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Do Nothing Rashly.
Cotton Mather used to say there was a gentleman mentioned in the 19th chapter of Acts, to whom he was more deeply indebted than almost any other person. And that was the town clerk of Ephesus, whose counsel was to do nothing rashly. Upon any proposal of consequence it was usual for him to say: "Let us first consult with the town clerk of Ephesus." What mischief, trouble and sorrow would be avoided in the world were the people more in the habit of consulting this gentleman.

THE RIGHT TO PETITION.

The right to petition is one of the fundamental rights of every liberty loving citizen. It is a right that should be protected to the extent that when a man's name appears on a petition that the person or body petitioned realizes that the petitioner earnestly desires the prayer of his petition granted. This right has been abused to the extent that a petition is seldom given more than a passing consideration, from the fact that anybody can go out among the people anywhere, at any time, and secure a list of signatures to anything asked for. It has often been abused to the extent that reputable men have signed petitions and no sooner had the party left them seeking their signatures that the signer would make it a point to notify the person or body petitioned that they simply signed the petition to pacify the man circulating it, but that they did not desire their name to carry any weight; but, in fact, were bitterly opposed to the material allegations and prayers asked for and set forth in the petition which appeared above their signature.

We are now facing new conditions. Under our increased powers as voters, under the initiative and referendum law, the right of petition being the basis of these added responsibilities, we should assume these responsibilities and not become pliable tools to every fad or fancy that is presented to us. It is impossible to submit any law through the initiative with petitioners, but the right to petition does not grant the right to sign every petition that is presented simply because the man who is carrying the petition receives so much per signature. Every petitioner should investigate carefully what he is petitioning for, and unless he knows, should withhold his signature.

This evil is today causing many intelligent and sober thinking men to discredit the initiative law and well may they if everybody signs every petition that is presented, without careful investigation and consideration. Until we do there is no question what that the percentage now required to make possible the submission of any law to the voters, should be greatly increased. There is room for education along these lines and the sooner we honor the sacred right to petition the stronger we will grow as a state and nation.

AN IMPOSITION.

Petitions are being circulated in various counties of the state with a view of submitting to the voters of

the general state election in June, the question of the sub-division of the present county of Wasco. This may be legal and in case the required number of the voters of these number of petitioners are secured the question will be submitted to the voters of the state. The question naturally arises, What interest the voters of the state outside of Wasco county can possibly have in this purely local matter. What right, morally, have the voters of the state outside of Wasco, to vote on the sub-division of this county.

It is just possible that the best thing the voters can do, if they are forced to vote on this question, is to show it under so deep that it will act as a precedent in keeping down other attempts. If this policy continues, the ballot will be weighed down with proposed city charter amendments. This is purely a county seat fight, wherein no one not a resident of Wasco is interested, and it is an imposition to attempt to place it on the general ballot.

ELECTION MATTERS.

The primary election this year will be held on Friday, April 17, and the general election on Monday, June 1. Initiative petitions must be filed by January 31, and must have 7455 signatures. Candidates for state and district offices must file their declarations of candidacy with the secretary of state before starting the petitions for signatures, and for offices to be filled in any county with the county clerk. The completed petitions of county candidates must be filed with the clerk on or before Wednesday, April 1.

ANGRY AT OUR SPORTS

President James E. Sullivan of the A. A. U. is on the warpath. Rotten conditions in the Pacific northwest athletic clubs districted under the parent body is the red flag that has roused President Sullivan to battle. In a stinging letter to the Multnomah club management of Portland, Sullivan attacks William M. Inglis, manager of the Seattle Athletic club and secretary of P. N. A., also chairman of the registration committee, specifically, and conditions in the northwest branch of the A. A. U. generally. Extracts from President Sullivan's letter follow:

"An association of the Amateur Athletic union must not have as its secretary and chairman of its registration committee, a paid employe of a club.

"I would recommend that you at once call a meeting of your association and ask Inglis to resign."

"Five complaints have reached the president's office as to the professional tactics employed by Mr. Inglis, some of them being from college professors."

"How could a paid superintendent of an athletic club be elected secretary of the Pacific Northwest association or even a delegate when he is not a member of an athletic club, and how can Tom McDonald, a professional instructor, cast a vote?"

"Proxies are not permitted at board meetings and McDonald violated the rules of the Amateur Athletic union, as did others who voted proxies, when the gymnastic instructor voted for Inglis."

"Why don't you increase your membership to 26 athletic clubs instead of six in the Pacific Northwest association? The officials are dissatisfied with the showing of the P. N. A., and if you bring only six clubs to the A. A. U. meeting next year, the parent body will disorganize your district."

"You violated one of the vital principles of the Amateur Athletic union when you elected the Vancouver Athletic club a member of the Pacific Northwest association. Canadian athletic clubs cannot become members of this organization, though they may be invited to take part in your competitions if the national registration committee grants them a permit."

"I am simply astonished at the state of affairs in the Pacific Northwest association. Why can't the good men of hte northwest association get together and put a stop to the illegal operations of the professional elec-



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ment? Do this quickly and consistently and the patent organization will let you alone."

ANNOUNCE BIG EXPANSION

(Continued from page 1.)

will be dug, poles erected, wire strung and when one feature is completed, practically all of the various departments will be ready for business. The house 'phones to be used are of the improved type and have the entire mechanism condensed to the smallest possible space. These are to be installed during the spring and summer months. However, the underground wires must first be laid.

A Local Company.

The Home Independent Telephone company is a firm composed of Union and Wallowa county people. In all there are 29 separate stockholders between La Grande and Joseph, the farthest outlying station.

The company was organized about three and one-half years ago and has grown constantly since that time. With a few 'phones about Imbler, the demand for a rural service has been so great that the company has grown to its present proportions. There are at present nine central offices in Union and Wallowa counties, and the total subscribers list is fully 700.

From a firm formed through necessity the company has grown to be a corporation of stockholders who are now in position to amply finance the extensive improvements that are to be made in La Grande. When the system is complete, which it will be in a few months, local subscribers will have the entire rural telephone service of the two counties at their fingers' end—the Union county part of it free to all subscribers.

The campaign for subscribers will

be commenced soon and when the wire service over the city is complete the company will commence to install house 'phones of the improved type.

The extensive expansion the company will make this winter and spring were formulated and steps were taken to further them at a meeting of the new board of directors yesterday. Manager Crowe announces the actual commencement of installing the underground system within two or three days. Aside from the material already mentioned, there is a great deal of other necessary equipment already in the city awaiting the workmen.

CLOSE SHOPS TOMORROW

The O. R. & N. machine shops in this city will be closed tomorrow and rip-track gang, not including the inspectors, will be laid off on the same day by orders received from headquarters this afternoon.

The orders read for the 25th of January only, and it is apparent that work will be resumed Monday on either a full or diminished scale.

It is rumored about the streets that a generous cut is to be made in the working force, but this is not authentic.

CONTEST NOTICE.

Department of the Interior,
United States Land Office.

La Grande, Ore., Dec. 14, 1907.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Lovell E. Tipton, contestant, against homestead

entry No. 15117 made July 19, 1906, for N 1/2 SW 1/4 Sec. 4, and N 1/2 SE 1/4 Sec. 5, township 2 S., Range 35, E. W. M., by Thomas H. Daly, contestee, in which it is alleged that Thomas H. Daly has wholly abandoned said entry for more than six months last past; that he has not resided upon or improved said land at any time, and that said alleged absence was not due to his employment in the army, navy or marine corps of the United States as a private soldier, officer, seaman or marine during the war with Spain or during any other war in which the United States may be engaged, said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on January 28, 1908, before the register and receiver of the United States land

office in La Grande, Oregon.

The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit, filed December 9, 1907, set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice cannot be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.

(Signed) E. W. DAVIS,

J. T. WILLIAMSON, Register.

Agent and Attorney for Contestant.
Dec. 27-Jan. 24.

Much as we deplore our condition in life, nothing would make us more satisfied with it than the changing of places, for a few days, with our neighbors.—Phillip Brooks.

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