

The Oregonian

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Portland, Sunday, August 8, 1909. SUPREMACY OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS.

What is most democratic is what makes most for the permanence of democracy—that is, for its real welfare. It is the representative system, which alone will realize the actual supremacy of the people.

As the primary selection is the beginning of representative government, so the representative system must begin with the primary. An absolute democracy is impossible. It will destroy itself, as Saturn devoured his own children.

Now the primary, which lies at the bottom of all democratic institutions, should and must itself be guided by some sort of conference, assembly or convention. It must deliberate in assembly; they must act in concert.

But the direct primary, without guidance from representatives of people and parties, supercedes this principle, sets it aside and makes confusion impossible. It is political chaos.

CONDITIONS AND THEORIES. If certain things were, and certain other things were not; if the effect of a theory were as potent as that of a condition, and if equivocal digressions were as valuable as plain facts, some explanation might be found.

more easily available? The Spokesman-Review says "The public can judge if the Portland paper is consistent when in one breath it affirms that water competition is all-conditions and with its next breath asserts that the granting of terminal rates to the Inland Empire would nullify the advantages of water transportation."

The Spokesman-Review dissembles. Under the natural, free and logical movement of traffic and transportation is "all-controlling" in re-statement in the territory between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific. By no other means than the substitution of unnatural, illogical methods can the advantages of this water competition be nullified, and it is against the substitution of such methods that The Oregonian enters a protest.

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THE SPOKANE INQUIRY. That young Sutton was killed by his own hand, by accident, in a scuffle with several of his fellows, is the probable explanation of his death. There was fighting, and he had a revolver; he was thrown to the ground and in the struggle to release himself the revolver in his hand was accidentally discharged, when just in range with his head.

USE AND ABUSE OF THE AUTO. The accident which befell an automobile party on the base line road Friday evening, in which Mrs. Robert Lurie was seriously injured, may be termed one of the legitimate incidents that attend riding in the horseless carriage. The machine was being driven by a careful man at a moderate rate of speed, the road was clear and smooth, and the party was composed of orderly and eminently respectable people.

THE CENTENARY OF STEAM NAVIGATION. Although Robert Fulton did not take out a patent on the steamboat until 1809, he built one which actually ran as early as 1803. The experiment was tried on the Seine River at Paris. Napoleon watched the action of the new contrivance with interest.

FOURTEEN IN THE WEST. Portland and other Pacific Coast cities have this year been favored with a much greater tourist travel than ever. The principal cause of this increased number of visitors is, of course, the A.-Y.-P. Exposition; but, aside from the crowds drawn to the Coast by the cheap fares and the attractions of the exposition, there is a much greater number than ever before for whom expositions and cheap fares are minor inducements.

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