

THE JOURNAL

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THE COMING STRUGGLE.

THE POLITICAL SKY OF Oregon is full of omens. It is impossible to mistake their meaning. They indicate that the coming struggle is to be one of the most remarkable in the history of Oregon.

fact that was between so-called civilized nations are probably not over. And while the United States is peculiarly able to avoid war, it is by no means certain that it will not again engage in a war.

How exceedingly anxious and eager a good many of the politicians are to revive the good old times when they ran things and said, in actions, "The people be d—"

Small Change

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Woman's Injustice to Man

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The REALM FEMININE

Ladies First. When Mr. Marshall finally took to his bed, the household was filled with sympathy and with impatience that surprised.

Be sure of the foundation of your life. Know why you live as you do. Be ready to give a reason for it. Do not, in such a matter as life, build on opinion or custom, or what you guess is true.

YES, "IT IS HUMBLED"—THE ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION.

IT IS persistently urged that under the primary system the nominee for senator is not the people's choice, that a plurality nominee is chosen, and the people don't get a chance to vote for their choice in June.

Mr. Bourne ran far behind in June, not all because of the method of his nomination, but for reasons personal to himself. For one thing, he had at times been an active anti-Republican.

Everybody sees what the design is in the opposition to the primary law, particularly as to United States senator. It is to elect an unpledged legislature; then it will be argued, as now, that no candidate had a majority, consequently neither is the people's choice, not even the one elected in June by a majority, for it will be said the people were restricted in their choice to two men selected by minorities; therefore the legislature will be free to fall back into the old system of bargaining and boodling, and the man who can pay or promise the most to grafters will get the office.

LABOR PAPER'S GOOD ARGUMENT. THE PORTLAND LABOR PRESS, the special voice of local organized labor, makes in its last issue an extended and convincing argument in favor of the initiative and referendum, which some newspaper editors are now trying to overthrow, along with the primary law.

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The danger is that the attack will be made from ambush. The enemy dare not expose its plans by an open fight. Subterfuge, deception and the methods known to deepest-dyed political trickery will be its battle assets. Its objective point will be the legislature. It wants to control, and by every hazard, proposes to control, that body. If it can do that, its victory is nearly won.

The Oregonian is to aid in the movement. It is already leading the fight. It attacks and caricatures the initiative. It condemns the primary law. It spurns Statement No. 1, and ridicules it in cartoons. It insists that the people should not have the right to veto by use of the referendum.

Its allies will be the self-sufficient few who think the masses incompetent and unsafe. Others will be the corporations, whose special privileges of non-taxation have been curtailed by laws passed by the people through the initiative. The friends of Senator Fulton seem likely to be another ally.

The Labor Press proceeds to ask: "How long, under the reign of bossism and machine politics would it require to endow the voters of Oregon with that power of discernment and economic acumen to guide them unerringly in the ways of political propriety?" There is nothing, it asserts, in the purely representative system to conduce to the enlightenment of the rank and file.

It may be taken as axiomatic that the judgment of the people preponderates on the side of righteousness—indeed, so firmly has the human mind been convinced of this philosophy that the ancients adopted it as a fundamental in the principle, vox populi, vox dei.

It has been argued that the initiative and referendum privileges give to eccentrics and rascals, fools and exploiters the opportunity to foist laws upon the community pernicious in their nature, or to prevent legislation that would elevate the race. This is but insult to the common sense of our people, and declares to the great mass of humanity who must bear the responsibility of public affairs that only the elect, the chosen few, are capable of deciding as to what is fit and proper legislation for our country.

The various provisions of the primary law. This is the crowd that will have to be fought. It is a desperate and forceful alliance and the people may as well understand first as last that it will be a fierce and furious contest.

It looks upon them as incompetent to nominate men for office through the primary law, and wants that function performed by conventions of delegates. In the conferring of these privileges upon the plain people, it thinks a grave mistake was made, and wants them taken away. It not only wants them taken away, but proposes to do so if political trickery and concert of movement can do it.

Safe banking for the depositors is demanded. When the people demand anything, they are entitled to it. It is impossible, then that it is un-American and paternalistic, and finally the demand is complied with. It is the small depositor who breaks banks, starts panics and once in a while makes financiers pound rock. Better make him safe, statesmen of all states, for he means business.

Among the proposed amendments to the constitution is the Recall. It will require the voters to elect a legislature out of their seats and blackball them forever in the sight of all Oregon if they attempt to put on the siren song of the legislature.

For while in some localities in eastern Oregon there was a fierce war between the sheepmen and the cattlemen, but now it is a conflict of interests between the stockmen, especially sheepmen, and the farmers. The former are trying to exterminate the coyote, which does them great damage, but he is the farmers' friend, for he destroys rabbits and ground squirrels. It would seem that in this case the stockmen are quite within their reasonable rights; let the farmers also make war upon the smaller varmints.

J. Pierpont Morgan is quoted as saying that labor must "submit or starve" and as intimating that the present depression was brought about purposely by large capitalists and employers for the purpose of reducing wages and breaking up labor organizations. While the alleged interview bears some earmarks of invention, it very likely hits pretty near the truth. Mighty is the money power, and Morgan is its prophet.

Running Shots. Written for The Journal by Fred C. Just why a most unkind fate should have picked on one ex-United States district attorney and permitted his conviction for standing in with a gang of public land grabbers is hard to explain. If every such official who had done likewise was to be put to breaking rock there would soon be a pile of available road material as high as Mount Hood.

While everybody has recognized for years that the tax laws of Oregon are unjust, it is not until the producers and fertile promoters of fraud, perjury and graft, it has remained for a small body of students of taxation to propose a sweeping list of exceptions that makes the ordinary tax law tinker gasp. Nothing has been proposed, however, to Oregon, where the tax laws are so unjust. Recently New South Wales, a civilized and progressive Australian state, has enacted a law whereby any one dissatisfied with the tax laws may exclusively, practically on demand of a majority of the citizens affected. This is even a little further than is proposed in Oregon.

Several new buildings will be erected in Canby this spring. Skating parties are numerous on the Umatilla river near Echo. In five years the debt of Union county has been reduced from \$285,000 to \$100,000. A very strange thing has happened at Weir, where a young man of that town has organized a reading club.

Attendance at the Medford public schools has doubled in three years. In Baker county there are seven teachers instead of two as there were. Because the Pilot Rock Record has included the names of the saloons there, they are encouraging the starting of an opposition paper—in a town of 300 or 400 people. Great county, this.

North Powder News: We expect at any time to hear that someone has made charges against the officials of our little town, and we positively know they have, and we are waiting for the town was incorporated.

Thomas A. Edison's Birthday. Thomas Alva Edison, the world's most celebrated inventor of electrical appliances, was born in the village of Milan, Ohio, February 11, 1847. While a small lad he removed with his father to Michigan, and there his boyhood was spent. He was thrown upon his own resources and at the age of 14 became a newsboy on the Grand Trunk railway. Later he learned telegraphy and worked as an operator in many parts of the United States and Canada.

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