



AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

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THE DAY BEFORE.

Under the direct primary law no candidate is sure of his ground until after the votes are counted. It is even impossible to make a good guess at the results for the reason that so many people vote opposite to the way they talk, before election.

Outside of the county contests in the various counties of Oregon there are but two contests which are attracting attention, those for the senatorial and congressional nominations. Both Cake and Fulton have made an active campaign for the senatorial nomination and both realize the uncertainty of the situation.

Shepherd and Geer have made an active campaign for the congressional nomination, while Congressman Ellis has remained at Washington to attend to the interests of the state, and the outcome in this race is equally uncertain, although there is every reason to believe that Ellis will be nominated.

Mr. Geer, writing of his own chances to his own paper from Portland, this morning, conceded his own nomination. His optimism is characteristic, but his judgment may be sorrowfully in error. He tells of having been in Oregon so long and over its surface so often and takes that as a guarantee that he will be selected by the people. Since most of his trips over Oregon have been on office-seeking missions, that is the very reason why he will perhaps not be nominated. The people are tired of his persistent office-seeking.

As between Cake and Fulton, Cake's position on every public question is known to the people. There is no guess-work about it. He has formulated a broad, comprehensive platform upon which he made an open, manly, clean race and there is every reason to believe that the people will select him.

As to the congressional nomination, there is no reason to believe the people will discard W. R. Ellis, who is now in the office and who has his forces in shape to accomplish something for the state. It costs too much to educate new congressmen at \$7500 per year to make a change every term.

There are no charges against Congressman Ellis. There is no reason for discarding him. He has ably and conscientiously filled his position to the entire satisfaction of every part of his big district and is just now in a position to secure something definite for the state.

So it looks favorable for both Cake and Ellis. Both are clean, honest, fearless and unapproachable; there are no charges against either of them and their hands are absolutely clean of all past political deals in the state.

A vote for Cake and Ellis mean a vote to replace Oregon where she belongs in the esteem and confidence of the nation after a period of political unpleasantness in which the state has had no representatives in congress.

CATTLE AND ALFALFA.

Everything is shaping now to the end that the alfalfa belt of western Umatilla county will some day be the feeding ground of the orient, Alaska and Pacific coast cities. The abundant production of alfalfa and the transportation facilities make this inevitable.

Where a little patch of land comprising not more than 20 acres will produce 150 tons of hay per year, worth from \$5 to \$6 per ton in the stack, there is no question about a country becoming a feeding district.

And the coming of the alfalfa meal mill at Echo makes it doubly sure that every surplus hoof of stock in the inland empire will find its way into the Butter creek, Foster, Hermiston and Echo feeding pens within a few years.

The sale of four carloads of steers weighing 1536 pounds each and bringing \$75.26 per head, by J. B. Saylor of Butter creek, is but an illustration of what can be done. With beef prices what they should be in a few years, this shipment of steers could have been made to yield \$100 per head.

It will be possible for every owner of 10 or 20 acres to fatten a carload of steers on his alfalfa crop, thus having a market for his hay at home, and also having the benefit of the animals on the land.

Alfalfa and cattle are going to make many a fortune in the west end of Umatilla county in the next few years.

CHRISTIANITY'S CRISIS.

The startling statement of Prof. George Burnham Foster of the divinity school of Chicago University, that Christianity is now at a crisis in its life and that it will be superseded by a new religious faith in a short time, opens up a wonderful field of speculation.

There are those in everyday walks of life, students, thoughtful, prayerful men and women who believe that humanity is clinging to a faith which must crumble away piece meal as the development of the human powers proceeds.

There are those who believe that the entire scheme of redemption and salvation as taught by the Christian religion is far wrong and that it must be superseded in time by a creed which will have for its foundation the science of life, the oneness of man and nature, the responsibility of each individual for his environment and condition in life and the broader creed that mind and thought and reason are to be the salvation of the race from ignorance; and that blind faith and fear are but millstones about the neck of humanity.

THE MUNICIPAL BATH.

There are those in Pendleton who criticize and belittle the idea of cities owning and operating telephone systems, lighting and power plants and other public utilities, but in Paso Robles, Cal., a little town of but 2000 people, is a municipal bath house costing \$25,000 and in charge of a regular municipal sanitarium department just like Pendleton's police department.

And this municipal bath house has been a most profitable investment for the city. The house was elegantly fitted up all kinds of mud and hot water baths provided, prices were placed within reach of all and the sanitarium department of Paso Robles is flourishing.

Let us not be alarmed at municipal ownership of electric light or power plants, telephones, wood yards or other public utilities when a little village like Paso Robles can make a success of a public bath house.

One thing may be truthfully said of the candidates for office in Umatilla county this year: there is not a solitary man among them who can be censured for "knowing everybody" in campaign times while he forgets you at other times. They are all a companionable, sociable, friendly and approachable men who are the same day in, day out the year around. As much cannot be said of every "batch" of candidates, but it can be said of the Umatilla county candidates this year.

THE ARID DOMAIN OF BIBLICAL TIMES.

Charles M. Pepper in the March number of Scribner's magazine, has a fascinating chapter of his series of articles, "The West in the Orient." This chapter tells something of the arid domain of the olden lands of Biblical history and is interesting as a comparison of those lands with the arid belt of the Pacific coast. Mr. Pepper says:

The plain between the Tigris and the Euphrates is 18,000 square miles in extent; the area between Euphrates and Arabia is 9000 square miles; the delta of the Tigris and the Euphrates covers 5,000,000 acres. Here is the means of creating crops that would develop the commercial basis of the railroad.

In the region which is described as Upper Chaldea and which includes the Tigris district around Bagdad it is estimated that 1,300,000 acres could be brought under cultivation at a cost of \$10,000,000, and with a value of \$95,000,000; in Lower Chaldea, 1,500,000 acres at a cost of \$17,000,000, and with a value of \$55,000,000; or a total of 2,800,000 acres reclaimed at a cost of \$27,000,000 and an addition of \$150,000,000 to the wealth of the region.

Another estimate by the same authority is of 1,280,000 acres of first-class Tigris lands to be reclaimed by an outlay of \$40,000,000 on canals and repairs, and the raising of lands whose value is not zero to \$150 per acre.

"Skeptics smile at dreams of what may be done, and at the estimates of costs and values; but though the dreams may not always come true in the dreamer's lifetime it is well not rashly to ridicule the grand projects of men whose record of achievement already is written.

The west of the New World is linked with these projects not only in sympathy, but in the lessons of experience. Suggestions for the swamp lands of the Euphrates are drawn from the Mississippi; the winning of the alkali plains of the southwest offers precedents for the sandy clays between Bagdad and Babylon.

There is also the wider field for the application of the new force of electricity in old lands, because the general plan of reclaiming the swamp regions is to operate small pumps on the banks of the main drain by electricity distributed from one central station.

WOULD SAVE WATER POWER.

In a special message vetoing a dam bill, President Roosevelt warned congress that there are pending in this session bills which propose to give away without price stream rights capable of developing 1,300,000 horsepower, whose production would cost annually 25,000,000 tons of coal; urging in vigorous terms the establishment of a policy such as the filibustering minority in the house demands which would safeguard the granting of bridge and dam privileges and require the grantees to pay for them; and definitely announcing a future policy on his part with regard to prompt utilization of construction privileges by refusing his signature to a bill that gives an additional three years to the Rainy River Improvement company within which to build a dam in the Rainy river.

"I do not believe," said the president, "that natural resources should be granted and held in an undeveloped condition either for speculative or other reasons. So far as I am aware there are no assurance that the grantees (in this case) are in any better condition promptly and properly to utilize this opportunity than they were at the time of the original act granting the privilege 10 years ago."

Discussing broadly the federal policy the president says: "Every permit to construct a dam on a navigable stream should specifically recognize the right of the government to fix a term for its duration and to impose such charge or charges as may be deemed necessary to protect the present and future interests of the United States in accordance with the act of June 31, 1906.

"The provision for a charge is of vital importance. The navigability of every inland waterway as a whole should be improved for the purpose of interstate and foreign commerce upon a consistent and uniform plan of which such part should be made to help every other part \* \* \* the income derivable from this source would materially aid in the complete improvement of our navigable waterways, for which there is now such crying need.

The chief of engineers of the army reports that the bills now pending at this session of congress permit the construction of dams in navigable rivers capable of developing over 1,300,000 horse power. These rivers run every hour in the day and every day in the year. To develop this amount of power under average conditions require about 25,000,000 tons of medium quality of coal every year.

This natural wealth is the heritage of the people. I see no reason for giving it away, though there is every reason for not imposing conditions so burdensome as to prevent the utilization of the power.

She Was There. Jack London, the novelist, has a great affection for children. In San Francisco there are twin sisters, little girls of six years, of whom Mr. London is very fond. On the way to his boat one morning, Mr. London met one of the twins. He stopped and shook her hand. "Good morning, by dear," he said, "and which of the twins are you?" The little girl answered gravely: "I'm the one what's out walking."

The body of M. Nelson, who deserted from the ship Star of France, some time ago, was found floating with a 10-pound weight tied to the feet, in the bay at Bellingham Tuesday.

E. F. Henderson, a prominent wholesale merchant of Chicago, who had slept during the daytime for 15 years on account of insomnia brought on by liver trouble, died Tuesday.

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THE DOSE OF GOOD CHEER.

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I have known several youths that were sick, my dear boy, Till it seemed they were sick unto death, But a brother came by with a whisper of joy, And lo! 'twas the spirit's own breath;

For I saw in the eyes that the tears drops did fill, That the angel of hope hovered near— Because of the bolus composed of good will And a bit of the drug of good cheer.

—A. J. W., in Sacramento Union.

YOUR HAT

May Be a Stylish One, But It Makes Trouble. A man usually buys a hat that's "in style," but the modern hat for men has lots to answer for. Baldheads are growing more numerous every day. Hats make excellent breeding places for the parasitic germs which sap the life from the roots of the hair.

When your hair begins to fall out and your scalp is full of Dandruff it is a sure sign that these countless germs are busily at work.

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