

The Oregon Statesman

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THE DIRECT PRIMARY OPENED THE DOOR TO PROGRESS

Here and there voices are being raised against the direct primary and in favor of a return to the convention system.

In his Lincoln day utterances President Harding expressed his abiding faith in party government. He found that a nation had its best and most perfect expression through the medium of its political organizations.

True enough, a candidate named by a convention has "something behind him." But too often it is merely the sanction of a boss or bosslets representing a ring or clique, not the voters of the party.

It is a glorious mistake for anyone to think the nation finds its "most perfect expression" through its political organization when those organizations are in the control of men who operated under the convention system.

The great benefit of the direct primary is that it makes public officials responsive, not to political bosses but to the people. It means free government and free government is good Americanism.

big men out of office. That may be true at times. But is not a mediocre official who faithfully serves his people a more valuable man than a political giant who betrays them?

The defects of the direct primary may be easily seen and usually they may be guarded against without trouble. The defects of the convention plan were often concealed behind closed doors.

The above is from the Pendleton East Oregonian of a few days ago. The whole of the argument is admitted—As argument.

It has a familiar sound; and The Statesman has often said that the direct primary will likely stand some time in Oregon, because many people in this state have a lively recollection of the abuses of the convention system; the "boss system."

But there is a good deal of piffle about the great advantages of the present direct primary system, and about the great progress made under its workings; and the objections to this cumbersome and expensive system do not come "chiefly from politicians."

And a great many people who are not politicians agree that it is an expensive system; and nearly every one will say, if he speaks his honest sentiments, that the contents of the bottle belie the wording of the label; that in actual practice the net results are no improvement over the old system, on the average—as faulty and objectionable as the old system was in its workings, and would be again—

And no one will deny that the direct primary system which we have in Oregon is a great deal more expensive to the taxpayers than was the convention system, or would be that system if there should be a return to it.

And there is a strong desire on the part of most of the people of Oregon to get down to brass tacks in the cutting out of all possible excessive charges upon the public funds. The working out of the general desire for more economical methods in the administration of the public affairs of every kind in Oregon may bring about the reorganization of the direct primary system, or possibly a return to the convention system—

But The Statesman has little hope of this in the near future; so long as there are so many people like the writer in the East Oregonian who have "kidded" themselves into the belief that the direct primary system is the panacea for most of the ills of progressive government—

And so this discussion is hardly worth the space it takes; or the work and pains it would require to carry it on at any great length.

"Maine went, hell bent, for Governor Kent."

Among other foreign entangling alliances is that ten billion dollars they owe us.

Discipline must be maintained at the penitentiary. That is the first law of such institutions.

Is there no California Whittier to write an "Ichabod" on Hiram Johnson's desertion of the state in his vote on the four-power treaty pact?—Los Angeles Times.

After all, West Salem may remain West Salem. But the residents over there will have to admit that they have a wide choice of new names, and many appropriate ones.

ed balance is afforded by the continuously high and stable rates of exchange for both sterling and francs.

"There is a widespread belief that trade throughout the United States will continue to expand until most plants will be again working at normal capacity."

"IN GOD WE TRUST"

Now that the new silver dollars are coming into circulation we are learning for the first time that that good old slogan, "In God We Trust," has degenerated to "In God We Trvst."

I suppose we should be thankful that on the other side they didn't likewise make it "E Pivrvvs Vavm" and "United States of America." But can anybody suggest a reason for this nonsense? There are supposed to be twenty-six letters in the English alphabet, and nobody objects seriously if the architect of a monument or building chooses to label it any old way that suits his own ideas.

We were saved from the broken sword, emblem of defeat, by public protest. It seems to me quite as offensive to label the coin "In God We Trvst," because we don't trvst, we trust.—James Watts in New York Herald.

HAZARDS OF THE DEEP

Now they are making a waterproof suit that will permit the wearer to float indefinitely without fear of exposure. The inventor spent two whole nights floating around among broken icebergs in a temperature of 26 deg. to give the invention a fair test and was found smoking a cigar when picked up in the morning. It is claimed that the garment can be put on in thirty seconds and that a puncture does it no harm. If all ship passengers were equipped with these suits the hazards of a Titanic disaster would be notably lessened.

BRIGHTENING OUTLOOK

Following are excerpts from the current weekly financial letter of Henry Clews, the Wall street authority:

"There has been a decided upward swing in the volume of building permits issued, over and above the increases already noted during the earlier weeks of the year. Productive capacity in automobiles, particularly in the truck branch of the business, is even more fully employed than heretofore. . . . Equipment companies continue to keep far ahead of last year in their volume of orders, and are now reported practically back to normal."

"The fact that our foreign trade relations are in the main more wholesome in spite of a decrease-

of his wife will sometimes fight like an Indian on behalf of his neighbor's pup.

THE FLORIDA FLUTTER

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GREATEST HOTELS

The builder's contract for the new Biltmore hotel in Los Angeles will call for more than \$5,000,000. That will be the greatest construction permit the Coast has yet known. Even New York will sit up and take notice of a \$5,000,000 building. Gotham has several hotels more imposing, but that is largely because the building laws there place no restrictions on height. In Los Angeles, with a limitation of 150 feet, it is virtually impossible to carry a building more than twelve or fourteen stories. The Biltmore hotel in New York—which is a part of the great system in which the new house is affiliated—is twenty-six stories in height. The Los Angeles hotel would have been as massive had the regulations permitted. As it is, it will be one of the notable hotels of America and therefore of the world.

USING A BREWERY

One of the big breweries in Los Angeles is to be converted into a cotton mill. Maybe they saved up a lot of foam. Old-timers say the foam on a glass of beer used to strongly resemble cotton. The breweries of the nation are about all in use now—and many of them are employing more people than they did in the old days. The range of their present uses runs through a long list—from ice cream factories and creameries and woolen and cotton mills all down the line to churches. The W. C. T. U. recently held one of its big meetings in the offices of what was the great Busch brewery at St. Louis.

THE CUTUPS

They are having an entanglement in St. Louis. The council by a narrow margin recently adopted an ordinance which would permit the dogs garnered at the city pound to be turned over to the vivisectionists for scientific and experimental purposes. Naturally, this arouses the opposition of the tender-hearted and the friends of the dog. No man who loves his Towser is going to be patient while solons are laying plans for the carving of canines in the interest of science. A man who would be dumb in the defense

FUTURE DATES

March 22 to 25—Mary Garden and company in grand opera, Portland. March 24, Friday—Willamette university spring vacation begins. March 27, Monday—March term of court begins. March 27, Monday—First day of March term Marion county circuit court. March 31, Friday—"Mrs. Temple's Telegram" Snikpop Dramatic society play of the state—"Paul Revere" to be presented by Salem high school music department. April 12, Wednesday—County commission club federation meets in Salem. April 14, Friday—Last day on which candidates for state offices may file with secretary of state. April 16 to 25—"Better Music" week in Salem. April 16, Sunday—Easter. April 18, Tuesday—Whitney Boys' Chorus to sing at Christian church. May 1, Monday—W. W. Ellsworth, noted editor and literary man, to address Willamette students. May 12, Saturday—Junior week-end entertainment at O. A. C. May 19, Friday—Primary election. May 20, Saturday—Oregon house, science government of high school. May 26 and 27, Friday and Saturday—May Festival, Orestis Creation Friday in arroyo; living pictures Saturday night. June 5, Monday—Track meet, Willamette and Pacific University at Forest Grove. June 14, Wednesday—Flag Day. June 16, Friday—High school graduation. June 29-30, July 1—Convention of Oregon Fire Chiefs' association at Marshfield. July 8 and 9—Monday and Tuesday, State convention of Arriens at Woodburn. September 21, 23 and 25—Pendleton horse-up. September 25 to 30 inclusive—Oregon State Fair. November 7, Tuesday—General election.

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EDITORIALS

OF THE PEOPLE

Gross and Net Prices

Wool figures in an article published in your paper today are interesting. Why not publish the facts? Your figures are gross and from them should be deducted: Freight, 65 cents per 100 average; selling expenses, \$2.50 per 100 average; interest for eight months (farmers did not get money until eight months after shipping), \$1.50 per 100 average; cost of joining, 25 cents; total, \$4.90. This leaves net prices as follows: Fine, \$19.25; medium, \$17.60; coarse (not including braid), \$16.60; (more than half of all valley wool is braid). Braid (judging from sales made and present market), \$9; cotted (judging from sales made and present market) \$7. This is a grand average of \$13.89 for all grades. This is 7c less than farmers are getting instead of 7c more.

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to Salem Friday to attend the Sunday school convention; returning home Saturday.

Mrs. I.H. Haling of Portland is spending a few days here with her mother Mrs. Caroline Drayer. M. H. Wilson and J. Thomas and family were in Salem Friday. Mrs. F. A. Wood spent Saturday afternoon in Salem. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kunke have a baby boy. They are at the home of M. Pflifer.

The Pflifer family are all having their second attack of influenza.

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They are income tax exempt and are secured by all the taxable property in this substantial city situated in the most fertile section of the famous Grande Ronde valley.

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Advertisement for A.L. Hoffmann's Complete House Phonograph and Brunswick Records.

The Junior Statesman

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Peggy Plans A Party

Mrs. McGovern was having a surprise birthday party for the twins, and Peggy, who had been called in to help, being one of the "bunch," was having a hard time keeping the secret. She could hardly wait to see the twins' eyes almost pop out of their heads when they opened the dining room door and saw the group of boys and girls and heard them sing out "Happy birthday!"

"Another game the bunch does not know is the 'hindrance race.' About half the people are sent out of the room. Then one of them is called back in and shown a row of upturned chairs, books and pillow, which he is told to observe carefully. Then he is blindfolded and told to walk across the room without stepping on any of the objects. As he starts, the things are quietly taken out of the way in front of him. It's so funny to see him hopping, and everybody yelling 'Look out' and cheering him on. Then the bandage is taken off and he helps fool the next one."

"Birthdays are always good times for parties," her mother said. "I used to know what flowers and stones belong to each month, but I've forgotten." "I have it in my memory book," said Peggy, and she ran in to get it. She was back in a minute. "Here it is: January, snowdrop and garnet; February, primrose and amethyst; March, violet and bloodstone; April, lily-of-the-valley and diamond; May, iris and emerald; June, rose and agate; July, poppy and ruby; August, sunflower and sardonyx; September, morning-glory and sapphire; October, goldenrod and opal; November, chrysanthemum and topaz; December, holly and turquois."

"It sounds as though it would be lovely," said her mother, as she took another peek into the oven.

"We're going to play some new games, too," said Peggy. "There's 'bellman,' for instance. It's different from the regular tag. Every one is blindfolded except the one who is 'it,' and he wears a string of little bells around his neck. Then every one in the room tries to catch him. Who ever gets him is 'it.'"

"The boss came in and heard their order. Then he said, 'I don't want to Russia, but you can't Romania.' So the two soldiers went away Hungary. Freshie: 'Mother, can a person leave parts of his body any place?' Mother: 'Why, John, what a foolish question! Why do you ask?' John: 'Well, I heard my teacher say he was going to California for his lungs.' 'I want to take out some insurance.' 'Fire or life?' 'Both. I have a wooden leg.'

"The men called him 'the young

ONE REEL YARNS

THE YOUNG GENTLEMAN

"Water!" yelled some one on the other side of the road. Eric picked up the bucket and hurried over. "Sorry to disturb your royal highness," said the man, with an elaborate bow, "but walkin' in the park makes me thirsty."

Eric flushed and said nothing. It was not the warm weather and the long hours that made the job of carrying water for the road gang hard for him. They all knew that he came of one of the best families in the town, and though many of them secretly felt admiration for his desire to make money for himself, they taunted him because he was not one of them.

His politeness irritated them. "Sir! Sir!" they mocked him. They called him absurd nicknames. Some of them even threw dirt in his water bucket when his back was turned. Eric wiped his forehead. The air was sultry. He was tried out. "Water!" yelled a burly young fellow, not much older than Eric. Eric hurried over. He set down the pail. The young man edged toward it, then with pretended awkwardness, lost his balance and stumbled against the pail. Eric grabbed it, but not before it was half split. It was a long way to the water supply. Eric calmly picked up the pail and upset it over his tormentor's head.

Work stopped, as the victim howled and stamped, pulling off the pail jammed over his head. Eric stood quietly by. "I'll show you," fumed the boy, once he was free. He took a step forward, but Eric, with unexpected swiftness, shot out a hand flat. Eric stooped over and helped the bewildered fellow to his feet. "I beg your pardon for losing my temper," he said politely, and he quickly picked up his pail and walked off. The men called him "the young

HE HAD LOTS OF TIME



gentleman" after that, but they meant it.

TODAY'S PUZZLE

LISE, NEDE, NLEI, DSIA Rearrange these groups to make proper words, then arrange the words so that they form a word square.

Answer to yesterday's: Brooklyn, New Orleans. Two soldiers went into a restaurant in the Near East and said to the waiter: "We want Turkey with Greece." "Sorry," said the waiter. "We can't Serbia." "Well, then, get the Bosphorus."

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HUMOR PLAY WORK