

The Oregonian

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JUDGES AND THE PRESIDENCY.

A phase of the possible Hughes nomination for President is the fervor with which the newspaper and political friends of President Wilson applaud the Hughes determination not to be a candidate.

Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio, a name well remembered by readers of history for the period of the Civil War, and by the student of the American candidate for President in 1860, in the Republican convention.

The sensational events which followed did not relieve Justice Chase of his great ambition, but he fell so far out of touch with his party that he was regarded as a Democrat.

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It is altogether natural, perhaps, that with bounteous prosperity on every hand Americans should live too well for their own good.

It is entirely natural that where our interest in our own health leaves off that of the insurance companies begins.

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set apart by the Life Extension Institute. The first group, composed of skilled mechanics, was examined as to the health of its units, and the results were compared with those obtained in taking the health ratings of the second group, composed of clerks and desk men.

The trouble is that we have not adjusted ourselves to our prosperity. Take the simple folk of central and western Oregon, with the frugal diet. Their lease of life is long.

The alternative, no doubt, is a smaller plant, operated by fewer men, which shall be operated continuously, in time of peace, in order to lay up great stores of munitions for time of trouble.

Or it is to devise and support a military policy, which provides that under no circumstances shall we have a large Army, regular, or reserve, or volunteer, which will call for the use of great stores of munitions.

Of course, then, in case of war, we shall be the easy prey of any aggressor. But will not the mighty principle that nobody shall make any money out of the manufacture of arms and ammunition have been vindicated?

Whatever the merits of the Brandeis appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States, the plea by a frothy newspaper admirer of all the President's acts that it will tend to offset the "reactionary side of the court" is both demagogic and inexcusable.

The fortunate truth is that the Supreme Court of the United States is the most wisely progressive body in the world.

Public welfare laws, safety appliance laws, corporation regulation laws, shorter-hours-of-labor laws—all laws for the protection and liberty of the citizen.

It is not to be assumed that the President or anyone speaking with authority for him, will venture to excuse the Brandeis appointment on the ground that the court is reactionary.

When the smoke of conflict has been carried away by the gentle winds of peace and the scientific men of the world proceed with the inevitable post mortem, it will be interesting to note what the alienists have to say.

But these naval figures really prove nothing. The sailor lives a comfortable life, usually with plenty to eat and a place to sleep.

Long, exhausting campaigns may be launched in which the men get neither food, shelter nor sleep for days.

It is inevitable that a harvest of insanity should be reaped where millions of men are engaged. It is a condition calculated to develop latent insanity and strain weakened minds to the breaking point.

Militarists, of course, will point to this as a benefit to the race. War, the great discoverer of incipient insanity! It was not done it the stress of economic life would have achieved the same end sooner or later, they will say.

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THE FIGURES FOR IT.

The true causes of the Treasury deficit were plainly shown by Representative Fordney in the House to be the Underwood tariff and the excessive extravagance now in the war.

The war taxes have more than made good this loss, for they produce \$6,800,000 a month, yet the general fund in the Treasury decreased \$7,500,336 between July 31, 1914, and July 31, 1915, and is now down to about \$50,000,000.

The Treasury balance would have been increased by the amount that the war tax revenue has exceeded the decrease in customs revenue.

It is the right system. The way to lower taxes is to formulate and present a specific plan. It was with that idea that The Oregonian recently undertook to impart a little knowledge as to what might and what might not be done by the Legislature.

A typical example is one who writes a letter to the Benton County Courier. He is hortatory in tone, and his suggestion that a movement to reduce county taxes should have the backing of a taxpayers' organization at the Legislature.

At last a solution seems to have been reached upon the matter of just how the canals of Mars were dug.

When Schiaparelli, the Italian astronomer, made his celebrated drawings of Martian canals, phenomena which were confirmed by many notable astronomers of the past three centuries.

It will be recalled that here the less ponderous and conservative scientists took up the discovery.

The real need for representation of the taxpayers at Salem when a reduction in number or pay of county officers is in issue, arises from the fact that the officials affected are invariably those who lobby.

Of course, if the counties of the state desire a home rule that involves a cutting loose from constitutional and legislative direction and restraint, the way does not lie through the Legislature.

County elective officers, other than judges, in counties of 50,000 population, shall consist of three commissioners and one county clerk.

The business manager shall be vested with all other authority and duties now vested in the county administrator.

The office of County Judge is hereby abolished. The judicial jurisdiction and duties of said judge shall be transferred to other courts now existing and the Legislative Assembly is hereby charged with the duty of passing such laws as may be necessary to make legal procedure conform to this amendment.

The County Commissioners shall receive a per diem of \$100 monthly engaged in transacting county business.

The County Commissioners shall be elected and qualified the County Judge and the two commissioners shall be elected and qualified in accordance with superceded laws.

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ATHLETES AND AILMENTS.

Sound health, rational living and plenty of exercise are reputed to be the principal guardians against encroachment of Winter ailments, particularly pneumonia.

The recent sudden death of a splendid athlete has led the New York Sun to inquire into the causes of this apparently contradictory condition.

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LEGISLATURE OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFER PROBATE PROCEDURE TO THE CIRCUIT COURT.

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OPEN MARKET TO THE PRESENT NAPOLEONS OF FINANCE?

He ignores the words immediately following the above quotation, which reads: "The option with the borrower or of the farm loan association." In other words, if the borrower prefers cash, he can get it; if he prefers bonds, he can get them.

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GLEAMS THROUGH THE MIST

By Dean Collins. The wind from the north came scurrying forth. And followed in boisterous mirth. And started to throw confetti of snow. All over the beautiful earth. It covered the ground and the birds strayed round. In grief too pathetic for words. And thought: "What they need is a regular fare!" So I'll start a crumb line for the birds.