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GRIP OF PORTLAND MACHINE CAUCUS NOW WEAKENING

Eugene, Ore., Dec. 28, 1914.
 To the Editor:

I wish to thank you again for your continued interest and assistance in my campaign for the organization of the state legislature on a different basis from control by caucus and legislation through trades and deals. While some of my friends thought I was unwise to continue this fight after the Portland people had made such a strong bluff to the effect that their control was assured, the indications now are that the grip of the caucus is weakening, and that they realize this. The probabilities are much stronger now than they were a week ago, that we shall be able to organize the house in the public interest and without the speaker or any other member being so bound by promises that he cannot vote on any measure as his conscience dictates. Personally, there is nothing in the speakership for a man who is running under the pledges I am making, for my principal pledge is that I am not using this power to gain support, or to force members to act against their better instincts. It is not a personal matter with me at all.

It is a matter of seeing whether legislating can't be done on a fair, open and above-board basis without any secret caucuses or the abandonment of the right of free choice on the part of any member. My eight years experience, instead of making me think that this is a hopeless ambition, leads me to believe, that it can be done. Our members are all well-meaning men, but they are in the grip of a vicious system, which renders their good intentions ineffective. If it is your plan to continue to call attention to the essential wrongness of attempting to govern this democratic state through a secret caucus, based on county lines and sectional jealousies, nothing would please me more than to see you continue to put the whole controversy on a high plane of political principle and fair dealing. A caucus is nothing but log-rolling on a grand scale, and it is the practice of log-rolling which is most apt to bring our legislature into disrepute.

Thanking you for your attention to this important matter.
 Yours very truly,
 ALLEN EATON.

GOSPEL MEETINGS BEGIN NEW YEAR

A series of gospel meetings under the leadership of J. K. Hawkins, the pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, will begin with a service on Thursday night at 8:30. The first part of the evening will be taken up with a roll call of members with responses, to be followed with a social hour and a reception to new members. At 11 o'clock an evangelistic service will begin, lasting through the old and into the New Year. Any who are interested are welcome. If any cannot tarry for all of these services they may leave at any time without interruption.

SENATE DEBATE LITERARY TEST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Debate on the literacy test provision of the immigration bill again occupied the senate today. Senator Reed resuming his speech in opposition. He said, however, he would be glad to see all but the white races excluded from the United States by direct action. A literacy test could accomplish no desirable restrictions, he argued.

SHYING AT THE DOLLARS

IT would seem much easier to sell a gold brick in the Rogue River valley than to sell gold dollars at a discount. It certainly is to the knoekers.

A fake commission man can start in business and be trusted without question by farmers, whom he proceeds to bunco out of their year's crop. Orchardists have consigned their fruit to commission men they know nothing of, to receive back a deficiency bill. At the same time both the farmer and fruitgrower were busy knocking co-operative organizations which market crops to the best possible advantage—whose books are open to all and whose affairs are honestly administered.

Wireless telegraphy and other bogus concerns have no trouble in selling thousands of dollars' worth of stock here, but a legitimate home enterprise can't get a cent where the fakir gets a dollar. The Nevada or distant mine swindle reaps a good harvest, while development money is refused excellent local prospects.

Perhaps it is this fondness for gold bricks that makes the land owner shy at irrigation which would quadruple his output. It must be some such hidden lure that makes the farmer hesitate to agree to raise the one crop that he is sure of a slated market for—sugar beets, which would at the same time build up an enterprise in the valley assuring a payroll. Perhaps, however, it is simply ignorance or perhaps pure laziness.

Most sections are willing to pay a substantial bonus to secure a beet sugar factory, so profitable are they to the surrounding country. Although there are many such factories in Utah, they still seek more, as witness the following from the Salt Lake Tribune of December 24:

A committee representing the residents of Salt Lake county interested in the establishment of a sugar factory in the county are, this afternoon, making the Knight Sugar company through Jesse Knight, president, a proposal to induce the Knight interests to move their sugar factory from Raymond, Alberta to Salt Lake county. The committee met this afternoon at the Commercial club and formulated the proposition which was to be presented to Mr. Knight.

According to members of the committee the farmers of Salt Lake county agree to present grants to the Knight Sugar company, 100 acres of land in any section of the county desired. They agree furthermore to furnish 50,000 tons of sugar beets the first year of the factory's operation and each succeeding year sufficient beets to supply the factory's need. They also guarantee that, if desired, the farmers of Salt Lake county will subscribe 45 per cent of the capital stock of the company which may be formed to operate the factory. The committee, it is understood, will guarantee the Utah-Idaho sugar company to continue furnishing from Salt Lake county at least an equal quantity of sugar beets for the Lehi factory as is at present being supplied.

ASK FOR MEETING TO TALK CHARTER AND EXPLAIN IT

To the Citizens of Medford:

A committee of 21 citizens of Medford, appointed by the city council, have, after nearly a year's work and study, drafted a new charter for the city. While it contains absolutely nothing new or untried, it will introduce some important and highly desirable changes in Medford, especially along the lines of putting the city's business on a business-like basis, requiring proper bookkeeping, and reports to the people that are intelligible and enable them to understand easily just what is done with their money and whether economically spent or otherwise.

We feel certain that a proper understanding of this charter will insure its hearty approval and adoption. There has not been a single valid objection raised to it. But there is some lack of understanding.

To the end that this understanding may be removed and the charter voted upon understandingly, we earnestly urge citizens to meet for its discussion. Let any interested citizen arrange a meeting, whether in a hall, a church, a lodge or even in private residences. A card addressed to the secretary of the commission will bring some one to any such meeting to help in the discussion and especially to answer any questions. The commission challenges the bringing of any valid objection to the charter. If it is there we want to know it.

In view of the positive knowledge of improvements and economies that have followed the adoption of this form of charter in every city that has one, do we not owe it to Medford, as good citizens to either support this charter or give a fair opportunity to have any supposed objection explained and discussed?

MEDFORD CHARTER COMMISSION.

Thanks for Auto Owners.

The Commercial club desires to thank the public spirited citizens to whose generosity we owe the success of yesterday's entertainment of the Rosarians from Portland. The warm words of praise we heard from all the guests, both for Medford and what they unanimously voted "the finest piece of road in Oregon," is ample reward—but the club wants the individual auto owners to know that their co-operation is appreciated. Those donating their machines were: Court Hall, Powell Auto company, C. E. Gates, O. M. Murphy, A. S. Rosenbaum, Ed Brown, John Aiken, E. V. Carter, W. A. Folger, H. B. Nye, M. A. Alford, Chas. M. English, E. J. Trowbridge, Dr. Seeley and Dr. Porter.

MEDFORD COMMERCIAL CLUB,
 By Benj. C. Sheldon.

MEDFORD WOMAN 'PINCHED' PARADING IN MALE ATTIRE

(Grants Pass Courier.)

Mrs. Tottie Estep came over from Medford to spend the joyous holiday season with Grants Pass friends and relatives. The glad Xmas is the time of merriment and fun and frolic, and Tottie, being a stranger in the Rogue metropolis, must be excused if knowledge of local customs and municipal statutes was somewhat lacking. When bantered by a friend of the male persuasion Sunday evening to don his extra suit of store clothes, Tottie proved game to the core, and she filled the suit, especially in the high places, as completely as the season is filled with Christmas cheer. So mirth-provoking and exorcisingly funny was the situation that a friend down the street must see, and en route on Sixth street Tottie met another friend, who again challenged her gameness. Under his escort she marched up the street and along Front street and other thoroughfares, attracting much attention to her garb and to the grace with which it hung upon her form as she progressed.

Where Tottie fell down was in forgetting she was not in Medford, and in failing to have voted up on Grants Pass ordinances. There is a law upon the books that says that, although women may vote and may take from man practically all his time-honored prerogatives, she must not wear his clothes. This law does not say how close fitting may be her skirt, or how diaphanous its texture or the extent to which the slit may extend heavenward, but it does especially prohibit the appearance of the female of the species in garments of male. The argus-eyed police force saw the spectacle and the infraction of the city ordinance at the same moment, and Tottie, still game, meekly said "guilty, your honor," when she appeared before the bar of outraged justice. The wrath of the blind goddess was appeased when the fine of \$5 which Judge Basler imposed was paid by Tottie's friends in real coin of the realm.

PANHANDLE DECLARES SMALL DIVIDEND

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 30.—A dividend of 2½ per cent on the preferred stock was today declared by the directors of the Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis railway, known as the Panhandle system, of the Pennsylvania railroad. This makes for the year an aggregate of 4 per cent for the preferred stockholders. The common stock has paid three-fourths of 1 per cent. In 1913 both classes of stock paid 5 per cent.

MAY ROBSON AT PAGE THEATRE ON NEXT SATURDAY

At the Page theater on Saturday evening, May Robson will appear in her latest comedy success, "Martha-by-the-Day." The mission of Miss Robson's stage career is apparently that of keeping the public in a happy frame of mind, and that she has fulfilled her undertaking most faithfully has been proven by a long line of eccentric character impersonations, all splendidly done and enthusiastically



May Robson

welcomed. Her latest role is said to be the most congenial that she has yet had, and one that affords a continuous laughing treat.

As a book, "Martha-by-the-Day" came before the public a little over a year ago, and its delicious humor and sentiment made an instantaneous appeal to American readers and placed it at once in the group of "best sellers." It was written by Julie M. Lippman, who also prepared the stage version. The play is well supplied with bright lines, novel situations and that wholesome sweetness that appeals to the majority of theatergoers. Martha Siawson, the central figure of the comedy, is a type that has not previously been exploited on our stage.

GOVERNOR WINS PRISON FUND CASE

The supreme court Tuesday handed down a decision in favor of Governor West, Secretary of State Olcott and Treasurer Kay in the case brought by the state to recover \$16,995.92, alleged to have been illegally expended in the penitentiary revolving fund during 1911 and 1912, instigated by the Evening Telegram.

The state charged that the defendants expended the money for the benefit of the penitentiary without it being appropriated by the legislature. It was further asserted that the money actually appropriated by the legislature for the purpose was otherwise expended.

"To say that the state had been damaged in any respect by the irregular manner in which the warrants were drawn and paid is to ignore plain facts and figures which speak for themselves," declared Chief Justice McBride in his decision.

INDIA RESTRICTS WHEAT EXPORTS

DELHI, India, via London, Dec. 30, 9:25 a. m.—In view of the abnormal prices of wheat the India government decided to restrict exports to 100,000 tons of wheat, including flour, from December 1 to March 31, 1915. The exports will be confined to British possessions in which a strong demand for the cereal exists.

NEW CHARTER GIVES PROTECTION TO DELINQUENTS

To the Editor:

There are doubtless many reasons why the citizens of Medford should adopt the new charter, but there is one that strikes me of large importance which is apt to be overlooked.

Under our present charter, if a property owner is delinquent ten days in the payment of any street improvement assessment, any person tendering the amount to the city recorder can obtain a certificate of delinquency which bears 15 per cent interest till the property owner redeems it. It is not optional with the city recorder; he must issue such certificate and it must bear 15 per cent interest.

Under the new charter such a certificate cannot be issued till the property owner is at least six months delinquent, and then it can bear only 12 per cent interest. This is a saving both in time and interest to the poor property owner who finds it impossible to meet his heavy assessments.

This is a splendid change. It shows consideration for the poor property owner at just the time that he most needs consideration.

I have noted many improvements in the new charter over the old, but this feature, perhaps unimportant in some ways, is especially important in showing the spirit and tenor in which the new charter was drafted.

R. D. HOKE,
 Medford, Dec. 30th, 1914.

SOCIALISTS TO CARE FOR STRIKERS CHILDREN

WHEELING, W. Va., Dec. 30.—Socialist leaders here today declared that if the striking miners in the eastern Ohio coal field were evicted from the company houses they now occupy, the socialists would take care of all children under 12 years of age who may be affected. Five

John A. Perl
 UNDERTAKER
 Lady Assistant
 28 S. BARTLEY
 Phones M. 47 and 47-JB
 Ambulance Service Dandy Crows

STAR Theatre

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY

A Progressive Program

A Phantom Drama

If I Were Young Again
 Two Parts

A Screaming Comedy

Ham the Piano Mover
 1000 Feet of Fun

Two Special Dramas:

The Choice
 One Part

Two Sisters
 One Part

Two Other Big Features
 Souvenirs Thursday-Friday

DUDLEY
 2½ inches high

NORMAN
 2½ inches high

ARROW COLLARS

CLOSE fitting, graceful styles with smartly cut curved fronts, that admit of easy cravat tying.

CLUETT, PEABODY & CO., Inc. Makers, Troy, N. Y.

thousand children, it was stated at socialist headquarters, would be distributed among families in the cities of Wheeling, Steubenville and Parkersburg, and it hopes for a greater number are needed, an appeal would be made to the national socialist organization.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the firm of Bartlett and Netherland has been dissolved, F. D. Netherland retiring. Any bills contracted from this 25th of December, 1914, I will not be responsible for. F. D. NETHERLAND, 240*

IT THEATRE

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY—Matinee and Evening

VAUDEVILLE MEXICAN WAR ILLUSTRATED LECTURE

By CAP GEO. ASH (American Rebel).
 Just from Mexico, assisted by his partner, "Texas", in a real novelty act. Fancy trick roping and gun swinging. An educational feature of the Mexican war, that you should not miss. Along with this, six reels unexcelled photoplays, a 2 hour show for 10-15c.
 Here Friday and Saturday—LAST OF MILLION DOLLAR MYSTERY
 Six reels and a beautiful 1915 Calendar for each family, alone worth the price, 10c.

THE PAGE

Medford's Leading Theater

Wednesday and Thursday, December 30 and 31. No Pictures shown Monday, Tuesday and Friday of this week.

SPECIAL! SPECIAL! SPECIAL!

FOR THE MASTERY OF THE WORLD

Three Parts
 Written by Jaques Futrelle. With Belle Adair and Alec Frances.

Second Episode of

THE MASTER KEY

SPECIAL COMEDY
 HEAR THE PAGE THEATER ORCHESTRA
 Admission 5c, 10c, 15c

ABSOLUTELY FREE
 This Coupon Admits One Adult
 Page Theater
 Evenings December 30 and 31

THE PAGE

Medford's Leading Theater

One Merry Night **JAN. 2**
SATURDAY,

The Academic Producing Co. Presents
 AMERICA'S PREMIERE COMEDIENNE

MAY ROBSON

In Her Latest Laughing Success

MARTHA BY THE DAY

A Comedy by Julie M. Lippmann, Adapted from the "Martha" Stories

Popular Book. Delightful Comedy. Cast of Excellence and Beautiful Production

Miss Robson
 At Her Best

PRICES 50c to \$1.50 Seat Sale Dec. 31, Theater, 10 A. M.
 THIS IS NOT A MOVING PICTURE

THE PAGE

Medford's Leading Theater

One Night Monday, Jan. 4.

LEROY TALMA & BOSCO

And their MASSIVE ALL-STAR CO.
 THE MOST STUPEFIED AND BEWILDERING MAGICAL PRODUCTION THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN

50,000 SCENIC PRODUCTIONS
 100 YEARS OF EQUIPMENT
 30 FANCY GLOBE PHOTOGRAPHS
 25 STARTLING NEW COMPLETES
 3 JUMBO READING LIGHTS

100 YEARS OF LIVE STOCK
 50 SPECTACULAR ILLUSIONS
 25 SENSATIONAL NOVELTIES
 3 CAROLINE PARAPHERNALIA

FIRST TIME IN AMERICA
 THE GREAT HINDU ROPE MYSTERY

THE ONE GREAT NOVELTY OF THE SEASON

WITH AN ALL-STAR VAUDEVILLE

Santo Santucci Wizard of the Accordeon
Warner & White Eccentric Dancers

CARMO

With a Notable Company of English Jugglers
 WAR TIME PRICES: 25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00
 Seat Sale Saturday, January 2, Theater, 10 a. m.