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EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES

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WEAKNESSES OF DIRECT PRIMARY LAW

Oregon has made many changes in the last few years in her political system, among these being the primary nominating plan. That these changes have not proved all that they were expected to be is admitted by all. This is especially true of the nominating system. It was set up that the old convention plan opened the way for all kinds of fraud and crookedness. This is in part true, but it certainly did not open the way for all kinds of utter silliness, as does the present primary system.

Under the old convention plan it was possible by log rolling and sharp practice to nominate candidates who were not really those the people would have preferred. It made possible the handling of the party by a few, and generally this few were not phenomenal patriots. It was predicted that the primary plan would do away with this and it has done so largely. It is doubtful though if what it substitutes is any more preferable.

The recent primaries furnished a fine example of this when the republicans of the state nominated for vice president a man of whom perhaps not a hundred of them had ever heard. This man was William Grant Webster, of Chicago, Illinois. He had his name placed on the ballot, as we understand it, by paying the fee required by law, instead of by circulating petitions, and the voters of this state did not only nothing to do with it but as we have said had never even heard of Mr. Webster. Mr. Hughes, the candidate on the ticket with him, only got his name on the ticket at the hands of the supreme court. His name was familiar to most voters, and he was, judging from the sentiment expressed before the primaries, as well as after, the choice of a majority of the republican voters. Yet when the vote was counted it showed that the candidate Webster who had simply placed his name on the ballot without the suggestion or request of any Oregon voters, had received 58,076 votes for the vice presidency as against 56,764 received by the man the republican voters really wanted for president, Mr. Hughes.

Could anything in the political line be sillier? Would anything the convention could do be any more dangerous?

Another phase of the matter is that the delegates are bound to vote for the person selected by the people. The question is how long should they be compelled to cast their votes as the people directed, and when should they be allowed to act as their judgment dictated, and cast their votes for someone else?

Suppose all the states had the direct primary and should elect delegates to a national convention, that would show in the aggregate no majority for any candidate. In such circumstances the delegates of some of the states would have to vote contrary to their instructions, or there could be no nomination. At what stage of the proceedings should they be permitted to do this?

Under the law as passed by the initiative the situation was not as bad as it is since the legislature butted in and arrogated to itself the right to change a law made by the people, which act is at least of doubtful legality. It is a case of the agent, the legislature, over-riding the instructions of the principal, the people. It is doubtful at least if they can do this and make it stick. Many lawyers hold that a law placed on the statute books by initiative is, so far as the legislature is concerned, the same as a constitutional amendment.

It would seem that this should be so if it isn't, for it places the legislature above the people who elect them, if it can change or repeal a law the people have passed.

It is evident from the experience we have had with the direct primary and some other of our new ideas sometimes called "freak" laws, that they will have to be either amended or done away with. If something cannot be done to avoid such utter silliness as the nominating of a man whom we never heard of, simply because he saw fit to place his name on the ballot, then we had better go back to the old convention system or find some other way than what we have.

The matter of the amendment passed by the last legis-

lature allowing candidates to place their names on the ballot by paying a fee instead of circulating petitions is up before the supreme court now and will be decided in the near future.

No one can say what the decision will be, but if it should hold that the legislature had no right to alter a law passed by the people it will leave quite a number of nominations for the legislature, especially those in Multnomah county, vacant, as several had their names placed on the ballot under this system.

The Oregonian criticises President Wilson's Mexican policy, and points out what it thinks should have been done as the different problems of the situation arose. Without discussing the Oregonian's position, it can safely be said that had these ideas been carried out there would have been plenty of others who would have criticised the president for so doing, just as he is criticised for what he has done. You may fool all the people part of the time as President Lincoln said, but it is an impossibility to please all the people even part of the time, especially if part of them are politicians and determined not to be pleased.

Senator Tillman suggests the building of a super-dreadnaught of nearly one thousand feet in length and to cost \$30,000,000. It would be about double the size of anything now afloat and would be able to carry guns that would destroy an enemy's ship at such a distance that their fire could not reach her. The range of her guns would permit her to hit a vessel as far as it could be seen. If we are to have a great navy we might as well have the best on earth is Tillman's idea, and he is correct.

The days are growing shorter but so far Summer cannot be said to have arrived. It has been, with the exception of a few days, unusually cold and with more than the usual amount of rain. This is perhaps good for most crops, and they should be above the average. However as they are about all now made, a short period of warmer weather, would be appreciated by everybody.

Colonel Roosevelt practically admits that he has been whipped into complete submission in his letter to the Progressive national committee and declares that he will support Hughes for president. The letter lacks the fire and spirit of the usual Roosevelt utterance—the message of capitulation is that of a broken, defeated man.

Company M of Salem was the first to be mustered in, in the United States. This is something Oregon's capital city is properly proud of. As usual Oregon leads, and the nation this time, takes off its hat to her. Not only was M Company first to muster but it was up to full war strength. Salem went down to visit it yesterday.

In every state the same scenes are being enacted as here in Oregon. The militia is being gathered ready for sending to the front, and busy hands are doing the many things that loving hearts suggest to mitigate the hardships the boys must face. It is the "touch of nature" that makes the whole nation, akin.

HOT DEBATE OVER \$50-A-MONTH AID BILL

Reed and Hitchcock Make Hot Fight to Force Bill Through

Washington, June 25.—Possibility of "war within a few hours," was the warning given the senate by Reed of Missouri today in urging all haste in aiding militiamen and their families. Reed made his warning during a debate on the action of the measure in the house militia draft, which would grant payment of \$50 a month to families of militiamen. Hitchcock (Nebraska), seconded the fight by Reed on the clause substituted by the committee exempting married men from service for the house clause providing payment to dependents of militiamen. Once during an eloquent appeal by Reed, Senator James, who was presiding, threatened to clear the galleries if there was any more applause. "It is as much the duty of a married man as others," said Hitchcock, "to serve his country. And it is the duty of the tax payers—the government, to take care of his dependents. This is not merely for the good of the men at the front. It is for the good of all socially." Hitchcock was loudly applauded when he declared heatedly: "These men are the first to serve, and yet the people and tax payers, safe at home, hesitate to care for their families." He said to exempt all married men would demoralize our forces by eliminating trained men to be replaced with untrained men. "If we have to call but 500,000 volunteers," interrupted Overman (North Carolina), "would you want also to pay their dependents?" "That's a bridge to be crossed when reached," retorted Hitchcock. Works of California, declared the system all wrong. The guardsmen "contemplated no such service when they enlisted," he said. He argued for a general draft. "This is no time for caviling over terms," said Reed. "War may be declared with in a few hours. We must protect the border. The duty is on all, not merely the guardsmen. Merely be-

TODAY'S BALL SCORES

American	
Philadelphia	8 14 0
Boston	5 6 2
Weykoff, Sheehan, Meyers, Shore and Schang; Foster, Gregg, Jones, Penock and Carrigan, Thomas.	
National	
Chicago	0 3 1
Cleveland	2 6 2
Danforth and Schalk; Beebe and O'Neill	3 8 1
Detroit	1 9 1
St. Louis	1 9 1
Covaleski and Baker; Hamilton and Severoid.	
National	
First game:	
New York	11 47 1
Brooklyn	8 10 0
Perritt, Scudder, Mathewson and Rariden; Pfeffer, Malis, Smith and McCarty, Miller.	
Second game:	
New York	1 8 0
Brooklyn	2 9 0
Benton, Peritt and Rariden; Marsquard and Miller (12 innings).	
First game:	
Boston	5 9 1
Philadelphia	1 4 1
Reulbach, Hughes and Gowdy; Rixey, Bender, Oeschger and Killifer, Burns.	
Second game:	
Boston	9 10 4
Philadelphia	5 7 6
Bagon, Neff, Hughes, Barnes and Tressor, Gandy, Mayer, McQuillan and Burns (10 innings).	
Pittsburg-Chicago, postponed, wet grounds.	
R. H. E.	
St. Louis	4 8 4
Cincinnati	5 13 4
Jasper and Gonzalez; Schulz, Dale and Wingo (11 innings).	
cause the guardsmen prepare themselves to fight, shall we pile all the burdens of war on them? "Many have torn the arms of wives and children from their neck to leave for the front, yet here we haggle over their families. I put it on the conscience of all of you. Shall one class make all the sacrifices and we make none?"	

Try Capital Journal Want Ads.

COURT HOUSE NEWS

W. A. Taylor, resolver for the Pratum Mercantile company, has filed a report showing total receipts to date at \$3,091.74. Taylor has apparently had a hard time doling litigation as he has had to employ counsel to reason with creditors. He asks that the court allow James G. Helzel and J. A. Carson \$150 each for services in this connection and asks \$100 for his own services.

The county court has allowed E. E. Howell as administrator of the M. G. Caldwell estate to sell two lots in Jefferson to satisfy creditors. The sale of personal property realized but \$31.15 and the total indebtedness amounts to \$867.

William H. Vogel, a merchant of Union and Elizabeth B. Ryan, a teacher of this city, have secured a marriage license and will be married at St. Joseph's church tomorrow.

Alice E. Kennedy, non Allee E. Benman, in a counter affidavit filed today, contests the right of the circuit court to transfer the custody of a minor child to Kennedy from whom she was delivered in 1914. Mrs. Benman now resides in Butte, Montana, but the child is with its grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Welch, at Woodburn. The mother declares that the father has failed to pay the \$15 a month alimony for the child's maintenance since last December. Copies of indictments brought against Kennedy in Washington county, 11 in number, are submitted by Mrs. Benman's attorney to show that the father is not a proper person to have the care of the child.

This afternoon Harold K. Richard, of Linton, an employe of the Standard Oil company, secured a license to marry Sarah A. Callan, of this city. Each is 20 years old.

The action of the state against Al Whitteman, concerning cattle running at large and brought as a criminal action, has been dismissed.

The Southern Pacific company has replied to an amended complaint filed by Blaneh Morgan to recover damages because of the death of her husband last year when his wagon was struck by a S. P. train on the Silverton road. The first case was tried in the U. S. district court and resulted in a verdict for the railroad. The second complaint asks \$7,500 damages and the company contends that the result in the first action is a bar to further suits.

The average tax levy in 22 out of 127 school districts of the county just filed with County Assessor West amounts to 2.29 mills. Levies run from four-tenths of a mill to 10 1/2 mills.

Time Not Yet Ripe To Offer Mediation

Washington, June 25.—Mediation is not acceptable to the United States at this time, Bolivian Minister Calderon was given to understand by Secretary Lansing this afternoon. Minister Calderon was not accompanied by another South or Central American diplomat whom he met Lansing by appointment, to tender informally the good offices of his government to prevent war between the United States and Mexico. Others had not received direct authorization from their home governments. It is understood Lansing told him the department was waiting for a reply to this government's demands from Carranza. Following the conference, Calderon said he did not consider the time ripe for a formal offer of mediation. However, he said, he will watch for an opportunity to present such a suggestion to Lansing. He has standing instructions from his government to that effect.

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Start—
Something

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Rippling Rhymes

Walt Mason

TWO KINDS

The lad who'd prosper well, and rise, to work will blithely walk, and toil with vim, nor keep his eyes forever on the clock. "The Boss's interests are mine," he to himself will say; but the worthless swab loafs on the job, when the Boss has gone away. The youth who'd reach a higher place, his duties does not shirk; the cheerful smile upon his face shows that he likes his work. In earning trust and confidence he takes a keen delight; but the worthless oaf begins to loaf, when the Boss is out of sight. The chap who gets the good fat check when his week's work is through, is he who always is on deck, when there is work to do, who toils as bravely when alone as when the Boss is near; but the worthless runt neglects his stunt, should the Old Man disappear.

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