

JACKSONVILLE SENTINEL

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CHARLES RESERVE EDITOR

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Friday, July 1, 1904.

The direct primary law petitioned for by the initiative by the people of the state has passed by a very substantial majority of the electors of the state, but it is very doubtful whether it will reach the ideal condition expected of it by its promoters. The Sentinel is ever interested in the promotion of good government by whatever honorable or commendable means necessary to resort to, and that which brings government nearest to the people should receive the sanction and support of the people irrespective of political affiliation. But it would seem that in this particular instance the government of the people will be brought but little nearer the people than it was before. It would seem that the adoption of this direct primary law necessitating the petitioning of the candidate to the county clerk for a place on the primary ballot is an expensive piece of legislation and very much so to the worthy but poor man who desires to become a candidate. Every man knows who has made a campaign for public office that it is an expensive piece of experience, even if elected, and under the direct primary law the candidate is put to the necessity and expense of making two expensive campaigns—one for the nomination and one for the election, not to say anything relative to the additional expense inflicted on the taxpayers in sustaining the cost of the primary law. And besides, how in the state of Oregon is any one not a resident of the great centers of population of the state to ever succeed in becoming a candidate on the state ticket for any office? The candidate for governor if a resident of Portland where they have the large proportion of the votes of the state will be the candidate for governor, and the same with every other state office. A man residing in the Rogue River Valley will have about as little chance for a place on the state ticket under the direct primary law as a snowball in July will have for remaining frozen on the deserts of Arizona. The law may be good from the standpoint of the large centers of population that wish to control the state and county officers or the naming of the ticket, but who else is to be benefited? It would seem that no one but a man amply provided with the current coin of the realm will have any chance of becoming a candidate, because the poor man will not be able financially to make the campaigns necessary to be placed on the ticket, and afterward to conduct the campaign before the electors of the county at large.

THE REGISTRATION LAW.

The elections which have taken place since the adoption of the registration law in this state have disclosed the necessity for its amendment. There seems to be but little necessity for the use of a registration law as applied to

the country districts of the state of Oregon. The state has scarcely become sufficiently populous in the rural settlements to demand the urgency of a registration law. It may be said with perfect safety that there has not been a case of illegal voting in Jackson county due to repeating since the formation of the county, and were there no registration law there would in all probability be no repeating in the country districts. But this evil of repeating and other breaches of the election laws are not remedied or obviated by the adoption of the registration law, for so long as the judges of election do not require voters to vote in the precincts in which they are registered the registration law will not have the effect of a purification of the ballot. The fact is Oregon needs no registration law so far as the county precincts are concerned, and whether the courts would sustain a law made applicable only to the cities of the state is a question which admits of much doubt. It is true that there are many voters who do not exercise their right of suffrage owing to the inconvenience to which they are subjected to be registered. And even if not registered they may, by a little additional inconvenience, be registered on election day by securing six freeholders whom they know. In short it seems that the registration law is of no especial effect in favor of a pure ballot in its present condition—there would seem to be a necessity of requiring all persons who vote to be registered before election day, and this view of the necessities of the law it is entirely unlikely the supreme court will sustain. A repeal of the law might be just as well for the state of Oregon.

That local option or rather the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors can not be maintained within the state of Oregon or any other place unless the ordinances of the city or the enactments of the legislature are sustained by the great proportion of the public sentiment of the community is amply evidenced in the recent trials in the recorder's court of the city of Ashland. In this instance the party charged with the sale of the liquor without a license came into the court and demanded a trial by jury and after practically pleading guilty to the charge made by the city attorney—admitting that he had made the sale without the prescription of a physician—the jury, seemingly disregardful of its obligation, acquitted the party who had made the sale. The city attorney, boiling over with disgust, tendered his resignation—has since reconsidered it after mature consideration and the urgent solicitations of his friends, and every thing is moving along in the even tenor of its way in Ashland again. But this performance may be a sample of what may happen on a large scale under local option, and yet we do not know. There seems to be no way to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors unless the manufacture of the same is prevented. But so long as an early morning "appetizer"—a copious draught "to warm you up" in the winter and a larger one to "cool you off" in the summer, are demanded and are "necessities" of life to the average American, there will be whiskey sold, and it seems that the ordinary man whatever his education may be—however limited—knows just what to do with it after he has purchased it. There is much more alcohol used internally for "stomach" trouble than there is externally for rheumatism. But it seems that between the two requirements in Ashland the sale of intoxicating liquors goes steadily along.

The Panama Canal.

The June Ladies Home Companion gives the following facts with regard to the great undertaking:
Estimated cost of the Panama Canal,

\$20,000,000.

Amount paid French Company for the title, \$40,000,000.

Amount paid Panama Government for perpetual lease of canal lands, \$10,000,000.

Length of canal, 46 miles.

Canal width varies from 250 to 500 feet at the top, the bottom width being 150 feet.

There will be five twin locks of concrete masonry, each lock 738 feet long and 82 feet wide, with a lifting capacity of 30 to 32 feet.

Lake Bohi (artificial) covers 31 square miles.

Alhajuela Lake (artificial) covers 5,900 acres, and will furnish motive power for operating the locks and lighting the canal from ocean to ocean.

Distance from New York to San Francisco by old route, 13,714 miles; by the route through the canal, 5299 miles.

Distance from New York to Manila by present route via San Francisco and Yokohama, 19,530 miles.

Distance from New York to Manila by Panama Canal via San Francisco to Yokohama, 11,585 miles.

Distance saved in a sailing-trip around the world by the new route through the Panama Canal, 2768, miles.

The Panama Canal was practically begun in 1883 by the French Company. They had completed about two-fifths of the length, when because of fraudulent management the company failed, and the work ceased in 1889.

Dates to Remember.

Monday, July 4—Celebration at Palmer Creek Grove, Upper Applegate.

Monday, July 4—Celebration at Eagle Point. Fine program, address by Hon. W. M. Colvig, games and grand ball.

Monday, July 4—Celebration at Woolridge's Grove, Missouri Flat. Full program, games and dance.

Wednesday, July 13—Opening of Southern Oregon Chautauqua Assembly at Ashland to continue until July 22d.

Thursday, Sept 1—Annual reunion at Jacksonville of Southern Oregon Pioneers.

It is the Children Who Die.

It is the children who die. Years ago in the cathedral at Lima, Peru, during a procession, a little girl, careless possibly for a moment, allowed the candle she was carrying to fall on the veil of a companion, and 1,600 children were burned to death. A flash on the stage of the Iroquois theatre, and more than 500 children were burned or choked or crushed to death. A flame in the hold of the General Slocum, and more than

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1,000 children were burned to death or drowned. In each of the three great and shocking disasters there were adults who lost their lives, but they were few in number, comparatively, and of the number of adults present the greater number escaped—for it is the children who die when a panic comes.

The fact ought to bring more closely to the management of excursion boats and railway trains and to managers of theatres, to the clergy, and, above all, to the officials charged with inspection of buildings and of vessels, and the great responsibility attaching to them, for in time of panic it is the children who die by the hundred and die in agony.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

"Godmothers of the Navy" is the title of an article in the July "Twentieth Century Home" in which Joseph Jackson describes the "christening" of the fighting ships of the United States by the fair daughters of the nation. Very much like a wedding is the ceremony of a battleship's launching, with its gaiety and its kind solicitude, its interests innumerable and its exaltation of one happy girl. Mr. Jackson tells this in appropriately pleasing style. Photographs of many of the fair sponsors serve as illustrations to the article.

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