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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1908.

JUST AS WELL TO UNDERSTAND.

Candidates for the Legislature on one of the Republican tickets for the primary election pledge themselves to vote for the man for Senator whom the Republicans nominate in the primary and support in the June election. Candidates on another Republican ticket promise to vote for what they call "the people's choice"—that is, they will vote for the Democratic candidate, in the Legislature, should he get more votes than the Republican candidate at the June election.

Just one or two remarks. If the election is to be settled by the vote in June, there is no need of sending men to the Legislature either as Republicans or as Democrats. It becomes supremely absurd to make any party nominations for the Legislature. In Multnomah County the Democrats don't intend to. For election of their candidate for the Senate they rely on "Statement No. 1" Republicans.

The Oregonian will be no advocate of either Republican faction, or of either political party. But it thinks it's just as well to understand this peculiar situation and to set it forth exactly as it is.

Nearly all Democrats have registered as Republicans, and intend to vote in the primary the Statement No. 1 ticket of the (possible) Chamberlain Republicans. Again, it is just as well that everybody should understand.

A SOCIAL SOPHISTRY.

The question in the Whitney-Wirtz case that will present itself to people of the honorable, old-fashioned sort is why these young people, being reputable, in love with each other and engaged to be married, did not marry and settle down into a natural, reputable and responsible life. The answer to this question is that young people in this advanced age are not willing to begin life where their parents began—in two or three rooms perhaps, the wife doing her own work, the husband looking closely to the details of his vocation, and, by way of helping along, splitting his own stovewood, cultivating a garden patch in the back yard and spending his evenings at home. They feel that such a beginning is too lowly, and the climbing up to the point that their parents have reached in business, householding and home-making is too slow. So the girl learns stenography or goes to work in a department store, or an office, and the young man waits for business to come so he can afford to marry.

The position taken by Mr. Whitney, the young dentist who faces the charge of manslaughter on account of the death of Miss Wirtz, in regard to his plight reveals a moral obtuseness which belongs to a state of society from which a willingness on the part of young people to marry, live simply and work and economize together in the interest of a home and family has been eliminated. He regards himself, it is said, as peculiarly unfortunate in the affair, the victim of hapless circumstances instead of the moral coward that he was in seeking to escape the just and legitimate responsibilities of life in an open, manly way, that are contingent upon the love of a man and a woman for each other. In his view, his evasion of the duties of honorable young manhood was justifiable because not unusual. The fact that it led, of course with the young woman's connivance and compliance, to her death is simply an unusual streak of bad luck to be dismissed with the term "unfortunate."

It is this estimate that is to be deplored—not the exposure, or even the death, now and then, which follows its practical application. Mr. Whitney is not a poor, unlucky fellow upon whom fate played a cruel trick, but a sturdy young man who sought to evade the just responsibilities of life without foregoing its sensual pleasures. The manly, the womanly, the honorable, way of life is open to all. Those who stumble and fall outside of the lines within which lie home and family ties, responsibility and honor, are not "unfortunate" in the sense deplored by this young man. They are deliberately false to their own better natures and to the interests of the home and of society. This being true, it is not strange that the penalty that sometimes overtakes them is terribly severe.

THE VICINAGE OR VENUE.

Courts generally are averse to granting applications or motions for change of venue for trials; and especially in criminal proceedings the general rule always has been that the venue must be laid in the county where the occurrance actually took place. The exceptions are very rare, both in English and American practice.

In California the rule is distinctly asserted in the case of Ruef, who applied for change of his case to another tribunal, on the allegation that he could not expect justice in the court and vicinage where he hitherto has been required to answer. This assumption is, in fact, only another plea for delay. Where can a man be judged so well as in the community where he has lived, and where full knowledge of his acts can best guide to an impartial judgment?

There is hardly any case in which application for change of the venue is not a device of those whose desire it is to avoid full investigation and fair judgment, at the place where the full investigation may best be had on the facts of the particular case. The general mind everywhere is inclined to fairness and justice. Men like Ruef will get the fairest kind of a trial in their own vicinage. But that is not what they want. Hence the motion to change the venue. In fact, the man who objects to being tried by his neighbors objects to being tried at all.

REVISION IN INDIANA.

Although the tariff plank in the Indiana Republican platform was written by Mr. Fairbanks, still it seems to reflect the sentiments of Mr. Beveridge fairly well. Both gentlemen expressed their views upon the tariff at some length to the convention, Mr. Beveridge in a speech, the Vice-President in a letter. The latter is much impressed with the merits of the tariff as it stands. He recommends revision with extreme caution and with the protective idea ever foremost, while the junior Senator from Indiana grew eloquent over its faults. He reminded his hearers that the schedules were twenty years out of date, complicated, unscientific and perplexing; that they were a source of wealth to "gluttonous corporations," and that the "commonsense tariff methods" of Germany and Japan were driving our commerce from the high seas. Mr. Fairbanks dwelt affectionately upon those schedules which need no alteration and trembled lest revision should degenerate into a "work of wholesale demolition." Since revision must be endured, he prays that it may be so carried out that "American industry, American labor and American capital" may still enjoy protection.

The interesting fact in connection with all this more or less sincere talk and writing is that even Mr. Fairbanks admits that the tariff must be revised. He has not yet quite come to the point of saying that it ought to be revised, but he concedes that the dread event is unavoidable. Beyond a doubt the end of standpatism is at hand. We may not get a scientific revision, nor one that will remove all the injustice and outrageous tyranny of the Dingley schedules, but within a year or two we shall certainly get something. Now that Indiana and Illinois have joined hands with Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Nebraska, Wisconsin and the entire South, to say nothing of Massachusetts, in a demand for an assault upon the sacred edifice of Dingleyism, something must come of it; but it stands to reason that Mr. Fairbanks, Mr. Cannon and their allies of "the gluttonous corporations" will make that something as small as they possibly can.

The Fairbanks and Beveridge selection of the time for revision differs from Mr. Roosevelt's. In his opinion revision should be undertaken immediately after the 4th of next March. The Indiana sages perceive serious objections to this proposal. Business, they say, will be kept upon tenterhooks while revision hangs in the air without being consummated; and since it must come, let it come quickly and be done with. Their preference is to set about revision at once after the November election and they would have a commission of experts begin forthwith to prepare the tariff of duties on imports. At least Mr. Beveridge favors this plan, and the platform does not reject his proposal. As to the exact degree of protection required, the platform differs somewhat from Mr. Fairbanks, whether intentionally or by a slip of the pen of course one cannot decide at this distance. The Vice-President thinks the duties ought to be kept high enough to protect "industry, labor and capital"; the platform desires only a wall that will "fully protect the wage-earner in the United States."

Of the two aspirations, we prefer that of Mr. Fairbanks, because it is franker than the other. Outside of political platforms nobody ever thinks of saying that the tariff protects the wage-earner. In business and ordinary argument, especially argument with labor unions, it is roundly asserted that the wages of labor depend upon the laws of supply and demand, which it is hopeless to try to counteract. As a matter of fact, the pretense of protecting labor by the tariff while our ports are open to a perpetual inflow of workingmen from foreign countries is sheer hypocrisy. But the tariff does preserve the home market for our domestic trusts, and thus its alleged protection to capital and industry is genuine. It protects them by enabling the home manufacturer to obtain a higher price for his goods than he could get without a tariff; and that higher price comes out of the pocket of the American wage-earner and farmer.

The platform further demands that "maximum and minimum rates" be imposed, "so that our export trade can amply be protected and foreign discriminations against us be prevented." Maximum and minimum rates are an excellent device to prevent discriminations. Germany has found them useful not only for that purpose, but also as a means of forcing down tariffs that were not discriminatory. It is the skillful handling of this weapon which forms the gist of what Mr. Beveridge calls "Germany's common-sense tariff methods." But let nobody be silly enough to believe that a high tariff can build up an export trade. To refute such an idea we have only to look at our own commercial history. For the last quarter century we have been living under a tariff preposterously high, with the result that our manufactured exports are still but a trifle and our merchant marine a mere phantom. It is only by classing raw cotton, kerosene oil and crude copper among manufactures that we can make a decent showing in this field. The vast bulk of our exports is raw material, which other more progressive nations manufacture and resell at enhanced profits, often sending back the finished product to America and selling it here at a gain in spite of our tariff wall. But we are slowly coming to possess insight into these matters, and one may predict with some certainty and much comfort that the end of the reign of tariff humbug is not far away.

SELF-HELP TO THE RESCUE.

The annoyance and loss to which the citizens of Tillamook County have long been and still are subject on account of lack of transportation facilities are as unnecessary as absurd. Here is a productive county of a growing state, literally cut off from the distributing center of the state's produce market; a rich, if not the richest, dairy section of the state; with large areas of coal at the gateway of a clamorous market waiting to be uncovered; with abounding timber resources and unsurpassed grazing facilities, that has been all these years, in spite of pleading and protest, without railroad transportation and with coasting service grossly inadequate to the daily needs of the people. All last week, we are told, Tillamook City, the shipping point of a prosperous dairy region, "was without feed" on account of haggling opposition to placing a new line of steamers between that place and Portland.

The situation is amazing, from both industrial and business points of view. It represents a dog-in-the-manger policy in transportation circles that is a reproach to shipping men, as the delay in building a road to Tillamook has long been to railroad men. It is similar in short-sightedness, neglect and lack of loyalty to the Oregon market, to that which long ago drove the trade of Coos County to San Francisco and made Coos a county of California in everything but representation in the Legislature of Oregon. Tillamook, less fortunate than Coos in securing transportation connections by sea with San Francisco, has hobbled to the northern markets as best she could with her butter and cheese and livestock, and to a wider market with her timber products, but the handicap has been heavy, needless and exasperating.

The business men and creamery interests of Tillamook City, desperately seeking relief, have at length partial relief in sight. It is the old story of the dependability and beneficence of self-help, represented in this instance by the purchase of a boat as the nucleus of a new line of steamers and placing her upon the Portland-Tillamook route.

NEW RECORDS FOR PORTLAND.

One-fourth of the year 1908 has passed into history, and Portland for that period has demonstrated beyond question her right to the title "most prosperous city on the Pacific Coast." The shock of the financial earthquake, which ripped Wall street from center to circumference, and set in motion waves of disaster which rolled from the Atlantic to the Pacific, had not fully subsided when the new year was ushered in, and even the most optimistic hardly dared to expect a repetition of the prosperous era which marked the opening months of 1907. But with three months of the new year already ended, practically all evidence of the panic has vanished and the city has settled down to a steady stride which is carrying it along more rapidly than ever in its history.

Bank clearings have not yet got back to the high-water mark established a year ago, but they are rapidly gaining, and throughout the quarter just ended show much more favorable percentages than are credited to any other large city on the Pacific Coast. The latest weekly table of the New York Financial and Commercial Chronicle credits San Francisco with a decrease in clearings of 22.1 per cent, Los Angeles 16.2 per cent, Seattle 20 per cent, Portland 6.6 per cent. The average decrease for the Pacific group of cities was 18.2 per cent, and for all cities in the United States 27.6 per cent. These figures prove that Portland is not only making more rapid recovery than any other large city on the Pacific Coast, but is also making an exceedingly flattering showing in comparison with the rest of the cities of the United States. While bank clearings have not yet climbed back to the lofty heights reached a year ago, there are business barometers of even greater accuracy, which bear testimony to the remarkable recovery that has taken place since last Autumn.

All existing records were broken a year ago, when building permits for the first quarter of 1907 reached a grand total of 791, with a valuation of $2,150,952. This record, scored during a period of unexampled prosperity in the city and country, was broken for the first quarter of 1908, when the permits issued reached a total of 1255, with a valuation of $2,311,190. Without including a single large business structure, the permits for March reached a total of $851,845, the 323 dwelling-houses alone showing a valuation of $568,000. As the nominal amount named in these permits is seldom more than one-half the value of the completed building, the March dwelling-house permits alone undoubtedly represent an expenditure of more than $1,000,000.

Real estate transfers for the quarter have also reached exceptionally satisfactory totals, and are steadily increasing in volume. Stamp sales, which for the fiscal year ending March 31 reached a total of $640,800, are running well ahead of the opening months of 1907, and have nearly doubled in the past four years. There is ample evidence of this return, of prosperity in many other lines of industrial endeavor, and with the favorable outlook for another year of good crops and good prices, with our transportation facilities doubled and trebled and many new industries seeking location in the city and surrounding territory, it will be an exceedingly difficult matter again to check the upward movement.

Some days ago The Oregonian said: "The contest between Fulton and Cake is a useless one." The statement is censured, here and there. But The Oregonian added: "The wrath raised in the primary fight will not be composed, and in the June election the friends of the defeated candidate, or large numbers of them, will not vote for the successful one." This is simply an expression of actual truth, however disagreeable any may think it. The contest between Cake and Fulton is useless, because the friends and supporters of the one who may be defeated in the primary will not vote for the other in the election. Some will, indeed; but large numbers will not. This has been the history of these nominations. And really it is beyond good sense to expect that when a fight is made in a party for a leading office, in which all the members of the party are engaged, the successful candidate will be able to command the entire party vote. Men who have turned the candidate down in the primary will turn him down in the election. It has been tried and proved, often enough.

The isolated Curry County towns, which have been without communication with the outside world since the loss of the steamer Berwick, will again have an opportunity to do business, R. D. Hume having purchased a new schooner to take the place of the lost vessel. There may be other people than Governor Chamberlain who are unfriendly to Citizen Hume, but in all fairness they will be forced to admit that he has done more for the development of some portions of Oregon than any other individual. The Rogue River country is rich in natural resources, and some day there will be transportation facilities for making them available. Meanwhile the interruption of such service as was afforded in the Berwick is a far more serious matter for the people of Curry County than is generally understood.

The troubles which beset the house of Gould just at this time might well cause even an unbeliever to credit a portion of the second commandment with unusual force as applied to this family. If the "sins of the fathers" are "visited on the children," the present predicament of the respectable portion of the Gould family seems to be just atonement for some of the commercial crimes committed by that rare old financial highwayman, the late Jay Gould. And if Satan provides long-distance communication for his guests, the dead railroad-wrecker would, in contemplation of Madame Anna's actions, undoubtedly turn to a siesta on a red-hot griddle for diversion from the painful sight.

Governor Hoggatt and Delegate Cale, of Alaska, have somewhat divergent views regarding the character of Alaska population. The Governor objects to a territorial form of government for the alleged reason that the saloon men and the mining men would control the elections. Delegate Cale resents the imputation and says that the Alaskans as a rule are good American citizens and are entitled to the government desired. As both of the Alaska gentlemen mentioned are in a position to know what they are talking about, it might be a good plan to leave the matter to an arbitration board composed of Rex Beach, Jack London and Swiftwater Bill. This trio knows all about Alaska and the Alaskans.

The American car in the round-the-world race is now en route from Seattle to Valdez. As it is riding easily on board of a steamship, we shall miss the daily dispatches reporting its extrication from snowdrifts, bogs and impassable roads. This is the first piece of clear track that the car has had since it left New York, and, unless the Santa Clara meets an iceberg, the car ought to make good progress on a light consumption of gasoline.

George C. Brownell, the vindicated, now breaks into print through the Salem Journal as a champion of Statement No. 1. Is this the same Brownell who wanted to be re-elected to the Legislature of 1907 "for the sole and exclusive purpose," as he expressed it in that justly celebrated whisper, "of putting a lasting quietus on Statement No. 1," or words to that effect? We do not quote Mr. Brownell's exact language, because this is a chaste newspaper.

The sympathy of the Nation is with brave Admiral Evans, who was forced to strike his flag to that arch tyrant, inflammatory rheumatism, and be borne from his flagship as a concession to this subtle foe. May the healing virtues of Paso Robles Springs prove truly magical in his case and release him, free from pain, for the "shore frolic" for officers and men that will follow the long cruise of our magnificent battle fleet.

There is, of course, a possibility that Bulkley Wells placed the bomb there himself for the purpose of affecting Haywood's chances for the Presidential nomination. It will be remembered that one of the Western Federation theories regarding the killing of Steunenberg was that he had chosen a novel and unusual method of suicide.

Evelyn Thaw, it seems, was ejected from a New York hotel for eating an early morning "supper" with a male friend. Some intrepid New Yorkers will not profit by Stanford White's example.

Portland beat the Chicago ball team, champions of the world, and now the St. Mary's team defeats Portland. That makes St. Mary's the world's champions.

During the between-season dullness in politics, demand for sensational news is filled by cuttings up in the houses of Vanderbilt and Gould.

Our "international marriages" are quite as respectable, after all, as some of our domestic marriages among the Four Hundred.

Whatever may be your views concerning Statement No. 1, you still are in time to register.

Perhaps by this time the Stanford boys wish they hadn't.

BY LILIAN TINGLE.

THERE was trouble with the plumbing a few days ago in the flats where I live, and I was called in consultation when the case threatened to become serious.

Have you ever noticed that the particular small fiend who presides over the burst water pipes, clogged waste pipes, frozen boilers and leaky cisterns always contrives to get in his best work on a Sunday, when all proper plumbers have retired to their secret fastnesses and can be dislodged neither by telephone nor by messenger?

There was no plumbing in the days of King Lear, I judge; otherwise, Poor Tom would have mentioned this fiend by name, along with the others of his acquaintance. I strongly suspect, however, that the business is now in charge of "Flibbertigibbet, the fiend of Mopping and Mowing." Anyway, there was plenty of mopping to do on the occasion I mentioned. "Mowing," in the Shakespearean sense, is described by the dictionary as "the making of wry faces"; and it seems to me that I have seen such in connection with both plumbing accidents and plumbers' bills.

Surely Flibbertigibbet must be to blame.

* * *

But while assisting at last Sunday's mopping party, I reflected on some remarks by Ashley Sterry in regard to amateur enterprise. Commenting on Albert Smith's aphorism—"as a rule, everything amateur is bad, from fiddling to pie crust," Sterry says: "Amateurs rush in where professionals fear to tread. They attempt the most difficult of arts, in which they are bound to fail; whereas, if they aimed at something of a simpler nature they would probably succeed. An amateur who paints bad pictures, or produces third-rate poems is a useless person. But an amateur who can do all sorts of odd jobs of carpentry and repairs in a house, who is learned in gas meters and fittings, who can successfully wrestle with recalcitrant spring rollers, who is conversant with the peculiarities of Venetian blinds, who is intimately acquainted with the mysteries of waterpipes and the management of cisterns, who is cunning as to washers, elbows, and ball-cocks is an absolute treasure."

"An amateur who can give first aid to a burst water pipe and hammer it up hard and fast until the plumber arrives, is a veritable angel in the house. An 'Amateur Plumbers' Society' just now would not only be a great public benefit, but it would probably be of not a little pecuniary benefit to its members."

That last suggestion is an excellent one, it seems to me. I have always wanted to learn to plumb (if there isn't such a verb, there ought to be), and I would gladly join such a society. I should like to call the attention of the Arts and Crafts Society to this matter. I see no mention of such work in their programme and yet surely plumbing is artful enough and crafty enough for their earnest consideration.

There is, however, a danger in connection with an Amateur Plumbers' Society. It is, of course, well known that the amateur usually has longer hair and a more sensitive temper than the real musician; and the amateur painter or poet is usually more technical or soulful than the real ones; and it might well be that an amateur plumber would be altogether too important, haughty and imperious for any domestic use.

For there is no doubt that plumbers are a haughty race. Even the plumbers' minion who travels languidly in the direction of the "other tools," and who might, under some conditions, be mistaken for an ordinary human boy, takes on at times almost the dignity and slow-moving majesty of an ancient glacier.

* * *

The absolute power of the plumber is something beyond that of Czars and Popes. Fortunately, he does not always recognize it fully, and often, as he is great, so is he merciful.

Once I remember arriving in London, on a foggy evening, after a long and chilly Winter journey, to find a house, cold, desolate, dark and practically foodless, by reason of frozen water and gas pipes. Every one, except the mistress of the house, had gone to bed—that being the only chance of getting warm. Nine different plumbers had been sent for in vain. The tenth said maybe he would come when he'd had his tea. I don't know how late the mistress of the house sat up, in her furs, beside a dismal flickering candle, but I do know that the heartless plumber did not arrive until 11:30 next day. Then he looked around, tapped the pipes here and there, and said he'd come in again after lunch.

* * *

For three or four days that household was wrapped in misery and shawls and existed on restaurant meals or tea and eggs, cooked over a smoky kerosene lamp; while the proud plumber called occasionally to tell us that he was coming to our rescue and to keep up our spirits.

If I had a clever daughter whom I wished to see grow up popular, accomplished and useful, I think, unless she showed unmistakable signs of musical or artistic genius, I would spare the ears of my neighbors and refrain from giving her instruction in violin or piano music. Then, according to her ability, while trying to cultivate in her, if possible, a sound musical taste and a keen appreciation of the beautiful in art and in life, I would have her study household arts, including a suitable course of plumbing and carpentry, and so, perhaps, succeed in producing the paragon described by Ashley Sterry.

Bourne Startled the Senate.

Washington Dispatch to the New York Times.

During the lull in the fight in the Senate today over the seating of the new Senator from Maryland, John Walter Smith, Senator Bourne entered the chamber. Rayner was consulting in an undertone with Gore, of Oklahoma, and there was a tense silence. The air was tingling with excitement, and both Senators and occupants of the galleries were expectant.

Bourne entered through the swinging doors at the left of the Vice-President's desk. No one knows how it happened, but the Senator from Oregon stubbed his toe on a step, carromed off a chair, and brought up with a bang against a desk. His progress sounded much like the noise produced by a small boy when he draws a stick rapidly along a picket fence.

There was a general craning of necks on the part of the Senate, and the galleries threatened to empty themselves over the edge on to the floor beneath. Bourne hove into view, red-faced and embarrassed.

"Oh, it's only Bourne," said a Senator on the Republican side. "He probably dropped his Roosevelt-second-elective term boom."

STATE POLITICAL DISCUSSION

How the Situation Appears to Those Who See Through It.

Salem Statesman.

It is reported that in some precincts of Marion County 75 or 80 per cent of the Republicans propose to vote at the primaries on the 17th for the candidates for the Legislature who are opposed to Statement No. 1. Many of those who are intending to vote this way are friends of the direct primary law. But they believe in the principles of the Republican party, and they do not wish to have their candidates so pledged that they will be obliged under any circumstances to cast their ballots for a Democrat for the United States Senate.

The Statesman has believed up to this time that the direct primary law, the referendum and all the other new fangled notions that are in the form of law on Oregon's statute books, would have to wear themselves out, in the process of time, as they surely will. And that it might take a long time for this state to return to the representative form of government of the fathers. But there are signs that the end of the new order is not a very long way off. There are changes hourly from the new fangled and bunglesome way to the old and tried form of government. There is encouragement for those who had decided that the thing must drift for a long time to hope that a vigorous campaign of education, at some early day, may result in a complete annihilation of the referendum and initiative and the direct primary. They ought all to go to the rubbish heap, where they belong.

General Consideration of the Whole Matter.

Grants Pass Observer.

The primary nominating election law of Oregon is based in the most positive terms upon government by party and all its obligatory provisions emphasize party government. In an endeavor, however, in this measure to lessen the evils of the election of United States Senators by the Oregon Legislature, there is the anomaly of Statement No. 1, designed to pledge Legislative candidates to the election of United States Senators regardless of party usage. No candidate is obligated to accept this statement. It is not law but merely recommendation. If Statement No. 1 was accepted by all Legislative candidates, and if the primary election to nominate candidates could be conducted by honest votes, there would certainly be a correction of the abuses in connection with the election of United States Senators. But the fact is that earnest Republican candidates for the Legislature revolt against being required to vote for a Federal Senator not of their own party, and they are undoubtedly justified in taking that stand. Others are conscientiously willing to forego party obligations in the interest of popular election of Senators, and still others, not so conscientious, utilize Statement No. 1, because they recognize that their candidacy is weak, and hope to gain strength by professing championship of a more or less popular cause. Usually, too, the primary law invites a surplus of Republican candidates, resulting, as in the case of Senator Bourne, in the nomination of a candidate by a minority of the total vote cast, and who was strongly objectionable to the large majority. Thus, assuming that an honest vote is cast, it readily happens that candidates are nominated by the minority who have not the confidence of the majority, and the result is a miscarriage of the first principle of representative government. But the vote cast at the primary elections is not an honest vote. All over the state Democrats are registered as Republicans in order to vote for the Republican candidates, with a view to influencing the nominations in favor of the Democratic party. However favorable a Republican voter may be to the direct election of United States Senators, he certainly ought not to approve of dishonest methods. Dishonesty in the popular election is not any different in kind from dishonesty in the Legislature. Mr. Cake asserts very positively that the 40,000 alleged majority of Republicans in Oregon is abundant guarantee that the Republican party of the state cannot be tricked into electing a Democratic United States Senator. But Mr. Chamberlain has full knowledge of that reputed 40,000 Republican majority. He ran up against it for Governor and overcame it, and, being a shrewd and able politician, he is not offering himself as candidate for United States Senator with the certain prospect of being overwhelmed by 40,000 majority. We are bound to believe that so astute a man sees reasonable prospect of coming out ahead, and it is quite certain that he builds upon Statement No. 1 to gain the envied position. The Democrats are united on Statement No. 1, and the Republicans are divided upon it. The Democrats hope for party advantage from it; the Republicans are quite clear that it is correspondingly harmful to their party.

In regard to the right of the people to directly elect United States Senators, it is, unfortunately, only a moral right. They have no legal right under the Federal Constitution. The primary law binds no one to accept Statement No. 1. It is purely optional, and in accepting or refusing it every voter is free to exercise his own judgment. If it could be depended upon to secure an honest expression of the will of the people, it ought to be maintained, but if it is liable, as it certainly is, to be manipulated to secure a false verdict, then as a political reform it must be considered a failure, and the only complete remedy for the people against the abuses of Federal Senatorial elections is an amendment of the United States Constitution to provide for the direct election of Senators by popular vote. This is bound to come sooner or later, and, meantime, since the people have no legal power to elect, but must depend upon the members they send to the State Legislature to carry out their will, it seems best that Statement No. 1 should be modified to a party proposition, giving the people the right to choose party candidates for United States Senators. No Republican could reasonably object to this, and no Democrat ought to. It would harmonize instead of antagonizing.

That Little Initiative and Referendum Book.

The Dalles Optimist.

The pamphlet containing the copy of measures to be voted upon at the June election is a "little" volume of 128 closely printed pages, but this includes the arguments pro and con. It may not be generally known that one of the initiative measures to be voted upon takes away all option from the members of the Legislature as to casting their votes for United States Senators. The measure reads as follows: "Section 1. That we, the people of the State of Oregon, hereby instruct our representatives in our Legislative Assembly, as such officers, to vote for and elect the candidates for United States Senator from this State who receives the highest number of votes at our general elections."

If this law passes the Legislators will not be allowed to elect Senators as the constitution of the United States provides, but then the initiative is above the constitution. This is, as the Journal says, "A perfectly legitimate way to dodge the constitution"! Sure. Suppose we also pass a law for the state to issue licenses to steal. That would be a big revenue-producer, and about as fair as to "dodge the constitution."

Remember also the law of recall is to be voted upon. That provides that at any time after electing a "public officer" he may be "recalled," or kicked out, if a majority of the voters so determine. Twenty-five per cent of the voters can have a special election called for this purpose. For instance, if the Democrats in a certain county want to get rid of a Republican Sheriff, they can get up a petition signed by 25 per cent of the number of voters at the last previous election and put the county to the expense of an election. If they do not oust him they can try it over again every 25 days while he lives, or rather holds office, but after the first battle the petitioners must foot the bill for election expenses. Remember no affidavits of his incompetency, malfeasance or anything of that kind have to be filed. Just allege that he is no good, or not wanted. Any old charge will answer! Isn't that a daisy law?

When one attempts to read the "little" volume he finds that any sort of a careful perusal of the bills and arguments takes about six hours, and to get any sort of a fair understanding would take four or five readings—and then one would not know much about them.

However, in looking over the volume and the arguments on either side, one comes to the conclusion that perhaps it would be well to abrogate the State constitution, abolish the Supreme Court and "fire" the Legislature.

And after a rather close examination of the proposed laws we have decided that as we will not have time to come to a good understanding of all of them, we will just make a clean sweep and vote "No," from a to izzard, on the initiatives, and "Yes" on the referendum bills, thus upholding the Legislature and downing the self-appointed lawmakers.

MOLLYCODDLE BATTLESHIP VIEWS

Germany Thinks After World Cruise, Our Fleet Will be Worthless.

N. Y. Globe and Commercial Advertiser.

It looks now as if the Kaiser may find it necessary to send his navy on a world tour after our own gets home. German naval officers are reported to be surprised at our recklessness in attempting such a feat. The fleet will return, they say (probably with a mental reservation, "if it does return") worn out and practically ruined.

This new view of the battleship as a frail, delicate thing, which in times of peace, at least, should be coddled about the home ports and never allowed to get far away from a naval base, was advanced last Fall by some of our own publicists. With tears in their eyes they bid the American battleships good-by, firmly convinced that if fate saved these expensive vessels from Atlantic storms final disaster was sure to overtake them in their mad attempt to navigate the Straits of Magellan. In our case, these fears were apparently confined to lay experts, and not shared, to any considerable extent, at least, by American naval officers.

In Germany, however, the naval officers themselves are in the same unaccountable state of scepticism regarding the robustness of our war vessels and the seamanship of their officers. As these views must have resulted from experience with their own ships—few of them having had opportunity to study ours—the Kaiser would seem to have ample grounds for some anxiety on the score of his own navy's mollycoddleism. If the Teuton was less blunt and straightforward one might be inclined to suspect a conspiracy among the Kaiser's officers to force him into giving them a trip around the world.

Judging from the results so far achieved by our own fleet's cruise, such expeditions are efficient promoters of international good feeling, as well as dissipaters of the notion that battleships are delicate. Admiral Evans' arrival in Pacific waters and Japan's invitation for a visit of the fleet to her shores have already done more to smooth out the wrinkles in our relations with the Mikado's people than all the previous diplomatic interchanges and protestations. It seems a real pity that European politics are such as to preclude most of the other navies from organizing similar world girdling parades. The Kaiser, however, will have to do something to hearten up his officers and restore their belief in the German navy, even at the risk of leaving his empire unprotected on the sea for a few months.

Rooster's Reflection Causes Fight.

Philadelphia (Pa.) Despatch.

A rooster, the property of William Spangler, of Red Lion, Pa., smashed two panes of thick glass in fighting his reflection and nearly bled to death from the wounds made by coming in contact with the broken glass.

IN THE MAGAZINE SECTION OF THE

SUNDAY OREGONIAN

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First of a series of articles by Margaret Greenleaf, supplemented by illustration, especially intended for men and women of moderate means who desire to build, or to improve the appearance or convenience of present homes.

No woman in the country is better fitted to impart this information in such form that it may be made useful.

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Being a modern view of justly celebrated old diseases and their remedy; by Irving S. Cobb, warranted to produce a dozen or more laughs.

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Development of the edible cactus, that promises to reclaim billions of desert acres and furnish enormous quantities of food for man and beast.

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The nation is now striving to correct a curious custom that has deformed its nether limbs, hoping to reach the stature of white people.

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