

Mr. Oregonian

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter. Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance.

BY MAIL. Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$10.00. Daily, Sunday included, six months, \$6.00. Daily, Sunday included, three months, \$3.50.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1912.

TRYING TO TAMMANYZE PORTLAND.

Presentation of the local public utilities bill heretofore voted down by the people because of its defects, its extravagance, its limited scope and its provision for the care and sustenance of run-down politicians, is at this time an open affront to the voters and a piece of impudence that deserves a rebuff.

There are provisions in the measure that favor of it. It is an attempt to Tammanyze Portland, to create a political machine and to cut a big melon for the benefit of the chiefs and hangers-on of the political clique that has deprived Portland and other cities of Oregon for eighteen months of the advantages of an honestly conducted and adequately empowered public service commission.

The public service bill that is on the city ballot for consideration at the special election November 2 and numbered 184 Yes, 135 No, is the same bill, with a few minor changes, that the people of Portland voted down at the polls in June, 1911. Some of the most glaringly silly provisions of the original bill have been eliminated, but the revised draft still puts the City of Portland in the position of seeking to direct the Supreme Court in procedure on appeals.

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The local bill creates three new offices paying \$5000 each. It permits the commission to increase the salary of the City Attorney. It authorizes the commission to employ, in addition to the City Attorney, an auditor and a clerk.

Not a single restraining influence on the power of the commission to expend the money is provided. Neither Mayor nor City Council is to have the power to veto or curtail the money-spending orgy that would be provided for the faithful. Even the charter limitation on the tax levy, placed there as a safeguard against municipal extravagance, is so amended as to withdraw the benefit of the proposed commission, for one section of the bill makes it the "duty" of the Council "to include in the annual tax levy or other tax levies for municipal purposes a sufficient sum to defray all expenses and disbursements provided for by the commission."

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WHERE THE PEOPLE RULE.

The sample ballot for the state election of 1912 is a dark yellow broadside, thirty-four inches long and eighteen inches wide, and it therefore contains 612 square inches, or about four and one-half square feet. It is nearly as large as two ordinary newspaper pages, and contains the names of 176 candidates for office and the titles of forty separate measures submitted under the initiative and referendum.

On November 2, three days before the general election, the Portland public will at a special election pass on the new city charter and the various charter amendments. There are two proposed charters and twenty charter amendments. The ballot is no such barn-door affair as the state ballot, but it does carry full weight in state and county elections.

Here, then, is a total of sixty-two measures the electorate must study under the referendum, and 176 candidates whose merits it must consider. The grand total for the inspection and determination of the intelligent voter is therefore 238 separate and distinct items.

Yet there are people who think the tendency of the times is toward the short ballot and simplification of issues. Mr. N. J. Sinnott, Republican candidate for Congress in the Second Oregon District, is likely to be elected. He is a man of force, intelligence and integrity, and besides he has a decided aptitude for public affairs and the requisite understanding as to the best way to get results.

Mr. Sinnott has long been a resident of Eastern Oregon, coming from a prominent family and having a wide knowledge of the needs and conditions of every section of the state. He will be impartial and he will be diligent at Washington. If there is an opportunity, for example, to reclaim the millions lost to the state by their diversion to reclamation projects in other states, it is certain to be seized by Mr. Sinnott. In any event, the people may be sure that he will press hard for more diligent attention by the Reclamation Service to the millions lost to the state.

Mr. Sinnott knows all about public lands and the hardships imposed upon the settler and the homesteader by the Government's hard policy. He will be heard from on that subject. All in all, Mr. Sinnott will be a useful man in Congress. Having now for the first time a Congressman of his own, Eastern Oregon will do well to elect Mr. Sinnott as the first Representative of the Second District.

Little more than half a year ago Senator Bourne wrote a piece about himself. It was for the official primary pamphlet. Therefore he had written a number of pieces about the Oregon system, and this being an interesting topic and as he had some prestige as a United States Senator, his observations found ready publication. The effect of his literary success was disclosed in the piece he wrote for the pamphlet.

He told the people that the people owed him more than he owed them; that they were on trial, not he; that his defeat would be their loss, not his—in effect, that he was a great man when the state could not afford to lose. He chose to stand on his record as a supporter of the principles of Oregon and follows the principles. Casually, and casually only, he mentioned his efforts in behalf of appropriations for Oregon. But that was not to be a cause for his return to the Senate. Dear no. He confided in the Oregon system, and this being an interesting topic and as he had some prestige as a United States Senator, his observations found ready publication.

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of this sort unless there is a dependable market not far away. Indeed, farming cannot prosper in any circumstances unless markets are ample and accessible. The great agricultural question of the day is not so much how to increase the produce of the farms as to sell wisely what is currently raised. When the latter problem is solved the former will become comparatively simple.

Another element in the success of the Littlelanders has been their incomparable climate, which permits crops to grow the year round. This enables them to live on less land than they could elsewhere. In Oregon it would require three or four acres to produce as much as is obtained from one in Southern California, but, making allowance for that difference, there seems to be no good reason why we should not have on our land that the Littleland plan in this state. The experiment ought to be tried.

THE FIASCO AT YERA CRUZ. The Diaz movement in Mexico seems to have died as suddenly as it was born. Unlike the Orozco and Zapata rebellions, which sprang from the masses, this revolt appears to have had its origin among the soldiery, upon whom the name Diaz was expected to work like a magic spell, and among the Cientificos, who hunger for the fat pickings they enjoyed under Diaz' rule.

But the name of Diaz could not work its spell in the absence of the man who for thirty years held sway over Mexico. The soldiers who mutinied to join his kinsman lost heart when cornered by Madero's troops. The expected mutiny in Beltran's army came not, and surrender or death was the only choice.

The death penalty which hangs over the mutinous officers and one-tenth of their troops accords with the bloody code of Latin-American warfare, which sanctions murder of the wounded in battle. The promptness with which Madero decided upon it reveals a stern determination to crush revolt which bodes ill for the followers of Orozco and Zapata. Though they are in a different class from the mutineers and may expect milder treatment in case of capture, the stern measures adopted by Yera Cruz may deter others from joining in the revolt, but may move the men already under arms to more desperate resistance.

Some of the most profitable discussions at the W. C. T. U. convention have touched upon the question of saving the young from vicious habits. Naturally the women who have spoken at the convention look upon the traffic as the source of this evil, as of every other, and they declare plainly that if the saloon could be abolished most bad habits would vanish with it. This may or may not be true. Others who have given much thought to the subject come to a completely different conclusion. As they see it, the saloon, with many other evil outgrowths of civilization, is the fruit of poverty. "Abolish poverty," they assure us, "and everything else that perverts and degrades mankind will go with it." Thus the doctors differ. No doubt they are all honest and in part right, all are right. It will not be denied by any unprejudiced student of social affairs that the saloons are a fruitful cause of poverty and vice; nor will it be denied either that poverty often induces the drink habit, with the result that the man who is afflicted with that evil reacts upon evil and all its various forms strengthen one another.

A person must be very optimistically inclined if he can believe that vice is decreasing in our American cities, or even in the country districts. There are observers who maintain that the saloon is prevalent in the country than in town, and they cite many instances of depravity in rural communities which seem to sustain their view. It is certain that some of the agencies which were formerly supposed to uphold morality among the country population are fast disappearing. We have in mind particularly the country church, which is admitted by all to be decadent, and also activities such as the lyceum, singing school, and so on, which once afforded innocent amusement, but have now been replaced by dancing, which has been deduced from all these facts that in proportion to the population there are as many divorce cases in the country as in town and fully as many girls led astray. Indeed there is some ground to believe that "sexual vice" is even more common in the country districts than in cities. It is a curious and highly significant fact in this connection that the more remote and inaccessible a neighborhood is the more money it spends proportionally for drink, the more colorful by vice is the life its people lead.

It is a serious error to look upon any form of evil as peculiar to cities. Those who include immorality among exclusively municipal diseases simply do not know the facts. Of course depravity gathers in large groups, and population is dense and gayety, when more audaciously, but it is no more destructive on asphalt pavements than in green lanes. If we compare the number of its victims with the whole population. When these incontestable truths are properly appreciated, some interesting considerations are suggested. It is a curious and highly significant fact in this connection that the more remote and inaccessible a neighborhood is the more money it spends proportionally for drink, the more colorful by vice is the life its people lead.

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"Drive out evil with good." Is it not true that the greater number by far of the young people who go wrong begin their wicked courses in seeking merely for amusement? If amusement had been provided which led upward instead of downward, it would have been saved. It ought to be as easy to make pleasure conduct to the church and home as to the house of ill-fame, but the way to do it seems not yet to have been discovered. We may as well admit that so long as the pleasures offered the young are commercialized they will end in destruction. While the end is money, everything will be done which brings in profit, and since experience has proved that vice always pays heavily, it will be the controlling factor until considerations of profit are eliminated. We are constrained to believe that the astounding immorality of the modern world is largely a consequence of the kind of amusement it offers to the young. Until a radical change has been effected in this particular we may lecture and exhort as much as we like, but having no pleasure in youth will have no pleasure of some sort. Life would be unendurable to them without it. The dull gray clouds of toil must have color to brighten them or the race will perish at the fountain-head. The only question is whether the color shall be supplied by the corruption in the morasses of vice or from the sunshine on the fields of innocence.

It is a fair question to ask whether a typical modern city would gain or lose financially by boldly striking the bull by the horns and providing amusement for its young people when the home falls, without expectation of making money from it. If the current expenses of vice and its consequences were taken into account, how dear would the present be to the future? The death penalty which hangs over the mutinous officers and one-tenth of their troops accords with the bloody code of Latin-American warfare, which sanctions murder of the wounded in battle. The promptness with which Madero decided upon it reveals a stern determination to crush revolt which bodes ill for the followers of Orozco and Zapata. Though they are in a different class from the mutineers and may expect milder treatment in case of capture, the stern measures adopted by Yera Cruz may deter others from joining in the revolt, but may move the men already under arms to more desperate resistance.

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LETTER FROM MRS. DUNIWAY. Makes Reply to Leaflet Distributed by Anti-Suffragists. PORTLAND, Oct. 23.—(To the Editor.)—In the Oregonian of October 19, 1912, appeared a letter signed Margaret N. Scott, who is my beloved and honored sister-in-law, in which it was asserted that my deceased and lamented brother, H. W. Scott, had always opposed equal suffrage. I had decided to pay no attention to the letter, but copies thereof in the form of a leaflet having now been used as a campaign document by Mrs. Francis J. Bailey, president of the Oregon Equal Suffrage League, I am compelled to make a reply. My brother's family is unacquainted with the women of Oregon, and want to influence or dictate to the voters of the state. It now seems proper to submit a few facts of our lives with which my brother's family is unacquainted. From 1871 until after the Fall of 1883, as can readily be proven by reference to the files of the Oregonian, H. W. Scott was a pronounced advocate of equal suffrage. He did not for family reasons, burden his columns with it, but he was a sincere friend and continued until the advent of the active prohibition movement, which caused him to become an opponent in the eyes of the women of Oregon. The suffrage amendment had become so popular as to achieve within 1-8 per cent of a majority vote. The Oregonian files contain the following address of equal suffrage, burden his columns with it, but he was a sincere friend and continued until the advent of the active prohibition movement, which caused him to become an opponent in the eyes of the women of Oregon. The suffrage amendment had become so popular as to achieve within 1-8 per cent of a majority vote. The Oregonian files contain the following address of equal suffrage, burden his columns with it, but he was a sincere friend and continued until the advent of the active prohibition movement, which caused him to become an opponent in the eyes of the women of Oregon. 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