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PORTLAND, MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1912.

ROOSEVELT AND THE CONSTITUTION.

That there is good cause for the Republican party to contend in this campaign for upholding the Constitution is made clear by W. J. Bryan, though he does not avow that purpose, in an article in the Commoner discussing Roosevelt's attitude on that subject. After recalling that the President takes an oath to support the Constitution, Bryan quotes as follows from an article by Roosevelt in the Outlook, discussing the Supreme Court's action in inserting the word "unreasonable" in the anti-trust law:

> This statement, by the way, applies also to the question of "usurpation" by any one branch of our government of the rights of another branch. It is contended that in these recent decisions the Supreme Court legislated; so it did; and it had to; because Congress had signally failed to do its duty by legislating. For the Supreme Court to nullify an act of the legislature as unconstitutional, except on the clearest grounds, is usurpation; to interpret such an act in an obviously wrong sense is usurpation; but where the legislative body persistently leaves open a field which it is absolutely imperative, from the public standpoint, to fill, then no possible blame attaches to the official or officials who step in because they have to, and who then do the needed work in the interests of the people. The blame in such cases lies with the body which has been derelict, and not with the body which reluctantly makes good the dereliction.

We need not follow Bryan's line of argument on this quotation, nor need we assume that either he or Roosevelt was correct in stating that the Supreme Court legislated when it read the word "unreasonable" into the law. Roosevelt bluntly admits that the Supreme Court legislated. Then he says:

> It had to, because Congress signally failed to do its duty by legislating.

Roosevelt further says in defense of such judicial legislation:

> Where the legislative body persistently leaves open a field which it is absolutely imperative, from the public standpoint, to fill, then no possible blame attaches to the official or officials who step in because they have to, and who then do the needed work.

Let us see whither this Roosevelt theory leads us. The Supreme Court makes up its mind that a certain law should have been passed by Congress. It thereupon renders decisions on the assumption that such a law actually is law. What then becomes of the constitutional limit on the power of each of the three departments of government? The judicial power surely has invaded the legislative field. Or, again—the President makes up his mind that a certain law should have been passed or repealed, and he assumes that it is so and acts accordingly. Has he not invaded the legislative field? Or if the Supreme Court should order an army to occupy Cuba, would it not invade the executive field?

In his defense of the Supreme Court's decision, Roosevelt not only went farther than the occasion required, but he advanced a theory which would justify any branch of the Government in usurping the functions of any other branch and in making itself the sole judge whether the occasion demanded such usurpation. This is probably the theory on which he suspended the anti-trust law to allow the steel trust to absorb the Tennessee Company. It must be the theory on which he failed to interfere in the jury-fixing in the Oregon land fraud cases. That theory sanctions suspension of the Constitution or some of its provisions whenever the President or Congress or the Supreme Court deems that the public interest demands. The usurper alone is to decide whether public interest demands that he usurp.

What is the Constitution worth under such an interpretation? The Declaration of Independence says that "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." That consent was given by the adoption of the Constitution. But Roosevelt says in effect that a government different from that which the Constitution institutes may be established whenever, in the opinion of one part of the Government, another part is not doing its duty. In this theory, which leads inevitably to despotism when carried into practice by a man of his character, he is sustained by a party which professes to contend for liberty.

It was high time that Taft came forward as the defender of the Constitution.

OREGON A MANUFACTURING STATE.

Oregon has the opportunity to become as great in manufacturing as it already is in agriculture, horticulture, stockraising and dairying. It already has many thousands of men and women, many millions of capital, thus employed, but while the figures are imposing, they are but a beginning. We should regard every shipment of unfinished material out of Oregon as a lost opportunity to finish it in Oregon. We should not be satisfied until the great bulk of the products of this state are ready to put into the hands of the ultimate consumer before they leave the state.

If we set this goal before us and travel steadily toward it, the time will come when Oregon will be as famous for the production of every article made of wood as it now is for its lumber output; for all manufactured products of the orchard and garden as for its raw fruit; for its woolen goods as for its wool; for packed meat and all the many products of the packing-house as for its cattle; and so on to the end of the long chapter of Oregon resources.

If we are to win this goal, we must pull together and never miss an opportunity to get in a good word for Oregon. An organization for this purpose already exists in the Oregon Manufacturers' Association. It will hold a convention on November 21, Home Industry day, at the Land Products Show in Portland, for the purpose of devising further means of helping the development of the state by strengthening the manufacturing interests. But the manufacturers need, and are entitled to, the active support of every loyal citizen of Oregon in their work. The brand "Made in Oregon" should be regarded by Oregonians as a reason for giving preference to the article bearing it. That brand should be on every article manufactured in this state and shipped to other states or abroad, that the excellence of our products may advertise the state and its factories.

HIS PRIVATE ASSEMBLY.

The convention system is the greatest evil of representative government. The nominee of a convention knows to whom he owes his selection and with that knowledge goes a natural desire to repay the favor. Practical politics has established the custom of distributing political obligations by the distribution of Federal appointments, with only a secondary consideration for qualifications and efficiency. Under a direct primary system the candidate does not know to what individuals he owes his nomination and, therefore, his only obligation is that of rendering the best possible service to all the people, making appointments with that sole end in view. The Oregon system of popular government is the best in the world.—Jonathan Bourne, in Saturday Evening Post, Dec. 31, 1910.

A little private assembly or convention, made up largely of men who know exactly what they want, nominated Mr. Bourne for Senator, procured the fictitious call of the people through petitions circulated by busy street hawkers, and is now engaged through its newspaper advertisements in an open effort to purchase popular sentiment with the bait of promised Federal appropriations from the "pork barrel."

Is there any question that Mr. Bourne, who denounces the old convention, and now repudiates the direct primary, "does not know to what individuals he owes his nomination"?

"The Oregon system of popular government is the best in the world." Then why try to destroy it?

PROBLEMS AND CRISIS.

If Taft, or Wilson, or Roosevelt, should be elected President, the special effect on the personal fortunes of any Oregon citizen would not be appreciable. God reigns, and the Government at Washington will live.

If one man or another shall be elected to office in Oregon, the progress and development of state, county and city will not be interrupted.

But there are measures on the ballot, under the initiative, that strike at the structure of society and government. If there shall be a wrong decision, every person in Oregon will feel the result.

Single tax is destructive and its adoption would be disastrous.

The U'Ren constitution is revolutionary. It adopts an entirely new and untried experiment in government.

The bill to abolish capital punishment is important, for its passage would mark a determination by the people to abandon a sound system of exact justice, and to substitute sentiment, leniency and tolerance for crime and criminals.

There are others; but it will do to mention these few. Are the people of Oregon alive to the critical situation that confronts them in these forty measures? Are they ready to solve these problems right?

DISORDER, EXTRAVAGANCE AND ANTI-CIVIL SERVICE OFFERED.

Do the people of Portland realize that a special city election will be held next Saturday? That presented for consideration at that time are two charters and twenty amendments and ordinances? That general apathy and neglect to vote may result in the adoption of undesirable or dangerous measures having behind them a small but compact organization? That radical changes in city government affecting the whole people may be ordered and put into effect by the activity of a small minority unless there is a general turning out at the polls?

The special city election has been set at an inopportune time. The attention of the voters is centered on National and states issues. The advantage of the opportunity offered by the distracted state of the public mind has been seized by visionaries and political job-hunters to attempt to slip through schemes that would not have the slightest prospect of success if submitted at a time when the voters could give them proper study and consideration.

The short charter and the treasury grab masquerading under the title of a public utilities act are the chief danger points in the approaching election. The short charter is an open bid for all long-haired and short-haired cranks and paid agitators to make Portland their camping ground. It would throw open the streets and the parks to the soapbox orator and destroy in large measure the police power of the city.

Last Summer wild-eyed speakers in the Plaza blocks denounced religion, marriage and other sacred institutions and openly derided a passing funeral cortege. Another speaker on the main business street threw out open hints of the use of dynamite in Portland. A few days ago a Catholic priest passing a meeting on Burnside street was jeered and insulted by the speaker and was used as a text for a tirade against religion. It would seem that we had had enough of free spech abuse and that tying the hands of the government in the preservation of order and decency would be the last thing a sane electorate would contemplate.

Not content with planning destruction of peaceful government, the framers of this measure attempt to give the official city heads unlimited power in the expenditure of money. They would revoke the charter limitation on the tax levy.

They would obliterate the civil service provisions of the present charter and give the Mayor sole power to appoint, promote, transfer, reduce or discharge all servants of the city except deputy auditors and elected officials. They would prohibit the enactment of civil service rules by ordinance that would impair the Mayor's power in this particular. The short charter would as effectually destroy civil service in the police department as would the separate charter amendment numbered 127 No, which has raised widespread protest in the city and gained the condemnation of every daily newspaper.

The short charter proposes the partial disfranchisement of every voter by prohibiting him from voting for more than one candidate for Council or Commission. With the addition of a few frills it would put into effect the vote-for-only-one feature of the Presidential primary law, now admitted throughout the state to have been proved the regrettable weakness of an otherwise good law. It would establish proxy voting and give a $10,000 job to some friend of the Mayor, under the title of municipal business manager, but with duties such as the Mayor determined to give him, if any of consequence.

If the people of Portland want such a charter as this enacted, about as effective a way as voting yes is to remain away from the polls, for it has the support of those organizations which want license to create disorder, or desire fat jobs for incompetents, or long for a free hand in grabbing the money of those who pay taxes.

It is the last measure on the city ballot. Vote 143 No.

SETTLING A BIG QUESTION.

If a bill on the ballot (No. 320-321) shall be passed at the election November 5, the University of Oregon and the Oregon Agricultural College will hereafter be under the direction and management of a single board of regents, and a permanent tax levy (six-tenths of one mill) for their maintenance, and for all other expenditures, will be imposed on the taxable property of the state.

Here is a measure of high importance to Oregon. It will bring about harmony in the control of these two great institutions. It will stop legislative logrolling over them. It will provide sufficient funds for both, in the way of a permanent annual endowment, so that each will know exactly how much it will receive, and may plan accordingly. The status of each institution is to be definitely fixed, so that there will be no occasion hereafter for conflict between them as to appropriations, since the college gets four-sevenths and the university three-sevenths of the annual sum realized from the tax. As the state grows the appropriation will increase, and each institution may expand proportionately.

The sum provided by the six-tenths of a mill is almost exactly the same proportionately as the legislative appropriation for a series of years, calculating the appropriations on the basis of a six-tenths mill levy. So that the popular appropriation will not be excessive.

This is an easy and correct solution of a question—several questions—that has vexed the people of Oregon for years. The bill ought by all means to pass.

AN INVITATION TO THE PEOPLE.

Several weeks ago The Oregonian offered the use of its columns to any person who had reached a definite conclusion as to every measure on the state ballot to give therein his views, tell how he attained them and offer a plan by following which any person of ordinary intelligence could reach the same admirable frame of mind.

There was no response.

The Oregonian now makes a new offer. Doubtless many persons have given attention to particular measures. Next Sunday, if the response to the invitation warrants, The Oregonian will publish a symposium, comprising not more than one page in all, of editorials by the people on the initiative and referendum issues. The offer of this space is given with a sincere desire to give the voters the benefit of others' research.

It is necessary in a matter of this kind to lay down certain rules, and these will be found in detail in another column. It may be said here, however, that The Oregonian reserves the right to reject any communication, but gives assurance that The Oregonian's own views will not govern its decision.

ACHIEVING GREATNESS.

An excellent insight into the capacity required to achieve real greatness is afforded by the present plight of young Diaz in Mexico. A few days ago a nation was at his feet. The civilized world hailed him as a maker of history. Now he grovels in abject failure. His name is still on many lips, but merely as a byword and a jest.

One minor defect in his make-up accounts for his fall. He was too credulous. He believed his military opponents would flock to his banner. He permitted them to flock freely into his stronghold. In short, he fell a victim to the first bit of primitive strategy that was set by wily foe.

The experience of Diaz and the other near-great men of Mexico emphasizes the fact that the world's big men were not mere creatures of circumstances, as so often has been charged. Theirs was an inherent greatness, a well-rounded capacity without which any one of them might have slipped up and caused history to be written in much different words.

But reverting to young Diaz. Suppose he had been well balanced and thus duly cautious. When the federal troops sent against him by Madero advanced after giving assurance of friendly intentions, he could have turned them back with the order to show their fealty to Diaz by launching an attack on Mexico City. For a few hours the balance of power was in his hands. Had he been a great man his name would have been written in history beside that of his illustrious uncle. As it is, he will be set down as a consummate ass.

HOW THE RICH WOULD ESCAPE.

If anybody has been deceived by the assertions of single-taxers that the specific graduated tax on large landholdings could not be evaded, he by all means should read the thesis prepared by a university student and published in The Oregonian today. This student has investigated the operations of the graduated tax in New Zealand, and he tells how it has been successfully evaded there.

In New Zealand the sheep landowner subject to the graduated tax divides his holdings by actual sales until they are reduced to a point where the graduated tax does not apply to them. Sales are made to the sheepherders, who pay down a nominal sum and give a mortgage payable on demand for the balance. The original owner then leases the several tracts thus sold, paying the herders a sum sufficient to reimburse them for the first payment and keep up the interest on the mortgage. The herders thus are not out anything, the original owner gtas back his lease money in the form of interest, and he keeps the land without paying the graduated tax. As mortgages are not taxed and as small landholdings escape the graduated tax the result is satisfactory all around except to the state.

The system is beautiful from the standpoint of high finance, and it could be worked as easily in Oregon as in New Zealand if the Fels propaganda succeeds. The Oregon law attempts to prevent transfers of property to natural persons as agents or dummies made with intent to evade the tax. The provision declares that such transfers shall become actual and that the dummy shall become the real owner of the property. But in the application of the New Zealand scheme the conveyance is actual. The person to whom the land is sold is the legal owner of the land. But he has given a mortgage in such terms that the original owner plays safe in the transaction.

Moreover, as The Oregonian has heretofore pointed out, the section of the amendment which seeks to prevent evasions of the graduated tax would affect only those persons who at the time the amendment became effective owned land valued in excess of $10,000 in one county. It would not apply to purchasers of land thereafter. Forfeiture for dividing property among dummies would apply only to the grantor. John Jones, who owned $50,000 worth of land, would be prohibited from dividing it among dummies or fictitious persons on penalty of losing it. But John Smith, in purchasing, might acquire land in the name of friends and escape the tax.

The amendment is so lax in its provisions that in operation it would be actually single tax. All revenues for state and local purposes would be raised by taxing land on a uniform basis. The rich man would pay no more in proportion than the poor man. Land speculators would not be burdened to a greater extent than the man of small means who invested in a home site. The so-called graduated single-tax amendment in effect is a single-tax amendment and its adoption would foreshadow confiscation of land.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP.

Look before you leap is advice given to all young women as they approach the marriageable age. It is an excellent maxim, as the case of a Spokane miss has emphasized within the past few days. She was overwhelmed by the personality of a dashing chap who induced her to elope with him in her mother's touring car. She had known him but a short time. As to his capacity, business prospects, ability to support a wife and other assets she knew nothing beyond his own lurid tales of a wealthy father and possession of plenty.

Now it so happens that the most pleasing personality may hide a rogue and makeshift of the first magnitude. It is also true that a woman's intuition isn't at all infallible, especially when it comes to differentiating between a man and a villain. Therefore the necessity of carefully investigating past, present and probable future of the intended husband.

It is possible, of course, to leap in the dark and strike right side up. But it is none the less dangerous. For the Spokane girl who leaped before looking finds she married a bigamist, ex-convict, forger and penniless adventurer. Complications would have been saved had she looked before jumping into this sad mess.

Two direct heirs to the Russian throne threw their rights overboard in order to marry the women of their choice. They refused to restrain their impulses as ordinary human beings. These facts are published in accounts of serious injury to the one remaining male heir to the throne. If he dies the Russian crown will go to a female member of the house of Romanoff, the remaining male heirs having snapped their fingers at the job. Even royalty is coming to understand that happiness lies in a normal, ordinary life. In due time it may become difficult to find anybody willing to pay the penalties exacted of the man who wears a crown.

One gratifying outcome of the Lawrence strike has been a revival of respect for the American flag which has caused Joseph Shattuck to give the city a flagpole to be built on a granite base, for which one of the Aldermen will give the site. The entire cost will be $5000. Times of turmoil, such as Lawrence has passed through, serve to awaken into flame the loyalty which smolders in many breasts. The flag waving in the city's midst will be a constant rebuke to the greed which provoked the strike and to the mad resentment, impatient of law's remedy for wrong, which caused the riots.

The progress of airship building goes steadily on, regardless of disaster and death. The British have just finished a new one with great improvements capable of carrying ten passengers. It is built like a boat so as to float on water, but the principal innovations are in the double propellers, which can be turned in several directions. Thus the ship moves upward, downward or straight ahead at the will of the steersman. It is expected to prove serviceable in war.

When the recommendation of a President wins the indorsement of Governors of all political complexions, as has Taft's plan of farmers' banks, it must have real merit.

The Czar expresses a keen desire to restore peace in the Balkans. Memories of the Japanese war must have awakened a keen sympathy for Turkey.

Flora Wilson is to sing for Taft at her father's political meetings. It might be well to explain that her father is James, not Woodrow.

The course in vocal music for the mule skinners at Vancouver is proving popular in so far that the animals have not registered a "kick."

Things are livening up, indeed. A street parade of Democrats is announced for tonight. Resurrect the empty dinner pails.

The Colonel says he asks no quarter. However, a few more of those quarter-million contributions might not be distasteful.

Dr. Withycombe's estimate of the Oregon soil product at $127,000,000 is not exaggerated. The year has been fat.

Stephen A. Lowell's advice to the first voter is good. Everything depends on the right start.

If Tillman Reuter can win all those prizes on a dry farm, what could he not do where it rains?

November 2 is set apart as Wilson day. Taft day has been planned for three days later.

Just a little more than eight weeks to Christmas. Are you saving money for the stress?

Of course The Hague delegates will maintain a special wire service to the Balkans.

New York is rather big for martial law, but that is what may come.

ACT TO LOCALIZE LOCAL ISSUES

Adoption of 348 Yes Would Reduce Number of Measures on Future Ballots.

ST. JOHNS, Or., Oct. 26.—(To the Editor.)—Your oft-repeated advice, when in doubt vote No, is sound. With your permission we will try to explain to the voters of the state Nos. 348-349 on the ballot this year and the reason for placing the bill on the ballot. Turn to page 161 of the pamphlet sent out to each registered voter and read:

> A bill for an act providing for the consolidation of contiguous incorporated cities and towns, legalizing consolidations heretofore attempted and providing a method for the creation and organization of new counties. 348, Yes; 349, No.

The reason for putting this bill on the ballot by initiative petition follows: In 1906 the state constitution was amended, taking from the Legislature the authority to grant municipal charters, and conferred this power on the voters of proposed municipalities. The voters could enact their own charter, amend it, but (and right here the trouble came in) could not repeal it. They could create a city and provide it with a charter and amend it at pleasure, but could not repeal it. They could catch the bear, but could not let go.

In 1910 the voters of St. Johns voted to annex the City of St. Johns to the City of Portland, under the provisions of a special act of the Legislature of 1893. Dissatisfied parties, however, brought an action at law to prevent the consolidation of St. Johns and Portland, and the Supreme Court of the state decided that the consolidation could not be made, for the reason that when the majority of the voters of St. Johns voted to annex to Portland, it amounted to a vote to repeal the charter of the City of St. Johns, which the court held they had no authority to do; that there was no way to consolidate two cities except by a vote of the electors of the entire state; that the Legislature had been deprived of the power to repeal a city charter, and the voters of the municipality never had been given the power to repeal their own charter. Consequently an appeal to the voters of the entire state was the only remedy.

Also last year the two cities of Seaside and West Seaside voted by a unanimous vote to consolidate, and the same question came up. Of course, if they consolidated, one of the city charters would have to go out of existence, and by the decision of the Supreme Court this could not be done.

As to the organization of new counties, the voters will remember that there were eight initiated bills on the 1910 ballot for the formation of new counties by vote of the whole state and they were all defeated. Why? Because the majority of the voters of the state had no interest, and necessarily could have none, in the questions. What could be more absurd than to ask or allow the voters of Multnomah County to vote on the question of dividing Lane County? Or the voters of Douglas County to vote on the division of Clackamas County? Or what possible interest can the voters of Pendleton have in the question of the consolidation of St. Johns and Portland? Or the voters of Roseburg in the question of the union of Seaside and West Seaside? Yet under the existing laws they would be called on to vote on these questions.

As to the effect of the enacting of this bill:

First, notice that section 3 of this bill confirms certain attempted consolidations of cities under title 26 of Lord's Oregon laws. This section would only apply to Seaside and West Seaside, which attempted to consolidate last year, but would not confirm the attempt of St. Johns to unite with Portland, that attempt having been made under a special act of the Legislature granting to the City of Portland a charter. The general result of the enactment of this bill will be to confer on municipal corporations (cities and towns) the authority to consolidate by a majority vote of the electors of each city, without having to bother the whole state. Likewise provision is made for the creation of new counties by a majority vote of the people that will have to support the new county after it is organized. If such a bill as this had been in force in 1910 there would have been eight fewer measures on the ballot and two fewer on the ballot this year. This bill is intended to correct a deficiency in the 1906 amendment, and with such questions as consolidation of contiguous cities and the organization of new counties purely local affairs, to be regulated by a majority vote of the resident voters in the cities or district affected. We hope we have made it clear enough so there can be no doubt in this case and feel justified in hoping each voter will vote 348 Yes and thus round out the Oregon principle of home rule.

S. C. COOK.

BOURNE TERMED A BAD LOSER.

Having Been Bested He Should Accept Defeat, Says Voter.

PORTLAND, Oct. 22.—(To the Editor.)—As a property-holder and voter of the city of Portland and state of Oregon, I wish to state my views on the matter of United States Senator. Bourne promoters are prone to instill into the voters' minds that he (Bourne) does not seek the office but was called by the people of Oregon. In the good book I believe we are told that many are called but few chosen. However, I am from Illinois, just across the river from Missouri, and if Mr. Bourne was called by the people of Oregon they will have "to show me."

Let us take him at his own assertion in the Atlantic Monthly of January, 1912. The people admire a good loser. I voted for Mr. Bourne at the primary and I lost. I am a good loser. He ought to be a good loser. I voted for him for the reason that as a regular Republican constituent he might, being familiar with the game, get better legislation for the state of Oregon than could a new man. But I do not think he as an independent can accomplish as much as a new man. I believe in a direct primary law for better politics. Therefore, I see no reason why I should not support Mr. Selling. I might also state that I am not a dyed-in-the wool Republican when it comes to city and county elections, where I know the men. Therefore I can very conscientiously cast my vote for Tom Word, a man whom I believe will give the down and out the same hearing and treatment which he accords the rich, all things being equal.

H. C.

IS IT TOADSTOOL OR MUSHROOM?

Experimenting With Single Tax Like Man's Fatal Food Test.

PORTLAND, Oct., 27.—(To the Editor.)—Suppose A and B own adjoining tracts of land worth $2000 each. A improves his tract with a $20,000 mansion, B his with a $2000 house. In the course of a few years both tracts are put up for sale, will not A's tract command the better price? If so, why should it not be assessed higher if it is worth more?

It may be said B's valuation ought to be increased from the fact of A's improvements. Granting this, is it not "up to the assessor" then, just as much as now, to make the valuations? If so, nothing is gained by single tax in this respect.

With a few amendments rectifying present inequalities and making it obligatory for the assessor to make all valuations equable, without favoritism, and let the public take enough interest to see that this is done, then everyone ought to get a square deal and ought to be satisfied.

Some people remark they would like to see single tax tried. A man once in doubt whether he had a mushroom or a toadstool, ate it. It was a toadstool. The man is dead.

E. U. WILL.

NOT ADAPTED TO ALL COUNTIES

Grange Road Plan Might Work in Hood But Not Jackson.

MEDFORD, Or., Oct. 26.—(To the Editor.)—A. L. Mason, of Hood River, had a letter in The Oregonion October 24, in which he deals with the subject of the pending road bills. He quotes from a private letter which he received from me. Mr. Mason is really the author of what is known as the Grange bill, No. 324 on the ballot, and in considering this bill we should remember that the author lives in Hood River County. Such a measure as he advocates may be practicable in a county that has virtually one leading highway and only one prominent city. But I do not believe that the measure is at all practicable in counties like Linn, Lane, Douglas, Jackson and many of the other larger counties of the state, where are located from 600 to 800 miles of public roads within their borders. Some of these counties like Linn, Jackson and others have from 30 to 50 separate road districts, and hence that many road supervisors. I believe that such a convention as is proposed in the Grange bill would, in these larger counties, end in a great wrangle between the contending interests of the many separate populous communities of the county.

There is another question that it is well to understand now. No small bond issue of say $100,000 to $250,000, for the purpose of building scientific roads, will carry in any one of these large counties. It will not build enough roads, and if the order submitting the question should state where the roads are to be built in the county (and such order must so state or the bond issue will not carry), then I concede that the remaining settlements that are not benefited will vote against the issue and it will fail.

What we desire in the larger counties of the state is an amount of money that will construct permanent and scientific highways entirely through the county, north and south, east and west, as great arteries of transportation. And then an amount additional that will build such roads into every well-settled community of the county, these shorter roads all connecting with the main system.

Speaking from the position of Jackson County alone, we desire to construct a road commencing on the California line and running through the County of Jackson to the Josephine County line, following very nearly the old stage road and passing through the cities of Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point, Gold Hill and Rogue River. This will be a distance of about 66 miles, and will pass through the center of population, and will require not less than $5000 per mile. Then, commencing again on the western border of the county and running eastwardly through Jacksonville, Central Point and Eagle Point in the eastern part of the county. This would be a distance of 30 or 40 miles. Then we would want to build such roads into all of the farming communities of the county. Such roads would be from 10 to 15 miles in length, making about 300 miles of public roads over which the farmers may travel as well in Winter as in Summer. And this can only be done by a bonded indebtedness of $1,500,000.

As practically everybody is getting some benefit the measure would be popular. This we know, because we once voted that amount, but the courts turned us down by saying that the constitutional amendment which permitted bonded indebtedness was not "self-executing," and, therefore, our County Court had no authority to submit such a question. The Jackson County amendment, known as the county home rule amendment, No. 360 "Yes," cures that defect in the present law, and Mr. Mason need not be afraid that the people do not have full control under the provisions of this bill. Of course, the bonds would not all be sold at one and the same time. Perhaps no more than $250,000, or $500,000 at the most, could be used in any one year. But we must procure the entire issue at one election for reasons credited to Senator Miller. The people of these larger counties will not sustain a small bond issue. They all want good roads, and we look upon it that when the people have borrowed the money on these bonds, the money will be paid out to the people, especially those who work with either their hands or their teams; and when it is all paid out it will largely be in the hands of the people, and good roads will be the result. The people ought not to be afraid to trust themselves with this much power.

WILLIAM M. COLVIG.

VOTERS INVITED TO WRITE.

Next Sunday, November 3, The Oregonian plans to publish a symposium of letters from the people discussing initiative and referendum measures. Not more than one page will be devoted thereto. Writers must observe the following rules:

Letters must be not more than 300 words in length.

They must be free from personal attacks or questioning of motive.

Each letter must deal with but one measure or one subject. That is, several tax measures may be discussed in one communication, but not one tax measure and one road measure.

Every letter must be signed by the true name of the writer.

The Oregonian will make its own selection of communications, but will be governed therein by unbiased judgment as to the clearness of the argument.

Letters should be addressed to the editor of The Oregonian and be in this office Thursday night.

Paid propagandists and hired press agents are barred.

Wants to Meet "Hope" and "Janet."

GRESHAM, Or., Oct. 26.—(To the Editor.)—It is not my intention to enter into the discussion about old maids and marriage, though there is still much that might be said, but I am anxious, if possible, to become acquainted with the one signing herself "Hope"; also "Janet," who, I think, started the debate.

Would you be kind enough to print my request so they may, if they care to, send me their address?

I am an unmarried woman, so you will not be acting as a matrimonial agency by favoring me to that extent.

My life has been a very hard one, and I might make a pleasant acquaintance through your help.

CARA U. BALDWIN,
Box 75, R. 3.

Senator Miller Not Giving Advice.

ATHENA, Or., Oct. 25.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian October 23, I noticed a communication from my friend Mr. Mason, of Hood River. In reply I wish to say that I have not authorized any interviews; have not seen any as coming from me; have taken no part in the discussion of the road bills; nor have I asked an individual to vote for or against a single bill, nor do I intend to.

M. A. MILLER.

Plurality Elects.

NANAIMO, B. C., Oct. 25.—(To the Editor.)—With three Presidential candidates running in a given state, none of whom receive a majority of votes cast, how will the vote of that state be cast in the electoral college?

D. ROSSEEL.

It will be cast for the candidate receiving the highest number of votes.

Evolutionary Disadvantages

By Dean Collins.

If Darwin's dope be on the square,
We human beings have evolved
From the arboreal simian;
Thus is our racial history solved.
If Darwin's dope be on the square—
But that is neither here nor there.

Contented, careless if I sprung
From some primordial simian,
I lived a gay contented life
And did my duties one by one,
Contented, careless whence I sprung,
Or on what limbs my forbears swung.

But lo, I found, by Fate's sad freak,
Something that crimped my calm content,
And led me with regret to pine,
And give my worser nature vent,
A "vodville" ape, by Fate's sad freak
Made seven hundred bucks a week.

A chimpanzee, whose earning skill
Dragged in the shining shekels bright
Faster than I could in six months,
Yea, though I worked with all my might;
An ape, beside whose earning skill,
My chances figured almost nil.

At Darwin's line of dope I hoot:
If seven hundred bucks can be
Earned by a monkey, wherefore pray,
Descend unto humanity
At Darwin's line of dope I hoot—
What profits me to evolute?

Still, after everything is said,
Although my little bank roll be
Less than the weekly wage that was
Reward unto that chimpanzee—
Still, after everything is said;
I am alive; the monkey's dead.

Portland, October 25.

ROSS ISLAND OF DOUBTFUL VALUE

Prospective Price Is High and Danger of Flood Damage Is Great.

PORTLAND, Oct. 26.—(To the Editor.)—The proposed buying of Ross Island becomes just a little more interesting in view of the fact that the Mayor now says that he does not know the price, and that the $300,000 which it is proposed that the city shall pay for it is but a figure to work on as a basis in buying the island.

It is pretty morally certain that the board that agrees upon the price is not going to prune down the price any, but, on the other hand, intends to raise it just a trifle over the figure of $300,000.

To me, this whole thing does not look right by any means. One or two push clubs and the Mayor have put on the ballot a proposal to buy a large tract of land at a heavy figure—just how much they do not know—when at the same time but few of the voters know anything at all about this piece of swamp land called Ross Island, as far as its value to the city is concerned.

In the first place, the price is nothing less than the figure that residence property sells for in large quantities. No private concern would be willing to pay one-half of what the city is asked to pay for it. In the minds of all who know anything of this island, it is their claim that it would cost an immense sum to make it useful for the purposes that the city intends to use it for. This we would have to add to the original cost. There is the danger of flood, which a few times in the history of this city has swept over the island and submerged it to a depth of several feet. Let this happen again when the island is improved as they intend to improve it for city purposes, and the improvements would have to be made all over again. That island is too costly a venture for the city to take up, and, in view of the fact that this movement is not known to the voter in general, but has been put on the ballot by a few booster clubs, it will be a wise move to vote it down.

We have just completed a new crematory, and the street-cleaning department of this city is about the best part of the city's machinery, so there is no urgent need for a place to dump the ashes, nor do we need a city jail about three miles from the center of the city.

At any event, this island would be useless unless a bridge was built at the place, and the building of a bridge at this location is not desired by the people of South Portland. It is not the proper place for a bridge at all.

Vote this proposed buying of Ross Island down on election day. Ross Island will last for several elections yet, as no one seems willing to buy it for manufacturing purposes.

O. H. PETERS.

DAN M'ALLEN IS FOR LUTE PEASE

Candidate Is Commended for His Boosting of Home Industries.

PORTLAND, Oct. 27.—(To the Editor.)—Being asked repeatedly by many people who Lute Pease is, Progressive candidate for County Commissioner, I take this means of stating for the benefit of all those interested in the progress of industrial affairs a few words concerning Lute Pease.

My first personal acquaintance with Mr. Pease was in 1895. Everybody living in Portland at that time may remember the demoralized condition of the city. There was no employment in any line of work; everything was at a standstill. This was due to great extent to the inactivity and lack of cooperation of our own people.

I had a conference with Mr. Pittock of The Oregonian and outlined a plan of holding an industrial exposition. Mr. Pittock promised the support of The Oregonian and assigned Lute Pease, cartoonist and writer, to work up the project. Lute Pease, through the columns of The Oregonian, succeeded in creating a sentiment favorable to reviving the annual fair, but on a much larger scale than held in previous years.

Lute Pease suggested, among many other things, that a mass meeting be called, and further that I make a personal appeal to the commercial and financial bodies and get their promises to attend the meeting, and this was the point that gave us the Exposition, for people did not attend meetings in those days unless personally urged to do so. We had a rousing meeting. A committee of 15 was selected to manage the affair. The committee by almost superhuman efforts secured $10,000 as a guarantee fund. The Fair was a great success, the $10,000 guarantee fund was paid back and the surplus, several thousand dollars, was distributed among charitable institutions. This was the first boost given home industries.

After the Exposition Portland took a fresh grip on life, and to this day feels the effect of the work, which was done in part by Lute Pease, and in carrying out the plans conceived in his fertile brain, for he laid the foundation of a great industrial movement, which led eventually to the Lewis and Clark World's Fair.

Readers of the Pacific Monthly may remember Lute Pease as its editor and the wide range of publicity that he gave Portland and the Northwest. Lute Pease, like all newspaper people, especially journalists, has brains. I ask one and all, and in all sincerity, is Lute Pease entitled to recognition and your support for County Commissioner? I think he is.

DAN M'ALLEN.

He Liked the Cartoon.

PORTLAND, Or., Oct. 27.—(To the Editor.)—"Wanted, More Old-Fashioned Mothers." Allow me, in my humble way, to congratulate you on your cartoon as above entitled. This is one of the best things of its kind that I have ever seen. It should be in every home.

FRANK H. PAGE.

Consul at St. Petersburg.

NAHCOTTA, Wash., Oct. 26.—(To the Editor.)—Please state in The Oregonian who is United States Consul at St. Petersburg, Russia.

F. L. SARGANT.

Jacob E. Conner.