# The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1915.


## TODAY'S ELECTION.

Today will be the second election under the commission charter of Portland. There are important issues to be settled and three offices to be filled. Voting on referended measures has ceased to be a novelty in Portland, but there is still somewhat of a feeling of unfamiliarity with the preferential system which applies to candidates. It is the intent in applying the preferential plan to secure the election of officials who are acceptable to a majority of the electors. The plan is based on the assumption that each voter may find in the list of candidates three men whom he considers worthy of election to a given office.

But the number of candidates this year is not large. It is likely that many will have no second or third choice to express. It is quite generally conceded that the voter is unwise to cast a second or third choice vote for any candidate who, in his opinion, is unworthy, but that in the event he believes more than one candidate is qualified and fit for the office he seeks, it is wise to vote more than first choice.

As to candidates the voter has for his guidance only what he has been able to learn as to personal qualifications. What is meant herein is that there are no pronounced policies to which candidates are committed which will stand or fall in accordance with the identity of the men elected. The vacancies to be filled do not even constitute a majority of the Commission, and within the Commission there are no well-defined factions or divisions on policy which success of this or that candidate will frustrate or build up. It is not surprising, therefore, that interest in choice of candidates has been milder than in the issues contained in some of the measures.

There are twelve measures on the ballot, three of which were placed there by application of the referendum. Several of the nine measures submitted by the Commission are technical in character, and all have been submitted only because they are charter amendments which the Commission alone is powerless to enact. The civil service amendment, firemen's pension provision, the grade-crossing amendment, the fire-stop amendment, the Bancroft bonding act amendment and possibly the city pound amendment would hardly create more than passing opposition or even arouse general public interest if they were mere ordinances and the Commission passed them without reference to the people.

The charter amendment providing for free collection of garbage, however, cannot be classified as purely technical or routine. It would establish a new and costly municipal service paid for by the taxpayers, relieving the individual of an expense or trifling labor which he now bears without protest. It has the aspect of an unexpected treat offered the nontaxpayer and an undeserved kick directed at the property owner. Its submission in a time of depression is particularly inopportune.

Other paramount issues lie in the referended ordinaces and annexation proposals. Outstanding among these is the plan to purchase 5000 water meters, involving an ultimate equipment of all services in the city. This ordinance originally did not have the support of the entire Commission. It carried by but a bare majority. Its adoption immediately created such strong opposition that a referendum was readily invoked without employment of paid solicitors.

During the campaign that is closing the voter has been offered an elaborate array of figures and arguments in justification of meter installation generally, but, on the other hand, there has been impressed upon him the confusing information that the issue is the purchase of 5000 meters, although nearly nine times that many meters are required to equip all premises. In behalf of universal meters most extravagant promises have been made. The people have been assured that they will use less water if it is metered, but will still have plenty; that their quarterly bills will be reduced, and that regardless of the consequent reduction in revenues the several hundred thousand dollars required to pay for the meters will be forthcoming.

These promises and arguments are insincere on their face. Merely to collect them and put them in one paragraph where their inconsistency is revealed is enough to condemn them. But were it possible to buy equipment with a deficit, there would still remain the overshadowing facts that the flow of Bull Run River is more than enough to fill to capacity the Bull Run pipe lines; that the pipe lines are shut down to less than capacity; that not more than one-half their capacity is delivered to Portland, and that of the quantity delivered an average of 5,000,000 gallons daily overflows from the reservoirs into the sewers.

The most that can be said in behalf of meters is that they compel an abstract equality in the use of water. The meter policy appeals strongest to the man who objects to his neighbor's use of what he does not want or need himself, which use does not discommode or cost him one whit more than if the sewers got it instead of the neighbor. If Portland was confronted by less than an abundant supply of water, installation of meters would produce practical and necessary equality, but under present conditions their installation would be ill-advised, even if they cost nothing instead of several hundred thousand dollars.

In the conduct of governmental functions exact equality in revenue contributions in numerous instances is rejected in behalf of a broader justice—assessment in accordance with ability to pay. That policy the flat rate now approaches in a rough way. The premises of the wealthy pay more in proportion for the amount of water used than do the small premises of the poor. Yet, wonder of wonders, it is the "laboring man's friend" who proposes that the poor shall be placed on exact equality with the rich in the use of water.

Another referended ordinance provides for regulation of the jitneys. In terms it is milder than any similar law in force in any other important city. It contains no bonding provision, but requires the jitneys to define their routes and operate over them during certain periods of the day, imposes inspection of autos used in the jitney service, prevents operation by incompetent drivers and establishes a restricted district in the congested center of the city. It is more than fair to the jitneys, and in the interest of public safety and convenience ought to pass.

The third referended ordinance discriminates against the sale of groceries on Sunday. It permits the sale of confectionery, tobacco, milk, fruits and bakery goods. It is invidious, and for that reason, if for no other, ought to be defeated.

There are two annexation issues to be decided by the voters. The proposals to admit St. Johns and Linnton will each appear on a separate ballot. The Oregonian is convinced that the St. Johns merger is a wise procedure, but it offers no advice as to the admission of Linnton. The voter should not fail to remember that these two questions will be decided by a different method than any others on the ballot. A state law governs, and neither community will be admitted to Portland unless the affirmative votes constitute a majority of all votes cast in the election. A failure to vote is therefore a negative vote.

## WATER, HEALTH AND BEAUTY.

Portland abandoned the Willamette River as a source of water supply because it wanted pure mountain water. It abandoned the pumping system because the water could be delivered by gravity. It abandoned filters because they were not needed and besides were not efficient. With Bull Run water came health, satisfaction, beauty and verdure.

Meters belong with pumps, filters, chemical treatments and with a limited water supply. If we go to meters, why not go back to the river for our water? We could discard the expensive Bull Run pipelines and put ourselves on an exact equality with Buffalo, Bloomington, Milwaukee, Chicago and other Eastern cities where meters are said to be giving satisfaction in the necessary work of conserving the water.

"Meters," says one of Mr. Daly's faithful organs, "encourage the use of water." Ah, yes! We suppose they do. For everybody knows that meters encourage the use of gas and electricity.

Of course, Daly will meter the Benson fountains and charge so much per drink. The "water hog" must be curbed.

Portland's water is its own. It is the best in the world. It is bountiful and it is for use. Why should it not be used?

"People who get meters save money on water bills," is a favorite argument. It follows that under a universal system of meters everybody will save money. Then, of course, there will be a falling off in the total water revenue. The only possible result will be higher water rates for everybody. There will be no alternative.

Los Angeles, a city on a former desert, is as proud of her lawns as is Portland, is 75 per cent metered and, as a result of her experience, is making her meter system universal.—Portland Journal.

Any one who has visited Los Angeles in midsummer knows that this is untrue. The southern city has many wealthy residents who maintain beautiful lawns and gardens the year around, but in the poorer districts the streets are lined with parched and barren homesites. No better example of the effects of meters could be found.

Los Angeles is increasing her meter service because it is good business for that city to do so. Her great pipeline, built at a cost of more than $20,000,000, is laid through a district in which there is ready sale for water to be used in irrigation. No such condition exists in Portland. Here unused water fills the sewers.

## FORESTER GRAVES' SCHEME.

Chief Forester Graves' plan for preventing the settlement of timbered agricultural land by homesteaders whose ostensible object is to make farms while their real object is to sell timber is a new illustration of the ineptitude of Eastern officials at handling Western problems.

Mr. Graves proposes that the Government first sell the timber on condition that the purchaser remove it, and that then the land be opened to homesteaders. The settler would then have a tract of logged-off land of the same character as the 3,000,000 acres in Oregon and Washington which Mr. Graves pronounces an obstacle to settlement. If the settler were left free to market the timber, while reserving the land, he might realize enough by the sale to pay for clearing. The Graves plan would take away the timber and leave the stumps. The settler would then be confronted by the same obstacle which prevented him from buying logged-off land—the necessity of grubbing stumps. This land is not held at excessive, but at moderate prices. The stumps, not the price, prevent settlement.

If Mr. Graves could sell the timber on terms which required the logger also to clear the land, there might be some merit in his scheme. Unless provision was made for removing the stumps as well as the timber, he would simply add to the area of logged-off land, upon which few homesteaders would go. The homestead law was passed by Congress with a view to providing homes for poor men, but a man must be a small capitalist to make a farm on logged-off land. Congress legislated in ignorance, as usual, when it legislated for the West. It had in mind the open prairie land, and carelessly made the same law apply to the densely timbered land of the Pacific Coast. The settlers made the best they could of a stupid law.

Tacoma develops a new kink in marital jurisprudence. A man has been sent to jail for three days on complaint of his wife for taking more than half the bed. The villain! He probably took the outside major fraction, too, and that is rather to his credit, for he could not push her out to the floor. So he cannot be so bad, after all. The judge in this case seems to have erred and should be reversed. A Portland magistrate, rather than administer a jail sentence, would have sent them home to compromise. Tacoma is primitive.

## NEW EXPENSES IN PROSPECT.

With the Treasury deficit growing, new causes of expense for the United States are constantly appearing. To the original estimate of $30,000,000 deficit after the income tax is collected we must add $15,000,000 for the five per cent rebate on duties, and unless the free-sugar clause of the Underwood tariff is repealed before next May, we must add $35,000,000 for lost sugar duties. If present conditions continue, the deficit, which threatens to be $45,000,000 this year, will be nearer $80,000,000 next year.

Aside from the proposed additional expenditure of $30,000,000 for Government ships, which we can avoid, we are threatened with other expenditures which we cannot avoid. We are really only beginning to spend money on Mexico. If reports as to the general prevalence of destitution are approximately correct, the feeding of the hungry will be far beyond the resources of the Red Cross. The Government will probably provide the food and use the Red Cross as a distributing agency. But we could not stop there, or our relief would be a mere makeshift. We should need to provide seed for the next harvest and then to protect the crops from destruction by contending armies. That would require a considerable army, even if we did not undertake the general pacification of the country, and would cost many millions. If our difficulties with Germany should come to a serious crisis, it would be impossible to estimate the sums we should spend.

The Government will get off easy if it makes good the deficit and the extraordinary expenses in Mexico by issuing bonds for that part of the Panama Canal's cost which was paid out of the Treasury surplus. It would do well to cut out all pork, luxuries and fads which cost money, or it will add a startling sum to the National debt.

## COMBINE FOR FOREIGN TRADE.

Surely it should be possible to amend the anti-trust laws in such manner as to permit American manufacturers to combine for the development and conduct of export trade without opening the way to any of the evils of monopoly, at which those laws are aimed. Foreign trade can be adequately developed by great combinations of capital alone. The effect of our present law is to open this field to the big fellow and to shut out the little fellow—the very reverse of that at which the laws aim.

The law should permit exporters of any class of goods to combine for foreign marketing in much the same way as fruitgrowers combine for domestic marketing. Associations could be formed which would send out salesmen and establish agencies. They would divide expenses and orders according to capacity of the members' plants. Membership should be open to newcomers in the field on complying with fair terms. Under the supervision of the Federal Trade Commission the organizations could be made to serve the same useful purpose as is served by the syndicates which built up German commerce to such great proportions.

It might be possible to organize for this purpose not only by industries, but by communities. For example, Oregon manufacturers might combine to send agents to South America and to build up a trade in all their lines. Flour, lumber, furniture, canned fruit, canned salmon and dairy products should find a market on the West Coast and around the Caribbean Sea. No one firm can do this business on as large and complete a scale as can many in combination.

## MACHIAVELLI IN THE NEW YORK SCHOOLS.

The Boston Evening Transcript gives an account of a curious piece of Machiavellianism which has lately been acted out in New York. It has not been wholly successful, but it has made a good man a great deal of trouble and has put back the cause of education in New York for nobody knows how long or how far. The drama began with an invitation from the fossilized New York Board of Directors to William Wirt, of Gary, Ind., to go to the metropolis and infuse a little common sense into its public school system. Mr. Wirt has done wonders with the schools at Gary, making them educate the hands and senses of the children, as well as their brains, and doing it all without giving them tuberculosis, bent backs and crooked legs. He has applied his ideas more or less completely in half a dozen other places, including Kansas City. His fame among educational men is pretty widespread, and it finally penetrated the fog of Tammanyism and conceit that envelops New York, and brought the School Directors to invoke his services, which, we need not remark, were sadly needed.

New York spends so much money for her various Tammanyized activities that she has comparatively little left for educating her children. The school buildings are often ancient, and they do not provide sittings for more than two-thirds of the pupils. The remainder must do the best they can with a half or quarter day's attendance. To provide seats for all the children, it has been estimated that some $40,000,000 must be spent upon new buildings, which would, of course, be of the antiquated sort that New York has always affected. The Superintendent of New York's public schools, Mr. Maxwell, was at one time something of a progressive in pedagogical affairs, but that was long ago, before he became petrified and bemuddled under the stupefying influences of the metropolis. He now sees little or no merit in Mr. Wirt's new ideas. The fact that they work wonders wherever they are tried proves nothing whatever for New York. To be truly useful in that city, an idea must have originated on Broadway or Fifth avenue, and since nothing of the sort was ever known to happen, there is a perpetual dearth of ideas in the public schools. The old mill grinds out its grist of chaff, and nothing better is expected from it. A good New Yorker never looks for anything but chaff from any of his revered institutions. If one of them should suddenly begin to give useful results for the money spent upon it, experts fear that the whole city would go insane with astonishment.

Momentarily roused from its usual anemic lethargy, the New York Board of Directors invited Mr. Wirt to come and do something for their schools, and six of the buildings were supposed to be put under his direction. But the supposition turned out to be far from the mark. A shrewd politician named Ettinger slipped himself in between Mr. Wirt and his charge and secured the real direction of the proposed reform. We need not add that it was thoroughly Tammanyized. The outward semblance of the wonderful Gary methods was preserved, but the soul was eaten out by graft and imposture. Mr. Wirt went to New York to take up the work that had been assigned to him, but he was craftily put aside and could not get his hand upon anything tangible.

Machiavelli never conceived of any scheme more complete in all its particulars. But the best-laid schemes cannot always be counted upon to work by the programme. It happened that some of the parents of School District No. 80, in Brooklyn, became so exasperated at the treatment of their children that they threatened a strike. Lest a worse thing befall them, the Directors actually put this school into Mr. Wirt's hands, and he began to transform it from the word go. His plan is to give six solid hours to schooling instead of the traditional five. He thus commands time for work with tools and the like from the beginning of the grades. The seats in his schoolrooms are all movable. The pupils are kept on their feet most of the time. They walk about and talk as much as they like, if only their work is done as it should be, and in the corridors and upon the grounds they discipline themselves. Mr. Wirt cares very little for magnificent buildings. What he wants is spacious grounds where he can build up what he calls "child communities." These communities are totally unlike the traditional school with its diseases, stupidities and dead traditions. Mr. Wirt makes another innovation by utilizing the full resources of the school system during the entire school day. The classes pass from room to room and from building to building. A new class comes in as soon as the first has gone out. Thus each room and each teacher is constantly utilized and waste is eliminated.

By managing in this way, Mr. Wirt reaches some strange conclusions. He finds, to the astonishment of everybody concerned, that New York does not need any new schoolhouses. It already has more than enough to accommodate all the pupils if they could be put to their full use. What is really needed is more outdoor space. His work in Brooklyn District No. 80 was so successful that Mr. Wirt finally obtained charge of other schools in Greater New York. The results were everywhere the same. There is now some prospect that public sentiment will oblige the lethargic and reluctant Board of Directors to give him a free hand. For the sake of the neglected New York school children, we sincerely hope it will.

Mr. Churchill's confident speech would have more weight if he had not threatened to follow the German navy into its ports as he would dig rats out of a hole. The rats are still in the hole, except when they dart out and sink a British or neutral ship.

The London Times escapes conviction on the charge of publishing forbidden news on the ground that the facts published were not news. Thus the censor scores either way, for he convicts the Times of publishing a "chestnut."

In refusing to extradite a young man who escaped from the Washington Reformatory six years ago and has become a good citizen of California, Governor Johnson does just the thing to keep him in that course.

It is a safe rule to allow a passenger on a streetcar to carry anything he can "lug," and the Public Service Commission of Washington has so ordered. That has been the rule here, to a great extent.

The censor at Baker has barred all gymnastics at public dances, and that will go until such time when the boys come in from the ranges. Then will he, indeed, be a brave man to interfere.

The source of Tillamook's prosperity is seen in the four million pounds of cheese produced annually, bringing $654,374. Tillamook puts all her milk in the pail and watches the cow.

The discovery of "cribbing" at the Naval Academy may have saved the Navy from giving commissions to men who, as Captains, would have run their ships aground.

Opium-smuggling is so persistent that many more smugglers must escape capture than are caught, or the industry would dig out.

That sugar refinery at Souchez, where the French and Germans are fighting, must be a lovely spectacle by this time.

If ten Texas cowboys can hold 150 Mexicans at bay, how many Americans would be needed to conquer Mexico?

The same old inefficiency afflicts Russia. The men at Przemysl were short of ammunition, and the Austro-Germans knew it.

Fair weather should bring out a large vote. Let the womenfolk have the whole afternoon for the purpose.

Not one citizen in a thousand knows how beautiful this city is just now, with its million bushes in full bloom.

If the latest John Jacob Astor's living costs $30,000 a year in infancy, how much will it cost in manhood?

The Maharajah of Karputhala should have been robbed of a million and get into vaudeville.

King Constantine's "misery" has been located in his tenth rib and the cause removed.

The Police Band's harmony was marred by too much management.

The German spy-hunt has been transferred from England to Italy.

This is the weather to send the lads "in" many times a day.

Young Astor, aged 3, is the premier high liver of America.

To meter or not to meter, that is the question today.

The week of the Rose!

## Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of June 7, 1890.

Washington—The appointment of Charles M. Ogden as receiver of the Seattle Land Office will be made in a few days.

Cleveland, O.—Lightning struck the Players' baseball park today during a game, breaking the flagstaff and tearing up the diamond.

Bob Fitzsimmons, the amateur boxer who defeated Billy McCarthy at the California Club, has issued a challenge to anyone on the Coast at 154 to 156 pounds.

San Francisco—The following is contained in a letter from Seoul, Corea, concerning the political tempest in which O. N. Denny, ex-Police Judge of Portland finds himself:

"Mr. Denny's engagement is concluded and he has been preparing to leave for home, but the King, who has always had the utmost confidence in him, notwithstanding all the endeavors of the Chinese resident Yuan, to get him ousted, is doing all he can to get Mr. Denny to renew his engagement. This he has consented to do on certain conditions which have not yet been complied with, but meanwhile the King at least, is decided that Mr. Denny shall not go. As for Mr. Yuan, he is deceiving the Viceroy, Li Hung Chang, the government at Pekin and himself, and this he will discover when it is too late. Mr. Denny has virtually concluded for Corea a loan from certain American capitalists on fair terms, and the money Corea must have, but Yuan has opposed all that Mr. Denny has done, and, while the two have been fighting, Japan has stepped in. She is prepared to make a loan to Corea in the same amount and on about the same terms. Corea is rapidly falling into the arms of her plucky little Eastern neighbor, and China will wake up to find that, while her representative has been occupying himself to thwart everything Mr. Denny has tried to do, Japan has stolen a march on her and made herself powerful here. There will perhaps be an explosion when Pekin realizes this."

W. H. Starr, of Decatur, Ill., is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Ira Brown, 505 E street.

Pellio, the condemned Indian murderer, expiated his crime on the gallows at 1:15 yesterday afternoon. The execution took place in the woodshed of the county Courthouse under the direction of U. S. Marshal L. T. Barin, and was witnessed by 60 people, including the jury who found the murderer guilty. To the end Pellio, who maintained he was not guilty, was courageous. He made a speech declaring his innocence from the gallows. Father Orth gave him spiritual consolation. Pellio was convicted of murdering a half-breed woman on the Umatilla Reservation.

## PROUD OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

### Naturalized Greek Calls on All Adopted Sons to Stand as One.

PORTLAND, June 6.—(To the Editor.)—Will you kindly allow me a small space on your editorial page so that I may be able to express my views regarding what it means to every immigrant to become a true, faithful and responsible American citizen?

Since the European war has broken out I have known foreigners to go back to their countries to participate in that terrible struggle, which has occurred at a time when we thought that the world was civilized. Why should anyone go back there and fight for the selfish glory of Kings and monarchs? What is the matter with this country? Is there not enough room here to make a comfortable and happy home? Every foreigner who has come into this country and stays more than two years should by all means be naturalized, otherwise he should go back from whence he came. It makes no difference whether I am Grecian, or he is German or French, or she is English or Russian, we are all obliged to become American citizens, and we must comply with the ethics and customs of this country, because we all live together in one country and we should adore this Government because we are all opportunely protected by it. We must work together, faithfully and harmoniously for the betterment of our own interest and of the country's.

Some foreigners say that they like their country better than this country, and if that be so why do they not stay there instead of coming here or return immediately? It would be much better for them and for this country.

I am Hellen (Grecian) by birth, and I was born in Hellas (Greece) in the beautiful district of Hellas in Olympia, which is well known. I thank both my country and parents for having brought me into the world, but, on the other hand, I would like to emphasize strongly that I am proud today of being an American citizen. I am not saying this for the sake of publicity, but for this simple reason: I do this for the sake of the country in which I am dwelling. We are one, like a family in one house, and we must act like one group. I trust that we all, American-born and foreign-born Americans, do justice to our own country's interests and let Europe alone to settle its own affairs and not become active partisans, for we gave up this right long ago. C. D. GANNOPULOS,
825 Y. M. C. A.

## CHINESE STALLS ARE BENEFIT

### Desirable Competitors at Public Market, Says Seid Back, Jr.

PORTLAND, June 6.—(To the Editor.)—During election times various candidates for office do certainly hold wild theories, and to get votes they would use us as one of the planks of their platform. At this coming election especially a certain candidate for Commissioner has, as the principal subject in his platform, a proposal that the public market should only be occupied by citizens and taxpayers of this city and county, excluding those that are not citizens and those who pay little or no taxes.

This I take to aim principally at our people, who, although they would like to become citizens of this great country, cannot do so because the law prevents. So on this point I would like to make my reply.

After having denied them the rights and privileges of citizenship, which they feel keenly, now, on top of this, they are discriminated against because they are not citizens. Just because our people, who are industrious and enterprising in their work, thereby producing more in a given area (the very thing for which Oregon has been praying and paying huge sums to accomplish), thus enabling them, at times, to undersell their neighbors, they are looked upon as undesirable competitors and should have no place in the public market. It is this very labor which will aid materially in reducing the high cost of living, and is, therefore, surely a benefit rather than a detriment.

It has been said that these people pay little or no taxes. This is not true. These people who occupy stalls in the market form only a small percentage of our people, many of whom pay heavy taxes. In fact, several of our leading Chinese property holders here pay many thousand dollars in taxes on real property, in addition to all those mercantile establishments which pay their proportion of personal taxes. On top of all this our people are great importers, and in that way contribute materially to the revenues of this country. It is neither fair nor wise that these people who occupy stalls in the market should be excluded and looked upon as undesirable competitors. SEID BACK, JR.

## HOW SEATTLE WAS BUNCOED.

### Neither Meters Nor Garbage Scheme Has Been Beneficial.

Seattle Argus.

The Portland Oregonian is making a fight against municipal waste which is commendable. Had the same fight been made in this city a few years ago, hundreds of thousands of dollars would have been saved.

An attempt is being made in Portland to install water meters. Seattle has meters. In this city at first their use was not compulsory, and so nobody complained very much. It was unnecessary, however, as thousands of gallons of water were going to waste daily—are now, for that matter. As soon as the meter ordinance became a law restrictions were placed around the non-metered water. Householders could use the hose only when held in the hand, and then only during certain hours. The rate of metered water was placed so low that the average consumer could use all he wanted, and save money over the flat rate system. Gradually the use of meters spread. When there were not enough people left who stuck to the flat rate to put up much of a kick, the use of meters was made compulsory. Probably half a million dollars has been expended by Seattle for meters, and before the city shall have grown to such an extent that we will not have more water than we need, they will have worn out and will have to be renewed.

And while this was being done, the city instituted a municipal garbage system. Under that system thousands of owners of small homes who have usually burned much of their garbage find it easier to have it all hauled away by the city. It costs nothing—why not.

If this situation, when dished up in this way to Portland people, does not make them sit up and take notice, then they deserve to be buncoed. The only people who will benefit by the metering of water are the people who sell the meters, and the only ones who will benefit by the "unmetering" of garbage will be those who get fat jobs working in the garbage department, and the politicians who, by giving out those jobs, help to build up a political machine which will perpetuate them in office, and allow them to put through other deals, like the sale of a half million dollars' worth of useless junk to the city.

## PUBLIC PROSPERITY IS MENACED

### Such Spendthrift Policies as Meter Scheme Retard Progress.

PORTLAND, June 6.—(To the Editor.)—It would seem that Mr. Daly is courting his recall. Surely there is some way to prevent his carrying out his meter scheme in the face of the taxpayers' protest. 'Tis such high-handed manipulation of the taxpayers' money that are absorbing the people's homes and causing others to hesitate to invest money in the city. Daly can see the waste magnified many times in the city, but is blind to the great waste going over the spillways and into the sewers. Let the city have this water.

We have but three months of really dry weather in Portland at most, during the year, and I do not believe, with our annual rainfall, and the melting snow, with our many streams, that if the great waste was stored up in reservoirs, and the money properly used, with good management, that Portland need ever have meters. Which is the better way, the people to have free and liberal use of this water, nature's blessing, or let it pass away into the rivers, thence to the ocean; benefiting none? In the face of all the evidence at hand, why should Daly be so determined to carry out his meter scheme?

Nature has bestowed upon us three great essentials necessary for our health and wellbeing; pure food, pure air and pure water. The first has been so capitalized by the selfish greed of the few to the detriment of the many that thousands of our young America are barely existing; hollow-eyed, pale, stunted, dwarfed, half-nourished little creatures, victims of all sorts of disease. We spend many thousands of dollars to erect hospitals, and all sorts of so-called charitable institutions to care for the victims, but why not begin at the root of the evil in the first place, and give them their God-given right to pure food? And now, here comes the hydra-headed monster, the meter octopus, to strangle us to death for the want of our natural God-given right—pure water.

This water belongs to the city, and every resident is a stockholder; therefor, let us not fail to do our duty, but go forth well armed and slay the monster. A. SUBSCRIBER.

## NICKEL MEALS NUMBER 125,000

### Workingmen's Club Gives Its Winter Record and Plans for Summer.

PORTLAND, June 6.—(To the Editor.)—I have thought that perhaps a great many of our citizens might feel interested in knowing something of what has been done by the Workingmen's Club, of 271 Front street.

Since it has been started we have served 125,000 substantial nickel meals, of which about 5000 have been given gratuitously to those in absolute want.

We have in connection with the club a free employment office, where every assistance is given to help men to find work, and we are always glad to do our best to supply efficient workmen to those employers of labor who may apply to us.

The large floating population which we had with us during the Winter has mostly drifted away, and those to whom we now cater are chiefly city workingmen anxiously looking for a job, and to whom work is preferable to charity.

Free telephone, Main 8440, and stationery are supplied to all who wish to answer advertisements, or to write personal letters.

The founder of the club having decided to keep it open during the Summer months, we start on June 1 what we may term our Summer campaign, during which we hope to put forth renewed efforts to endeavor to solve the problem of the unemployed and the high cost of living to the workingman.

The only assistance we ask from the public is that they will give us, as far as possible, a chance to find work for those deserving cases which we have always on our hands, and which we consider it at once our duty and our privilege to help.

What we have so far been enabled to accomplish has been rendered possible by the unostentatious generosity of one of our foremost and most public-spirited citizens.

CAPT. J. G. M'CLELLAND,
Manager.

### Answer to Rabbi Wise Indorsed.

PORTLAND, June 3.—(To the Editor.)—The Italian people and the Americanized Italians of our fair city have a deep sense of gratitude to The Oregonian, on account of the able and very brilliant editorial of June 3 in answer to the unprovoked and malicious attack on the Italian nation by Rabbi Wise. Italy needs no champion, as "he who runs may read" Italy, the dream of the poets, the cradle of all art and intelligence, a land of milk and honey. D. GRANO.
360 First street.

### Writing Up a Baby Show.

Baltimore American.

"Why was that young man in trouble with his paper?" "Because he wrote up the baby show as a howling success."

## Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of June 7, 1865.

Charles S. Ringgold and Miss Mary Dullard, of San Francisco, were married in Portland, June 3, by Rev. Father Fierns.

It will be remembered that the Portuguese authorities some time ago fired upon the United States ship Niagara in the harbor of Lisbon because it was insisted that that vessel was attempting to violate the neutrality laws by proceeding out of port within 24 hours after the rebel ram Stonewall has sailed from the same place. It was shown to the Portuguese government that such was not the purpose of the Niagara and she was merely shifting her anchorage. The Portuguese government made all possible reparation by ordering the boat which had fired on the vessel to salute the United States flag.

The recent orders of the War Department curtailing military expenses has effected a reduction of $500,000 a day in the outlay of money by the department.

New York—General Lee will be indicted by the grand jury at Richmond within a few days for treason.

The Governor of Illinois has received from the widow of Senator Douglas, for $25,000, a deed of the lot in Chicago where he lies buried. A magnificent monument will be erected.

Yesterday a fine span of sorrel horses and an excellent carriage were almost ruined in a smashup in the Third Ward. The sorrels were driven by Mr. Stevens, a young man from Corvallis, and belong to Lipscomb & Wells, of the same town. The horses became unmanageable, falling upon the pole of the carriage. The near horse was badly cut about the head and the cords of his right forleg severed.

Washington—The Postoffice Department has contracted with J. E. Reeside for the conveyance of mail on the route from Lincoln, Cal., to Portland, service to commence July 1.

Rev. E. R. Geary has accepted an invitation to deliver the Fourth of July oration at Corvallis.

The opening of the Suez Canal to navigation throughout its entire length from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean has been officially announced to all the Chambers of Commerce in Europe by Monsieur Lesseps, president and superintendent.

The returns from Washington Territory are gratifying beyond the most sanguine hopes of the friends of the Union. The foul dishonor of two years ago is removed. The Democracy proves not to be able to survive the fall of the "Confederacy."

A union mass convention will be held on the evening of June 10 at the Courthouse for the purpose of nominating Union candidates for city offices.

## CRUEL IMPOSITION IS PROPOSED.

### Plight of Many Persons Contrasted With Salary of Council Meterites.

PORTLAND, June 5.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian is right; S. Benson is right. This is not the time to add further to the burden of the property holders. At the present time there is no need of meters or of adding to the city debt by installing meters.

Were it a mere matter of the 5000 meters it might not be so bad but property owners know that the 5000 meters asked for will be but the entering wedge and that Mr. Daly will scheme about in one way and another until he has, as he has stated he intended, having meters installed all over the city. There is also no question in my mind but that E. G. Hopson, of the United States Reclamation Service, is right; that there is all the water at the source of supply that now is needed or that is liable to be needed by the city for many years to come.

With two large pipelines to bring the water to our city, and certainly when there is turned into the Willamette River the volume of water as overplus that is claimed, there surely cannot be any necessity for going to any expense in the near future in order to husband the use of water other than to see to it that users of water should not be permitted to let the water run all night, as I have known to be the case both in buildings and on lawns. With all the paid employes of the city there are certainly enough to make all the inspection needed if there are not now sufficient inspectors for that purpose.

At a time when thousands of our best men are unable to get the money with which to meet their obligations; when thousands of men are unable to secure employment at any price and when many business men have been compelled to cut down the number of their employes and even reduce the pay of the meager force kept, all of which must be well known to those at the head of our city government, it would seem that notwithstanding the big pay the Mayor and Commissioners get, they would have something akin to a friendly feeling for others not so situated and act like good business men do—curtail all unnecessary expenditures in hard times. S. H. GRUBER.

### Annexation of Suburbs Urged.

PORTLAND, June 6.—(To the Editor.)—Although election day comes on Monday—a home day for ladies—I hope they will make special effort to vote. Linnton has voted over two to one to annex to Portland and we ought to give them a cordial admittance by a strong vote. Adjoining the city, Linnton has a long strip of splendid territory for first-class scenic development—something Portland will be produ of even more and more, and later, when you spin along the splendid boulevard now being built 500 feet above the river, you will exclaim: "This is Portland, great Portland!" Then with the lower Linnton or St. Helens avenue under city control, safe and speedy, all will say: "This is a fine annex to Portland!" Business men know of its long, spacious deep-water harbor, where big ships can turn around, and of ships that arrive and leave that never get into Portland territory. So let us all vote solid for annexing Linnton as well as St. Johns, and get both sides of five miles more of harbor.
R. H. BLANDING.

### OREGONIAN ELECTION RECOMMENDATIONS IN A NUTSHELL.

Water meter policy. Vote 101 No.

Sunday grocery closing. Vote 103 No.

Civil Service amendment. Vote 104 Yes.

Garbage collection. Vote 107 No.

Grade crossing elimination. Vote 108 Yes.

Dog pound measure. Vote 111 Yes.

Jitney regulation. Vote 112 Yes.

Bonding act amendment. Vote 114 Yes.

Firemen's pension amendment. Vote 116 Yes.

Fire stops measure. Vote 118 Yes.

Annexation St. Johns. Vote Yes.

Annexation Linnton. No recommendation.