

The Oregonian

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Portland, Thursday, May 8, 1913.

LESSONS IN PREFERENTIAL VOTING.

To those who do not understand it and also to those who are seeking a means of gaining some advantage by manipulation, a review of the provisions of the preferential system established in Portland by the new charter...

Owing to the large number of names on the ballot, casting of first, second and third choice votes will be permitted in electing candidates to each office. For the office of Mayor each voter may vote for three men, but it is not compulsory that he do so.

There are four Commissioners to elect, and each voter will be given three choices, which therefore will call for crosses before the names of twelve men.

If the voter will bear in mind that all he has to do is to vote for the best man next for the second best man and third for the third best man he will have no difficulty with his ballot and the system will likely produce capable officials if there be any in the list of candidates.

The honest-minded voter, the man who intends to register each choice in accordance with his convictions, need not concern himself materially about the other provisions of the charter relative to preferential voting.

Several schemes have been devised for gaining some advantage from the new system for particular candidates. Some have an idea that first place on the ballot will draw the votes of those who vote in the dark.

It is unfortunately true that first place is an advantage on the old-style ballot, but it has been demonstrated in other localities that the preferential system first place is better than other places only for first-choice votes.

In order that the system may register a majority choice for each office, the voter must remember these things: Failure to vote other than first choice is partial self-disfranchisement and may result in leaving election of candidates almost wholly to others.

"Single-shotting" of first-choice votes on Commissioner—that is, voting for but one Commissioner when there are four to be elected—will reduce the legal majority and may thereby favor other candidates.

Failure to vote first choice, but registering of second and third choice votes, will have a similar effect. It will reduce the legal majority and give votes from others a distinct advantage.

It is possible that one or more office-seekers will endeavor to induce their followers to vote only first choice. The other voters have it in their power to rebuke such an effort.

One of our contemporaries makes art responsible for the current fashions in women's wear. If the charge is true we pity art when it gets its desert, and it is probably true.

MERGER ALREADY UNDER WAY.

By one of the Progressive leaders are lowering the standards under which they battled at Amageddon for the Lord and are sending white flags to the leaders of the "hosts of evil."

Mr. Hanna's overtures come rather late. They come after the local elections in New York county, Chicago and St. Louis and the state election in Michigan have been shown the merger to be well under way.

We beg to disagree with Mr. Hanna as to the incompetency of the party in power. So far it has shown surprising competence in putting through its policy of protection.

A Committee of One Hundred has been named to consider the present political crisis and to devise a plan for the election in June of a fit Mayor and four fit Commissioners.

The Treaty of Ghent which terminated the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain was signed December 24, 1814.

After all there is no book like the Bible. If we study it attentively we should find it full of political, as well as religious instruction.

There is some prospect that lace making may become a profitable industry for American women in their leisure hours.

Colonel Goethals may have to shovel away a few mountains in order to complete the Panama Canal.

San Franciscans fear a water famine during the Exposition, and since other drinks are to be curtailed at the show, their fears may be well founded.

When politicians in Washington cities find business dull they start a recall petition. Just to live things up.

What is the matter with the colored voters of Portland? Where is their candidate for Commissioner?

When the St. Louis comes we shall be ready to reach out for a dreadnought to visit Portland.

What does the wife of a would-be Commissioner think of it? Let us hear from the women.

Many candidates, it is to be feared, have learned politics in a correspondence school.

Lincoln would be pleased to know that a Southerner will be orator at Gettysburg.

This weather is matches, the ideal Spring day known only to Western Oregon.

THE MOST USEFUL AMERICAN.

The Independent has been taking a poll of its readers to find out who is the "most useful American." Candidates for the distinction were fairly numerous, though not so abundant as prospective Commissioners in Portland.

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AS AMERICA WAS CONCERNED, WAS AN ENIGMA TO GERMAN IMMIGRATION.

It was not until 1855 that the United States began to feel the attractive influence of European politics again. During this interval our people had England with a lively hatred.

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STARS AND STARMAKERS.

A fine new company of stock players is to take the place of the Del Lawrence organization in Vancouver, B. C. None other than William Bernard, now director of the Baker Stock, is to direct the company.

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RIGHT START FOR NEW CHARTER.

Portland, May 7.—(To the Editor.)—We have smashed the political boss and the corrupt boss and we have entirely discredited the instrumentalities of the nominating committee, the convention and the political assembly, and we are free, free, free.

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Ballad of a Fillet.

He heard the sovereign people's call, Or so he said, and with ambition To serve the people, one and all, He flew to file for the Commission.

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