

The Oregonian

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class matter. Subscription prices: In Advance: (BY MAIL) Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$3.00...

PORTLAND, MONDAY, MAY 5, 1913.

THE FIRST STEP ONLY.

A few more than 23 per cent of the voters of Portland cast ballots in favor of the commission charter Saturday.

In adopting the charter Portland has provided for the election of authority in a Mayor and four Commissioners.

It is safe to assert that honest, capable officials under the commission charter adopted in Portland will give the people a better and more economical administration than could honest, capable officials under the present system.

Whether the preferential election system provided in the new charter will aid the choosing of honest and capable officials will depend partly upon the sincerity of the voters in registering second and third choices.

It is possible, however, that in the earlier experience with the preferential system many voters will not recognize the effectiveness of their second and third choices.

Direct election of Senators will force many old-time leaders in the Senate, whose re-election has hitherto been about a foregone conclusion.

The Japanese land tenure controversy in California has excited our interest.

ful purpose to the country at large. It has practically demonstrated the impracticability of the state rights doctrine and the danger of international complications to which its extreme application exposes us.

AN UNHOLY BOND IS CUT.

Almost every investigation of the affairs of a great corporation prior to the passage of laws forbidding corporate donations to campaign funds and requiring publicity of campaign subscriptions has helped to reveal the extent to which parties were financed by organized capital.

Cessation of such relations between corporations and parties has opened a new era in American politics. So long as parties were indebted to corporations for the sines of war, nothing short of almost unanimous public sentiment could ever bring the Congress to the aid of the people.

The bond between politics and business has been cut by the prohibition of corporation subscriptions and we are beginning to get real government. That reform is greater than has been effected even by the secret ballot or the direct primary.

OUR WOMEN PIONEERS. Many may have noticed that at the Champeo meeting last week women took no part in the speechmaking.

Mr. Charles B. Moores, in his address, disclaimed any credit as a pioneer. He was born in Missouri and his father was thrown into the mill end of a wagon, a real impediment to his parents, and thus brought to Oregon.

HUMAN QUINTESSENCE. Sigurd Ibsen's book, "Human Quintessence," has now been translated into English and will soon be in all the libraries.

NEW-STYLE SENATORS. Direct election of Senators will force many old-time leaders in the Senate, whose re-election has hitherto been about a foregone conclusion.

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The process of evolution depends on the survival of the fit, but what is fitness? It is adaptation to surroundings and nothing more.

So we must abandon once for all the fancy that there is the slightest sympathy between man and nature or that anything in the universe was created to serve the human race.

THE STRUGGLE WITH NATURE which has been the history of our civilization with all its moral virtues and pity for suffering, Sigurd Ibsen goes on to teach us, man has had no help from without.

THE DEMOCRACY makes great professions of having constructed a tariff which wipes out the hated tariff duties, gets the tariff down to a revenue basis and relieves the consumer by putting the necessities of life on the free list.

THE MUNICIPAL MARKET at Los Angeles cut 50 per cent. As the producer gets about as much—or as little—either way, all must be satisfied, especially the retailer, who is said to make the big profit on everything he handles.

THE MARRIAGE OF Princess Idira, only daughter of the Gaekwar of Baroda, and Prince Jitendra, son of the Maharajah of Cooh Behar, to take place today, has been broken off.

THE POSSIBILITY of opera at popular prices is mainly a question of building theaters large enough to hold a vast audience and with means of conveying sound to their remotest parts.

BY DESTROYING the food supply the Mexicans may compel themselves to stop fighting and go to work.

THE MORE often Barbur runs the faster he goes. Like Cheahls of long ago, Barbur is Oregon raised.

THE LAST Legislature created several hundred good, bad and indifferent laws. One of them provided for a special election to be held this Fall.

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SPECIAL ELECTION NOT LEGAL!

Promoters of Referendum Plan to Test Matter in Courts. HOOD RIVER, Or., May 2.—(To the Editor)—There is being made a big howl by many newspapers throughout the state against those who are signing any referendum petitions.

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JAPANESE ARE A REAL MENACE

Civilization and Habits of Life Are in Conflict With Ours. M'ANNVILLE, Or., May 2.—(To the Editor)—I have been reading with interest the comments, editorial and otherwise, in The Oregonian and note they are all from outside Oregon.

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The Common Aim

By Dean Collins. Breathes there a man in all the town Who does not feel he can hold down With credit, honor and precision, Every place upon the new commission. Which was made possible at last.

Breathes there a man, I ask you, Who does not feel, clear, strong and true, The People's call: "Fill your position And seek a job on that Commission?"

Breathes there a man, I still repeat, Who thro' the grass grow'neath his feet, And dallies, while some other slob Files a petition for a job?

"If so, where breathes such man, and why?" And from my inner soul I hear "There may breathe some such man," "Is true, In Portland—but they're doggone few."

Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of May 5, 1888. Commencing Monday, the Multnomah Street Railway Company and the Portland Street Railway Company will again exchange tickets.

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian of May 5, 1863. The whole country has been surprised by the proof recently brought to light of a conspiracy on the part of certain Democratic politicians, calling themselves conservatives, to secure foreign intervention and such action on the part of the National Government to compel the National Government to consent to negotiation with the rebels.

What is Manhood Suffrage? MEDFORD, Or., May 1.—(To the Editor)—Kindly explain through the columns of The Oregonian the meaning of the word "manhood suffrage," as demanded by the Belgian strikers.

How to Aid Growth of Race State Maternity Hospitals for Women Suggested by Writer. WHITCOMB, Wash., May 2.—(To the Editor)—I, a woman, in bearing and rearing children, am fulfilling their highest destiny and doing a life work for the state in providing citizens, why is it, when they are disabled in part, that body for their duty the state does not pay for their surgical operations, or at least provide a maternity hospital, where the danger of death and disability would be lessened, and thereby remove some of the terrible burden of surgeons and doctors' bills from the struggling heads of families, who are all too often struggling to keep the margin of citizens for the state?

Stolen Property. McCORMICK, Wash., May 2.—(To the Editor)—Suppose that A should steal property, and be convicted of the crime by trial, or confess, and be sentenced and serve the full term in the penitentiary, and then the same man should locate the money or property which he stole. When he is freed does the money or property belong to A?