

# THE WEEKLY OREGON STATESMAN

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The Statesman has been established for nearly fifty-two years, and it has some subscribers who have received it nearly that long, and many who have read it for a generation. Some of them object to having the paper discontinued at the time of expiration of their subscription. For the benefit of these, and for other reasons, we have over six months. In order that there may be no misunderstanding, we will only when notified to do so. All keep this notice standing at this place when subscribing, or pay in the paper.

## DISPLACING BRYAN.

It is quite apparent that Democratic leaders are preparing to relegate Bryan to the rear, while some one of the old guard will be advanced to the head of affairs. The Democratic press of the country is filled with talk about returning to old principles and traditions, etc., and seem to look to David B. Hill as the Moses who can lead them through their troubles into the land of promise. Mr. Hill himself expressed the other day the feeling shared by a large number of Democrats when he said:

"In the maintenance of the old landmarks of the Democratic party lies the pathway to safety, honor, self-respect, success."

One of the leading Democratic papers of the country is openly advocating the repudiation of Bryan. It says:

"It is better a defeat on old line principles and without Bryan than a defeat on fusion compromises with Bryan, because we will win out in time by sticking to principles, and we will never win out by sticking to Bryan."

While the orator of the Platte is quite dead politically, yet he has a following that the Democracy must have in order to achieve anything like an approach to victory in 1902.

## NO RIGHT TO OBSTRUCT.

Mr. Bryan is quoted as saying that the planks of the Democratic party will not be written by those whose loyalty to the party is under suspicion, says the Birmingham News. That will depend who does the judging. Some of the best Democrats of this country who were enthusiastic over Mr. Bryan and 16 to 1, have realized their mistake, and would not be suitable judges at this time from the twice-defeated candidate's standpoint. Conditions have changed; public opinion has in great measure changed; and the vast majority of the voters of this country are farther away than ever from the last two platforms of the National Democracy. Patriotic and intelligent Democrats all over the country, men who cordially supported Mr. Bryan and men who did not, are now trying to devise means by which the party can be united upon a wise and solid basis, and Mr. Bryan's opinions to the contrary notwithstanding, the ancient, unquestionable, immortal principles of Democracy must be the platform, and a candidate who fits the platform must be the nominee, in order to achieve the much desired result.

## MARION FOR GEER.

A survey of the local political field indicates that Governor Geer will carry the county by an overwhelming majority and will have behind him in the next State Convention about twenty-two delegates who will support his candidacy for renomination with unflinching loyalty. This is as it should be. His administration has been honest and capable, and there is no reason why he should not be renominated and re-elected.

The Republicans have established a rule in Marion county of giving an official a renomination if his administration has been satisfactory. This rule cannot be put aside now at the dictation of a few disappointed politicians. Republicans of Marion county are proud of the record made by one of her citizens called from the plow to administer the high office of Governor of a great state, and they will be the last to refuse to reward him for the fidelity and ability which he has shown in the discharge of his duties, no matter what politician may demand his seat.

It now looks as if Uncle Sam was going to have a little difficulty in getting a right of way for his canal across the isthmus. The land down there has experienced a boom in the last few months. Absolute ownership of the soil on which the canal is constructed should precede the beginning of the work. The people of those countries are so unreliable and their governments are so unstable, that it would be unsafe to go on with the work with anything but a complete and sound title. We can afford to pay every dollar the land is worth to the country through which the canal will pass, and it should be bought and paid for. A lease for a number of years would be very unsatisfactory. We should own the canal we construct and expect to control.

Prince Henry's feeling of respect for the Stars and Stripes began in Manila and is regarded as safe to entrust the direction

of the country to the hands of one so young and inexperienced, especially in such turbulent times as now prevail there.

## GEER AND FURNISH.

The success of Mr. Furnish at the primaries Friday in Umatilla county removes all doubt, if there was any doubt, that the contest for nomination for Governor lies between Geer and Furnish. Mr. Furnish will have his own county, as was expected, and will have more votes in Eastern Oregon than any other man, except Governor Geer, can possibly muster. He will be Governor Geer's only opponent in the convention and the defeat of Geer means absolutely the nomination of Furnish. The disgruntled are defending Furnish in his candidacy now, virtually acknowledging that he is their candidate, a thing they resented as a malicious falsehood two weeks ago. Furnish is their man, the only man they can look to defeat Geer, and a vote against Geer in the primaries means a vote for Furnish. Mr. Furnish is a banker, having made his money as an officeholder under the Democratic party. When he found that he could rise no higher in that party he revised his political views in accordance with the circumstances. It is a peculiar coincidence that he changed his politics five years ago at the very time he began to want to figure in state politics. The Democratic party was evidently good enough until he wanted something larger than Democratic Umatilla county could give.

Governor Geer has served the Republican party for thirty years in defeat, as well as success. It is now up to the Republicans to say at the primaries whether he shall step down and out to make room for Mr. Furnish, who recently embraced the Republican faith.

## DEMOCRATIC INCAPACITY.

It is refreshing to find a Democratic newspaper, and one with a national reputation for ability, says the Toledo Blade, willing to take up Philippine matters in a practical way, and to lecture its party's leaders in Congress for the absurd position they have taken. That paper is the Atlanta Constitution, one of the most influential Democratic papers in the South.

The Constitution frankly tells the Democrats in Congress and out of it, that the Philippine problem "is no longer a question of possession and retention, but wholly a question of administration." The temper of the American people, continues the Constitution, is unmistakable. "They mean to keep the Philippines." That question was tested in the campaign of 1900. The Republican party, we are told, "could not be better pleased than to have the Democrats declare for the repudiation of future sovereignty, control and jurisdiction over the Philippines." Finally, the Constitution says: "Let the question of possession and retention stand as adjudicata. Cut it out of the discussion resolutely, and let us face with courage and wisdom the problem of governing the Filipinos with justice, wisdom and moderation."

The Constitution might well go on and lecture the Democratic leaders for making that party stand merely for negatives. It has no positive policies. It has not the broad leadership that will accept frankly the fact that, on a given matter, its opponents are right, and therefore the best interests of the people demand that no issue be raised over it. Too narrow for such course, the Democratic party is committed to nothing but a negation of Republican policies. A question of public policy comes up; the Republicans decide that a certain course is the best for the nation. The Democratic party lines up, bellows "No!" and lets it go at that. And this has been so persistent of late years that the intelligent portion of the American voting population has acquired the habit of observing which way the Democratic party proposed to go, and then voting the other way.

On this Philippine matter, the Democratic attitude is characteristic. It keeps on discussing the status of those islands, as if it were in doubt. There is no doubt whatever in the matter. The islands are ours. Our title is as good as it is to any of our areas—the Louisiana purchase, to the Mexican cession, to Alaska for example. The natives are unfit for independent self-government. They need civilizing, uplifting, training in the duties of citizenship. And all the opposition of the Democrats will not change the situation one iota.

## THE FARMER GOVERNOR.

The fight being waged by a few people in Marion county against the renomination of Governor Geer reflects no credit on them who are engaged in it. To be sure he "is nothing but a farmer," but as long as he remained on the farm and appeared in politics, only as a campaigner to help other people to office he was about the most useful man going, but from the day he assumed the duties as Governor of Oregon and announced his appointments he has been the target for nearly or quite every man who is this time in opposition to him.

No Governor of the state has ever called into service a better class of men than he has, but as fast as they were appointed a small percentage of those who wanted the positions and were refused, have made a common cause in a ceaseless effort to discredit his ad-

ministration. These men care nothing about the "Johnson loan" or trumped up irregularities in the Land Department. Every one of them was doing as much to injure his administration two years ago as he is today. Practically every man engaged in the opposition to the Governor is aggrieved because he had an office at one time and now for some reason is out or has wanted one and has never been in.

The Statesman predicts that the people of Marion county will not refuse enthusiastic support to this most distinguished of her native sons, who, against the most discouraging circumstances, has won his way from the plow to the highest position in the state.

The Statesman has contended that Eastern Oregon is not interested in the Governorship and has cited as proof the attitude of the Republican press of that section which has persistently avoided giving encouragement or support to any of the aspirants to that position living on their side of the Cascades. The first popular expression on the subject, however, was made at the recent primary election in Wasco county. While the contest was waged over the nomination of Congressman apparently, yet there was more to it than that. Mr. Williamson and Mr. Furnish had formed a combination of their friends, and the battle was waged in the interest of both. The Dalles Chronicle, which was the spokesman for the opposition to Moody, was almost as bitter in its fight on Geer as it was on Mr. Moody. The decisive victory for Mr. Moody and Governor Geer in this fight is a most convincing argument that Eastern Oregon is not staking all of its interest on this office. This victory for Governor Geer in Eastern Oregon is significant of the general feeling throughout the state.

It were idle to at this time attempt a review of Governor Geer's record. The general opinion, as you hear it expressed by the people, is a fair criterion and the consensus of public opinion is that Governor Geer's administration has been good. Unless we are to lose all faith in popular forms of government, we must allow the presumption that official life is fairly honest, and trust to the effort of interested parties to expose lurking evils. And when one attacks the record of an official, and impugns motives in official conduct, the burden must be on him to establish his case beyond a reasonable doubt. No sensible man will seriously claim that officials must prove themselves honest, nor even be, like Caesar's wife, above all suspicion. All we need require of an official is, that he so conducts his office as to substantially fulfill all of its requirements.

It is logical to say that the motives of a man who attacks an official need not be called into question, because the question is not what are the motives of him who attacks, but are his charges true? And yet, when charges are fairly met, as have been all the charges brought against Governor Geer, and the bewildered public inquires: "Why are they persisted in?" it is well to investigate the motives of the accuser, in order to discover the source of his persistency.

Among the warm supporters of Governor Geer four years ago, was Dr. J. N. Smith, an excellent gentleman, who enjoys a lucrative practice of medicine in this city. Dr. Smith is an able man, a man of energy and political aspirations. He was twice elected to the lower house of the Oregon legislature and in the first instance made an exemplary record by not voting during that session either for or against any bill.

Dr. Smith, immediately after the election of Governor Geer, asked to be appointed Superintendent of the State Insane Asylum. There are four physicians in office at the Asylum, and a few months prior to Dr. Smith's application the old Asylum Board, consisting of Governor Lord, State Treasurer Metzschau and Secretary of State Kincaid, met and duly re-elected Dr. Griffith and Dr. McNary, both residents of Marion county, to continue as Asylum physicians for a term of four years, it being the full term of this present administration. That board also re-elected Dr. Williamson, as first assistant physician for the same term, and while Dr. Williamson is accredited from another county, he in fact has served in his present position and lived in this county for more than fourteen years, so that he is to all intents and purposes a Marion county man. This unprecedented act of the old board left but one appointment for the present Asylum Board to make; and Dr. Smith demanded it. No man, who realizes that Marion county is not all of Oregon, will claim that Governor Geer would have been justified in voting to elect Dr. Smith, provided, of course, there were men from other counties equally well qualified for the position to which he aspired. Again, Governor Geer had a right, as have all other citizens, to suppose that Dr. Smith was not actuated in supporting him by a single selfish desire to get office for himself. Nobody questions Dr. Smith's ability to manage the Asylum, nor his integrity in relation to matters entrusted to his care, but he surely mistakes the temper of the people when he brings a personal grievance of this kind to the attention of overburdened taxpayers, who have troubles of their own to consider, without giving ear to the plaint of every disappointed office-seeker.

How many have lived on a farm until nearly fifty years of age and then been called to the chief executive office of a great state? Governor Geer is one of the few who have been thus honored and has given the state an administration that has not been successfully assailed from any quarter. The farmers of Marion county should be and are proud of this representative of their class who has made a national reputation as an executive officer and stump orator.

The United States Government has decided to demand of the Turkish Government the repayment of the \$72,000 paid for the ransom of Miss Stone. If we are in any hurry about the collection it would better be presented by a small fleet of our warships. That seems to be the latest and most expeditious manner of collecting debts from the Sultan.

Don't Let Them Suffer. Often children are tormented with itching and burning eczema and other skin diseases, but Bucklen's Arnica Salve heals the raw sore, expels inflammation, leaves the skin without a scar. Clean, fragrant, cheap, there's no living earth as good. Try it. Cure guaranteed. Only 25¢ at DR. STONE'S Drug stores.

## NOT THE SAME JOHN P.

Editor Statesman: Please state that the John P. Robertson who signed the roll at the Socialist Convention on the 5th inst., is not the Abolition-Abe Lincoln-Republican-Wm. J. Bryan-Greenback-Jeffersonian-Democratic-Populist.

JOHN P. ROBERTSON.

Salem, March 10, 1902.

THE LADIES—Of the First Baptist church will please meet on Wednesday evening, at the residence of Mrs. F. Seeley, No. 65 Twelfth street.

Trespass notices printed on cloth at the Statesman office.

## PLAIN STATEMENTS

Few Paragraphs About the Quartet of Politicians that Are Opposed to Governor Geer for a Second Term.

Four years ago, when T. T. Geer asked the support of Marion county Republicans to enable him to secure the Republican nomination for Governor of Oregon, he numbered among his supporters several men, who at this time are bitterly opposing his renomination and who are, in order to defeat him, invading many election precincts in this county with money, unjust statements, promises of future preference, and each and all arguments of whatsoever kind that will meet the exigencies of the occasion.

Among good, intelligent citizens there can be but few reasons for opposing the re-election to office of a man who has once secured their support. The policy of good citizenship is to continue in office those who have been mindful of their official obligations, for the reason that continued favors at the hands of a grateful constituency impels officials to higher ideals. Let it once be known that there is no reward for official integrity and that, so far as the second term is concerned, all officials, the faithful and the unfaithful, stand upon an equal footing in public estimation, and we will have fewer faithful and painstaking officials than we now have. Good men are better still, when reward is the logical sequence of faithfulness, and in the golden days of Rome the first places at the table were reserved to those who merited well of the public. So, then, the first inquiry among good citizens in cases of this kind is: "Has he been intelligently faithful and the unfaithful, stand upon an equal footing in public estimation, and we will have fewer faithful and painstaking officials than we now have. Good men are better still, when reward is the logical sequence of faithfulness, and in the golden days of Rome the first places at the table were reserved to those who merited well of the public. So, then, the first inquiry among good citizens in cases of this kind is: "Has he been intelligently

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