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OLD AND YOUNG.

They soon grow old who grope for gold
 In marts where all is bought and sold;
 Who live for self, and on some shelf
 In darkened vaults hoard up their pelf,
 Cankered and crusted o'er with mould,
 For them their youth itself is old.
 They ne'er grow old who gather gold
 Where spring awakes and flowers unfold;
 Where suns arise in joyous skies,
 And fill the soul within their eyes,
 For them the immortal bards have sung,
 For them old age itself is young.
 —Christopher Pearse Cranch.

THE SECOND CHOICE BILL.

Ever since its adoption the Oregon primary law has been criticised because it permits of minority nominations. In other words when several candidates are running for a nomination the man getting the highest number of votes is nominated even though he may not have a majority. Four years ago Senator Bourne was a minority nominee as the republican choice for senator. Last fall Jay Bowerman was a minority nominee when he was selected as the republican candidate for governor. He fell far short of a majority of the votes cast at the primary election.

In order to overcome this objectionable feature of the primary law Speaker John P. Rusk has introduced a bill calling for both first and second choice votes at primary elections. In the Washington direct primary law there is such a provision and it is apparently working successfully.

If the Rusk bill is passed each voter will be required to indicate his first and second choice in separate columns provided on the ballot sheet. If there are twice as many candidates as there are offices in any case, the voter will not be permitted to make his first choice his second choice, but will be compelled to vote for some other candidate or have his ballot thrown out as invalid.

Section 7 of the bill says: "If no candidate shall have received a sufficient number of first choice votes to constitute a majority of the total vote received for that office, then a canvass shall be made of the second choice votes received by the candidate for such office and the number of second choice votes received shall be counted with and added to the first choice vote of each candidate and the candidate receiving the highest number of first and second choice votes shall be the nominee or nominees for such office of the political party represented by himself."

Should there be several candidates receiving a majority of the votes cast after the first and second choice ballots have been added, those receiving the highest number of votes are nominated according to the provisions of the bill.

With the Rusk bill enacted into law and with a provision calling for rotation of names upon ballots the direct primary law will then be open to few just criticisms.

AS FOR DR. HALL.

Dr. M. K. Hall, late candidate for joint senator against C. A. Barrett offers a sarcastic effusion and the same is published upon this page today. Dr. Hall seeks to twist this paper for its support of Mr. Barrett in the fall campaign.

But the East Oregonian has no apology to make for the course it took. This paper supported Mr. Barrett upon his record as a representative and he had a record worthy of endorsement. Mr. Barrett as a representative had taken statement No. 1 and he stood by his pledge regard-

less of the blandishments of Ormsby McHarg and others. He was entitled to promotion for his past services.

Weighed by these same scales Senator Barrett is now entitled to censure because he has allowed a petty matter to make him seemingly forget the political principles that brought about his election. He has been criticised by the East Oregonian and though this paper regrets the necessity for the criticism it has no apology to make for its action. It is the policy of the East Oregonian to endorse men when they are in the right and to oppose them when it believes them to be wrong. This is true of republicans and democrats, standpaters and progressives.

In conclusion it is possible of course that this district would be better off now had Dr. Hall or Mr. Wilson been chosen in place of Mr. Barrett. Those men may be of such firm clay that the fires of temptation have no terrors for them. Yet the East Oregonian does not know this to be true. We merely have the doctor's assurance upon this point.

GET A NEW THEATRE.

Pendleton needs a good up-to-date theatre to replace the bunch of dust and trash now used as a playhouse. A new theatre is something that should be provided this year by all means. It is a civic betterment that has been delayed far too long already and Pendleton has been paying a heavy penalty for its slothfulness.

But to get a new theatre will require action and action of the right sort. We have had enough of talk upon the subject. What is needed now is work. Where is there a man who will erect a first class theatre provided he is given a proper amount of financial assistance by local people? If he will come forward he will surely find the people ready for him. In the view of this paper there will be ample local support for a new theatre provided the scheme is meritorious. But of course the plan should call for a first class playhouse and it should be financed in a businesslike way. The people don't want to be grafted.

Possibly the new officers of the Commercial association can take this matter up and bring on a new theatre, if so then their fame will be secure.

In vetoing the bill providing for an assistant secretary of state Governor West took the only logical course open to him. There are many very excellent reasons why the bill should be turned down. The sole motive back of the bill was a desire to hamper the new state board. It was an attempt at legislation for revenge and such measures as that should always fail.

Why does the Taft administration refuse to recognize the republic of Portugal? Is it possible that the president hopes to see Manuel returned to the throne or is afraid of offending some monarch who may be the next to go? "It was not like this in the olden days."

If the good roads measures fail the blame may be laid directly at the door of the members of the grange. And yet the grangers are the very men who will benefit more than anyone else from good roads. How perverse some people are.

A packed house turned out last night to see a play that has some filthy features about it. But the performance was no filthier than the stage upon which it was presented.

FROM DR. M. K. HALL.

La Grande, Ore., Feb. 13, 1911.
 Editor East Oregonian:
 If you will look up the issue of your paper of November 6th last, I believe you will find recounted in an article therein sufficient of Mr. C. A. Barrett's previous legislative history to account for the conditions which give rise to the question with which you opened your denunciation of that gentleman's course in the legislature at present in session, in your issue of Saturday last.

It appears to me that one great hindrance to the selection of the best candidates for election in Umatilla county is the tendency of the majority of the press of that county to follow the wether wearing the bell which is attuned to their particular desires at the moment, without regard to the quality of the wether. It is somewhat surprising to find the E. O. criticizing the only republican whose cause it espoused during the campaigns preceding the last general election. The East Oregonian repeatedly endorsed Mr. Barrett's every action of the past and assured the voters that he was the right man in whom to put their trust and all but guaranteed that he would make good.

Mr. Barrett's course—in following his master—since the election has not differed materially from that which he followed previous thereto, when according to Mr. McComas, at that time chairman of the Umatilla county central committee (rep.) in an article published in the "Live Wire" just after the assembly. Mr. Barrett attended the meeting of that body in a receptive mood, and then turned against them when they would have none of him. Has the bell lost its tinkle? It would not be surprising if it had. It was over-worked. Its golden tinkle was heard

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throughout three counties during two campaigns, and in Umatilla county especially, some of the democrats as well as some of the republicans seemed to enjoy the music.

Any musical instrument is apt to be short lived when possessed of only one key.

Would you have the "frame more resplendent than the picture?" Mr. Bowerman has for years been the picture on the frame of which Barrett has been a bit of the dull golden finish. Alas that the finish should lose its gloss. The writer of this was a candidate for election as joint senator at the last general election, and has no criticism to offer of the action of the voters at that time, in choosing Mr. Barrett, in fact has only feeling of thanksgiving that the latter was chosen.

The mistake was made at the primary election. At that time, with ability, represented by Mr. Fred Wilson on one side, and the dodging musician on the other, art prevailed, and in accordance with tradition and with time-honored custom you should willingly dance to the music produced by the fiddler you created, without complaint, and more especially as according to your own statements, many times repeated, you were thoroughly familiar with the qualities of the artist and his past performances.

In whose interest must the poor erstwhile auriferous minstrel be sacrificed?
 Yours truly,
 M. K. HALL.

MOTHER MINE.

Pallid cheeks that once were fair,
 Raven locks grown whiter now,
 Sixty years of wrinkled care
 Trace thy furrows on thy brow.
 Step in firm that once was light,
 Laugh once gay, a smile divine,
 Eyes now dimmed that once were bright—
 Thus I see thee, mother mine.

Oh, the memories love can hold,
 Lingering fancies of the heart!
 Lovely as thou wast of old
 More I love thee as thou art.
 Thine has been the checkered round,
 Sun and shade of changeeful day,
 Blooming roses thou hast found,
 Thou has seen them fade away.

Thine has been the crimson dawn,
 Thine the brighter blaze of noon—
 Years have come and years have gone
 Mingling winter's snows with June;
 Yet not o'er a wilderness
 Falls the light of day's decline—
 I shall never love thee less,
 Dear, old, white-haired mother mine.
 —Floyd D. Raze.

A BAD SITUATION.

'Twixt Satan an' high-water yo'
 chance is mighty slim
 W'en you can't fight de fire an' you
 dunno how 'to swim.

Hard tribulations
 On de way you go,
 Bird a-singin' "Springtime,"
 An' de blizzard sling de snow.

Ef you jump in de water whar de al-
 ligator stays,
 Satan sho' Satan sho' ter foller an'
 make de river blaze!

Tarrifyin' problem—
 Dunno what ter do
 W'en Satan makes his min' up
 Fer 'sociate wid you.
 —F. L. Stanton.

Not Familiar With the Quotation.
 "Ah, Mr. Blinks," said the fair one
 lightly, "I see you wear your heart
 upon your sleeve."
 Mr. Blinks looked bewildered and
 hastily pulled down his cuffs.
 "I guess maybe it was my red flannel
 underwear you noticed," he lame-
 ly remarked.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"See here," said the kind hearted
 lady, "I gave you a piece of pie two
 weeks ago, and you have been send-
 ing one or more of your friends here
 every day since."
 "Youse do me a injustice, ma'am,"
 replied the husky hobo. "Dem guys
 wot I sent wuz me enemies."—Chi-
 cago News.

KEEP OUT THE AIL.

The housewife in "putting down" her
 fruits, sees to it that the cans are per-
 fectly air-tight, and seals her jellies
 with paraffin to keep out the air, other-
 wise the fruit juices would ferment.
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WHERE HE DREW THE LINE.

Thomas was an old gamekeeper on Sir Greville's Scotch estate, says Sir William Kennedy in "Sport in the Navy." When he was sixty years old he contracted measles and fell very ill for a time. Sir Greville, with characteristic kindness, sent the old man

some hothouse grapes and a pineapple. The next time the two met Sir Greville asked Thomas how he liked the fruit.
 "Weel, Sir Greville," answered the gamekeeper, "the plums was good, but I dinna think much of the turnip."
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