

TIMELY ANNIVERSARIES.

April 13.

1783—General Alexander Macomb, hero of Plattsburg, born in Detroit; died 1841. 1863—The British stormed and captured Magdala, Abyssinia; King Theodore, reputed descendant of Solomon and the queen of Sheba, killed himself. 1869—Rejection of the Alabama claims treaty by the United States senate and a serious war alarm in America and England. The senate vote stood 54 to 1. Charles Sumner made a powerful speech, declaring that "when civilization was fighting a last battle with slavery England gave her name, her influence, her material resources to the wicked cause and hung a sword into the scale with slavery." The dispute was finally settled by arbitration, England paying the United States an indemnity of \$15,500,000. 1890—Samuel Jackson Randall, statesman, died in Washington; born 1828. 1894—David Dudley Field, eminent American jurist, died in New York city; born 1805. 1897—Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton, wife of Theodore Tilton, died in Brooklyn; born 1835.



April 14.

1471—Richard Neville, famous earl of Warwick, known as "The Kingmaker," killed at the battle of Barnet. 1861—Fort Sumter taken possession of by Confederates, the Federals marching out with flying colors. 1865—President Abraham Lincoln assassinated by Wilkes Booth. 1894—General Henry Warner Slocum, a distinguished Union veteran, died in Brooklyn; born 1827. 1895—Professor James Dwight Dana of Yale died at New Haven; born 1813. 1897—Professor Edward Drinker Cope, Ph. D., died in Philadelphia; born 1840.

JUST A WORD OR TWO.

There has been considerable criticism of the East Oregonian for its position politically. It has been said by some that it was not a democratic paper any longer. It has been said by others, those who are quick to suspect because of their own inclinations, that it has "sold out" to the republicans.

The East Oregonian does not feel these strictures, is even not offended at them, and shall continue to pursue the even tenor of its way, regardless of condemnation or flattery. It has its own opinions, its own mission and sometimes sees deeper into a millstone than its critics.

The East Oregonian desired the republican party to nominate an eastern Oregon man for governor, feeling that if a republican had to fill that office it preferred one from this section to any other. An Eastern Oregon man was nominated, to the surprise of at least half of the people of the state, and will make a spirited canvass with excellent chances for success.

But whatever the East Oregonian did in this connection was done without reward, direct or indirect, with but one object, to secure justice and representation for Eastern Oregon, in the councils of one of the great parties of the state, that had long denied what was due.

The East Oregonian's work ended here, and it is free to act as it thinks best for its constituency and the state of Oregon. It has to answer to no one, but the man at its helm, and he is guided by only one influence, and that one, what is fair between man and man, what is best for all men, not what is best for the few; what is best for Oregon as a part of the common country, not what is best for one section or district of it. Here this paper stands and dares maintain its place, just as free from the influence of democratic traffickers in politics and office as it is from those of the republican stripe.

To pattern after the language of the democratic nominee for governor, the East Oregonian has existed under its present management for 22 years, and in all of this time it defies any one to show where it has been guilty of one dishonest act, or where it has ever obligated itself, for material consideration of any kind, political or otherwise, whether in advocating men for office or in inducing the location of industries and enterprise. If anyone can point to such an act in the course of 22 years this paper will no longer pretend to be independent with democratic leanings, but be a "dishrag," with all the "yellow dog" attachments, lacking in candor and fairness and influence.

A GOOD APPOINTMENT.

If the report is true that President Roosevelt has appointed F. P. Sargent, grand master of the locomotive firemen, to be commissioner of immigration, it is a fitting recognition of organized labor. Sargent has devoted the best years of his life to the management of his organization and stands at the head of the great list of American labor leaders. He was one of the first who suggested the American Civic Federation and is a member of the National Arbitration Committee.

Sargent is a clean man, one who has the cause of his fellows at heart, and President Roosevelt's recognition of his merit is an evidence that his heart is in sympathy with the toiling masses, the men who lift rather than the ones who lean. The American people have confidence in President Roosevelt's sincerity and in the majority of instances his acts strengthen it, rather than otherwise. However, the president will have to watch himself quite closely in order to resist the temptation to play politics, with the view of continuing his seat in the presidential chair. To the extent that he succumbs to the temptation he will have to suppress his manhood and independence and drop to the level of the office seeker. Even the great office of president is not worth this debasement and humiliation.

In this connection it might be remarked that President Roosevelt took a step in the wrong direction and smirched his reputation for independent and fearless action when he asked for the resignation of H. Clay Evans from the head of the pension department, in order to appease the appetite of the pension sharks and quiet the clamoring patriotism of the Grand Army, which is largely under the hypnotic influence of those interested in pension steals. President Roosevelt is an admirer of H. Clay Evans, knows that he is an honest man and one, as commissioner of pensions, who has stood between as greedily a gang of thieves, as ever scuttled a ship and the United States treasury. Though knowing these things, he concluded to play politics and take Evans from the head of the pension department in order that the "Grand Army may no longer have cause for complaint." President Roosevelt slapped an honest man, one who believed a public office was a public trust, in the face when he did this and it was un-Rooseveltian to say the least.

In short, Evans was entitled to different treatment, but politics stood in the way of his getting what was due him and he was sacrificed like a lamb led to slaughter while increased opportunity was given to pension plunderers and the parasites of war.

DEMOCRATIC STATE PLATFORM. The declaration of party principles of the state democracy of Oregon for the campaign of 1902 is as follows: To the Democratic Convention of the state of Oregon, in Convention assembled:

We, your committee on platform and resolutions, beg to report the following as the declaration of the principles of the democratic party of the State of Oregon: The democratic party of the state of Oregon, in convention assembled, declares its allegiance to the principles of true democracy as enunciated by its founder, Thomas Jefferson. We believe that this day, when the wealth of the country is fast passing into the hands of the favored few, the preservation of the inherent rights of mankind demands a return of the country to the principles of the true democracy, as a basis for our government.

The republican party in this state has recently and insolently failed, neglected and scorned to keep its promises of economical legislation. The state's expenses have grown far out of proportion to its increase in population, wealth, business and public service. The democratic party and its candidates are hereby pledged in general and in particular, to give the people of Oregon a clean, capable and economical administration of state affairs, not only in promise, but in performance.

The rapid growth of the municipalities of the state demand a radical reform in their system of government by which intelligent non-partisan and home rule for cities will become established, and long-distance, log-rolling, partisan rule through legislative charters shall be abolished. We demand that municipal government shall be placed and kept on a strictly business basis; that valuable franchises shall not be granted or extended except upon the basis of fair payment therefor by the grantees. And we believe in extension or expansion of the doctrine of public ownership, or control of public utilities, as is exemplified by the successful control of their water works systems by the various cities of the state.

We demand that the state officers of Oregon shall be placed upon a flat salary, which shall not be increased during their incumbency in office, and beyond such salaries such officers shall be allowed no other fees or perquisites whatever. All fees earned by them shall be paid into the state treasury. The amount of some of the state officers' fees is simply scandalous. The republican party, judging from long-past experience, will not and does not intend to remedy this evil. It has had many opportunities and has never made even an attempt in this direction; hence we must believe its promises insincere.

The democratic party pledges itself to save the taxpayers on this score a very large sum if given an opportunity to enact and execute such necessary laws. We favor such amendments to the interstate commerce law, and such legislation by the legislature of this state, as will regulate railway traffic within the state of Oregon, and we favor such legislation as will prevent discrimination by railway and other corporations in favor of or against persons, places and products.

There should no question as to the rights of labor to combine for the assertion and protection of its rights. The burdens of the unjust and discriminating laws enacted by the republican party fall chiefly on those who till the soil or labor at other forms of production. These constitute a large portion of our citizens; they have never sent lobbyists to the federal or state legislatures nor founded monopolies nor demanded special privileges. The democratic party pledges itself to relieve them from this burden of class legislation which the republican party has placed upon them. We favor the creation by congress of a department of labor, entitled to a secretary entitled to a seat in the cabinet.

We denounce the manner in which the republican party has gerrymandered the state for partisan purposes, and insist that by reason thereof many counties of the state are practically denied local representation in the legislature; and we demand a fair reapportionment of our legislative assembly under the census of 1900.

We are unalterably opposed to all laws, plans or schemes made on devised for the leasing of any part of the public domain to individuals or corporations for any purpose whatsoever. And we favor the enactment of a law by congress providing for a commission of some means of selecting and aggregating the mineral lands from railway grants, for the purpose of preserving the same for the prospector and miner, as has been done in other mining states. We reaffirm the broad fundamental principles of democracy well summarized in the phrase, "Equal rights for all, special privileges to none." We make no war on deserved business success nor legitimately acquired wealth, but author and denounce all laws and the spirit and motive which enact them which gave special privilege to a few individuals and corporations in whose interest they were enacted. We are in favor of a tariff for revenue only, and are opposed to any protection whatever to million-dollar and billion-dollar trusts, combines and corporations, with which the republican party is in iniquitous alliance, and which partnership is calculated to overthrow republican institutions and subvert the liberties of the people; and we favor placing upon the free list all trust manufactured articles of every kind.

The inhabitants of the Philippines have petitioned for free trade with the United States, and their request has been seconded by the Philippine commission, and the sentiment of the American people, yet the republican congress refuses any proper relief, but enacts tariff laws for those islands more burdensome and less defensible than the acts of the British parliament against which our forefathers rebelled. The policy that makes one law for the Hawaiian islands, another for Porto Rico, and another for the Philippines, cannot be upheld on any ground except that of subserviency to the sugar and tobacco trusts. Our insular possessions are either part of our country or are foreign territory. If part of our territory, the people are entitled to the trade privileges that are granted any of our territories, and any legislation that restricts that privilege is odious to the American spirit and disgraceful to American government. We believe that the true policy is to prepare the people of those islands for self-government as speedily as possible, and when so prepared to grant them their independence, retaining such coaling stations and ports as may be necessary to protect those islands from foreign interference, and to maintain our trade relations in the Orient.

We demand the improvement by the federal government of the Columbia river, both at its mouth and below the mouth of the Willamette; and of the construction, under contract, as rapidly as possible, of a canal and locks between the Dalles and Celilo; and also the improvement of other rivers and harbors of Oregon, believing that, if judiciously expended, public money cannot be better used. We are in favor of the speedy construction of the Nicaragua Canal, which, from present indications, the republican party in congress, controlled by great selfish corporate interests, intend to interminable delay, if not ultimately defeat. We are in favor of election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. We are opposed to such of our navigation laws as hamper the upbuilding of our foreign merchant marine, which the policy of the republican party has nearly destroyed; but we demand, in justice to Western farmers and taxpayers, the defeat of the Fry-Hanna ship subsidy bill, which is a piece of audacious robbery of the people, for the purpose of building up another great trust. We favor the proposed constitutional amendment proposing the initiative and referendum system, believing that the people should have a more direct voice in the enactment of laws. We favor an eight-hour day in all public work, and less hours work and more pay for the workman wherever the employer's profits will admit; and arbitration of labor disputes in all practical cases, with labor having fully as potent a voice as capital in the settlements of disputes.

We favor the pending Chinese exclusion bill and its strict and honest enforcement, and we declare that we favor taking such steps as may be necessary by congress to restrict the immigration of Japanese labor, with which, in many places, American labor is being supplanted. We sympathize with the efforts of the railway employes in attempting to secure the enactment of laws modifying the doctrine of the fellow-servant law. The oldest states of the union have enacted laws giving these men maimed and crippled in the service of the railroad the right to recover for injuries received by them when not in fault. Such laws are just, and a refusal to enact them is inhuman, and we pledge our support for such measures. The experience of the past must prove the hopelessness of relief at the hands of the republican party of Oregon.

We condemn the autocratic prohibitive order of the president in denying the constitutional right of mail-carriers and others engaged in the public service to petition for an increase of salaries, or for any other purposes. And we also condemn all governmental injunction. We are in favor of the irrigation by the government of arid lands, and urge prompt national and state action in this respect, and the disposal of such lands to settlers only. We are in favor of liberal appropriations for the protection of salmon, and favor the enactment of such laws as will amply protect the fishing industry of the state.

We favor the immediate enactment of a liberal pension law for all Indian war veterans.

We oppose and declare against any such combination of competing railroads, as was made in the formation of the Northern Securities Company, and all other combinations and usurpations of railroad corporations in defiance of federal and state laws and in antagonism of the best interests and rights of the public.

The democracy of Oregon believes and declares in favor of the expansion of trade without the slaughter of a weaker people; of prosperity and success without turning the Government over to multi-millionaires to be run for their benefit, as the republican party practically does; of reason and righteousness rather than hypocrisy and delusion; of honesty and efficiency in performance as much as in promise; and not forgetful of past events and experiences, watchful of the present, it yet looks forward and upward, with a view of keeping step with the march of progress in nation and state, and being an agency therein to benefit the many rather than the few. We present this expression of our faith to all the people of Oregon, and invoke their aid in the interest of just, honest and clean government.

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