

THE EUGENE WEEKLY GUARD

AN INDEPENDENT PAPER.

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Should Women Vote?

The question of woman suffrage will be voted on at the coming election and its advocates are making strenuous campaign with apparently a good prospect of success. The old objections to women voting, that they lack certain intellectual or temperamental qualifications, and that their contact with the practical politics of the times will degrade and contaminate the sex, have long ago been answered in the negative. Women vote in a number of states and are none the worse for it, and when they sometimes act independently of the wishes of their male relatives, show as good or better judgment and grasp the public conditions as the lordly man and master. Still there are arguments of a rather negative sort against so-called equal suffrage that are worthy of consideration. For instance, women soon lose interest in politics and come to consider the whole matter as a sort of nuisance in which they are forced to activity by male relatives, anxious to get out the "full party vote." They would much prefer to be left to their home and social affairs, leaving the campaign clubs, public meetings and political organization work to the men. For this reason it would not be surprising if the women of Idaho, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming would themselves vote away their political rights if the question was submitted to them. This view is strongly affirmed by the lack of interest shown by women in the equal suffrage states in standing for temperance reform and upon other enactments that a majority of the sex is known to favor.

The whole question in a nutshell seems to be summed up in this: that women are entitled to the right to vote if they desire it, but it is a mooted question whether a majority would not prefer to have conditions remain as they are. There might be some way of allowing, not the men, but the women, to settle this question for themselves.

His Business Record

Hon. J. D. Matlock, candidate for state treasurer, has special claims upon the people of Lane county, now that he comes before them as a candidate for their suffrage. In 1897 Mr. Matlock was doing a successful large mercantile business at the corner of Eighth and Willamette streets, in this city. He had made considerable money here, but in the financial crash of 1896 lost the greater part of it. He had been doing a large credit business and the alternative presented itself of forcing those who owed him to pay or going out of business himself. Those who were indebted to him could not pay without great sacrifice of property, and some of them being poor, it would have meant suffering to their families.

Mr. Matlock reasoned that he could live without forcing the collection of money due him by closing out his business and selling real estate to pay his debts, or could continue business by compelling payment from those who owed him. This last course would make some enemies and distress many worthy poor people, and it was here that the superior qualities of Mr. Matlock's character showed uppermost; his sympathy was with those who toil, those who were unfortunate in their efforts to accumulate property, and he could not take a course to protect himself at the expense of those who were struggling to support families. He accordingly closed out his business, went to Alaska to start anew, and was successful in recouping his fortunes.

Mr. Matlock still holds more than \$20,000 of these old notes and accounts, but he has not enforced a collection or sued a man who owed him since his return from Alaska five

years ago. A candidate whose record in business life is as clean as his is entitled to the heartiest support of his home county, and party lines should not be drawn in his case. No man is better qualified for the high and responsible position of state treasurer than J. D. Matlock, and if elected he will be true to every ante-election pledge he has made and give the people a square, honest administration of the office in all respects.

Tremors in South Continue

The big earthquake down in California occurred about 5:15 in the morning of April 18. A San Jose dispatch of May 8 gives particulars about recurring tremors that must make many nervous men and women. According to advices received from the Lick observatory, there have been 24 earthquake shocks recorded on the seismograph at that institution since the morning of April 18. Most of the tremors, however, have been exceedingly light, and have made but a slight mark on the plate. During the first half hour after the big shake there were eight distinct shocks recorded. On the next day there was a slight tremor sometime between 10 and 11 o'clock. No more were recorded until the 25th, when one was felt at 3:18. On the 26th, at 10:34, one was felt at 2:34, one was recorded, another on the 29th, at 4:29. One of May 2 was at 4:15, one of the 4th at 5:25, on the 5th at 10:30, and on the 6th at 3 a. m.

Guarding School Fund

The Salem Statesman, the leading Republican paper of Western Oregon, gives many reasons for the re-election of Governor Chamberlain. Here are a few of them, taken from yesterday's issue of that paper:

Thirty-three thousand acres of government land have been selected to satisfy losses in the school sections due the state. All of which have been sold, netting the school fund about \$150,000. Forged applications covering hundreds of thousands of acres of school land brought to light, guilty parties convicted and certificates cancelled. Forged certificates and other documents covering thousands of acres of state land discovered in time to prevent complications which would have arisen had deeds been issued to the holders thereof.

Is not the above good evidence that Governor Chamberlain is looking after the interests of the school fund?

Paper Endorses Governor

The Salem Statesman, the leading Republican newspaper of this congressional district, prints the following strong endorsement of Governor Chamberlain:

He caused the legislature to pass the corporation license law and the inheritance tax law, which has brought into the state treasury \$350,024.50 during his term. This is the first time corporations have had to pay for the special privileges they enjoy from the public. If re-elected Chamberlain will insist upon taxing the gross receipts of all public service corporations as he recommends in his message of 1903 and 1905. What other governor has done as much for the taxpayers of the state?

The strongly partisan Republican papers of Oregon are beginning to sing that worn-out song, "Vote it straight." They forget that the American people are no longer casting their ballots for Abe Lincoln or Andrew Jackson, but have laid the past with its dead issues, great as they may have been in their time, reverently to rest, and are facing new conditions and worship at the shrine of new ideals of civic duty. Narrow partisanship has gone, never to return, and men have ceased to be controlled by party prejudices inherited from their fathers; patriotism is placed above partisanship in the test of good citizenship. Suppose the Democrats of congress still clung to the old idea of "voting it straight," where would President Roosevelt's program for the alleviation of so many ills of government be at the present time? The Philippine tariff and railroad rate bills would have met their defeat had not a Democratic minority in congress stood staunchly at the back of a Republican president. And this process of gradual wiping out of party lines, which has been going on since a new era was ushered in by the Spanish-American war, is confined to no particular class of voters or section of the country. Here in Oregon next month all intelligent voters will cast their ballots for men and measures without too closely scrutinizing them for their party brand.

Dr. Withycombe, Republican nominee for governor, is an Englishman by birth and 53 years old. He came to Oregon in 1871 at eighteen years of age, making him as good a citizen as anybody by this time. A course of study at Toronto in a veterinary college gave him the doctor title. It pays to encourage factories. At Union, in Eastern Oregon, the woolen mill has a payroll of \$1200 a month, uses 1000 cords of wood and 250 tons of coal annually, and requires from \$60,000 to \$75,000 worth of wool to keep it going during the year.

The Kansas City mayor, W. W. Rose, ejected from office on account of failure to enforce the prohibition law, was re-elected on that issue. The same thing has happened in not a few other instances where women were allowed to vote that the woman vote was about equally divided on the question, in this case it being alleged that of the 4300 votes cast by women over 2000 went to the recalcitrant mayor. They voted about as their husbands or closest male friends voted is the size of it.

Need of Western Oregon

The news is printed that another Eugene factory will be forced to move away or close up because of excessive freight rates. And herein lies the principal reason for the slow development of Western Oregon, south of Portland, as compared with other sections of the Northwest. At the mercy of a single line of railroad that is seemingly not interested in the growth of the country, it has been an uphill pull for the struggling manufacturing plants which have attempted to get a foothold in Western Oregon towns. Portland in a narrow, selfish way benefits by this condition of affairs, but that city should be bigger and broader and demand fair treatment of the smaller cities that in any event must pay tribute to her business interests and contribute to her growth and prosperity. Oregon cannot become a great state without factories and these cannot exist until they are accorded fair treatment and living rates from transportation companies. Portland gains directly by the removal of an industry from Eugene to that city, but loses infinitely more by the non-development of the territory that is included in her jobbing area.

The only moral to be drawn from existing conditions is that our people must encourage in every possible way the building of independent transportation lines. The granting of pending applications for electric lines might lead to the long-dreamed-of commercial independence of Lane county—at least there is an element of hope held out from this source that should not be overlooked.

Carl Schurz, one of the cleanest politicians and truest patriots that ever adorned American citizenship, is nearing the end of a long, eventful life. Born into a despotic government, he early imbued a love for liberty that drove him a refugee from his native land and impelled him to enter the struggle of our own civil war on the side of that universal liberty that knows no race or color. In public life, first of all a patriot, never a partisan in the narrow sense, his long life in the retrospect seems to have been a constant struggle for the betterment of humanity, a ceaseless warfare against the evils and abuses that so frequently bring discredit upon the best forms of government. Carl Schurz is not an American by birth, but he was cradled in an era of oppression that taught him to value the freedom that many native Americans hold too lightly because they have never tasted the bitter dregs of tyranny.

Governor Chamberlain has courteously granted Dr. Withycombe's request for a vacation in order that he may devote his time wholly to running for governor. Wouldn't it inspire more confidence if the state veterinarian would tender his resignation, so as to take the agricultural college out of politics? Hon. E. L. Smith, that grand old Republican statesman of Hood River, severed all political connection with the various state boards when he announced his candidacy for United States senator before the Republican primaries. That is the kind of action that inspires the admiration of the American people and furnishes an example that Dr. Withycombe would do well to emulate.

Oregon hopgrowers generally sold their their last year's product about the nine cent mark. It is little comfort to them that with only a few stray lots in the hands of growers they are strong at twelve cents. That extra three cents a pound would mean at least two cents more profit to the growers if they could have held till now, allowing a cent a pound for insurance, interest and storage. Taking the average crop at 30,000 pounds that would mean \$600 more to the grower. It is easy to grow hops, but the wisest gamble to sell right. The selling or failure to sell has broke not only growers but men and syndicates counting their capital by the hundreds of thousands.

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Religious freedom is the proper thing, but there should be some way of determining where conscientious religious belief ends and pretention and hypocrisy begin. Crefield, the "Holy Roller," no doubt met a deserved fate, but his death will not restore the broken families and demoralized minds that may be traced to his false teaching. The law should have stopped such a career long ago, instead of forcing an outraged individual to act the part of executioner, the worst feature of the case being that Mitchell, the avenger, acquitted already by public sentiment, must be acquitted legally in due course of time. Will not this encourage other men, less justified, to take the law into their own hands, thus breeding contempt for the regular machinery of justice?

No one has ever disputed the thievery of the Standard Oil Company, the only question being as to the grade of the robbery—petit or grand larceny with all odds in favor of the latter. Now at the investigation being made by the interstate commerce commission at Chicago E. M. Wilhoit, of Topeka, a former Standard Oil agent, swears that the "Water White," "Perfection" and "Headlight" oils, though sold as of different grades and at different prices, were in reality but one grade. Why should any man be a thief, and most of all men who are rich even beyond the dreams of avarice?

Both political parties in this state seem to have put forward their best man for supreme judge this year. Judge Thomas Hailey, the present incumbent, is a young man of splendid education and ability, clean in his private and public life, while his Republican opponent, Judge Eakin, stands high in the estimation of the people of his district, alike for his integrity of character and high legal attainments. It is gratifying to know that in event of the election of either of these candidates the people will be assured that the high standing of the supreme court will be preserved and its personnel made up from the best material in the state.

Registration books close May 15. There is a misunderstanding on the part of some who voted blank A at the primary election that they are legally registered. Such is not the case and does not constitute an official registration, and their names will not appear on the books, although in some instances they have been written in the books by the clerks of election. All such will have to register in the manner prescribed by law before notaries or justices in their respective precincts, or at the county clerk's office, otherwise they will be required to use the blank A at the general election.

The Guard is going to be a better paper in the future than it has ever been in the past because its field is growing, and we are determined to keep pace with the advancement that is being made in all lines of industry. A new press and other equipment is coming from the East, which will give us the facilities for getting out a larger paper, more neatly printed, and better made up in all departments. Until that time the Guard will continue to be as good a paper as it is possible to print under the circumstances.

Somehow Senator Gearin gets practically all the requests at Washington from citizens of Oregon asking favors or information at the hands of several departments, principally that which has to do with public lands, of course. A young man, as senators go, Senator Gearin could be well kept at Washington. The voters will have the opportunity election day to vote to retain Senator Gearin.

There are still several hundred voters in Lane county who have not yet registered for the June election. To do this and then to exercise the right of franchise is the duty of every citizen, and it seems strange that so many neglect so important a matter. Those who will not take the trouble to register and vote have no right to complain of any of the ills of misgovernment from which we suffer.

James Withycombe, Englishman, though he came to Oregon in 1871, seems to have thought so little of his adopted home that he did not become naturalized till April 24, 1888, at the age of thirty-four years. Now he wants to be governor.

Candidate Withycombe is solemnly promising to do a great many good things, if elected, that Governor Chamberlain has been doing for the past four years.

Sam Haskell, eight years old, tells one of the countless pathetic stories of the San Francisco fire. "When the earthquake came," said the boy, "I ran out of the house and up the street. I stood around an hour or two, but could not find papa or mamma, and went back upstairs to our rooms. I found them on the floor under a great big chimney that came down through the roof. I called to them, but they did not answer me, and then I tried to pull them out, but couldn't. Then I tried to take the ricks off of them, but the chunks were so big and heavy I couldn't lift them. Then I ran out on the street to get some help, but could get nobody. Then the fire came and I got scared and ran. Some people gave me something to eat, and next morning I went back to find the rooms, but the place had burned."

Do not cash a pale gray money order—blue is their color. How do they get gray? An expert at Portland has been buying money orders for small amounts which he washes in a chemical bath, taking the ink and color too out, then raises the amount many times what was called for. He bought two at Oregon City for 15 cents, raised them to \$35, then indorized and passed them.

Bishop Harzell, of the Methodist church, says Africa is the great chance now for white colonization, and predicts that fifty years will see it a centre of white civilization. He says there the last battle will be fought between the crescent and the cross, though just now Mohammedism is making more converts than Christianity.

San Francisco, from being furnished with the essentials of life, is already furnishing other places, a shipment of fifty tons of new potatoes having just been made north.

It is impossible to down that man Geer. So far this campaign his mouth is working overtime spouting for Withycombe—and making votes for Chamberlain.

The Guard places the Central Point Herald on its exchange list. It is a neat little weekly paper just started by J. E. Lancaster and S. A. Pattison.

The drug trust laughs at the proposed prosecution and investigation. So did the life insurance companies once upon a time.

If Czar Nicholas succeeds in bossing the duma he will be able to rise to the ruling dignity of Speaker Joe Cannon.

When the rate bill gets through the senate it will no doubt be as satisfactory as it is harmless to the railroad corporations.

Note and Comment

We can't conceive how it would help a single Lane county man a cent to elect the Portland man state treasurer. On the other hand Mr. Matlock, if elected, would take his help from Lane county. Lane county depositors would be remembered where they are not now—Portland banks handling the state funds—while the money received from salaries would come to Lane county. As long as the big fellows are out for the money that is in it, why not the interested voter?

Mr. Withycombe says "the direct primary law has come to stay." Of course he could not speak ill of the means by which he got the nomination. We wonder, though, if he ever thinks how close the race was between himself and ex-Governor Geer—the latter with a badly smirched and fraud administration to carry, too. Then is it not probable that practically all those Geer Republican votes will be Chamberlain votes the 4th of June, having voted for Geer in the primaries with the idea that they would get the weakest man in nomination?

Postmaster Robbed

G. W. Fouts, postmaster at River-ton, Ia., nearly lost his life and was robbed of all comfort, according to his letter, which says: "For twenty years I had chronic liver complaint, which led to such a severe case of jaundice that even my finger nails turned yellow; when my doctor prescribed Electric Bitters, which cured me, and have kept me well for eleven years." Sure cure for biliousness, liver and kidney and bladder derangements. A wonderful tonic. At De-Lano's drug store. 50 cents.

What's the good of keeping from him Any good thing you may see, That will lift his load of labor Like Rocky Mountain Tea. Lian Drug Co.

Security Lice Powder for young oblocks.

Chambers' Hardware.

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FINE HORSES
FOR BREEDING
A. W. Jacobs, of Zion, this year has two fine horses imported from Southern Oregon, a trotter and draft horse, which he will place the coming season for breeding. Wednesdays and Thursdays when he will be at Pleasant Hill.

A Correction
Elmira, Or., May 18.
The report that we are not taking country orders for lumber is true. We will be glad to see old patrons. Come and see orders along.
WALTERS & SONS