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TO DEVELOP OUR STATE.

As will be seen by an article appearing elsewhere in The Astorian this morning, Thomas Richardson, representing the commercial interests of the city of Portland, is now arranging for the formation of the Oregon Development League. Mr. Richardson has been at the helm commercially in Portland only a short time, but he is manifesting every indication that he thoroughly understands the work which has been cut out for him. This latest proposal is one of several very important and far-reaching undertakings which he has inaugurated, and if the people of the state back him up properly Oregon's population and wealth can be materially increased.

There have been state organizations of a commercial nature in the past. Quite recently the Columbia River Basin Board of Trade was organized, with much display. It has probably passed into the great beyond. Other similar bodies have met a like fate. Delegates to those deceased institutions have assembled at Portland on numerous occasions to participate in the first organization of working clubs that never worked, with the result that the people have almost lost confidence in the idea that the cities and towns of Oregon can work together harmoniously for the general betterment of their state.

It is not difficult to find the reason for these repeated failures of worthy projects. Briefly, and concisely, there has never been a genuinely active head to the state commercial organizations. The delegates who assembled to take part in the organization were enthusiastic enough, as indeed were the officers. But the enthusiasm was of short duration. A few months' work dampened the ardor of the officers, and ere long the organization dropped out of public notice. The officers lacked that staying quality so essential to success in matters of the kind, and the members became indifferent and discouraged.

Tom Richardson is not a quitter in any sense of the word. He is making the commercial advancement of the state his special business. He realizes that the head of a state body of the kind must be active and enthusiastic at all times, and that upon his activity depends the success of any proposal which may be attempted. He is the right man in the right place, and at the head of the Oregon Development League will keep up interest and bring about results that only energetic men could attain. It is, indeed, fortunate for Oregon that the Portland Commercial Club has lent its assistance to the project. This worthy institution seems not to have been afflicted with the dominant Portland spirit of selfishness, but willing to help the outside cities and counties of Oregon whenever possible. Portland is, of course, its first consideration; but it appreciates that Portland must draw its support from the country drained by the Columbia, and that the upbuilding of that country is necessary to Portland's advancement.

Let us hope the Oregon Development League will be properly organized by Tom Richardson and the Portland Commercial Club, and that the cities and towns of the state will give to it their heartiest support. Oregon has not been progressing as rapidly as it should have progressed, and our failure to get together has been the fault. Now we are to be given another chance to do something for ourselves, and if we fail to avail ourselves of it we will deserve to go back.

GROWTH OF IRRIGATION.

The United States census bureau has just given out a preliminary report of the progress of irrigation in this country during the year 1902. That question is of more than usual interest to people of the west just now, owing to the recent appropriation by the general government of the sum of \$27,000,000 for irrigation in their territory. The report says:

"The acreage reported as irrigated in 1902 exceeds that of 1899 by 1,704,889 acres, the length of canals and ditches by 14,361 miles, the cost of irrigation systems by \$21,797,672 and the number of irrigated farms by 23,480." That showing is gratifying when it is remembered that in many parts of the United States it was made under discouraging conditions. The crop year of 1902 in the arid portion of the west was a poor one owing to the snowfall in the mountains being unusually light, materially reduc-

ing the flow in the irrigating ditches.

As an evidence of the growing interest in western territory being shown by home seekers, the report states that: "In the last 20 years there has been a great awakening to the opportunities which lie in the arid west for the home maker, and a remarkable transformation has taken place in many parts of this region. The irrigation of today, through lessons of experience and observation of the results obtained by the pioneers, evinces a more ready adaptability to conditions. Great problems of water storage and diversion, involving features never before considered, are being worked out to practical solution."

One of the features auxiliary to irrigation, the value of which is coming to be better understood and appreciated, is the possibility of utilizing the force of the water as a motive power and for the development of electricity. Under that head it is stated: "The great dams which impound the floods once wasted furnish abundant electric power for all purposes. Every available stream is now a potent factor for good. The flow of the canals turns wheels which life large quantities of water to fields above the line of gravity supply."

The mining industry has profited very largely by the inauguration of irrigation systems. Where water has been brought upon the land intended primarily for purposes of agriculture, it has in many instances been used also to develop mines, which otherwise could not have been worked successfully.

No sensible person believes that Commissioner McAdoo is relaxing his efforts to keep the poolrooms closed, yet the managers of those gambling places are inclined to take unusual risks just now because of the widespread interest of betting men in the Suburban handicap on Long Island and the American derby in Washington park in Chicago. Mayor Harrison of the big western town declares that not only will the poolrooms be closed in Chicago, but that no book-makers will be permitted to ply their trade at the most important of western racetracks. Storm centers of exceptional violence are developing for the professional manipulators of chances.

Oregon and Rhode Island have done so well for the republican party this month that Democratic hearts are not beating high with hope just now. The politicians of negation and retrogression are dismayed when they consider the indications of public sentiment on the Pacific coast and in New England. They had been looking eagerly for signs of lessened enthusiasm among the voters for Republican politics and purposes, and the ashes of the Dead sea apples of disappointment are not pleasant to the taste.

The Journalist, a New York publication, calls attention to the alleged injustice of taxation of life insurance companies. It contends that mutual insurance companies get their money from the policyholders, and that the state taxes which such concerns pay are wrung from men who have made provision for their families. The Journalist insists that such taxes should not be levied, but that the state should instead make some effort to reach the non-taxpaying element.

Joe Cannon forgot his 2500-word speech. At the Springfield convention Uncle Joe was enabled to use some occasional cuss words, and it is just possible his forgetfulness deprived the delegates to the Chicago convention of a rare display of forcible language.

Politicians of long experience say that the peanut crop in national democratic conventions does not invariably meet the anticipations of the planters of "goobers." Peanut politics may possibly not be always invincible.

The Democratic state convention in Illinois was a field affair for the H's—Harrison, Hearst and Hopkins. It was a case of two H's against one, and Mayor Harrison returned to Chicago a sadder, if not a wiser, man.

An eastern Oregon publication is out with the declaration that a newspaper is like a woman with every man should have one, and not be running around after his neighbor's.

The Cincinnati Commercial Tribune says there is a humorous side to the war in the far east. The editor of the Commercial Tribune must be pro-Japanese.

Grasshoppers are eating up Umatilla county. Heavens! First thing we know, Umatilla will go populist.

Upon the question of disagreement the people of the Third ward seem easily to agree.

The Hague tribunal ought to establish itself in the Third ward.

President Roosevelt is indeed a much nominated man.

JUST FOR INSTANCE.

There is a difference between Fairbanks and fair bank!

You can gamble on it!

It must have been a great surprise for Roosevelt!

Wonder what Billy Bryan things about it?

A mixed press dispatch from Chicago might lead one to think that Black Knight draped the Cotton fields to prevent religious eyes from seeing the Cummings of those men who repaired there to drink the Beveridge that made Indiana famous. Then, the Root of the whole disturbance might have been that a Cannon was shooting off in order to make Chauncey keep back in Depew where he belonged, instead of having the floor all the time.*

* We can't work in Dolliver, and Pennypacker doesn't deserve it!

The Budget has incurred the everlasting enmity of Joe Cannon. They published his picture yesterday with Fairbanks' name under it!

It took Uncle Joe to wave the tattered flag, all right, all right!

We'll buy him a brand-new one to wave during the campaign!

Bet he won't forget his speech when he notifies Teddy!

Recessional!

Far-called out brainlets slink away, Our minds are filled with visions dire;

Lo! all our thoughts of yesterday Are one with Nineveh and Tyre— Regatta—gatta up and gal! Lest we forget! Lest we forget! McCULLLEY.

Historic Lighthouses.

St. Louis, June 21.—Models of the first two lighthouses erected at Plymouth, England, and known as the Eddystone lighthouse, are exhibited in the British section of the palace of liberal arts at the world's fair. The first lighthouse was built in 1694, was 120 feet high, and was destroyed with its occupants by a storm in 1703. In 1706 it was replaced, and this remained until 1759, when fire burned it down, the tower being of wood. Two half-pound candles made in 1788, which represent the kind used in the lighthouse from 1759 to 1811, are shown in connection with the models and pictures of the two old towers. The exhibit gives visitors a good idea of lighthouse construction in England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

YOU MUST EAT

But then there's the fear of the pain and distress that always follows. Why not strengthen the stomach by taking Hostetter's Stomach Bitters and be able to enjoy your meals. It is far above any other medicine as a stomach strengthener and blood purifier and never fails to cure Poor Appetite, Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Flatulency, Bloating, Heartburn, Headache and Nausea. Try it and see for yourself at all Druggists.

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At A. F. C. Park

Game called at 2 p.m.

Admission, 25c.

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