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THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1902.

The flat salary proposition in Oregon is now quite flat. The election is over and the next Oregon legislature is too strongly republican. Who is over and the next Oregon legislature with overwhelming power, reducing salaries or reforming abuses in office? At least it is not to be expected in Oregon.

The election of Mr. Lee Teutsch as a director of the public schools of district No. 16 is recognition of a worthy and popular citizen and business man of Pendleton. Mr. Teutsch is a man who is always alive to the needs of the community. He is public-spirited, carrying his share of the burden of good citizenship and never shirking any call to duty. He will take an active interest in the affairs of the school district and his labors will not be without result to the people and school children.

The Chicago Record-Herald comments upon the adoption of the initiative and referendum in Oregon as follows: "Here is a remarkable assertion of popular sovereignty as against legislative and executive power. It is easy to call it an 'attack on representative government,' but the people have a right to 'attack' their agents and servants—that is, to deprive them of some of the power they have long been permitted to exercise—and abuse. The extension of the referendum is inevitable, for the simple and conclusive reason that legislatures are no longer trusted." In this "remarkable assertion" Oregon simply took a step a little in advance of her sister states that will be sure to follow her.

The present assessment and taxation law in Oregon is not without merit. It goes a little way towards giving the people of each county local option in taxation, the right of levying and collecting taxes as the people of each county see fit to determine for themselves, as best suits their needs and purposes. Government at Salem for the people of Umatilla county cannot be conducted as cheaply or as resultfully as we can do it for ourselves right here at home. So, should the people of every county be given the maximum of opportunity to govern themselves, with the minimum of interference from the state or the federal government. In no other way can the "difficult art of self-government," as President Roosevelt puts it, be acquired and the full fruits of it be gathered by the people.

The people of the whole country are land hungry. Those of the west have appetites in this connection, as well as those of the east. Our great inheritance of "free land" is being rapidly exhausted. Witness the present rush for land at the opening of the Fort Hall reservation; the grabbing up of timber land throughout the Northwestern states; the hunt for land by all kinds and conditions of men. Man is a land animal, for without land he cannot exist. The landless man is a slave and grows more so as his tribes increase and multiply. James J. Hill, in a speech in Chicago a few days ago, truthfully declared: "Land without population is a wilderness; population without land is a mob." Here is a succinct, pointed declaration. The land question is one that we have not as yet solved; we have hardly begun to consider it. When we do we will

begin to realize its importance. We will have to solve it correctly or a government of the people, by the people, for the people will perish from the face of the earth. The troubles arising from the slavery question will not be a heel-tap to those to arise from the land question in the next quarter or half century.

So far the result of the pursuit of the convicts, Tracy and Merrill consists of the expenditure of several thousands of dollars, much loss of energy and the shooting of one of the pursuers by another of them, under the impression, entertained by both of them, that the other was one of the convicts. The unfortunate man, a Vancouver painter named Morris, will probably lose his leg if not his life. This whole trouble arises because peanut politics, of the republican variety were allowed to influence the management and conduct of the penitentiary at Salem. When the voters of Oregon awake to the good results of more independent voting and are less subservient to their party machine there may be better and less expensive government at Salem. Voting one way all the time is of itself a great and glaring evil which inflicts no light penalty upon a people.

### SELF-GOVERNMENT IN CUBA.

William J. Bryan, who was present at the installation of Cuba's first president, Tomas E. Palma, into office, wrote as follows to Collier's Weekly concerning self-government in Cuba:

That the people of Cuba are capable of self-government is not a question open for dispute. Henry Clay declared, in his defence of the independence of the South American republics, that God never made a people incapable of self-government; that it was the doctrine of thrones and a reflection on Jehovah to say that He created people incapable of self-government and left them to the government of kings and emperors. Clay's logic is sound. Capacity for government is not a thing to be acquired or to be bestowed; it is inherent in the people. As individuals differ in wisdom, in self-restraint and in moral character, so nations differ, but it cannot be said that any nation has reached perfection in the science of government or in the art of administration; neither can it be said that any nation is so low down in the scale of civilization that it needs a foreign master. When Jefferson was invited to suggest laws for a French colony which located in the United States early in the nineteenth century, he declined, and gave as his reason that laws were the outgrowth of the history and habits of the people and that no alien could be sufficiently informed about, or sufficiently interested about, a people to make their laws for them. Self-government is in itself a developing process and growth in capacity comes with the exercise of human rights under self-government. But one who visits Cuba and becomes acquainted with the people need not rest the case upon abstract principles, for he is convinced by observation that the Cubans not only have the right to govern themselves, but also have the ability to do so. That they will make mistakes is certain, but have we not made mistakes in the United States? That they may sometimes resort to violence instead of reason is possible, but have we not done so in the United States? It is even possible that the island may occasionally be the scene of civil war, but have we not had civil war in the United States? The child will stumble and fall in its effort to walk, but is there any other means by which it can learn to walk?

Cuban independence will not give the people a government free from faults, but it will give them a government as good as they deserve to have—a government that will improve as the people themselves make progress in virtue and intelligence. Free government does not mean that each citizen will have just such a government as he wants; it simply means that the people will have such

a government as the majority desire, and that each individual can present his views to his fellows with the confidence that whatever is best for all will ultimately prevail.

Several important questions will require immediate consideration. The question of sanitation will, of course, receive the attention of the new government; for Cuba cannot afford to be shut out from the outside world, and it cannot expect communication between the island and the United States unless that communication can be carried on without risk of disease.

Education is a problem of the first magnitude. While private and parochial schools can do much, the public schools must place education within the reach of every child and thus fit all for more intelligent participation in the affairs of the government. The deep and widespread interest already manifested in the improvement of school facilities gives great encouragement for the future.

It should be the policy of the government to encourage home owning. Until human nature is entirely changed men will give better care and cultivation to land which they own than to land which they rent. The stimulus that one finds in the sense of proprietorship is indispensable to the highest effort. To this end the growth of great estates should be discouraged and a wider distribution of the land encouraged.

Saving should also be encouraged, and to this end government savings banks would be useful.

The government must be careful to avoid the evils of private monopoly. Man is too frail to be entrusted with the power which a monopoly gives and the president and his advisers should be on their guard against the dangers which come with the granting of franchises and concessions for the control of any branch of business. The government of intervention has reserved to the Cuban government the right to cancel and annul all franchises granted during the temporary occupancy of the island. It will thus be within the power of the permanent government to make such conditions and impose such restrictions as may seem necessary, and it is to be hoped that means will be taken at once to protect the rights of the people.

In the procession which escorted President-elect Palma to his home when he returned from exile, a number of Cuban ladies represented the republics of the Western Hemisphere, the United States, the eldest and Cuba the youngest of the group. It reminded me of the great banyan tree under which our party rested for a moment as we passed through Key West; for are not these republics much like the banyan tree? Free government was planted upon American soil a century ago; it grew and sent forth its branches in every direction, and these branches taking root, now support the parent tree; beneath the influence of these republics, separate in their government, and yet united in their aspirations, an ever-increasing multitude finds shelter and protection. Long live the national banyan tree—the American republics!

Arthur A. Bogart, Wells-Fargo Company's express messenger, was struck by a car while switching at Sheridan Tuesday evening and instantly killed.



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