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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Manager

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GRANTS PASS VOTING $200,000 RAILROAD BONDS ONCE AGAIN

GRANTS PASS, Or., Oct. 23.—People of Grants Pass are today voting upon the issuance of $200,000 bonds for the building of a railroad to Crescent City, to take the place of the bonds recently declared invalid by the supreme court. The city public service commission has issued the following statement:

"A study of the finances involved in the building of the municipal railroad will prove to any unprejudiced person that Grants Pass has been getting more than a dollar of value for every hundred cents of municipal money that has been expended. Less than $62,000 ($61,263.68) has been expended to date in all the operations for the new road, and in return for this we have the line practically ready for the ties and rails to Wilderville, the Draper right of way, terminal grounds and survey (representing values that had cost the original promoters more than $180,000), and the Riggs holdings, including the track constructed across the river, the locomotive and the realty interests (upon which the Riggs people had expended $23,000).

"From the proceeds of the bond issue this $62,000 is to be repaid to the city, all that is to go to the construction of this first unit to be the $200,000 hat is to be voted by the people and authorized for the purpose at the bond election Thursday. With this $200,000 the commission and the council are certain, after having thoroughly investigated all features of the proposition, that the road can be perfectly constructed and equipped as far as Wilderville, and possibly farther. With this much of the road completed and in operation the financing of a second unit will be practicable and can be arranged without difficulty, though the plans for the financing of the road to the coast are now near maturity, and the successful outcome will not be long delayed after the people of Grants Pass show their unchanged attitude by validating the bond issue for which they gave a twenty-to-one vote last December."

STRIKING MINERS RIOT WITH GUARDS

CALUMET, Mich., Oct. 23.—A furious riot occurred in the Red Jacket copper district today as a result of an attempt by mine guards to break up a procession of strikers and strike sympathizers.

The guards were better armed than the paraders, but the latter had them heavily outnumbered. Revolvers were drawn and several shots fired. Knives were used freely. A number of the guards were knocked down with the heavy staffs of the flags carried in the procession. Ten persons were seriously and many more slightly wounded. In the crowd were many women, some of whom suffered severe bruises.

Militia finally dispersed the crowd and made fourteen arrests.

LOAN SHARK KING MUST GO TO JAIL

NEW YORK, Oct. 23.—Application for a new trial by Daniel Tolman, "king of loan sharks," convicted recently of usury, was denied here today by Justice Pendleton. This means that Tolman, who has offices in sixty-three cities, must serve a six months' sentence at Blackwell's island.

WHEN A TECHNICALITY IS NOT A TECHNICALITY

THE decision of the supreme court placing the compensation act upon ballot for a referendum vote is a surprise to the layman, for it shows how the courts can, if they want to, entirely overlook technicalities, which they usually harp so upon.

It was alleged that 300 of the signers of the referendum petition had signed the petition twice; that 200 of the signatures were void, because illegible; that wrong addresses were given by many other signers, and that many signers were not registered as voters.

Here is a mass of technicalities, any one of which has probably done veteran service in invalidating bond issues voted by overwhelming majorities and more serious than many invoked to set aside statutes. But a technicality is evidently not a technicality when it concerns a referendum.

This referendum petition was filed by a lawyer whose principal business is working up damage suits, in which the employer is sometimes mulcted, and the injured employe always. Its object was to delay the enforcement or invalidate if possible the compensation law, which provides state insurance and fixes a scale of compensation for accidents, and which would interfere with the graft of ambulance-chasing attorneys.

Here is the way the supreme court brushes aside the technicalities and holds that other proof besides the evidence of the petition itself is necessary to establish the fact that duplicated signatures were not those of other people of the same name:

"No testimony is given on this point and we are left wholly to inspection of the petition to determine the question. It is made a crime by the statute for a person to intentionally sign a referendum petition twice. It is presumed that a person is innocent of a crime or wrong, and likewise identity is presumed from identity of name. These presumptions are of equal weight under the statute, and in this instance would balance each other, so that if the plaintiff upon whom the burden of proof rests would prevail, some other testimony must be produced to show that, in fact, the same person in the instances mentioned signed the petition more than once."

When it comes to the 200 illegible signatures, the supreme court approves poor penmanship in the following:

"There is no standard of excellence in penmanship established by statute qualifying a voter to sign a referendum petition, and besides, as before stated, the genuineness of the signature is not attacked. The right of a petitioner to order the referendum can not be made to depend upon the ability or inability of any person to read the signature. Many of our best citizens habitually sign their names in a form illegible to any one not familiar with the writing, and it would be unreasonable to deny such voters the right of referendum because of their chirographical idiosyncrasies."

Regarding the wrong addresses written in by the signers, the court holds:

"Bearing in mind that the verity of the names is not questioned, but only the faults in designation of street residences in the main are urged, we think sufficient is shown on an inspection of the petition to justify the action of the defendant in filing the petition and in his intended certification of the ballot title. We are much influenced in this conclusion by the fact that it is the duty of the defendant in his official capacity to determine in the first instance by an inspection of the petition whether or not the signatures are genuine, and are regularly authenticated. The presumption is that he has performed his duty properly."

The court holds that it is not necessary to be a registered voter, just a "qualified" voter, to sign referendum petitions.

The decision practically opens the door for any quantity and quality of fraud in securing referendum or initiative petitions—and unless it is possible to secure other evidence of fraud than that shown on the face of the petition, a difficult thing, the court will not go back of the certification by the hired solicitor who gathers in the signatures, or writes them himself, at so much per name.

In the university referendum of two years ago it was proved that many of the petition signatures were fraudulent, that forgery was freely practiced, that directories were copied and even graveyards forced to yield their quota of the dead to block the progress of education in Oregon, and still the courts placed the referendum on the ballot.

Technicalities serve one purpose in one case and another in a different case. They are invoked or ignored at the whim of the courts. No wonder the public considers litigation a gamble that benefits no one but the lawyers, and the wise keep out of court, and that laymen are beginning to think, with Thomas A. Edison:

"There is no justice in law. It has resolved itself into technicalities and formula. A cause will be thrown out of one court and carried to another, it will be sent back and forth more for the exercise of legal practice than for the attainment of justice. Where an important case might be settled in a short time by the use of common sense, it is prolonged for years through the technicality of jurisprudence, the whole course of which defeats the object sought."

PHILIPPINE QUESTION ONE OF JUSTICE

LAKE MOHONK, N. Y., Oct. 23.—Internationalization of the Philippine government was urged today before the Conference of Friends of the Indians and other dependent people.

The suggestion, made by Judge A. S. Lanier of Virginia, formerly a member of the Philippine bureau of justice, contemplated a Philippine upper house made up of members representing all the great powers, and a lower house elected by the Filipinos.

Martin Egan of the Manila Times opposed the plan. "The Philippine question is not political," he said. "It is a question of justice, fairness and common sense. I believe there will be less rancor there as a result of the last election." He complimented the present administration on its Philippine policy.

FREDDIE WELSH MATCHED TO FIGHT EDDIE MURPHY

CHICAGO, Oct. 23.—Freddie Welsh, lightweight champion of England, and Eddie Murphy signed articles here today for a ten-round contest to be staged at Kenosha, Wis., November 10. The men will weigh in at 135 pounds at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the fight.

D'ANJOU BRING $2.79 BOSC HALVES $1.65

The following prices obtained at auction in eastern markets Wednesday:

New York—Through auction, 42 cars of deciduous fruits: Winter Nelis, $2.15, halves $1.50; 3 cars Oregon pears, D'Anjou, $2.79; Bosc halves, $1.65; Coimce halves, $1.50 to $2.00; 2 cars Washington D'Anjous, $2.49, halves $1.29; 3 cars Washington apples, Jonathans $1.90, Romes $1.50 to $2.50; pears, 10c to 15c lower. Apples steady.

Chicago—Through auction: Three cars Colorado Jonathans: Extras $4.87, fancy $1.51, choice $1.46; car Winesaps, extras $1.70, fancy $1.44; car Idaho Jonathans, extras $1.65, fancy $1.44; car Washington Jonathans, extras $1.97, fancy $1.63; part car California Winter Nelis, $2.03; Buerre Easter, $1.61; Oregon Buerre Easter marked d'Anjou extras, $2.14; fancy $1.60.

JOHN MAUS HANGED AT SOMERSET, PENNSYLVANIA

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Oct. 23.—John Maus was hanged at Somerset, near here, this afternoon for the murder of Harrison Brown, a rural letter carrier.

Associated Press Dispatch.

A GLIMPSE OF THE NEW WOMAN

Oh, my word!

Is this the new man?

Oh, nothing like that; it is a new fashion.

Does it hail from Paris?

Nevaire! It just naturally originated right here in the land of the free and the home of the suffragette, and bears vociferous—some might say strident—witness to the increasingly palpable fact that fair woman sure is getting emancipated!

Is everybody wearing them?

N-n-no—that is, we hardly think they all are. Some of 'em, however, own up to it, in the awakening quarters where the corset is being whittled away and abandoned altogether as too significant of the oirental bondage in which woman has held herself and has been held ever since the faraway days of the Edenic apples.

Oh, yes, indeed, the corset is saying farewell and taking its departure, if we may place reliance on the emphatically voiced opinions of the dress freedom advocates, and with it goes its strait-jacket of accessory garters, restricting elastic bands that rob the so-called weaker vessel of her divine birthright, grace of movement, which, all through the history of feminine fascination, has held equal sway with beauty of face.

But, oh, tempora; oh, mores! From the samp of the gaping lowbrows, masculine and anti, that would hang as a dead weight on the forward movement, comes the cry, "What will they take off next?"

Sir! The question is not pertinent! These — this — er — hosiery spells progress and emancipation, and when you get emancipated you get it thoroughly from the skin out, just as charity begins at home.

But, reverting to the esoteric meaning of—socks for women—why not?—and yet again, why not? Physical freedom goes hand in hand with political freedom, or, better, precedes it. Woman asks for the ballot and answers her own demand with the bold assertion that she is taking it anyway. So in the name of sacred common sense, why, says this same woman, should Mistress Grundy or Dame Prudery frown upon the advancing sister in the exercise of her rights to swing her dainty limbs—rights sartorial, in the present instance—just as free from the horrid shackles of old-fashioned, decadent notions about clothes as is her 'betrousered and enfranchised brother?

And if brother, before he goes gallantly out to vote, has the comfortable privilege of nochalantly pulling on his silken half hose and snipping them to garters conveniently suspended over the manly protuberances of his gastrocnemius muscles, why can't sister exercise the same right? Surely there appears no visible reason!

But, consider a moment! There is as yet—for the future we do not speak—one anatomical fact which accrues to brother's advantage in that the aforesaid gastrocnemius, so handy to hang garters on, has been favorably overdeveloped through the ages from the good old masculine custom of "bringing down the foot"—a prerogative said to be exercised at times even in this day.

So note well, our ladies of the garter, and let not the supporting muscle grow weak from lack of firm-footed self-assertion, lest the elastic slip its leash and you lose your powder puffs.

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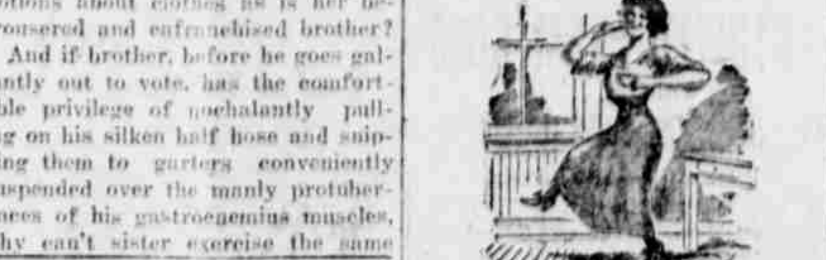

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