

**DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL**

BY HOFER BROS.



OFFICIAL CENSUS SALEM, MAY, 1904, 13,287.

**A NEW PROBLEM.**

Speaker Mills is a new influence in state affairs. His resolution cutting off the legislature by one week means a new program.

His election to the speakership was a business proposition, as against the old political methods of the past. Uniting all the factions of Portland, he stands essentially for the younger generation of politicians and for "business."

If his program carries there will be a new deal in state affairs, and it will mean more "business" for the people and less for the politicians.

Just what the new program will be no one can tell, but it looks like the graft features to a minimum.

If there is a bigger graft than the legislature no one knows it, and he proposes to cut off about one-sixth of that.

The people will welcome a new program of any kind that promises to reduce the graft in the shape of salaries, per diem, mileage, passes.

**A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.**

The editor of this paper has conversed with many men and finds more opposed to holding a convention to revise the constitution.

The old constitution cannot be speedily amended except by means of the initiative and referendum. And then what would we get?

The direct primary law and the local option law are to be considered as fair samples of that process of amendment.

Would the initiative and referendum give the state a practical working constitution? It is very doubtful.

Conservative men LIKE THE EDITOR OF THE OREGONIAN, SENATOR FARRAR AND TILMON FORD OF MARION COUNTY now favor a convention.

A few years' trial of the initiative and referendum amendment might de-

velop the practical value of that feature.

But there is no use waiting for a long trial of that system. That principle was always in the constitution and may be retained.

The indications are that the next two years will see a new constitution adopted, a new state government installed, a new Oregon.

**BRYAN ENDORSES ROOSEVELT.**

It is reported that Editor-Candidate Bryan has called on President Roosevelt to endorse his railroad policy.

It does not yet appear whether that is an endorsement to be happy over or not.

Some will say that Bryan's campaigns have made public sentiment so strong that Roosevelt is being compelled to act.

Others will deplore Bryan's endorsement and say it is evidence that Roosevelt has departed from sound policies.

The result may be that the next congress will be Democratic on the theory that the corporations will not want a Republican congress.

**VALE EDITOR GEER.**

Many persons were surprised to hear of the retirement of Ex-Governor Geer from the profession of editor.

His work was bright in many ways. It was tinged with a personality that made it interesting to the public.

But that quality was its greatest defect. Readers could not refrain from considering the element of personal bias.

The successful editor must eliminate his personality and convictions so far as his own affairs and grievances are concerned.

He should have convictions and take positive positions on matters unless a good cause will be prejudiced thereby.

There was hardly time for Editor Geer to develop his abilities in full during his short career.

**A FINE HIGH SCHOOL.**

After a long struggle this city is to have at least a \$50,000 high school.

It is to be a large and beautiful brick structure. No bonds are to be issued to build it.

The cash surplus revenues of the taxes for 1905, 1906 and 1907 will build and pay for the high school.

By using the popular loan to anticipate revenues the building can be finished this year.

This district has an honest school

board, and no grafts will be permitted in the construction.

The location was made possible at the site of the old Central school by the consideration of the owner of the lot, Hon. Wm. F. Dugan.

He said he had such a horror of being considered a hold-up man that he sold at a reasonable price to let public improvements go on.

That spirit was very creditable to our former fellow townsman. If all citizens would treat public matters in that spirit we would have a grand and prosperous city.

The people and the high school board are to be congratulated on progress so far. Now let there be honest work done in letting the contract. Let there be honest construction done.

**THE SORESEN CASE.**

The failure of the jury to convict in the Sorensen case can only be explained in one way.

The methods employed by Heney are a little too strenuous for the people of Oregon.

His standing up the 24 grand jurors when he put John Hall on the witness stand that Hall should be compelled to tell the truth was an unusual proceeding.

The denunciation of Sorensen by Judge Bellenger was also unusual. The two jurors who stood out against the ten who were for conviction are also to be prosecuted.

All these are unusual proceedings and calculated to strike terror into the hearts of the future jurors. No juror will dare hold out against any one being convicted.

The Sorensen case fully discloses the methods to be pursued with all indicted persons and with recalcitrant jurors.

It should be considered that a jury picked out by the agents of a Democratic judge, and under the control of a Gold Democratic prosecutor, acting for a Gold Democratic cabinet minister, are not going to favor Republican officials who are indicted.

Then why, on top of all that, these grandstand demonstrations—you must convict? **ARE JURORS NO LONGER FREE MORAL AGENTS AND THE PEERS OF ANY MAN ON EARTH?**

There are many people who have not participated in land frauds who want the laws enforced, and who wish to see no guilty man spared, but who are not in favor of the strenuous meth-

ods of convictions in newspapers and plays to the gallery by the federal prosecutor.

If those methods are persisted in by the government we predict the number of convictions by trial juries will be diminished instead of increased thereby.

**THE FIGHT FOR PAVING.**

No great step of progress has ever been won in any community without a fight.

The fight at present is to force wealthy owners to pave with something besides mud.

They naturally resist from force of habit. But just as naturally reasonable and fair-minded people admit the streets should be paved.

Why the wealthiest property owners should resist all progress, when their property will be most benefited, no one can understand.

But as we said before, it is from force of mental habit. That habit has made this the slowest town of its size on the Pacific coast.

Salem grows and progresses because of the rich country around it and the location of the state institutions here—not because of its men of wealth.

But the fight for paving must go on. The development of the city cannot stop. Salem must be put on the map and right up with the procession of live, enterprising western cities.

**X-RAYS**

Freewater is a dry town.

In ten years from a chicken ranch to speaker of the house.

Salem wants the state fair, but Dallas can be proud of its goat show.

The masher should be fired out from lazing in the postoffice corridors.

Senator Mitchell will get justice at the hands of the people of Oregon.

The scrubbiest scrub, a scrub that descended from worthy ancestors.

It would not be an Oregon legislature without R. D. Hume, of Gold Beach, in attendance.

Jefferson county seems to be the

next to be created. Why not name it Roosevelt county?

Can't someone breed from Eastern Oregon a coyote-proof sheep? There would be millions in it.

Brite and fare for all the reform bills at this session. Reform, indictments, prosecutions are the order of the day.

Why not leave the local option law as it is? It is about as useless and harmlessly inefficient as it is possible to make it.

Bryan's Commoner endorses the policies of the Roosevelt administration in dealing with the railroads and the prosecution of Oregon land frauds.

The Commercial Club correspondent discovered one Mr. "Dark," of Kansas on the list. A bountiful supply of Oregon "light" was immediately sent him.

The idea of Representative Carter, of Soap Creek, Benton county, wanting to abolish useless offices and reduce salaries! He does not seem to know what a legislature is for.

Weep no more. The old ramshackle school houses known as Little and Big Central, have got to go. Unless you sue out an injunction there is going to be a new school built.

The friendly relations between the Multnomah and Marion county delegations are largely due to Senator Farrar and Representative Graham taking broad and liberal views on the question of organization.

The senate was mad at Governor Chamberlain's proposal to veto all bills bearing an improper emergency clause. But better judgment has prevailed, and the relations between the executive and the upper chamber are friendly.

Whipped out in his anonymous newspaper fight, Abutter No. 1 and Abutter No. 2, etc., now has his man Friday going around with a tape-line measuring up frontage for other people, and telling them what an enormous sum paving will cost them. Of course, he keeps telling people who favor paving that he favors paving. His interest is entirely in other poor people, widows and orphans will have to pay. As for him-

self he is always ready to make improvements and pay his part general at the end of a lawsuit.

Col. Henry E. Dosch, one of the most engineers of the L. & C. Fair, once a waiter in a French restaurant and Morrison. It is said during his career as a funkey he broke a dish or spilled soup on a girl. Hence his rise in the world.—Portland Lantern.

Well, of course, we ought to be educated on general principles. But we had any more land frauds in Oregon than in any other state? Has there been a homestead or timber taken up where the strict letter of law was complied with? All who have done so, please hold up your hands and ministers and elders included.

Col. Ike Manning, the new editor of the Statesman, is a newspaper born and raised in the business.

His father, Wm. Manning, is a man who has always had a strong and intelligent grip on public affairs. The Manning father and son, are clean men, and be a guarantee of clean and straight work and sound policies on that part so far as their influence extends.

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