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There is certainly had every chance and opportunity of success that Mr. Furnish and others have had. Whether lack of success in such circumstances is or is not commendation of a man for the office of Governor, the leading business office of the state, men will judge. Mr. Chamberlain and his friends ought not to have started the suggestion. We allow an aristocracy of wealth. Are we asked to allow an aristocracy of inefficiency and failure? It is a new idea that the Governor of Oregon ought to be chosen on a record or claim of incapacity for business.

Should he be elected Governor, Mr. Chamberlain might be expected to act as he has acted in every other office he has held. He would perform routine and perfunctory duties, but never would go to the bottom of things in the important business of the state. He has the political, not the business, turn and habit of mind; he would do nothing that was palpably wrong, unless it were forced upon him by the action of his party, which he never would resist, because his one strong characteristic is an intense partisanship; but in the line of independence, efficiency and positive ability for direction of business in the executive office of the state very little could be expected of him.

THE SIMON MAFIA.

A protest is going up against the action of the recent city and county convention, in the name of liberty. The caucus participants in the delegates who named the ticket consisted in a large majority of the convention, a ring that is protesting consists solely of a select coterie of Joseph Simon's immediate adherents. They protest against ring rule in the name of the people. One hundred delegates out of 160 are a ring, while Cohen, Bernstein, Pipes, Ross and Mackay are the people. O Liberty, what ghastly jokes are perpetrated in thy name!

The objection is to the proceedings of a very large majority of Republican delegates, elected at open and fair primaries, under the procedure prescribed by law. But by what convention and upon what credentials are the five or six men accredited to form a caucus of their own and apportion out the offices? By what body of the people or of Republican voters, legal or illegal, are they delegated, and whom do they represent? The answer is that they represent no man and that they are Joseph Simon. He is the soul of the movement here. His personal fortunes must be cared for at the price of Republican defeat.

Mr. Simon is mum as to his attitude toward the Republican ticket in this county, city and state. He has no word of hope for its success; he dares not express a hope for its defeat. If he told the truth he would say that the leading constituents of his old machine here, under his direction, are permitted a conspiracy to defeat the Republican party in his state. But this would doubtless interfere with his plans at Washington. If it were known in Washington that he, as a Republican Senator, is aiding and abetting a conspiracy here in the interests of Republican defeat at this critical time in the party's history, such standing as he has in the Republican councils there would be destroyed. The truth is precisely what he has every desire and concern to conceal.

It is well understood that Simon and the remnants of his machine will now support Chamberlain for Governor, as Simon supported Penney for Governor against Thompson in 1890, and as he had previously supported Strahan for Justice of the Supreme Court, against Wiley. These fifth-riff stabs in politics which Simon and his vote for Chamberlain, Williamson, the Republican nominee for Congress, is now to be knifed in the same way. This stiletto work in politics is no new thing under the Simon machine. Many men have been victims of it. Let us see if we cannot now put an end to the work of this political Mafia, which so long has been operating in Oregon.

AN IMAGINARY ASSET.

There are Democrats. The Oregonian is told, who have strong hope of the election of Mr. Chamberlain by Republican votes. They admit this is their only hope, since there is a large Republican majority in the state. But these Democratic Republicans in various parts of the state are telling them that they intend to vote for Chamberlain as against Furnish; because they prefer a man who has been a Democrat all the time and has remained with his party all the time to one who formerly was a Democrat and has been a Republican only on the questions and issues of recent years.

The Oregonian is not going to question the sincerity of these enthusiastic and rosy Democratic claims. At the same time it will remark that the wise man will not bank on these claims as an asset, to be realized "out of doubt" and out of question, too, and ambiguous, as honest Fluellen would say. The coming election is to be decided on high considerations. The personal element in it will not be great. It is the policy of one party, on questions of highest National importance, against the policy of the other party.

There will be mighty few exceptions to the rule that the Republican ticket will vote the Republican ticket. The Oregonian has some facilities for ascertaining what public sentiment is; and the diligent inquiry it makes in all parts of the state does not result in discovery of any basis for this claim that Republicans are going to vote for Chamberlain. A few here and there, indeed, may. So there are Democrats who will vote for Furnish. But except in Multnomah, where the Simon conspiracy against the Republican party will doubtless bring Chamberlain some votes, the whole of these claims on either side may be set down as negligible quantities; and in Multnomah the whole efforts of the Simon conspiracy can few hundred votes no more than a few hundred votes in addition to the strength of his party.

Republicans know that this contest presents National issues. They know that the general policy of their party is at stake. They know that the question at issue is whether Oregon is to pronounce for Republican policy or against it. The assumption, then, that Republicans will prefer to vote for Chamberlain because he has always been a Democrat, and is still a Democrat, rather than for Furnish, who once was a Democrat, but left that party on the great issues of six years ago, is as a Republican today on the issues of today, would imply simply that Republicans no longer are Republicans, but prefer to be Democrats. The Oregonian may be excused when it calls this assumption stuff and nonsense.

Six years ago the Republican party

was extremely glad to have men like William J. Furnish come to it. Their accession to the party saved it from defeat, and the country from the worst of disasters. It was everywhere regarded by Republicans as an act of patriotism in men like Mr. Furnish to come out from the Democratic party and to act with the Republican party and to support the issues of that time. To say that Republicans now prefer a man who remained with the Democratic party then, and has remained with it ever since, and still sticks to it on the newer questions of today, including "scuttle," rebuke of the Republican National Administration and rejection of all that the Republican party in Oregon stands for before the country, is a queer estimate of the intelligence and sincerity of Republicanism in Oregon. It is moonlight on the lake, as the slang goes; it is chase of the rainbow and chasing of a mirage. The Republican who doesn't realize the importance of keeping Oregon in the Republican column, at a time like this, when issues of deepest consequence, especially to our Pacific States, and to our position in relation to the Philippine Islands and Oriental commerce, are at stake, will be found in June as rare a bird as the dodo. He will not, in fact, be a Republican, but an anti-expansion and scuttling Democrat.

BELGIUM'S IMPENDING CRISIS.

The workmen's riots in Belgium are caused by political conditions. The franchise in Belgium is virtually confined to the upper and middle classes. Belgium people in the towns and the mining districts are denied the right of suffrage in a restricted number of zones who have reached the age of 21 years and who pay at least 40 francs (\$8) annually in direct taxes. There is a provision giving an additional vote to any citizen who is a university graduate. These outrageous inequalities in the law have given the Clerical party an overpowering advantage, which has enabled it for years to defeat the efforts of the Liberals, Radicals and Socialists to obtain a manhood suffrage. The workmen are under the influence of the Socialists, and desire that the Socialists who sympathize with their views be granted the suffrage. The exhibitions of feeling in the army as well as among the people indicate that before long Belgium will have to choose between concession of universal suffrage or collision with a popular insurrection of a more formidable character.

Belgium, whose area is but 11,373 square miles, has a population of over 6,000,000 of people, and is the most densely populated country outside of Asia. Nearly one-sixth of its inhabitants labor in mines or factories. The people of its southern portion speak the French language, and are largely of French blood and political sympathies. Belgium was under French rule during the whole of Napoleon's career, and since the creation of the third republic in France the working people of Belgium have been exceedingly restless under their existing so-called government, which is really little better than an oligarchy in the superficial dress of a constitutional monarchy. The King is a mere figurehead; the standing army is but 45,000 strong, and if it should prove, as reported, to be more or less honorably disbanded, it would probably fraternize with the people in event of a formidable insurrection. Thousands of the soldiers of the line joined the insurrection of the French Commune in 1871. The disaffection of the French Army to the royal government was notable in the great French Revolution of 1789, and it would be remarkable if the standing army of Belgium did not become dangerously disaffected in event of a popular revolt.

The Belgian Government will have to yield, unless it expects the Emperor of Germany to interfere in its behalf, as the Emperor of Russia did in 1849 in behalf of Austria, lest a Belgian republic should be formed which would ultimately become a free country. Belgium is a Roman Catholic country, and the Clerical party are bitterly opposed to the separation of church and state—at least to the extent that has obtained enactment under the present government of France.

It may be that the bill promoted by Senator Clark, of Montana, for repeal of the present timber and stone act and substitution of a plan for selling timber from Government land to the highest bidder is not the best remedy that can be devised for present abuses, but at the same time it may be better than questioned whether the timber and stone act as it stands is so perfect that it should not be touched. It may be said that the purpose of the law is to give the people a chance to acquire timber rather than to place it within the control of rich corporations who have the money to bid it in at public sales. But what is the result? The corporations get the timber lands anyway, and all kinds of crooked practices are resorted to by entrymen who find it profitable to serve the lumbermen by taking land for them. And the lumber corporations now "scrip" large areas of timber land, cutting out in those cases all participation on the part of the individual entrymen. True, they are not permitted to place scrip on unsurveyed land, but formal application and guaranty of the Government will easily change any desired tract of unsurveyed land into surveyed class, in which scrip will apply, or manipulation of entry will be serviceable. Timber-grabbers seem to be getting pretty nearly all they want, as the law and practice now stand. There is room to doubt that Senator Clark's bill is entirely desirable, but it is also evident to most people that present methods of handling our timber lands will soon result in putting them all in possession of the lumbering corporations or speculators, with small benefit to the Government. If it be business logic for timber lands to go in large tracts to those who have the capital necessary to manufacture and market lumber, why should not the Government in some manner recognize them?

When Judge Murphy, in Detroit, Mich., recently sentenced to life imprisonment Professor Joseph M. Miller, a married man, who confessed that he had deliberately planned and executed the murder of his paramour, Miss Carrie M. Jennett, he denounced Miller as a demon whose sentence was inadequate for his horrible crime. Judge Murphy is right, but who is to blame for the fact that a sane, intelligent man can in Michigan kill a girl with a hatchet in cold blood and suffer nothing but life imprisonment? The State of Michigan is responsible for this shameful situation by its sentimental abolishment of the death penalty for murder. There

is today in the Michigan State Penitentiary a young man of more than average intellect and education who murdered his own mother in order to rob the house and inherit her property. After this miscreant had been a few years in confinement he murdered one of the turnkeys by administering poison to him, and, taking his keys, made his escape. He was recaptured, returned to prison, where he may remain the rest of his days, but if he had been promptly hanged for the murder of his mother on conviction of the poor turnkey would not have lost his life. There is no reason why every life prisoner in the Michigan Penitentiary should hesitate at murder in order to escape, for if recaptured the murderer is no worse off; he simply resumes his service at life imprisonment. The limit of the law for murder is life imprisonment, whether you kill one victim or two, or a whole mad Malay and kill a whole village party. In Italy, where the death penalty for murderers has been nominally abolished, life imprisonment is made a living death, for the convict is subjected to such intolerable hardships and ingenious legalized cruelty that his mind sooner or later gives way and he becomes a hopeless maniac or idiot. Of course, under our form of government a terrible legal torture of a condemned man would be permitted, and never ought to be. For the protection of society we have a clear right to destroy a human wild beast, but we have no right to torture either man or beast into madness. Michigan will be driven by the force of aroused public opinion to re-enact the death penalty for murder.

While it is very probable that there have been isolated instances of cruelty toward Filipinos by our soldiers, it is preposterous to imagine that any officer of responsible rank has ordered any act of the kind, or would tolerate such acts, if he has knowledge of them. Some of our exasperated soldiers, smarting under betrayal and murder of their comrades, or having information about acts of treachery, cruelty and torture perpetrated by Filipinos, either on our soldiers or on friendly natives, may inconsiderately have resorted to retaliation; but even cases of this kind must be rare, since humane conduct is natural to Americans, and officers are exceedingly careful of their reputations on this head. While there may be some truth in these stories—and they ought to be probed to the bottom—it is well to remember that there are soldiers who are fond of making sensational and exaggerated statements, and after their hysterics are spent to utter such statements freely. But let us have full and open inquiry. Yet it may be depended on that no officer ever gave an order to torture or murder Filipinos.

Sentiment in regard to the disposal of the wreck of the battle-ship Maine, sunk just before the beginning of the war with Spain in Havana harbor, will doubtless give place to utility whenever the time comes for raising the vessel. The clamor for the return of the battle-ship with her tall-tale wonders, whatever they are, to an American port, to be preserved there as a relic of a time of trouble, has about ceased. Nothing can be gained by an objectless purpose of the kind, to recall a period of National excitement and keep up international ill-will. The wreck of the Maine, according to the popular belief, was procured through treachery. Let that pass, especially since no one can complain that the act was not followed by a full measure of retribution. The wreck as it lies, however, is an obstruction to navigation, and upon this basis its removal will in due time be ordered.

The burden of civilization grows. British supremacy in South Africa, assured from the first, but so stubbornly contested by the Boers, has already cost Great Britain enormously. The assurance of peace brings no cessation of the demand for money, though happily the demand for men will continue to slacken and rehabilitate the farms of the Boers, and even start them on the way to self-dependence, will be a tremendous task. This will be necessary to some extent if Great Britain is to stand before the world as a generous conqueror. No wonder that people of all classes in England regard the situation in the light of a "burden placed on posterity," since certainly the present generation cannot bear it to the goal of liquidation.

It is a spectacle, Mr. Simon poses at Washington as a Republican Senator and demands "recognition" from the Administration on this claim; yet he is the head and soul of a conspiracy in Oregon against the Republican party and its candidates, and through the relics of his dilapidated machine is working in a Democratic combination to make the Legislature Democratic and to elect a Democratic Governor and Democratic members of Congress, and movements and purposes of Mr. Simon, through his Portland machine, will be made known at Washington—indeed, are known there already.

The Platt exclusion act, passed by the Senate, is not as perfect a device for the purpose in hand as the Mitchell-Kahn bill, but it is a distinct advance upon the Geary law, and to that extent it marks the defeat of the anti-expansion National sentiment. The Mitchell-Kahn bill is an eloquent column on a speech concerning Irish Home Rule made by Mr. Morley some weeks ago—but neither of them has a syllable about the spring question of the day. Speak, brothers, and let the worst be known; "speaking will relieve you," as the commonplace hymn says. We do not care what you say, if it does anything for the credit of the American press.

The other night in the local Democratic caucus Judge O'Day remarked that it was necessary to make selections for the nominations—the Democratic part of them—that would be satisfactory to the Republicans who were contending for "good government." "Who are these Republican reformers?" inquired a delegate. "D. S. Cohen and Aleck Bernstein," shouted another. Then the laughter was general.

Senator Patterson thinks the Chinese are "white-livered." The fighting in Manchuria and further south does not bear out this theory. Mr. Patterson should attend a highlander massacre on the streets of Portland.

Senator Hanna's opposition to the Mitchell-Kahn bill will more than offset any favor he will gain from organized labor through his arbitration efforts.

The proposed British war loan of \$150,000,000 is ten times over-subscribed. It is how anxious the British public is for peace at any price.

ALL EYES ON OREGON.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The first election of 1902 is that which will come off in Oregon. It will take place on June 2, a little less than two months hence. The Republicans have put up a good ticket and have framed a platform on which their party all over the country could consistently stand. It comes out strongly in favor of the retention of the Philippines; attacks the trusts, advocates protection to domestic industries which need it, declares for the continuation of the exclusion of the Chinese, and favors the adoption of a sensible system of irrigation.

For years past the Republicans have been carrying Oregon. The Demo-Pho fusion won it in 1892, and the Bryanites came so near winning it in 1896 that McKinley's plurality was only a little over 2000 in that state. That was the time when the silver wave was sweeping over the great West, and the country west of the Mississippi. By 1898 Oregon regained its political balance, and the state was carried by the Republicans by a 10,000 plurality for Governor that year. It gave 13,000 of a lead to McKinley and Roosevelt in 1900. Its delegation in both branches of Congress belongs to the Republican party, and usually has for a few years past.

There is no doubt that Oregon will roll up a handsome plurality for the Republicans in the election a few weeks hence. That state elects two members of Congress on that day, as well as state officers, and thus the election will have an interest for the whole country. It will turn on National issues, and on National issues the Republicans ought to be able to carry Congress and most of the states which have been Republican in recent years. The Republicans are strong on all the great questions of National policy this year. National expansion and the general question of industrial development with which the party has been identified are popular with the country, and the country is in the mood at the present time to give emphasis to its views on these and other great issues. The Republican party expects to hear grand news from Oregon on the night of June 2. The Oregon Republicans expect to roll up a good