

THE JOURNAL

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THE MAYOR'S INACTION

MAYOR SIMON informs us that he is for commission government. Commission government, in fact, is the slogan of his campaign. His political advertisements, his campaign interviews and the manifestos of his partisans would give the impression that the mayor is filled with a consuming desire for commission government.

It is 22 days since the council by unanimous vote authorized Mr. Simon to appoint a commission government committee. More than three weeks of time has been lost by the mayor's inaction. Instead of hastening the day when the people will be given opportunity to vote on the issue of changing our governmental system.

Before they vote next Monday, the people would like to know what kind of a committee the mayor is going to appoint. They want to know whether it is to be a committee of reactionaries or a good legitimate committee of patriotic gentlemen who will go about the task with a purpose of affording special privileges to none and equal opportunity for all.

HARRIMAN UNIVERSITY

IT WOULD BE fitting if the proposed Harriman university could be so located that it would in a measure typify the work of the late Mr. Harriman. The site is to be on the Pacific coast, and it was the three Pacific coast states of California, Oregon and Nevada that were the scene of his largest railroad activities in the far west.

It, at the point where the three states join, a site should be undesirable; compromise location close to the border line of California and Oregon would symbolize the idea. These two great states were for years huge factors in the life of his enterprises. His high appreciation of both were the frequent subjects of personal expression by the great railroad magnate himself.

The finale came in the ceremony of the "Grito," when in the great space between the cathedral and the palace, just before the stroke of midnight, the immense crowd broke into shouts of joy and acclamation of their president, and the celebration of the Mexican centenary was over.

NOT DEAD

SENATOR CALKINS of Eugene is a vigorous and doubtless a sincere opponent of the Oregon system. In an address before the Y. M. C. A. at Eugene recently he said, according to the University of Oregon Emerald: "While the referendum and recall are bad, the initiative is absolutely vicious, for the referendum can only hold up good laws, while the initiative can institute the most demoralizing measures, and even without a majority can put them through."

In past elections shows that 20,000 to 25,000 electors in the state dislike it. Some are sincere and some prejudiced. Still others such as special interests, hate any system in which the massed citizens have large powers.

It is ominous that the recent Oregon legislature declined to indorse the system. There was more than mere accident behind that refusal. The hand of design was there, even in the senate which was supposed to be controlled by a progressive majority.

THE DRAMATIC FALL OF DIAZ IN THE EARLY days of last September the "envoy extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary" of the United States Congress reached the City of Mexico to bear the greetings of the American people to the republic of Mexico in celebration of the first centenary of that republic.

The American party was received with charming courtesy by President Porfirio Diaz and his wife, and by the officials of the Mexican government. A specially furnished palace was placed at their disposal, with a complete suite of servants, and they were the recipients of lavish hospitality, shared by all classes.

The main ceremonies took place in the ancient palace, where the procession passed, through one state room to another, till they arrived in the "Hall of Ambassadors." There were three rows of chairs on either side of the room, and between them a wide, red-carpeted space from immense double doors at one end to a raised platform at the other.

There was a different procession every day. Pennants of national colors strung across the streets danced in the breeze, houses were decorated with flowers by day, with electric lights at night. Fifty thousand school children met in the presence of the president, lifted their hands in greeting to the national flag, and swore to unite around this symbol of "our native country that she may be ever free, ever victorious."

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The story is admirably told at length by Mrs. Sladen, wife of Congressman Sladen of Texas, in the Independent. Who would have supposed that the spectre of fast approaching revolution lurked behind the glitter and noise in the city which shouted and went wild in honor of Porfirio Diaz?

A MISTAKE

BLUNDER WAS made in offering the "no seat-no ride" ordinance for passage by the electorate. Its object is to regulate the traction company. Its real effect would be to most unfavorably regulate the traveling public.

actor of its members should be of some value as an index. An English nobleman announces that he is going to Colorado to prospect for gold. Several of them have made rich strikes among Gotham's idle rich.

Mexico's new president promises that he will not be a candidate for reelection. He is evidently impressed by what happened to Diaz. And now a waiting world is made wiser and happier by an eminent scientist who announces that the snail has 10,000 teeth.

THE AMERICAN KING CANUTE

THE TIDE OF peace by way of arbitration is on the flood in world over, and Mr. Roosevelt is playing the part of a twentieth century King Canute if he supposes that any words of his can stem and turn it back.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF PHILPPI. Portland, Or., May 29.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have been acquainted with George H. Thomas for nearly 20 years, and feel that in him the city has a candidate for mayor who will elect not only serve the people in the discharge of his statutory duties faithfully, honestly and without fear or favor, but become an active factor in promoting the general welfare of the city in a constructive sense.

WANTS THE COURT'S AID. Honorable judges of our supreme court, I preshitate, too, how you had to tell Decidin' th' case of th' Standard Oil. You make a decision that might help me. My Sary she lous that I mustn't smoke. An' her word is law jest as soon as she speaks.

CRIME IN AMERICA

IT WAS GENERALLY admitted by the experts who took part in the conference on crime and criminals, recently held in New York, that, speaking generally, crime is increasing in America, both in amount and severity.

Wall Street and the Income Tax. From the New York World. Wall street opposition to the income tax amendment does not originate in the four words "from whatever source derived."

INFLUENCING THE COURTS. From the Beaverton Reporter. Those who oppose the recall of judges say that the courts should not be influenced by public opinion. The court should be left alone to interpret the law as it is, not as it ought to be.

REVENUE BY PROXY

CELTIC STRANGER—Tim Hennessy has just bin arrested; what will ye charge to Very Young Lawyer—Ten dollars is my fee in police court cases. Celtic Stranger—Well, here it is, I've had it in for Tim this long time, an' it's worth tin dollars to get even with him!

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SEVEN FAMOUS INDIAN CHIEFS

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Big Price for Historic Ring. From the Spokane Spokesman-Review. Precisely the same feeling, which once inspired the man in the street to "shake the hand that shook the hand of Sullivan" is responsible for the purchase of the historic Essex ring in London of the other day for the astonishing price of \$17,000.

A Day at the Dentist's. I went to the dentist's to have a tooth filled. He sorted his tools with an ardor that thrilled me. He opened my mouth, 'till I heard my And bored a large hole down the small of my back.

ANOTHER HOPE GONE

Another hope got out of place when Kauffman mixed things up with Flynn. The latter smote pale Albert's face and tried his best to break it in. Another hope is busted flat, that buoyed our spirits up a while, and Johnnie's looks and waxed fat, and wore a wide seraphic smile! Dark days that chill the soul and mind, have fallen on the white man's camp; we dig up hopes and then we find they cannot lick a postage stamp.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE. Hitchcock can doubtless carry the solid south. "Come into the garden, Maud"; truck is looking fine. Next week is the one to work less and play more than usual.

OREGON SIDELIGHT. Work on Williamina's water system has begun. Springfield's freight depot is being enlarged to double its present capacity. The bricklayers are now at work on the new high school building at Lakeview.

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Stopping Pistol Carrying

Under a bill passed by the Colorado legislature, which became a law when the governor's signature was attached on Friday last, the purchase of firearms in that state is to be under close regulation. No dealer will be permitted to sell a pistol unless he takes the name of the would-be purchaser, records it and with the record a complete description of the man. Each buyer must also make a statement, a record of which is kept regarding the use to which the weapon is to be put.

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