

The Herald

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Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1911.

PLAYING POLITICS.

When the large fish come around the smaller ones have to scamper or take their chances of becoming the prey to the big ones. The animal kingdom, that is, the brute part of it devour and live upon the weaker, and too often, the human part pattern after the animal and make prey of the weaker part of the family.

When men play politics it amounts to about the same thing as one animal preying upon another and it is much more difficult to determine what the design is than when a ravenous fish comes among a school of smaller ones, or a wolf or bear gets into the sheep fold, and this is about the condition that has obtained here in Oregon.

There are parties in the state that want to grind their axes, and they are diligently at work inducing the common people to turn the grindstone for them and they will see to it that the ax is held on good and strong.

The initiative and referendum stand in the way of schemers and it looks as though the enemies to direct legislation were going to induce the people to overwork that institution in order to disgust them and cause its repeal if possible.

And what then? Why the institutions that can hire lobbyists to get desired legislation will be in the saddle and ride on to victory, while interest which cannot afford to hire lobbyists will get but small attention.

Just now there is rumor of Corvallis trying to devour the State Normal School, but the effort is not likely to succeed as the people of Oregon are not apt to give an institution like that to a city and then turn right around and give it to some other place, and there is more likelihood that Corvallis may have to fight to retain the O. A. C. than that the State Normal School will be moved to that place.

The big fellows are playing politics, but like the puring panther, the claws are reposing quietly in their places.

Trouble, in Mexico is not altogether over as hostilities to some extent continue and 225 Chinamen were killed by the insurgents at Torreon. However there are indications of peace, as an armistice is on, and the government is making terms with the rebels, which would indicate that the insurgents have the best of the situation and that the Diaz government is trying to get out of a bad hole with the best grace possible.

A circuit judge has found that a man may swear to a lie to shield himself and not commit perjury. This is drawing the line pretty closely and perhaps when the aforesaid judge stands

before the judge of all the earth, he may find his decision annulled.

Yamhill County Generally Don't Approve Holding Up School Appropriations.

The petitions evoking the referendum on the educational institutions of Oregon have been filed and the appropriations will be delayed until after the next election if not defeated.

But judging from the following article sent out from McMinnville and the fact that a professional solicitor had to be secured for the petitions originating at McMinnville would indicate that the measure was not very popular, while the prohibitory move on the part of the people of Cottage Grove is looked upon as the result of spite, because of the failure to establish Nesmith county.

Following is the article sent out from McMinnville:

McMinnville, Or., May 20—No general regret is felt here over the inability of the local soliciting committee to secure sufficient signatures in Yamhill County to hold up the appropriations to Oregon's educational institutions. The fact that only a small list of names was secured is said to be due entirely to the lack of sympathy with the movement rather than to the fact that the petitions were not sufficiently circulated. The committee secured the services of a professional solicitor of signatures from Portland in order to get the required number of names before filing.

The local Commercial Club passed drastic resolutions condemning the movement, and the citizens of Yamhill County generally and of McMinnville express regret that a few ultraradical instigators are responsible for the reputation this section is getting because of its connection with this movement. It is claimed by leading men here that the state institutions need have no fear of lack of support in Yamhill County when the matter comes to a vote.

Getting After The Middleman.

The government has started out to put a check on some trust proceedings in which many retail lumber dealers and associations of Eastern states are involved. So far as one may judge from the report given out by the Department of Justice, its aim in this case is to cure illegal restraint of trade brought about by a combination of dealers who intervene between the mill and the customer. The Government's attack in this case is specifically upon the middleman.

Upon this very point, as it concerns prices for lumber which consumers have to pay, there is need of elucidation. The man who buys lumber with which to build his home knows that the price is higher than it ought to be; while on the other hand, the millmen complain that market conditions are not at all favorable to the profitable conduct of their business.

Locally, for example, it is the fact that numerous small mills are in financial straits, and that this condition has been brought about because the millmen have been unable to get the price that

would make their business pay. In many respects local conditions are not similar to those in the Eastern states; but insofar as there appears to be a middleman's combine in that section which seems to play both ends of the string, the suggestion arises that possibly the same state of affairs might explain the inconsistency of excessively high prices to the consumer and unprofitable returns to the manufacturer hereabouts.—Telegram.

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