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DRUGGISTS

PENDLETON



MONDAY, JUNE 9, 1902.

### DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS.

Democratic governors are elected in Oregon every so often, regardless of the big republican plurality of votes. Oregon has had Lane, Grover, Thayer, Penoyer and will have Chamberlain after January 1 next. The governor's chair is about the only thing political not monopolized by the republicans in Oregon and, because of it, the democratic party has been able to catch its breath as well as a fresh hold about once in every ten years.

This little change in the order of things political does not have a bad effect upon the political atmosphere, because it forces the dominant party to improve the error of its ways, that it may recover and retain its lost ground.

Moral: It is never well for a people to vote one way all the time, for if they do government will grow worse and worse, until government by the people becomes government for the few, with all the evils and abuses of that condition.

The fact of the matter is, government by the many—even by the irresponsible many—is preferable to government by the few—even by the responsible few. In short, the wisdom of the many is greater than the wisdom of the few at least so far as wisdom applies to government; for the fact of the matter is, if all men were really wise they could be individually self-governing, thus relieving the state of all need of the care of the individual, but this theory is apparently unattainable, and the individual is left free to choose the best form of government, the nearest to individual self-government, that of the people by the people, for the people, and the nearer we live under that form the better it is for all of us.

Those who attempt to be wiser and greater than the people in the usurpation of the powers of government must stand from under when the people realize what is their real intention. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and, the truth is, the people are not vigilant enough by half. If they were, no individual would have the privilege to prey upon them and there are many such, which are the sum of the abuses of government under present forms, principally due to the people placing too much power into the hands of their representatives, those who are expected only to serve the people.

### WOULD BE KINGS.

Letson Balliet, who spent money like water for newspaper notoriety in order that a mole hill should appear to be a mountain, using the mails to defraud his victims, has been convicted in the United States court at Des Moines, Iowa. Balliet deserves all he will get, not exceeding eighteen months in prison and a fine of \$5,000.

Mr. Balliet thirsted to be a King of royal color and like a king, he attempted to be a big man in the mining world at the expense and sacrifice of other people, mostly fools who were caught with wild and unreasonable promises. Balliet is the son of a well known Iowa jurist and knows just enough about law to make him a dangerous knave.

There are others besides Balliet engaged in like business, who use the mails to catch suckers, but they are

not as yet so offensive as to arouse the suspicions of Uncle Sam's minions, nor is their business of such magnitude as to excite public opinion against them.

Here is one instance where the big thieves are more likely to come to grief than the little ones.

Men who desire to become kings should remember that "kings ought to shear, not skin their sheep," for if they do, the doors of the penitentiary instead of those of a palace, yawn for them, and there is where they belong.

### GOVERNOR TAFT IN ROME.

The people of the United States are indebted to the Baltimore Herald for a definition of Judge Taft's exact status at the vatican, where he is to have an audience with the pope today. The Herald says that the most delicate and perhaps the most important of the Philippine questions is about to be solved in Rome—not at Manila nor in congress. Seeing that the Philippines are "in the hands of congress," one may well wonder why a problem between the United States and the Philippines is to be settled at Rome. The wonder grows when we read this from the Herald:

"Much nonsense has been written about the official status of Governor Taft at the vatican. As the Herald has stated on previous occasions, Governor Taft represents neither the United States nor the president, but the islands of which he is governor. The question of the friars' lands is one of the most important and intricate of all questions before the Philippine commission. The title of much of this land is unquestionably vested in the church of Rome and Governor Taft seeks the counsel and co-operation of the pope is the title holder."

So Taft represents neither the United States nor the president; he represents the interests of the islands of which he is "governor" by grace of a presidential appointment. If governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, one would think a governor would derive his just powers from the same source. But this is an imperialistic conception. Taft "represents" the interests of a country whose people he does not represent.

Men who think it is a waste of time to split hair in more than nine parts may well wonder why so much veneration is paid to the friar ownership in the Philippines and so little to Filipino ownership and rights in the island. One would suppose that the civil rights of the Filipinos are more important than the property rights of the friars. But the imperialist who represents neither the president nor the United States, but only the interests of the islands whose people don't want him is evidently convinced that while the Filipinos have no rights that need to be respected, the most tender solicitude must be shown the friars.

Taft, it appears, is a sovereign in his own right. Whatever authority he has in the Philippines he derives as the carpetbagger appointee of an imperialist president of the United States. As the appointee of the president one would suppose that he represents the president. As the carpet bag governor, procurator or satrap of "territory appurtenant to the United States," it would seem that he represents the United States. But he "represents the interests of the islands," just as the viceroy of India, represents the interests of India, or the lord lieutenant of Ireland represents interests of Ireland.

Taft is legislating for the Philippines in the name of the president of the United States. But he goes to Rome as the sovereign of the Philippines.—Helena Independent.

### PEOPLE DEMAND IT.

The first congress of the United States discovered that by oversight the original constitution had failed to guarantee the rights of free press and free speech. Accordingly, at the first session, the first amendment to the constitution was proposed and subsequently adopted by all the states. It declares that "congress shall make no law abridging the free-

dom of speech or of the press."

One of the chief objects of this amendment was to encourage the press to criticize freely the misconduct of public officials, and to expose dishonest or weak men in public office.

It goes without saying that newspapers should be held responsible for the abuse of that right. They must speak the truth. They must not willfully bear false witness against good men in the public service; but the constitution and the laws confer upon them the right to scrutinize closely the acts of any public servant, and the public demands that they shall, upon discovery, acquaint the voters with any and all such acts of official misconduct. Failure to perform that duty would justly subject a newspaper to severe condemnation.

With rapid increase of population the people, more and more, demand the performance of this duty. In large cities the voters have little or no time to investigate the conduct of the various departments of the public service. They want the facts in the press, and are entitled to them.

It will be a sad day for popular government when that right is denied, or when the press, instead of exposing misconduct in office, shall be prompted to screen weak and dishonest officials.—Spokesman Review.

### THE HEAVENS IN JUNE.

The finest region of the sky which is now visible is that near the eastern horizon. It contains the brightest part of the Milky Way, which is here divided into two parallel streams, and diversified with many knots and patches of unusual brightness. At our usual hour of 9 p. m. on June 15 it is well clear of the horizon. Along its course lie a number of conspicuous constellations—Cygnus in the northeast, Aquila south of it and Scorpio low in the southeast, not yet completely risen. Lyra and Hercules are higher up in the east, and Ophiuchus fills most of the southeastern sky. Corona Borealis and Bootes are overhead. Virgo is the most conspicuous constellation in the southwest, Leo in the west, and Ursa Major in the southwest. Gemini and Auriga are just disappearing. Draco and Ursa Minor are above the Pole and Cassiopeia below it.

Mercury is evening star at the beginning of the month, and sets about an hour and a half later than the sun. He should be easily visible after sunset, just below the bright stars Castor and Pollux. As he comes between us and the sun he disappears from the evening skies. On the 23rd he passes through his inferior conjunction, and early next month he will re-appear at the morning star.

Venus is morning star in Aries and Taurus, rising more than two hours before sun rise.

Mars is morning star in Taurus. At the end of the month he rises an hour and a half before the sun, and may again be seen.

Jupiter is at Capricornus, rising before midnight on the 1st and at about 9:30 p. m. on the 20th.

Saturn is on the boundary of Sagittarius and Capricornus, rising rather more than an hour before Jupiter.

Uranus is in opposition on the 10th, and at his nearest for the year. At this time he is in right ascension 17h. 13 m. and declination 23 deg. 6 min. south. He may be identified with the aid of a star map. Those without such help may find him by means of Theta Ophiuchi—a third magnitude star about half way between the head of Scorpio and the Milk Dipper in Sagittarius.

Uranus is about 2 deg. north and a little west of this star, and should be directly above it at about 10 p. m. The planet's pronounced greenish color will aid in identifying him; but the only sure test is by his motion. By comparing two sketches made a week or so apart, of the stars visible with an opera glass in this region, the planet can be certainly identified. On account of his low altitude, he is scarcely visible to the naked eye.

Neptune is invisible, being in conjunction with the sun on the 23d.

The asteroid Vesta, the brightest of the more than 400 planets of this group, comes to opposition early in July, under unusually favorable circumstances, being just visible to the naked eye.

We defer fuller comment till next month, only noting that on June 26 the small planet passes just south of Saturn, being but half a degree distant, and can easily be picked up with a field glass. It is moving toward the bowl of the Milk Dipper, at the rate of a degree in four days.

At four o'clock in the morning of June 22, the sun enters the sign of Cancer, and, in the language of the almanacs, "Summer commences." But at this time the sun is in constellation of Gemini, and he will not enter that of Cancer for a full month to come. Here is a great discrepancy, which demands explanation. How does it happen that the signs of the zodiac, while bearing the names of the constellation, do not agree with them in position?

The fact is, that when the signs of the zodiac were named, they coincided with their respective constellations; but during the 2,000 years that

have passed since then, the signs have moved, while the stars have stood still, so that they no longer agree.

The signs of the zodiac have their positions fixed by the equinoxes—the intersections of the ecliptic with the celestial equator. The elliptic moves but little among the stars, but the equator shifts its position in such a way that the equinoxes, carrying the signs of the zodiac with them, travel entirely around the elliptic in a little over 25,000 years.

During the last 2,000 years they have moved westward about 30 deg., so that each sign has "backed" into the constellation which originally preceded it.

Partly on account of the resultant confusion, the signs of the zodiac are no longer used in astronomical calculations. Their appearance in the almanacs in the present connection is the last survival of a method of reckoning better adapted to the days of astrology than to the present time.

This change in the position of the equinoxes is called precession. It is due to the attraction of the sun and moon on the bulging equatorial regions of the earth—which, it is well known, is not exactly spherical. This action combined with the earth's rotation, causes its axis to move in very much the same way that gravity, acting on a spinning top, causes its axis to revolve about a vertical line, instead of making it fall over.

New moon occurs on the morning of the 6th, first quarter on the afternoon of the 12th, full moon on the evening of the 20th, and last quarter on the afternoon of the 28th. The moon is nearest us on the 5th and farthest away on the 18th.

She is in conjunction with Venus on the 3d, with Mars on the 4th, with Neptune and Mercury on the 7th, with Uranus on the 20th, with Saturn on the 23d and with Jupiter on the 24th.—Henry Norris Russell, in Scientific American.

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DICKINSON, N. D., Nov. 8, '90.  
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