

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Official Paper of the City of Medford.

GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Manager.

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THE ASSEMBLY, THE NORMALS AND THE KNOCKER.

The columns of the Portland Oregonian offer a striking instance of the prostitution of a great newspaper for the manufacture and creation of public opinion for special interests. This occasions no surprise, for the tone, color and policy of the Oregonian has ever been along these lines. It is a cheerless, hopeless sheet, pessimistic in treatment of everyday things concerning everyday people, optimistic only in the endeavor to force something upon the people, against their inclination, against their welfare.

Readers of the Oregonian, particularly the Sunday issue, are being edified nowadays with columns of slush to the effect that office-seekers in various parts of Oregon favor the assembly as the only means of preserving the integrity of the republican party in Oregon and restoring it to harmony.

Evidently upon the presumption that a lie well stuck to is better than the truth, the Oregonian editorial columns are filled day after day with a wearisome revision of fact calculated to arouse opposition to the direct primary and foster that darling of the scrub politician, the "assembly"—a restoration of machine politics, boss rule and corruption.

All of this folly and falsehood is designed to manufacture public opinion favorable to the assembly, and to induce the people to surrender their present powers to the politician. The welfare of the republican party is declared to be in danger in spite of the 40,000 majority in Oregon, in spite of the fact that every state and national public official elected by the people of Oregon, except one, is a republican.

The integrity of the republican party is not and never has been menaced by the direct primary law—it is, though, and always has been menaced by the factional fights within the party. The deadlock legislatures, the election of democratic governors and senators was due to these quarrels—due to the refusal of faction to accept rule by majority. There was no direct primary law to put the blame on when Chamberlain was elected governor. His election was due to votes given him by one faction of the republican party because it could not rule the convention. His election as senator was due to votes cast for him by the Fulton faction, because Fulton was not nominated by the republican majority.

It is not very long since that the Oregonian fathered such a campaign against the state normal schools as it is now making against the direct primary law. Its columns were filled with abuse, vilification and calumny in its efforts to manufacture a hostile public opinion. It held the lash over the legislature, and found subservient tools there to carry out its wishes. Not all of its mossback program and reactionary ideas were placed upon the statute books, but it was successful in one thing, and the three normal schools of the state were cut off in the middle of the school year without a dollar's appropriation to fulfill the bargain and corruption between the Oregonian and its legislative sycophants.

There was no more desire, no more demand from the people for the murder of the normals than there is for the throttling of the direct primary law. Both reactionary efforts originated in this personified grouch masquerading as a newspaper. The campaign against the direct primary and for the assembly is being conducted along the same lines of misstatement and untruth as was the campaign against the schools. There is just as much logic in one as there was in the other, and no more, and there is no more reason why the people should surrender their power than there was that the state of Oregon should parade itself before the nation as an enemy of higher education.

The Monmouth normal is circulating an initiative petition appealing direct from the edict of the legislature to the people of Oregon for support. It is probable also that the Weston normal will do the same, and the Ashland normal should follow suit, and thus find out definitely whether the people of Oregon really favor the suppression of normal schools. Because the Oregonian and its legislative implements approved it, does not mean that the people approve it.

Hood River is out with an initiative petition to establish one large normal school at Hood River to take the place of the three—at Weston, Monmouth and Ashland. There is no particular reason why Hood River should have a normal school—it is not central in location, not an educational center, and is not as readily reached by the people of the state as are the three towns in which the normals were located, all of whom were admirably situated for the people of their various sections. But Hood River would like to have the state spend some money there, and no one can blame her.

The Oregonian, which so bitterly fought the Rogue River normal and put it out of business, has not yet found any fault with the proposed Hood River normal, probably because it is nearer to Portland. It will be interesting to watch the course of the Oregonian regarding this proposed normal will not be vilified and lied about as was the normal will not be vilified and lied about as was the Rogue River normal.

Evidently Comet A was too much for the Mail Tribune press, which went out of commission at midnight, delaying the Sunday issue and forcing the printing of a small paper until repairs are completed.

"ASHLANDER" SAYS IT IS FUTURE OF ASHLAND

ASHLAND, Or., Jan. 31.—(To the Editor.)—After much strenuous effort, consuming nearly one month's time and much hard work, the petition for the recall of our present competent and progressive mayor, Sam Snell, has been filed with the city recorder, through the influence of Phipps, Hosley, Bill Willis, Barnes and John Swadges. After rounding up a lot of boys and old men who came here to get a good climate to die in, enough names have at last been secured. So the track will be cleared, the lines drawn and a clear-cut race will be run between the progressives and the mossbacks.

It will be some satisfaction to the average citizen to know which class predominates in Ashland and to know whether we are to need mud boots for the next ten years or will we have paved streets. But with the bunch of tightwads behind the recall movement who are in favor of wallowing in the mud for ten years more it does not seem possible that as good a town as Ashland could have enough cheap skates to back the recall to get more than a corporal's guard at the election. It has just leaked out that either Bill Willis Barnes or H. C. Hesley will be the candidate for mayor to step into Sam Snell's shoes in case the recall should prevail. Hesley would be the logical candidate for the friends of recallers, as he stands for all they represent, as he started a building at the corner of Third and Main about ten years ago, and it is still in the course of construction.

ASHLANDER.

GOLD HILL ITEMS.

(By Spectator.)

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde McFerron, formerly of this place, arrived here Wednesday from Los Angeles to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. V. McFerron, on E street, for a few days. They have been residing at Portland the past three years and sold his property in that place just before the holidays, and left for Southern California to reside. They have come back to Oregon to live. He says the Webfoot state is good enough for him.

H. A. McClellan of the Mail Tribune was here the first of the week and enlarged the subscription list to quite an extent.

Thomas Carr, an old resident and mineowner of Footh Creek, is now a resident of Anderson, Cal., and is reported in very poor health the past winter with an old attack of influenza acquired last winter.

Gold Hill for the past several years has been represented by a Commercial club of about half a dozen of the faithful. The average citizen does not seem to know or realize the good results this organization has accomplished. Gold Hill has been kept on the map through their efforts. If a half dozen boosters can do that much, what will be the result if every resident is and adjacent to this place put their shoulders to the wheel and boost? Don't let us delay any longer. Call a meeting the coming week, get together and let every resident show his hand. If you cannot be there on account of business or other matters send a note to the chairman of the meeting, saying you will be with us.

Attorney J. L. Hammersly was at Jacksonville Friday on legal matters.

Deputy Sheriff William Ulrich of Jacksonville was here Thursday and Friday on business connected with the sheriff's office.

Sam Morris of Root Point was here on the street Friday for the first time the past year. He has been confined to the home of his father, William Morris, at that place, with illness. He is now much improved in health, his many friends will be glad to hear, and hope he will remain permanently.

John Short, the Footh Creek miner-farmer, was here on business Friday. He recently bonded his property to a Portland company, who are now prospecting and operating it.

Among the Gold Hill boys employed at the Opp mine near Jacksonville are George C. Garrett, Jack Sharpe and Joe Cronin.

Harry Tresham, the Sam's Valley rancher, was here Friday with a load of produce interviewing our merchants.

Rex H. Lampman of the News attended the boosters' meeting at Medford Tuesday evening, and returned Wednesday.

George L. Huff, the barber, has purchased F. G. Dearing's barber shop, closed up his old stand and is now doing business at the Dearing stand. Mr. Dearing has acquired some land in Lake county and left the first of the week with his family for Lakeview.

Deputy Game Warden Sam Sandry of Woodville was here the last of the week making his usual official rounds.

FREDERICK WARDE IS MASTER OF THE LECTURE PLATFORM

The entertainment that will be remembered a long time is the lecture on Hamlet given us by Mr. Warde Saturday night. We all know Hamlet is a very fascinating play to witness, but we were somewhat in doubt as to how it would serve as an entertainer for the general public given in the manner in which Mr. Warde is presenting it, but to say that Mr. Warde fascinated and held his audience through every act of the play is only stating the plain truth. He gave us the story and recited the principal features, and as a reader of Shakespearean lines Mr. Warde has no superior, to say the least. Perhaps we have a galaxy of stars at the present time, which would equal the sextet of actors to which Mr. Warde belongs, namely, Booth, Barrett, Irving, John McCullough, Mansfield and Keene, but it requires the perspective of time to see the greatness of a man. There are very few heroes whom we rub shoulders with daily. Tom Reed said that a statesman was a politician who had been dead a long time, and I presume a great actor is a man whom we enjoyed in our youth; but certainly Mr. Warde is an unusual man. As an orator he is superb; as an extemporaneous speaker he has few, if any, equals.

At a little banquet given him by the local Elks lodge after his entertainment Saturday night he gave us a talk of about ten minutes. His remarks were along the line of the brotherhood of man, and they were certainly beautiful in sentiment and delivery. The ladies of the Episcopal Guild are to be congratulated for the excellent entertainments they have given us in their winter lecture course. K. M. A.

POLITICS AND POLITICIANS.

Prohibitionists of Illinois will hold their state convention at Springfield in May.

The Socialist party entertains hopes of electing the next mayor of Milwaukee.

Thomas Todd, a Socialist alderman, has been elected mayor of Grand Junction, Colo.

E. S. Johnson of Rapid City is being boomed for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in South Dakota.

Isaac T. Mann, a millionaire living at Bramwell, is expected to try for the seat of Senator Scott of West Virginia.

Eastern politicians are again discussing President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton university for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1912.

Senator Crawford of South Dakota and Representative Burke of Pennsylvania are to speak before the Manufacturers' club in Boston the latter part of this month.

Patrik H. Kelley, Chase S. Osborn, Amos Musselman and Robert M. Montgomery are the four candidates for the Republican nomination for governor of Michigan this year.

It is said that W. R. Davis, former mayor of Oakland, may be nominated for governor of California by the Lincoln-Roosevelt wing of the Republican party in that state.

General Charles H. Grosvenor, who represented the eleventh Ohio district in congress for many years, is to be appointed a member of the Chickamauga park battlefield commission.

It is reported efforts are being made to bring together the forces of Governor Harmon and former Mayor Johnson of Cleveland with a view of capturing the Ohio legislature and electing a Democrat to succeed Senator Dick.

Both of the older political parties in Oklahoma are said to be worrying over the increasing strength of the Socialists. In the last election the Socialists polled 22,000 votes for Debs in Oklahoma and from 3000 to 6000 votes for each of their candidates for congress.

An unprecedented occurrence in American history, so far as can be learned, is scheduled to take place in Marquette, Mich., next April, when the voters of that city will elect their postmaster. Congressman H. O. Young of the twelfth congressional district decided upon this means of disposing of an embarrassing three-cornered fight.

In the belief that the real fight for control of the next house of representatives will be in the middle west, the Republican congressional committee has decided to remove the committee headquarters from New York to Chicago. An office will be maintained in New York, but the chief work of the campaign will be directed from Chicago.

An effort is being made to effect a fusion in the two San Francisco congressional districts on one Democrat and one Labor candidate with the view of defeating the Republi-

ans. Judge Maguire, Democrat, would be the fusion candidate in the fourth district, now represented by Julius Kahn, Republican. Maguire nearly defeated Kahn in 1908 and served several terms in Congress prior to 1896, but has been defeated steadily since.

wards have been staying since Saturday, according to hotel officials. The only grounds for the report that he was ill that are known is the fact that Taft took his meals in his room.

FIFTEEN MEMBERS OF CREW DIE IN SHIPWRECK

LISBON, Jan. 31.—Fifteen members of the crew of the sailing vessel Fortuna were drowned when the ship was wrecked among the Azores during a heavy storm, according to messages received here today. Five sailors made their way from the sinking vessel in an open boat, and after drifting about 12 hours were picked up.

TAFT'S BROTHER NOT ILL, AS WAS REPORTED

PASADENA, Cal., Jan. 31.—The report that Henry W. Taft, brother of President Taft, was ill in the Pasadena hospital, was denied by the authorities at the hospital today.

Mr. Taft is in the best of health at the Hotel Green, where he, Mrs. Taft and Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Ed-

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February 10, 1910

For the above occasion the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Co. and Southern Pacific Company—lines in Oregon, will make an open rate of

One and One Third Fare

for the round trip from all points in their lines to Hermiston. Tickets on sale February 6th and 7th, with final return limit February 20, 1910.

Free booklet, issued by the government containing full information as to cost, how to file, water rights, etc., may be obtained from any O. R. & N. or S. P. Agent, or by writing to

WM. McMURRAY, General Passenger Agent.