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MIGHTY LAME ARGUMENT.

For some weeks past those Oregonians who read the Portland Oregonian have been afflicted with a class of campaign thunder that is highly ridiculous. Day after day we have been assured that Oregon should give the state republican ticket 20,000 majority because Oregon's election is the first to be held in the country and the result would be encouraging in other states, and thereby be of great assistance to the party in the coming national election. Republicans have been urged to get out and work for 20,000 majority, and even the state committee has taken up the Oregonian's cry and voiced its plea.

Oregon ought to give 20,000 majority for the state republican ticket. If it doesn't give 20,000, it ought to give 10,000. A republican victory is desirable, and highly probable, for a variety of reasons. Republicans should vie with each other to make the majority as great as possible. This admits of no argument from the standpoint of the republican party.

But the Oregonian's excuse that Oregon should give a big republican majority because of the effect which such majority might have elsewhere is the veriest rot. The people of Oregon will soon be called upon to elect state officials, and the various counties to fill the offices which become vacant July 1. There is nothing of national significance in the election. The people are called upon merely to choose good men, and if the nominees of the republicans in the various counties are deserving of support the Oregonian is disgracing them by setting up the plea for support of the ticket on the ground that a rousing majority would help President Roosevelt. The idea that the republicans have no other reason to bid for support is absurd; the plea is so weak that it will hurt the ticket everywhere in the state.

If the state committee knows why it is advocating the principles of the republican party, it will call off the Oregonian and demand that it support the state and county tickets on the substantial ground that, the candidates being worthy of office, they should be elected because they are republicans, standing for principles which are too well known to be here enumerated. When it comes around to the presidential election Oregon will do the right thing by President Roosevelt. In the meantime, it is disgraceful to acknowledge that there are no local reasons for the election of the state and county tickets.

STOCK EXCHANGE SEATS.

A highly interesting legal issue is that which has just arisen between a member of the New York stock exchange and the trustee in bankruptcy of the failed firm of which he was a member—the question whether or not a member can be forced to sell his seat in the exchange except by the officers of that body itself. Judge Holt of the United States district court has ruled in favor of the trustee by issuing an order directing Edward Sanford Hatch "to execute a request" to the New York stock exchange to sell his seat and turn the proceeds over to the trustee in bankruptcy for the benefit of the failed firm's creditors.

It is clear, of course, that under the statute the personal or other property of a partner can be held, within certain limitations, for the benefit of a failed firm's creditors. But a stock exchange seat is a peculiar sort of property. The exchange itself is not an incorporated body—can not sue or be sued. And, if Mr. Hatch were to obey this court order and ask the exchange officers to sell his seat, it is extremely doubtful if, under the circumstances, anybody could be found who would buy it, for the simple reason that the exchange might refuse flatly to grant the purchase membership in its organization; and no court could compel it to do so. In fact, the governors of the stock exchange have always maintained that seats or membership in the board are not property in the commonly accepted version of the term. The only money received by the exchange upon the transfer of a seat is the \$1000 initiation fee required of each new member who passes the examination and is declared acceptable by the governors, who exercise

the very widest latitude in passing upon the merits of applicants.

Appeal has been taken to the next higher federal court, and it acts as a stay in the execution of Judge Holt's order. The final outcome is, of course, a matter of much importance. While it is easily conceivable that the United States supreme court might finally sustain Judge Holt's ruling, the practical issue involved would not thereby be settled, and for the reason above stated. It would all depend on the relations between the exchange officers and Mr. Hatch. If they are willing to protect him in the ownership of his seat, they can successfully defy his creditors. All the civil and military forces of the United States can not compel them to grant membership to a purchaser of the Hatch seat—and nobody would pay a penny for it unless assured in advance of avorable action by the governors.

GOVERNMENT AID FOR ROADS.

The department of agriculture at Washington has added to its many lines of work in the interest of the American farmers a division or bureau on road-building. The department is scientifically studying the problem of material for good roads in various parts of the country. The department is calling upon young graduates in engineering to take practical work in the department so as to enable the government to supply demands that are coming in for the services of men skilled in the art of road-building. Tests of material that are available for road-building are made by the department.

Secretary Wilson at the recent good roads convention at St. Louis said that the work of his department along the lines of road-building is intended to be educational and experimental, as it is along other lines in which it is engaged. Mr. Wilson added:

"I am well satisfied that the condition of the public roads at the present time is a correct indicator of the amount of educational work that has been done along the lines of road-building. If what the department is endeavoring to do now with regard to helping to build abject lesson roads (which has been done in half the states of the union) and the study of road material for the information of the people had been done when our government was organized, the people would have understood how to build roads long before this time—would have understood the values of the materials in all parts of the United States. And I am well satisfied also that when the people are thoroughly informed in the several states and territories with regard to the science of road-building, there will be no hesitation in levying taxes to carry on the work. The question will be with us always, and road-making will be cheapened as research adds to our knowledge of materials. The knowledge of road-making will grow as related sciences are developed."

A fact that may have considerable significance in connection with the divorce problem has just been brought to light in the English official record of judicial statistics for 1902, namely, that out of 1050 suits in that year for dissolution of the marriage tie 415, or nearly half, were cases where there had been no children by the marriage. That children form a strong tie to bind parents together is a fact of common knowledge, but that childless marriages in themselves tend to the divorce court seems a fair inference from these statistics.

Dr. Samuel Smiles of London, who recently died at the age of 92, wrote books on how to live long and be happy, and seems to have been one of the few doctors who knew how to take their own medicine.

Senator Quay is looking for absolute quiet, but is no doubt wedded to the theory that absolute quiet is only attainable under circumstances where a man has absolutely his own way.

A cable from St. Petersburg says: "Russia did not plan to lose 3000 men in the Yalu fight." It would be interesting to know how many men she had planned to lose.

J. Pierpont Morgan is one of the few men of the country who can handle \$40,000,000 in a lump without worrying about the magnitude of the responsibility.

The war department has decided that the Spanish-American war ended several years ago. If this is true, notice should be sent to General Wood.

This talk about Missouri going republican is probably based on the fact that everything in the state is on a high tariff basis during the exposition.

It seems all clear enough now. Elliot Danforth is said to have said that Judge Parker has said what he is said to have said.

Senator Hale says battleships are not worth the money invested in them, and Russia will undoubtedly agree with him.

Port Arthur, the only war town whose name the average person can pronounce, threatens to go out of business.

JUST FOR INSTANCE.

That pedigreed rooster that an Astorian man has lost has evidently met with FOWL play.

Where's the Oregon mist now?

We would like to mention Herman Wise as a presidential possibility. He is strenuous and doesn't believe in race

suicide. And we think it is a WISE suggestion!

Editor J. F. I.—No; the coffin I carry with me is not nailed with cigarettes. KUROPATKIN.

The Japs and the Russians seem to have about as hard a time to get together as do the war correspondents and the news.

We learn from the Budget that a carload of horses arrived from Portland for the Columbia River Packers' Association. And we have thought all along that we were eating salmon.

Extra! Extra!

Chingetchung, May 26.—Kuropatkin has been urged by the czar to hasten the end of the war in order that his majesty may have it off his mind and attend the Astoria regatta. Kuropatkin has replied that the only way to hasten the end of the war is to tell the Japs and let them do it. Kuropatkin! LI LI KHEL.

What a pathetic sight it is to see Portland in raptures over a circus! But, then, Portland is only a child. When she is as old as Astoria, and as experienced, she will know better.

By the way she is a precocious child!

And ought to be spanked for her saloon boxes.

Or BOXED!

It's neck and neck between the Astoria regatta and the Lewis and Clark exposition.

McCULLEY.

Weather Indications.

Portland, May 26.—For Oregon: Friday, fair and continued warm.

Bryan Gets Busy.

Omaha, Neb., May 26.—The contest in the democratic primaries of Douglas county today resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Bryan forces. The result is the indorsement for Bryan for delegate at large to the national democratic convention.

British Isolated.

Simla, British India, May 26.—The British Tibetan expedition at Gyangtse is isolated and no communication from it has been received from it for three days. Further reinforcements have been ordered to the front.

Methodist Conference.

Los Angeles, May 26.—The Methodist conference devoted its time today to the election of the general conference officers including publishing agents, secretaries and assistant secretaries of the various societies.

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