

1903

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DRUGGISTS

East Oregonian

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1903

Men are saving of every possession except time. They worry over the loss of dimes and dollars, and the prices of their products but stand on street corners daily and throw away the moments with a prodigal hand. Wealth is guarded with a zealous care, opportunity is clasped to the breast and the slightest leakage in the bank account is detected and stopped—but time, the "stuff that life is made of," is allowed to run to waste at a thousand flood-gates of idleness and procrastination.

THE PEOPLE DISREGARDED.

The vote on United States senator Tuesday, is a striking example of modern partisanism.

Theodore Geer, who has fought the fight of a republican in Oregon and cut for the past ten years, who was selected by the party to be governor of the state; who was placed upon the ticket of his party as a candidate for United States senator, and was voted for by 45,000 republicans of Oregon, gets but twenty votes on a joint ballot of seventy republican votes, in the Oregon legislature.

The other republican candidates have no claim upon the party whatever for support, if popular choice means anything. The 45,000 republican voters who cast their ballots for Mr. Geer are cuffed aside as if they were so many barking dogs.

What does the franchise mean, any way, from the standpoint of the politician? What are elections held for, at enormous cost, if not to permit the sovereign people to assert their power and rights. By what logic can this vote be set aside by the members of the legislature?

Do they hope to perpetuate good government, obedience to the laws of the land and fraternal feeling among their fellow laborers, by such flagrant violation of the expressed confidence of the people? What example is this, that these leading men of the state set before the country?

In all fairness and friendship, let it be said that if this is a sample of the esteem in which republican politicians hold republican voters, the majority of 250 given to George E. Chamberlain last June will very likely swell to ten times that number four years hence. If this is an example of the sacredness with which republican principle is observed, is it any wonder that the factions are going down a toboggan slide in opposite directions?

The 45,000 sovereign citizens who voted for Geer are virtually disfranchised. Their voice is lost in the maddening roar of political warfare. Their Rip Van Winkle queries, made in all earnestness and candor, reveal not their own whereabouts nor that of their candidate.

RELIEVE THE LEGISLATURE.

Was there ever a more opportune time than now at which to urge upon the legislature the need of two special laws for the state of Oregon?

The first is a general law covering county seat removals and county division.

The second is the enactment of a general city charter law, taking the local fights out of the legislature.

To be plain, the legislature should serve notice to the effect that all dirty linen belonging to cities and counties will hereafter be washed on

their respective back porches, and that hereafter the \$50,000 to \$60,000 general appropriation for legislative expenses, will be spent in the interests of the state at large.

The legislature is rapidly becoming a public prize ring, where local interests are rubbed down and patted upon the back by lobbyists who are in the pay of private concerns. The fight ends in countless scars, but no decisive victory, and another fight is matched for two years hence, while the combatants are yet scowling at the ring side.

Two county seat fights are now being aired before the legislative committees. No less than a dozen city charters (gracious documents) are now being "made over" in the legislative "railor shop."

Will not the twenty-second legislative assembly remove these two obstacles, that the next session may not be compelled to stumble over them?

Pass a law upon these subjects that will force those interested to pay the expense of the legislation and people will not be so ready to rush into trouble.

Let local matters be settled at home. Allow the paid representatives of the people to spend their time in the people's service. Common justice demands this change. So many important laws are left untouched, so many tangles are allowed to grow, so many trifling issues creep into the legislature, at best, that every irrelevant matter possible should be pruned out.

Monday evening the police of the city of Lansing, Mich., stopped the street cars of the Electric Transportation Company, wherever found, and took charge of them in the name of the city. Such flagrant abuses of the charter privileges, such open disregard of public needs and such persistent disobedience of the orders of the city council had been practiced by the company that the city revoked its franchise for the public good. Uncleanliness, incivility to patrons, refusal to furnish sufficient cars to accommodate the public are the charges against the company. It is only a step from the municipal coal yard to the municipal street car, and both are sorely needed.

The Oregon Daily Journal is publishing a series of letters from different prominent men of Oregon, under the caption, "What the Lewis and Clark Fair Will Mean to Oregon." These letters would form a symposium of sentiment worthy of a place in the history of the state, as they contain the best thought of the best men expressed upon the greatest opportunity of the century. The story of Lewis and Clark will be told in Oregon long after the last celebration of their triumph is over.

It may be that Chicago and Detroit will be so accustomed to dealing in municipal coal when the famine ends, that they will not care to give up the good old custom, and the country will be gladdened continuously by the municipal coal cart, to the discomfort of the trust.

Senator C. J. Smith deserves the hearty congratulation of every man in Oregon, who travels a wagon road, for his strenuous efforts and practical law looking to better country roads. It is a victory for Senator Smith to have presented the bill even though it should not pass.

The Roosevelt dare devilism that shook its fist in the face of the world six months ago, is being humbled on

all sides. The Monroe doctrine has been openly violated in South America and England is dictating the terms of the Alaskan boundary settlement on the north.

If the trusts were traveling on foot through the country, with a ball and chain upon each ankle and a mill stone hanging on their neck, Attorney-General Knox would not be swift enough to catch them.

DESCRIBES A KANSAS ZEPHYR.

And no one ever described the bursting of a Kansas storm as John J. Innalls has done. He pictures first the long succession of dazzling summer days, days without cloud and nights without dew, days when the effulgent sun floods the dome with force and blinding radiance, days of glittering leaves and burnished blades or serried ranks of corn, days when the transparent air, purged of all earthly exhalation and alloy, revealing a remote horizon and a profound sky, and then he describes the cloud no bigger than the hand, which quickly resolves itself into ebony or purple vapor, and pictorial for us the storm:

"Birds and insects disappear and cattle abruptly stand amazed. On appalling silence, an awful darkness, fills the atmosphere. A continuous roll of muffled thunder, increasing in volume, shakes the solid earth. The air suddenly grows chill and smells like an unsealed cellar.

"A tume of yellow dust conceals the base of the meteor. The jagged scimitar of lightning drawn from its cloudy scabbard, is brandished for a terrible instant in the abyss and then thrust into the affrighted city with a crash as if the rafters of the earth had fallen. The wind, hitherto concealed, leaps from its ambush and rushes the earth with scourges of rain. The broken cisterns of the clouds can hold no water, and rivers run in the atmosphere. Dry ravines become turbid torrents, bearing cargoes of rubbish on their swift descent."

AGAINST COOLIE LABOR.

Dr. Felix Adler, in an address in Carnegie Hall Sunday on "Anti-Democratic Tendencies in American Life," said, in regard to Professor Jenk's recommendation for the introduction of coolie labor in America's Philippine possessions:

"My contention is that this proposition is to establish human slavery 40 years after we went through war and human bloodshed to banish this evil from our nation forever. The coolie contract is no contract. The essence of a contract is the fact that it can be broken. The coolie must labor whether he will or not. I call this qualified slavery.

"When we have the example of the happenings which have occurred in the Philippines at the very moment when the eyes of the world have been turned in that direction, what shall we expect with our coolie slaves when public attention has been diverted in another channel? Will the cries of those yellow slaves be heard across 8000 miles of water then?"

"I found my hopes for a new and better country on the passing of this blinding storm of materialism and the recognition by humanity of the inequality of man and the cultivation of social tendencies."



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