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East Oregonian.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1900.

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—AT—
PENDLETON, OREGON.

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It is asserted with considerable point that the Nicaragua canal project was "shelved" at this session of congress because the transcontinental railroad interests promised to "shell out" freely if it were done for the purposes of the presidential campaign. It is hardly fair to ask, for which side?

Richard Croker, the Tammany Hall boss, has declared for Bryan without any ifs or ands, but there are those who say that Croker is only for Bryan on the surface. In 1896 Croker was not for Bryan even on the surface. Up to this time Bryan has been the author of his own political destinies and probably he will continue to be in either success or defeat.

A small but suggestive occurrence is reported from Columbus, O. Mr. Sheets, the present attorney-general of the state of Hanna and McKinley, appointed Mr. S. M. Bennett as a special counsel to assist in the conduct of the cases against certain trusts. Mr. Bennett is a brother-in-law of ex-Attorney-General Monnett, famous for his fearless work as a trust prosecutor. His appointment as special counsel required Gov. Nash's approval. Mr. Hanna has ordered the governor to withhold his approval—and it is withheld. It is plain that no man who fights trusts can expect any quarter from the power behind the throne of the republican party.

The McKinley administration dream of imperialism, as now revealed at Washington, includes fortified posts stretching from the western coast of North America to the Philippines. This is evident by the fact that plans are under consideration in both the navy and war departments for the fortification of Guam. Cavite, Pearl Harbor and Pago Pago. It is the intention, if the election is favorable and a republican house succeeds itself, active work on these forticifaitons is to begin. Naval officers say that if the present plans are carried out on top of the expense of the work there will be called for ten times the amount for enough warships to protect these coaling stations should war come. The plan is fascinating in its imperial possibilities. Pago Pago, Pearl Harbor, Guam and Cavite need only to be fortified to be of the same importance to the United States as Malta, Bermuda and Gibraltar are to Great Britain. In other words we are following in the footsteps of the British in our mad race after gold and power which the favored few will revel in.

Virginia has recently voted in favor of revision of the state constitution with the purpose of disfranchising the negroes, as far as it can be done without conflicting with the federal constitution. With Hawaii and Puerto Rico already a part of the Union and with the Philippines and Cuba coming in, this disfranchising business will become more and more necessary, for a large part of the population of this new territory is not fit to exercise the rights of suffrage. This is the beginning of popular recognizance that all men are not "free and equal" under the stars and stripes. Now it remains to be seen whether the "free and equal" ones will do anything to make those who are not endowed with the necessary intelligence more free or more slave. One thing is certain that a republic is doomed that attempts to shove one man down and lift another one up. Those who have the blessed privileges of the ballot in this country must never forget those who haven't it, and vote in such a way as to bring about an improvement of the condition of those who are denied them. For a voter to fail in this, is to fail in the performance of his duty.

RESULT OF THE ELECTION.

The election is over and most everybody is surprised at the result. The democrats are so surprised that they feel humble over the victory of most of their county ticket. The republican state and legislative ticket on the other hand carried the county by increased majorities. Nobody can explain the victory for the democratic county ticket and the republican state and legislative ticket in the county. The voters appear to have registered their convictions and have kept to themselves their reasons for doing so. The unexpected has happened and nobody can explain it. The East Oregonian will not attempt to do so, leaving each of its readers to come to his own conclusions from a study of the election returns published in its news columns.

AFTER GOOD GOVERNMENT.

In the Atlantic for June Edwin Burritt Smith of Chicago says some most interesting things about the present rather general movement to recover representative and nonpartisan municipal government, dwelling particularly upon the work done so far by the Chicago Municipal Voters' League. In previous movements for municipal reform Mr. Smith has noted a languidness in discussion, spasmodic efforts and transient results that persuade him to consider it too soon to predict whether the present general movement to this end will prove persistent. There are, however, he says, indications of popular interest that give promise of ultimate success.

* * *

The need of the hour is to make municipal government representative, it is now, Mr. Smith says, dominated by special interests. It must be made representative of the people. "To the extent that we have abandoned the legislature to private interests, and fallen back on the executive and the courts, we have armed special privilege with affirmative authority and left public interests to be defended by officials exercising powers which are mainly negative. Thus, in lieu of simple and responsible municipal government, exercising adequate affirmative powers, we have a hotchpotch of warring officials and boards."

Honesty and capacity are put down by Mr. Smith as the essential justification for public service. The aim must be to make municipal government sound to the core. All else will follow. How certainly to secure honest and capable public officials is the problem of municipal reform. It is prerequisite to the discussion of policies and measures.

* * *

To secure or insure this prerequisite has been the aim and object of the Municipal Voters' League from its inception, and Mr. Smith, while admitting that the methods of the league may not prove to be generally or permanently applicable, frankly declares that their success thus far is full of promise. In reviewing conditions which led up to the formation of the league Mr. Smith says: "The city government of Chicago touched bottom in 1895, when fifty-eight of its sixty-eight aldermen were organized into a 'gang' for the service and blackmail of public service corporations. Within that year six great franchises of enormous value were shamelessly granted away, in utter disregard of general protest and the vetoes of the mayor. Most of the members of the council were without personal standing or character. The others were practically without voice or influence. * * * The city was in the grasp of strongly intrenched special interests. * * * The political organizations were of the usual character. Their relations with the corporations were not unfriendly. (How naively put!) The city carried on its registration lists more than 350,000 voters. About three-fourths of these were of foreign birth or parentage, and many understood the English language but imperfectly, if at all." And nearly all of these elements were bent upon their private pursuits.

* * *

Such was the situation—and Mr. Smith has not put one stroke too much into the unpleasant picture—when, in January, 1896, the civil federation took action which resulted in the organization of the Municipal Voters League. By way of contrast with 1895 and now Mr. Smith gives the net result of the five municipal campaigns which have been conducted since the league began practical operations. He says:

"Of the fifty-eight "gang" members of 1895 but four are now in the council. The "honest minority" of ten in 1895 became a two-thirds majority in 1899. The quality of the membership has steadily improved. Each year it is found easier to secure good candidates. Today the council contains many men of character and force. A considerable number of prominent citizens have become members. The council is organized on a non-partisan basis, the good men of both parties being in charge of all the committees. It is steadily becoming more efficient. No general "boodle ordinance" has passed over the mayor's veto since the first election in which the league participated. Public despair has given place to general confidence in the early redemption of the council. It is no longer a good investment for public service corporations to expend large sums to secure the re-election of notorious boodlers. It is no longer profitable to pay large amounts to secure membership in a body in which "aldermanic business" has ceased to be good. It is now an honor to be a member of the Chicago council. Any capable member may easily acquire an honorable city reputation in a single term of service."

It should be remembered that this gratifying change has been wrought in the face of the most powerful opposing influences. The notorious Allen bill was one of these, and its eventual repeal was largely due to the manner in which the members of the city council stood firm against all improper advances made during its short life.

* * *

Such, in a glance, is what the Municipal Voters' League must be credited with doing for Chicago. Of course it was necessary that it should find interested and honest citizens to make its propaganda successful, but these are seldom lacking. They may slumber now and then, but when once awakened they are a power before which any "gang" must fly. The position of the league has been strictly non-partisan. It has placed emphasis on character and capacity. It has had the united support of the reputable press—and Chicago has little else. Disinterested leadership was needed and the league has furnished it. Its facts and conclusions are usually accepted by the press, and no substantial newspaper support can be had for candidates whom it opposes. It appeals directly to the voter by means of specific recommendations supported by the salient facts. Its conclusions are drawn from the records of those seeking public office or asking re-election. So far it has made no fight on the "machine" as such, its fundamental purpose being to inform the voters of the facts about all candidates.

The work of the league certainly has not been devoid of noteworthy results, and if Chicago would fully and permanently regain representative government if it would be forever freed from "gang" methods, spoils and selfish partisanship, the people should take Mr. Smith's advice, renew their faith, be eternally vigilant and see that men of character and capacity, and such only, are intrusted with the public business of 2,000,000 people.

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One roan horse branded Y L (connected) on left shoulder, weight about 1000 pounds.

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One bay horse branded T R on left thigh, weight about 1150 pounds.

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One bay horse branded W on left hip, weight about 1150 pounds.

Dated June 4, 1900.

J. M. HEATHMAN, City Marshal.

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Dated May 29, 1900.

J. M. HEATHMAN, City Marshal.

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State of Oregon, Treasury Department, Salem, June 2, 1900.

Notice is hereby given that there are funds on hand with which to redeem all outstanding state warrants drawn on the general fund and endorsed "Presented and not paid for want of funds," prior to this date, except those drawn for conveying insane for the years 1899 and 1900; also to pay all warrants drawn on the state scalp bounty fund and endorsed "Presented and not paid for want of funds," prior to May 20, 1899, and that all such warrants properly endorsed will be paid upon presentation at this office, interest thereon ceasing from and after this date. CHAS. S. MOORE, State Treasurer.