

The Oregonian

Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter. Entered as Second-Class Matter, October 3, 1881. Postage paid at Portland, Oregon, June 20, 1914.

Subscription Rates—In Advance: (BY MAIL) Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$12.00; Daily, Sunday included, three months, \$4.00; Daily, Sunday included, one month, \$1.50; Daily, without Sunday, one year, \$9.00; Daily, without Sunday, three months, \$3.00; Daily, without Sunday, one month, \$1.20; Weekly, one year, \$3.00; Weekly, one year, \$3.00; Sunday and Weekly, one year, \$3.00.

Portland, Saturday, June 20, 1914.

STOP THE HOLES.

The State of Washington seems to have demonstrated that the political convention can come back—in new and chastened form. That at Tacoma, Thursday, drew delegates from all parts of the state, and 600 representatives of the Republican party were seated with proper credentials.

The Washington convention met in accordance with a principle that most of the Eastern states which discuss or adopt the direct primary seek to maintain. It was a council of party representatives, not to name candidates, but to draft a platform.

With that idea we are in hearty accord. Oregon has long been a state that holds the direct primary in its National issues and the bearing state party victory may have on their success at the National capital.

We have seen notable examples of hungry office-seekers selecting their party affiliations with thought solely to the advantage such allegiance may give in the general election.

In Washington it is suggested that an individual's entrance into the primary as a candidate ought to be conditioned on his pledging himself to endorse and support, if elected, the platform and programme of his party.

It would perhaps not be meet to bind him to support all his candidates, but allegiance to its policies, it seems to me, is a proper qualification.

So long as the state is paying to maintain party organization it is but proper that it demand that a political organization be something more than a mere vehicle in which to slide into office.

It is apparent that the Non-Partisan League's plan for the appointment of a commission to draft a tax code and expend \$2500 of public funds for the purpose has not been carefully considered.

It is true that one amendment submitted modified the uniform rule of taxation, and if this amendment be adopted next Fall, the powers of the Legislature to regulate taxation will be enlarged.

It proposes a duplication of work already undertaken, or at least imposed upon a paid body, and authorizes an appropriation for the new effort.

One of the things expected of the next Legislature is the elimination of cross-purposes activities and duplications. If the Non-Partisan League contemplates abolishment of the present State Tax Commission and the substitution of an unpaid board authorized to spend only a small sum for clerk hire, it is a diminution of funds.

The optimism of Secretary Redfield is incurable. Perhaps it is as well that someone should be optimistic. Miscegenation is dead and Mark Tapley is nearly forgotten.

In April, 1913, we exported \$53,000,000 more than we imported; and in April, 1914, we imported \$10,000,000 more than we exported.

Secretary Redfield discovers a large round hole, and proudly exhibits it as a doughnut. He has as much imagination as Barnaby Rudge. He needs it.

No lawyer was better known through a long period in Oregon than the late Richard Williams. He had a most acute legal mind, a sound idea of courtroom strategy, and a complete grasp of facts and their sequence and relationship in any given case.

Those whose memories cling fondly to the days when Senators were elected to serve their own interests or those of the men who put up the sack to elect them are prone to bewail the decadence of the upper house of Congress in these days.

It is only a day or two since the Administration announced that "the success of mediation seems assured."

It was eminently fit that an Oregon cargo should be the first to enter the Panama Canal. The cup challenger is having a new keel. It will need turbine engines to lift the cup.

Democracy fear to throw open more of the existing offices to spoliemen, but they create new ones to gratify the job-hunters. An appropriation of \$100,000 is made for commercial attachés to be sent abroad.

There is one cheerful man in Wall street—Henry Clews. In his weekly circular he says of the business outlook: "Psychologically, to use an over-worked expression, the situation is improving."

Representative Britten's making it a penal offense for any Cabinet officer, head or clerk of a department to lecture for pay is not likely to pass, but it will drag Secretary Bryan's Chautauqua perquisites into the public eye.

While illiteracy is rapidly decreasing in the South Atlantic States, it is increasing in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Three of the wealthiest states are gaining in number of adult illiterates and one—Connecticut—shows an increase in percentage.

Just as the pessimists have worked themselves up into a howling frenzy of gloom, along comes a dear old mother Nature with 900,000 bushels of wheat to make everybody cheerful.

A New York millionaire refused to heed divorce proceedings because he was going abroad. Why should a trifling little divorce suits interfere with the pleasure jaunts of the idle rich?

The Department of Agriculture announces that there is no such thing as "moon weather." Might as well try to convince the old-school farmers that there is no such thing as the moon.

Under the proposal for continuous school, the boy whose parents approve can take a two months' vacation. This is piling punishment on the boy whose parents favor cramming.

There should be a special department of the rockpile for wifebeaters. Ordinary prisoners have too much self-respect for such association.

It is about to come back into its own. Mediation is wobbly. We are on the point of a wobbly break with Mexico. It may be that the suave gentlemen at Niagara Falls will prolong their Summer outing for a few days, but even Washington reluctantly admits that there is little hope.

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It may be that the mild chill which overtook the Colonel was superinduced by a judicious look ahead at the Bull Moose chances.

Secretary Redfield reports to the Cabinet that business conditions are unusually good at present. Psychologically speaking.

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Advantages of cap and gown. If Always Worn, Doctors of Household Hygiene Would Be More Impressive. Eugene, Or., June 18.—(To the Editor.)—You recently had an editorial concerning the academic cap and gown.

But I am wandering. I have gotten back from comment. I have seen the "academic procession." It's great! You see all advanced teachers now are doctors, and as the qualifications for these degrees are determined by the teachers themselves, they would, indeed, be a hard-hearted set if they didn't let the honors go around.

Then, too, the cap and gown custom is a great leveller. It brings the chairman, the waiter and the level of the table debater. But I feel the poetic mood coming on.

The Grand jury was discharged on Saturday evening. A report by the foreman, Mr. White, shows marked observance of law and order, as only three cases were considered necessary to indictment.

A citizen asks why a private cemetery should be used on the east side of the river at such inconspicuous expense, when there are any number of suitable sites accessible to town on this side of the river.

Mr. Eades arrived from Salem by stage last evening, bringing some of the richest specimens of gold-bearing quartz that ever yet found their way to Portland.

Portland, June 19.—(To the Editor.)—In all the published accounts I have seen of the landing place of Donaldson's balloon, the "Springfield" location is given as 45 miles "north-east" of Portland, which would be over in the State of Washington.

Portland, June 19.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly give the number of Senators and Representatives from each of the political parties registered in the present Congress.

Portland, June 19.—(To the Editor.)—I wish to take this opportunity of correcting a report that has been circulated by local political gossip to the effect that Mr. Roger B. Sinnott urged Mr. A. W. Lafferty to enter the race for Congress from this district as an independent candidate.

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian of June 20, 1864. We wonder if any of the Copperheads have heard from the John Day mining region. We have. It was the boast of the Cops that Kelly would receive 1000 majority among the honest miners.

The Senate has confirmed the appointment of Rev. J. H. Wilbur, of Oregon, as agent of the Yakima Indians. Simonson's Washington letter to the Bulletin dated May 11 says: Mr. Cula, from the House committee on the Pacific railroad, has reported a bill to authorize and aid in the construction of a railroad connecting the Pacific railroads in California with the Columbia River in Oregon.

San Francisco, June 19.—A Salt Lake telegram reports the Eastern line down at the crossing of Platte River near the divide of California, where the line is swollen that it was difficult to repair it.

San Francisco, June 19.—An effort is being made to stop theatrical and other Sunday amusements. Chief of Police Burke having notified the managers of the city that if they do not discontinue any attempt to perform on Sunday.

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Twenty-Five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of June 20, 1889. Boston, June 19.—At a meeting of the directors of the Union Pacific today, M. A. Hanna, of Cleveland, was chosen to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Andrew H. Green, of New York.

Washington, June 19.—Civil Service Commissioner Roosevelt says he is determined that the civil service laws shall be enforced to the letter.

Spokane Falls, June 19.—A stage coach was upset today at Warden Junction, the Coast of Astoria. Professor Clayton, the well-known mining engineer, had both legs crushed at the knee, and it is thought he cannot survive. Charles Hines, manager of the morning mine, was injured about the head and shoulders.

Forest Grove, June 19.—The following class yesterday graduated from the Tuslain Academy: Messrs. F. J. Hall, Fred E. Hines, Arthur Head, W. Bond, Ernest Merges, Loring Stewart, H. A. Ball, Harry Hopkins, Misses Edith Tongue, Ethel Merryman, Minnie Warren, Anna Bates, Lizzie Lockton and Cora Lee.

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Order early of your newsdealer.

Features For Sunday. 300 Miles an Hour. Wave cushions for tracks are the starting possibility put forward by a French inventor who is demonstrating that trains may cross a continent in a few hours out of these days. American Types. What is the true American type? Are you representative of it? The matter is being made the subject of extended inquiry by scientific investigators and the record of their novel work is given a full page in colors. Paper Your Own Boudoir. That is the latest, and now the humble paperhanger is feeling the encroachments of fashion. An interesting "front-page" feature, in colors. Exploring the Earth. This exploration expedition delves down into the center of the earth. A record of intricate and a big event. Illustrated with photos. Wonders of Science. An illustrated page devoted to the very latest discoveries and remarkable facts in the realms of scientific investigation. An interesting and instructive page. A New Fisher Series. Harrison Fisher, the famous illustrator, takes up a new American girls' series Sunday. "The American Girl Abroad." The first picture presented in black and white with all Fisher's consummate charm, shows the American girl "On the Thames at Henley." With Villa. An Oregonian correspondent in Northern Mexico writes of the mounted warriors of Mexico. They are now the leading force in the stricken country, he finds. Illustrated with action photographs. Pink Fibs. Does your wife or sister tell them? The women who tell white lies and pale blue exaggerations are dissected by Rita Rees. Settling With Boggs. A short story about a claim agent's dangerous interview and the happy thought that prolonged it. Sells. Some interesting facts about them are a feature of the Children's page, which has a number of illustrated stories and special articles. New Comic Features. Uncle Jim, Tad and Tim and the district school are the subjects of two new-color comics which are sure to make a hit. Trace out the ingenious, if mischievous, devices of the youngsters in the district school. Many Other Features. Order early of your newsdealer.