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A Big Job

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ST. LOUIS AND SAN FRANCISCO.

As it becomes every day more certain that the Republican National Convention will nominate the next president of the United States, the list of cities who wish to be chosen for the place of holding the convention is increasing. St. Louis is the latest aspirant for the honor and offers some cogent reasons why the big meeting should be held in that city. It is urged that Missouri has no candidate for the presidency, and the convention would be thus freed from any local influence, such as contribute to the success of Lincoln in 1860 at Chicago, and to the Cincinnati nomination of Hayes in 1876. While the feeling of the state where the convention is held has probably little to do with nominating the man whom the convention considers politically the strongest yet, the argument is one frequently used, and in a dearth of other reason may have some merit. Since no citizen of Missouri is seeking the nomination, the distinguished gentlemen, in whose hats the bee is buzzing, would enter on a clear track. Another argument which the people of St. Louis put forth is that holding the republican convention in a southern state, even if only so far south as Missouri, would do a great work in stimulating the southern republicans who have recently shown a laudable determination to break away from democratic domination and obtain republican success at the polls, as evinced by the elections last year in Missouri and West Virginia and this year in Maryland and Kentucky. The third advantage claimed by St. Louis is its physical superiority; its situation as a railroad center with abundant telegraphic facilities and ample hotel accommodations. Since 1888 when the democratic convention met in St. Louis, it is claimed that that city has made great advances in the facility with which it can handle large crowds.

The entering of St. Louis into the contest of cities, if pressed vigorously, will undoubtedly interfere with the claims of San Francisco, and yet it should not. As long as the republican committee continued to choose Chicago as the place of meeting there was heard little, if any, complaint throughout the country. Through being selected as the meeting place for successive conventions the "windy city" had come to be looked upon as having the first right to be considered and bear the name of the "convention city;" but since the national committee saw fit to break away from tradition and three years ago chose Minneapolis, other cities have now the precedent for putting forth their claims. Among all the contestants San Francisco is the most worthy of recognition. The far East, the middle West and the South have all been honored by having the republican convention meet in their borders, and now it is the time for the West to be recognized. San Francisco can offer all St. Louis can, and more. California has no candidate, and while Western republicans need no incentive to more enthusiastic loyalty to the party principles, yet the fact that one of the Pacific states was chosen would cause great satisfaction to the workers in the ranks. San Francisco is large enough to easily handle the immense crowds attendant upon the convention, while it has a climate unequalled and a hospitality unparalleled among American cities.

The Golden Gate city has made great promises, but it can fulfill them all. Never was the time for holding the convention west of the Rockies so propitious as now. The West is recognized in literature, finances and commerce; why not in politics?

EDITORIAL COMMENT ON OREGON'S NEWSPAPERS.
 Salem Statesman: Oregon ought to

be proud of her newspapers. No state in the Union can boast of as good ones, taking into consideration the limited field, owing to the comparatively undeveloped condition of the country and the sparse population.

The Oregonian is the ablest newspaper on this coast. It does not print so great a volume of matter as the leading San Francisco, New York or Chicago dailies, because it does not draw patronage from such vast and rich populations. But it serves its readers with as complete a resume of the general news of the world as they do, in as presentable shape, and it is edited with ability far superior to the average of the great dailies of the country. New York has only one newspaper that compares with it in profundness of editorial discussion, the Sun; Chicago has only one, the Tribune; and San Francisco has none.

What are called in journalistic parlance the "country newspapers," too, of Oregon are much above the average. Very few towns in the Eastern states of the size of Pendleton, Baker City, The Dalles, Albany, Eugene and Roseburg maintain daily papers. Yet all these keep up creditable publications issued every day, some of them showing commendable enterprise. The Pendleton East Oregonian editorials are always able and instructive. So are those of The Dalles Chronicle, the Astorian at Astoria, the Albany Democrat and Herald, and nearly all the balance of the ambitious dailies issued from Oregon's growing little cities.

In the service of modesty, we will pass over Salem in this discussion, only mentioning the fact that there are many cities as large as this in various sections of the country that are satisfied with newspapers only of hebdomadal issue. Any newspaper worthy of the name uses every resource at its hands in the betterment of its service to the public. We believe this is especially true of the leading journals of Oregon. Their dividends are mostly "glory." The growing condition of their fields will make this a necessary condition for a long time. We are willing for Oregon to be judged by her newspapers. If all other enterprises will keep pace with their progress, we will be swift in the race for greatness as a people.

A Columbia River Law Suit.

L. A. Clarke, who lives at Sprague, a short distance above Cascades and is interested in several scows upon the Columbia is having trouble with the Messrs. Day, at Cascade Locks, over a contract unfilled by Clarke, for which failure the Days are suing for damages. Saturday the answer of Clarke was filed in the United States. A. S. Bennett, Esq., of this city appears for Clarke. An affidavit was also filed which shows the facts as Clarke claims them to be.

The barge City of Sprague, which belonged to Clarke and Inman, was leased by J. G. & I. N. Day, contractors, for building to completion the locks at the Cascades, for the period of ten months. Day Bros. entered into an agreement with Clarke & Inman to pay them the sum of \$175 for the use of the barge for that time. It was agreed that Clarke should furnish a captain to navigate the barge, or was to act himself in that capacity. He assumed the management of the craft himself. The men who worked on the barge were employed by Day Bros. On the 17th of last October, during the absence of Clarke from the barge, and without his consent, the men attempted to move the barge, and in doing so ran her against a rock, which stove a hole in the side and bottom, causing the barge to partly sink. At the time the barge was lying near the shore loading with rock. By the terms of the agreement between Clarke and Day Bros., the latter were to stand any loss or damage which might result to the barge during the ten months' time. After the barge sunk, it is alleged that Day Bros. and Clarke worked for about two weeks endeavoring to raise the craft, but that Day Bros. had abandoned further efforts to get the submerged barge afloat. Soon after, suit was commenced by Day Bros. against Clarke, alleging a breach of contract, and asking for \$5,000 damages. This case is now pending in the United States court. Clarke claims in his affidavit that, by reason of the sinking of the barge and the failure of Day Bros. to keep their agreement and raise the craft, he was unable to comply with his part of the contract; that the alleged breach was through no fault of his.

The case was set for trial on November 13. D. R. Murphy, U. S. attorney, appears for Mr. Inman, who as a partner with Clarke, was equally sued by J. G. and I. N. Day.

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