

East Oregonian

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Not the political ring, but big business—that is the crux of the situation. Our political corruption is a system, a regularly established custom of the country, by which our political leaders are hired, by bribery, by license to loot, and by quiet, moral support, to conduct the government of city, state and nation, not for the common good, but for the special interests of private business. Not the politician, then, not the bribe-taker, but the bribe-giver, the man we are so proud of our successful business man—he is the source and sustenance of our bad government. The captain of industry is the man to catch. His is the trail to follow.—Lincoln Steffens.

UMATILLA'S REPRESENTATION.

Umatilla county has flung a signal to the United States government, giving notice that she invites the expenditure of \$2,000,000 in irrigation projects at Echo. She has said she is ready to receive further advice and further suggestion in making ready for the reclamation of her deserts.

Her vote last Monday endorsed and heeded the warning against speculation in the priceless rights of the people. She can now hold out clean hands to welcome the efforts of the government. She has advanced more than half way to meet the requirements for national aid.

Dr. C. J. Smith, an enthusiastic, vigorous, determined man, familiar with the most minute needs of the state in the way of irrigation legislation, and Walter M. Pierce, the farmer-lawyer, make up a team in the state senate which could only be equalled by W. D. Chamberlain, William Blakley and Dr. W. G. Cole in the house.

All the various interests of the county and district are fully and ably represented in this delegation.

With the combined intelligent, practical efforts of these men working for the interests of the state, county and district, the fullest benefit of conservative legislative action should come to this people.

Working in complete and untrammelled sympathy with the state irrigation commission, the Umatilla county delegation can have the greatest influence in formulating and securing passage of a wise and judicious state irrigation act.

F. H. Newell, of the reclamation department, has received special encouragement in pushing the work in Oregon, in the result of the elections last Monday. He feels now that his suggestions are valued by the people of this county and he will be spurred to special activity in furthering government work, where the people are so mindful of the government's interests.

The East Oregonian takes especial pride in having suggested the personnel of the winning legislative ticket. Regardless of politics or personal interests, it believes that the highest interest of Umatilla and Morrow counties has been served and when the people enjoy the full fruition of the wise efforts of these men this paper will have been fully rewarded for its efforts in securing their election.

Whatever is best for the people of this county and section of Oregon—that shall ever be, in future, as in the past, the whole creed of this paper.

Speculation in land and water rights has been justly rebuked. The people of Umatilla county believe in irrigation for the people, by the government.

The democrats of Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee have adopted the unit rule in their state conventions, by which no minority opinion may be expressed by delegates to the national

convention. However the majority of the delegates vote, all must vote, although 49 per cent of the number may be opposed to the majority sentiment. This method smothered individual opinion and is not democracy. It is the rankest gag rule ever put in force in politics and democracy will suffer for it. If a portion of the Southern delegations should choose to vote for W. R. Hearst for president, they should be permitted to do so. The conventions should not muzzle the will of the people by these autocratic tactics. Every delegate represents his constituency and should be free to vote their sentiments on every question concerning them.

E. B. Conklin is city superintendent of Pendleton schools for the ensuing year. At a special meeting of the board this afternoon, he was unanimously elected to this responsible position, and the East Oregonian hastens to congratulate the people of Pendleton and the board on this important decision. It is fortunate for pupils of this district that they are to be under the supervision of this able, conscientious man and it is especially fortunate that Pendleton high school is to continue to head the list of high schools in Eastern Oregon. E. B. Conklin is in demand everywhere in Eastern Oregon that a high rank in public school work is appreciated. He could take his choice of the very best positions in the state, and it is very fortunate for this city, that the school board has a full appreciation of the value of such a man. With three new buildings to accommodate the schools, with increased efficiency in the grades, and with a continuation of Conklin's practical, popular, ennobling methods of teaching, surely this city offers the best public school training in the West. It is a standing invitation to good citizens to make this their home.

The surprise of the election is the strong vote in favor of local option in Oregon. About the only counties reported as having rejected the amendment at this time are Baker, Grant, Clatsop and Coos. As these counties all represent different interests and may be said to reflect different sentiments, except in the case of Baker and Grant, where the mining element predominates, it is difficult to judge who was for and who against local option, excepting that the liquor interests were against it everywhere. If it has carried in Oregon by 3000 to 4000 majority, as the reports would now indicate, it means one of the most radical moral regenerations ever begun in the state. If this is the sentiment on the liquor question, it need not surprise the people if the next legislature should pass even a more stringent anti-gambling law than Washington.

The Commercial Association must reflect the business energy and vitality of the city. It must be made the only source of information regarding the city. Every man who inquires about Pendleton's resources or business prospects must be made to know that that information and those facts must come through the association. To that end every member must labor. It must be made the mirror in which the true spirit and activity of the city may be reflected. The association should make a regular compilation of statistics, business, industrial and economic, concerning this vicinity, so any question may be answered promptly and intelligently. More attention to the publicity of statistics must be given, in order to be ready to meet the coming rush of settlers in 1905.

The Athena Press says one more issue of the Tribune would have made a complete democratic landslide in Umatilla county. This is one time in which the calendar was against the democrats. Election came one day too soon.

Nobody objects to filling this valley full of ditches, but the people do object to the water in those ditches being bonded by speculators instead of being husbanded for the whole people.

The democrats of Idaho paid W. R. Hearst a deserved compliment in instructing their six delegates to the national convention to vote for him as president. Idaho, a western state, shows excellent consistency in favor-

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ing a man of the west, instead of standing for a mummy or a boss from the East. The West has always clung to the skirts of the East, and has paid the penalty in seeing all the favors go to the Eastern favorites.

WHEN DEWEY WASN'T KNOWN.

"When Admiral Dewey started for his station in the Pacific ocean prior to the Spanish war," said a railway, "he attracted little attention. On his way West he took the Baltimore & Ohio train to Chicago. He said his secretary had a drawing room. While they were temporarily absent from it someone stole \$80. This robbery soon became known, and the officials in Chicago were notified."

"Two of the company's trusted officers were sent down the line to meet the train. After conversing with the admiral, so as to obtain a clemency, the Pullman conductor said another man had also been robbed. This victim happened to be a conductor who had just had his month's pay cashed—all which the robber took possession of. He was interviewed, and was asked if he had any suspicions. He said: 'Yes, I have. I believe that short man in the drawing room (meaning Admiral Dewey) has my pile.'"

"At Chicago Admiral Dewey and the Baltimore & Ohio officials went into a restaurant and had something to wash the dust down as well as to appease their hunger."

"After the battle of Manila the Baltimore & Ohio official went into the restaurant and said to the proprietor: 'Do you know who that was that I brought in here some time ago? Well, it was Admiral Dewey.' This was enough for the proprietor, for he had the bottle labeled as follows: 'This is the kind that Admiral Dewey drinks to whip the Spanish.'—Philadelphia Press.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

The English channel tunnel project may be revived as one of the results of the Anglo-French agreement. At any rate, M. Cambon, the French ambassador, has recently indulged in some hopeful utterances on the subject and M. Duche, president of the French chamber of commerce, recently declared to a representative of the London Express that the completion of a tunnel from Dover to Calais should be one of the results of the "entente cordiale."

It may be forgotten that the tunnel has been begun, about 100 yards on each side having been constructed, when operations were stopped by changes which unexpectedly occurred in the English policy some time ago.

M. Cambon said: "The question remains of as great actual interest as ever, and the advantages to the trade of both countries which would result from the realization of the project are very clear. Indeed," M. Deloncle, president of the parliamentary group interested in foreign trade, is quoted as saying:

"No progress, however important it might be, would be of so much value to the two countries as the establishment of a tunnel between Calais and Dover."

The Express adds that it is nearly 50 years since the tunnel project was first placed upon a practical basis of experiment, but since then the original estimate has been reduced from \$50,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

Those who do not like to work don't know how to work, so find no pleasure in it.

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Frances Kingsley

Vice-Pres., Chicago Historical Club.

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