The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, FEB. 17, 1908.

THE FINAL REFORM.

An addition to our referendum, necessary, of course, if the voice and will of the people are to rule, is provision for call of the referendum on decisions of the courts, and especially most of the Supreme Court. It is intolerable that the people should not be permitted to review and pass upon the laws they are to obey. In the last analysis the Supreme Court, not the people, makes the law; and under the present system the people are forced to submit, without even a chance of protest. Decisions are continually made which they would set aside, by tremendous majorities, if they had a chance. Complete deliverance of the people from the despotism of the political and legal machine, and above all from the tyranny of case-made law, never can be achieved till the right to call the referendum on opinions of the courts shall be asserted and established.

A letter from Mr. W. W. Calkins, of Eugene, on this subject, recently published in The Oregonian, has obtained much notice. In that letter it was suggested that initiative, as well as referendum, could be used along this line, with excellent effect; for the suitor, if he chose, could bring his case before the people direct, without submitting to the delay of passing through the courts and becoming the prey of lawyers through the course of the proceedings. The state would bear, as in ordinary cases of initiative and referendum, the expense of printing the statement of each case and of circulation of it among the people. In this way the call of justice would be brought home to men's business and bosoms. Likewise the referendum call, on such cases as the courts had passed upon, and with which the people were dissatisfied, would clear our jurisprudence of the effects of mistake and injustice, and would make rules of law which all would willingly obey, because they would be clear expression of the true will of a just and enlightened people.

The people already have taken the legislative branch into their hands, through initiative and referendum, and the executive branch through new methods of nomination, and proposal of the power of recall, which will undoubtedly be adopted. Now, if the action of the Supreme Court were subject to the referendum, the judiciary would be divested of the power to make the will and action of the people null, by the method of construction, of which all courts are so fond. It will not be denied, of course, that the Government ought to be put in the hands of the people without any reservation whatever, and the remaining thing necessary to this end is to curb the judicial branch, upon whose will there is now no restriction whatever.

The wonder is that the people have borne this despotism and oppression so long. It has always been a long road, however, to freedom, whose battle ever must be passed on from sire to son. The method, indeed, is often a perplexity; but now at last discovery and use of the initiative and referendum will open a door to all results, and conduct us all to freedom. Preparation will be made as soon as possible for initiative constitutional amendment, so as to bring the third department of the Government under the control of the people and to abolish the wrong of compelling them to live under a judge-made law, rather than under laws of their own free enactment.

What's the constitution, anyhow? The constitution of Oregon was adopted when there were no more than 50,000 people in the state. There are 600,000 now. Why should 50,000 people, most of whom are dead, by ordinance enacted 50 years ago, rule over 600,000 now, all of whom are alive? D—— the past, anyhow!

HOW THE FRENCH DO IT.

Great ado is made once more in all the newspapers over the marriage of an American heiress, Miss Shonts, at New York, with the Duc de Chaulnes at Paris. Nobility in France is as common as plutocracy in America. And yet there is no nobility in France. Titles borne or assumed by Frenchmen have no power or significance at home. The government of the republic, acting on the principle, or fiction, that under a regime of equality no titles can exist, has left to private enterprise the assumption of titles, and every upstart ennobles himself. Many of the titles have no foundation whatever in ancestry. In other cases the remote offshoots of ducal houses set an example in the democratic use of these adornments, and in some of them there are dozens of multiplying younger branches, each member of which gives or attaches some titular dignity to his name and transmits it to his posterity. The Shonts girl, probably, has got one of these in exchange for her money. There are thousands and thousands of such prizes.

A man then in that happy country may take what title or titles he pleases; but in all the duties and requirements of citizenship, the strictest restraint is put upon the alteration of the family or baptismal name. In France any citizen may with success erect himself into a marquis or count; but if he take upon himself to alter the civil names inscribed on his birth certificate, he is subject to the sternest penalties.

Bodley, in his book on modern France, has a curious chapter on these self-created nobles and their home-made titles. The principal function of this cheap aristocracy seems to be to impose on people of other countries, and especially on the women. But these pretenders are really a burden at home; for each year the custom increases a section of the community that adds nothing of value to the country, but actually debases the national standard of intelligence. "It is surprising," writes Bodley, "that the government has taken no step to curb the irregularity, but even connives at it by a paradoxical application of the doctrine of equality. The fiction is that titles borne by French subjects have no existence, hence to recognize them for the purpose of limiting their use would bring them into being and thus infringe the principle of equality!"

PORTLAND BREAKING RECORDS.

Portland's foreign trade for 1908 promises to break all previous records, the volume of business for the new year to date exceeding that of any corresponding period in the history of the port. Wheat shipments for the first two weeks of the current month reached a total of more than 1,500,000 bushels, and there is sufficent tonnage to finish loading before the end of the month, to increase these figures at least 1,000,000 bushels. Deep-water tonnage in port is nearly double that of one year ago, and exceeds that of all American ports on Puget Sound combined. The figures in the latest issue of the San Francisco Commercial News shows that on February 13, the ocean-going fleet on Puget Sound, exclusive of coasters and regular liners, consisted of twenty-eight vessels of 53,201 tons' register, scattered among seven different ports, while at Portland on the same date there were thirty-one vessels of 61,727 tons' register.

In actual customs receipts, which are the most accurate test of the real commercial importance of a port, this city started in the new year with collections of $108,875.73, nearly $3000 more than the receipts at Seattle, our nearest competitor, and within about $28,000 of the combined receipts of Seattle, Port Townsend, Tacoma, Everett, Bellingham and fourteen other ports in the Puget Sound district. The increase in breadstuffs exported from Portland in 1907 was 113.1 per cent over that of the preceding year, compared with 22 per cent increase on Puget Sound and 1.9 per cent increase in San Francisco. Portland led all other Pacific Coast ports in wheat shipments, and in order not to give this fact too much prominence, a Seattle trade paper in citing the Coast total of 19,047,917 bushels, adds: "of which the Puget Sound district contributed practically one-half, or 9,191,270 bushels." Portland's shipments were 9,237,437 bushels.

While it would be expecting too much to score a gain equal to that of 1907, it is now a certainty that Portland's wheat exports for 1908 will far exceed those of the preceding year. The early completion of the North Bank road will wonderfully increase the amount of wheat reaching tidewater at Portland, and the steady growth of the jobbing business of the port will increase the imports, which even now are distributed from Portland in larger volume than from any other North Pacific port. Viewed from almost any standpoint, the commercial outlook for Portland is exceptionally bright, but in no other line of trade will we see greater growth this year than in our foreign business.

USE OF STATE'S EVIDENCE.

The idea is prevalent with a considerable number of persons that a prosecuting officer should not use the information of certain criminals and let them go, in order to convict others usually "higher up." This practice is condemned by some persons as disreputable, and by others as even criminal on the part of the prosecuting officer. One man, writing to The Oregonian, asks if the prosecutor is not causing the informers to commit perjury and thereby committing subornation of perjury. The letter is as follows:

ASTORIA, Or., Feb. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Webster gives the definition of the word suborn. First. In law to procure a person to take such a false oath as constitutes perjury. Second. To procure privately or by collusion. Third. To procure by indirect means. Subornation. In law the crime of procuring a person to take such an oath as constitutes perjury. Second. The crime of procuring one to do a criminal or bad action.

May a man who is detected in a crime commit perjury to escape the penitentiary?

If Jones gives Smith ten dollars to swear to an affidavit which he knows to be false, Smith is a grafter and a perjurer, while Jones is undoubtedly guilty of subornation of perjury. This is clear. Again. Twelve men are indicted for committing a crime. If convicted they all will go to the penitentiary. But there is a chance they may not be convicted. Therefore, the prosecuting attorney calls 11 of the 12 indicted men into his office separately and privately, and informs each one that his conviction is sure, and that he can escape the penitentiary in only one way. And that is by telling "all he knows" and helping to secure the conviction of one man who is supposed to be higher up. If he will do this and help to convict the one man higher up he himself will be given his freedom in exchange for his testimony.

This is, as I understand it, the so-called immunity bath. What I wish to know from The Oregonian is this: Does not the prosecuting officer by threatening and promising liberty in plain words ask these 11 men to commit perjury? Does he not attempt in the baldest way to suborn perjury? Is not this the very worst and most dangerous kind of subornation of perjury?

JAS. ANDERSON.

Certainly not. Perjury is false swearing. A prosecutor does not ask informer witnesses to perjure themselves. It is almost universal practice in criminal prosecution for conspiracy to grant immunity to some of the accused for their testimony against the rest.

In most cases, it is the only resource of the prosecution. How far it should go is allowed to depend usually on the judgment of the attorney for the state. There may be possible abuse in it, of course. And yet, after all, the state has a right to employ any means that may fall within its power to discover a corrupt or dangerous conspiracy against it and to punish the malefactors. It is usual to select the principals as the ones to be punished in such information. The prosecuting officer simply represents the state, and he acts on his best judgment for the state's interest. Society would be practically without recourse, were not this method pursued. Its interest and safety are the supreme considerations. Of criminals banded together for plunder or other criminal practices, convictions without this method of getting testimony would be few or none. Had Ruef's crowd all held together in San Francisco the prosecution would have been completely foiled. And the crowd was broken up only by promise of immunity to the corrupt supervisors. Had it not been done, the plunder would be going on still. And the same in Oregon. Much as the community may despise a criminal who informs on a confederate in order to escape punishment, it is willing to "let off" some in order to punish others, since otherwise it could frequently punish none.

PROTECTIVE TARIFF MURDER.

The alarming increase in the number of railroad accidents traceable to broken rails is again brought to the attention of the public by the recent disaster on the Southern Pacific near Forest Grove. Twenty years ago railroad accidents caused by broken rails were comparatively rare, but today, nearly two-thirds of the wrecks on roads carrying a heavy traffic are caused by broken rails. Taking a superficial view, it might be thought that this increase in the number of broken-rail tragedies was due to the rails wearing out, and not being replaced with new ones. This theory is disproved by some very interesting official statistics, compiled by the railroad companies for the purpose of fixing the blame for the numerous expensive wrecks with which they have to contend. Incidentally these statistics present the iniquitous steel trust in anything but a pleasing light.

They show beyond any doubt that in nearly all of the broken-rail accidents, it is a new and not an old rail that has caused the trouble. During the year ending December 31, 1906, out of fourteen broken rails removed from the Southern Pacific tracks in Oregon, one had been in service but four months, four for eight months, four for six months, two for twenty months, and one for twenty years, another twenty-five and another twenty-six years. In the face of such statistics it is not at all difficult to reason from cause to effect. When the old rails which figure so infrequently in these disasters were made, there was active competition among the rolling mills and factories, and whenever a railroad company discovered that one railmaker was putting out a poor grade of rails, orders could be placed with a rival institution.

The beneficent workings of our admirable tariff system has put an end to all this competition, not only in regard to prices, but to quality as well. Has any one ever heard of a broken rail on the main line of the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad, although big engines and heavy freight trains have been pounding over them for more than ten years? This immunity to broken-rail accidents is due to the fact that a remarkably low freight rate from Europe and low prices for rails abroad, enabled Mr. Hammond, the builder of the road, to purchase his rails in England, where the competition is so fierce that the putting out of rails that would break in from four to six months would result in the manufacturer retiring from business for want of orders. With matchless machinery, good ore, and wonderful facilities, no one doubts for a moment that Americans can turn out the best rails, but the greed of gain, fostered and encouraged by our tariff system, has destroyed all incentive for any other policy than that of extracting from the consumers the greatest possible profit at the smallest cost.

The clink of the dollar has deafened the ears of the Carnegies, Schwabs, Coreys and Fricks to wails of the dying, and to laments of those who have witnessed the life being crushed out of friends in broken-rail accidents, nearly all of which are directly traceable to the hasty and cheaply constructed rails. Railroad wrecks are always very expensive for the companies, and for that reason, railroad men endeavor to use and maintain safe equipment, but with the steel trust there is practically nothing at stake except public opinion. We have long since passed the stage where it cared anything for the public except to rob and steal under the protecting wing of the tariff. Perhaps if Uncle Joe Cannon and Mr. Payne understood that Carnegie libraries are less desirable to some people than the lives of their friends, they might conclude that the time for tariff revision was not near at hand, but actually here.

A SON'S NEGLECT.

A dispatch from Albion, a town in Eastern Washington, tells of the reunion, after thirty years, of a mother with her long-lost and vainly-sought son. The son left home when a boy of 16, to seek his fortune in the West. He is now a man of 46, and his mother, during all of the intervening years, has sought tidings of him in vain. Only now, as it seems, she discovered him by accident, and found in the restless boy, over whom she had yearned with tenderness for so long, a prosperous man past middle life. A man of good standing in the community, he had "made good," as the phrase goes, in every way except in the expression of filial regard which should have prompted him to keep his mother informed of his whereabouts, his situation and the many little details of his life.

It is not a crime, nor yet perhaps a misdemeanor, for a man utterly to neglect his mother in this way, but it is a cruelty which no one, boy or man, would inflict, could he realize the anxiety and suffering which it causes.

Such neglect can only come from thoughtlessness that is inexcusable in a boy and unpardonable in a man—though in truth the mother, in her joy at finding her son, remembers his delinquency against her no more.

The common judgment of humanity, however, is that from any standard of filial duty that it is possible to set up among enlightened people, a man who keeps his home folks, and especially his mother, on the rack of anxiety for years, when instant release would follow the receipt of a letter that he could write in a few minutes, mail on his way down town and cause to be delivered at the door of his old home for two cents—is guilty of a sin of omission that is unpardonable.

The news from Olympia that Governor Mead and Railroad Commissioner Harry Fairchild are playing politics with the Hanford joint-rate decision which takes most of the power away from the Railroad Commission, is almost unbelievable. It seems cruel to insinuate that an extra session of the Legislature will be called to fix up the commission law and at the same time strengthen the Governor's political fences. Of course Mr. Fairchild should be given relief of some kind to get him out of the position in which the decision has placed him, for it is well remembered that when he was making his famous plea for the passage of the bill, he assured the committee that if it would pass his bill "we will be in power for fifty years." This was only four years ago, and something must be done to prevent the office getting away for the forty-six years of the unexpired term.

San Francisco is complaining because the Government has turned a deaf ear to appeals for Federal aid in stamping out the plague. What's the matter with Rudolph Spreckels? According to Lickum Stuffins, the son of the sugar trust magnate fairly revels in delight at the opportunity to give San Francisco a moral housecleaning. Even the unquestionable advantages of good morals are insufficient to ward off the bubonic plague.

While rebellion in a household is generally to be condemned, extenuating circumstances attach to the act of the San Francisco girl who ran away and refused to return home except under promise of immunity from two hours' piano practice during the remaining years of her minority. Music does not always conduce to solace, refinement or polish; in this case, the girl just sawed wood.

The Vanderbilt family is shocked and grieved because Hetty Green has told the public that its members were attempting to pawn their jewels during the recent panic. This would seem to be an eminently more respectable transaction than buying a foreign rake with a title, for one of the females of the family. There is a chance to redeem the jewels, but the girl can never be redeemed.

A New York dispatch states that it was the skill of Duc de Chaulnes with the violin that won the consent of Papa Shonts to the marriage. There is nothing in the way of precedent that lends any encouragement to the belief that the father of the unfortunate bride will find any escape from contributing to the remuneration that those who dance are supposed to reward the "fiddler."

Everybody will be glad to witness the complete discomfiture of that Waymire woman, who was tampering with our Mayor. The courts move too slowly on such questions. Let us have the referendum on the case, and full discussion before the people. You may depend on the righteous judgment of the people, every time.

Merely a new name is the recently organized Yamhill Development Association. To our certain knowledge a like concern has been in active existence for sixty-four years, promoting the interests of a remarkably rich agricultural section. Back in the '40s, as now, the pardonable and truthful boast was, "Yamhill ag'in the world."

Says the New York Tribune: "The Oregon man who wants to have the legal system popularized so that there can be a review of judicial decisions by referendum ought to get a copyright on his idea." Not necessary. This is one of those ideas which, once set free, make conquest of the world.

The Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Association has filed a protest against the removal of Fish Warden Van Dusen. The fishman from down by the sea should at least have an opportunity to give his views on Statement No. 1 before being cast ruthlessly aside.

It used to be that we associated the employment of detectives with vulgar crimes like housebreaking. Until the past year bankbreaking had not reached such large proportions as to need the espionage of sleuths.

The people want, mean to have, and must have, the referendum on Supreme Court decisions. The people know what justice is. Trust the people. Every person will get his rights, every time.

Chicago is, indeed, a railroad center. It is the terminus of thirty-four lines, operating 91,627 miles of track, or about 40 per cent of the entire mileage of the United States.

"I said in my haste all men are liars." Now, some might think President Roosevelt wrote that. But he didn't. It was another man.

Probably it is too early to announce what firm the Shonts woman has engaged as her divorce lawyers.

Proposed increase of enlisted men's pay indicates that Uncle Sam thinks even the soldier is worthy of his hire.

A SNEER FROM PLUTOCRACY

But Oregon Goes Ahead on the Line of Freedom Nevertheless.

New York Evening Sun.

Oregon seems to have constituted itself an experiment station for the country in the field of simon-pure democratic government which alone approaches the ideal of the new Jeffersonians. Just now the initiative and referendum laboratory is in full blast out there. Already about a score of measures have been proposed which must be put before the people of the State in the June elections.

Among the measures in question is a familiar one for the purpose of injecting into government the so-called "recall," a scheme devised for the purpose of reducing the chosen representatives of the people to a state of abject subjection to public clamor. As Oregon has hardly been experimenting long enough with the new fads and theories of unadulterated democracy to become thoroughly sickened of them, and is not likely to until it has had time to consider next June's outcome of these efforts at lawmaking, the chances seem to be that the recall will be added to the initiative and referendum equipment of the governmental experiment station. The equipment will not be complete, however, until the idea which Mr. W. W. Calkins, of Eugene, Or., as set forth in a letter to the Oregonian, has been embodied in a properly initiated form and duly adopted by the referendum vote.

Mr. Bryan may consider that he is a good deal of a Democrat, and as such very much of a Democrat, but beside Mr. Calkins he is an aristocrat, an oligarch, a firm believer in autocratic despotism. We are sure that when he learns about Mr. Calkins' proposition the Nebraskan will hasten to bring his views up to date. Yet all that the Eugene manifesto proposes is the extension of the initiative and referendum to the judicial department of government.

Mr. Calkins visits with severe displeasure those half-hearted Democrats who have "come far short" of giving the new fad "the scope that it should have in order really to put the Government in the hands of the people." He points out that it is all very well to control the legislative branch of government through the initiative and referendum and both the legislative and executive branches through the recall, but what he wants to know is why no curb is proposed for the judicial branch.

Here is Mr. Bryan's opportunity to redeem himself from the imputation of being but a half-hearted Democrat after all. The Nebraskan is certainly an experienced reformer, and if he would but seize on the chance which Mr. Calkins' self-effacement gives him there is no telling what quantities of popularity he might yet achieve in spite of his past half-way advocacy of the initiative and referendum. How he could ring the changes on the theme of putting the Government in the hands of the people without any reservation whatever.

Questions for Republicans.

Oregon City Enterprise.

What is a Republican?

Is he a man who votes the Republican ticket?

If not, what kind of a Republican is he?

This is rather a pertinent question at this time, and will be more pertinent befor the state and county election next June.

The Republican party of Clackamas County, at the primary nominating election in April, will place before the people of Clackamas County a set of men for the various offices to be filled. These offices embrace three candidates for the Legislature. The members of the Legislature will be called upon to elect a United States Senator next January. Assuming that the Legislature will have a Republican majority, it follows that it should elect a United States Senator who is a Republican. Assuming that a majority of the members of the Legislature sign Statement No. 1, it follows that they will vote for the candidate for United States Senator who receives the majority of the votes of the people of Oregon at the June election. Assuming that this man shall be a Democrat, then the Republican majority of the Legislature will elect a Democrat to the United States Senate.

How does this fit your stomach, you Republicans?

Does this appeal to you, who have been Republicans from the cradle; you who are Republicans from principle; you who believe that the policies of Theodore Roosevelt must be carried out? If you elect a Democrat United States Senator, will that man go to Washington and uphold Republican policies and principles?

Put your thinking cap on and consider this matter.

You men of Clackamas County who are going to become candidates for the Legislature on the Republican ticket, will you subscribe to Statement No. 1, and thus be pledged to go to Salem and vote for a man who may be a Democrat? Can you do this and still be a Republican? How do you think your fellow Republicans will like it if you do? How is your backbone, and your reasoning power and your general Republicanism, anyhow?

Shot by His Own Coyote Trap.

Joseph Herald.

Joe E. Lay, who resides on the old Musty ranch, Prairie Creek, has been pestered, during the Winter, with coyotes and finally decided that it would be dead easy to shoot them with a trap gun.

He drew the carcass of a horse into a field, put out some poison, then placed a cocked and loaded shotgun, with a string running from the trigger of the gun to a stake near the carcass and had the trap fixed in such a manner that anything touching the string would receive a good-sized load of shot.

Monday morning, bright and early, Joe went out to look at the carcass and found that some animal had been there. He moved around trying to locate the direction the animal had taken, when he touched the string and bang went the shotgun, part of the charge hitting him in the calf of the leg. He was brought to town and placed under the care of a physician, who extracted most of the shot. If complications do not set in Mr. Lay will be around in a few weeks.

Watterson's Declaration.

Henry Watterson, in a two-column, double-leaded editorial in the Louisville Courier-Journal (Dem.), writes from Florida concerning the recurrent talk about electing him United States Senator, that "if a certificate of election were placed in my hand I would not go to Washington to take the oath of office. If I had wanted that sort of thing I would have sought it thirty years ago, when, as a young man, I stood in the line of succession and all the ways were open to me."

His Redeeming Quality.

Chicago News.

He does look rather seedy, poor old chap!
His ancient hat has wholly lost its nap.
And one catches
Sight of patches
On his shoes, which are not matches,
But I tell you that I do not care a rap.
If my friends indulge in laughter when I
take him out to dine,
I assure you I can stand it for that relative of mine.

He is testy, which is common at his age,
And a trifle often sets him in a rage.
You may wonder
How in thunder
I can bear to knuckle under.
But you'd do the same as I do, I'll engage,
For forbearance with the aged is a quality
divine
And I guess that I can humor that dear
relative of mine.

I admit that it is sometimes hard to bear,
That his temper and his habits often wear.
It is trying.
No denying.
But some day he will be dying
And you see I am his sole remaining heir.
It is nothing but my duty, so it's wicked
to repine.
And I mean to love and cherish that dear
relative of mine.

NEWSPAPERS OF OREGON.

Gervais Weekly Star.

The movement by certain prominent Republicans to revert back to the old form of county conventions is certainly a movement in the right direction and should meet with favor from every fair-minded Republican. The new idea of nominating candidates is a long way short of being satisfactory, and if those who are heading this move will do so with honest motives a great and wholesome benefit will result.

The Dalles Optimist.

Statement No. 1 is something so holy that it is not safe for poor devils like the editor of this paper to say a word against it. The crank factory at Oregon City will probably make it a felony for any man to call it a damfool law, if it can be called a law. It is about as needful for an intending candidate for the legislature to take that statement as it is for him to take a dose of physic when he announces himself. There would be more sense in asking a candidate to file one of the ten commandments as his articles of faith than in subscribing to Statement No. 1.

Washington County News.

Senator Fulton seems to be wrought up by the charges made against him by Mr. Heney—even to the extent that he was about to leave his duties at Washington and come back to Oregon to answer them. But upon reconsideration of the matter, no doubt Mr. Fulton thought that the Oregon people know what a politician is. There is plenty of time for the senior Senator to clear his skirts after Congress adjourns.

Hillsboro Argus.

The initiative petition to amend the Constitution in favor of alleged tax reform, does not seem to be taking well in this part of the county. The Hillsboro Grange has resoluted against it, and many persons have expressed themselves as being opposed to the changes contemplated by the amendment. It is estimated that the amendment, if passed, would result in exempting nearly 20 per cent of the taxable property of this county. Of course these figures are not accurate, but the exemption would come in that neighborhood. It probably would be better to let the old constitution alone, in the above respect.

The Dalles Optimist.

Now please notice that every Democratic paper in Oregon is in favor of every candidate for the Legislature subscribing to Statement No. 1. In fact all of the Democratic and "Independent" organs fill their columns with arguments to show what a wise and necessary measure it is. Old Man Bennett has been brought up in a school where it was taught that when the opposition press favored a Republican measure there was a nigger under the fence. In this instance the nigger is a United States Senator, whom the Democrats hope to elect by a strict adherence to Statement No. 1, and it is no two to one that Bourne is not in with Flyspeck on the deal, for with a Democratic colleague in the Senate Jonathan would have all of the Oregon Federal patronage. "The boss is dead; long live the boss."

Woodburn Independent.

There are many voters who believe sincerely in Statement No. 1, not that it will make Chamberlain's prospects of being elected to the United States Senate brighter, but that the people should be permitted to choose their representatives in the upper branch of Congress. It is certainly unfair to ascribe their attitude with motives for the political aggrandizement of any one man. They are earnestly seeking to uphold a principle and establish an idea. Many others, Republicans, would heartily indorse Statement No. 1 if it were in accord with the Constitution of the United States and also if it did not pave the way to the election or selection of a Democrat to the United States Senate. They believe in the stronger party having the spoils but not in majority ruling when the whole people signify their preferences. There is still another fraction, composed of Republicans and Democrats, who are tired of partisanship and take more stock in the man than they do the candidate's party affiliation.

COST OF CUBAN OCCUPATION

Teaching Babes Lessons of Liberty Piles Up a Bill.

Buffalo Express.

Governor Magoon says the direct cost of that little Cuban insurrection of 1906 to the Cuban national treasury has been $8,000,000. It may be a few cents over or under, but that is what it amounts to in round numbers. Indirectly, of course, the insurrection has cost Cuba quite a bit more, just how much no one can accurately estimate. The check to the investment of capital, the loss of credit, lessened production and all that must run into a pretty penny, but that does not make the grand total of what the insurrection ought to cost Cuba. There are also the expenses which the United States has incurred in pacifying the island.

In the urgent deficiency bill, which is now before the House of Representatives, there is an item of $4,000,000 to defray the expenses of our present occupation of Cuba. A motion to cut it out on the ground that Cuba ought to pay the expenses of its little political jollification has been defeated. But it will be difficult to convince many of us that it is not a legitimate charge against the Cuban government. We have already spent a good deal of money on Cuba's account. We went to war for it and after the war was over we stepped in and organized its government and put it on a solid working basis. When we withdrew we had spent a good many millions. We had no desire to step in again, but the Cubans made it necessary; they asked us to come in and straighten out their affairs for them. Then why shouldn't they make good our outlay? If they are made to pay that bill now they may not be so ready to incur another like liability.

The Democratic Two-Thirds Rule.

Boston Transcript.

Democrats who do not want another Bryan nomination should remember that the two-thirds rule of their conventions was designed to put a check upon impulsive selections. Thirty-five per cent of the Democratic party, by standing firm, can compel it to nominate somebody else. Will such a fraction arise?

For No. 1.

Irrigon Irrigator.

Speaking about this No. 1 statement reminds us that it is true to its name, and the men who advocate it are looking out purely and solely for No. 1.

A FEW SQUIBS.

"De rich 'll have a hard time gittin' into heaven." "Yes; an' dat's a comfortin' thought, but it don't help de po' man w'en rent is due!"—Atlanta Constitution.

The Cashier—If this gets out, our depositors will be down on us in force tomorrow. The President—Well, we'll give them a run for their money.—Puck.

First Lady (accidentally meeting second ditto)—Well, my dear, you never come to see me! Second Lady—(with emphasis)—My dear! I'm always coming.—Punch.

Mr. O. Pen Heart—Well, here's a nickel for you. Frosty Foster—Ten cents, please. De price uv bein' considered charitable has gone up wid everyt'ing else.—Judge.

"Father, I'm afraid I shall have to ask you for a little more pin money." "Pin money! This is the third time this week. What are you buying? Diamond pins?"—Detroit Free Press.

"Now, Johnny," said the teacher, as she opened the natural history, "you can tell us how a bat hangs with his head downward." Johnny thought for a minute and then up went his hand. "Well, Johnny?" "Please ma'am, do you mean a chimney bat, or an acrobat?"—Chicago Daily News.

MARKSMANSHIP is to be the subject of greater interest than ever before in the National Guard during the coming season, chiefly because of the issuance of a new and modern rifle, the 1906 model Springfield. The first shipment of these guns will be ready for distribution to the Oregon Guard within the next few days, word having been received by General Finzer during the week that the guns are en route from Washington, D. C. The new rifles are by no means an experiment. The Army has been using them two seasons and have found them superior to the Krag. Velocity is intensified and erosion is reduced to a minimum verging on elimination of that principle.

To the Guard, of course, the guns will be altogether new, and even the most expert riflemen will find need for weeks of experiment. Those who have had close and trustworthy friends in their old Krags will have to make the acquaintance of the new arm, trying it out for days on all ranges to find out where the zero is and what the minute peculiarities of individual guns may be. It is said of the new gun, however, that there is more precise uniformity of mechanism than in the Krag, but the fact remains that it is as much the difference in individual marksmen as in the arms they use that make familiarity with a weapon a necessity.

Camp Perry, on the south shore of Lake Erie, is again to be the scene of the National rifle competitions, this year. Definite announcement of that fact has been made by the War Department. It is also reasonably certain that Oregon will send a team and that the competition for places on this team will be keener than ever before. With the change in rifles, new marksmen may stand a better show of qualifying during the state match at Roseburg. At least the old invincible group of experts will be put to the slight disadvantage of learning the new gun.

An interesting table showing the gain which Oregon and other competing states and teams made last Summer in the National match, over the year preceding, is shown in the report of Colonel H. K. Evans, U. S. A., issued last week. The table of points gained is as follows: Navy team, 250; Massachusetts, 242; Ohio, 364; U. S. Cavalry team, 175; Washington State, 337; Pennsylvania, 372; U. S. Infantry, 88; New York, 184; New Jersey, 284; Minnesota, 225; Illinois, 304; Wisconsin, 188; Marine Corps, 71; District of Columbia, 238; Michigan, 262; Oregon, 210; Maryland, 350; Georgia, 370; Iowa, 218; Connecticut, 195; Colorado, 237; California, 216; Montana, 273; Florida, 96; Kansas, 294; Indiana, 336; Texas, 228; Missouri, 563; Oklahoma, 810; West Virginia, 539; New Mexico, 464; Mississippi, 835; South Carolina, 118; Alabama, 649; Tennessee, 167; Louisiana, 142; Virginia, 298. Nebraska and Vermont were the only states making less points, the first named losing 47 and the last 76.

Colonel Evans, who acted as executive officer of the matches, makes one recommendation in his report which the average marksman will hardly be able to accept. He terms the practice of firing pieces to foul them as unnecessary and more a matter of superstitution than of demonstrated good. He recommends that this practice be forbidden under penalty of disbarment from the match. The Colonel's suggestion may apply to the new Springfield, but the utility of fouling the Krag is indisputable. Doing away with that would make it necessary for marksmen to make new calculations in firing the preliminary two sighting shots.

* * *

Success is already assured for the regimental ball which will formally open the newly remodeled ballroom at the Armory. Washington's birthday is an auspicious date for the ball. As to the attendance, there can be no doubt, for reports from the various company commanders show that the supply of tickets is all but gone. The proceeds will be used in fitting up the new gymnasium and the buying and installing of "gym" apparatus will be taken up next week.

The new ballroom is the finest in Portland without exception, and possibly the finest on the Pacific Coast. The exposed beams, high wainscoting and artistic arrangement of lights make further decoration unnecessary. The ballroom will be the scene of many pleasant military functions during the rest of the season.

* * *

The celebration by the battery recently of its 42d anniversary was a pretty event, the officers and men making the anniversary the occasion of a banquet and reunion. The battery now has its full complement of men, has the latest field rifles and equipment and could take the field at a few hours' notice. Field batteries of as high standard are very scarce either in the regular or Guard service. The officers are Captain C. U. Welch, First Lieutenants Lee M. Clark and Frank I. Randall and Second Lieutenants Krupke and Otteraedt.

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Colonel McDonnell's recent talk to the commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the Third Infantry and Battery A is having a beneficial effect on discipline. While going exhaustively into the subject of the qualifications of a good soldier, Colonel McDonell laid particular emphasis on the necessity of co-operation of subordinates with company commanders. The company commander has a hard row to hoe at best, and has need of the hearty support and co-operation of every officer, warrant or commissioned, in his command.

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A full turnout of the regiment is expected for Washington's birthday when the battalions of the Third Regiment, stationed in Portland, will participate in the rose-planting ceremonies. The turnout will be in blue uniforms, with ponchos hung to the belt for use in case of rain. Every man stationed in Portland is urged to report for this parade.

Cupid's Yoke Is Heavy.

Hillsboro Independent.

W. H. Marden on Tuesday of this week filed in the Circuit Court a suit for divorce from his wife, Lillie, a widow with five children, whom he married in this city August 8, 1907. The plaintiff says in his complaint that the defendant has been guilty of cruel and inhuman treatment, and has heaped upon him gross personal indignities which has made living with her unbearable. She has, he declares, used him with utter contempt and at times shot language at him, which would, if put in type, burn holes in the newspaper. He says that when he goes to his meals her five children are doing all the honors, at the head, foot and sides of the table, and he, like the fifth calf, had to await until a vacancy occurred. This, to him, has been anything but filling and very annoying. Consequently he wants a divorce and wants it bad.

Candidates and Advertising.

Albany Democrat.

In several places in Oregon the newspapers have formed combinations and agreed upon prices to charge candidates running for office. The sentiment seems to be that running for office is a business proposition, and that the candidate who wants to run should put up the same as others who advertise. If a man running for President of the United States had to do that it would bankrupt any one but a millionaire. It is said that several who ran for office two years ago got their fill, the cost being unreasonable, particularly where they failed to be elected. It is hardly a case for hair-splitting. Some things should be paid for and others should not.