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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, SEPT. 6, 1912.

OHIO'S NEW CONSTITUTION.

The constitutional revision which was adopted throughout, with the exception of the measure extending the franchise to women, by the voters of Ohio on September 3, consisted of forty-three amendments. These amendments were submitted by a convention that was called through the original instrumentality of the Ohio Board of Trade, which desired a more progressive system of tax laws. Interest in the initiative and referendum, court reforms and liquor traffic enactments was aroused in a secondary way at first, but by a peculiar twist of political fortune, it gained supremacy in the convention.

The tax amendment as submitted and adopted preserves the uniform rule of taxation such as we had in Oregon prior to the last election. It was the one thing that the original promoters of the convention called a "shell." The original criticism by the newspapers of Ohio was directed against this phase of the convention's work, but it was answered by the advocates of uniform rule with the argument that the newspapers were controlled by the moneyed interests and desired to impose a greater tax burden on the farmers and those least able to pay. Apparently Ohio voters, though progressive along other governmental lines, are conservative on the subject of taxation, for the tax amendment carried. It will be of interest to Oregon voters to learn that the amendment contains an inhibition of single tax by means of the initiative. This inhibition is not so broad, however, as to deny the voters the power to initiate a constitutional amendment making single tax possible. The amendment also provides for graduated income and inheritance taxes and allows franchise and mineral taxes on the production of coal, oil, gas and minerals.

The initiative and referendum clause is not the ideal pronounced advocates of rule of the people. It is more on the order of the "shotgun behind the door." A measure may not be initiated directly to the people, but must first go to the Legislature. If adopted in unchanged or in amended form by the Legislature, it is still subject to the referendum. If it is rejected by the Legislature, it may be submitted to the people upon petition of an additional 3 per cent of the voters. The minimum percentage, however, is not large. Three per cent of the voters will send a measure to the Legislature. But this percentage, in view of Ohio's greater voting population, will, in actual working of the initiative, probably require the support of 10 per cent of the voters. The 3 per cent provision that is in force in Oregon, Ohio, too, has made the success of petition circulating more difficult by requiring that the signatures shall come from at least one-half the counties in the state. The Ohio measure also requires a petition of one per cent of the voters to initiate a constitutional amendment, while 3 per cent will accomplish that end in Oregon.

Some surprise has been expressed over the light vote polled on the liquor amendment. This was probably due to the fact that both the "wet" and "dry" factions professed to be satisfied with the amendment. The existing constitution of Ohio does not authorize the licensing of the liquor traffic. The "wets" desired a license, and the "drys" element succeeded in compassing the license clause about with inhibitions against brewery-owned saloons and with provisions limiting the number of saloons to one in 500 of population, automatically reducing the number of saloons of law, and preserving all present local county option laws and regulatory measures.

The revision amendments do not include a provision for the recall, there is what may be termed a substitute, which provides for the recall of incompetent or incapable officials by the Legislature after investigation of charges has been made by a commission. It will be remembered that Colonel Roosevelt urged a recall of decisions upon the Ohio constitution. What provision in an initiative delivered before that body. The convention failed to adopt the Roosevelt plan, but devised something better. Majority decisions, where in effect one justice on the supreme bench may annul a law on constitutional grounds, are avoided. It will require a two-thirds vote of the six Supreme Judges to invalidate a law, except where the Intermediary Court of Appeals has decided against it. In the latter event an ordinary majority of the Supreme Court is sufficient. There are various other amendments which form an interesting picture of the fourteenth year verdict in civil actions which Oregon adopted in 1910.

One amendment in relation to industrial and labor legislation is interesting in view of its apparent intent to make the Legislature supreme in such enactments, even to the exclusion of the initiative and referendum. This amendment follows: Laws may be passed fixing and regulating the hours of labor, establishing a minimum wage, and providing for the comfort, health, safety and general welfare of all employees; and no other provision of the constitution shall impair or limit this power. The convention apparently realized that there is a vast difference between the voting strength of the employing class and that of the working class. Whether the working class would secure advantage of its comparative vote to enact through the initiative legislation repressive on the employers may perhaps be questioned, but seemingly the convention sought to guard against it.

among the forty-two adopted are the following:

Direct primaries, including Presidential preference and choice of United States Senators by direct vote.
 Municipalities, permitting municipal ownership of public utilities and the formation by each municipality of its own police force.
 Home rule for school districts in determining rates of taxation, and the right of school boards and organization of school systems.
 Eight-hour day and six-day week on all public works.
 Legislative compensation laws for injured employees and those disabled by occupational diseases, authorized.
 A system of inter-county roads bonded for a system of inter-county roads permitted.
 Double liability of stockholders in financial institutions receiving deposits established.

Abolition of death penalty.
 Conservation provided as to mineral resources, and that mineral lands and woodlands be exempted from taxation.
 Legislative authority to regulate the use of bill boards.
 Appointment of women authorized to possess and own real estate where women and children are cared for.
 "Blue sky" law for regulation of corporations.
 Injunctions prohibited in labor disputes except to restrain property persons charged in contempt proceedings with violating such an injunction entitled to jury trial.
 Limitation of \$10,000 on amount of damages recoverable in any action for wrongful death removed.
 Court reforms adopted providing for one trial and one review, except in chancery cases.

On the whole, the new constitution is more indicative of a new trend of thought, locomotion and transformation than mark all his actions, had not recently found new subjects to engage his time and attention, and had apparently buried his contentions about the theft of the Chicago convention. But he revived the threadbare issue at Des Moines, when he referred again caustically to the nomination of Roosevelt who had said that he "would not debate with a pickpocket the ownership of a watch he had stolen."

THE COLONEL'S HALO.

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Probably not to the Roosevelt way would be to steal it back, for we are justified in assuming that the Bull Moose candidate to grab the Republican votes in the electoral college has the hearty and enthusiastic endorsement of high and holy political morality is that this questionable and indefensible confiscation of the name and Republican candidates is being carried out in face of Colonel Roosevelt's vehement and repeated assertions that the Progressives are a new and independent party and that the Republican party is corrupt, bankrupt, reactionary and obsolete.

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PORTLAND'S CLEANING-UP PROCESS.

Someone in one of the Willamette Valley towns has a notion that the right thing to do in the present emergency was to recall Governor West for "butting in" on affairs that are none of his business. "I have been making a few inquiries on the streets," he writes to The Oregonian, "and I find that the Governor is in no way in the way of the cleaning-up process. The strength of the West position is that he has brought to his support the forces that stand for decency, morality and religion. They may justly doubt the wisdom of his course and the soundness of his motives, but they have nevertheless no alternative when there is a call for help in any war on vice."

What are West's policies? How will he clean up the town? What intelligent and consistent plan has he formulated? Will he be the ultimate outcome of the whole business, beyond the publicity and scandal that have transpired as a result of sensation and agitation? Where is he going to put the scarlet women? What is he going to do with the poor women as some of the worst of it after the campaign is over and the casualties are ascertainable?

Governor West has made, in his scheme to turn Portland upside down and inside out, an apparent alliance with Mayor Rueschlight, Chief Slosser and the board of the city administration, all of whom are primarily responsible for conditions, or rather failure of all measures of correction. He has aimed his batteries at the Sheriff and the District Attorney, who are only secondarily responsible, having effected the alliance, he has passed on to a campaign to "get" the brewers and the express companies. In a few more days there will be some new object of attack, repression and reform. What next?

polity of the British government has played into the czar's hands and thwarted William until the Cossacks are manacled at the frontier of India. The sooner an alliance is concluded between Great Britain and Germany the better for civilization.

CHOOSING A PRESIDENT.

"The Presidential primary returns," says our own Senator Bourne, "indicate that Colonel Roosevelt is the choice of the great Republican party, and certainly he was of Oregon," and therefore the Bull Moose candidate is favored with the distinguished support of the Senator from Oregon. It is a momentous decision, rendered after four months of thoughtful silence and painful doubt. The late Senator Bourne was Mr. La Follette; but the April primary in Oregon decided for Colonel Roosevelt. Four and one-half months thereafter the father of the Presidential primary accepts its verdict. The fact that it is announced one week prior to the Roosevelt election to Oregon may not be significant; but anyhow it is just in the nick of time.

The Bourne remarks about the result of the Presidential primary suggest some reflections on the purposes of that admirable vehicle for the expression of party judgments. The Presidential primary in Oregon expresses a preference for candidates for President and Vice-President and binds the delegates elected at the primary to vote for them in the National convention. The law and its operations are based wholly on the fact that the National convention nominates the candidate.

But now Senator Bourne and others in Oregon insist that the primary, and not the convention, nominates the Presidential candidate. If that should be so, there is no justification for participation in a National convention by delegates of a state. If all the states have a Presidential primary and none of them will agree to abide by the results of the National convention, the convention should, of course, be abolished. If there is to be no convention, the only remaining function of a Presidential primary would be to nominate delegates to elect an elector, and instruct them for whom to vote in an electoral college.

Clearly there will be no more National conventions, and therefore no National candidates of any National party, if the states are individually and without consultation or conference with other states to determine their candidates for President. Whether there would then be a National party, or groups of local and sectional parties within the states, it is not easy now to guess.

THE CASE FOR THE NEWSPAPERS.

If the newspapers are not fully convinced of all their real sins and some imaginary ones in these heart-searching days it is not the fault of their critics. Last Summer a conference on the shortcomings of the daily papers was held at the University of Wisconsin and some of the speakers made their case look fearfully black. More than one learned essayist enlarged upon the mendacity of the press, its subservience to advertisers, its bad habit of subordinating news to political prejudice and the multitude of other transgressions. There were only a few voices, and those rather timid, to laud the virtues of the newspapers at that high-browed conference.

It is comforting, therefore, by way of a change, to read an article by Dr. Hirschberg of Johns Hopkins University, which takes another tone. Dr. Hirschberg, who is a physician, not a professor merely, has enjoyed a wide experience of newspaper life and probably knows as much about the conditions surrounding the daily press as anybody in the country. In his opinion, while there are many evils in the Editor and Publisher for August 24, the veracity of the newspapers has been undeservedly decryd.

Dr. Hirschberg declares that he believes the ordinary newspaper to be as truthful as the ordinary minister and even more so. He supports his view by a host of reasons which may not convince everybody, but they are certainly interesting. The minister, he tells us, is necessarily subservient to his wealthy parishioners. If he does not subscribe to their opinions and preach their prejudices his connection with the church is a matter of years without even a hint of stopping.

After walking for twelve years, an eminent globetrotter says he will soon stop. We know of an eminent conversationalist who has been talking for more than twenty years without even a hint of stopping.

After a Kansas City man had drawn four aces and was raking in an immense jackpot, the ceiling fell. Probably a part of the game he wasn't on.

THINGS WEST A CERTAIN LOSER.

Recall would be sure to be effective, Says Mr. Lane.

PORTLAND, Sept. 6.—(To the Editor.)—I have just finished reading the editorial article in The Oregonian, Tuesday, on the recall of Oswald West. Governor of this state. The article is written in a way that makes the editor's deduction is erroneous as to the likelihood of relieving this state of West's ubiquitous presence and service to the people.

I want also to say that I am a Democrat and voted for West. I now solemnly declare, if kind Providence will forgive me for it, that I will not vote for any other man for my very grievous sin, I will promise in future to examine, as it were, all same as phrenologist, the nut, the cranium, the noodle of whatever you choose to call it. In other words, I am not so much to blame in this case, as I took it for granted that so long as West was in our midst, he would be elected and I vouched for by brothers U'Ren, Waggoner, Cridge and C. S. Jackson, he must be all wool and a yard wide. Hereafter I will do my own thinking, and will not be influenced by the above-named quartet.

I believe it very easy to recall Oswald West and get rid of this intolerable nuisance. The Oregonian's opinion to the contrary notwithstanding, I believe that, were West to stand again for any state office, much less the office of Governor, he would not get 20 per cent of the Democratic vote of this state. If there is one thing more than another that we Democrats are entitled to demand in our candidates, I believe he ought to be recalled at once, the sooner the better, and if Mr. Story will go ahead with the plan for recall, it will surprise The Oregonian and all others who at this time appear friends of his with what an avalanche of votes he will receive. I am not a saloonkeeper, neither am I addicted to vice in any form, and am not a beneficiary to the extent of the Governor, he never had either directly or indirectly any revenue from prostitution, gambling or liquor traffic. I am a total abstainer and have no interest in any form of illegitimate purpose. I believe West an insincere, hypocritical demagogue, and all this crusade is gotten up as a grandstand play to get himself talked about so that his name will appear in the press. He has done irreparable damage to the Democratic party of this state right now in this crucial time when we want to elect Woodrow Wilson and Dr. Lane. Most of the voters think West a Democrat in good standing.

GEO. LANE.

Mr. Lane took bad advice two years ago and now repents. Now let him take The Oregonian's advice. Let him recall alone. The promoters of the same find it necessary to make the same disclaimer that this correspondent makes—that he is not a saloonkeeper or a gambler or a panderer to vice. We can foresee clearly what form the issue would take over the recall. You will please excuse The Oregonian from encouraging any recall under such auspices.

REPRIEVES ENCOURAGE MURDERS.

Roberts Should Not Escape, Says Member of Sept. Anti-Party.

PORTLAND, Sept. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Too much has been said pro and con about the action of Governor West in failing to uphold the laws of the state. Because he is Governor he has no right to take such arbitrary stands; he was not elected Governor to stand in the way of just punishment and enforcement of the laws that have been enacted dealing with criminals, particularly murderers.

We know personally of one incident where the murderer admitted he would not have such a chance if he had not known that Governor West would relieve him if captured and sentenced to hang.

Gov. West makes a great point of having the law enforced throughout the state; even goes so far as to expel from office men whom he thinks incompetent.

Does he stop to think of the dangers incurred by the Sheriff or his deputies in risking their lives running down the criminal lawbreaker when he abuses the power vested in the laws of the state in relieving those criminals after they have been caught and justly held guilty and sentenced? Furthermore, he goes so far as to take the laws in his own hands and says that they should hang rich, but, of course, he is not to rob their liberty and kill more of the kind of law-abiding folks that this state should have.

It is lucky for us that Jack Roberts did not have a rattling gun instead of just an ordinary pumpgun. He tried hard enough to "get" us all, and his failure in this is probably due to the fact that he had no ammunition. But had he killed the five of us, as it undoubtedly was his intention to do, Governor West would still have relieved him, or else be inconsistent in his policy.

It isn't in the spirit of revenge that we want this man hanged, but we want justice and he is anticipated by the laws of the state in relieving those criminals after they have been caught and justly held guilty and sentenced? Furthermore, he goes so far as to take the laws in his own hands and says that they should hang rich, but, of course, he is not to rob their liberty and kill more of the kind of law-abiding folks that this state should have.

Stars and Starmakers

By Leone Cass Baker.

"The biggest hit in his career," is the way one Los Angeles reviewer refers to Donald Bowler's characterization of the Prince of Israel, which the Belasco players put on last week. Edythe Chapman, after a year of rest returned to the footlights for the week, and played the role of the Duchesse de Croucy. Thomas MacLarnie, who was a Baker leading man when Alice Fleming played her first engagement here, is character actor with the Belasco folks. Muriel Starr is playing leads just now.

"Bought and Paid For" is headed in our theatrical direction by Julia Dean in the principal feminine role. Julia is here for the first time as the younger sister with Nance O'Neil in "The Lily."

Paul Armstrong, who has never been on the Pacific Coast, will be with the company producing his "Romance of the Underworld," when it comes to the Heilig before the holidays. Holbrook Gibb who is remembered best as Jim, with Mrs. Fluke in "Salvation Nell," has the big role in Armstrong's play, Catherine Calvert is leading woman.

Speaking of Paul Armstrong, his praise agent, Harry L. Davidson, says this in a letter in the San Francisco Dramatic Review: "Armstrong was a great pal of the late Homer Davenport, and at the latter's death, bought the famous stud of Arabian horses possessed by Davenport. I think he will arrange to exhibit them at the 1915 exposition. The Arabian stud will consist of the best blooded Arabian stallions, sold to Davenport by Sheikh Akmet Haffez, of the Anezeh tribe of Bedouins, also ten mares with foals. This collection of horses is worth \$100,000. One stallion, Euphrates, formerly owned by the Sultan of Turkey, is the picture horse of the world. His valuation cannot be estimated."

Richard Watson Tully's American-Hawaiian drama "The Bird of Paradise" is in rehearsal in New York with Besse Barriscale in the role of Luana, the Hawaiian Princess. Miss Barriscale created the role when the play was first produced in Los Angeles one year ago, where it ran for six weeks. In the New York cast is Guy Bates Post, Lewis Stone, John W. Burton, who is none other than our own John Burton who was character man at the Baker a year ago. Howard Hickman, who is Besse Barriscale's husband (they like alliteration in their stage names don't they?) is having a role in support of his wife. Stage support that is.

"Scandal Alley," a new play on modern social conditions and written by Willard Mack, while he was playing here last winter is being produced for the first time on any stage this week in Salt Lake City. Marjorie Harman has the feminine lead. Richard Vivan and J. Frank Burke are of the company. So is Rosa Roma. Mr. Mack is playing his own hero.

"Pomander Walk," said to be a path to the land of happiness, is coming soon to the Heilig.

Marie Baker, character woman lately at the Baker, is appearing this week in support of Laurette Taylor at the Alcazar in San Francisco. The bill is "Seven Sisters." Miss Baker plays the role of the widow Gyurkovics whose daughters range in age from 6 to 24 years.

After an absence of three years Roselle Knott is going to return to the stage. Also Portland is to be the scene of her debut. She has surrounded herself with an excellent company—her father her manager, Ernest Shuter, has the feminine lead. The bill is "The Awakening of Helena Richie."

Henry Hall, who has been with the Cathrine Countess company this Summer is to play the role of Lloyd Pryor. Mr. Hall cancelled an engagement as John Brock in the role of the artist, William Brady is to play in New York this season. Mayo Methers the fascinating child actress is to be David. Valborg Ahlgren, a Portland girl who has been identified with Pacific Coast productions is to play the role of the gossipy Martha King. Karl Dwyer is stage director and will be Dr. Lavender in the comedy "The Girl and the Artist." Sam and Fred Wilson, lately released from this engagement by the James K. Hackett players at the Columbia in San Francisco, is to play the role of Dr. King. Florence Davenport is Sarah, the housekeeper, and Miss Knott is, of course, Helena. After playing the Heilig directly to the theater in Seattle, then to Tacoma, and then into Canada, playing first at Vancouver. Miss Knott was last in Portland in "When Knighthood was in Flower" at the Marquam.

The Electrical Life

By Dean Collins.

A rube from the city blew out to the farm. To spend the brief season of Summer on the farm, he had a lot of fun. And, won by the country's advantage and charm. Bewailed the misfortunes of city man's station, and how glad he was to be in the country.

"While I must rise early and hop on the trolley. Away to my burdensome job in the city. The farmer man idly loafa round and is jolly. Regarding us boobs from the city who toll the day long, till we well-nigh are dead. While lectrical juice does his farm-work instead."

"He sleeps as he listeth, full late in the morning. Nor will his head about milking the kine. For say little amperes, without need of warnings. Swears to the dairy and do the job fine. Oh little Boy Blue has abandoned his horn— For the cowboys will chase the cows out of the corn."

"The farmer man gives not a thought to the reaping. But he waits till the sun by his big bungalow. And watches the sheaves in the stubble field heaping. Where a few little volts gaily drive to and fro; The haymow is filled full of grub for the colts. And the little boys are cut by the swift little volts."

"No wonder you city men year for the socialist party as there is a lot of weeds in the clover; And sigh to duck out from our struggle and toll; And to get a farm and begin life all over; And sit at our ease in those choicest of spots. Where labor is done by the ohms and the watts."

T. R.'S CULT UNLIKE SOCIALISM.

Companion Brings Expression of Humiliation From Socialist.

PORTLAND, Sept. 4.—(To the Editor.)—The Socialist party has felt the disgrace of having its name linked with the name of President Taft more than the ex-President himself has felt it. There is as much difference between the purposes of the Bull Moose and the Socialist party as there is between Vancouver Barracks and Gibraltar. Bull Mooseism is a product of a day. Conceived in a moment of frenzy, it became a political unit, misfit and discontents. All of the antiquated, fossilized and home-retained political hawks were invited to "get on and ride to salvation."

The Socialist party, far from being a product of a day, is an evolutionary product. It is the result of a long and arduous struggle in the hearts of Abraham Lincoln, John Brown, Eugene Debs, Victor Berger and countless others. Though working under varied conditions, generation after generation has seen the ultimate culmination of what is our modern Socialist ideal.

The Socialist party has had its foundation in the scientific philosophy which governs the world. It is a natural evolution. The Bull Moose party was built on a passing fancy, and its constructive principles will be of minor consideration, but a passing fancy, and its purpose and purpose of Socialism endure the III usage of time and the unkind editorial pen.

Can the Bull Moose party long exist? A simple question, but one that is being asked around here. The Bull Moose party was built on a passing fancy, and its constructive principles will be of minor consideration, but a passing fancy, and its purpose and purpose of Socialism endure the III usage of time and the unkind editorial pen.

CALIFORNIA HELD UNGRATEFUL.

State Said to Owe Much to Efforts of Mr. Taft.

PORTLAND, Sept. 5.—(To the Editor.)—California is the ingrate of this family of states. If there is any state in the Union that owes a debt of gratitude to President Taft it is California. San Francisco is preparing to give a great exposition. There was a long and bitter fight to secure that privilege for the very proper demands of New Orleans. Was it not the influence of the Taft Administration and the representation of the regular Republican party that made it possible for California to win such a signal victory? Let that sink deep, brother and sister Californians.

Optophone to Help the Blind.

Chicago Record-Herald.

A London scientist has devised an instrument which gives the blind a "second sight" through the sense of hearing. This novel invention is called the optophone. By its use blind persons can locate lamps, windows or high lights and "perceive" shadows.

Enraged by a call from his agent, at San Francisco, for another big batch of "electrical cuts," a New York manager wired out to his employee: "I know what you agents do in San Francisco. You go out to the Cliff House and throw cuts at the seals. The one who is the poorest marksman has to buy the others drinks. That's what becomes of our cuts."

Giving Him a Lead. Chicago Record-Herald. "I congratulate you," said the pretty girl. "Why?" asked the young man, who was one of her many admirers. "Father and mother and I took a straw vote last night and you had a clean majority of one."

Benefits of Hot and Cold Water. Baltimore American. "Have you hot and cold water in your new house?" "Yes, sir." "What do you mean?" "When my wife is not pouring cold water on my plans she is keeping me in hot water."