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SENATORS AND THE CONSTITUTION.

The fact that the legislatures of six states have signified their wish that the federal constitution should be amended to provide for the popular election of United States senators, four of them in so doing having observed the required formalities, does not point strongly to the adoption of such an amendment in the near future, though it may serve to stimulate interest in a somewhat languid discussion. It is practically certain that of the two methods of calling a constitutional convention the one permitting the states to take the initiative will have to be invoked if a change in the organic law in respect to the election of senators is to be attempted. At present there is not the slightest reason to suppose that the upper branch of congress would voluntarily consent by the necessary two-thirds majority to call a convention for that purpose, which leaves the advocates of the proposal under the necessity of persuading the legislatures of two-thirds of the states to unite in demanding one. Four have already taken that course, which is doubtless a beginning, but the end still appears exceedingly remote. Twenty-six more must follow suit before anything can come of it, and even if the requisite support for the first step could be procured, obstacles of a formidable character would remain. It is probable, for instance, that a constitutional convention could not be confined to the single issue of choosing senators by popular vote, but that other questions would arise to produce complications and antagonisms unfavorable to affirmative action on any of them. Again, if a convention should with difficulty be brought to approve the proposed amendment affecting senators, its decision would furnish no assurance of subsequent sanction by the requisite three-fourths of the states. To agree to a discussion is one thing, but to accept the result of the discussion is quite another.

How strong a public sentiment there is behind the demand for the popular election of senators it is impossible to determine. The declaration is early and frequently made that the people are overwhelmingly in favor of the proposition, and many political platforms of greater or less significance have been made to say so with great confidence. But such pronouncements are not necessarily the best kind of evidence. Stout assertions in the name of one party or the other are continually repudiated at the polls, and sometimes in the most disdainful manner. If the entire electorate of the United States could be required to vote on this question six months hence, there is not a prophet in the country, in our opinion, who could safely offer large odds on either side at the present time, and we suspect that the verdict would be extremely uncertain on the day before the election.

There is one indication of popular feeling which, as it appears to us, tends rather to discredit than sustain the opinion of those who contend that a large majority of the people would like to vote directly for senators in their respective states. It is always practicable to make the election of an individual to the senate an issue in a state campaign, with the effect of binding the representatives of his party in the legislature to choose him if they obtain control. It is a familiar fact that this practice has been adopted in various instances, but it would be far more common, we think, if the object which it accomplishes by induction were anywhere near so widely sought as it is sometimes assumed to be. The method by which presidents are chosen is a case in point. The framers of the constitution meant that the electors should possess and exercise full authority, instead of being, as they long have been, merely instruments for recording the will of the voters from which they derived their commission, in conformity to the letter

but in contradiction to the purpose of the constitution. This is the most striking example we have of the way in which the organic law may be manipulated by common consent to meet changed conditions or desires. It is not unreasonable to believe that if a radically different method of choosing United States senators ever comes its prevalence will be brought about through a gradual subversion of the constitution, not by an amendment constitutionally adopted.

An Indiana man has been sentenced to the penitentiary on his plea of guilty to the offense of horse-stealing. It is said of him that he did not do the stealing, but that a man who had once befriended him did do it. He arrays his own innocence in the garb of guilt and assumes the role of felon to save his benefactor. Pressure will be brought upon the governor to secure a pardon. The man is talked about as a hero, says the Tacoma Ledger. The element of heroism would not be lacking provided he took, without wining, the medicine prescribed for a moral ailment not his own. It is hard to imagine circumstances that would render commendable the effort on behalf of a horse-thief to cheat justice. If one chooses to become a vicarious sacrificer, the only way to do this is silence. Otherwise the whole procedure becomes a mockery. A thief ought to be punished. The law must be administered upon the theory that the thief, and not another, is being punished. To say to the law, "You may send me to jail, although a friend committed the crime, and I know his name, and won't tell," is to hand in the face of justice a bogus virtue. There is no merit in shielding the criminal. If one chooses to interpose himself as the shield, he must not complain of the pains inflicted. If he is determined to defend justice, it should be no part of the scheme to reveal the character of the offender. This prisoner in hiding circumstances the law demands shall be known. If he does not stand on the plane of the necessary after-the-fact of horse-stealing, where does he stand? Guilt is a fine quality. It loses its fineness when it poses as a martyr. Accepting a condition, it has no right to rebel against the condition. In the effort to repay a favor, there is no fairness in wronging society. When a man steals a horse he ought to be punished, and when a second man knows of the deed of the first, and keeps his knowledge concealed, the consequences to be met with an excuse for retaining the man who stole the guilty steed, and a falsification of the nature of guilt.

Seattle's overcrowded school teachers should sympathize with the advocates of Walla Walla. In that city there are 277 school children and only thirty teachers; the average number of children under the care of each teacher being 11.

MAKING MONEY IN PRISON.

A remarkable example of cunning has been unearthed in one of our large prisons. A convict had perfected a die and was making silver dollars and distributing them through accomplices on the outside. Naturally the officials were very much surprised at the discovery, but no more so than the person who receives a counterfeit article in place of the genuine. It is therefore very important when you ask for Hostetter's Stomach Bitters to see that their Private Stamp over the neck is unbroken. If you value your health, for 50 years the Bitters has been recognized as the best health maker in existence, and if you are a sufferer from indigestion, dyspepsia, constipation, flatulency or nervousness, it is because you have never tried it. Try it at once.

Mrs. Jack Gardner seems inclined to turn her air palace into a tariff argument—Mail and Express.

Wiggins would sue Macconi. The ex-weather prophet invented the process of telegraphing through his hat. Mail and Express.

CHILDREN ESPECIALLY LIABLE.

Burns, bruises and cuts are extremely painful and if neglected often result in blood poisoning. Children are especially liable to such mishaps because not so careful. As a remedy DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is unequalled. Draws out the fire, stops the pain, soon heals the wound. Beware of counterfeits. Sure cure for piles. "DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve cured my baby of eczema after two physicians gave her up," writes James Mock, N. Webster, Ind. "The sores were so bad she soiled two to five dresses a day." CHAS. ROGERS.

A Seattle paper accounts for the attitude of congress towards the Lake Washington canal by citing Seattle's lack of influence. It might better cite the fact that the deciding committee has a look at the canal.—Ledger.

Women are accused of having given away lodge secrets of a Spokane organization. The character of the secrets gives the lodge away.—Ledger.

Mr. Schwab to have gambled at Monte Carlo would have in great measure destroyed the confidence people have in him. That he has not been at that resort has not prevented a circumstantial account of his gains and losses. Not all foreign correspondents are liars, but those who are seem to get the most space.

Cecil Rhodes has gone into the gold storage business for the purpose of "freeing" out an enemy.

Stops the Cough and Wreak the Colds Off. Laxative-Rhino-Jam. Tablets cure a cold in one day. No cure, No Pay. Price 25 cents.

A Minneapolis doctor would have victims of smallpox cured and then sent to jail for ninety days for having had the disease. In this case prevention would be far better than cure.

NIGHT WAS HER TERROR.

"I would cough nearly all night long," writes Mrs. Chas. Rogers, of Alexandria, Ind., "and could hardly get any sleep. I had consumption so bad that if I walked a block I would cough frightfully and spit blood, but when all other medicines failed, three \$1.00 bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery wholly cured me and I gained 35 pounds." It is absolutely guaranteed to cure Coughs, Colds, La Grippe, Bronchitis and all Throat and Lung Troubles. Price 50c and \$1.00. Total bottles free at Hart's Drugstore.

It is stated that no rich men are contributing to the McKinley memorial. They ought to contribute, or the plan be dropped.

DON'T LIVE TOGETHER.

Constipation and health never go together. DeWitt's Little Early Bitters promote easy action of the bowels without distress. "I have been troubled with constiveness nine years," says J. O. Greene, DePaul, Ind. "I have tried many remedies but Little Early Bitters give best results." CHAS. ROGERS.

After Dr. Atwood's claims have been made of the welcome Dr. Prince Henry he will have to add a chapter to his book telling how he was charmed by his presence.

WORKING 24 HOURS A DAY.

There's no rest for those tireless little workers—Dr. King's New Life Pills. Millions are always busy, using the pill Liver, Jaundice, Biliousness, Fever and Ague. They banish Sick Headache and Drive out Malaria. Never gripe or weaken. Small, taste nice, work wonders. Try them, 25 cents at Hart's Drugstore.

"Little Tom's Cabin" played in the South recently and it is reported that the show lost a rough house.

A FIREMAN'S CLOSE CALL.

"I struck in my studio, although every eye was fixed upon me, and every nerve was packed with pain," writes W. W. Williams, a prominent member of the Portland Fire Department, "and I was very near being killed by a falling beam. As I was about to give up, I got a bottle of DeWitt's Bitters and after taking it I felt as well as I ever did in my life." DeWitt's Bitters has been people always with new life, strength and vigor from their use. Try them. Satisfaction guaranteed by Hart's Drugstore. Price 50c.

We have received a small and attractive book of Portland and the vicinity, containing, issued by Messrs. Lewis and Clark, remarks the Book Daily Press. The memory of the conference named still lives, but they were not supposed to be still in the town and articles.

CHILD WORTH MILLIONS.

"My child is worth millions to me," says Mrs. Mary Bird of Harrisburg, Pa. "and I was made to feel by her by the fact that I had not purchased a bottle of One Minute Cough Cure. One Minute Cough Cure is sure cure for Croup, Croup and throat and lung troubles. An absolutely safe cough cure which acts immediately. The youngest child can take it with entire safety. The little ones like the taste and remember how often it helped them. Every family should have a bottle of One Minute Cough Cure handy. At this season especially it may be needed suddenly." CHAS. ROGERS.

Chinese soldiers have fired on a British steamer and wounded a British naval officer. China must have acquired a regular passion for paying indemnity.

SAYS HE WAS TORTURED.

"I suffered such pain from corns I could hardly walk," writes H. Robinson, Hillsborough, Ill. "but Buckner's Arnica Salve completely cured them." Acts like magic on sprains, bruises, cuts, sores, scalds, burns, boils, ulcers. Perfect healer of skin diseases and piles. Cure guaranteed by Hart's Drugstore. Price 25 cents.

If Minnesota proposes not only to regulate railway combines, but to see to it that congressmen warn their salaries, it will be a busy state for some time to come.—Washington Star.

A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT.

"I was troubled for about seven years with my stomach and in bed half my time," says E. Demick, Somerville, Ind. "I spent about \$100 and never would get anything to help me until I tried Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. I have taken a few bottles and am entirely cured. You don't live by what you eat, but by what you digest and assimilate. Your stomach doesn't digest your food, you are really starving. Kodol is a cure for the stomach's not digesting the food. You don't eat, you just want. Kodol is a cure for all stomach troubles." CHAS. ROGERS.

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and everybody knows the quality of goods which has made our store famous for many miles around. We sell only the highest grades and yet meet competition. Our annual sale is still on and prices are surprisingly reduced. You would do well to supply your needs while you can save money and get the best. We sell everything to wear for men, women and children. Latest styles. Quality the best.

PRICES CANNOT BE BEATEN. C. H. COOPER

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HOTEL PORTLAND. PORTLAND, OREGON. The Only First-Class Hotel in Portland.

REPORT NOT ABANDONED. Steamship Agents Insure They Know Nothing of Negotiation. NEW YORK, Jan. 20.—Steamship interests especially the agents of the lines affected, are not inclined to accept the report recently of actual negotiation of the freight schedule of the White Star and United Lines, which were arrangements J. P. Morgan may have been able to effect among the American, the Leyland and the Atlantic Transport lines, see the financial and commercial press. The White Star line in this country will insist that he has absolutely no knowledge, for or against any deal of that nature, and that any negotiations are in progress. James A. Wright, of the American and Red Star Company and E. A. Franking, of the Atlantic Transport Company will claim that they are entirely ignorant of any deal that is being negotiated. Under the plan as alleged the financial interests of the five lines will reach the enormous sum of about \$20,000,000. The Leyland line will have 65 ships, the International Navigation Company about 25, with four building, the White Star about 20 and the Canada about 15. Mr. Lee takes the position that any deal must merely be one of agreement and not purchase. Members of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Company, when questioned, denied that the banking house had under way a consolidation of trans-Atlantic lines. So far as the arrangement goes in effect among the various companies is concerned, it will, apparently, be merely the application of the community of interest plan of operation to the steamship business. The flags and funnels of the three fleets will remain distinct as at present and the lines will be managed separately as is now the case. The idea of the alleged combination most general in shipping circles is that the plan of operation will be to organize a new company to own stock in steamship lines and operate them as far as is found advisable in connection with the railroads—railroad interests themselves being stockholders. The aim will be to avoid a duplication of services.

DIAMONDS

All kinds of precious stones, set and unset, at very moderate prices. The latest productions in the jeweler's art in Society Emblems, Pins, Badges, etc. Solid value and guaranteed quality in standard watches and clocks. Fine repairing.

J. H. SEYMOUR. THE ANNUAL Masquerade Ball. Will be given by THE SONS OF PERMANN. On the evening of Monday, February 10, AT FOARD & STOKES HALL.

AGED MASON DEAD. Daniel Sickles Passes Away at His Home in Brooklyn. NEW YORK, Jan. 20.—Daniel Sickles, cousin of General E. Sickles, is dead at his home in Brooklyn. He had had a premonition of his approaching end several days. After dinner Saturday evening he told his sister that he thought he would die before morning, but as he showed no symptoms of illness she did not think there was any cause for anxiety. Mr. Sickles lay down on the lounge while his sister went to the upper part of the house. When she returned, half an hour later she found her brother dead. His death was due to the exhaustion of extreme old age. Daniel Sickles was born March 25, 1815. He had the distinction of being the oldest man in the state. While in the South in 1848 he became inter-

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AT VALLEY FORGE. A play of intense interest. Stupendous scenic production. Cast of Unparalleled Excellence. Reserved seats 75c gallery 50c. Sale opens Thursday morning at Griffin & Reed's.

THE DALLES BOAT STR. "TAHOMA." Between Portland, The Dalles and way points. TIME CARD. Leaves Portland 7 a.m. Leaves Astoria 7 p.m.

THE DALLES BOAT STR. "BAILEY GATZERT." Daily Round Trips Except Sunday. TIME CARD. Leaves Portland Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays at 3 a.m. Arrives The Dalles the same day, 5 p.m. Leaves The Dalles Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 7 a.m. Arrives Portland, same day, 4 p.m.

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