

**THE NEW AGE**

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**EDITORIAL**

**REID'S PULLMAN-CAR TAXATION FOLLY.**

Representative Reid, in the legislature of Washington, has introduced a bill providing for the method of assessment and collection of an excise tax from sleeping car companies doing business in that state—a bill, by the way, which should not and very probably will not pass. Even should it pass the lower house, it will meet with strong opposition in the senate. And it should. Its exactions are unreasonable and its provision for penalties extreme.

Taxing railroads and everything pertaining to railroading seems to be Mr. Reid's hobby. It probably comes from the fact that he has at some time in the past been refused a pass or special privileges in the Pullman car. However, there are a number of political rosters in Washington whose particular ambition appears to be to oppose the railroads in legislative matters, no matter what they are. Mr. Reid may belong to that class and has introduced this bill "on general principles."

Sections three, five and six of the bill are enormously unreasonable in their provisions. It would scarcely be possible for the state to comply with them, in detail, itself. For instance, provisions six and seven in section two require the person or persons, company or corporation to produce, for the examination of a commission, "the entire receipts (including all sums earned or charged, whether actually collected or not) for business done within the state, of each agent of such company, doing business in the state . . . for the year then next preceding the first day of April, for an account of such company, including its proportion of gross receipts for business done by such company within the state in connection with other companies; also the total amount of such receipts for business done within the state."

The peculiar nature of the Pullman-car business would make it quite impossible for any company doing such business to comply with the requirements of these provisions and others equally full of the folly of detail; but the above quotation is made merely to show the unreasonable suggestion of the bill throughout. Such a bill certainly cannot pass, even in a Washington legislature.

**OUR NEXT GOVERNOR.**

It is said that Multnomah county's judge, Lionel R. Webster, aspires to succeed Governor Chamberlain as Oregon's executive. This circumstance, which comes from good authority, suggests a peculiar situation.

Lionel R. Webster once held a circuit judgeship in Southern Oregon. He became ambitious—and finally aspired to become the state's attorney-general. He got the nomination. Subsequently he got more than that—and that which he received made him a very sorry man.

George E. Chamberlain, then a bank cashier up the valley somewhere, but an attorney, as well, received the nomination for the attorney-generalship from the democratic party. He was honest and, therefore, popular at home, but was not widely known throughout the state. He soon became widely known—and has since broadened the width of public knowledge of a popular public servant.

In the contest which followed, in a strongly republican state, Webster, the republican candidate, was badly beaten. Chamberlain became the attorney-general—measurably on account of the fact that Webster was opposed by a strong element in his own party.

Subsequently, Webster came to Portland and, through a combination with the local "machine," was elected judge for Multnomah county. He is now seeking the nomination for the highest office in the gift of the people of the state.

Governor Chamberlain will undoubtedly be renominated by his party for a second term.

Should Webster receive the republican nomination for that office, there can be no doubt that Chamberlain will

succeed himself.

The republican party did an equally foolish thing in nominating W. J. Furish for governor. George E. Chamberlain opposed him as the democratic nominee, Chamberlain was elected.

Can the republican party of this state, which gave to Roosevelt a majority of more than 43,000, afford to make another serious mistake by nominating a man in Webster's class for governor of the Greater Oregon?

**SOUTHERN IMMIGRATION.**

The openly and defiantly criminal character of a large proportion of the white element of the Southern States may be cited as the leading discouragement of immigration to the South. While the North is perplexed over the problem presented by the influx of immigrants from European countries, the South is bestirring itself to attract the immigration which has so persistently declined to go its way.

Only a few days ago a plan was set afoot in South Carolina for a general convention of state and government delegates, railroad officials and sociologists, to discuss the problem of attracting immigration to the South. If such a congress as proposed should be held, it will be well for the delegates to give thoughtful consideration to the causes that have heretofore turned the tide of immigration from the states which they represent. There has been a marked decline in lynching during the last year—and the change, although recent, has al-

grand jury system. They are satisfied that the judgment of a committing justice is quite as likely to be safe and sound and to protect the interests of the people just as well as is that of a grand jury, which simply listens to the presentation of the case of a prosecuting attorney. Probably the conservative states will retain the grand jury system for a considerable period yet; but it is seriously questioned as to whether or not any grave harm could come to the public if the Minnesota idea should spread, as it likely will, to other states far beyond its borders.

The street-car accident on Monday morning on the Montavilla line in which one person was killed almost instantly and more than two scores of others injured—some of them fatally, it is feared—is a most regrettable circumstance in the busy life of the city; but there is a cause for it, and that cause should be sought out by the authorities and the proper remedy applied, even if criminal prosecution of the party or parties responsible for the terrible calamity be necessary. It appears to have been determined by the authorities that the motorman was not to blame, for the machinery of the car he was operating was imperfect; therefore, the company is responsible. It is assumed that the company ought to know the condition of its cars before they are taken from the "barn" for use on the line. A competent machin-

**LITTLE BY LITTLE.**

County Judge Webster for governor! A good many people in Oregon came from Missouri. And to them Webster will have to make an exhibit.

Representative Miller's bill to consolidate the state normal schools was defeated in the senate—and general gratitude to the state senate is due therefor.

Mayor Williams, having no desire to visit California just now, can't quite understand why anybody else should go. Perhaps he has been holding conference with Councilman Rummelin. The latter is said to oppose the "junket" for special reasons.

What a pretty lot of statutory literature we would have if we should send to the state legislature a majority of preachers! How quickly they would, by law and the grace of God, Christianize the people of the entire state, Indian reservations and all!

Enlightened people throughout the world are not surprised that there is revolution in Russia. They know what the conditions are which prevail there, socially, politically and industrially, and wonder why revolution in serious form has not come before.

The supreme court's decision destroying the beef trust makes us all feel that soon we may again enjoy the pleasure of maunching tenderloin steak. For a long time it has been hanging higher than the average citizen could throw a twenty-dollar gold-piece.

France and Turkey are now engaged in a bloodless verbal war. Germany may be drawn into the squabble. The French minister has gone home in a huff and threatens to expose the scheme by which Germany got the contracts to re-arm the Turkish artillery.

The \$9,000 robbery in a Lebanon bank on Tuesday evening indicates that prosperity prevails in the valley; but the thing that is bothering the authorities most is the fact that the robbers left no clew. They were shrewd enough, also, to leave no money in the bank.

Senator Nottingham seems to own a little political machine all by himself at Salem. As a rule, the senator is about right, but the fact that he was elected independently in this county scarcely gives him the right to direct the entire body of which he is only an individual member.

After long and disappointing service it has been concluded by the powers that be that the dredge Chinook, so far as its work on the Columbia river bar is concerned, is a failure and it will probably be superseded by the success of the proposition to build the jetty at once and "be done with it."

Congressman W. L. Jones, frequently referred to as "the Abraham Lincoln of Central Washington," is doing good work for Oregon, also. His able work in support of the Cello canal project has endeared him to the people of this state. In other important matters Congressman Jones has shown himself to be a friend of the Webfoot state.

President Roosevelt has won another great victory, greater by far than it will appear to many to be. He has almost the unanimous support of the business interests of the nation in his fight for the enlargement of the powers of the interstate commerce commission "and for further governmental control and regulation of railway freight rates."

President Roosevelt and Senator Charles W. Fairbanks have been elected president and vice president, respectively, by the vote cast in the electoral college on Wednesday. The republican candidates received 236 votes; the democratic candidates, Parker and Davis, received 140 votes. The majority of 196 votes in favor of the republican candidates is unprecedented.

What sort of a jerry-mander proposition is this in the bill to divide Wasco county? Is it a necessity demanded by the people?—or merely a partisan scheme to "divide" some one's political strength in that district? There are many prominent citizens of the state who regret to see this sort of thing consume the time of

the great law-makers of the commonwealth.

The New Age desires to express its gratitude to Mr. Albert Tozier, one of Oregon's well-known newspaper men and generally useful and progressive citizens, for copies of the senate and house calendars of the present session of the state legislature. The compilation is excellently done and as means of reference is exceedingly valuable. The New Age appreciates the favor—and "has put it on file."

So they failed to catch United States Prosecutor Heney in the net of feminine flounces! But the proposition never reached him. It was the girls who first became afraid. This is not said to intimate that the result would have been otherwise had the scheme proceeded any further than it did, but is related merely as an evidence of good faith on the part of the women.

And now it is Congressman Williamson the federal grand jury is after, on two or three counts, at that! It was Mr. Williamson, we believe, who declared his innocence of any business relations with the land frauds and their perpetrators long before any charge was made against him. But, then, he may have had a hunch. Conscience, where it exists, is the first and surest accuser.

The state loses a great and good man in the death of Hon. J. M. Church, of La Grande. As the result of injuries received from a fall at Salem recently he passed away at St. Vincent's hospital in this city last Sunday morning. Prominent as a banker, a politician and a citizen, he was esteemed by all who knew him. His business and social life was most honorable in every respect. He has for many years done much for the community in which he lived, for his county and for the state at large. He was active in many progressive movements and a leader in the advancement of the chief interests of the commonwealth.

The New Age is sorry to learn that W. Allison Sweeney, known throughout the entire continent as an able writer and politician, has resigned the position of editor of the Chicago Conservator, in which capacity he has served for many months in a most successful way. He did much to enlarge the patronage of that good paper and to make its editorial columns popular wherever read. He is alert in the consideration of the events of present every-day life in commerce and in industrial progress and his articles have done much to encourage the betterment of conditions in these respects. But it is not likely that he will quit the newspaper field, for there is where he is most useful.

The failure of the city council to agree to make a trip into California is significant in more respects than one. Certain members of that body desire to inquire into the proposition made by the California telephone company to establish a telephone business in this city and to investigate their system. Certain other members oppose the junket on that account, it is said. Why? Our present telephone service is miserably unsatisfactory. Why should we not desire a better service? This is a business community in which more interests are concerned than that of the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Company. It will be interesting to discover why some other reputable company is not permitted to establish a business here. The discovery will be made in due time—and then the people on whom the present monopoly imposes so boldly will quit guessing.



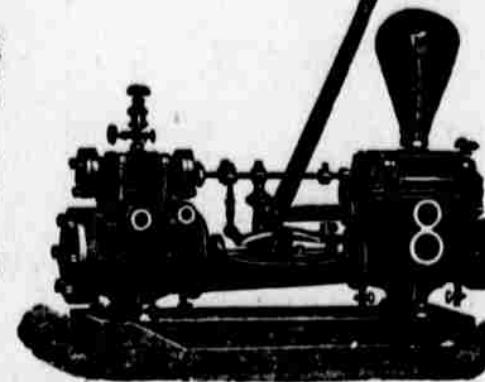
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**MR. W. C. BOOST**  
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A POPULAR CANDIDATE.

Mr. C. W. Boost, whom the people of the Seventh ward are urging to become a candidate for the position of councilman from that ward, is one of the most popular and successful business men in the city. He is proprietor of the Portland Wire and Iron Works, the largest establishment of its kind on the Pacific Coast. He has most successfully conducted his own affairs—and it is that kind of man whom the people would have to help

ready begun to have an appreciable effect. Progress is also being made in the extension of the common school system. One of the chief discouragements to those who investigate the South and its conditions is the "pistol toting" habit. How general this is in the South and the extent to which it tends to cheapen human life was shown in a striking manner by the shootings and killings which attended the observance of the recent Christmas holidays, and which called forth vigorous editorial comment from the Southern press. It is reasonable to believe that these atrocities, widely known, have quite as much to do with keeping immigrants from several Southern states as any other influence—and possibly a great deal more.

When a certain white element of the South shall have become civilized and law-abiding, the Southern states will have no difficulty in attracting immigration.

**THE GRAND JURY.**

It is generally admitted that the grand jury is not now a very important feature of our judicial system. Its indictments are little more than formal indorsements of the opinions of the prosecuting officer, giving him permission to go ahead and convict suspected persons, if he can. Nevertheless, the proposition to abolish an institution as old as Anglo-Saxon civilization is somewhat startling; and the fact that one state has already carried the proposition into effect is still more so. The people of Minnesota have adopted a constitutional amendment by a majority of 121,000 directing the legislature to abolish the

list should be employed to inspect the condition of the cars. The Portland Consolidated Railway Company will probably learn from this incident in its business career that it will pay to take this precaution, no matter what it may cost in the way of salary. It cannot restore the lives lost through its carelessness, but it may have to pay for them.

The senate of the United States has unanimously passed a resolution expressing its confidence in the integrity of Senator John H. Mitchell, the occasion for this action on the part of that body being the recent indictment of Senator Mitchell by the federal grand jury now in session in this city. The legislature of Oregon has passed a resolution unanimously endorsing the resolution of the national congress. What does United States Prosecuting Attorney Heney think of that? But neither the national congress nor the state legislature has said anything about the Hon. Binger Herman.

Congressman Humphrey, of Washington state, has already provoked his political confederates at Washington, D. C., to combine against him. He ought to know what that means. Piles and Ankeny will destroy him. It all came about over the nomination of George M. Stewart for postmaster at Seattle. Humphrey has all along been too much inclined to the belief that he is the "whole thing" from his state at Washington, D. C., and that Seattle is about the only city worthy of consideration, politically or otherwise, west of the national capital.

conduct the business of the public. He is a man of strictest integrity and highest honor in every walk of life and is so esteemed by all who know him. The people of his ward regard him as the very man for the position in the city council and propose to be insistent in their effort to persuade him to accept the nomination. Mr. Boost would be wholly acceptable to the business people of Portland, and there can be no doubt that he would render service for the municipality of which the people would be proud.

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