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Thursday, June 27, 1912.

The Republican Convention.

The Republican National Convention has adjourned sine die, an left a stench in its wake that will make American politics obnoxious to Americans, and the subject of ridicule on the part of foreigners for many years to come. There is an old saying to the effect that when thieves fall out, honest men get their dues. We cannot believe that the Chicago convention was composed of an organized body of thieves, still if we believe the published accounts of the conduct and speeches of some of the members of that convention, we are forced to the opinion that there must be a strong parallel between some of the delegates and the proverbial thieves. And Mr. Roosevelt, in his first speech after the adjournment of the convention, in accepting the temporary leadership of a new political party, demands that one of the first principles of his new party shall be "Thou shalt not steal," insinuating very strongly that some conspicuous thieving had been done in the convention proper, and in the preliminaries to the convention.

The story of the life of President Taft, since he first entered public service in Hamilton County, Ohio, in 1885, is familiar to most readers. After serving successive terms a county solicitor, judge of the Superior Court of Cincinnati, Solicitor-General of the United States, U. S. Circuit Judge, he was appointed president of the United States Philippines Commission by President McKinley. In less than a year after Mr. Roosevelt had become President, he appointed Mr. Taft the first Civil Governor of the Philippines, later sending him as special envoy to visit the Pope in Rome in regard to the friar lands in the Philippines. After returning from his Eastern service, he successively declined an appointment as associate justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, was provisional Governor of Cuba and for four years Secretary of War, all at the solicitation and appointment of President Roosevelt. He resigned his position as Secretary of War to become a candidate for President, having been nominated at the hands of the Republican National Convention. Mr. Roosevelt was the dominant force at that convention, though not present in person, and was responsible solely for Mr. Taft's nomination. And now after supporting Mr. Taft for a dozen years, the worm has turned, and he who was the brightest star in the American firmament, according to Mr. Roosevelt, is now, in the estimation of the same infallible judge, the vilest traitor to his people, in that he has secured his own re-nomination, contrary to the wishes and ambition of his former sponsor. And Mr. Taft is accused by vile insinuations and innuendoes of stealing the nomination of the Republican party, against the will of the sovereign people, he, the accuser, claiming to be the popular choice of these people.

We don't believe an honest, impartial critic would uphold Mr. Roosevelt in his contentions. In every public position Mr. Taft has held, he has conducted himself in such manner as to bring honor and credit to his country and to himself. At no other time in his public career have the services he has rendered, or his personal conduct, been under

the least suspicion, [neither by Mr. Roosevelt, for if it had been we believe he would have told us, nor by the people.

Without going into details as to the merits or demerits of the present method of presidential nominations, which has proven to be cumbersome and unsatisfactory to say the least, we are firmly of the opinion that Mr. Taft has played the game according to the rules, which have received at least the partial approval of his predecessor in office. Mr. Roosevelt had a well manipulated machine under his control, which named Mr. Taft as the party nominee four years ago, against the wishes, we believe, of a majority of the party, and many of its leaders. Mr. Taft having inherited this machine from its organizer, Roosevelt, uses it to his own benefits and advantages, and is boldly accused of being a thief.

Such actions are unbecoming in any man, doubly so in the only living ex-President of the United States. Mr. Roosevelt should direct his vile vituperations against the system, not against Mr. Taft. We will agree with him that the system is badly at fault, antiquated, and might offer opportunities for actions that might be frowned upon in any circle except American politics. But practice and custom make laws, and the laws have been followed as closely at Chicago as at other National Conventions.

Shrewd political observers, however, have been quoted as saying that the recent convention is the last of the kind that will ever be held by the Republican party. There are fourteen states which held presidential primaries this year. By 1916 it will probably be determined by the direct vote of the people who the nominees will be, and then the next step of the progressive party will be a constitutional amendment abolishing the electoral college, which in two instances has succeeded in electing a president who did not receive the largest popular vote. If the people can elect their Senators by direct vote, there is no reason why the election of a President should be delegated to an electoral college or any other such limited body.

Hard Times Past.

With crop conditions that have never been equal since settlements have been made in Central Oregon, with railroad facilities that will be vastly extended in the next few years, with Louis W. Hill in control of the Oregon & Western Colonization Company, the largest development company in the West, and lastly with the Borah-Jones three-year homestead bill on the statute books, there are certainly better days coming for Central Oregon.

This section was never so attractive to investors and settlers before. Poor crops during the past few years have discouraged many who would have settled here. The isolation has driven others away. The hardships necessary to living on a claim for five years have frightened other prospective homesteaders to go to the Valley and take a small tract of land on which to make their home.

All of these conditions are changed now. Crops of all varieties promise rich returns this fall, the Oregon Trunk and Harriman roads have put Central Oregon within ten hours of Portland, and Mr. Hill has promised that he will place his 800,000 acres on the market at prices that will be attractive to settlers, and the Borah-Jones bill puts homesteads within the reach of any who would take them.

It looks at last as though the day of Central Oregon prosperity is coming soon, and none deserve it more than those who came into the country in the early days, and whose efforts and hardships and sacrifices have made conditions what they are.

**FULL TEXT OF NEW
HOMESTEAD BILL**

Proof May be Offered on Existing Claims Under the New Law. Absence Allowed.

Following is the text of the Borah-Jones three-year homestead bill as it was signed by President Taft on June 6. The law takes the form of an amendment to Sections 2291 and 2297 of the Revised Statutes. Under the terms of the new law, a copy will be sent to each homestead entryman by the Secretary of the Interior. The full text of the new law follows:

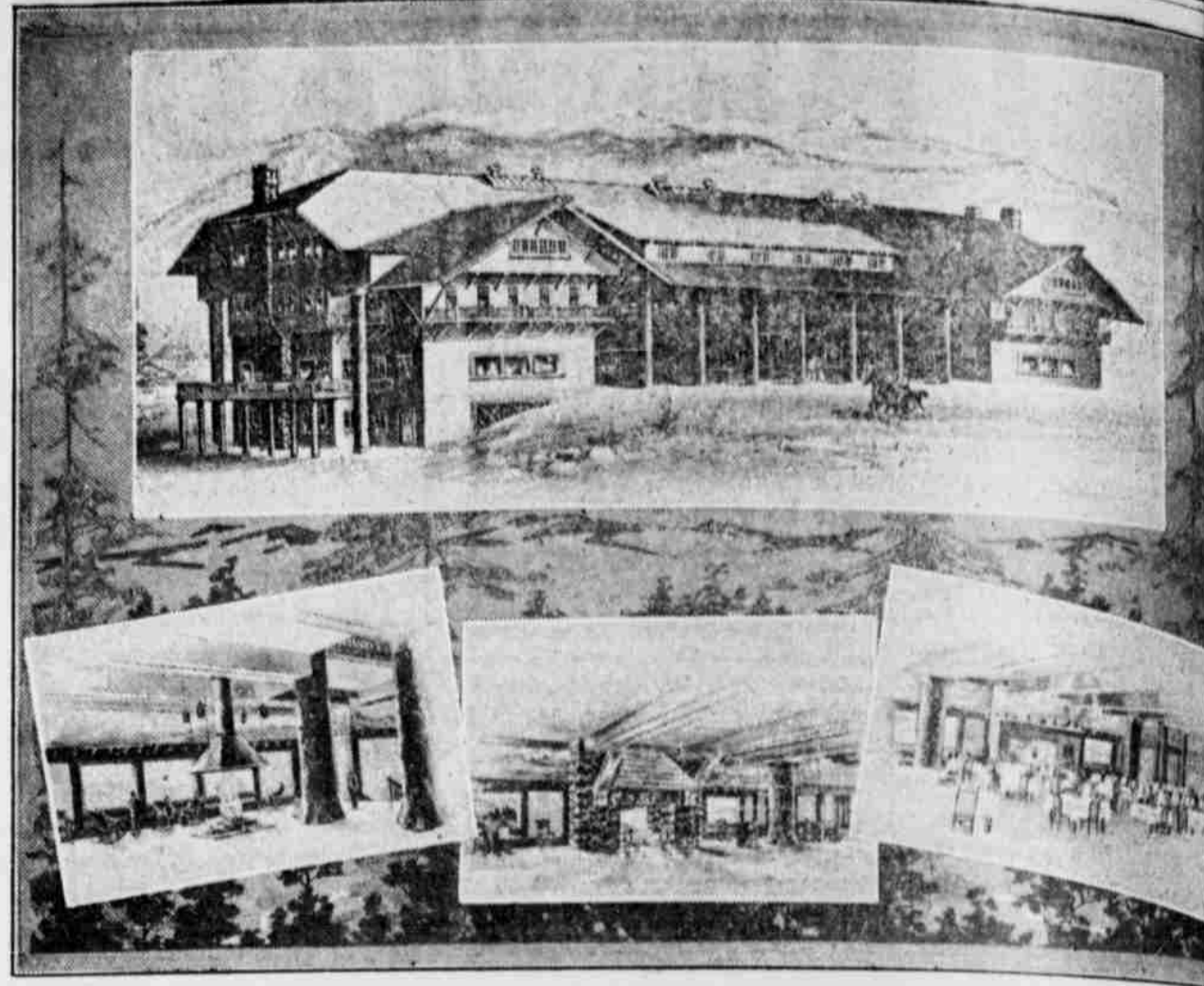
"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that section 2291 and section 2297 of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended to read as follows:

Section 2291. No certificate, however, shall be given or patent issued therefor until the expiration of three years from the date of such entry; and if at the expiration of such time, or at any time within two years thereafter, the persons making such entry, or if he be dead his widow, or in case of her death his heirs or devisee, or in case of a widow making such entry her heirs or devisee, and in case of her death, proved by himself and by two creditable witnesses that he, she or they have a habitable house upon the land and have actually resided upon and cultivated the same for a term of three years succeeding the time of filing the affidavit, and makes affidavit that no part of such land has been alienated, except as provided in section 2288, and that he, she or they will bear true allegiance to the Government of the United States, then in such case, he, she or they, if at that time citizens of the United States, shall be entitled to a patent, as in other cases provided by law:

"Provided, that upon filing in the local land office notice of the beginning of such absence, the entryman shall be entitled to a continuous leave of absence from the land for a period not exceeding five months in each year after establishing residence, and upon the termination of such absence the entryman shall file a notice of such termination in the local land office, but in case of commutation the 14 months' actual residence as now required by law must be shown, and the person commuting must be at the time a citizen of the United States: Provided, that when the person making the entry dies before the offer of final proof, those succeeding to the entry must show that the entryman has complied with the law in all respects, as would have been required of the entryman had he lived, excepting that they are relieved from any requirement of residence upon the land:

"Provided further, that the entryman shall, in order to comply with the requirements of cultivation herein provided for, cultivate not less than one-sixteenth of the area of his entry, beginning with the second year of the entry, and not less than one-eighth beginning with the third year of the entry, and until final proof, except that in case of entries under section six of the enlarged-homestead law double the area of cultivation herein provided shall be required, but the Secretary of the Interior may, upon a satisfactory showing, under rules and regulations prescribed by him, reduce the required area of cultivation:

"Provided, that the above provision as to cultivation shall not apply to entries under the act of April 28, 1904, commonly known as the Kinkaid Act, or entries under the act of June 17, 1902, commonly known as



GREAT NORTHERN'S \$75,000 STRUCTURE IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK BUILT MAINLY OF LOGS

the Reclamation Act, and that the provisions of this section relative to the homestead period shall apply to all unperfected entries as well as entries hereafter made upon which residence is required: Provided, that the Secretary of the Interior shall, within 60 days after the passage of this act, send a copy of the same to each homestead entryman of record who may be affected thereby, by ordinary mail to his last known address, and any such entryman may, by giving notice within 120 days after the passage of this act, by registered letter to the register and receiver of the local land office, elect to make proof upon his entry under the law under which the same was made without regard to the provisions of this act.

Section 2297. If, at any time after the filing of the affidavit as required in section 2290 and before the expiration of the three years mentioned in section 2291, it is proved, after due notice to the settler, to the satisfaction of the register of the land office that the person having filed such affidavit has failed to establish residence within six months after date of entry, or abandon the land for more than six months at any time, then and in that event the land so entered shall revert to the Government: Provided, that the three years' period of residence herein fixed shall date from the time of establishing actual permanent residence upon the land: And provided further, that where there may be climatic reasons, sickness or other unavoidable cause, the Commissioner of the General Land Office may, in his discretion, allow the settler 12 months from the date of filing in which to commence his residence on said land under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe."

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Notice is hereby given the partnership heretofore existing under the name of **& Tucker**, has been dissolved. **A. W. Culp** having assumed business, and all bills payable as well as accounts due firm, will be settled by him.
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