

EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

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It is probable that a council of nine or seven members would give the city better service. It certainly would do so if by reducing the number a higher class of commission could be secured. This must, however, be mostly a matter of gradual education of the people to the importance of divorcing municipal government entirely from party politics and inducing conscientious, capable men of high character to serve as commissioners.

The Galveston or the Des Moines commission plan may well be considered carefully and discussed by the revisitors, though it seems doubtful if so radical a change as the adoption would be wise at this time. We have tried the present charter, amended as needed, with a loss. If in the meantime this experiment works well in Des Moines, and in any other cities where it may be tried, and if we can get no better results from our council, we can later, and with more light on the subject, make the suggested change.

DISHONORABLE WORK.

IN NO STATE in the union, at any time, was there a more disgraceful and dishonorable political effort made than is being made now in Oregon, and will continue to be made until the time for the legislature to elect a senator arrives. It carries its own scarlet shame upon its face. It is unworthy of any honest, decent citizen, and could not be undertaken by any patriot.

There are 90 members of the legislature; 46 are necessary to elect a senator; 51 positively and solemnly pledged themselves, as a condition of their candidacy and election, to vote for that man who shall have received the highest vote for senator at the election in the preceding June. Governor Chamberlain received that highest vote. The matter should therefore be considered absolutely settled.

To ask one of these pledged men to forsake himself and betray his trust should be considered a dastardly insult. The man who seeks to swerve these men from their plain duty deserves not a verbal answer, but a blow in the face and a kick in the back. And if any such member listens favorably to such a dishonorable, dastardly proposal, he deserves a ducking in the Willamette river, or some dirtier water, a coat of tar and feathers, and a recall as soon as this can be operated.

There is no room for tolerance with these discredited politicians who are thus trying to overthrow the work of years on the part of the people for their liberation from the corrupt, corporation-owned machines and bosses. There is not a shadow of an excuse for this effort.

The whole business was settled last June, and whoever attempts to meddle with it is a public enemy.

It is not a matter of Chamberlain or a Republican going to the senate; it is a matter infinitely more important than the politics of the senate; the question is, can an enough pledged man swerve to a certain extent, be induced to betray the people? Are the people to be cheated and rendered impotent by the inducements of a few disappointed and bedraggled politicians?

The members of the legislature should be let alone. If any of them pledged to do anything, they should turn traitor, let him do so on his own motion. He knows his duty, and no plea that he was swayed therefrom by political scoundrels will excuse him; but he should be exempt from their treacherous appeals.

Oregon has already had entirely too much of these professional, people-betraying politicians; a considerable part of whose business was to make merchandise of the senatorship, to the incalculable injury of the state. And if the man chosen by the people last June should not be elected next winter, all the people of Oregon will know that some members have been bought, that they have sold out the 700,000 people of Oregon for some corrupt politician's money.

AMENDING THE CHARTER.

WHILE it may be generally agreed that the Portland charter needs some revision and amendments, as seems to be the case always with city charters, yet unless a radical and complete change in our form of city government is decided on, no required or desirable changes can be so many or great as many people seem to imagine. The recent decision of the supreme court, added to former decisions upholding the charter, has indicated the need of some change that would otherwise have been necessary. But some improvement can be made by amending the charter, by capable men who will devote sufficient time and thought to the work.

One principal cause of complaint is the conflict of authorities, or misunderstanding, between the executive board and the council, which often work at cross-purposes. It should be decided that there is need of both these bodies, their functions and duties need to be more clearly defined. Authority indefinitely distributed among different bodies can only result in conflict and confusion.

The question of the size of the council may well be considered, and that of removing their election to the hands of the voters. It is suggested that the council be elected by the voters.

The courthouse at Great Falls, which is built of sandstone at a cost of a quarter of a million is beginning to show signs of disintegration from a point two feet above the ground downward, and seriously involving the foundations. An efflorescence both in the exterior and interior surface of the foundation wall is observable, and the indications point to ultimate disintegration.

The investigations by the college are to be continued, with the hope of finding a means of neutralizing the action of alkali upon cement. In the construction of the sewers at Great Falls, both domestic and foreign cement was used, and the investigations showed all brands to have been similarly affected. The bulletin in question is the first announcement, so far as known, of the relation between alkali and Portland cement, and the growing use of the latter material for structural purposes, renders it of considerable importance.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

THERE have been reports recently of a new and extensive organization of railway employees with reference to the election this fall. It is said that the organization has already become very numerous, and that it is expected that it will soon embrace most of the railway employees of the country. Though there is as yet no positive evidence to support such a conclusion, it may be pretty safely assumed that this is a movement on the part of the railroad moguls to deliver the votes of nearly all their employees to Taft. No means of influence, no specious promises, will be spared to accomplish this object.

It is to be observed that for some months past there have been threats of a general reduction of railroad employees' wages. This was presumably part of the game. Now the employees can be assured that if they agree to vote right wages will not be reduced, but that if Bryan should be elected reduction of wages would be inevitable. Whether this sort of inducement and pressure will accomplish the desired object we cannot say, but probably it will, to some extent.

HARRIMAN AND THE GOVERNOR.

THE people of Oregon grasp at every straw. The slightest incident or expression indicative of possible railroad building spells hope to them. Hence they feel encouraged over Mr. Harriman's action in sending for Governor Chamberlain, General Manager O'Brien and Mr. Stanley, to visit him at Pelican bay. The people hope this is significant that there is an intention on the great railroad king's part to have "something done" in Oregon before long.

We must be prepared for disappointment—but we are, for we are used to it. But it is right to hope. It seems reasonable to suppose that the invitation to the governor is especially significant. Mr. Harriman knows the governor's attitude, has heard him publicly express his opinion, as to what should be done, what Mr. Harriman's duty to Oregon is, and he knows very well that it would be in vain to attempt to change that attitude and opinion—nor is it likely that Mr. Harriman has any idea of doing so.

Whatever the object, Oregon could send no better envoy to Mr. Harriman. The governor will be entirely firm in his position as to Mr. Harriman's duty as a great quasi-public servant, but his manner of treating the subject will not offend the magnate. The two men will be well met; may much good result from the conference.

Of course all the machine organs in the country will declare that Democrats voted by tens of thousands in the Republican primaries. Defeated candidates can thus explain their defeat and the organs can found on the assertion, even if it be false, as is the case in Oregon, an argument against the people selecting their candidates. But wherever the people have secured a primary law, it will be difficult to pull them back into the old ruts.

No one can see the habitual smile or smirk in the pictures of Bryan, in all the newspapers, Democratic and Republican alike, without being forced to laugh. The expression is "Anything to please—anything."

A social would no doubt suit the Oregonian better. But lent Mr. Taft need for being a good deal of a smaller also?

Bryan is all right in his statement of facts, the Oregonian says, is all right in his accusations, all right in his reasoning, all right in his representations as to public affairs—but in proposing any reforms or changes, or suggesting any betterment of conditions, he is all wrong.

Mr. Taft broke down his new 1,200-pound horse the first day he rode him. Why must a 300-pound man ride a horse anyway, in these days of automobiles? And if Mr. Taft must ride a live beast, an elephant would seem peculiarly appropriate for him just now.

Small Change

Wall street is solid against Bryan.

The Big Stick, like "dem golden alpenstocks" is laid away.

There are always two sides to a matrimonial embroilment.

The grasshopper is singing, the bee and ant are working.

Both Taft and Bryan being sure to win they should be happy.

Mr. Bryan had the advantage of Mr. Taft in having the last say.

For little Evelyn, in a whole year she had only \$42.00 to spend.

Chambers thought of the city as a pretty good place, after all.

It will sell \$2,000,000 for wheat in the Pacific northwest is not so bad.

What about that north bank celebration? It ought to be a big one.

River improvement above is all but as important as river improvement below.

Councilmen are constantly impugning bad motives to one another, perhaps correctly.

Kern has been "chautauquing" showing that a nomination for vice-president is not an entirely vain honor.

New York is to deepen Hell Gate cut-off certainly needs a deep, wide ditch such as this name suggests.

There are actually people who will grumble even about the rain, and say that it will ruin the shocked crops.

At the seasons there is a lot more to see than the shore, says the Chicago News. So we've heard. And all the men look too.

The people's hope is in the new party, says the Los Angeles Examiner. But no wonder, people have even noticed the new party.

It is to be feared that the sultan, like a certain political party in this country, is too old and hardened in inability to sincerely reform.

The Republicans of Illinois having renominated Hiram for senator, the people should elect a Democratic legislature that would elect Stringer.

When a southern Oregon pear orchard sells for \$100,000, eastern people who hear of it will be led to believe there is some valuable fruit land in Oregon.

There is this to be said of Tom Lawson, he calls his published articles advertisements, and pays for them, he naturally resorts to the tainted news factories.

No sooner had this paragraph made a remark about the dry weather than it rained. Yet he is not going to try to get Rahnmaster Hatfield's job away from him.

It looks as if the Southern Pacific would cut out of the state, if not the senate by the members of that body from California. They do not represent the people in the least.

The Los Angeles Times, corporation organ, remarks: "The thing to do is to keep the primary elections out of the hands of a lot of secondary politicians; only primary politicians are wanted, the masses and their chosen lieutenants, faithful servants of the predatory interests."

Oregon Sidelights

The building stone near Yale is the best in the country, claims the Oregano.

What is the world coming to when two of them come in with a walk into a cigar store in broad daylight and each purchase a cigar? asks the Bulletin.

A Wallawa county man picked 126 gallons of cranberries in 1917. The plants of this number 375 plants were planted the first of May, 1907, and this season yielded 25 gallons.

On his return from a trip a Waddell man, tells the Radium, said his party had killed 26 rattlesnakes. This rattlesnake is a good master, but when he is told of rattlesnake plucking in the trout streams and catching fish, the reporter began to doubt.

A large Marshfield hen, narrates the News, attempted to swallow a snake, but failed, and was killed by the snake. On the third attempt the snake was compelled to give up, having been almost pecked to death.

Redmond correspondence of Bend Bulletin: More new arrivals are camped near the schools. Twelve children are in the number. They are folks who bought some time ago, but seem to have trouble finding their land.

A Marshfield woman told her husband she would show him that it was not necessary to spend two or three weeks in a trip to Forest Grove, Ore., to buy left by steamer on Monday and returned overland on Saturday.

A good fruit crop is reported throughout the Umpqua valley this year, and it is thought that a higher price will be received by fruitgrowers than ever before. It is believed that the fruit is of better quality than in previous years owing to the more strict enforcement of the laws relating to diseased fruit.

Great quantities of fruit are going to be shipped to a trial this fall. The fact that the people are not aware that a certain wild berry is quite edible, says the Bulletin. This berry is known locally as the "cogate berry," and grows in great profusion along the river.

Silver Lake Leader: While the 2X vagabonds were camped out by Forest Grove on the desert, they dug a hole near the lake, and were busy at work about three feet they struck a vein of water which soon boiled out of the top and ran down the side of the mountain, making a small rivulet in the lake. It is thought to show that there is a great deal of water under that country, and if the ground here is watered, it would be a great asset to the stock raiser, and where on the desert.

past Queen's vote in the London Times that while he and Louis Mattingly were looking out section lines he saw two cubs and a single one, when the first taking was better than he says, "grabbed me by the seat of the pants and jumped a line and that delayed her for a while." He said he saw a dog, a dog took a hand in the trap just in time. They attacked the bear and after a fight the bear was killed and the dog was taken to the city.

The building of a trolley line through the creek country would be the making of that section, said a farmer in the Oregonian. It is a rich country now, but with the coming of a trolley line taking out butter, eggs and other produce to market, our land would enhance in value and the greater market facilities would make ranching all the more profitable. The creek country is cleared and the rich alluvial soil made to produce more abundantly. I give rights of way and a cash bonus of \$500 if the trolley line will come near my ranch.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Work for Bryan's Election.