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POLITICAL REFORMS.

Political reforms have been engrafted into the politics of the state by political reformers. These reformers are the product of those left over after a convention has been held. That is, they were candidates for some office, but, not having the grip and pass-word of the political machine, they were turned down. They immediately started out on a mission of reforming politics. They have been instrumental in securing the passage of laws intending to purify the ballot box, purifying conventions and purifying primaries. They evolved the idea that if the Australian ballot law was adopted in Oregon, that not only would it be productive of curing many of the evils complained of, but might possibly give them a show to secure the nomination for some coveted position. The Australian ballot law was adopted, and aside of making it more difficult for a person to vote and longer to count the ballots, there has been no improvement in the system of voting and the reforms have been unable to secure the nomination or election to office.

Then it became necessary to strike at the root of the evil, and the direct primary law was proposed. This would certainly give the reformer a chance for his money. He could get on the ticket and possibly fall in for a nomination. The legislature, afraid to antagonize the direct primary contingent, passed a law. The first demonstration of its utility and purifying qualities were exhibited at Portland last month. Nearly every man in Portland was a candidate for office. The primaries were held, and, being under the control of the ring, the result was the same as the old-style convention. The reformers managed to receive about 300 votes out of 15,000. The direct primary law was a farce and an expensive piece of political machinery.

From this may be learned two important facts. One is, that there is no legislative body in this world that can pass a law that a political ring cannot manipulate and dictate the nominations and elections. No matter how honest or meritorious the system proposed or the plan adopted nor how safely guarded from political intrigue, it will be moulded like clay in the hands of the potter, by professional politicians and the result is always the same. Second, no political reformers ever lived, or ever will, that can devise a law to elect them to office unless they have the sanction of the party managers. This is the history of every state in the United States. There has to be a head to every organization and a party has to be administered the same as any great company administers its business affairs; from a recognized head down through the intermediary branches of every department. Politics is a science. It is not taught in the public schools or in the colleges. It is acquired by personal experience and by starting in at the lowest round of the ladder and working up to the top, the same as in any kind of business. The most faithful and competent; the shrewdest and most calculating are the successful ones in business and in politics. We are not criticizing political machines nor the members of political parties who control the politics of a city county or state, but simply to show the impossibility of reforming politics by legislative enactment. There is only one way to purify politics—if they need purifying—and that is for the stay at home contingent, those that pay the taxes and bear the burdens of political governments to go to the primaries and to the polls, but as long as they take no interest and make no effort to change existing evils just so long will politics be managed through party machines and there is no law or ballot reform that can prevent a man from belonging to the machine, or from using his endeavours and influence among the rank and file to secure political preferment. Politics is just as honorable as any other business. There are just as many honest men holding office as there are engaged in other lines of business. There are no more defaulting politicians than there are defaulting

bankers. One is entrusted with the handling of public funds and the other with private funds. (There are just as many politicians punished for malfeasance in office as there are bankers and clerks. If a man is naturally dishonest, no reform laws can make him honest.

DAMAGE GRAFTERS

Astoria has had experience of what is termed "damage grafters," that class of people that want a large sum of money for a very small injury. The Seattle P. I. contains an article that will sound strangely familiar to Astorians who remember the Bock and other similar cases. Every person familiar with the business of the courts of the country knows that, within the past few years and in all parts of the United States, there has been a most extraordinary increase in the number of damage suits for personal injuries. It is estimated in some quarters that such suits constitute fully one-quarter of all of the litigation before the state courts of the country, and in some cities the percentage runs far higher than this. In short, the cost to the taxpayers of maintaining the courts of the country open to litigants has been added to by at least twenty-five per cent. through the increase in litigation of this class.

In the current number of Pearson's Magazine, Theodore Waters discusses this subject under the head, "The Profession of Getting Hurt," and brings to public light some extraordinary instances to prove the correctness of the caption which he has taken for an article on the subject of damage suit litigation. The present article is but the first of a series, and it deals principally with conditions present in Chicago, where the damage suit attorney seems most to flourish. At the present time there are twenty-six hundred damage suits for personal injuries pending against the municipality of Chicago alone, without counting the number which have been brought against street railway and other corporations in the city, and the aggregate claims of these litigants foot up \$34,475,000. In 1893, the total number of such claims presented against the city was forty-six, which will give some adequate idea of the recent growth of the industry.

At the present time, there are different firms of attorneys in Chicago which have each upwards of fifty cases pending against the city. It may or may not be considered a coincidence that the clients of any of these firms employed the same doctor, and that the extent of the injuries sustained in each case will have to be proved in great part by the testimony of the same attending physician. In the report of John F. Smulski, the city attorney of Chicago, he says:

"It is necessary for a layman to be present in court and hear the evidence given by the plaintiff, usually a tearful woman, and the plaintiff's physician and the argument of counsel, in order to appreciate what terrible injuries a woman may receive by stubbing her toe on a loose plank or by a fall from a broken sidewalk. He would learn to his horror that the aforesaid woman broke a number of ribs—the evidence of which has of course since disappeared and is remembered only by the plaintiff and her doctors—that in falling she hit the sidewalk a number of different ways and hit the back of her head, which now causes dizziness, loss of memory, weakening of the sight and loss of hearing; and that she sprained her ankle, dislocated her hip, sustained internal injuries to her stomach and kidneys and permanently injured her spine, so that she became a hopeless neurotic. It seems but little short of miraculous for a person so horribly injured to live."

All of this is sufficiently evident of the extent to which the evil has grown. It does not appear how the evil is to be checked. Statutes against champerty do not seem to touch the matter, possibly for the reason that they are not self-enforcing and it does not seem the duty of any one to enforce them.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Epitome of Anecdotes and Incidents With Comments by a Layman.

A man in Portland says he has discovered the secret of growing coal black roses. And now there will be another coon song.

It is reported that China will try to suppress the use of opium. There's a chance to sell the cigarette that can't be sold in Indiana.

They are talking in Russia of shooting some of the naval officers. Where are they going to find a Russian that can hit 'em. They use bombs better than guns.

William Randolph Hearst says he don't fear the yellow peril. Why should he? He's it.

Norway has left the Union. That settles it for Norway as far as any sympathy from Chicago is concerned.

Henry Watterson says he likes the kind of beer they drink in Munich. When

they hear about that in Kentucky, Watterson will lose about 50 per cent of his popularity.

Mr. Hyde is described in the New York World as a hot-headed young fellow who wears lovely clothes. The difference between Mr. James Hazen Hyde and Mr. Harry Lehr, then, is the color condition of Jimmy's cranial cavity.

Astoria lady—What! pay \$14.99 for a hat like that? Why it's outrageous.

Milliner—But you forget, madame, it has been especially reduced from \$15.

Astoria Lady—Oh, in that case I'll take it. You see I didn't know it had been reduced.

Tess—Haven't you decided yet where you're to spend the summer?

Jess—O, yes, mother insists upon the Portland fair, but she and father are hopelessly divided about where we'll spend the fall.

Tess—Indeed!

Jess—Yes, mother says Astoria, and father says the almshouse. I don't see any difference.

Two Astoria ladies visited the Portland fair Saturday. They were examining with great interest a bas-relief of a young Greek shepherd, "Executed in terra cotta."

"I wonder where Terra Cotta is," ventured the elder of the two, turning to her companion.

"Well, now, I ought to know," hesitated the other; "but I can't seem to place it just now."

"Ah, well," rejoined the first speaker as they passed on, "it must be a dreadful place if they execute harmless young boys like that there."

A charge of opening wireless messages has been preferred against the Statue of Liberty. It's just a case of the ruling feminine passion strong in bronze.

The Simple Life and the Strenuous Life played to good houses, but the Equitable Life is having the longest run.

Longshoremen's Union.

The Astorian has been requested to publish the following:

Everett, Wash., June 7.

To the I. L. & T. Local Unions on the Pacific coast.

The Pacific Coast Branch of the I. M. & T. A. in convention assembled adopted the following resolution unanimously:

Owing to the conditions existing on the Pacific coast at the present time relative to the differences between the Sailors' Union of the Pacific and the locals of the I. L. M. & T. A., the executive board of the Pacific coast branch of the I. L. M. & T. A. beg leave to submit to the delegates to the Fourth Annual Convention of the Pacific Coast Branch, in convention assembled, the following for their careful consideration:

In view of the fact that the Sailors' Union of the Pacific has demanded that all locals on this coast chartered by the I. L. M. & T. A., surrender their charters, thus severing their connection with the Longshoremen of the world and the American Federation of Labor, therefore we recommend that a committee consisting of three Longshoremen representing the Pacific Coast Branch of the I. L. M. & T. A. be elected to meet with a like committee selected by the Sailors' Union of the Pacific for the purpose of arranging a satisfactory settlement to both organizations.

That this convention also select a representative of the A. F. of L. to act as a correspondent in bringing both committees together to meet in conference, and that these committees select one member each prominent in the labor movement and those two thus selected to select a third party, and that this committee meet as a committee of the whole, and that their decision shall be final.

However, let it be thoroughly understood that the Longshoremen of the Pacific Coast do not intend to surrender their rights as union men, nor their affiliation with their international. Rather than do so we will fight to preserve our organization against any and all that may undertake to destroy it.

Any settlement along honorable or union lines will be hailed with delight by the Longshoremen of the Pacific Coast. (Signed) J. J. HURLEY, Secretary, P. C. B. of I. L. M. & T. A.

Warrenton Shingle Mill.

Mr. Kaski of the Flavel Shingle and Lumber Company located in Warrenton states that an effort is being made to straighten up the affairs of the company with a fair prospect of success, and that he expects to have the mill running in a few days. There is no disagreement between he and his associates Messrs Ward and Hardy, but like many other manufacturing institutions it is not always possible to realize on products and collect in outstanding money as promptly as they would like in order to meet obligations. Mr. Kaski is satisfied that all claims for material and labor will be paid and the mill resume operations. It is to be regretted that any manufacturing in-

stitution has to be closed down even temporarily. The mill is quite an important institution for Warrenton and an early resumption is earnestly desired.

Chamber of Commerce.

There will be a special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday evening, June 14, for the purpose of considering important questions submitted in a letter from David W. Day, relative to valuable deposits in the sands of Clatsop county. All members and the citizens of Astoria are requested to be present. JAS. W. WELCH, President.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE First National Bank

At Astoria, in the state of Oregon, at the close of business, May 29th, 1905.

Table with 2 columns: RESOURCES, Amount. Includes Loans and discounts, Overdrafts, U. S. Bonds, Stocks, etc.

Table with 2 columns: LIABILITIES, Amount. Includes Capital stock paid in, Surplus fund, Undivided profits, etc.

State of Oregon, County of Clatsop, ss: I, S. S. GORDON, cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

S. S. GORDON, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of June, 1905. V. BOELLING, Notary Public.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE Astoria National Bank

At Astoria in the State of Oregon, at the close of business, May 29th, 1905.

Table with 2 columns: RESOURCES, Amount. Includes Loans and discounts, Overdrafts, U. S. Bonds, etc.

Table with 2 columns: LIABILITIES, Amount. Includes Capital stock paid in, Surplus fund, Undivided profits, etc.

State of Oregon, County of Clatsop, ss: I, J. E. HIGGINS, cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. E. HIGGINS, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of June, 1905. GEO. C. FULTON, Notary Public.

Advertisement for S. DANZIGER & CO. featuring 'EXTRA! 250 Dozen Men's Summer Weight Balbriggan Shirts and Drawers' and '85c The Suit'. Includes address: ASTORIA'S GREATEST CLOTHIERS 490-500 COMMERCIAL ST.

Advertisement for BENTON'S NEW VALVELESS GASOLINE MARINE ENGINE. Includes image of the engine and text: 'Simple and Reliable. Latest Cut. THORNBURG & BENNETT, Knappton, Wash.'

Advertisement for PRAEL & EIGNER TRANSFER CO. featuring 'DRAYING & EXPRESSING LIVERY STABLE' and address: 709-715 Commercial Street.

Advertisement for Sherman Transfer Co. featuring 'Hacks, Carriages—Baggage Checked and Transferred—Trucks and Furniture Wagons—Pianos Moved, Boxed and Shipped.' and address: 433 Commercial Street.

Advertisement for ASTORIA IRON WORKS featuring 'Canning Machinery, Marine Engines, and Boilers, Complete Cannery Outfits Furnished.' and address: 433 Commercial Street.