

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper on Wasco County.

EASTERN OFFICE—230 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

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THURSDAY - DECEMBER 9, 1897

IT HAS COME TO STAY.

Especially inopportune just at this time is Congressman Grosvenor's attack upon the civil service law. All parts of the country are suffering from an aggravated attack of spoilsmen in office. Healthy-minded citizens in Greater New York are aghast at the prospect of that city being for years under the miserable domain of Tammany. In different states during the last year have legislatures been held up and necessary legislation thwarted through the voracious selfishness of petty politicians hunting for place and power.

Portland is awakening to the fact that good government is denied her because the spoilsmen, headed by Penoyer and Davis, are turning the city machinery into an instrument for the protection and enrichment of themselves and hungry henchmen.

Only through the patriotic efforts of Presidents Harrison, Cleveland and McKinley has the national government been saved from being a football, tossed hither and there by men incapable of managing their own private interests successfully, but confident of their ability to serve in the public capacity.

The advance of civil service reform during the last ten years has been the most gratifying phenomenon of our national life. Steady progress has been made in lifting national offices from out the clutches of the spoilsmen, and though heavy obstacles have been thrown in the way, the work has gone persistently on, till now most of the departments in Washington are being conducted on a business basis.

This government was not instituted to provide positions for all who want them. There are higher and more weighty matters which should occupy the attention of our executive and law-makers. The early policy of the nation was in favor of the government's work being done by those most competent to do it, and it was not until Andrew Jackson found his way to the presidency that the idea of parceling out the offices on account of political preference began to dominate. None will gainsay that the heads of all departments and such offices which depend upon political policy, should be filled with men in sympathy with the principles of the dominant party; but it is just as true that every small clerkship should not be delegated every four years as a reward of political merit. The country has too much politics now; what it needs is more business sense in the conduct of its affairs.

The continuation of the civil service idea offers the only hope in this direction, and we believe the American people can be depended upon to see that it shall remain. President McKinley was right when he said "The civil service system has the official sanction of the people."

Judge McKenna can probably realize the truth of the old proverb "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country," as he reads the remonstrances being sent in against his proposed appointment to the supreme bench of the United States. That there is some merit in the objections cannot be denied when such names as Ex-Atty.-General George H. Williams, Judge Gilbert and other lawyers among the ablest on the coast, appear in the remonstrance. If Mr. McKenna has not been able to impress his fitness for the judicial ermine upon those who know him best, it is more than likely the presi-

dent has been deceived in his judgment of the man. There are too many men worthy of the position in the country to make it expedient that one should be chosen concerning whose fitness there is such well-founded doubt.

The Oregonian holds out the hope that Mr. Corbett will be seated when the senate gets around to it. Such a presumption is not warranted by the facts, and in a few weeks Mr. Corbett will be settling his hotel bills in Washington and his himself to his Portland home—a place he should never have left. Such a course would be extremely satisfactory to the people of Oregon, who do not wish to be represented in the senate by an antiquated gentleman who would be but the mouthpiece for Joe Simon, the displaced boss of the Republican party in Oregon.

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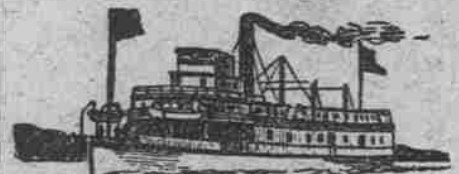


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