The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, FEB. 1, 1908.

A SURVEY OF THINGS.

The Oregonian, as a looker-on in politics, though not a party advocate, supposes it may offer some considerations on the political situation in Oregon. It doesn't exactly ask or expect unanimous consent, but will go ahead on an easy canter or career round the field, and sometimes perhaps make short cuts across it, asking nobody.

The new political and legislative methods make a peculiar and confused situation. The professed object is to place and to keep their own government in the hands of the people. It is ideal, in its terms; but party, as well as government, requires organization, and organization requires leadership, and leadership requires that some man or group shall take the lead; and this again means the creation and activity of the person we call the boss, or of the group we call the machine. Our new system therefore attempts impossibility. Under the plea of bringing their government into the hands of the people and keeping it there, it would forbid organization and leadership strong enough to do anything. And yet in politics men must co-operate, and in all co-operation some will take the lead and become more active than others. Then the effect must be simply the substitution of one leader, manager, group or machine for another. Then is our effort to result merely in the elimination of one machine and clearing the way for another? This may be some gain doubtless; but it was often effected under the old system; for parties always have been accustomed to change leaders and the managers of their organization very often.

The great body of citizens are seldom active in politics, because it doesn't suit them to be so. Most have other business to attend to. But they are easily stirred by appeals against the organization or machine. Nor are they likely to stop long enough to observe that those who are declaiming most loudly against the tyranny of the organization and its usurpations are desirous chiefly of obtaining this control for themselves; and when they do obtain it they continue the prevailing or antecedent methods, without much change except in the identity of the personal factors. All this is inevitable, because it is human nature, and it will continue, because it is human nature.

Few of those whose votes carried the new system to adoption are satisfied with the results it produces. Its effects prove to be very different from what was anticipated or supposed. It is found not to be a way of determining "the people's choice" for nominations, or their judgment on proposals either of initiative or referendum. It produces a great crop of candidates, each supported by a small group, but few of them entitled to consideration, and many who never could have been seriously thought of. But they divide the primary vote, and one candidate obtains a few more votes than any other. But he is not the people's choice at all. He is not even the party's choice; and if the office is an important one he will probably be defeated in the election. Or, if elected, it will be merely by a scratch, after a hard fight. All this may be illustrated by familiar examples.

Mr. Bourne, by vigorous effort, supported by a fund which no other candidate was able to provide, received the primary nomination for Senator. But he obtained less than one-fourth of the Republican vote of the state, and less than one-third of the Republican vote cast in the primary. He was not the people's choice at all, nor his party's choice at all. Of course the same could have been said of any other one of the contestants for the nomination, who might have won it in the same way. But it was especially difficult to elect Mr. Bourne. The causes were in his antecedent political career, of which nothing needs to be said here. The majority for other Republican candidates in the same election was 30,000; for Mr. Bourne it was barely 2400. Both with the candidate for this office and with the system under which he had pushed himself forward the Republicans were greatly dissatisfied. Many swallowed their objections and voted for him on the party name, but a multitude refused, because he was not deemed a representative of their political principles and of their party, and so passed over the name without marking their vote for Senator. Another multitude, feeling deeper resentment, emphasized it by voting directly for Mr. Gearin, who, indeed, might easily have received the majority of the popular vote, had his political friends known how close it was and how easy it might have been. Every one knows that Mr. Bourne was not the party's choice nor the people's choice. The pretension set up, therefore, under the primary law is a fallacy. It was shown in a similar way in the nomination and defeat of Mr. Withycombe for Governor. It will almost surely be shown again in the coming election. Doubtless Mr. Chamberlain will be the nominee of his party for Senator. In the primary he may be expected to get one-third of the whole vote. The other two-thirds will be divided between Fulton and Cake. One or other of these will have the plurality; and then we shall expect Chamberlain to get the majority of the popular vote; and if "Statement No. 1" shall be the rule of action for members of the Legislature, he will be elected Senator by that body, as a Democrat, and will act as a Democrat and with the Democratic party on all political and national questions throughout his term—though two-thirds of the people of Oregon are Republicans. Is this the way to arrive at the people's choice? Is this representative government?

Under the system the Republican party will not be able to nominate against Chamberlain the candidate it would want, or the candidate on which it could or would unite against Chamberlain, and thus defeat him. Its factions, drawn further apart by the primary contest, and all their differences accentuated by it, will not unite for the election.

Wherein the primary law disappoints is in its inapplicability to the principles of human nature, and in its failure to bring out men for office who are the choice of the party, or the choice of the party in whose name the candidate comes forth. Wherein the scheme of initiative and referendum fails is, first, in the facility it offers to groups of whimsical and cranky persons to propose laws; and second, as to the referendum, in the invitation it presents to similar persons to "hold up" proper legislation.

For examples of the one kind look at the fish bills and other initiative measures now presented. For example of the other kind, take the referendum call on the bill for support of the University of Oregon. The mass of voters seldom will take the trouble to give sufficient examination to initiative bills or referendum. Many of them are irrational, and the whole thing comes to be looked upon as a bore or nuisance.

The Oregonian now has no business with party at all, because as matters now are it sees no way to make action through party effective for any result. A minority party will have little trouble under present conditions; indeed will be favored by them, but a majority party will be broken into factions and fragments and can accomplish little or nothing. Such is the state of the Republican party in Oregon. The new system has increased and aggravated all its dissensions, and is constantly sowing seed for new crops of them. Having noted this for a number of years, The Oregonian has stepped aside to watch the melee and record it; for it has found by the abundant experience of abortive effort that there can be no result from exhortation, remonstrance, appeal or expostulation. Republicans have shown again and again that they will not vote for candidates so nominated, especially for leading positions, who get but a fragment of the votes for their nomination. It is true that Furnish, nominated for Governor six years ago by a convention, was beaten. But this was the exclusive work of rival politicians seeking revenge; yet Furnish was beaten by only 250 votes, while Withycombe, supported by all the effort of the party leaders (so-called), was beaten by ten times as many. The knife of faction, sharpened by the new system, has been used, and will still be used, with deadly effect. It has been driven right into the vitals of the Republican party. The Oregonian excuses itself from using the tone of lamentation and mourning. It simply supplies a plain explanation of facts and conditions. This party may yet elect, and doubtless yet will elect, through the mere mechanical habit of voting, certain candidates for inferior offices, or others upon whom no fight is made; but it cannot elect to leading positions, which may be contested among its own members or by the opposition, candidates who push themselves forward for nominations and get them by petty pluralities, which represent neither people nor party.

But after all, no doubt, we shall hear it said, "Well, what of it?" Nothing in the world, so far as The Oregonian is concerned, except that it analyzes a situation and gives the news. It is unwilling to lead or to follow the procession, again and again, "through the slaughter-house to the open grave." It has had its fill of that, to satiety.

A MUCKRAKER EXPOSED.

The recent exposure of the alleged weakness of the American Navy by one Henry Reuterdahl at the time of its appearance created a sensation. While the writer was comparatively unknown, some weight was given to his criticism by the fact that S. S. McClure unequivocally indorsed the story with the statement that he had "personally verified" the "facts" set forth by Mr. Reuterdahl. If one-half of the charges made by Reuterdahl were true, it was made quite clear to the American people that they had invested an enormous sum of money in a fleet as vulnerable and useless as a lot of old tramp steamers surmounted by guns which could be destroyed by the first real warship encountered. Fortunately for the good name of the men responsible for our Navy, the Scientific American has come to the front with an elaborate analysis and expose of the muckraking Reuterdahl.

There is nothing theoretical or assumed about the line of defense established by the Scientific American. Each charge is taken up, analyzed and discussed in detail. One of Reuterdahl's most serious charges, indorsed by McClure, was that "the broadside guns of foreign battleships and cruisers are, generally speaking, twice as high as ours, and many of them three times as high." The Scientific American refutes this slander with the actual measurement of the Connecticut and British vessels of a similar type built at the same period. On the Connecticut the broadside guns are fifteen feet above the normal water line, and on the British vessels Drake, King Edward VII and Swiftsure the distances are: Ten feet seven inches on the Drake, thirteen feet three inches on the Swiftsure and twelve feet nine and one-half inches on the King Edward VII. With a similar strict adherence to facts Mr. Reuterdahl's critic proves by actual displacement figures that the new expert has made a glaring misstatement in saying that when loaded our ships show but six inches of the main armor belt above the water line, for in sinking the vessels to this depth they would lose their buoyancy to such an extent that they would sink entirely.

It is also shown that if the armorplate were raised there would be great danger, when the ship was rolling, of exposing so much of the hull below the armor that shells could pass under it and explode in a vital part of the ship, while in passing above the armor as now placed the damage would not be fatal. This very able exposure of a liar will be well received by the American people, who were at first inclined to give full credence to the McClure article, which, with its accompanying diagrams and engravings, was sufficiently elaborate in detail and serious in language to impress readers with the sincerity of the writer. Mr. Reuterdahl has earned a front seat in the ranks of the muckrakers, but he has also earned the contempt of the American people, who do not love a liar.

THE SPECIAL MESSAGE.

Mr. Roosevelt's special message to Congress is one of the most powerful pieces of political eloquence in the English language. It contains passages which will be read with passionate approval by mature men and recited with flaming hearts by ambitious youth long after the President has ceased from his fight with the powers that prey and others have taken up the weapons for liberty and justice which he wields so potently and manfully. It breathes the spirit throughout of clear perception and undaunted courage. He discerns with unerring accuracy the meaning and extent of the struggle which is on in this country between the forces of predatory wrong and the forces of common right, and he strides into the fray without flinching. If Mr. Roosevelt has ever dreamed of compromise with those insidious enemies of the republic who endeavor to make their success an excuse for their crimes against morality and law, he has thrust that dream from his thoughts. If he ever dreaded the consequences to trade which might flow from the inflexible pursuit of justice and the unmasking of gilded wickedness he dreads them no longer.

In this great utterance the servile creature who lives upon the favor of the pirate corporation and earns his vile livelihood by making himself the mouthpiece of their mendacity or the instrument of their social treason will see nothing but a cunning move in the game of politics. To his base vision this noble muniment of eternal justice will appear as nothing more or better than a deft intervention for Taft and against Hughes. Mr. Roosevelt is a consummate politician. That is one reason why his enemies hate him. Were he stupid they could outwit him. Were his ambitions alien to the popular will, they could ruin him by calumny. Were he less than a master of masters in the sword play of politics, they would have given him the death stab long ago, and, seating some compliant tool in the Presidential chair, would have completed their schemes to establish a plutocratic oligarchy and make the American people forever slaves to the evil hierarchy of Mammon.

As a politician Mr. Roosevelt is incomparably superior to his enemies, but that is the smallest of his advantages over them. To them the common man is but a clod to be trodden under foot, a sheep to be shorn, a beast of burden to be worked out and cast upon the dunghill. But Roosevelt, like Lincoln, sympathizes with the common man. He knows the heart of the people, he hears the cry of their wrongs and burns with indignation against their oppressors. It is a low phrase to say that a man lives with his ear to the ground, and of Roosevelt it is not true. The mere politician must watch and listen and spy to learn what the people desire and form his servile opinion whether or not they desire it earnestly enough to make it advantageous for him to take their side. But Roosevelt knows what the people want without practice of these unworthy arts. They want justice and he wants justice. What more is needed to put him in harmony with the feeling and thought of the Nation? It is a noble trait of the President that he knows human nature well enough to trust it. He makes his appeal to the deeps of the popular mind and heart. He speaks without evasion or subterfuge. He calls a spade a spade. He gives crime its right name.

Of course the cry will go up from the maleficent hordes whom the President lashes with the whip of truth that he is severe, undignified, unstatesmanlike. He is severe, but so is truth; and there are times when the interest of the Nation demands from its first magistrate something more effective than dignity. If Mr. Roosevelt continues to give us the same passionate advocacy of what is right and just that he offers in this message, we can well dispense with all the dignity he loses by it. One can imagine that Isaiah was somewhat undignified when he denounced prophetic woes against the wrongdoers in Israel. From one point of view all passion is undignified, and yet, without passionate advocacy of the right, wrong would reign undisturbed over the affairs of men. Let us be thankful that Mr. Roosevelt is sufficiently undignified in this memorable message to tell the naked truth with convincing power and unparalleled energy.

Nor do we agree that it is unstatesmanlike. It urges upon Congress to take immediate action upon several questions of fundamental importance. The petty creatures who assume to dictate the legislative policy of the Nation have decreed that this session of Congress shall be stale, flat and unprofitable; that it shall be a scene of humbug and passive inaction; that the men sent to Washington to guard our interests and remedy our evils shall spend the Winter spewing forth buncombe. Mr. Roosevelt would have none of this. There is work to be done and he urges Congress to do it without delay, knowing that even as a party measure it is better to go before the country with a record of achievement. There is an employers' liability act to be passed; injunctions must be regulated to maintain even-handed justice between workman and employer; the Sherman act must be so modified that beneficial combinations may become lawful; the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission must be enlarged; the National authority to punish the criminal syndicates must be exercised for the common good. Here is sufficient work to keep Congress busy for a long time. How much of it will be done when the two houses adjourn and the two rival parties go before the people for judgment? Has it ever occurred to the pitiful band of leaders that both may possibly be condemned?

Fallacious reasoning on the alleged benefits of high protective tariff is too common to excite much remark. Still, an incident now and then appears that may receive comment. We find the Corvallis Gazette saying that in 1882 steel wire nails paid a duty of 1 cent a pound and were sold at 8 cents a pound; but in 1884 the duty was raised to 4 cents a pound, and since then wire nails have been much cheaper and often have been sold as low as 2 cents. The fallacies of the conclusion that the greater cheapness is due to the high duty are numerous. First, no account is taken of the improved methods which have completely revolutionized the manufacture. Second, no account is made of the fact that these methods have cut the price in foreign countries the same as in our own. Third, a duty of 4 cents on nails that are sold at 2 cents is absurdity. Fourth, our manufacturers, whenever they get a chance, sell to foreigners at low prices, while they hold up the rate at home, and are enabled through the tariff to gouge domestic consumers. Fifth, the nail industry is part of the system of the overgorged steel trust, whose enormous profits are among the scandals arising from predatory wealth. It is edifying, indeed, to find the steel trust glorified as a benevolent and philanthropic institution, organized and maintained for the benefit of labor, under protective tariff.

There is no need of an additional Federal Court in Oregon, nor of another department of the State Circuit Court in Multnomah County. The main purpose of these suggestions is to provide additional offices. Every new court will be as fully officered as the old ones, and its expenses at maximum, the year round. The effort of the politician and office-seeker to multiply offices and compel support from the public treasury is sleepless. It is a horde already twice too large. All the service, from one side of the country to the other, could be performed by one-half the persons now in office, and then they would have little enough to do. There are not only too many offices, but two-thirds of the persons in office render no service comparable with the amount of money they get. The people of the United States are being reduced fast to the position of a body of feudatories held to work for support of a privileged class on the public payrolls.

Japanese importers are suing the United States Government for $1,500,000 alleged to be due them for excessive duty levied on "sake," the stuff from which Japanese dreams are made. The Japanese allege that the intoxicating qualities of sake are not so pronounced as Uncle Sam thinks they are, and that the duty should be reduced and a refund made of the amount mentioned. It might be well for the Government to investigate and see if the use of sake had anything to do with promoting the "peppery" dispositions which the Japanese have been exhibiting along the Pacific Coast. If so, an advance instead of a reduction should be made in the tariff.

Theodore P. Shonts, who has the sympathy of all true Americans, has felt it necessary to announce that there will be no marriage settlement on the Duc de Chaulnes when he marries Miss Shonts. In making the announcement Mr. Shonts expresses his regret that such a subject should arise, and states that it would never be mentioned "when the bridegroom is an American." There is, of course, no such disgrace in connection with the Shonts wedding as attended the bargain and sale of the Vanderbilt girl to a titled ape from over the sea, or many other similar matches.

The Tillamook people, tiring of the miserable transportation facilities between Portland and their city, have induced San Francisco people to place a 1200-ton steamer on the run between San Francisco and Tillamook. It will not require a very great knowledge of mathematics or human nature to figure out where the trade of Tillamook will go when the new boat is placed on the run.

The ice trust in New York is cheered by the good news that a bountiful supply of the frozen water is beign secured. Jack Frost does not play favorites, and in consequence the coal trust is already reaping increased profits through the action of the thermometer.

It has been well and most truly said that "disorganization in party life is the signal for activity on the part of doctrinaires and discontented politicians." Here is a mirror in which the Republican party of Oregon may see a reflection of itself, all right, all right.

Mr. Bryan declares that all arguments used in an election should be used publicly. If this doctrine be put to practice for the next six months, the political news will be the most interesting feature of every daily paper in the United States.

"The issue here," said District Attorney Jerome, "is not whether Stanford White deserved death. We cannot go into that." But it is not probable that it can be kept out of the mind of any member of the jury.

REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC?

Sundry Considerations and Various Views.

Woodburn Independent.

The Portland Journal thinks it would be a splendid thing if Oregon went into the Democratic column at the next Presidential election. It fails to state whether it should go overwhelmingly Democratic or by three plurality. This expectation on the part of the Journal will not be realized, especially with Bryan in the saddle, for the eminent, or, correctly speaking, prominent Nebraskan can never carry this state. But, in one sense, Oregon is in the Democratic column now. We have a Democratic Governor. Portland has a Democratic Mayor and District Attorney, and Senator Bourne, virtually a Populist-Democrat, seeks to load us up with others of the same ilk. U'Ren may run for United States Senator and may be elected, and those who know him well know that deep down in his heart he is no Republican. If he were elected Senator, and if Bryan were chosen President, Oregon would have two Senators at Washington standing hand in hand with their old love, Bryan. It therefore cannot be truthfully stated that Oregon is wholly Republican, yet there is discrimination against this state. Better would it be if Oregon next November gave a larger Republican plurality than ever; then, if Bryan is elected, he would make an effort with favors to turn the state. It would be his aim to work upon Republican states, not those he knows will go Democratic. On the other hand, if the Republican Presidential nominee is elected, Oregon would receive less recognition than it does now if it failed to materially assist in electing the Republican candidate. It would be different if Oregon had 36 electoral votes and in the doubtful column, but it has only a little measly four and would but get the horse laugh if it changed political colors.

NEW LAW ON PICTURE COPYRIGHT

Painting Needn't Have Notice On Its Face to Prevent Reproduction.

Topeka, Kan., Journal.

A decision just rendered by the United States Supreme Court in a copyright suit holding that it is not necessary for a painting to have a copyright notice painted on its face to prevent its reproduction, is likely to have a far-reaching effect on the publication of prints in this country.

Heretofore, the practice in the United States courts on this point has been conflicting, but there has been a general tendency to hold that unless a painting bore on its face a statement of its copyright anyone was at liberty to copy or reproduce it in any form he chose.

The practice in England and on the continent is that ownership of a canvas does not confer a right to reproduce a picture. The practice here has worked great hardships on artists, for unless they disfigured their pictures with copyrighted scrawls they were likely to be unpleasantly surprised some day to see their masterpieces staring at them from advertising cards or posters.

Justice Day, who delivered the opinion of the United States Supreme Court on the subject, holds that the notice of copyright required by the Federal statutes need not be inscribed on the original painting, but that the statute is fully complied with if notice is inscribed upon the published copies, which it is desired to protect

"PISTOL-TOTERS" IN GEORGIA.

Are Regarded as Greater Dangers Than Illegal Liquor Sellers.

Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution.

With courage and pith Judge Moses Wright of the Rome circuit has struck one of the greatest evils in Georgia and the South squarely between the eyes. To the Rome grand jury he charged:

"The pistol-toter is a far greater menace to the community than the blind tiger. The conviction of one pistol-toter in this community would do far more good than the conviction of men selling liquor. A man never knows when he is going to be shot down like a dog by some fellow carrying an arsenal in his hip-pocket. That is the truth of it; let us indict them and let us apply the law to them as vigorously as we know how."

Judge Wright has with perfect accuracy said the first and last words with regard to a practice which the authorities of this state are impelled by their oaths and the public safety to stamp out relentlessly.

The pistol-toter we have always with us. Whisky merely complicated the problem. From an official standpoint, it has disappeared—and he still remains, ever ready to arbitrate some petty quarrel with the deadly six-shooter. There is no evading the issue. Every man who carries a pistol without the sanction of law is a potential murderer. He may not leave his home with murder in his heart. But it needs only the slightest provocation to stir the blind blood-lust in his veins and, reckless for the moment of consequences, to resort to the means of death so easily at hand. When we drive out whisky and ignore as negligible its deadly accessory, we are dangerously near making a farce of the enforcement of law in Georgia.

This Is a Mean Man.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

A recent case in one of the Cleveland, O., courts is well calculated to cause every right-thinking man to blush for his sex.

It was the case of as "neat and active and pleasing" a little woman as ever stood in front of a judge to accuse her husband, and the charge was laziness resulting in the criminal neglect of his family. It is only necessary to quote the testimony of the woman in order to give the reader a pretty clear impression of the kind of a man her husband is. Said she:

Why, Judge, he is so lazy that when he goes up to bed in the attic above our rooms he pulls up the ladder. That's the only stairway, and when he has pulled it up with him I can't wake him in the morning. He never helps me and does not work often enough to need any sleep, let alone all he gets by pulling up the ladder.

And ingratitude of the basest kind was added to this, for she went on to say:

My husband was awfully anxious for me to marry him, but he left me on the day we were married and did not come back for a week. Then he begged me on his knees, and I took him in. I've supported him ever since.

New Catholic Marriage Laws.

New York Tribune.

Churchmen will watch with much interest the operation of the new marriage laws of the Roman Catholic Church, which, according to reports, will be universally enforced after next Easter. The most interesting clause is the one providing that betrothals, to be binding before ecclesiastical courts, must be formalized in writing and attested by a priest or two other trustworthy persons. What makes this significant is the fact that it has long been insisted upon, in all essential respects, by not a few priests here and there, and in some cases has resulted in tempting many persons to break with the church. Will the increased authority with which the regulation is now promulgated succeed in bringing the free American back to the good old custom of "publishing the banns"? The merits of this custom are great indeed, but we suspect that the headstrong and too independent American youth will not see them, even if the bann-publishing fees be cut down to a bargain sale figure.

Tribute to T. T. Geer.

Baker City Democrat.

A pretty compliment was paid T. T. Geer the other day. One of the old residents of Eastern Oregon said he could shake hands, chuck more babies under the chin, eat with more different people when he was out campaigning than any other man in the Northwest, not excepting Methodist presiding elders.

NO WAY TO GET RID OF BRYAN?

Yet There Is Loud Democratic Protest Against Him.

Nashville (Tenn.) American, Dem.

Everywhere Democrats who openly declare for Bryan will privately admit that they have no hope of his election. No man of political intelligence believes he would be elected. The newspapers which urge the nomination of Mr. Bryan are, with few exceptions, weak editorially, and otherwise are of the third or fourth class. The ablest newspaper advocates of Mr. Bryan's nomination are Republican newspapers. They feel that with Bryan as the Democratic nominee the election of the Republican nominee is assured, no matter who he may be. It is a question of judgment.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican, Ind.

That there is hope that Mr. Bryan will yet withdraw in a blaze of glory, winning universal applause for magnificent self-sacrifice, and leaving some other wretched, forlorn Democrat to be walloped at the polls—that there is hope of this should not be lost sight of even now. But Waldorf-Astoria conferences will not achieve that result. When Mr. Bryan withdraws, he will be the stage manager and all the accessories will be to his histrionic taste.

Utica (N. Y.) Press, Ind.

Before it became absolutely established that President Roosevelt would not bow to the wishes of those who wanted him to try for a third term, it was frequently asserted that nobody but Roosevelt could defeat Bryan. Now that Roosevelt has been removed from consideration it is noticeable, however, that the sentiment in favor of Bryan's nomination among the Democrats instead of increasing has declined.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Rep.

The wise Democratic enemies of Bryan will encourage him to get the candidacy this year, so as to take him out of the fight for the nomination in 1912. As Democratic defeat this year is inevitable, the putting up of some colorless candidate at Denver like Johnson, Hoke Smith or Harmon would fasten Bryan's grip on the party four years hence. The only way that the Democrats can unload Bryan is to let him go to defeat at the polls in 1908.

Philadelphia Ledger, Ind.

When the country is struggling to establish business on a safe basis, reform the currency and restore confidence, it would be contemptible in Democrats—those who know better—to do anything for Bryan's encouragement or leave undone anything likely to rid National politics of his disturbing flightiness. The best course is to organize the bolt now and give him notice. Then he and his friends would have no excuse for complaint if he were nominated and the bolt came.

San Antonio (Tex.) Express, Dem.

It probably would be stimulative of Democratic effort and enthusiasm if there should be an earnest and conspicuous movement for the nomination of a conservative Democrat of the Harmon, Gray or Johnson type, inasmuch as it would arouse the party spirit in the breasts of a great many Democrats who will be apathetic, to say the least, if convinced that the nominee has been practically agreed upon before the convention and that it is Hobson's choice with them.

Philadelphia Record, Dem.

The question at the present time is not whether Mr. Bryan is right or not, and still less is it whether he was right in 1896. It ought not to be necessary to discuss him or his platforms. The Democratic party has twice nominated him without success, and while he was not the candidate in 1904, it is idle to pretend that he was not a large factor before, during, and after the convention. It ought to be sufficient for practical men who desire the success of the Democratic party that Mr. Bryan has been defeated twice when conditions were far more favorable for his success than they are now.

Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier, Dem.

There ought to be some sort of organization against Mr. Bryan within the party and we do not know of any one who could lead in this work better than Mr. Ridder. Without organization, Mr. Bryan will be nominated at Denver in July and be defeated, as he ought to be defeated, in November.

LOCAL OPTION IN WASHINGTON.

It Will Now Be Put Up to the Colored Brother Also.

New York World.

"Whiskey has no enemies in the cloak-room and no friends on the floor," said Representative Sherley, of Kentucky. Congress may not reform the currency, or revise the penal laws of the United States, or provide for adequate coast defenses, or amend the Sherman law, or reduce the extravagant expenditures of the Federal Government; but it is reasonably certain to grant the demands of the W. C. T. U. to the extent of enacting a local-option law for the District of Columbia.

When this act is passed it will contain no provision disfranchising the negro. No honest and thirsty Southern statesman will advocate a "grandfather clause" to restrain the colored brother's fine frenzy at the polls. Here is one issue of negro suffrage on which North and South, Democrat and Republican, will stand shoulder to shoulder, an impregnable phalanx.

When the local-option bill passes, every male negro in the District of Columbia who has attained the age of 21 years will have not only a chance but an invitation to vote on the great issue of sumptuary regulation. And few Congressmen are disturbed by doubts as to what the colored brother will do to the Demon Rum when he encounters it at the ballot box.

The Losers In Life's Race.

London Post.

Mr. Chiozza-Money discovers that out of about 700,000 persons who died in the year 1906-07 in Great Britain 82,121 left property worth £299,334,000, while the rest either died bankrupt or left nothing to attract the notice of Somerset House. The list is, he points out, "almost entirely a list of losers" in life's material race.

But of the winners he finds that almost two-thirds died leaving on the average only £200 ($1000) out of the the gigantic total of nearly £300,000,000. Another 10,000 of them left estates not exceeding the value of £1000 apiece, so that "practically all the property left in an average year is left by only 21,000 persons out of 700,000."

Five to Four.

W. M. M. in Commoner.

The shades of night were falling free
When up from Washington, D. C.
There come decrees, all handed down
By judges wrapped in black silk gown—
"Five to four."

The income tax? They pondered late
And argufied with learning great;
They seized their pens and gravely wrote
Opinions—then they took the vote—
"Five to four."

The Merger? 'Twas a famous case.
Each Judge sat there with solemn face,
And heard the argument so keen,
When the decision came 'twas seen—
"Five to four."

Our wards beyond the deep blue sea?
Ah, surely here they will agree!
But after rods of legal lore
Behold the spectacle once more—
"Five to four."

A law to safeguard human life,
To care for orphans and for wife;
Ah, judges on that will agree!
But there's the record—look and see—
"Five to four."

POTPOURRI

BY NANCY LEE.

Of course, the Senator's friends will regard the attack as a Heney-ous offense.

* * *

The full name of the foreigner on whom Gladys Vanderbilt has conferred her cash and affections is Count Lazelo Jeno Maria Henrik Simon Szeche-Szechenyi.

When the Vanderbilt millions begin to flow
Gladys will speak of her "Dear Lazelo."
When more are absorbed by bridge, poker and keno
She may mention the Count as "Lazelo Jeno."
When the titled Szechenyi's begin to guy her,
Gladys will refer to "Lazelo Jeno Maria."
When the acid test rubs the gilt from the brick,
The Count will become "Lazelo Jeno Maria Henrik."
When the pawnshop has all, to the very last diamond,
He'll answer to "Lazelo Jeno Maria Henrik Simon."
And the final rhyme, by far the saddest,
Shows the lady's name as "Dennis," not "Gladys."

* * *

A cockney cabdriver in London, who had driven all day a typical London skate, decided to have a glass of 'alf and 'alf, so left his cab tied in front of the tavern. Presently a little newsboy rushed in breathlessly to the bar and then the following dialogue occurred:

"I say, cabbie, your 'orse has fallen down."

"You blasted beggar, I bet you pushed him down."

* * *

In the "domestic information" column of one of our contemporaries we notice that, of all different methods of punishing children, spanking takes the palm.

* * *

A theatrical man tells the following, for which he vouches authenticity: Frederick Warde and Louis James were touring the West, and at a small town in Nebraska were billed to play "Othello." The manager of the company had occasion to visit one of the dignitaries of the rural community and invited him to witness the performance. After the show was over and while they were issuing from the theater, the manager asked his companion what he thought of the show. "Pretty well," was the hesitating reply; "yes, it was a pretty good show, but I can't see but that the nigger did about as well as any of 'em."

* * *

There was a man who spoke disrespectfully of the equator. We certainly have a right to hurl objurgations at this east wind.

* * *

A woman's mind is never made up so readily as her face.

* * *

An Englishman tells of the following conversation which took place at a smart London fancy dress ball.

As the guests entered the drawing-room the characters which they portrayed were announced by the butler.

Two dignified matrons who had preferred to wear evening gowns instead of fancy dress costumes were the next to enter.

"What characters shall I announce?" queried the butler.

"Oh, we haven't attempted anything in particular."

To their horror, in a phonographic tone of voice the butler announced: "Two ladies of no particular character."

* * *

The mining fatalities in the United States may be twice as great as they are in Europe, but then the profits are also twice as great. An economic idea is the hardest kind to get accepted.

* * *

Let the Women Do the Work.

We all agree
That policy
Is quite the proper thing you see;
But if the Japs
Think that perhaps
We spend our time in taking naps—
We really hold
When all is told
Our country more than love or gold.
So do not think
That we will shrink
From fighting with the "missing link."

But weeks and fears
And beers and tears
'Twill take to round up volunteers;
To drill and train
And skill attain
'Tis not so simple as appears.
While an hour at most
Upon our Coast
Would land the yellow nifty host.
So I've thought of a way
To save the day
And prove how false is their silly boast.

While at the show
Two nights ago
A-watching the chorus come and go,
The dizzy whirls
Of the score of girls
And their marching to and fro;
I noted the grace
Of figure and face
And how they kept time and step and place.
Why not send the chorus girl
The war flag to unfurl
And hurl destruction to the pony ballet pace?

Ten thousand miles
In the rank and files
They have marched for years in their silken isles.
To fife and drum
We've watched them come
Changeless, deathless (except for styles).
She will the powder face
To arms she will embrace
And usually captures every man she sees.
And I really think that she
Would an acquisition be
In fighting with the wily little oily Japanese.

In the front row
The beauties would go
Just as we've seen them at every show.
The polite little Japs
Would surrender, perhaps,
And capitulate to the charms of the foe.
If he wouldn't be polite
And bow down to beauty bright
We'd bring the back ranks on and the Japs would scoot with fright;
For the grandma chorus phis
Such a scare producer is
Our enemy would fly to escape the fearful sight.

* * *

The cornerstone of Love in a cottage is usually a solitaire.

* * *

Ignorance, to the average woman, is rarely bliss.