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"COVERING" CONVENTION.

A national political convention is the battleground for every passion, prejudice, selfish interest and ideal that is represented in the fervid life of the United States.

To estimate and record the forces that are seething in this melting pot is the highest triumph of the newspaper reporter's art. A reporter may be able to cover satisfactorily a great fire, earthquake or accident, by alert eyes, tireless legs and a resourceful brain. But when he gets to a national convention he needs all that and much more.

He must also have a personal acquaintance with politicians, and a political feel that can detect some new force as a sea captain detects an iceberg by the chill of the air.

At a national convention you are overwhelmed with what writers call "color." Here is where the mere writer fails. He is impressed with the physical side of the thing as a picture with the humor of the tousled delegates sleeping in hotel corridors, with the barbaric emotionalism of the cheering. He telegraphs an epic comedy home. But the public was not looking for word painting or humor. It wants a cool, colorless estimate of inner forces, silent, obscure, compelling, which today are unconsciously dominating men's minds, and tomorrow will sweep through the melting pot like a blast of titanic fire.

The cub reporter is buttonholed at the political headquarters by the noisy scouts, whose business it is to cheer the stragglers and inflame the doubting. With their loud voices, garrulous verbosity, ponderous authority, they overwhelm the untrained journalist. The one who talks last tells the truth.

Back in a corner there is some silent man whom the amateur overlooks as a mere underling. But he has a certain sensitiveness to human feeling, so that he silently registers the force of human sentiment as a barometer registers the coming storm.

No newspaper man can cover a political convention unless he has the personal acquaintance and confidence of men of this type, who will give him their estimate of the net result of the forces seething around them. The public thinks of the reporter as sitting in his seat, scribbling away for dear life to catch the words of the platform orator. But the man who is doing the real reporting may never see the convention hall.

CONVENTION PRAYERS.

Applauding a prayer is not a reverent thing to do. It occurred once in Chicago and once at Baltimore. At the latter convention an Episcopal clergyman from Washington, D. C., on the second day offered an invocation in which the divine blessing was asked in twenty words. The result was tremendous applause.

A prayer offered at the Chicago convention by the Rev. John Wesley Hill is worthy of note. Hill vies with Chancellor Day in his defense of the interests. A stenographic report of his prayer shows that he thanked Gor "for the laws which are in league with us and the forces which are our friends!" He prayed further that his employers might be delivered from "restlessness, revolution and ruin," which suggests the famous three r's of the Reverend Burchard during the Blaine campaign. He wound up his prayer with gratitude to god for Mr. Taft as follows: "We thank thee for the inspiration of his leadership and the greatness of his achievements!" At the conclusion of Mr. Hill's prayer the convention resumed its larcenous operations to the accompaniment of "toot, toots" from the galleries.

Twenty-five business men of Astoria met one evening recently and organized a law-and-order league.

THE CHAUTAUQUA.

The twentieth annual meeting of the Southern Oregon Chautauqua has melted into the past. It was a success—the most successful yet held—and why should it not be so? For wisdom grows with age and experience dictates that each session should be better than the last.

Are the Chautauqua sessions good for Ashland? Well, that depends upon the viewpoint. The mercenary one, who thinks but in dollars, may say no. No doubt more dollars leave the community than come in. Good talent costs money and the talent personnel mostly comes from afar and takes its fee away when it goes.

But from the moral and intellectual viewpoint nothing is of greater value to the community. It is doubly worth the money.

From a purely material standpoint, outside of the immediate shining silver dollar—for the dollar fills small space, even in the material world—the Chautauqua is a community builder. It is peculiarly so in a community constituted like Ashland. This is a home and health town, especially adapted to the habitat of persons who already have their living made and who are looking for comfort, health and social environment. As a rule that class of persons pay attention to the moral and intellectual atmosphere, if not for themselves, for their families, and to these the Chautauqua supplies a marked attraction, one not to be measured in mere dollars, and thus indirectly contributes greately to the material development of the community.

As a whole a good Chautauqua is a great moral, intellectual and material asset. It is one of the best of advertisements. Te be known widely—and especially nation-wide—as a center of culture is a consummation highly to be prized.

Largely on account of efficient management Ashland is enabled to enjoy Chautauqua attractions as good as can be found in America. It requires experience and costs a deal of hard work to get results such as attain here. The association very wisely continued Mr. G. F. Billings at its head for another year. During eighteen years the assembly has steadily grown in interest, patronage and class. Its growth is largely due to the splendid work of its president, upon whom falls the responsibility and initiative in the work. Mr. Billings is qualified by long experience and knowledge of Chautauqua work and workers to keep Ashland at the head of the list in attractions and renown. He is the right man in the right place. Let none criticise the management of the Ashland Chautauqua save those who can do it better.

THE VICE-PRESIDENCY.

Considering that the chances, arguing from past history, are one in seven that the vice-president will become president, the slight attention given by the two conventions to the choice of a candidate is a national scandal.

The vice-president job has become the sport of the nation and the butt of the paragrapher. Enforced idleness is considered in the category of cruel and unusual punishments. The man who has no greater function than to put ayes and noes, a mere clerk's job, is not likely to measure up to the presidential standard if fate's lightning strikes him.

It is significant that when the constitution was originally drafted the convention was in session five months before it occurred to anyone that there ought to be a vice-president. This convention assembled the most profound thinkers and constructive statesmen ever called upon to fashion form of government. Every known device for constituting a national authority was tried and debated. Not until the work was nearly done did some one suggest having a vice-president.

The real reason for his existence is said to have been the fear of the smaller states lest the big states should always get the presidency of the senate and cast the deciding vote in that body. So they created a vice-president to allay that bogey.

There are two ways to assure a first-class presidential succesion. The first, and a desirable method, would be to abolish the vice-presidency. Probably that woud be impossible.

The second way, and a perfectly possible means, is to give the man some honest work to do that will count and which will interest a man of presidential size. Why should he be absolved from the universal law of labor, which alone makes any career worth while?

At the least he should have a vote in the senate on every division, instead of merely the right to decide a tie.

FREE SPEECH IN COLLEGES?

Did you ever hear of Miss Vida D. Scudder?

If you have not, you ought to know something about her, for she is one of our noblest women, one whose heart beats in smypathy with human endeavor everywhere, one who, belonging to the aristocracy of intellect, is at the same time a sister of those who toil, a member of the universal democracy that is to be.

About her for some time now has raged a controversy. An associate professor of English literature at aristocratic Wellesley, she has before now shocked some by writing books in which she treated rather sympathetically of socialistic doctrines. But the thing that brought more criticism than anything else is the part she took in the famous strikes at Lawrence, Mass. She protested against police lawlessness. She addressed a meeting of Lawrence women and spoke these noble words:

"I speak for thousands beside myself when I say that I would rather never again wear a thread of woolen than know that my garments had been woven at the cost of such misery as I have seen and known, past the shadow of a doubt, to have existed in this town."

And once again: "On every man and woman there has flashed the vision of a just society, based on fair reward to labor, and on fraternal peace."

Do you know what happened when these utterances were published? If you are a real man, you will think the trustees of Wellesley were proud of her. Far from it. A demand was made that her resignation should be requested.

Is it any wonder that our colleges are not commanding the respect they should? They are more and more being considered as the fortresses of privilege, as the exponents of the hideous doctrine that whatever is, is right, and that all is for the best in this best of all possible worlds.

Our colleges—like our statesmen—must grow, and they will grow only when they learn this important doctrine:

Freedom of thought and speech is the lifeblood of a university.

IMPEACHED 'EM ALL.

Just as they were getting ready to impeach one judge of the commerce court, congress up and impeached the whole bunch by abolishing 'em. Thus ends one of the cleverest efforts of American statemanship to regulate the railroads without hurting the price of stocks, if Taft doesn't veto.

You see, it was this way: Public opinion demanded real regulation. The interstate commerce commission was finally supplied with Claws. It then became necessary to devise some means of protecting railroad rates from possible reduction. Hence, the commerce court to review the acts of the commission.

As case after case came up, the commerce court "seen its duty and done it." Where the commission had sustained the contention of the railroads, its decision was always upneld; in the much more numerous cases where the commission had ruled against the railroads, the commission was usually turned down.

The railroads were tickled to death with the patriotic action of the commerce court. In the meantime, the people were getting awfully tired of being buncoed, a presidential election drew nigh, and right at the height of the pre-convention period congress took the comerce court by the nape of the neck and the baggy part of its trousers and threw it into the ditch.

IS MIDDLEMAN NEEDED?

Pending Suits Against Lumber Trust Will Decide Question.

Washington.—The rights and the necessity of the much-talked-of "middleman" in business will be fought out and determined by the courts, it is expected, in the government's pending suits against the so-called "lumber trust."

Testimony now being taken against the Eastern States Retail Lumber Dealers' Association forecasts, according to department of justice officials, that the issue will go to the courts largely on undisputed facts revolving about the legal scope of the operations of the middleman. Principally it will be an economic question, and the first time the middleman's problem has been presented to a court of justice.

Four civil suits and one criminal prosecution against lumber associations are in charge of Clark McKercher, special assistant to the attorney-general. The taking of testimony in the suit filed at St. Paul will begin on the Pacific coast about August 15.

Because of conflict with the Canadian laws regarding liquid fuel, it is possible that oil-burning steamers plying between points in Canada will make Seattle their bunker port, as that is the nearest place where they can get oil that is exempt from duty.

The Home Circle

Thoughts from the Editorial Pen

Good breeding is like affection; one cannot have too much of it.

There is always a ray of light to pierce our gloom, if we will not close our eyes and refuse to see it.

Women are the majority in the church on earth, and it is reasonable to suppose they will be three-fourths of the population in heaven.

There are a great many things in this world that we are not sure of, but there is one thing we may be sure of—"be sure your sins will find you out."

Would that our busy toilers could realize that they must enjoy passing days, if they would be happy. The pleasure to which they look forward seldom comes. The man or woman who has not learned contentment and how to find delight in the present has little reason to expect it in the future.

Be content to do the duty that lies nearest you, and look not to man for praise and approval. 'Tis not so much what we do as what we are, and as to "what we are" we speak most forcibly through our actions; but we cannot act unless there is something within that impels us to action. We are touching our fellow beings on all sides. They are affected for good or evil by what we are, by what we say and do, even by what we think and feel.

Many in their great anxiety for gain undertake too much and work like slaves to accomplish it, only to find at the end of the year they have gained little by it. Think more and work less. Life is short and it was meant that you should enjoy it. Are you fretted and despondent? Then rest. Take more sleep; have a holiday. Get cheered up and cheer up those about you. While your life snoud be a busy one, let it also be a happy one. Be not too anxious. Be cheerful, truthful, hopeful and contented.

* * *

Success and Failure.

Energy, temperance, perseverance and sound judgment will enable any man to gain a competence, or even more, but this spirit having once seized upon a man, needs wise control, for it will not willingly loose its hold. It drives him on and on. So many paths are open, so much is to be done, such rare prizes are in sight. No wonder the brain grows heated and the determination to rise higher fixed.

Many succeed—so many that furnishes example and spur to multitudes of others. But by far the larger number are only partially successful, while not a few fail altogether. Failure, or partial failure, may be due to things one can or cannot control—to foolish investments, gambling in stocks, extravagance, evil habits, or to ill-health, family sickness, the care of dependent relatives, or the fury of the elements. The result is a large number of overworked, soured, embittered lives. And the number is by no means all made up from the unsuccessful people. Many of the most successful as the world counts success become such by wearing out their own bodies and brains, and often those of their wives and children. How many men reach the point where they mean to enjoy life, only to find that the physical and mental power to do so is gone. Enjoyment comes to them too late.

* * *

A Word to Husbands.

Love and appreciation are to a woman what dew and sunshine are to a flower. They freshen and brighten her whole life. They make her strong-hearted and keen-sighted in everything affecting the welfare of her home. They make her to cherish her husband when the cares of life press heavily upon him; and to be a very providence to her children. To know that her husband loves her and is proud of her and believes in her, that even her faults are looked upon with tenderness, that her face, to one at least, is the fairest in all the world, that the heart which to her is the greatest and noblest, holds her sacred in his innermost recesses above all other women, gives a strength and courage and energy and sweetness and vivacity which all the wealth of the world could not bestow. Let a woman's life be pervaded with such an influence, and her heart and mind will never grow old but will blossom and sweeten and brighten in perpetual youth.

ROAD IMPROVED.

Now Possible to Drive Auto Within Mile of Crater.

It is now possible to drive an automobile within a mile and a half of Crater Lake, according to Prof. P. J. O'Gara, who has just returned from a visit to the lake. The snow is rapidly disappearing and within a week autos will be able to make their way to the lodge on the rim. The Crater Lake Company has everything in readiness for handling tourists at the lake and the season will soon be on in full blast.

"Despite stories to the effect that there is 10 feet of snow in the road between Arant's Camp and the rim of the lake," states Prof. O'Gara, "I found the road in fairly good shape. I walked from the lake to the camp in 55 minutes, which would not have been possible had there been much snow on the ground.

"By the end of this week I believe that it will be possible to drive a car clear to the rim. Tourists will find every comfort at the rim."

An announcement has just been made that a mill to cost $1,000,000 will be built at Bend, construction to start within 18 months. The plant will have a minimum pay roll of $25,000 a month, employing 500 men.

COLONEL G. B. M. HARVEY.

Editor of Harper's Weekly, Who "Discovered" Wilson.

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Level of Two Seas.

When attention was first called to the practicability of a canal from the Mediterranean to the Red sea by the first Napoleon a corps of surveyors was sent out to "run the levels." They reported that the scheme would necessarily have to be abandoned because the level of the Red sea was thirty feet six and a half inches higher than that of the Mediterranean. That report put a damper on the canal project for several years. In 1847, however, some "doubting Thomases" prevailed on the great powers to resurvey the route. England sent Robert Stephenson, Austria M. Talbot and France Signor Negrelli. They found that the two seas had exactly the same level, and the Suez canal was the result.

The Weight of the World.

A cubic foot of earth weighs about five and a half times as much as a cubic foot of water. A cubic mile of earth then weighs 25,694,300,000 tons. The volume of the earth is 259,880,000,000 cubic miles. The weight of the world without its atmosphere is 6,666,250,000,000,000,000 tons. If we add to this the weight of the atmosphere given above we get a grand total—6,666,255,819,000,000,000,000 tons.

It Doesn't Pay.

The trouble with the man who fails is that he wants to wait until tomorrow to study the lesson of the hour.—Chicago Record-Herald.