

The Oregonian.

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8.

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NOTE AND COMMENT. Is the Hon. John Barrett not interviewable on the Chinese war? An undated dispatch is about as satisfactory as an unsigned check.

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In the field of foreign relations, the Senate is Congress. There has been the battle-ground been of our National struggles. There and there only can treaties become law. There, in fact, has been fought out and settled every great conflict of our annals, from the Morrill tariff to the Wilson and Dingley laws, from the Missouri Compromise to the war with Spain, from the Bland-Allison and Sherman acts down to the gold-standard law of March 14, 1900. The Senate not only dictates our policies, but it conducts their discussion. There is the true forum of our political life. The House is a body of business men in action, the Senate is, not perhaps to the extent desirable, but to a greater extent than prevails elsewhere, a body of deliberation, consultation, council and advice. He who has anything to say can be heard. The man who rises to his seat in the Senate, with words of meaning and moment, has the ear not only of the United States, but of the civilized world. If he says anything of original power in conviction, or of new and pregnant significance for the human mind, all the world reads it next morning, in its own tongue, at its breakfast table. Nowhere else is the efficient machinery of the world so provided so powerful a lever with which to reach humanity and turn the current of history.

In these circumstances, the Legislature of Nevada, soon to assemble to choose a United States Senator, is to shoulder a heavy responsibility. It has the opportunity to send to Washington a man who can influence the attitude of the Government toward the problems of Pacific expansion and Oriental trade development, or it can neglect that opportunity and send to the nation a man whose capacity is measured by holding down a seat and peddling postmasterships. The man who is to be a force in Congress must correctly apprehend the critical bearing of Philippine and Chinese affairs upon the course of history and the destiny of our Pacific States; he must be able to present the truth of experience and of economic necessity clearly and forcibly; that the course indicated will be plain and simple and too important to be neglected; he must be able to confuse the machinations of those who oppose our development here, to set at rest the fears of the timorous, to put before the country its great opportunity for National honor and dignity, coupled with widening trade and increasing wealth, that lies in the path of Pacific expansion, assertion of American treaty rights in China, and liberal policies toward Pacific commerce.

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