

**MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE**

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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Manager

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**SWORN CIRCULATION.**  
Daily average for six months ending December 31, 1910, 2721.

**MAY BE WORK OF A FIRE-BUG**

**Blaze in Wonder Store Suspected of Being Work of Incendiary—No Motive Ascribed but Clues Point to Midnight Prowlers.**

As the result of a mid-night blaze last night, thought to be due either to the setting alight of matches by rodents or to incendiary origin, the Wonder store on East Main street suffered a loss, by fire, water and chemicals used by the firemen of approximately \$2,000. The entire stock of toys and novelties which arrived too late for sale during the last Christmas season and which were being stored in a closet in the store situated under the stairway leading to a rooming house above was ruined and a greater portion of the stock of novelties and notions on the counters of the store itself were spoiled by contact with the water and acids.

According to W. E. Norris, the proprietor of the store, the front door is always locked when the store is closed. Last night, shortly after seven o'clock, J. R. Norris, after writing a number of business letters in the store left, locked the door securely and, he said this morning, made certain of that fact by trying it.

At about eleven o'clock last night, Policeman Hall was attracted to the store, entrance into which he told Mr. Norris he gained by pushing open the front door, in a feat in Mr. Norris' mind impossible. This fact, together with statement of Mrs. Strumph, who conducts the rooming house above to the effect that she has several times heard persons moving about in the store during the night, has given rise to a belief that the blaze might have been originated by prowlers who, after lighting a match to better inspect their surroundings, threw the glowing end in the toy strewn closet.

The casing of the door this morning was intact, and the door could not have been opened, if properly secured, unless forced open in such a manner as to break it. Officer Hall and persons standing near at the time have told Mr. Norris that a slight push permitted the opening of the door.

The rodent theory was given consideration this morning when it was discovered that half case of matches, contained in a tin receptacle, had been stored in the closet. It was suggested that perhaps mice has set these on fire, a theory given some what of a set back by the statement of Mr. Norris that he had never seen traces of mice in the closet.

Although Mrs. Strumph stated this morning that she had heard people moving about the store during the night on one or two occasions, she never thought to call any one's attention to it as she did not know, until told by Mr. Norris today, that none of the people connected with the store ever visited it during the early hours of the morning.

The fire department answered the call promptly but handicapped by the darkness and the sulphur smoke emanated by the burning matches, necessity did considerable damage while locating and subduing the blaze.

**NOTICE MERCHANTS.**  
Regular meeting of the Medford Merchants' association at Commercial Club Rooms March 6th, at 8:00 p. m. Business for the evening: Annual election of officers, report of director E. N. Warner of the state merchants association, report and consideration of credit rating committee report. All merchants of the city invited to attend.

H. C. GARNETT, President.  
J. H. CARKIN, Secretary 298

Haskins for Health.

**"PLAYING POLITICS."**

THOSE who live by the sword, are apt to perish by the sword.

The Oregonian emits four columns of sobful ki-yi because Governor West has seen fit to veto many of the measures fathered by Senator Jay Bowerman and Representative W. Lair Thompson, and accuses the executive of "playing politics." Yet these statesmen have simply received a dose of their own medicine.

Every veto returned by Governor West has been accompanied with a good and sufficient reason. Perhaps he did play politics, but he played it in the interest of the people. If he had acted otherwise, the direct primary law would have been emasculated, and such meritorious measures as the flat salary state printer bill never have passed.

Scan the record of Messrs. Bowerman and Thompson during the recent session. Each was the leader in their respective branches of the assembly forces. Each introduced and championed measures designed to cripple and undermine the Oregon plan. Each fought every bill, regardless of merit, fathered by the administration, and each used every effort possible to cripple and embarrass the governor. Instead of spending their energies in accomplishing good legislation, each wasted energy in playing peanut politics. They occupied not only their own time, but the time of all the other legislators, in their frantic efforts to discredit progressive policies—time that should have been spent in serious consideration of measures that the entire state demanded.

Yet the Oregonian never uttered a word of protest about "playing politics." Every attack made on the Oregon system was given first page position of prominence. It was right and proper for Jay Bowerman to "play politics" as acting governor and as state senator "evening up" grudges at the state expense, but it is very wrong in Oswald West to "play politics" that the direct primary law be kept intact, and that his administration may have a record of accomplishment.

Roosevelt "played politics" in the interest of the people. Taft plays it in the interest of the stand-patters and the system, but not very successfully. West must play it, with courage and skill as a matter of self preservation, against an overwhelmingly adverse legislature, and for the preservation of the Oregon system from the attacks of its enemies.

**THE PASSING OF THE IDLE RICH.**

A remarkable series of articles entitled "the passing of the idle rich" is appearing in Everybody's, which is well worth reading. It is written by Frederick Townsend Martin, himself a society leader and member of the exclusive idle rich class. He gives the history of society as it formerly existed in the America of opportunity, the land of 50 years ago, and its transformation into what it is today.

This growth of the idle rich, he states is watered with the bloody sweat of labor and the salt tears of bitter poverty and suffering; and it is fertilized with the dead bodies of men and women outworn in the grim battle of life. Tended and watched it is by a foul horde of underlings, hired judges in the law, panders in politics, time-servers in the pulpit, lickspittles in college chancelleries, Judases in the press, blackmailers in business, and miserable, fawning parasites clinging like filthy leeches upon the administrative bodies of the nation.

"To my mind, as I have studied this question, there has come a sad conviction; This nation is betrayed. For it was perfectly evident, years ago, that the industrial evolution of this country was a process of exploitation. It was the knowledge of this fact that lay behind the Sherman Law of 1890; and behind the Interstate Commerce Act, which sought to restrain, to a limited extent at least, the boundless license to plunder which had been taken unto themselves by the railroads.

"What is it, then, that makes possible the continuance of this process of exploitation in the face of the ever-growing public knowledge of its existence?

The answer is our public shame. For the simple reason is that the one power in the world which could stop it—the will of the American people has been turned from its purpose, defeated in its honest efforts and betrayed in its administration, through the power of mobilized wealth restraining the hands of our political parties. Today, in America, the people elect their statesmen; but the exercise of the people's power through these statesmen is curbed, directed and controlled by groups of money interests. America then is a plutocracy!

"Today, we of the class that rules, that draws unearned profits from the toil of other men, know full well that the time is almost here when there must be a true accounting. The fortunes that have been made are made; and that is all of it. The fortunes that are in the making through misuse of political power, through extortionate exploitation of the people and the people's heritage, through industrial oppression and industrial denial of the rights of man—these must be checked. Tomorrow, in this land, the door of opportunity must be again unsealed.

"It is a call for a leader to Freedom—the freedom we bought with our blood and signed away in ignorance. I care not where you turn, the voices of the people crying for their rights rise stronger, fuller, more threatening year by year. Day by day they organize.

"The status quo is to be changed. In the political arena all is confusion. Already, from the lips of the old, trained leaders who, through long periods, have served the interests of the Plutocracy while wearing the livery of the People, come hesitating phrases of fear and confusion.

"And presently some man, some strong man of the people, will hear the clear, unmistakable call of Destiny to its chosen. Can he help but heed? History supplies the answer. Go read it, you who rest secure within your flimsy barriers of self-interest, self-confidence, and gold."

**PEOPLE SMASH BOTH MACHINES**

**Direct Primaries in Chicago Result in Giving Merriam Republican Nomination and Harrison Democratic—Dunne Charges Fraud.**

CHICAGO, Ill., Feb. 1.—"The net result of the Chicago primaries is such a blow to the bosses and the machines of both parties as the city never saw before."

This was the statement here today of Professor C. E. Merriam of the University of Chicago, who won out in the Chicago primaries against all the powers of the republican machinery of the city.

"I attribute my victory," Merriam said, "to voters' acceptance of the direct primary. The voters believe that the city's resources, like the nation's, should be conserved."

On the democratic side, the machine was also smashed. Carter H. Harrison crushing the Roger Sullivan organization and polling the greatest number of votes. Harrison's nomination, however, is said by Former Mayor Edward Dunne, also a candidate, to have been tainted with fraud, and Dunne threatens to contest it.

The First Ward, the halliwick of Hinky Dink Kenna and Bath House John Coughlin, gave Harrison a 2400 plurality. Dunne declares that the Hearst faction, which backed Harrison, caused his defeat in that district.

Speculation is rife as to where the machines will be found when the election comes, April 4. Without a candidate of their own, the bosses are expected to try to deal with both Harrison and Merriam and to cast their support to the one with whom the best bargain may be made.

Following is the complete count: Democrats: Harrison 55,609; Graham 38,500, Dunne 53,500. Republicans: Merriam, 54,400, Schulte 1200, Thompson 26,000, Murray 2800, Smulski 24,000.

Hinky Dink Kenna's vote for alderman in the first ward was so unanimous that there practically was no second. Colonel Leopold Moss, his opponent, was snowed under.

**CANADIAN PARLIAMENT DEBATES RECIPROCITY**

OTTAWA, Ont., March 1.—Resumption today of the debate of the reciprocity agreement was awaited by both houses of parliament because of the prominence of the prominence of the speakers scheduled. Honorable Clifford Sifton, former minister of interior in the Laurier government, said he would present his objections to the ratification and Hon. Sidney Fisher, minister of agriculture, promised to reply on behalf of the government.

A vote on the agreement is still considered far from imminent. This means that unless the situation generally changes the measure will be carried by a large majority.

**QUARANTINE VESSELS TO PREVENT BUBONIC PLAGUE**

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 1.—To prevent the cholera now raging in Honolulu from spreading to San Francisco, quarantine officials have served notice that all vessels clearing for San Francisco from the Hawaiian port must show a clean certificate of health before they will be allowed to dock here. Vessels failing in this will be held up at Angel Island for thorough investigation.

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**REALTY MEN WANT OFFICE**

**Newly Organized Exchange Authorizes Secretary to Secure Temporary Quarters—Dodge Reports on Portland and Seattle Exchanges**

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Medford Realty association, held yesterday in the offices of Brown & Wakefield, the secretary, Ira J. Dodge, presented a report of investigations made by him into the workings of the Portland and Seattle exchanges on a recent trip to those cities. The report was listened to with interest, and the secretary was authorized to proceed with the preparation of contract blanks and other necessary stationery for the immediate use of the exchange, making use of the information secured by him as a basis for the work.

The secretary was also authorized to secure temporary quarters for the exchange rooms and to furnish and equip them at as early a date as possible. The question of permanent quarters was discussed, rooms having been offered to the exchange in various buildings, including the Garnett-Corey building, Sparta building, Howard building and others. Final action on permanent quarters, however, was deferred until the members of the board could personally look at the rooms offered, with a view to securing the best location from all considerations.

The regular monthly meeting of the full membership of the association will be held in the Commercial club rooms on next Tuesday evening.

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