

ATHENA PRESS

Published Every Friday Morning
By J. W. SMITH, PROPRIETOR.
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Entered at Athena postoffice as second-class mail matter.

Subscription Rates:
Per year, in advance, \$1.50
Single copies, in wrappers, 5c.

Advertising Rates:
Local reading notices, first insertion, 10c per line. Each subsequent insertion, 5c.

All communications should be addressed to the PRESS, Athena, Oregon.

ATHENA.....JUNE 5, 1896.

The political cloud that has hovered over Oregon the past two months, with its disturbing influence and bad effects, upsetting business and disturbing general harmony among neighbors, has through the lax of time, or rather by the provisions fixed in the state constitution, cleared away, and the body politic of the community is at liberty to once more settle down to quiet environments of everyday life and return to normal conditions. Whatever the result has been or may be, the inevitable must be accepted, and whether the verdict of the people has been for the best interests of the state at large, there is no appeal. The will of the majority must prevail, and it is becoming for the vanquished as well as the victorious to put their shoulders to the wheel, labor for the righting of past wrongs, and once more become patriotic citizens, retiring from the station of politicians.

ALMOST every session of the legislature since the adoption of the state constitution has attempted to amend the laws governing elections, and some marked improvements have been made in the system of voting. The attempt to prevent fraud at elections, by changing from an open vote to a secret ballot, has resulted in some good, and has no doubt to some extent prevented the purchasing of votes, by making it more difficult for the purchaser to discover if the vote he has bought has been cast as promised, but it has by no means done away with vote buying, nor does it prevent illegal votes being cast. These attempts to purify elections are steps in the right direction, but they fall short of the demanded reforms. What Oregon really needs and what it must have before a full expression of the qualified voters of the state can be had is a rigid registration law.

If Oregon's elections were held in November instead of in June it would prove of more economy to the people as well as of benefit in other ways. The state constitution will have to be changed to admit of the change of the date of the elections. There are other provisions of the constitution which are obsolete, which makes a constitutional convention very much in order and one should be called. The people of Oregon have outgrown their state's constitution.

It would be a good stroke for one of the political parties to make a platform demand for reform of the senate. The people are practically unanimous in favor of such reform and they would heartily support any party making the demand. It is apparent that the senate will not take the initiative in the matter, but if it were made an article of party faith there would be reasonable hope that a change would be brought about.

SINCE this issue of the Press has been made up and ready for printing, the reports say that Ellis and Quinn are running a neck-and-neck race, while a clerical error in Yamhill county makes a difference of 200 votes in Tongue's favor. It is evident that the republicans will endeavor to run in enough clerical errors, stuffed ballot boxes, and the like, to boost their men safely in office.

SHOULD Quinn of the Second and Vanderburg, of the First district be elected to congress, free silver democrats loose nothing in the election in this state. The money issue is paramount of all other issues, and with Quinn and Van-

derberg in the halls of congress, the silver man of this state, be he democrat, republican or populist has won over the gold bugs.

ATHENA precincts are still the banner democratic precincts of Umatilla county. Had leading democrats in Pendleton swung into line with a will, instead of showing a luke-warm interest in the result of the election of democratic candidates, the result might have been decidedly different. Athena is all right.

THAT John H. Mitchell will succeed himself in the United States senate is not a certainty, but he stands a better show now than any other man in the state. Silver republicans, populists and democrats will concentrate on him in preference to any gold standard man, and that no gold standard man can be elected is certain.

The "cat has jumped" and, from appearances at this time, has lit in about forty-seven places that it was not expected to light in.

IDAHO POLITICS.
Comprehensively Reviewed by Irving McQuary, Editor.

St. Anthony, Idaho, June 2, 1896. —[Ed Press]:—I notice in several Oregon papers that the recent state convention of republicans, of Idaho, held at Pocatello, "instructed for free coinage of silver and McKinley." This is a misleading and erroneous report. The Pocatello convention elected six delegates to St. Louis, with Senator Dubois at the head, and were uninstructed except as to silver. It is well known that Senator Dubois will follow the lead of Senator Teller in bolting the St. Louis convention should the republican party seek to straddle on bi-metallism, or, if a gold plank be adopted. No true silver republican, republicans who recognize the fact that bi-metallism is the paramount issue before the country today, can endorse anything, one idea McKinley." The republicans of Idaho have no use for McKinley; this was demonstrated at Pocatello by a vote of 201 to 36. The fight was made from primaries up to the convention on the issue of making silver paramount to all other questions, and we were not fooled by the old silver speeches of Mr. McKinley. Senator Shoup of Idaho, who has always claimed to be a free coinage republican held to the idea that the "party" was greater than principle—in short that he did not believe it wisdom for the republicans of Idaho to declare so strongly for silver, and wrote several letters to Idaho "explaining" that he did not approve of the way Senator Dubois voted on the Dingley bill, and other stock argument used by "loaves and fishes" republicans, and notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Shoup is a very popular man, being an old pioneer, and very wealthy, and notwithstanding the fact that Senator Dubois was very unpopular with the Mormon voters of Idaho, (one-third of the voting strength of the state,) and further, notwithstanding the fact that the muchly advertised governor of Idaho, with all the patronage and power of his office, opposed Dubois and favored Senator Shoup, all the pleadings, and explanations sufficed to give him but 92 votes, while his opponent, Mr. Rich, was elected a delegate to St. Louis by a vote of 192. The gold-bugs, McKinley shouters and McConnellites laid down their fight, and had only two candidates in nomination for delegates to St. Louis; this explains why Shoup got as many votes as he did. The same convention gave Senator Dubois 234 out of 237 votes. Had not Senator Shoup attempted to justify his vote on the consideration of the Dingley bill, or after he had so voted, had he written a letter saying he would abide by the wisdom of the republicans of his state, or had he signified that he would follow the lead of Senator Dubois, he would have received as large a vote as did our junior senator. But Mr. Shoup chose to attempt to over-ride the will of the great majority of republicans of this state, who have declared unequivocally and most emphatically that bi-metallism (the free coinage of both gold and silver as standard money) is the paramount issue before the country today. No double

meaning, evasive, straddle, such as the gold-bug republicans have made out of the 1892 platform, will satisfy the Idaho delegates at St. Louis the 16th. Dubois has said that he will vote for a free coinage democrat or populist before he will vote for a gold-bug, or straddle-bug republican, and he made that declaration before the primaries or any of the county conventions were held, so the republicans of this state knew what they were doing.

It is ridiculous in the extreme for silver republicans to advocate McKinley. The Ohio man is the most dangerous of all republican candidates to free coinage, because his friends in the West claim he is friendly to silver, while it is no longer questioned in the East, and by the banking classes even in the West, that he is the candidate of the "sound moneyites." If McKinley were a statesman, or even a leader, there would be no question as to how he stands on the financial question—now by common consent, both East and West, the paramount issue. Let the people of Oregon on June 1 say by their ballot that they also recognize the financial issue as the paramount one before the country. Yours Truly, IRVING McQUARY.

VARIETIES OF COURTSHIP

The Antique, the Progressive and the Ephemera.

A Chaperon Gives Some Interesting Observations Upon the Workings of the Tender Passion in Young Girls of To-Day.

"You see," said the chaperon of a quartette of lively girls at Long Branch, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, "there are now three kinds of courting—the antique, the progressive and the ephemeral. Odd, isn't it, where the heart is concerned? Both the antique and the ephemeral kind are found among the old girls and boys and the debutantes, while the progressive sort is confined mostly to those who have been in society a half dozen seasons or less.

"The antique is the kind which has for its password one life, one love. The ephemeral lends to the fancy of the hour without further reflection. The progressive is one with which we have to deal in answering the query: 'Where are the old favorites, and why are the younger set so popular?'"

"It is most natural that the matured bachelor and the rosebud should enjoy each other's society. This is ephemeral, no responsibility, no care, but the rosebud has a decided advantage over her courtly gallant; for, while she is becoming skillful in the use of Cupid's weapons, he is losing time and ground and some day will awaken to the truth that he is growing old, bald and ridiculous.

"What does the young girl see in her old escort? Mostly attention, which is very flattering to her in her first season out. And the bachelor—what does he see in her? He is lonely. The women of his set have disappeared somewhere, and he is willing to buy candy, kiss lap dogs, do anything to be entertained and entertaining. In this capacity the bachelor is a most useful member of society. He has even been known to walk around with grandmamma and to carry the married sister's baby and luggage to the train.

"Progressive courtship is curious. When a young woman begins to entertain serious thoughts of her future, whether in choosing a profession, a business or a husband, she rises above driftwood and marks a tree that will shelter her. Her time, also, is a consideration. She cannot waste years dallying with an old beau, a perennial. "These perennials are many of them good souls, nice for escorts, but not up to date enough for ideal husbands. So the marriageable women, those who can preside with dignity over neat homes—the belles, in short, of past seasons—leave the ranks and form new ties.

"When a young woman becomes indifferent to parties, likes distant friends, protracted visits and can't be located, keep a sharp lookout among the marriage notices. The out-of-town men secure most of the home prizes. The only chance for home bachelors is to emulate the example of the girls—that is, to go out of town, too, where they are not known as everlastings.

"Suppose, however, that they cannot give up the old favorites; suppose that there is a great tugging at the heart when they think of losing them. In such cases, if the men value their happiness and wish to wager on their chances, they must become specialists in love and ply their skill increasingly as the summer season approaches. 'Good by, sweetheart!' if said idly, will be detected by no one more quickly than by the young lady herself, and the chance will be greatly in favor of that London, Philadelphia or Baltimore man."

There are now published in the United Kingdom 2,061 magazines. Of these 471 are of a decidedly religious character. Almost every branch of science and activity and thought is represented, theosophy alone having five magazines.

An interesting story was told at a London charity dinner the other night. Mr. Sydney Holland, chairman of the Poplar hospital for accidents, is reported as follows:

"One day a man was brought in who was thought to be dead. His wife was with him. One of the doctors said: 'He is dead,' but the man raised his head and said: 'No, I am not dead yet,' whereupon his wife admonished him saying: 'Be quiet, the doctor ought to know best.'"

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