

The Oregonian

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Portland, Sunday, Sept. 29, 1912.

THE NEW COMMISSION CHARTER.

The citizens of Portland are to have an opportunity in November to choose between the present cumbersome and complicated system of city government and the simple system embodied in the proposed commission charter.

The charter proposed by the committee of nine includes all the essential features of the commission plan, together with all those provisions for direct popular rule which have come to be known as the Oregon system.

The most distinctive feature of the commission plan is adopted in the provisions for a Mayor and four other Commissioners, all sitting together as a Council, in whom is concentrated all the legislative and executive power now scattered among the Council, the Executive Board and various other boards.

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employee is to be reinstated. This provision appears to meet all legitimate criticism on the present civil service rules from the appointing officers and to protect appointees from wrongful removal.

There is ample provision to protect the people in their relation to public utilities. The Commissioners are given power to regulate rates, and to exact reductions in lieu of added taxes; to value corporate property; to compel full reports and to buy in public utilities at a fair valuation.

Should Portland adopt the commission charter, this will be the largest city in the United States having that form of government. It has worked beneficially in smaller cities and Portland should have the courage to give it a fair trial.

MAKING SPORT OF THE INITIATIVE.

An impressive example of the inexcusable abuse of the initiative in the proposal of complicated and obscure measures of miscellaneous legislation.

It is clear enough to the voter that the measure has something to do with railroad freight and weights in Oregon. If he seeks information he will encounter a stone wall in the text of the act.

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added 21,000? Or Wilson the extra 40,000? The Oregonian is quite unable to answer the questions it asks.

FACE TO FACE WITH A CRISIS.

The election of a Presidential candidate for a third term involves a departure from the historic policy of the Government, held inviolable from the beginning and preserved for more than a hundred years as a sound principle of our civility.

Mr. Roosevelt is himself a recent convert to the new theory that any man—provided his name is Theodore Roosevelt—who may have been twice President of the republic is justified in seeking a third term.

On the night of November 8, 1904, when he had just been triumphantly re-elected to the Presidency, Mr. Roosevelt publicly gave out his famous pledge to the people that "under no circumstances" would he be a candidate for a third term.

Defeated at the Republican convention for the nomination, Mr. Roosevelt asked the candidates of his own specially organized party at a specially conducted convention.

It is safe or wise to elect Mr. Roosevelt President in these circumstances? Would it be wise or wise to elect any human being?

AN INTERESTING BIOGRAPHY.

The biography of his father that George Haven Putnam has written is an extremely entertaining book. The elder Putnam, founder of the publishing house of which his son is the head, was a man of letters, a soldier, a publisher and a persevering traveler.

Bright lived in the most modest way, occupying lodgings of which a statesman would certainly be ashamed in our time. He received his young visitor without ceremony and made him feel so much at home that he almost forgot how great the man was with whom he was talking.

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that imperial genius at anything like his true value. Like so many others of that crudely provincial period he saw Poe's addition to liquor highly minimized and overlooked the essential elements of his character.

When a man describes his opponents indiscriminately as crooks and corrupt men, he invites unusually searching scrutiny of his own acts.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANCES. If one pair of shoes costs \$5, how many pairs can you get for \$12? There are two ways of doing this sum in simple division.

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absorption of the Tennessee Coal & Iron Company; his failure to prosecute the sugar trust, though the evidence offered him by George H. Earle has been real and as hard to hear as they were at the beginning.

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that it has become easy to follow the Savior. But it is not so. It is just as difficult as it ever was. The trials have changed their form, but they are the real and as hard to hear as they were at the beginning.

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The Ballad of Freshmen

Attend ye well, my gentle friends And lo, I will warble thee How gates of Learning were opened up For venturesome Freshmen three.

The lamp of Learning can't be lit Unto the proper blazing Within the soul of the Freshman green Save through the art of laziness.

And one they playfully bound and gagged And laid on the railroad track And stole away—but the train went by Before they came ambling back.

And one they placed in a barrel and rolled From the brink of a hill with glee. 'Tis thou survivor, thou hast the stuff For a college man in thee.

For the lamp of Learning can never flame With a blaze of the proper hue Except one prove himself of worth 'Tis thou college man in thee.

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