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THE MERRY REFERENDUM.

Petitions are in circulation asking the referendum on the Portland Fair appropriation, the Portage railway bill, and the Eddy tax bill.

The first named is being liberally signed, but the latter two are not receiving so many signatures in these parts.

The Eddy tax bill is a right direction step. It may be too hard on new mining companies, but they can capitalize for smaller sums.

The portage railway will pay for itself in a few years, and has long been needed to take off the monopoly of Columbia valley freights.

The corporation influences in Washington have worked a bunco game on Oregon for many years—aye, for generations, on that Columbia portage.

Alternately the ship railways and the ship canals have been laid out as a tempting bait for the political suckers, and caught their votes.

The state should long ago have taken the bull by the horns and built the portage. It built one portage, and it was a great success.

The humor of the referendum situation is why any sane man should try to keep a bill from going into effect that will produce more revenue or defer a bill to break a long-complained-of freight monopoly.

THE SIMON-ROOSEVELT CONTROVERSY.

The Portland papers have developed to almost international importance the controversy between Senator Simon and President Roosevelt, over the Drexler appointment to the Oregon City land office.

Senator Simon produced a pledge over the President's signature to appoint George Steel to that office, besides personal pledges.

The President has had the appointment of ex-Representative Drexler forced upon him by Senator Mitchell, because Drexler violated his written pledge to vote for Corbett for senator.

So to pay a rotten political bargain the President is forced into strained

relations with Senator Simon and his friends, on the eve of his visit to Oregon.

The President has allowed a statement to go out that Senator Simon misrepresented the facts of the case to secure his pledge for the Steel appointment.

That will not be well received in Oregon. That has been mis-stated about the President, or he has made a serious blunder.

Simon's worst enemy would hardly accuse him of twisting the facts for any purpose. He is noted for plain-speaking and truth-speaking.

Perhaps the Portland papers are interested in making a mountainous affair out of the differences between the two men, in order to pit the President's popularity and power against a retired senator.

THE ORATORY HUMBUG.

Again it transpires that the winner of the intercollegiate oratory contest, at Eugene, cribbed a great deal of his matter from Vance's volume on modern eloquence.

This will occur so long as the present perverted notion of oratory prevails in our educational institutions.

That notion is that writing out and committing to memory a lot of material that other men have got off as oratory is again oratory.

Nothing is false or farther from the truth. Oratory must be a message from a full heart, backed by convictions and mastery of the subject.

All else is elocution, and about the most that can be said for these college contests is that they are elocutionary contests.

Read Cicero's outburst in the Roman senate, when he denounced Cataline and his fellow conspirators.

Remember your own impetuous outburst when you made the declaration of love to the woman who became your wife, whether it took you a whole evening, or whether you did it in three words. That was eloquence, oratory.

There is no real oratory without feeling deeply the truth of what you proclaim, without being filled with it to the brim and your soul overflowing with zeal and your heart burning with the truth and passion for what is right. That alone is the start of any oratory whatever. All else is humbug—that is, humbug to call it oratory.

THE NOMINATION AT EUGENE.

There will be a long hiatus between the county conventions and the district convention at Eugene that nominates a successor to the late Hon. Thos. Tynge.

During that time walking delegates will visit nearly all the delegates that are not known to be personally fixed in advance for this man or that, and will, by all kinds of pressure, seek to change their views.

Although this county instructs for this man or that, it is well known that only a small part of the Republicans really expressed themselves at the primary, and so the field is regarded as open as it was before there were any primaries.

There is no candidate today who has the sentiment of Republicans all over this district in his favor for the successorship to Tynge.

Under direct nomination this leadership of some man strong with Republicans all over the district would have developed, because the Republican voters at the primaries would have had all the aspirants to choose among on the plan of the Australian ballot.

Leadership and real strength among the Republicans of the seventeen counties would have been developed in favor of some man who would thus become a district candidate of the party, instead of a multiplicity of candidates of local following, but of not much real strength the district over.

This is not said as against any of these gentlemen who have county delegations back of them, but to show the workings of the two systems of delegate and direct nomination. The argument is all in favor of Direct Nomination.

The canvassing of the delegates will now begin. Every delegate will be besieged by mail, and in person, to vote for this or that one of the many aspirants.

The best promoter of offices, or the man who can do most to get delegates to travel to Eugene, and pay their expenses there, will make the most headway. It becomes a buying process, the best way you can look at it.

Under Direct Nomination, the voters at the primary would settle the nomination, and do away with the whole corrupt system. Direct Nomination would cost the people far less in the long run.

How can we get honest and econom-

ical and efficient administration out of an election system where the nominations are corrupted?

As well expect the Roman senators who gave the people gladiatorial shows to catch their votes to not re-comp themselves out of the public treasury.

Direct Nomination will not cure all the evils of the present system, but if the Australian ballot is right, why is it not right to apply the same plan to nominations?

The delegate system puts a premium on the pernicious activity of the most unscrupulous element within any party—the politician who will promise the most offices, and use the most money and railroad passes.

Direct Nominations underlie all other political reforms. It is more important than the grand jury system itself, because with direct nomination the people can compel aspirants for judgments to restore the grand jury, where it has been abolished under the delegate system.

Under an imperfect and corrupting system The Journal has no doubt the Republicans of this district will make the best nominations possible under the circumstances, and for the kind of politics the people have to put up with it is probably the best kind of politics for that kind of people to have for the present.

FOR GREATER SALEM.

The purchase of a chemical engine is a recognition of the fact that there is a Greater Salem.

The establishment of a Civic Improvement League is an advertisement of the greater civic pride of our citizens in a Greater City.

The proposed renovation of Marion Square by the ladies of that part of the city is a proof that our citizens are awakening to the fact that the Capital City is to be a modern city with parks.

The single when our people were satisfied to assemble publicly in an undorned clump of fir trees, and nestle on the soft side of a rough plank for a few hours is past.

The days of the open cow-pasture town, with the family cow trailing on a long rope across the principle streets, is nearly over.

Greater Salem will have less moss-covered fences enclosing lots, and more wide open spaces and more lawns and good sidewalks.

Salem needs a complete sewer system and a few broad, beautiful avenues, put right through from the center of the city to the new limits.

Salem needs a public-ownership water system and a lighting plant.

OREGON LIBEL LAW SHOULD BE MODIFIED.

The libel law of Oregon is still in an unsatisfactory condition, with respect to the presumption against newspapers.

No publisher desires that he be given any special exemptions from the usual liability of the citizen to account for his words as far as they relate to the character and actions of others. But the publisher has been held to a severer standard of liability.

Originally the mere fact of publication was conclusive against the publisher on the question of malice and he was not privileged to justify or explain, to clear himself of the charge and even the truth of the assertion printed could not be proved in defense.

The New York Press Association united on a bill pending in the legislature to amend the penal code in such a way as to permit a publisher sued for libel to show his freedom from malice, or rather, what his intentions were in printing an article complained of, and, unless actual malice is shown or a refusal to print a retraction when requested to do so, the plaintiff is to be confined, in the recovery, to actual damages alleged and proved.

The situation of the ordinary newspaper is peculiar in this, that much of its news is gathered by hired reporters, or comes to it by telegraph from distant places making verification virtually impossible, and an item concerning which the publisher has not the slightest prejudice is published along with a thousand others. The next thing is a libel suit and all the presumptions held against the publisher.

The field of libel offers a premium to unscrupulous attorneys and equally conscienceless clients. The newspapers of the state must have themselves to blame if the unjust situation existing continues any longer.

WORK OF COAL COMMISSION.

Following is a carefully prepared statement of the work of the coal strike commission:

"By the decision of the anthracite coal strike commission the miners got a little less than half of what they struck to achieve. On the union issue, which at first was their most vital demand, but which later they virtually dropped, the commission made no specific award, but recommended a separate anthracite union to deal with the questions in the anthracite fields, a conciliation commit-

tee of six, one member chosen from each of three districts by the miners and one from each district by the operators to deal with questions arising under the award. In brief, the commission awarded a general increase of wages, amounting in most instances to ten per cent; some decrease of time; the settlement of all disputes by arbitration; fixing a minimum wage scale and a sliding scale; providing against discrimination of persons by either the mine owners or the miners on account of membership or non-membership in a labor union, and provides that the awards made shall continue in force until March 31, 1906.

The report was unanimous, all seven members concurring. Intimidation and boycotting by the miners, blacklisting by the operators, and discrimination by both were severely condemned. The ignoring of the rights of the general public by both parties in the controversy was scored. The losses resulting from the strike were estimated as follows: To mine owners, \$46,100,000; to mine employees in wages, \$25,000,000; to transportation companies, \$28,000,000; a total of \$99,100,000. The amount of percentages due to the miners on their earnings between November 1 and April 1 will amount to about \$2,000,000.

HAVING FUN WITH GERMANY.

(Tacoma Ledger Rep.)

The American navy, has had the misfortune to sink in the esteem of some of the officials of the German navy. Nevertheless it manages to keep aloft in a perfunctory way and to hope for the best. The people of the United States do not claim to have the strongest navy in the world. They do not need such a navy and they lack the sort of pride that demands they shall have such a navy for ornamental purposes. All they claim is that, ship for ship, there is no better navy. They have had the privilege of demonstrating this. Of course they have not met so formidable a power as Germany, and are not desirous of doing so, but were they even to meet this, there is not the slightest reason for believing they would run, or that the Germans would have the privilege of running far. It is not fair, however, that the disgruntled officers of the kaiser should mention alightingly the quality of American naval marksmanship. The bones of two Spanish fleets attest that this marksmanship is as good as necessary. About the time the bones were being planted a German ship had a most elegant opportunity to swell the honeyard collection, but thought better of it. The ships of Sampson seemed to hit the ships of Cervera too well for the good of the latter, while the ships of Dewey deported themselves similarly with the vessels of Montojo. Ask the Spanish as to marksmanship.

In comparing the navies of Germany and America in this particular, there may be cited the instances of Gaum and Venezuela. Gaum is much smaller than Venezuela, and yet when the Charleston steamed within range and turned loose Gaum was hit in the center. More recently two German ships used Venezuela as a target. Now it does not seem an easy task to get right up to Venezuela and miss it, unless by shooting in an opposite direction. But if the country was touched it did not realize the calamity but it got mad at the noise, being a quiet, peaceful place, and shot back. Then the ships went so far away that they could neither reach nor be reached, and ever since there has been evidence of a bad temper. The Teutonic pride has received a wound that refuses to "heal by first intention," or indeed, to have any intention of healing. A vindication is sought. If friendly counsel is permissible, the suggestion is cheerfully offered that next time Germany select a bigger mark than Venezuela. It might practice awhile on South America, and get down to the fine points later. In time it might get expert enough to hit an island no bigger than Gaum, and thus be in the Yankee class.

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BY AN ATTACK OF TYPHOID, WHICH LEFT ME IN BAD SHAPE. I WAS OBLIGED TO USE CRUTCHES FOR OVER TWO YEARS FROM THAT TIME UNTIL I WAS CURED ABOUT SIX YEARS AGO I ALWAYS USED TWO CANES. THE DOCTORS TOLD ME THERE WAS NO HOPE FOR A CURE UNLESS I HAD MY LEG SPLIT AND SCRAPED AND THE CORDS CUT. SOME ALSO ADVISED AMPUTATION, BUT I REFUSED, AND FINALLY DR. COOK, THE BOTANICAL SPECIALIST OF SALEM, TOOK MY CASE. I BEGAN TO IMPROVE AT ONCE, AND IN SIX MONTHS MY LEG WAS WELL. IN FACT I FEEL THAT DR. COOK SAVED MY LIMB, AND I WANT EVERYBODY TO KNOW IT, FOR IT WAS A WONDERFUL CURE. SOON AFTER TREATMENT THE BLACK FLESH BEGAN TO GROW OUT OVER THE BONE WITH A HEALTHY COLOR."

A. COOPER.
September 1st, 1902.
PERSONS WISHING TO KNOW MORE OF MR. COOPER'S CASE CAN LEARN ALL THE PARTICULARS BY CALLING ON HIM AT INDEPENDENCE, OREGON, OR AT DR. COOK'S OFFICE, 103 LIBERTY STREET, SALEM, OREGON.

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