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EDITORIAL

ANOTHER VOICE AGAINST BOURNE.

The Woodburn Independent, a Republican paper, commenting on the increasing opposition among the people to the election of Jonathan Bourne to the senate, and thus carrying out the too common plan of selling the office to the highest bidder, says: "We are confident that the greater portion of the Republican voters of Oregon would applaud the act of a representative who bravely asserted his faith in the constitution of the United States and declared his intention of voting in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the Republican voters of the state. He would be cheered by the majority, who voted against Bourne. He would be praised by all loyal Republicans, who would consider as a blow at the grand old party the election of a man who not long ago deserted that party and McKinley for free silver and Bryan, and who now not only aims to gain a seat in the United States Senate, but seeks also to seat in that body from Oregon another Bryan free silver advocate, W. S. U'Ren. Isn't it time to halt and ponder, and not be so dazzled by the lavish display of gold as to forget for the nonce the vital interests of the Republican party of Oregon?"

There is a good deal of good, sober sense in this. The plea is made that it is settled that Bourne is the "choice of the people," of the republican voters of the state, but how many members of the Legislature believe this? How many of them believe that as between him and any one of half a dozen other men that might be named, neither using any money to influence votes, Bourne could get a majority? The proposition is absurd, and legislators know it.

But, it is said, they are bound by the result of the primaries and election last spring. Let them be honest and ask themselves, though they may have signed Statement No. 1, if they would have voted for Senator Gearin if he had beaten Bourne at the polls last June? No, they would not; they would easily have found an excuse; they would have said that they had a mental reservation in subscribing to that statement, and meant to confine their votes to a Republican. Yet they could not have done so and kept the strict letter of their promise, if such it was. And they might well have had another mental reservation, that they would vote for the Republican receiving the highest number of votes last April, provided he was a fit man and got the nomination in a fair and square contest with other candidates. This would have been only a fair, proper, sensible mental modification of their pledge, for surely the people do not want to elect an unfit man or one who bought the office. It would be far better to depart from a foolish promise made in the excitement of a campaign, than to keep it by electing such a man. And there is no doubt that a majority of the people would not only forgive a member for using his honest judgment next winter and acting in their interest, but would fully approve such an act.

The responsibility finally falls upon the members of the Legislature to do what is best for the people, and they know that this is not likely to be done by electing Bourne, who after all received but a small fraction of the total vote of the state. The law gotten up by Mr. U'Ren did not abrogate the constitution of the United States and of Oregon, and the Legislature is still free to do its duty and bound to do it in the interest of the people, regardless of Mr. U'Ren's law.

If a test vote could be taken now throughout the state, on the question whether the senator should be Bourne or some other man, the best one the Legislature could decide on, there

can be no doubt that Bourne, spending no money in the contest, would be overwhelmingly defeated. This being the case, it certainly is not the bounded duty of the Legislature to elect him. The people did not really decide last April. It was not a square deal, because Bourne's money was poured out like water to offset the result.

It is a principle of law that all contracts tainted with fraud are void, and if it was Bourne's money and not his merits that secured his plurality, the choice was in a sense fraudulent; it was not fair and even, and nobody is bound by it.

THE RACE PROBLEM.

There is a good deal of foolish talk on the part of Southern statesmen or otherwise prominent men about the solution of what they call the Negro or race problem. Much of it is suggestive of the expatriation of the colored people. Some express a hope that they will mostly move up North after awhile—impelled thereto, we suppose the thought is, by unbearable prescription and persecution. Another brilliant suggestion is that they be sent down to dig the Panama canal as though they could be forced to go to Panama against their will any more than white people—and then if they did go, what would they do after the canal was finished? And how could they all or a large proportion of them be maintained there? But in some way or another they are to be gotten rid of, if possible, for it seems to be conceded that to exterminate them would be too big a job.

There are more sensible Southerners, however, who perceive the folly of such schemes and ideas, and also know that the South needs the labor of the Negroes and could not well do without it, even if a good many of them don't work much. The fact is that the colored people have a perfect right to live in the South, or in any other part of the country, the same as white people have, and to the same rights and liberties under the law, and protection by the law, because they are full legal citizens. A good many people who discuss "the Negro problem" seem to assume that the Negro is a creature to be considered as one entirely apart from membership in the human family, as a part of the brute creation or some pestilential plague not to be considered at all except in connection with some means of getting rid of them. People who entertain this sort of idea cannot discuss the matter intelligently. The Negroes must be accepted as a part of the citizenry of the country and treated accordingly. If they violate the laws punish them. Encourage them by all possible means to work, to be industrious and honest and to become independent. But they are not to be exterminated nor expatriated. There is no need of full social equality, and it is not or should not be desired on one side more than on the other. There is no social equality among white people either and no great fuss is made about it. But colored people ought to be accorded their political rights, and encouraged to prize American citizenship by political recognition. Their labor is needed in many ways, and a large proportion of them are capable and willing workers. If both races would behave themselves better and work more and talk less, and each attend to its own business, and recognize others' rights, the "race problem" would soon dwindle into insignificance.

PROBABLY NO FRAUD HERE.

It may be that some of the Pendleton men suspected of land-grabbing have secured possession of some pasture lands in such a way that a government agent out for that purpose can find some flaws or fault with them, but it does not appear that Col. Raley or W. J. Furnish or the others have done anything that reasonable men would object to. Nearly, if not quite all, the land that they have acquired, and this only as it seems by lease for ten years, is precipitous, rocky and almost worthless mountain land, good for nothing but pasture and good for but little for that. It is well enough for the government to be watchful to prevent frauds in taking up agricultural lands, though it did not begin to exercise its vigilance till the lands were

about all gone, but it does not follow that prominent men should be accused of land frauds for furnishing poor settlers with the money necessary to buy these scrub lands, and their renting them for pasture. In this transaction the government was benefited, for it got all the lands were worth, and nobody was harmed. Mr. Raley says he will be out of pocket on his leasing speculation, which by the way was not a secret transaction at all, as he informed the department of what he was about and it made no objection, and as to Mr. Furnish, he says he only purchased the amount allowed by law to each individual and complied fully with the law in obtaining title. There has been a good deal of fault found lately with the management of affairs on the Umatilla reservation, and the agent and his favorites in Pendleton have been the objects of considerable criticism, and this attack on Raley and Furnish looks a good deal like revenge and spitework. They are men of too much wealth and too high character to try to acquire lands by fraud, and are men of too good business sense to do so, even if they were so disposed when they knew the government was watching the land business very closely, and when the lands in question were scarcely worth fencing anyway.

RUCTION AT THE DALLES.

The motives and reasons for the resignation of M. T. Nolan, register of the land office at The Dalles, do not all appear on the surface as yet, but Hon. M. A. Moody, on whose recommendation Nolan was appointed, has hinted at some of the reasons in a general way and can doubtless go more into detail if he desires. Nolan owed the office entirely to Mr. Moody, but after he was fairly installed in it became, as is intimated, overbearing and disagreeable to the patrons of the office, and it may be surmised showed ingratitude to his benefactor. Mr. Moody stood very high with the administration when he was a member of Congress, as in fact he has done ever since, probably having far more influence at Washington than Williamson ever did even before the indictment, and it may be through Moody's suggestion that Nolan was ordered to make a report concerning certain transactions. He sought to avoid making the report, but on an imperative order from Washington did so, and sent his resignation along with it, the presumption naturally being that he knew the report would involve his dismissal if he did not resign.

Mention of these matters invites the reflection that it was a great mistake as the New Age said at the time, for the people of this district to defeat Moody and nominate Williamson. Moody had served two terms in Congress and had become influential, and was especially liked by the President, and if kept in Congress till now could have been a great power for Oregon's good; but what has Williamson done? Everybody knows the history of his brief congressional career, and for the last two years or so Oregon has had no representation in the house. The people of this district were never served as ably and well in the house as when Mr. Moody was a member, and are not likely to be served so well for a long time to come.

THE STATE PRINTING PLANT.

State Printer-elect Duniway is to be congratulated and commended for his determination to buy a complete printing plant for the state house, rather than submit to F. C. Baker's exactions in relation to the plant which he owns and which other state printers have been obliged to use on Baker's terms. The state ought to own its printing plant, and if Mr. Duniway provides one it would be well for the state to take it off his hands if it is what the state needs and Mr. Duniway wishes to sell it. State printers, elected for only four years, "providing they are restricted to a fair salary or reasonable emoluments, ought not to be obliged to buy a plant or to rent one owned by a former printer at whatever price he may choose to charge. The state should provide the plant and then pay the printer a good salary and shut off all grafting. Mr. Duniway knows about, if not quite all, there is to be known about the printing business, and if he gets a plant it will be a good one and he will do nothing but

good work. As to the old plant left over from Baker's regime, nobody will shed any tears if he couldn't get enough for it to pay him for hauling it away. He made enough out of the office to satisfy any reasonable man without holding up every state printer as long as he lives and obliging him to pay the price of a new plant, more or less, for the use of Baker's old outfit.

President Roosevelt always means right and generally does right, but he is impulsive and sometimes does people an injustice unintentionally, and this was the case when he discharged a whole regiment of colored soldiers for the improper acts of a few of them, and which were no worse than white soldiers often indulge in, and were doubtless much exaggerated by Southern Negrophobists.

Labor unions will gain nothing by going into politics, unless they organize to support solidly the candidates that suit them best of the two principal parties. If they try to have a party of their own and put up separate candidates, they will only aid the stronger of these two great parties, as Prohibitionists and Socialists do, and accomplish nothing.

For the first time in the history of the United States a President is beyond the confines of the country, but President Roosevelt is a law unto himself and is no great respecter of precedents. He will find out all that a man can during the time he stays about the big ditch, and there is likely to be more doing in that quarter hereafter than heretofore.

It is reported that Jack Matthews is figuring on trying his hand again at being political boss, especially at Salem next winter, but he doesn't find it very easy to get his hand in again. Times are different from what they used to be.

Marion county as well as Multnomah always claims and nearly always gets one of the presiding officers of the Legislature. But there are other Willamette Valley counties and Southern and Eastern Oregon.

In anything like a close election the colored voters hold the balance of power in several states. Yet some people think they are politically good for nothing except to vote the straight Republican ticket.

Frank Davey of Marion county seems to be in the lead for speaker of the House, but this is a case where appearances may be deceptive. The Multnomah members are to be consulted.

If the state is going to buy any printing plant it should get a new, good one, and reject all overtures to buy the old outfit of Frank Baker's, that he would like to unload. Hasn't he made enough off the state?

It is pretty well known that Harriman is about the biggest fraudulent land grabber in the country, or that roads at which he is the head have been, but there is no danger of his being indicted and convicted.

There are not over 20 state senators who have more or less hopes of being elected president. It will be something strange if Multnomah county gets neither that office nor the speakership.

President Roosevelt has again declared that he would not run for President in 1908. The next best man is eight, in the people's estimation is Taft.

Any Republican member will be easily forgiven for ignoring Statement No. 1 to the extent of voting for some fit man instead of Bourne for Senator.

Nobody is going to worry much about who will be nominated for mayor until after the holidays. Then the bussing will begin to be lively.

"Count" Boni Castellaine had a high old time while the money lasted, but now he seems to be hard up against it—and serves him right.

Sheriff Stevens doesn't have one-tenth the fuss that Sheriff Word had, and some people don't like so much serenity.

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