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ANOTHER VULGARITY.

THE DALES OPTIMIST

There is no Republican party in Oregon. As proof it asserts that there is no organization, by which, of course, it means there is no machine. It says there are "no leaders," by which it means there are no bosses. In further proof that the party is dead, it asserts that there are no "articles of faith," which is to say the excellent achievements and worthy traditions of the party are nothing, and that the party derives its inspiration and survives on the cheap clap trap and meaningless platitudes of a convention platform. It further says, "there is no one in authority to issue printed matter and explain to the voter," which in effect, is to say that voters are a stupid, ignorant mass, and that in order to know what party they belong to, they must have a herder to drive them like a bunch of steers into a butcher's corral. It presupposes that condition of benightedness that does not exist among Oregon voters, who are as intelligent in the discussion of issues, and in discriminating between candidates, as are those who uphold or "in authority to explain."

As a matter of fact, the Republican or other voters in Oregon neither need nor require, "some one in authority to explain" to them how to vote or whom to vote for, and to insist that the survival of a party depends upon such an agency, is insulting, both to the party and the voter. These trappings of a former political era, when bosses and the machine ruled and the people submitted, were not the party, but rode the party to death, used it as a vehicle to promote private greed, and steered the party into distressing and never ending trouble. They were the instrumentalities by which the party was split asunder in Oregon, and kept torn and divided with senatorial deadlocks and bottled conventions for 25 years. With them, the declarations of a party platform were as meaningless as a box of chewing gum, and party principle as valueless as a cast-off overshoe. In the light of Herrmann, Williamson, Mays, Brownell, Meldrum, and others lately "in authority to explain," it does seem a needless if not a wanton humiliation to tell the country that there is no Republican party in Oregon, because, forsooth, there are "no leaders," "no organization," "no one in authority."

Back in New York city, where Editor Bennett came from, they have Boss Platt, and they have Tammany. Does he want the New York fashions adopted in Oregon?

THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM.

THE PHILADELPHIA North American says: "The most important question which America faces, not for a day or a year, but for many years to come, is not the question of production, but of distribution." Put this broadly—distribution—and confining the inquiry to the material realm, the statement is no doubt true. The largest object met in consideration of this question is the railroads, agencies of distribution that are so closely and vitally connected with all phases of our industrial life. The very figures we read about the railroads show their great importance—that in them \$14,000,000,000 are invested; that they comprise 226,000 miles of single and double tracks; that they carry 700,000,000 passengers a year, and last year hauled 1,650,000,000 tons of freight, a gain of 48,000,000 tons in five years. This is truly an immense business, the first in magnitude and importance in the country, and it is well that the people are observing it closely, and insisting that it be done right—for it is their business, and the facilities for transacting it have become inadequate, and will apparently become more so.

The Railway Gazette estimates that during 1907 the railroad mileage of the country was increased by 6,229 miles, exclusive of doubling tracks, sidings, and electric lines. This looks rather encouraging till one learns that most of this new mileage is in the south, and that scarcely any was in regions where traffic is most congested and where the volume of products is increasing fastest. The notable exception is the North Bank road built by Mr. Hill. Notwithstanding this increase, the country is confronted with the fact that the railroads are utterly

inadequate to meet its requirements, if its development is to continue, and yet the country enters the new year with the railroads almost unitedly declaring that no extensions or improvements are to be made, and that expenses must everywhere be reduced—and this in the face of enormous earnings and the payment of excessive dividends.

Mr. J. J. Hill has said that the freight offered to American railroads increases from 10 to 15 per cent annually, while the moving power and facilities of the railroads have been increasing only 2 1/2 per cent—and even this increase, it appears, is to cease. How can the country stand this? What is it going to do about it? There is no escape from the conclusion that production, traffic, industry, trade and commerce, must be seriously checked, and with that must necessarily go a large slice of the prosperity that the country would enjoy if transportation and distribution facilities were adequate. This one cause is sufficient to destroy the country's prosperity in a considerable measure, and will do so unless hundreds of millions of dollars are expended as rapidly as practicable on new railroads, double tracks, and opened inland waterways. And yet our congress does nothing, and will do nothing. It appears to be a grand aggregation of notable incapables.

John F. Wallace, a noted engineer, said in an article in a recent issue of American Industries: "It seems inevitable that the necessities of the situation during the next five years will require more extensive engineering undertakings than we have yet seen. . . . in the development of our interior waterways, the harnessing of the powers of nature through the economical development of our water powers and a still further utilization of waste products. We are on the verge of a revolution in transportation methods. The steam engine will, no doubt, soon be eliminated inside of heavy urban and interurban districts. Appliances are being developed for the more perfect and economical consumption of coal. The development of water powers is being largely expedited by the perfection of processes for the utilization of waste or secondary power, one of the most important being the manufacture of nitrogen in various combinations. Engineering and construction progress in the next five years will be along the lines of improved transportation facilities."

Mr. Wallace is in part right, at least, but he describes what ought to be rather than what apparently will be. Our petty, partisan statesmen like Cannon—and he is about half of congress—want to postpone waterway improvement, just as they want to postpone tariff revision, the parcels post, and everything else devised and designed for the general good.

SANTA FE REBATES.

ACCORDING to Attorney-General Bonaparte, the Santa Fe railroad has been a persistent and willful violator of the anti-rebate law, a chronic and audacious offender. Very likely, but what does the Santa Fe care, since under the policy of Mr. Bonaparte's predecessor, and presumably his own policy and the administration's nobody can be personally punished? It will be remembered that a complete case and a bad one was made out long ago against the Santa Fe. The government employed two able and high-priced special attorneys to investigate and prosecute. They got the facts and recommended prosecutions, but the administration refused to prosecute, and those attorneys resigned, caustically explaining in effect that they did not wish to take fees for engaging in make-believe work—to get complete evidence against a criminal and then be debarred from prosecuting him. Mr. Paul Morton was at that time principal personal offender, being as he admitted, responsible for the numerous and flagrant violations of law on the part of the Santa Fe; and to show how greatly displeased the president was, he made Morton secretary of the navy, and helped him to get a \$75,000-a-year job in New York. Probably Morton's rebating successor in the Santa Fe is expecting a cabinet position as a stepping-stone to something big and easy afterward.

WHEN OXNARD'S IN THE TEMPLE

IT IS announced from Washington that there will be no attempt by the administration to secure, at this session, a reduction of the import duty on sugar from the Philippines. Such an attempt was made last winter, but it failed. The country knows the disastrous effects of our high duty on the island sugar industry, which is practically paralyzed. It knows, too, that were the island sugar given admission to this country there would be competition for the trust and lower priced sugar for eight million people. All this makes interesting the statement of why the administration will not press for a reduced duty on island sugar at this time. It is explained in a Washington dispatch, as follows: "A little while back it was thought an agreement could be reached with the sugar interests in the form of a compromise to limit the amount of sugar to be imported from the Philippines to 300,000 tons. It was believed that the sugar trust and the beet sugar interests

would accept this proposition. . . . The proposition was put to Mr. Oxnard, the sugar magnate, by advocates of the administration policy, but acceptance was refused. Mr. Oxnard seems to have the controlling hand, so far as the senate is concerned."

Mr. Oxnard, then, is bigger than the government. He is bigger than the president and the cabinet. The administration offered to treat with him, but he would not treat. It begged to be allowed to bring in a limited amount of island sugar, but Mr. Oxnard would not stand it. He controls the senate, if the terms of the dispatch are true, and that body does his bidding. The senate wears his collar, and all the power of the administration, all the obligations of justice for the Filipinos, and all the pretensions of \$0,000,000 people cannot swerve that body from obeying the sweet will of Mr. Oxnard.

Yet there are those who say we Oregonians should abandon Statehood No. 1—a device by which the people, not the trusts and corporations, make senators. If all the states had a Statehood No. 1, and senators be thereby selected by and answerable to the people, how long would the senate be the servile tool of this man Oxnard? How long would Mr. Oxnard remain in control of one of the co-ordinate branches of this government, defying the administration itself and exercising powers that 80,000,000 of sovereign people are powerless to shake off?

In the hope of purifying the senate, there is a movement all over the country for adopting the Oregon plan or some similar plan for popular choice of senator. In view of this hopeful movement, and with Oxnard and his Hessians in actual possession of the temple, would it not be folly for Oregon to take a step backward, and abandon Statehood No. 1?

SENATOR FULTON'S CHALLENGE.

SENATOR FULTON has insisted that Mr. Heney make specifications. It was what the senator's friends and the people of the state desired him to do. He owed as much to the high position he holds. He owed it to himself, owed it to his friends, and owed it to the people of Oregon. There is gravity in the accusation that "he was engaged in a corrupt deal with John H. Hall, United States district attorney, to prevent land crooks from being indicted." There is gravity, both from the character of the accusation, and the source from which it emanated. Mr. Heney has made such accusations before against other men, and has established their truth, a fact that made the charge against Senator Fulton one not to be overlooked or ignored.

By his challenge, Senator Fulton has placed the distinguished prosecutor in position where he must make full specifications, or he and his charge will fall flat. Answering the challenge, Mr. Heney says: "When I made the accusation against Mitchell and Abraham Ruef, they took the same position that Senator Fulton now takes. All I have to say in answer to his open letter is that when I get good and ready, or when the proper time comes, I shall give to the public the facts upon which I base my accusation against Senator Fulton." This cannot be regarded as a satisfactory or even as a fair reply. If it was proper for Mr. Heney to make his charges when he did, it was plainly incumbent on him to produce his proofs at once in response to Senator Fulton's demand. However, the issue has been drawn and eventually the people will have opportunity to know whether or not Senator Fulton has brought taint upon his high position.

It is well; for Oregonians hope they are passing into a new era as respects the official conduct of men they elevate to office. They are tired of the old regime of blimished officials and tarnished reputation. It places the state in an ugly light before the rest of the country. Public servants are supposed to reflect the character of the citizenship, and by that test, Oregon and Oregonians have been miserably disgraced in the past. A clean, unblemished delegation at Washington, and clean, unblemished public servants at home is what Oregonians desire and deserve, and it is well that Senator Fulton has taken steps to clear up the accusation. His open letter is an important and timely document.

Everybody ought to join with Mr. Darrow in hoping that now that the trials of the officers of the Western Federation of Miners are over, both miners' and mine-owners' organizations will cease their bitter, injuring, destructive warfare, and try to get together on some common ground and go ahead in developing the great mining resources of the west, to their mutual profit and the good of the country. To this end both organizations ought to be willing to make some concessions, and to deal fairly with each other. They owe this to themselves and to the country.

The acquittal of Pettibone was generally expected. His attorneys were so sure of it that they introduced no evidence and made no argument. The verdict means not necessarily that the jury did not believe anything Orchard said, but that they would

not convict a man of murder on his unsupported or but slightly supported testimony. This ends the trials of the alleged conspirators for the murder of Stuenkel and not more than is now known about it is likely ever to become known, except possibly by some deathbed confessions. Orchard killed Stuenkel, and so far as can be judicially ascertained, had no accomplices.

The contention that a law requiring corporations doing business under a franchise to make reports and submit to taxation, only applies to corporations created after the enactment of the law, is manifestly absurd, in the light of common-sense and simple justice, if not in the light of law. There would be no square deal about that, and no equity in it. If there is not a law that will make all these corporations report fully, one should be enacted as soon as possible, and courts should at least not be left uninformed as to popular sentiment in the matter.

It is reported that an army of Ryan's and Guggenheim's engaged in the conquest of the Congo state, slaughtered 125 natives who somehow opposed or interfered with them—or perhaps it was done just for fun, or as a warning. Not one of the force that won this glorious victory was hurt. As Ryan and Guggenheim are joint owners with the detestable King Leopold of the Congo and its people, there is nobody to object. They can kill thousands if they choose.

Are the franchise corporations in this city above the law? After having been granted very valuable privileges by the people, can they refuse to report their business and pay taxes as required? It seems that some of them think so. The people should then get busy in whatever way will effectually change their opinion. Even a court decision in their favor should not be final.

Calib Powers will have to undergo still another trial, the jury in the case just ended, disagreeing. While each previous jury convicted him, 10 out of the 12 of this jury voted for acquittal, so that it seems improbable that he can ever be convicted.

Dewey and Platt will not go to the next national Republican convention as delegates-at-large. A Republican convention without them will scarcely look natural.

The news that Kubell's wife was robbed of diamonds was expected. Every newspaper would have considered that something was wrong if it had not happened.

Old Mothers. I love old mothers—mothers with white hair, And wofully eyes, and lips grown softly sweet With murmured blessings over sleeping children; There is something in their quiet grace That speaks of the calm of Sabbath afternoon; A knowledge in their deep, unflinching eyes That far outreaches philosophy. Time, in increasing touch about them weaves The silver-threaded fairy shawl of age, While the white smoke of forgotten songs Seem joined to lend a sweetness to their speech.

Old Mothers—as they pass with slow, Their trembling hands cling gently to youth's strength. Sweet mothers—as they pass one sees Old garden walks, old roses and old loves. —Charles S. Ross in December Century.

Be of Good Cheer. From the Lincoln Journal. It is impossible in life's journey that the waters should be smooth all the way. Not is such a voyage desirable. A bit of rough weather now and then is a good thing. It makes one brave, self-reliant and strong. So long as the waves that splash over the deck do not wash you into the sea you have no cause to be afraid. Stand up in the face of the storm. Let the wind whistle; whistle yourself; it will do you good. Do friends desert you? If they stand unsteady, you are stronger; they never were friends in the first place. The real friend is always such, though not always so. He is true and stout, through evil and good weather. He sticks to you while you live, and when you are dead goes out to the cemetery and sits by your lonely upturned mound of clay, wondering if there is any vital part of you that isn't under the sod.

Kaiser Salutes Fox. From the Manchester Guardian. The custom of taking off the hat by way of salutation to a fox when you are not hunting him, as the Kaiser did the other day, is probably merely a variation of an act of courtesy exchanged between men in more warlike days than these. The invaluable Brewer tells us that taking off the hat is a relic of the ancient custom of taking off the helmet when no danger is nigh. "A man takes off his hat to show that he does not stand under any great dread. The naval salute of discharging guns originally implied that as no danger existed no guns were to be fired, and the military fashion of presenting arms is said to be tantamount to offering to give them up. The fox that is surprised by a hunter's shot, and makes his retreat less expeditiously because the hunters doff their hats to him, but this is how the custom arose.

This Date in History. 1688—Whitehall palace, London, destroyed by fire. 1769—George Washington married to Martha Custis. 1781—French attack on Jersey. 1811—Charles Sumner born in Boston. Died in Washington, March 11, 1874. 1812—John Tyler, American patriot and father of the tenth president of the United States, died in Virginia. Born there February 28, 1747. 1843—Massacre of British at Khyber. 1843—John C. Spooner, former senator from Wisconsin, born in Indiana. 1858—Insurrection at Messina. 1878—Northern extension to the Pacific coast.

WOOD FOR PAPER COSTS TWENTY-SIX MILLIONS

Official Bulletin by the United States Forest Service.

Today there is general complaint among publishers that printing paper is constantly growing dearer. In the middle west many local papers are raising their subscription price 50 cents in order to pay for the paper. From the time when Gutenberg first used movable type, made of wood, to the present day of metropolitan papers, some of which consume the product of acres of spruce and fir, the consumption of the state very large degree depended upon the forest.

In the face of a threatened shortage of timber, the amount of wood consumed each year for pulp has increased since 1895 from 2,000,000 to 43,000,000 cords. The year 1906 marked an increase of 33,000 cords in the imports of pulpwood, the highest average value per cord for all kinds, and a consumption greater by 49,058 cords than that of any previous year. Spruce, the wood from which in 1895 three-fourths of the pulp was manufactured, is still the leading wood, but it produces a little less than 70 per cent of the total quantity of wood suited to the manufacture of pulp is shown by the fact that during a period of 10 years the total quantity of spruce used has doubled and many new woods have been introduced, the proportion of spruce pulpwood has remained nearly constant. The spruce forests for other purposes. During this time three different woods, from widely separate regions, have returned the rank of leader in the lumber supply. Since 1895, poplar, which for years has been in competition with spruce to the exclusion of all other paper woods, has increased in total quantity less than 100,000 cords, and is now outranked by

Small Change

Wonder if Shaw is a candidate yet?

Depositors are smiling—or ought to be.

Let us make sure of getting pure milk.

Now congress will resume doing nothing.

If everybody is paid everybody should be happy.

It is hoped that 1908 has no pan-microbes.

If it is supposed the police have gotten Bradley.

Let the people elect the senator. That's the ticket.

Getting indicted is not an agreeable way to begin a year.

Weddings this year will continue to be pretty or very pretty.

But the Oklahoma constitution did not provide for lynching.

Maybe Stoessel was unlucky in not being killed at Fort Arthur.

There is no danger of Mr. Hill's cutting the Potomac river asse.

A Detroit man took a brave step by marrying his state's admiral.

The wonder grows that some people can so easily borrow so much money.

Senator Knox is said to know the Bible by heart and yet lives in Pittsburg.

Ervin says he has symptoms of the mandrake disease again. He seems to be incurable.

Brother Geer hasn't announced yet if he knows whether he can carry Mont-nomah county.

Taft talks well, but there is not quite enough clear ring in his speeches to suit many people.

Foraker may not himself like the dog in Esop's fable, that dropped his bone in the stream.

Nobody discusses vice-presidential candidates much yet. Wonder if Fairbanks would take it again.

The new senator from Florida being only 31 years old it is supposed that he will want to make a long speech the first time.

The big annual New Year's edition of the Salem Statesman was replete with interest and in all respects complete and creditable.

"Of course," by requiring Steel to furnish a personal bond it was a play in politics pure and simple," says the Forest Grove News. This can't be mere partisan lying, it must be idiocy, "pure and simple."

The population of the state of Washington is estimated by an officer of that state at 1,153,000. Harriman has kept Oregon's population down to the important 10 years about 369,000. How Oregon ought to love him.

Bank Returns Needed.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Congress meets under no strain and demand for instant and immediate financial relief. The "currency famine" is practically over. Clearing-house checks have met for a season the needs of an emergency currency. The entire system of banking credits has readily adjusted itself with most serious loss, but without dire disaster. Legislation on our currency system is plain and simple. The new statute should not be crude, ill-digested or hasty. Had the strain of a fortnight ago continued, or grown worse, greater relief would have been necessary; but this is no longer demanded. The legislation which is passed should be complete and considered in its entirety, should provide the country with a rounded plan. The new law should look merely to the recent past, to the evils and defects which have come to light during prosperity as well as adversity. These are all now plain. Our currency is solvent. It is not elastic. It needs to be both solvent and elastic. An emergency currency is required. The federal treasury ought not to withdraw currency from the channels of circulation, and when it comes, hastily return it. Federal financial operations should aid, not hinder, monetary operations. One city now project each other through their clearing-house. Some system should be created to handle such cities. It is not to be possible, and it must not be possible, for the banks at the financial center to put to impert all the rest of the country's "reducing interest city clearings, requiring currency in their collections and paying drafts upon the various cities. It is not to be possible, and it must not be possible, for the banks at the financial center to put to impert all the rest of the country's "reducing interest city clearings, requiring currency in their collections and paying drafts upon the various cities. 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