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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1913.

CONFERENCE ON RECLAMATION.

By calling together the reclamation officials, the water-users and Congressmen from arid land states, Secretary Lane has adopted a very sensible means of finding out what is the matter with the Reclamation Service. When two sets of people engage in a controversy at long range and start a desultory fire of mutual criticism the difficulty is rather aggravated than removed. Each is apt to misconstrue the motives of the other and to misinterpret its actions. By bringing them together to talk things over face to face, all misunderstandings and causes of friction can be removed, the sources of defects in the service can be discovered and work can be set going smoothly on the basis of mutual cooperation.

At the proposed conferences Mr. Lane can ascertain why the reclamation engineers have so often exceeded their first estimates of cost of various projects and why completion has been so long delayed. He can learn why construction of the West Umatilla project has not begun, though two years have elapsed since President Taft ordered allotment of funds therefor. He can learn why settlers have been allowed to go on unwatered tracts long before water had been turned on; also why completed projects have not been more fully settled. From James J. Hill Mr. Lane can learn why construction by the Government is always more costly and slower than by private corporations.

Having mastered his subject by getting information at first hand from the best sources, Mr. Lane will be able to reconstruct the machinery and set it moving again with better results. He will know what aid to ask from Congress. The man who showed the express companies how they could revise their rates on a lower scale with advantage to themselves can surely straighten out the reclamation tangle.

THE REAL CHARTER ISSUE.

Enough of valid criticism has been directed against the proposed commission charter to show the studious voter that if it be adopted some imperfect changes will be advisable in the near future. It was not to be expected that a perfect instrument could be devised in a city that had had no experience with commission government, but the revealed defects are of such character that the people will not be satisfied with the complete application of the charter as it now reads.

There is little or no doubt as to the opinion of the voters of Portland on the merits of the commission government principle. The change from the old form is desired by the majority, but an alternative, which has heretofore been pointed out, plainly exists. It is approval of the submitted charter with the idea of correcting its defects later or rejection of it with intent to obtain a better one at an early day.

One of the charter criticisms that has not been successfully refuted concerns the guesswork or lottery system of electing the Mayor and Commissioners as embodied in the particular form of preferential voting prescribed. Another is the point made that the honorary title, the greater power and the higher salary given one member of the commission—the Mayor—will tend to center interest in election of that official and permit the remainder of the commission to be the product of indifference and apathy.

There is such a thing as making a fetich of governmental forms. That is what the dogmatists are doing in the present discussion. But the cold fact is that centralization of authority in an individual official, or publicity of his official conduct, will not make a wise man of a dolt. If a charter encourages election of mediocre, inefficient men to control of the city government that charter is materially faulty, regardless of its other merits.

The controversy over the charter has attained an unfortunate status. The arguments have degenerated into exactly what The Oregonian feared and predicted as a result of the botch-work in getting the draft before the voters. The people are asked to vote their prejudices, their emotions, their fears. It is strenuously asserted that the paving interests are opposed to the new charter and that it therefore ought to be adopted. It is just as emphatically asserted that the hand of the paving interests can be discerned in the draft and that therefore the charter should be rejected. If either be logical argument there still remains a question of veracity to be settled.

The public service corporations and the politicians are made to serve the same demagogic purpose. The ego that proved disastrous to Jonathan Bourne has been applied in the case of the women. They are confronted by the dogmatic assertion by the Portland Journal that the whole issue rests with them. They are on trial—not the charter. The men are intelligent enough to choose for themselves between good and evil but the women would better do as the Journal says. Meanwhile these 22,000 new voters who had small incentive to master the charter last Fall are not now given adequate opportunity to study it.

The selection of a political campaign as a time for presenting the charter issue; the failure to get the charter text to a large proportion of the voters; the delay in delivering the draft to those who received it; the confusing form of the original charter pamphlet; the exaggerations of present conditions in the city; the attempt to blame all fault found in the municipal government on the system to the exoneration from blame of all officials; the corporation baiting; the contradictory charges; the invoking of prejudice; the cheap personalities—all these things have been enough to cool the ardor of those who are honestly seeking right reform in city affairs.

There is no virtue whatever in the old-style politics which has characterized the charter discussion and made the honest critic or doubter the object of denunciation. Impugning of motives and raking up of disputes as to who is for it and who against it are in no sense enlightening. In themselves they promote distrust of the thing in whose support they are offered. The charter may carry in spite of the mistakes of its more vociferous friends but if it is defeated they may assume a portion of the blame.

In event of defeat, however, Portland will not have rejected the principle of commission government. It will by no means have been proved that a charter devoted solely to establishing commission government—a charter free from experimental features and not weighted down with miscellaneous amendments that have nothing to do with the commission principle—will not carry if presented in honest form and given a calm, logical discussion.

A DOUBLE-BARRELED ELECTION.

There are some features of the city election which it is well to emphasize. One is that if the commission charter be adopted the nominations of candidates made tomorrow will not be effective. A new start will in that event be necessary. Party endorsement tomorrow will gain no candidate prestige or place on the preferential ballot, unless, as has been suggested, the preferential system is invalid. An election will be held in June and the candidates will be those who shall have filed petitions as provided in the new charter and no others.

On the other hand if the commission charter be defeated the candidates named by each party will be opponents in an election to be held in June under the old charter. So far, therefore, as the candidate issue is concerned, the voter must be guided by his conviction as to who would make the best officials under a continuance of the present municipal system of government. That charter may be abandoned, but the votes for candidates must be cast on the assumption that it will not be.

It is well to remember also that in choosing candidates tomorrow the elections will be purely party affairs. The registered Republican will vote a ballot carrying only the names of Republicans. His choice for the Mayoralty nomination will be limited to three men—Mr. Lombard, Mr. Rushlight and Mr. Maguire. The Republican, of course, may write in the name of some other man, but a registered Republican or a registered Democrat cannot participate in the contest between Mr. Kellaher and Mr. Albee for the Progressive nomination. The writing in of Mr. Albee's name on a Republican ballot will count only as a vote for Mr. Albee for the Republican nomination—a place he is not seeking. It will not be added to his vote for the Progressive nomination nor affect the contest between Mr. Albee and Mr. Kellaher for that honor.

Those who are registered as Socialists and Prohibitionists cannot vote for candidates. Their parties are not represented in the primaries. They are entitled, however, to vote on the charter issue.

CONTINUOUS POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS.

Political campaigns in this country bid fair to become continuous performances. The election was no sooner over than the Progressive party began work on permanent organization with a view to unbroken activity. President Wilson and his lieutenants seem to contemplate like action, judging by the preparations they are already making for co-operation between the Democratic National and Congressional committees in 1914.

This uninterrupted activity is an unavoidable consequence of the general adoption of the direct primary and of the substitution of educational for redfire and torchlight-parade campaigns. Political workers know that the formation of opinions which are expressed by the ballot is a gradual, continuous process and must be influenced by oratory, pamphlets, magazine and newspaper articles published from time to time throughout the interval between elections. The campaign of 1896 was a lesson which politicians will never forget. Only by herculean efforts did the Republicans overcome in a few months the effect on public opinion of a diligent free-silver propaganda which had been prosecuted through several preceding years.

But this continual hammering at the voters seems to have a somewhat opposite effect to that intended. It dulls interest in public affairs on the part of many voters by boring them and takes the edge off their enthusiasm when the campaign really begins and when it is necessary to bring the work of the preceding years to a climax by getting out the vote. This probably explains the great disparity between the fevered political activity of last year and the surprisingly small percentage of qualified voters who went to the primaries. We pay the penalty in apathy for our continuous political activity and our frequent elections.

ITALY AND MONTENEGRO.

Italy would be a pretty sight helping Austria coerce the Montenegrins. Sixty years ago Italy was on her knees to the world begging for help against Austria, who has always been the oppressor of the weak and the robber of the poor. But the Italians are ambitious to repeat the deeds of old Rome and extend their power over the East. They have already obtained a foothold in Roman Africa and they want another on the coast of ancient Illyria, which is now Montenegro and Albania. They fancy that Austria when she is laying the stolen loaf away in the cupboard may cut off a slice for useful Italy.

Perhaps she will. There is said to be honor among thieves, though it is not always perceptible at critical moments. What Austria gets she is in the habit of keeping as long as she can. The Italians imagine that with a foothold on the opposite Adriatic shore they can spread out over the Balkan region and finally mass together the ancient provinces of Rome. Who knows but their modern empire may some day inclose the entire Mediterranean, as the Caesars did?

The story is that Austria has sent out 100,000 men against Montenegro. These are land troops. To support them a fleet also goes with plenty of soldiers on board. Things look bad for little Montenegro. But they looked bad for Greece 2500 years ago, when Persia, the Austria of that time, sent 3,000,000 troops against the little nation. To make matters worse, the Carthaginians were stirred up against the Greek colonies in Sicily, so that there was no help in the world for Athens and Sparta and the country towns in their alliance. The Persians came out of Asia, 3,000,000 strong, with a fleet that almost covered the Aegean Sea. At Thermopylae Leonidas met them with his Spartans and held them back for a day and a night until he and all his men were dead. The Athenians fled to an island near the coast and their fighting men went on board the fleet. "When all else is lost," said the oracle, "Athens shall find safety in her wooden walls." Her ships met the Persians at Salamis and sent them to the bottom of the sea.

So civilization was saved and modern Europe became possible. Perhaps the Almighty has given it to Montenegro to play on a new stage the part of Athens and Sparta. At any rate, she has done a noble deed.

CHANGING THE NAME OF A CHURCH.

Thomas Nelson Page, the well-known writer, has come to the front with a vigorous protest against the project to change the name of the Episcopal Church. This religious body has always been known as "Protestant Episcopal." The innovators wish to call it "The American Catholic Church." In view of the protuberant fact that America has one Catholic Church already, the project is not without what some people would designate derisively as "gall."

The undeniable historic truth is that the established Church of England, of which the American Episcopal denomination is a branch, is one of the most intensely Protestant bodies in the world. The claim that it never broke with the Church of Rome is absurdly contrary to fact. It originated in open rebellion against Rome and for many years its very existence was dependent upon warfare against Rome. Under Edward VI and Elizabeth, the Church of England was not only intensely Protestant in itself, but it led and sustained the Protestant cause in Europe. It was the Protestant Church of England that financed the rebellious Netherlands and afterward supplied a great part of the sinews of war for Gustavus Adolphus in Germany. Without the support of Protestant England, Spain and the Jesuits would have subdued all Europe.

This is the contention which Thomas Nelson Page makes in his article and it is historically sound. Those who pretend that the Episcopal Church is Catholic violate the truth of history in every possible way. Worse still, they make themselves absurd. The real Catholic Church knows how groundless their claims are and will have none of their company. Their unexpressed wish is to sidle up to the Church of Rome and unite with it, as it were, imperceptibly.

Rome does not act in that way. The Episcopal Church can unite with her by making absolute submission and by no other process. Rome does not do things by halves. It is one of the curiosities of human nature that the Episcopal Church, with its noble achievements and long roll of distinguished men, should wish to abandon its historic position in the world and assume a name to which it is not entitled. One would naturally suppose that it would glory in the name under which it won its victories.

THE PUBLIC MEETING AT CHAMPOEG.

G. W. Le Breton's official report of the "Public Meeting at Champoeg on May 2, 1843," is curiously inaccurate in two particulars. It states for one thing, that "the committee made their report, which was read, and a motion made that it be accepted, which was lost." If the motion had been lost, as Le Breton states, there would have been no occasion for a division. Schafer, whose accuracy is unquestioned, merely notices that "the vote was very close and someone called for a division." The official account says that "considerable confusion existing in consequence" of the vote being lost, "it was moved by Mr. Le Breton and seconded by Mr. Gray that the meeting divide preparatory to being counted." If the motion had been definitely lost, as the reporter tells us, such confusion could not have arisen and the result of the division would have been predetermined. Perhaps Schafer was a little careless in saying that "someone," that is some unknown person, made the motion to divide. It may really have been Le Breton with Gray to second him, though his assertion does not prove it, nor would Gray's standing by itself. Neither of these gentlemen enjoys the unquestioning confidence of historians.

The official report goes on to say that when the division took place "a great majority was found in favor of organization." This is known to be inaccurate. There was a half hour "of great confusion," according to Schafer, while the opposing sides were being counted, but when the tally was finally made up it was found that there were fifty-two votes for organization and fifty against it. The "great majority" reduces to two. But this is perhaps a venial sin. We may forgive Le Breton for giving us incorrect figures, but not for omitting all mention of the most dramatic and significant incident of the whole meeting. The truth of the matter is that there would probably have been no division at all, but for Joe Meek. Someone had shouted "divide" when the result of the first vote had been found to be indecisive, but the colonists hesitated. Perhaps their courage wavered at the critical moment. At any rate a leader was needed and Joe Meek showed himself the man of the hour. "Stepping out grandly in front of the crowd of excited men he shouted: 'Who's for a divide? All in favor of the report and the organization follow me.'" This act makes Joe Meek the commanding figure in a great historic scene and it is gross injustice to pass him over without mention. Perhaps in a bald official account like Le Breton's it may have been discreet to leave his name out but it would also have been discreet to aim a little closer at the actual facts.

The committee whose report is mentioned in these proceedings was appointed at a meeting held on the second Monday in March, 1843. The ostensible purpose of this gathering was to protect the colony against wild beasts and resolutions were actually passed offering bounties for killing "wolves, bears, lynxes and panthers," but far more lively in the minds of those who attended was the resolve to organize an American commonwealth. With this end in view they appointed the committee of twelve, whose report was voted upon at Champoeg on May 2 of the same year. The French people who occupied farms north of the Salem colony were not at all friendly to the project. They were old dependents of the Hudson's Bay Company, which had treated them well and established them in comfort on their farms. At least Dr. McLoughlin, the humane and enlightened chief factor, had done so and in the eyes of the simple settlers he stood for the company. Nor were all the Americans eager for the new government. Some of them saw in the proposal danger to the wild liberty they had crossed the plains to enjoy. From the accounts of the situation one must gather that a kind of philosophical anarchism mingled with the ideas of many settlers. They were perfectly willing to let well enough alone and live on, as they had been living, without laws, prisons and courts. It was for reasons like these that the committee's report hardly received a majority on the first vote and might have failed altogether had not Joe Meek's timely enthusiasm turned the scale in its favor. Rough mountaineer as he was, he preferred civilized government to the untrammeled freedom which had hitherto prevailed in the colony.

Wild freedom, as many of the colonists had learned, has its sorrows as well as joys. Even the most primitive community must act together for many purposes, such as road-building and protection against savage beasts and lawless men. Crime had been almost ideally rare in the Willamette settlements, but it had not been unknown. Ewing Young had set up a whisky shop in defiance of the community will, for example, and was only induced to close it by a decided expression of public opinion. It was from Ewing Young's affairs that the final impulse came which moved the colonists decisively toward organization. Roads they might do without, wild beasts were vulnerable to individual guns and traps, but when it came to disposing of intestate property the law must be invoked. In the state of nature when a man dies his goods and land are left without an owner. They belong to the first comer and if two happen to be first trouble is apt to arise. Ewing Young died rather suddenly in the midwinter of 1841, leaving a goodly estate, which became at once a white elephant on the colonists' hands. They could not dispose of it without the help of established law and law did not exist among them.

So a public meeting was called at the time of his funeral to provide for initiating a constitution and laws. This meeting named a committee, which met on February 18 and began the business of government by choosing Ira L. Babcock Supreme Judge of the settlement. From this point organization advanced steadily and perhaps a real constitution might have been adopted in the following October if it had not been for the opposition of Lieutenant Wilkes. That officer had so much to say against the project that it was dropped for the time and only revived when Dr. Elijah White's emigrants made American sentiment strongly predominant.

The Chinese have earned the reputation of being the most ingenious people in the world. If they live up to it with the resources of science at their command they may astonish their competitors. There is a story that one of their engineers in building a railroad came to a river difficult to bridge. He met his problem by building a bridge over the dry land. Then he dug a new channel under it, diverted the river from its old course, filled it up and went on triumphantly with his road. What Westerner would have thought of such a scheme? China and Japan seem to prove that nations need never become really decrepit. When they grow old they may renew their youth and start all over again.

The swindle by which Mr. Shepler, of Dallas, lost his hard-earned $5000 was so old and musty that he ought to have seen through it. He must show the rogues $5000 to convince them that he could be trusted with $10,000 "to provide for their little niece." An old, old game. The outcome is sad for Mr. Shepler, but it may be utilized to point a moral for others. That moral is "handle no large sums of money except through the bank. Have no cash dealings with strangers and the fewer with anybody else the better. As long as you use checks you are comparatively safe."

Nations differ in their attitude toward trusts as much as in language. America abhors these artificial beings and fulminates against them in courts and Congress. Germany, on the other hand, loves them. Her laws encourage trusts as much as ours oppress them. But the German trusts are under strict governmental supervision. The law regulates them at every point, fixes their prices and looks after the welfare of their employes. Radicals and conservatives alike approve of this policy and all observers agree that it has been serviceable to the country.

The Mexican Constitutionalists seem to be trying to find out how much Uncle Sam will endure before intervening. We don't want the job, but if we should undertake it, we shall stay till it's finished.

No, Job, there's no way to stop the jabbering of ill-bred persons at the theater. As you may have heard before, it is recognized as impossible to convert into a silk purse the auditory organs of a porker.

A prohibitive duty on hooks and eyes would be unanimously endorsed by those married male slaves whom a novelist has satirically named "the hookers-up."

If the moral condition of Los Angeles be characteristic of all chemically pure cities, then save us from that kind of purity.

Don't grumble if dinner is late tomorrow. Remember the women will be absorbed in the intricacies of casting their first vote.

John Wanamaker was moved to tears by an itinerant evangelist. Whether he was moved to contribute is not revealed.

Montenegro having grimly refused to be coerced, the powers announce a postponement of the coercion programme.

Man will eat no meat in the next century, says a dietetic expert. It's almost beyond our reach now.

Evidently the country isn't quite saved yet. So Mr. Bryan will stay a little longer at Sacramento.

King having finally landed a job, general relief will be felt, even if it isn't an extra big job.

Portugal is as productive of revolutions as any Central American republic.

The peace delegates are a success as provokers of strife.

Will the best-looking man win?

RECORD OF CHAMPOEG MEETING

Interesting Phases of Public Meeting Revealed by Official Document.

The official record of the "public meeting at Champoeick, on May 2, 1843," is as follows:

"At a public meeting of the inhabitants of the Willamette settlements, held in accordance with the call of the committee, chosen at a former meeting, for the purpose of taking steps to organize themselves into a civil community, and provide themselves with the protection secured by the enforcement of law and order, Dr. I. L. Babcock was chosen chairman, and Messrs. W. H. Gray, LeBreton and Willson secretaries.

"The committee made their report, which was read, and a motion was made that it be accepted, which was lost. Considerable confusion existing in consequence, it was moved by Mr. LeBreton, and seconded by Mr. Gray, that the meeting divide preparatory to being counted—those in favor of the objects of this meeting taking the right, and those of a contrary mind taking the left, which being carried by acclamation, and a great majority being found in favor of organization, the greater part of the dissenters withdrew.

"It was then moved and carried that the report of the committee be taken up and disposed of article by article.

"A motion was made and carried that a Supreme Judge, with probate powers, be chosen to officiate in this community.

"Moved and carried that a clerk of the court, or recorder, be chosen.

"Moved and carried that a Sheriff be chosen.

"Moved and carried that three Magistrates be chosen.

"Moved and carried that three Constables be chosen.

"Moved and carried that a committee of nine persons be chosen, for the purpose of drafting a code of laws, for the government of this community, to be presented to a public meeting to be hereafter called by them, on July 5 next, for their acceptance.

"A motion was made and carried that a treasurer be chosen.

"Moved and carried that a major and three captains be chosen.

"Moved and carried that we now proceed to choose the persons to fill the various offices by ballot.

"A. E. Wilson was chosen to act as Supreme Judge, with probate powers.

"G. W. LeBreton was chosen to act as clerk of court, or Recorder.

"J. L. Meek was chosen to fill the office of Sheriff.

"W. H. Willson was chosen Treasurer.

"Moved and carried that the remainder of the officers be chosen by hand ballot, and nominations from the floor.

"Messrs. Hill, Shortess, Newell, Beers, Hubbard, Gray, O'Neil, Moore and Doughty were chosen to act as the legislative committee.

"Messrs. Burns, Judson and A. T. Smith were chosen to act as Magistrates.

"Messrs. Ebbert, Bridges and Lewis were chosen to act as Constables.

"Mr. John Howard was chosen Major.

"Messrs. William McCarty, C. McRoy and S. Smith, were chosen captains.

"Moved and carried, that the legislative committee make their report on July 5 next, at Champoeick.

"Moved and carried, that the services of the legislative committee be paid for, at $1.25 per day, and that that money be raised by subscription.

"Moved and carried, that the major and captains be instructed to enlist men to form companies of mounted riflemen.

"Moved and carried, that an additional magistrate and constable be chosen.

"Mr. Campo was chosen as an additional magistrate.

"Mr. Matthieu was chosen as an additional Constable.

"Moved and carried, that the legislative committee shall not sit over six days.

"The meeting was then adjourned.

"The question having arisen, with regard to what time the newly appointed officers shall commence their duties, the meeting was again called to order, when it was moved and carried, that the old officers remain in office until the laws are made and accepted, or until the next public meeting. Attest: G. W. LE BRETON."

NEW CITY CHARTER IS FAVORED

Inquiry Convinces Rev. Mr. Eliot That It Is a Good Measure.

PORTLAND, May 1.—(To the Editor.)—A clear and vital issue is before the voters of the city May 8, and I can only regret that so much has been done by those who are capable of better things to stimulate confusion, to foster doubt and to rally the forces of laziness and stupidity.

"When in doubt, vote no," is good counsel in less important questions, but it may become a slovenly pretext in matters of real importance.

1. Is the proposed new charter of the commission form, or is it not? I stake any reputation I may have for intelligence and veracity upon the positive assertion that no first-class authority on municipal affairs anywhere in the United States would deny that the proposed new charter is a commission charter. Whether or not it is a good charter, it is undoubtedly a commission charter.

2. Is it in fact a good charter? I believe most earnestly that it is; and I have come to this conclusion after a most careful and, as I believe, disinterested and impartial inquiry.

In the city government of 30 years ago it was impossible to fix responsibility, and the legitimate powers of the officials were circumscribed. In our present charter, the officials have power, but the responsibility is easily shifted. Under the proposed new charter a comparatively small group of officials have both responsibility and power, subject to popular check, and this is as it ought to be. And while it is doubtless a mistake for the friends of the proposed new charter to expect too much from its adoption, I for one do not doubt that the results of the proposed change will be favorable, immediately and in the long run.

W. G. ELIOT, JR.

SLOT MACHINES USED 125 B. C.

One Dispensed Holy Water in a Temple at Alexandria, Egypt.

Henry E. Dudeney in Strand Magazine.

Hero of Alexandria (about 125 B. C.) was an ingenious inventor of mechanical toys. In his works, "Pneumatics" and "Automata," he describes some hundred small machines that he probably never carried beyond the "model" stage. These included a steam engine, which is said to be of the form now known as Avery's patent, and a double forcing pump to be used as a fire engine.

Hero was also the inventor of the automatic delivery, or penny-in-the-slot machine. He describes "a sacrificial vessel which flows only when money is introduced." When the coin is dropped through the slit it falls on one end of a balanced horizontal lever, which, being depressed, opens a valve suspended from a chain at the other end, and the water begins to flow. When the lever has been depressed to a certain angle the coin falls off, and the valve, being weighted, returns to its seat and cuts off the supply. The mechanism is practically identical with the present system, and the ancient invention is, if anything, more ingeniously simple than the modern.

A Business Tip for Him.

Judge.

"Papa wanted to know whether you were a good business man," she confided.

"Have you any idea why he asked?" inquired the young man, who had been calling for a long time.

"I guess it was because you never talk business."

CURTAIL RIGHTS OF OUR STATES

Best Interests of Country Demand Assertion of National Authority.

PORTLAND, April 24.—(To the Editor.)—The pending difficulty about the anti-Japanese legislation in California demonstrates that we have not yet settled all of the difficult problems that arise out of our dual system of government. The situation presents an anomaly whichever way you look at it. The state, California, claims the right to legislate with regard to its local affairs without any interference on the part of the National Government. This seems perfectly reasonable and in accordance with our cherished theory of local self-government.

The National Government claims (although pretending not to at times) that since it is charged with the conduct of the foreign relations and the responsibility of a war in case one should be brought about, the state has no right to do any act that will involve the Nation in war. That is, that the National Government should have the power to prevent any such state action.

The National Constitution provides (Article VI.):

This Constitution and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

If the power of the National Government to interfere is to be found anywhere, it is under this treaty-making power.

But let us see the difficulties which arise from either construction. If we concede the power of the state to do whatever it likes along the lines of local legislation without the right of any interference on the part of the National Government, then any state can take action that might plunge this country into war, and the burden of the war will have to be born by the whole people, .99 of whom, perhaps, had no part in bringing about the war, and may have utterly disapproved of the action of the state which brought it about. It is easy to see that this situation may become intolerable.

On the other hand, suppose we concede the right of the National Government to interfere, in the present case for instance, and to say to California that she shall not enact anti-Japanese Legislation because the Japanese have treaty rights which prevent it and which the National Government must maintain. It is conceded by everybody that the state might, as pertains to its own citizens, enact any legislation that it chose with reference to the ownership of lands or the classification of its schools. Hence, it follows that if we recognize the right of the Government to interfere with such legislation in favor of the Japanese under the treaty making power of the Constitution, then the Government can interfere and it is its duty to do so in favor of a foreigner when it has no right to interfere for a citizen of the state in question. A foreigner may complain and get relief as against a law when a citizen of the state could not successfully object to the same law anywhere. The treaty making power of the Constitution, therefore, gives the foreigner greater rights than the Constitution gives to the citizen of the United States, and still the treaty making power arises solely under and by virtue of the Constitution. This looks like a case of the stream rising higher than its source. If this is correct, it is very curious, is it not?

How are we to reconcile these conflicting theories? It is easy to prophesy, but the prophecy is only guess after all. The probabilities are that the question of power will not be decided for a long time, but will be left as an open question. We will temporize with it and conciliate conflicting interests and avoid it as long as possible. The chances are that when the next treaty is negotiated with a foreign country there will be a strong effort on the port of the Senate to insist upon a clause reserving to the states the right to legislate in local matters. But no self-respecting foreign nation would enter into a treaty of that kind. We would not do it. If the people of Barcelona in Spain, or of Yorkshire in England, should trespass upon the rights of the American people and the government of Spain or of England should undertake to put us off by saying that "we can't control these people," we would not listen to it for a minute. The only people that we would recognize in the matter would be the National Government of the country involved.

So it seems to the writer that when the time does come, as it must and probably will, that this question cannot be longer evaded, we will be compelled to take the theory of National sovereignty by the stern mandate of necessity.

S. B. HUSTON.

PROPOSED CHARTER CONDEMNED

It Is Autocratic and Despotic in Form, Says W. H. Odell.

PORTLAND, April 30.—(To the Editor.)—After a somewhat careful study of the proposed charter for the City of Portland to be voted on Saturday I am forced to the conclusion that it is autocratic and despotic in form, utterly at variance with the principles of a Republican form of government, and potent for personal ambition and graft.

The draft submitted is not only a charter, but a code of enactments or laws as well, a combination more elaborate and intermixed than the Constitution of the United States or the Magna Charta of England. In my humble judgment the charter should be limited to the establishment of a form of government consisting of executive, legislative and judicial departments, each with separate and independent functions, yet co-operative in workable parts. The Mayor should not be a member of the legislative department except in an advisory way with a veto power subject to a three-fourths majority vote of the Council. He should have the appointing of all the administrative officers, subject to approval by advice and consent of a three-fourths vote of the Council and should be held responsible for a strict and impartial enforcement of all ordinances or laws of the city.

The legislative department should consist of a given number of Councilmen or Aldermen elected from the different wards of the city with no powers or duties other than legislative except as advisors in the matter of appointment to office by the Mayor. The meetings of the Council should be held upon stated occasions, limited as to time, except on emergency calls by the Mayor. All meetings should be open to the public and all proceedings matters of record, with executive meetings only for private consideration of appointments, but all votes of approval of appointments or legislative measures should be open and of record.

The judicial department should consist of a municipal judge or judges for the adjudication of legal disputes or criminal charges arising under the laws of the city government.

The charter therefore should be limited to the establishment of the several departments of the city government, fixing their salaries, defining their functions and limiting their powers, leaving the laws and ordinances subject to exactment, amendments or repeal to the legislative department as the needs and emergencies may require.

The administrative department, to be effective, should be concentrated and personally responsible, while the legislative should be representative of the different sections of the city and in touch with the consensus of public opinions and needs of the city in all of its municipal obligations.

The foregoing is but a very brief outline of the proper functions of a city charter under the American system of government.

W. H. ODELL.

Twenty-five Years Ago

A Senatorial hornet—Ingalls pitilessly dissects the war record of Voorhees.

Pendleton, Or., May 1.—The Henrietta flour mills at Echo burned yesterday morning. The mill was built by J. H. Koontz in 1886.

Pendleton, May 1.—Today Governor Pennoyer addressed quite a large audience at this place.

Multnomah County Democratic legislative ticket: State Senators, J. H. Steffen, Thomas A. Davis, O. P. Lent, Preston C. Smith; Representatives, Cass H. Humphrey, John Montag, William A. Daly, Charles T. Smith, Thomas N. Strong, J. D. Meyer, Peter Wagner, E. A. King, E. S. Edwards.

The annual meeting of the Ladies' Relief Society was held yesterday in the lecture-room of the First Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Burrell, vice-president, in the chair. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mrs. M. H. Holbrook; vice-president, Mrs. H. F. Suksdorf; secretary, Mrs. Cleveland Rockwell; assistant secretary, Mrs. F. Allyne Beck; treasurer, Mrs. Theo. Wygant.

Hon. M. Wilkins, of Lane County, president of the Oregon Pioneer Association, came down from Eugene City yesterday.

The resolutions passed by the Democratic brethren censuring Collector of Customs Abraham and Postmaster Roby for retaining Republicans in their employ have got there as far as Mr. Abraham is concerned, for yesterday Mr. W. G. Ott, as successor of M. J. McMahon, assumed his duties as clerk in the Custom-house and F. A. Notz as day inspector in place of A. W. Church.

Charles W. Frush, ex-deputy United States Marshall, has just returned from a three-months' trip to the East.

Superintendent Whiting, of the Portland Mechanics' Fair, says that quite a number of applications have been received for space.

The Rev. Mr. Costello, of Green Bay, Wis., arrived in Portland this week to take charge of Trinity Church during the temporary absence of the Rev. Mr. Foote.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of May 2, 1863.

The First Union League in Oregon—Forest Grove, April 28.—A meeting to aid the Sanitary Commission and to form a Union League was held last evening in the Congregational Church, and Rev. E. Walker was appointed chairman and E. A. Tanner clerk. Dr. Wilson Bowlby was appointed to solicit subscriptions.

The grand jury at Salt Lake has indicted the Governor, Stephen S. Harding, as a nuisance, "refusing his assent to wholesome and needed legislation, treating nearly all the legislative acts with contumely and turning loose upon the community a large number of convicted criminals."

Fortress Monroe, April 28.—A flag of truce boat has arrived from City Point. Richmond papers of today contain telegraphic information from Port Hudson of the loss by the Rebels of the steamers Queen of the West and Diana.

Chicago, April 24.—A Vicksburg letter of the 17th says on the subject of the running of the batteries by eight gunboats, as each rounded the point within easy range of the rebel batteries they opened fire with bow and quarter guns, throwing percussion shells. Coming into close quarters, they fired broadsides of shrapnel and grape. The rebel guns ared a mile in length and every battery was fully manned and rapidly served. The whole, mingled with the musketry fire, was sublime. There were over 200 guns of the heaviest caliber worked to the utmost capacity for over two hours. General Grant was in the Vonkhule, near a point above General Sherman.

Mr. J. W. P. Huntington, superintendent of Indian affairs for this state, and Mr. Benjamin Simpson, Indian agent, advertise for proposals for furnishing goods of all descriptions for the Alsea and Siletz reservations.

Tonight is the last night of the season in the engagement of the brilliant American actress, Miss Edith Mitchell.

Our Crack Naval Gunners

The observations of an Oregonian correspondent at fleet maneuvers are set down in a page of great interest in The Sunday Oregonian. He gives you an insight into the efficiency of our Navy and the men behind the big guns that form the first line of National defense. Illustrated in colors.

Our Market System—What is wrong with it? asks an eminent authority who proceeds with a keen analysis of the whole problem.

Wilson a Puzzle—An intimate study at close range of the new President of the United States, who is proving a puzzle to the politicians.

The Ideal Lover—What is his age? asks Laura Jean Libbey, who suggests that past 40 is the very best age.

Women Civil Engineers—Why certainly women can make good in this trying field. A Chicago woman is making the biggest kind of success at it.

Theodore Roosevelt—Do not miss this installment of his "Chapters of a Possible Autobiography." Important political revelations are forthcoming anon.

Stolen From Coxey—Some of the modern political thunder is made of his ideas of twenty years ago, says "General" Coxey in an interesting interview.

Revelations of Lisst's Diary—This wonderful little book is owned by a Portland woman. It reveals many interesting and intimate phases of the master's life.

An Array of Other Features.

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