

The Portland News

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT

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GRAFT.

The term "graft" as applied to horticulture is a harmless as well as a very useful process and is well understood by everyone. But when given political significance, it at once becomes a source of degradation and danger to our present political system. Political grafting is so subtle in design—so smooth and insinuating in work, that many of our lawmakers become the tool and victim of the grafter before he, (the legislator) is aware of the fact. Many innocent, appearing measures, whose purpose seems meritorious, become law, before it is even intimated that he, who is behind and who instigated the measure in the first place, is a grafter, pure and simple. When the measure becomes law, then the purpose of the grafter becomes plain. But he, leech-like, has become attached to our body politic and it is difficult to shake him off. One of the worst grafts that the state now has to contend with is the Normal schools. At first the demands of these leeches, were very moderate; only a few thousands of dollars, every two years. Now their demands run up into the hundreds of thousands. An effort is now being made to shake off the leeches, and it seems next door to impossibility to do so. They have in the most worthy name of education, so firmly attached themselves to our political machine, that it may be necessary to "burst" the machine in order to get rid of the leeches. In the end, however, they will be shaken off. At first these schools were most humble and the few thousands doled to them, were received with expressions of gratitude. With the passing of years, they secured a firmer hold on the "machine" and now approach the legislature as having vested rights, and their estimated needs of hundreds of thousands of dollars approach very nearly a demand.

Other grafts are numerous. They have attached themselves to the various state offices and state institutions to such a degree, that searching legislative investigation every two years, has become the custom. But with all the investigation and recommendations of reform, the graft retains its grip seemingly as firmly as ever. Two years ago a vigorous attempt, by the enactment of law was made to curtail the notorious legislative clerkship graft; but the evil exists at the present session in a more intensified and brazen form than ever before.

The sober serious question confronts us. When will these evils be corrected? If not corrected, and they are allowed to fatten and increase in the future as in the past, what will the burden of taxation be ten years hence?

A few years ago \$40,000 was considered ample to defray the expenses of a session of the Oregon legislature. Now more than twice that amount is appropriated. The number of members have not increased, but their per diem has been made larger, and allowances for mileage has remained the same. What, then, is the cause of the expense of a session doubling up? The clerk graft will account for the extra expense in part, but not for all. A great many people are beginning to think that the average Oregon legislature is a very expensive luxury.

When the federal grand jury quits business down at Portland, there will be quite a number of our leading citizens, who will not continue in the leading business. A United States senator, a congressman, two members of the state legislature, mayors, etc; who will say hereafter that only little fish are caught with the grand jury drag-net? Well, if those who have been indicted are guilty, they should be punished just the same as if they were ordinary criminals. But until they have been tried and found guilty, the judgment of the public should be suspended.

Portland has had a street car wreck. The car, loaded with about sixty people had attained high speed, and on account of the rails being frosty, refused to answer to the brakes. In consequence, a short curve was negotiated at a too high rate of speed resulting in the car leaving the track and turning on its side. A good many people were injured, one so badly that he died in a few minutes. Several others were severely, though no one was injured fatally, except the one above mentioned.

The land thieves and conspirators must be greatly alarmed. They are endeavoring to blackmail Prosecuting Attorney Healey's character, that his influence and standing as a lawyer and prosecutor would be destroyed. The attempt has proven a flat failure and will only result in causing Mr. Healey to redouble his exertions to place the whole thieving gang in stripes.

EASY VIOLATION OF LAW.

The foresight of the framers of the Oregon constitution was remarkable. Human nature is the same in all ages and conditions. Communities, like individuals, think of themselves first and the state afterwards. Public interest must give way to private advantage. Because they knew their fellow-man, the wise men gathered at Salem in 1857 to frame a state constitution caused to be inserted in that document the following extract and unmistakable clause:

All public institutions of the state hereafter provided for by the Legislative Assembly shall be located at the seat of government.—Section 3, article 14, constitution of Oregon.

No possible doubt can exist as to what this provision means nor as to what the constitutional makers understood by it. They sought to enter in the beginning the dangerous and fomenting practice of legislative log-rolling. It was definitely intended that all institutions should be located at the seat of government. This plain mandate was violated when the State University was located at Eugene, the Soldiers' Home at Roseburg, the State Agriculture College at Corvallis and normal schools at Monmouth, Drain, Ashland and Weston. No plea that the constitution does not mean what it says can possibly be pleaded in extenuation of the action of Legislatures. It is a plain violation of the constitution that the capital was getting too much financial consideration from the state and undertook to distribute and expend the state funds at other points. Nor can any one successfully undertake to say that the State University, or the Normal Schools, or the Soldiers' Home, are not state institutions. The Supreme Court has passed upon that precise question in the well-known case of State vs. Metchum, when it held that "an insane asylum is a public institution, and the Legislature has no power to provide for the establishment and maintenance of one at any other place than the capital." This finding of the court came as a consequence of the effort to locate a branch asylum at Union, in Eastern Oregon.

It follows as a necessary deduction that the Legislature has no power to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Normal School, or a State University, or a Soldiers' Home, or an Agricultural College, at any other point than the state capital. If, therefore, any interested person should sue out an injunction against the State Treasurer to prevent him from paying over to these institutions the appropriations made for them, or either of them, by the Legislature, no question can exist as to the action of the courts. We should find that the funds which are being unlawfully diverted by the Legislature to the support of institutions located in defiance of the constitution would be upheld from every one of them. The consequence would be that the Legislature would be forced to remove all these institutions to Salem or submit an amendment to the constitution that would make it lawful for them to receive and expend funds in their present locations.

The Oregonian is not surprised that advocates of a new constitution, who have been very much earnest in their plans for a convention, are indignant that they have been defeated, in part at least, by members who seem to fear that Normal Schools and other institutions might by another organic law suffer a discontinuance of state aid. It is not easy to follow the precise line of reasoning adopted by these gentlemen, but probably it was something in this fashion: The present constitution is good enough for us; because no one has ever complained when it was violated for the benefit of our respective communities. We do not know what a new constitution might do to us. It might cut us off; it might break up our successful logrolling, or it might otherwise make it difficult for us to work our fat schemes through a Legislative Assembly. The old constitution might be potent, because, just for the novelty of the thing and because the people understood its provisions, there would be a disposition to enforce it.

The original constitution-builders of Oregon feared long years of log-rolling, a general application of the "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" policy by succeeding Legislatures, and they endeavored to stop it; but, having a high sense of the sacred importance of their mission, and the inviolable character of their duty to the state, they never dreamed that any mandate solemnly placed by them in the constitution would be regarded as merely a jest and by word members of any Oregon Legislative Assembly.

Russia whether she will or not must be dropped from the list of nations of the first-class. She has never belonged to the first-class, except by sheet force of numbers. In point of general intelligence and civilization she has always been a third or fourth rate power.

WAR VESSELS AT THE EXPOSITION.

For the Lewis and Clark Centennial, which will be held at Portland from June 1st to October 15th, next, the United States government will make an absolutely unique naval exhibit. Instead of confining its exhibit of warships entirely to miniature models, the Government will station a number of her largest and finest men of war in the Willamette River, adjoining the Fair grounds. These vessels will be open to the public for certain periods each day, and launches will carry visitors to and from them, in order that the people may see for themselves just what a modern warship looks like, how it is constructed, equipped, manned and controlled.

The exhibit which the Navy Department will make in the United States government Building will be complete in every detail, and interesting to everyone. It will include large models, from eight to ten feet in length, which cost the government \$3,000 to \$10,000 each, and which will embrace every type of warship, from the greatest battleship to the little Holland submarine torpedo boat. This array of models will include reproductions of the Maine, which was sunk in Havana harbor, the Brooklyn, Admiral Schley's flagship at San Juan; the Olympia, Dewey's flagship at Manila; besides the Oregon, New York, Missouri, Columbia, Kearsarge, Iowa, Newark, St. Louis, Texas, Arkansas, Nashville, Chesapeake, Helena, Tacoma, and Annapolis, and probably several others.

A most fascinating feature of the exhibit of models will be two working models of dry docks, one of the familiar type of dock found at most of the navy yards of the world; the other a floating dock patterned after the new docks recently installed at New Orleans and Pensacola. These models, which will be operated continuously, will show the manner of docking and un-docking war vessels, some of the ship models being used for illustration.

In one corner of the Navy space will be a map of the world, 20 feet long and eight feet high, on which will be distributed diminutive models of every ship in the United States navy. These models will be moved about from day to day, so that at a glance the visitor can tell the location of every ship in the service.

A company of marines will be on duty at the Exposition grounds during the fair; the marines will give drill drills and conduct a military camp.

Oregon, we believe is the first state to embark in government ownership of railroads. She is now building the portage railway, some ten or eleven miles in length. Some \$50,000 is asked from the present legislature to put the road into operation and maintain it until it becomes self-sustaining. If it will pay the state to build, what amounts to a competing line, taken in connection with river boats, at this point why would it not be equally as profitable, at other points, where monopoly in the carrier business now exists?

Internal troubles in Russia seems to be increasing. The army and navy have become involved as well. So widely extended have these troubles become, that indications now point to an early closing of the Japanese war, with the Japs as complete victors. Whether these internal troubles will amount to the gravity of revolution, as yet uncertain, but a modification of the rigor of the autocratic government, and more liberties for the people is sure to result.

The calling of a convention of road supervisors, at Albany last week, is a very long step in the direction of good roads. The meeting and exchanging ideas upon road building is sure to be beneficial. Some supervisors are better road builders than others. These leading ones will encourage the slack, dilatory supervisor to be more diligent and to use his road labor in the best manner to produce results.

An effort, which will probably be successful, is being made to abolish the Drain Normal school. It is stated that while this school received \$25,000 from the state treasury two years ago, but two graduates reported for last year. This makes the cost of the education of the very few who attend the Drain school entirely to exorbitant. Even the Oregon legislature with its extravagant ideas has been forced to see that the people were not getting any value worth mentioning for the money expended for this school.

A MATTER OF HEALTH

ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure HAS NO SUBSTITUTE

People the world over were horrified on learning of the burning of a Chicago theater in which nearly six hundred people lost their lives, yet more than five times this number or over 3,000 people died from pneumonia in Chicago during the same year, with scarcely a passing notice. Every one of these cases of pneumonia resulted from a cold and could have been prevented by the timely use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. A great many who had every reason to fear pneumonia have ward off by the prompt use of this remedy.

The following is an instance of this sort: "Too much cannot be said in favor of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and especially for colds and influenza. I know that it cured my daughter, Laura, of a severe cold, and I believe saved her life when she was threatened with pneumonia." W. D. Wilcox, Logan, New York. Sold by all Dealers.

Every one is going to Albany to the Woodmen of the World monthly log rolling Feb. 25th. Thousands of strangers will be in the city, 15 bands of music will make up the banner street parade. The fireworks in the evening will be the best in the history of the Valley. Excursion rates on railroad, 35-35.

Administrator's Notice. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed Administrator of the estate of William W. Trexler, deceased, in order of the county Court of the State of Oregon for Linn County made and entered of Record on the 30th day of January A. D. 1905. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to the undersigned at his residence about three miles north of Scio, in Linn County, Oregon, duly verified with the proper vouchers as required by law within six months, from the date of this notice.

OUR CLUBBING COMBINATIONS. For the convenience of our patrons we have selected the following clubbing combinations. The price named includes one year's subscription to the Portland Oregonian \$2.00 The Oregonian twice-a-week Journal \$2.00 The Oregon Weekly Journal \$1.75 The St. Louis Globe-Democrat \$1.75 The San Francisco Examiner \$2.15 The N. Y. Tribune-Examiner \$1.50 All other publications will be obtained for you at reduced rates, if taken in connection with the News.

PHOTOGRAPHS. Make it a point, when in Albany, to drop into J. G. Crawford's Art gallery and look through his collection of Portraits, Views and Pre-historic Curios, 120, Second Street, near Lyon.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Linn County, executor of the last will and testament of Mary E. Hunt, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to me properly verified, as by law required, at my office in Scio, Oregon, within six months from the date hereof.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Linn County, executor of the last will and testament of Mary E. Hunt, deceased. H. BRYANT and SON, Attorneys, 29-33

For Sale—Pure bred Improved Chester White pigs. Inquire of J. S. Morris, 32

We make a specialty of Friendship Engagement and Wedding rings. F. M. French, the Jeweler, Albany.

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Every thing reduced to the lowest possible price. Want room for our large Spring stock now bought, to which we want your attention, a little later.

THE BLAIN CLOTHING CO., ALBANY OREGON.

WINTER EXCURSION RATES TO YAQUINA BAY.

A New Departure on the Southern Pacific and Corvallis & Eastern Railroads. Recognizing a long felt want, and desiring to give the public cheap rates to the coast in the winter as well as to see the bounding billows in their wildest moods and imbibe the pure waters of the winter air at the coast, the Southern Pacific Company in connection with the Corvallis and Eastern Railroad have placed on sale, taking effect Nov. 2, 1904, and continuing until March 31, 1905, from all points on their lines, round trip tickets to Yaquina at the same rate as during the summer. These tickets will be sold on Wednesdays and Saturdays only and will be good for return sixty days from date of sale.

Dr. Minthorn's sanitary baths will be in operation and anyone who desires a genuine health resort during the winter cannot do better than spend a month or so at Yaquina.

Similar tickets will be sold from Albany, Corvallis, Philomath and all points west on the Corvallis and Eastern R. R.

Full information as to rates, baggage, etc., can be obtained by applying to the nearest S. P. agent or direct from W. E. Conner, G. F. A. S. P. Co., Portland, or Edwin Stone, manager C. & E. R. R. Co., Albany.

Through tickets to Portland are sold by the C. & E. at Corvallis, and by the S. P. Portland to Corvallis via Albany and the C. & E. at the same rate as via the coast side. \$2.50. C. & E. trains connect at Albany with the Albany-Portland local both ways.

THE RICHARDSON South Side of Bridge, SCIO, OREGON. This hotel has been refitted and furnished throughout Clean wholesome beds, airy rooms and tables supplied with the best the market affords.

Special attention given commercial men. Free sample rooms, etc. R. E. Richardson, Proprietor.

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Money to loan on real estate, secured by first mortgage, at 8 per cent interest per annum. Max J. T. Bury.

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