THE WEEKLY OREGON STATESMAN

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The Statesman has been established for thirty fifty-five years, and it has some subscribers who have received it nearly that long, and many who have read it for a generation. Some of these object to having the paper discontinued at the time of expiration of their subscriptions. For the benefit of these, and for other reasons, we have concluded to discontinue subscriptions only when notified to do so. All persons paying when subscribing, or paying in advance, will have the benefit of the dollar rate. But if they do not pay for six months, the rate will be $1.25 a year. Hereafter we will send the paper to all responsible persons who order it, though they may not send the money, with the understanding that they are to pay $1.25 a year in case they let the subscription account run over six months. In order that there may be no misunderstanding, we will keep this notice standing at this place in the paper.

CIRCULATION (SWORN) OVER 4,000.

UNION LABEL

THE TRUE NEWSPAPER'S POSITION.

The Oregonian yesterday had what at this time is a very pertinent and satisfying statement as to the position of a true newspaper in relation to such one may feel the desire to serve the dear people by offering themselves as candidates for the nomination for the various offices within the gift of the people at the coming primary election. Some person had written that paper that a certain newspaper, which he indicated by a long blank line, was asking candidates for certain sums for advertising and the Oregonian's correspondent intimated that he thought the policy of a newspaper which would permit it to ask any certain sum of money from a candidate as pay for any advertising which that candidate might receive, as very reprehensible. The correspondent evidently was not able to draw the line between those newspapers which sell their editorial space and for a certain sum "boost" for any or every candidate willing to put up, and those other newspapers which refuse to sell their personal support or favor, but are willing to dispose of space in their regular advertising columns to all alike, so that each and every candidate may have the privilege of putting his personal ideas and suggestions and his personal candidacy before the people. As the Oregonian well says, no newspaper can engage in the sort of business which would sell its support, and retain respect and confidence of the public.

The Statesman from the first appearance of candidates for nomination under the direct primary decided that a "fair field" could be the only just position of any newspaper. It therefore declared several months ago that it would have no candidates for nomination, but would heartily support, as a Republican paper, the nominees of that party who might be chosen at the direct primary, for election. In order that candidates may inform the public of their willingness to serve the people, publicity is necessary and it is just as legitimate, as the Oregonian says, for a candidate to buy and pay for advertising in a newspaper as it is for him to print election cards, purchase bill board space, hire a hall, employ a brass band or pay postage on individual letters sent out to the voter, as some of those candidates who do not believe in the employment of a newspaper say they intend to do. In point of fact, that man who makes his campaign publicly before all the people and through the newspaper is apt to be more honest to the public than is he who writes letters about himself and sends them sealed to individuals, under the guise of "personal" correspondence. The statements of the former are open to everyone and not only merit, but court criticism.

The Oregonian well says that no newspaper is under obligation to print gratis whatever a candidate or any other person asks it to print. Neither is a newspaper under any obligation to give free advertising, which is virtually what free publicity means, to any candidate for office under a law which requires that the individual shall initiate his own candidacy. A newspaper, it is true, is the teacher of the public. Its duty is to aid in public education; but this purpose and this duty do not carry with them the gratuitous aid to personal ambition.

EASY TO CRITICISE.

It is a very usual thing for some people, when they find something in the columns of a daily newspaper, or a weekly, for that matter, with which they do not agree, to send in a curt "Stop my paper." It is not at all an unusual thing for a newspaper to receive such instructions from some supersensitive subscriber, but as the Louisville Courier-Journal says, this usually emanates from one whose opinion is likely to be as immaterial as is his patronage. Every newspaper has back of its editorial columns an editorial writer who, while endeavoring in the main to voice public opinion, at many times mistakes his personal views for those of the public. Editors are fallible, in fact, no less fallible perhaps than are their readers. The opinions of men are bound to differ. Even two men taught in the same school, carried through the same classes, listening to the same logic from the mouth of the same teacher day after day, graduating finally in the same class will find their opinions differing regarding various subjects, as day and night.

A newspaper writer usually tries to study his subjects with as much thoroughness as possible, but necessarily much of his reading, much of his study, must be in a way superficial. His constant work is to fill space. The ordinary newspaper man wakes every morning to so many empty columns which must be filled, for the paper to appear on the morning following. It is not a case of compliance with moods only, writing when the spirit moves him, discussing only those questions in which he, by natural bent, feels individual interest, but he must take up from day to day the subjects which are current, whether they interest him personally or not. He may glance through the columns of an exchange, finding some matter which gives him a theme for his editorial comment, and without the time to make deeper study of the subject he must discuss that subject in his paper the day following, simply because it is live matter, it is pertinent to that particular day.

Many readers of newspapers become critical without appreciating this. They find fault with an editor's logic, with his manner of handling a subject without realizing the effort required by a newspaper man to keep his readers interested from day to day. Politics, religion, history, ethics and all the other subjects of discussion have their varying moods and tenses change from day to day. The writer who discusses these subjects every day has no time but he must give to their study. His moments of recreation are absolutely nil. Newspaper work is not easy, and for this reason it is far easier to criticise and find fault with the work of the editor than it is to fill his place.

SHOULD IT BE DIVIDED?

A well known pioneer of Oregon, and a writer and thinker of ability, one who has commanded respect for his pen for many years, today advocates not only a new alignment politically, but a new division politically of our state for the purpose of increasing our influence in the halls of congress. While his suggestion is novel, from the fact that it is almost revolutionary, yet it will not be found so chimerical as it might at first appear.

Oregon with its 96,000 square miles has no more influence in point of numbers, in the United States senate, than Rhode Island with its one thousand two hundred and fifty square miles; or Connecticut with 4,990 miles or Maryland with 12,000 square miles or Delaware with 2360 square miles.

Then again, Oregon's population of 500,000 has to stand in the senate with Delaware's population of half that number or Rhode Island with the same. The division of Oregon would at least add to the prestige of the west in the senate, and therefore in congress. "Old Citizen's" suggestion, however, that there might be four states made from Oregon is hardly feasible, for southeastern Oregon lacks population, and will for some time, to give it a chance for independent statehood. The subject is at least an interesting one, and while nature clearly divided the state geographically by the Cascade mountains, the division by common consent is not so easily made.

WHAT IS ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLE?

"So far as the cardinal principles of the Republican party are concerned, every honorable man who accepts a nomination at the hands of the Republican party is bound to adhere to them while in office. Their application to the government of this country, since the election of William McKinley in 1896, has been marked with such wonderful success and attended with such abounding prosperity that he would be a rash man, indeed, who would propose to deviate from any of those principles in the government of our common country."

The above from the Hon. S. B. Huston, of Hillsboro, who aspires to the Republican nomination for congress, is a peculiarly worded statement, and one worthy of a little consideration. It will be remembered by historians of this state that Mr. Huston came back into the Republican party in 1900, and he says that since 1896 the application of the principles of the Republican party has been marked with such wonderful success, etc. Mr. Huston ought to be willing to admit also that the application of those principles even before that, was ever marked with success, and the contrary was whenever the country deviated from those principles and accepted such as were held by Mr. Huston for many years and which rumor hath it, he has declared to a prominent Democratic politician in Portland, he still maintains.

Mr. Huston says that any honorable man who accepts a party nomination at the hands of the Republican party is bound to adhere to the "cardinal principles" of that party "while in office." Why this peculiar wording? Why does not Mr. Huston say he accepts the principles of the Republican party, and will adhere to them whether in office or not? That is Republicanism. Anything else shows simply a desire for office.

Some subscribers of the Daily Statesman have complained that by a Gerrymander of rural route No. 2 at Jefferson, five families which have heretofore been receiving their mail are denied the privilege. They were on a branch road, extending about a quarter of a mile to one side of the main line, and the traveling of a half mile on the part of the carrier would have accommodated all five of these families with their mail. Being used to receiving their daily papers these gentlemen are naturally badly put out at the situation. The Statesman hopes that the carrier of route No. 2 out of Jefferson will be induced to revise his route again so that these people may be accommodated.

While Mr. Hearst was not able to defeat the inauguration of Mr. McClellan as mayor of New York, yet he comes to California and is received there with honors which indicate that he is held in that state in very high esteem. An exchange says it used to be that Mr. Hearst would come into California and go out with only the knowledge of his intimate friends; today, however, he is received with the honors of a leader. Hearst is more than a possibility when the Democratic nomination for president is thought of for the year 1908. There are many who believe that the mantle of the erstwhile military chieftain of Nebraska will fall upon the shoulders of Mr. Hearst of its own volition.

"Candidate" Huston's objection to the existence of the toll gate at Oregon City in the shape of the canal and locks, is better defined and more determined than was that of "Senator" Huston in 1893, when, on the 14th day of February, he directed his cannon against the bill authorizing the state to appropriate the locks, so as to remove the embargo on Willamette valley commerce. He then opposed the position taken by such fellow-Democrats, as Senators Weatherford, of Linn, and Veatch, of Lane, and assisted the railroad senator, Bancroft, in having the bill indefinitely postponed.

The editor of this paper has frequently contended that there is little change in the conditions governing man's nature in the world. This is evidenced today in Russia by the constant turmoil, bloodshed and savagery that is reported from there daily. The St. Louis Globe-Democrat touches the matter properly in the following: "Times have not changed much in a century. In 1801 it was said that Alexander I rode in a procession through the streets of St. Petersburg preceded by the assassins of his grandfather, followed by those of his father, and surrounded by his own."

How fortunate that Hon. W. S. U'Ren, political bishop of Oregon City, has been spared to us to correct our misguided misunderstanding of English as it is sometimes writ, and especially in Mr. U'Ren's master piece, the Oregon direct primary law. Without him a lot of us never would understand the law, and another lot never will, even with him.

The Spaniards say that a "mine requires a mine," meaning that he who would mine for gold or silver should have a mine to pay the expenses. The people of the United States begin to believe that a "canal requires a canal" to pay the expenses of its construction.

The City: The hope of Democracy, by Frederick C. Howe, reviewed in the editorial columns of the Statesman last Sunday, is published by Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York.

Friday, April 20, will no doubt go down in history as the political Black Friday of many Oregon politicians.

THE BLESSED STORY.

All have heard the blessed story,
Said and sung throughout the earth,
Heard the happy Christmas story
Of the gentle Christ child's birth.

How, when night had gently folded
All the earth in silent sleep,
Shepherds out upon Judea,
O'er their flocks their watch to keep,

Saw an angel's form descending;
Heard an angel's voice proclaim
To the watchers this glad tiding:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

And they saw the light of heaven
Shining round them everywhere;
While within the sky above them
Saw they forms of angels fair.

And a strain of heavenly music
Floated downward from the sky;
Voices of the angels, chanting
"Glory be to God on high."

—Marguerite Flower.

(The authoress of this sweet little Christmas poem is a pupil at the state school for the blind and is about 14 years of age. She is totally blind and wrote the composition on the typewriter herself.)

Editorials of the People

(The Statesman is pleased to print communications upon topics of general interest at any time. There is scarcely any limit to the topics of "general interest." It is asked only that correspondents refrain from personalities and use care that nothing be written of a libelous nature.—Ed.)

Open Inquiry.

Editor Statesman:

As it is only a short time before the primary election, and in the light of past events, I would like to know if Col. E. Hofer and the Capital Journal will support the Republican ticket at the primaries and general election in June.

I hope you will give this space, as it will be a great satisfaction to others as well as myself to know what his or their position will be.

—A Republican.

Open Enquiry.

Editor Statesman:—

The enquiry of Republican is very opportune; another would like to know who Col. E. Hofer and the Capital Journal will support in the coming campaign. By giving this space you will confer a favor on a

—Democrat.

P. S.—They have been with us.

Necessity for New Party Alignment.

Editor Statesman:

Permit a few remarks on the necessity for a reformation of political parties of today, induced or suggested by the editorial in the Statesman of December 22.

No public man has described more concisely the relation of the chief public questions of today to average American citizens than did President Roosevelt to the citizens of Texas when on his way to his wolf hunt, when he said 95 per cent of the really important public questions are "above the plane of party politics," or words to that effect. The tariff, the public robberies under the name of insurance, the unfairness of railroad corporations in making the poorest class of shippers an dtravelers pay the highest rates for freight and passage, the oppressive power combined capital can use to attain virtual monopoly; the assumption of doubtful and oppressive powers of executive government in farming natural products through bureau agencies in control of the growth of timber and the flow of water.

Within the past fifty years the question of legalized slavery of one man by another seems abolished as a question of domestic economy. Within the past twenty-five years the United States has demonstrated that a system of tariff expediences can be made to produce the greatest general prosperity in a nation of eighty millions, the world has ever seen; in connection with the greatest measure of personal freedom and of public justice. Thus we seem to have put these questions behind us as a people and the question of "will they stay put," is involved in what is the next greatest question?

In the judgment of the writer, that will be involved in the question whether the farming out of carboniferous products and water supplies and power shall be a governmental function, or raw material for the industries of the people, and the belief that government is already reaching out to seize these agencies as means of power leads me now to declare personal freedom from political alignments of the past forty-five years.

Sixty years ago the presence of less than six hundred Americans in Oregon gave to the United States possessary right to what we proudly call the Inland Empire. The poorest family was then encouraged to select six hundred and forty acres of good land which was confined to it as a family endowment. Now the empire thus attained is being spoken of as the heaviest end of the national domain and the chief surface wealth of timber formed by residents of the Atlantic states whose timber wealth has been turned into cash, and that used as basis for every kind of insurance policy which can be used for purposes of secret robbery. These conditions are sustained by the unequal power of the older political divisions of the nation in the senatorial body as composed with the new and public land states, favored by the appointive power of the president and heads of governmental departments, and abuses remote and obscure, have crept into every one of them unseen, and out of reach of the people, so far that a native son of Oregon has been tried and degraded by conviction for attempting to secure the use of enough of the driest pasture land in Oregon to maintain his live stock on, by advancing the full cash value of the land as loans to those who desired its ownership, but, being without money, could only give the grass product of it for the use of the purchase money temporarily. This means of acquiring the land and the use of it for pasturage was held by one judge repeatedly to be "within the law." This judge was set aside by a prosecutor from a distant portion of the union, by a party whose chief aim seems to be the notoriety of catching "big fish" by hooks of the law, and has succeeded by the removal of one and securing of a second judge.

This kind of trial may be trial by the peers of the accused, Mr. Editor, but the writer is far from believing it to be so; and the means of relief appear so distant, that he is willing to submit the question to the people of Oregon; of dividing the state by four, or into four a smeans of receiving fairer representation in the senate of the nation. Let Oregon remain mistress of the northwest fourth bounded by the Cascades east and Caapoeyas south. The state of Jackson south of that line, that of Jefferson the north east fourth, and Baker or Lincoln the southeast fourth.

OLD CITIZEN.

Bits for Breakfast

Knabenshue, the Toledo aeronaut, says airships will be about as common as automobiles among the wealthy class within ten years. The farmer sincerely hopes so, and eke the city pedestrian.

President Eliot of Harvard says to escape the perils of luxurious living requires "unusual will power and prudence." A newspaper paragrapher remarks: "We have escaped without having to exercise those qualities a little bit."

Are you going to spread out during 1906?

Expansion will be the order of the day next year.

Cars will be running to the Indian school regularly by the middle of January.

The grade of the Salem-Portland electric line is now within three-quarters of a mile of the Indian school. The thirty-five-ton construction engine, with steel rails for twelve miles of road, will be here next week. Then the track laying will be commenced, and it will not stop until Woodburn is reached, nor then till the Willamette ferry at Boone's ferry is reached. Cars will be running to the latter point by September.

There are only a few preliminaries to finish before work will be commenced on the Liberty extension of the electric line, from the rock quary. The Liberty people ought to be coming into Salem on the cars within the next few months.

Excursions will be run every hour to the rock quarry, on Sunday, over the new electric road. Cars will leave the office of the company on even hours.

The finishing touches are being added to the New Year edition of the Statesman. Have you been missed?

That contest of the ten young ladies who are going to spend a week at Newport at the expense of the Statesman, will be opened up in earnest with the beginning of the new year.

The Panama canal appropriation should be devoted more to wages and less to salaries.

Maine has the past season packed a bilion of small herrings in French sardine cans.

It must be comforting to that Texas cattle thief who was given a sentence of one thousand years in the penitentiary to know for a dead moral certainty that he will not be required to serve a tenth part of his term.

A Chicago physician warns smokers to use no more than three cigars a day. If they are cigars of the Christmas brand, that number is immoderate.