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RIGHTS OF THE MINORITY.

Certain constitutional amendments have been prepared and circulated throughout the state by gentlemen who are seeking to form some sort of a speciously named organization. One of these proposed measures is to provide proportional representation of all the voters—or more clearly of all the parties in the state. For instance our state representatives now number 60. If the republican party embraces one half the voters it would be entitled to elect one half of the 60 or 30 members. The democrats and the prohibitionists might each number one fourth of the voters and would each be entitled to elect 15 members. The house would then be composed of 30 republicans, 15 democrats and 15 prohibitionists.

Should such an amendment be adopted it would require a long, intricate and cumbersome election law to carry it into effect. It would work a revolution in our manner of electing public officers also in our methods of legislation. All this would be merely tentative—experimental. Those who plan these changes assure us that in Denmark, Japan and Tasmania this system has secured fairly equal representation of all political parties, while in Belgium and Switzerland the principal parties have just representation but the smaller and independent parties are not satisfied. They neglect to tell us that none of these governments are representative democracies

as we understand that form of government, and that in none of them is the elective franchise so unrestricted as with us.

The rights of the minority are not denied it and are not ignored by the majority party with us save in merely party policies and not always so as to these. The minority is accorded a full hearing on every question and not infrequently proposes legislation which is favorably received and acted upon by the majority. Even when a minority of voters is without representation in the legislature it may resort to the right of petition, and no such petition when well grounded is refused considerate hearing. Most surely there is no government existing where the rights of the minority are more fully and freely accorded than by us.

The majority governs and by right should. It is justly held responsible for legislation. A majority party enacting vicious legislation, or trampling on the rights of the minority would soon discover itself to be the party of the minority. The native love for justice and fair play is too markedly a characteristic of the American people to permit of any kind of wrong to the minority.

It is altogether probable our method of selecting public officers and conducting legislation are not perfect and all that is to be desired, but it is not apparent how we shall perfect them by borrowing the methods of governments wholly unlike ours in form and purpose.

Some devices similar to these have long been used by monarchs to befool their subjects. Intelligent freeman have no need to resort to subterfuge to deceive their fellows.

Constitutional governments such as ours are the most beneficent ever devised by men; righteous and just laws are necessary

to desirable government. The simpler and fewer these can be made the more salutary and easy of application they will be.

Oregon's constitution is most excellent, and commends itself to our people in the forms originally given to it. If anything our laws need simplification, and it is improbable our people will be persuaded to make foolish changes.

SLANG.

The prevalent use of slang by Americans has been made the butt of jest and ridicule by Europeans, and has caused the cheeks of many of our own people to be mantled with the blush of shame.

Slang is low and exceedingly vulgar and is justly regarded by thoughtful, observant people as a sure indication of the low vulgar thought and mind of the person using it. This may seem to be an unwarranted conclusion for it is observed that many people who pass as persons of education, culture and some refinement frequently fall into the habitual use of slang. It is strongly suspected, however, that the education of such a person is very defective and his culture and refinement mere veneers which cover an essentially coarse, vulgar mind.

It may be admitted that many slang phrases appear to be more concise and expressive than pure speech. It is a false, deceptive appearance. For the most apt and expressive slang use the simplest, purest English you can command and note the difference. It will then be seen that slang is not so finely and surely expressive as pure speech.

Slang is objectionable because it is utterly incompatible with the acquisition and practice of good, gentle manners. Since such manners are a valuable attainment everything in the way

of acquiring them should be avoided. Slang using companions, slangy books and everything using such speech or suggesting such thought.

The use of slang is largely immoral and cowardly. Obscene filthy and lewd things are suggested by its use—studiously suggested by evil designing persons who would not dare to use plain simple speech. The girl or woman who tolerates the use of slang in her presence has herself most to blame if she is embarrassed, humiliated and insulted by some cowardly use of such speech. When she goes along the street with the stride of a grenadier and the swagger of a Texas cowboy, herself using slang she is inviting humiliation and insult and should not complain if she receive both.

We would suggest that parents banish from their homes all use of slang, and everything suggestive of it. They will cease speaking of their children as "kids," and the children will respectfully describe their parents as father and mother rather than as "the governor and his pal."

When this is done and the habit of simple, pure speech is formed the work of imparting good manners will be made easier and should be prosecuted most earnestly for it is a reform long over due.

Additional Local.

The following item will interest the old friends and schoolmates of Miss Zetta Underwood, formerly of this city: "Misses Gertrude Reeves, Zetta Underwood, Lavelle Epperly and Kathrine Kirkpatrick gave a progressive Halloween social to about 20 of their young friends, Friday evening. The crowd first met at the home of Miss Zetta, where they stayed about an hour, then went to the home of Miss Gertrude, and from there went with Miss Gertrude, and from there Miss Lavelle took them to her home. They spent an hour or more at each home and at each place refreshments were served. Each home was nicely decorated with jack-o'-lanterns, fall leaves, etc., suitable for the occasion."—Lebanon Criterion.

LOST—English Setter dog, named "Prince," white with large red spots. Wears wide collar with license tag. Has been seen out with parties last week. Please return to Walter H. Kline. 87tf

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S. R. BRYSON ATTORNEY AT LAW. Office in Post Office Building, Corvallis, Oregon.

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B. A. CATHEY, M. D., PHYSICIAN and Surgeon. Rooms 14, Bank Building. Office Hours: 10 to 12 a. m., 2 to 4 p. m. Residence: cor. 5th and Adams Sts. Telephone at office and residence. Corvallis, Oregon.

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