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**EFFECT OF THE SOCIALIST VOTE.**

The Portland Journal, discussing the result of the late election, points out the remarkable growth of the socialist vote of the state in the past two years. In 1902, according to the Journal, there were 579 socialist voters in Oregon, while the vote in 1904 was 6419, an increase of something like 855 per cent.

"At this ratio of increase it would not take long for the socialists to carry the state," says the Journal. "It does not follow necessarily that they are likely to do so, but a greatly increased socialist vote, enough to worry the republican machine, may possibly be expected."

The growth of the socialist vote need not worry the republican machine. To the contrary, the democratic machine is the one to do the worrying. The socialists are merely splitting the strength of the democrats, just as the populists did, and the republicans are the beneficiaries. Baker used to be a democratic county. This year Douglass, democrat, received 1386 votes for food commissioner, while Rasmussen, socialist, received 456, a total of 1842. Bailey, republican, received 1804, so the combined vote of the democratic and socialist candidates given to the democrat would have elected him. Combining the democratic and socialist strength, Moore would have received 4 plurality in Baker for supreme judge; Williamson would have been defeated in Baker for congress by 31.

Linn county is generally democratic; at all events, it sends two democrats and one republican to the legislature. Combining the democratic and socialist vote in Linn and giving the total to O'Day, he would have defeated Moore by 14 votes.

The growth of socialism is calculated to reduce the democratic vote. This is not to say that some republicans are not taking up with socialism, but rather that republicans are not so apt to become socialists as are democrats. More voters who profess faith in democracy will become socialists than will voters who identify themselves with the republican party. The socialist vote in Clatsop county is hurting the democrats, and generally socialism is operating to the detriment of democrats elsewhere in this state, and undoubtedly in the nation. We see no reason why this condition of affairs should worry the republicans.

As the Journal points out, many socialists are profoundly sincere in their convictions. Indeed, marked sincerity is absolutely necessary and quite plain in the man who votes a ticket which has no earthly show of immediate success. The average socialist does not want to win at present. He explains that conditions are not how opportune for socialism, and one of the foremost socialists of the state has stated to the writer that victory for the socialists at the present time would result in a situation of affairs that would disrupt the entire system of the nation and that chaos would continue until a more conservative system were established. But the socialist believes it his duty to now sacrifice his vote for the sake of those who will be here when the time is ripe for socialism. Men who are so strongly wedded to principle as to cling to this idea are not apt to return to the fold of either of the great parties, which is just another way of saying that the democratic organization will continue to suffer as the socialist vote grows.

**IRRIGATING INDIAN LANDS.**

The recent action of congress in passing Senator Bard's amendment to the Indian bill has put another definite task upon the reclamation service. The secretary of the interior is now authorized to subdivide and utilize the Indian lands along Colorado river. The reclamation of the country adjacent to what has sometimes been called "the great American Nile" is thus assured.

The plans to irrigate these lands have long been regarded with special favor in southern California. The chambers of commerce in Los Angeles and other cities were, indeed, nothing loath to urge congress to take prompt action in the matter.

The passage of Senator Bard's amendment is especially interesting, as it is now possible for the secretary of the interior to carry out an agreement made with the Indians years ago to the effect that

their lands might be subdivided and irrigated by a private corporation. Suitable laws were passed, but the company failed to build the works, and the Indians have been waiting for other relief. From time immemorial they had been accustomed to cultivate the lands along the river in spots wet by the natural overflow. These areas have now passed into the hands of the whites. All that is left the Indians is desert land that, without water, is valueless. With water, however, it can be made to produce several crops a year. Under the amendment to the Indian bill, relief has finally come to the impoverished Indians.

The secretary of the interior is now free to build the necessary canals under the terms of the reclamation law, and to allot to each Indian five acres of land with water. He need not wait on any private corporation. As the Indian families average from five to six persons, this would give them ample lands for their support, judging from the experience of the Mormons in Utah, where the average irrigated farm is less than 30 acres. The lands not utilized by the Indians are to be opened to white settlers who will pay for them. Under the terms of the reclamation law the sale of lands will serve to defray the expenses of the irrigation works, payment being made in 10 annual installments. Southern California and adjacent portions of Arizona should be benefitted by the influx of settlers which is sure to follow the irrigation of the land.

In the presidential campaign of 1856 the first republican candidate was defeated by a democratic plurality of 496,905. From that time until the present there have been only two exceptions to the rule of republican pluralities in national elections. In the republican party's second contest, with Lincoln as standard bearer in 1860, its plurality was 491,195; in 1864 the figure was 407,342; in 1868 it was 305,456; in 1872 it was 769,991; in 1876 it was 250,935; in 1880 it dropped to a bare 7018; in 1884 came the first reverse since the initial campaign, the democratic plurality being 62,683; in 1888 the republicans won in the electoral vote, although there was a popular democratic plurality of 98,017; in 1892 the democrats won with a plurality of 380,810; in 1896 the republican plurality was 601,854, and in 1900 it broke all records, with 849,790.

Secretary Shaw told this story the other day as to the propriety of extending clemency to violators of the customs laws who furnish evidence against their associates. It was at a school in Mr. Shaw's native state of Iowa, and one of the boys had committed some grave infraction of discipline. The teacher announced that he would thrash the whole class if some one did not tell him who had committed the offense. All were silent, and he began with the first boy and thrashed every one in the class, until finally he reached the last one. Then he said: "Now, if you will tell me who did this I won't thrash you." "All right, sir. I did it," was the reply.

Hari-kari is still an honored practice among the Japanese, as much in favor as jiu jitsu. The officers of the mikado's transport Hitachi, it is said, could not resist the temptation to commit suicide when the Russians had made ciphers of them. They ordered their banners burned and crossed the chrysanthemum Acheron at a Speedway pace. Death rather than disgrace was their guiding principle, and they preferred, like the followers of Leonidas the Spartan, to be carried home on their shields rather than to yield to the enemies of their country.

Already Fourth of July accidents are being reported, and by the time the celebration is over the death list will reach 700 or 800, to say nothing of the hundreds crippled for life and the thousands injured less seriously. Just why patriotism should be construed to mean that insane people ought to be permitted to run at large is not clear.

The 12th annual meeting of the national irrigation congress will be held at El Paso November 15-18. The congress ought to be of vast benefit to the arid sections of the great west, justifying the preliminary interest everywhere manifested.

The use of a knife as a means of settling disputes is one thing. It is evident that pleading guilty before Judge McBride to the charge of assault with a deadly weapon is quite another—and a most fitting sequel.

The United States is now the greatest coal-producing country in the world, the output of last year reaching 300,000,000 tons. This is four tons of coal for every man, woman and child in the United States.

Manila has a total population of something like 300,000, about 10,000 being American and European born. The American population is estimated at about 6000.

The average daily income of the saloons in the United States is \$15. This would make the total receipts of America's saloons for one year about \$950,000,000.

**Just Little Things.**

Let us carry the prevailing movement right along and make it a noiseless Fourth.

A tip to the St. Louis convention: Nominate a thinker and let his admirers do the talking.

Things are coming Russia's way these times—but are things which do not conduce to peace of mind and the delicious languor of a soul at rest.

The Igorrote village is going to furnish added terrors for the yellow dog whose unlucky star cursed him with St. Louis as an abiding place.

Astronomers are hunting for another planet. We went out and searched the heavens carefully last night, but were wholly unable to find any missing.

It is cruel of the president of Cornell college to denounce bachelors. Doesn't he know that they are remaining single just to escape denunciation?

These are the days when Colorado's justly famous ozone comes mixed with something a heap more strenuous than microbes.

The first piano was manufactured in 1711. It was crude, noisy and unsubstantial, but hundreds of men in our city stand ready to swear that it is still in use, and that some one in their block hammers away on it eight hours a day.

A writer in the Philadelphia Ledger has evolved the theory that the stars are chunks of radium. Form your stock companies. We've robbed the land of the forests; let us now clean out the Milky Way.

The hairs on John D. Rockefeller's head are numbered, but how about his dollars?

**Keep Clean the Ice Box.**

The very best of housekeepers need to be reminded once in a while that one of the most important items of hygienic living is the care of the refrigerator. Nothing else about the entire house should receive so much care and attention and regard for its positive wholesomeness. If the refrigerator is left entirely in the hands of the servants you need not be surprised if the family is attacked by sickness. The only safeguard against bad health is personal supervision of this branch of housekeeping, says the Chicago Inter Ocean.

Cooks should be particularly cautioned against putting away warm food in the ice chest. If this is done the warm article will absorb the flavors and odors of the other food in the refrigerator. Apartments should be set apart for milk and butter, and these articles should always be kept in the compartments where they belong and never set near the other food. However, if separate compartments are not provided in the refrigerator for these articles of food, see that they are always kept closely covered. Milk readily absorbs the flavors of other foods, and butter, if left uncovered, soon becomes tainted.

**THE MARKETS.**

Doings of the Day in Grain and Stocks.

Liverpool, June 28.—July wheat, 6s 3 7/8d.  
 New York, June 28.—Silver, 57 5/8c; Union Pacific, 88; preferred, 92.  
 Chicago, June 28.—July wheat opened at 85 1/8-85 3/8c; closed at 84 3/4-84 7/8c; barley, 42@52c; flax, \$1.01; Northwestern, 107.  
 San Francisco, June 28.—Cash wheat, \$1.25.  
 Portland, June 28.—Wheat: Walla Walla, 89c; bluestem, 77c; valley, 78c. Cattle unchanged.  
 Tacoma, June 28.—Wheat: Bluestem, 79c; club, 66c.

**The Weather.**

Portland, June 28.—Western Oregon and Western Washington: Wednesday, partly cloudy; cooler, except near the coast.

**Notice.**

For the purpose of correcting an impression which exists in the minds of some that William Thompson, Arnold and Albert Davey have done some injury to my little boy Salvador Arcidiacono, I beg to say that I have discovered that the injuries were purely an accident and the boys had nothing to do with them.

MARIANO ARCIDIACONO.  
 June 28, 1904.

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