnes crowd claims it smacks of more trickery and is made by a local in Texas of doubtful standing. Naturally they are using this argument for all it is worth.

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Indecision

The Bull Moose burles warringly in local halls in hot contention. A coldly claim from Kellaher. A statement plain of his intention.

And ever to its rising wrath. It seemeth to add fiercer fuel, Seeing him stand reluctantly involved in candidacy dual.

"Come to the wilderness with us." They call, "Or be adjudged a roiter." But flesh and blood is not made of stone. Seem still to make his palate water. How happy could he truly be. With either, were the other absent? But both? Indecision traps him. Deep in his breast its fatal jab sent. And as a man upon a fence. Eased by savage snarling towers, He jumpeth down nor here nor there— But merely weareth out his trousers.

Some men there be who can bestride. Two steeds at once in wild gumpumping. Yet such a feat involves a risk. Of little else besides a bumping. And ever Opportunity. Bursts into wry, sardonic laughter. For him who seeks to take with him. The present into the hereafter.

So rather than to lure the end. Of being from both sides shaken. Methinks one might wade definite. While still there's time to save his bacon. —Dean Collins, Portland, August 28.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of August 29, 1862. We learn by an express which arrived at Walla Walla from Colonel Mary's command that he was pushing his force towards Salmon Falls without interruption. The express stated that tolerably certain information had been received by Colonel Mary that the Van Norman children were still with the Indians. Some emigrants had been taken from them. Colonel Mary has been compelled, in some cases, to furnish food to emigrants to prevent starvation.

The United States Sanitary Commission has issued an address, appealing to the people of the United States on behalf of the sick and wounded of the people's armies, East and West. For their relief, medicine and supplies are being used at once and in abundance. General Halleck is now the real Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army. By his order the army commanded by McClellan has been withdrawn from its position in the Shenandoah valley where it was in the vicinity of the former stream and, if successful, pursuing the defeated enemy to Richmond.

Petitions are in circulation asking that all that portion of Washington known as the District of Columbia be erected into a new political organization to be termed John Day County. The first of the overland emigration has already reached The Dalles and report that thousands of eyes in the wake, the great majority of them bound for Oregon and Washington Territory.

We are informed by Mr. John Stevenson, Supervisor of Roads, that the new road leading from the city to the local near the river bank, is nearly completed. A wagon of \$100 was won by Mr. David Munroe, of this city, yesterday upon the killing of 12 birds out of 20 at 16 shots, 10 yards distant.

Opium Habit Ancient in China

Use Dates Back Centuries and Was Not Forced by Whites. PORTLAND, Aug. 27.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian today there appears the statement that the Chinese have been using opium for centuries. Any one with an elementary knowledge of the subject is aware that opium was made in China for centuries before the white man had any direct communication with that country. Poppy seems to have been used in China as a medicinal plant long before the Chinese returned from visiting the sacred places of India, between the first or third centuries of our era. During that time the amount of opium imported into China has been very small in comparison with the amount manufactured there. No nation has ever made opium for the purpose of furnishing to use or buy opium. Your writer probably had in mind the Anglo-Chinese war commonly known as the opium war, which was a result of the Chinese refusal to give up the opium habit. This is a statement often made without a shadow of a doubt. I shall be delighted if the writer could name any brand of cigarette sold in China or in this country which has been shown by expert chemists to contain opium or opium or an opium product of the time when I was employed in the anti-opium bureau of Chihli province examined cigars given to me by the Chinese and being smuggled. Of course I found no opium in them—in fact, none could be put in, except at a cost to the manufacturer, unless the opium were considerably raised. Articles in The Oregonian are occasionally copied, with acknowledgments, into Japanese papers, and these read, in English, as if they were translated, with its misleading statements and its bitter tone, it will be body knows that this city has gotten completely away from the city officials, and the element that has no regard for law has held high carnival for some time past. Certain it is that the law should continue as it has been going for a year past. Sooner or later it is sure to go to pieces. Who, then, can lay blame on the Governor for not stopping the law? It is the Governor's duty to stop the law, and putting things in order? Six months more of such a city government as we have had for the past year would wreck this city.

Rushlight and Cameron Blamed

Incompetence of Officials Justifies West Crusade, Says Writer.

PORTLAND, Aug. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Now that the reports are flying hither and thither as to what the Governor will do, what the present Disfranchisement Commission will do, let us stop for a moment of reflection and sober thought.

Who can blame the Governor? Every body knows that this city has gotten completely away from the city officials, and the element that has no regard for law has held high carnival for some time past. Certain it is that the law should continue as it has been going for a year past. Sooner or later it is sure to go to pieces. Who, then, can lay blame on the Governor for not stopping the law? It is the Governor's duty to stop the law, and putting things in order? Six months more of such a city government as we have had for the past year would wreck this city.

Two months ago the Disfranchisement Commission was organized, and since that time the city has been getting worse and worse. It seems as though we had no city administration whatever. The Council is at odds, the laws are not enforced, and the various executive heads are having their own sweet way. In fact, they have had their own sweet way for months past, and have had it to the extent that the city government has come to pieces. The Mayor has done nothing or nothing to exercise a controlling influence, which is the direct cause of all this strife.