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BY HOFER BROS.

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GIVEN ITS DEATH BLOW.

Polltax restriction on the ballot has been given its final quietus by the recent decision of the Oregon supreme court.

IT WAS A FEATURE OF THE SALEM CHARTER THAT CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE LOCALLY IN EVERY ELECTION.

It kept a great many poor men from voting. It shut out some who would not pay, and it made some pay who would not have paid otherwise.

Many of the smaller business and clerks and bookkeepers and young professional men were kept from voting through this law.

Many a man supporting a family, schooling his children, paying his lodge and church dues, could not always pay his polltax and vote.

THUS SOME OF THE MOST DESIRABLE VOTERS WERE SHUT OUT BY THE OPERATION OF A WELL-MEANT BUT POORLY CONCEIVED FEATURE OF THE CITY CHARTER.

The fight to repeal this law was made by Republican City Chairman L. E. Skinson and S. T. and W. E. Richardson.

Justice of the Peace H. H. Turner declared the law unconstitutional. Burnett reversed him. The supreme court reversed Burnett.

It should be said in justice to Judge Burnett, that, as the suit was to test the law, he upheld the charter, as circuit courts generally do.

THE OREGON SUPREME COURT DESERVES CREDIT FOR RENDERING ITS DECISION ON THE BROAD GROUNDS THAT ONLY THE CONSTITUTION LIMITS THE FRANCHISE.

This relic of political plutocracy should never again see the light of day. IT HAS NO PLACE IN A FREE COUNTRY WHERE MEN AND NOT THE DOLLAR VOTE.

Charles S. Livesley, the Salem citizen who brought the suit to test the law deserves credit for making the test in the interest of all.

We should envy no rich man, but THE RICH MAN IS ENTITLED TO NO ADVANTAGE OVER THE POOR MAN AT THE ELECTION BOOTH IN THIS COUNTRY.

Richardson and Richardson deserve credit for taking this suit free gratis and fighting it successfully to a finish.

Young Ellis Richardson is about to leave to carve out his fortunes in Oklahoma territory.

He will wear no brighter feather in his cap than having done something to take this bone of contention out of our local politics.

It is seldom that a newspaper is quoted in a brief before the supreme court, but on this trial the counsel submitted the following X-Ray from the Capital Journal as part of its argument, entitled, "Which was the Voter?"

"Apropos of our city election Wednesday, with its property qualifications of voters, calls to mind an illustration made by the Hon. Benjamin Franklin, philosopher and kite flyer, some time deceased. In Maryland a property qualification obtained as to voters, a tax of \$300 being required to make the vote reach the ballot box. Franklin opposed the property qualification on principle, and illustrated his argument this way: 'There was a man down near Baltimore who owned a jackass on which he paid tax at a valuation of more the required \$30. For ten years the owner of the animal voted, although he only paid tax on

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the one solitary jackass. In the course of time, and unfortunately just a short time before election day, the jack died, and the man was denied the privilege of voting. 'Now, then?' queried Benjamin, 'the man's right to vote expired with the jack, and which of them was it that really had the right of suffrage?' "

THE ISSUE ON THE TARIFF QUESTION.

The opening of congress brings into renewed prominence the attitude of the Republican and Democratic parties on the tariff question.

Williams of Massachusetts has introduced a bill which correctly states the position of the Democratic party.

The position involves horizontal reduction on the Dingley protective tariff and ABSOLUTE FREE TRADE WITH THE PHILIPPINES.

The Republican position on the tariff question as shown by bills introduced by Republican leaders in congress is almost exactly the opposite.

THE REPUBLICANS WOULD MAINTAIN THE PROTECTIVE SYSTEM UNDER WHICH THE WHOLE COUNTRY HAS BEEN HIGHLY PROSPEROUS.

They would promote free trade with all the products of the Philippines except tobacco and sugar, affording incidentally protection to those industries. Our own country is becoming one of the largest producers of sugar in the world.

Sugar is one article of universal consumption that, in the face of constantly increasing demand, has been constantly becoming cheaper in price.

HENCE THE DEMOCRATIC THEORY OF FREE TRADE IN SUGAR WITH THE PHILIPPINES HAS NO PRACTICAL MERIT AND ITS ONE EFFECT WOULD BE TO DESTROY ONE OF THE GREAT AMERICAN INDUSTRIES.

When it comes to free trade in tobacco and the manufactures therefrom Philippine competition would be disastrous to the tobacco industries of our country.

American cigar makers and laborers in the tobacco industries are accustomed to a scale of wages and a status of living which could never be maintained in competition with the Filipinos.

Hence the Democratic position of free trade in those products with the Philippines is unattainable and will not be tolerated by American working men.

The American people generally will be found willing to pay a little more for cigars and tobacco rather than have wages and living reduced to the Filipino standard.

Under pressure in congress the Democratic party may amend their position on this question, but as the matter now stands the argument is all against them.

THERE IS NO ADVANTAGE WHATSOEVER IN CHEAPERING WHISKY OR TOBACCO WHEN IT IS DONE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE AMERICAN WAGE EARNER, AND THE SUBSISTENCE OF HIS FAMILY.

We say this entirely with out prejudice because WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE DEMAGOGY THAT WOULD STRIKE AT AN INDUSTRY SIMPLY BECAUSE THERE ARE OBJECTIONS TO THE USE OF ITS PRODUCTS.

That is neither statesmanship nor good politics.

MISCONCEPTION OF COOS BAY.

The Oregon City Courier fails to see how a great commercial city can grow up on Coos Bay.

The Courier says that in order to reach it commerce must pass over the coast range of mountains.

It admits, however, that A GREAT MANUFACTURING CITY MAY SPRING UP ON COOS BAY, BECAUSE OF THE COAL, TIMBER AND IRON FOUND THERE.

Of course, being a Democratic newspaper, the Courier must denounce any Republican candidate for congress who earnestly promises to do anything for Coos Bay.

Now to answer its principle objection that commerce has to pass over the coast range to reach Coos Bay; that is not the fact.

There is one comparatively low divide, not over two hundred feet elevation, between the upper end of the Willamette valley at Drain, where the Coos Bay railroad leaves the main line, and the coast.

THE NEW RAILROAD FROM DRAIN TO COOS BAY FOLLOWS DOWN THE ELK RIVER TO THE UMPQUA, THENCE DOWN THE UMPQUA TO WINCHESTER BAY, THENCE DOWN THE BEACH TO COOS BAY.

IT IS THE NEAREST TO A LEVEL

GRADE OF ANY RAILROAD THAT CAN BE BUILT FROM THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN, AND IT TOUCHES TWO DEEP SEA HARBORS.

The statement is given out from Chicago on the authority of Harriman himself that the Coos Bay railroad will be part of the main line from San Francisco to Portland.

Furthermore, COOS BAY WILL BE THE TIDE WATER TERMINUS OF A RAILROAD ACROSS THE INTERIOR OF OREGON, THE CONSTRUCTION OF WHICH IS ALSO ANNOUNCED BY MR. HARRIMAN, FROM NATION INTO THE KLAMATH COUNTRY.

COOS BAY IS THE LARGEST HARBOR AND THE MOST NATURAL OUTLET FOR CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN OREGON.

If some of the Oregon newspaper men would visit the coast harbors before they condemned or criticized them, they would save themselves the duty of correcting their own misconceptions.

HELP THE NEW WARDS.

There is some merit in Alderman Frazier's proposition to have more money spent on the new wards.

The 10 mill tax, the mill and a half rate tax, and the \$3.00 poll tax on these wards amounts to quite a large sum of money.

THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF JUSTICE IN HIS DEMAND, that at least part of this money be expended on the three new wards of the city.

THE FIFTH, SIXTH AND SEVENTH WARDS ARE LARGER AND HAVE AS MUCH POPULATION AS THE FOUR OLD WARDS OF THE CITY.

It is neither fair, just nor equitable that nearly all the money which they pay should be expended on the four old wards.

Nothing is done for the new wards but getting a few lights, a few cross walks and culverts for what they pay.

Nevertheless, the proposition to make some provision for them in the annual budget for their general improvement is sound.

IN SOME RESPECTS THE NEW WARDS OF THE CITY ARE MORE ENTERPRISING THAN THE OLD WARDS AND THEIR PEOPLE ARE JUST AS PUBLIC SPIRITED.

The property owners in the new wards are making more improvements at their own expense than in the old wards.

The political managers of the city council ought to be willing that something substantial should be done for the new wards.

What would be the matter with expending at least one half of the taxes those wards pay in ward improvements?

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Started to His Fortune by a Kitten.

Gathering from his practice an income large enough to permit him to own an auto in which he goes to the homes of his fashionable patients, a young Boston doctor attributes all his fortune—after his own inherent worth—to his kindness to a stray kitten.

After he finished his term as an interne in a big hospital he put out his shingle, but his neighbors did not seem to appreciate his greatness and his funds were getting low. One evening a kitten, mewing plaintively, and evidently with a leg broken, strayed into his office, and after the kitten a dirty-faced urchin of 6, who begged the doctor to help the suffering animal.

It went against the grain of the rising light to begin his professional career on a cat, and he was about to refuse brusquely and turn the intruder out; but his pride got the better of him and he did a neat job with splints and bandages. Just as he finished the bell rang and a handsomely dressed woman came in. She asked for the kitten. The boy, she explained, was the son of her cook and was permitted to play with the pet. Through his carelessness the accident had occurred. The kitten, she explained, her eyes filling with tears, had belonged to

her little girl and was the last thing at which the child had smiled before she died. The upshot of the bit of surgery was that the woman sang the young doctor's praises far and wide, and now he is thinking of getting an assistant to help take care of his practice.

A Natural Result.

It is very reasonable to suppose if the foundation of a structure was removed that the building itself is bound to come down. This simple principle can be applied to disease. Take medicine into the system that will remove the cause of the sickness, and illness will leave of itself. Dyspepsia, indigestion, sick headache and biliousness have their foundation in stomach disorders. Remove this weakness and the other symptoms are no more. There is one cure for this that all druggists sell for 25c per box; it is Dr. Gunn's Improved Liver Pills. They get right at the beginning of the disease and make the cure by taking away the cause.

Literal.

A Brooklyn public school teacher says that she once required a pupil to compose a sentence with the word "dogma" as the subject. The pupil, a lad of 10, after some deliberation, submitted his effort. It read as follows: "The dogma has five pups."—Harper's Weekly.

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