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POPULIST CLUB MEETING.

There was an informal vote at the club on the evening of the 7th for choice of all officers to be elected next June. Unusual interest was manifested. As there was a strong determination on the part of a large majority to adhere pretty closely to the Populist principle that the office should seek the man, that ubiquitous personage, the Hon. Orpheus C. Kerr, was somewhat overlooked in the search.

If the people—the rank and file—would adopt the rule to ignore any man who puts himself forward for office there might be some chance to get good men to fill the public positions. Indeed the fact that a man is “working,”—in the general acceptance of the term—for an office, should be taken as sure proof of his unfitness for the position sought. Any citizen of known honesty and ability is not likely to long remain in an obscure corner.

Such men are not plentiful enough now-a-days for that. He will be found and urgently solicited to accept some position in which his abilities can benefit the public. The people's motto should be:

“To him that asks, give nothing.” If office holding were a burdensome and unremunerative duty, it would require a sheriff an posse to bring in any man for a public position. So it is evident that, in a large majority of cases, it is not “pure and lofty patriotism” that we hear so much about, but pure personal interest that leads one to push himself forward for public office.

The rule of opposites would give good results: He that would be called Rabbi, Rabbi, might be given the position of chief steward of spittoons, with all the tobacco quids and cigar stubs found therein as perquisites of the office. He that would elevate himself to the “chief seat in the synagogue” should receive a unani-

mous vote for assistant janitor. In a word, “Whoso shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself (if he be competent) shall be exalted.”

The informal ballot in the Talent club resulted, the News thinks, in a very fair ticket, notwithstanding the “slight shade of disappointment” experienced by a few members.

Mrs. Williams, the Portland faith-curler is said to have made the longest fast on record—70 days on bread and wine, then 40 days on air, water and faith.

The bread and wine might be considered a pretty good bill of fare these hard times, but most mortals would suffer from a severe attack of stomachic void in less than twenty four hours on a diet of air, water and faith. Well, fools (with the usual prefix) seem to be as plenty as ever.

FRANK HASTY,

NOTARY PUBLIC,

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