

ATHENA PRESS

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ATHENA, MAY 1, 1906

THE POLITICAL "MACHINE."

A person is generally more amused than instructed on comments pro and con by the press of the country on what is termed the political "machine." The "machine" won here! and the "machine" was routed there! Much, if not most of this "machine" talk is insincere, farther than it is intended to damage some particular crowd or some certain individual. The machine referred to by one paper may, and generally does, mean an entirely different crowd of fellows than the "machine" referred to by another paper. In fact, opposing "machines" are in contemplation. Now all these writers know that party simply means organization. Party is nothing else. A political party would go to pieces of its own incoherency in the absence of management. Managers must be representative leaders. The "machine" therefore of any party is but its organizers, its managers and its leaders. A leader is a boss. When he ceases to be a leader he is no longer a boss. Brains and experience are essential to successful management and leadership. Managers together with the average member of any organization, political or otherwise, will naturally select the most astute of their number as leaders. These are called in politics "bosses" for short, and for pat comprehensiveness. But the idea or notion that the average political boss is a dictator is foolishness. The anti-boss crowd is as much of a machine as the other phalanx. The bosses take no steps, issue no orders, only as a result of consultation and harmonious conclusion. Every anti-machine writer knows this. "Machines" in the sense set out are necessary. It's factions that are to be deplored. The corporation has its directory which in representing the stockholders directs the president. The church has its trustees, who in conversing the congregation instructs its boss and leader, the preacher. A "machine" is only dangerous when it becomes a sodality, a faction or a corrupt gang. Patronage and favoritism may even stimulate patriotism and efficiency, and are not therefore necessary to be categorized as corrupting agencies.

Queen Alexandra of England is the latest to join in the war against "race suicide." The queen, it seems, has set the pace by riding through the streets of London holding little Prince Henry of Wales in her lap, and now the society leaders are following suit and parading the streets with any old sort of a baby they can get their hands on. The poodle lap dog has been given a black eye.

General Baldwin must have been "loaded" when he said he liked Filipino soldiers better than white soldiers because it didn't matter how many were killed. He was alluding to the native scouts in the American army.

Everyone and everything are in good humor when President Roosevelt is around. Even the champion bucking pony of the Black Hills refused to do his usual stunts before the president.

President Roosevelt is to all intents and purposes out of the country. And yet it is surprising how smooth things run along just the same.

Even Admiral Schley may go on the lecture platform.

RUSSIA WON'T LET GO.

People generally won't be surprised that Russia does not intend to get out of Manchuria, or that, if she does intend making a pretense of getting out, it will only be after she has made arrangements to effectually control this province.

Russia has not been in the habit of relinquishing what she once lays her hands on, and a nation which for centuries has felt that its destiny lay in the ac-

quisition of mongolian territory is not likely to give up any of that territory when it has been brought under Russian administration.

Russia may have agreed to an ostensible withdrawal, but it is quite certain that there never was any intention of giving up Russian control. All the operations of the Russians in the Manchurian province during the past few years have indicated that the czar was here to stay. The administration has not been one that indicated mere temporary occupation. The foundations were laid deeply, as they always are when Russia once plants itself on alien soil. While professions may have been forthcoming that the province would be turned back to China, the Russianizing process has been at work all the while, and with a view to eventual and absolute acquisition.

Other great powers may object to the recent Russian demands made upon China respecting the control of Manchuria, but possession is nine points of the law, despite the provisions of treaties and diplomatic promises. Formal notes have not restrained the government of the czar from grabbing territory in the past, and it is doubtful if they accomplish that result now.—Ex.

WASTING HOT AIR.

Those who are circulating petitions asking that a referendum vote be had on the Lewis and Clark fair appropriation, The Dalles-Celilo portage appropriation, and the Eddy corporation tax law are simply wasting their time—as it were blowing off a lot of hot air that will result in nothing, for even if a referendum vote is had on any one of the three propositions each will be sustained by a vote of the people.

The Times-Mountaineer believes the Lewis and Clark appropriation was double what it should have been, but at the same time it realizes that a majority of the people of Oregon want the fair held, and are ready to pay for it. Further than this, the appropriation submitted to a vote will receive almost a unanimous endorsement in Multnomah county (which is nearly one-third the vote of the state) and besides nearly every wage earner in Oregon will support it, if for no other reason, because the erection of necessary buildings and improvements to grounds will necessitate the expenditure of a vast amount of labor, and will make work at good wages plentiful. It will have the tendency to draw laborers from every part of the state, thus leaving more work for those who remain at home, and hence will receive the support of wage earners generally.

A referendum on the portage road appropriation will meet a like fate. While there are many west of the mountains who do not feel inclined to be taxed to build the portage since they cannot be directly benefited thereby, yet they are generous to some extent and will not vote to deprive the people of the Inland Empire the privilege of relieving themselves from the extortions of a single corporation.

The corporation tax, too, will meet with hearty support from the masses, who believe corporations should pay for the protection and privilege extended to them by the state.

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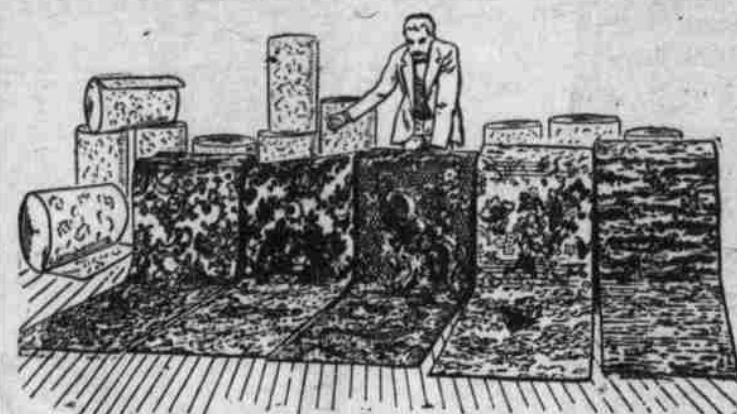
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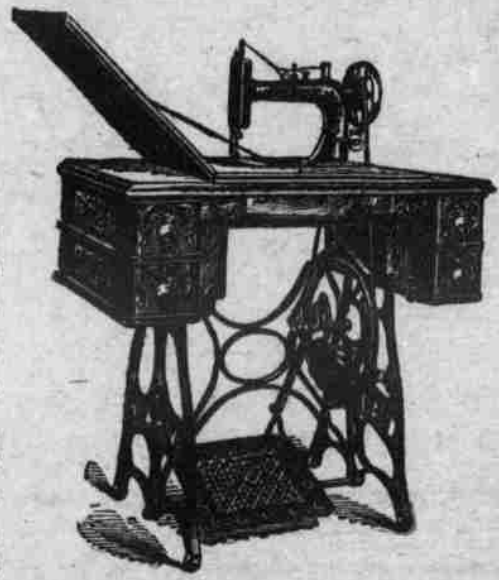
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