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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, SEPT. 15, 1903.

A GROSSLY IMPROPER METHOD.

Washington's primary law contains "a statement" resembling but not exactly like that of our own. It attempts to pledge members of the Legislature, elected by the various political parties, to their party's choice for Senator, but leaves it to the member's option. "If he desires, he may sign and file" his pledge. That is all the Oregon law requires; but there is further effort in Oregon to enforce the pledge—which of course is absurd.

In a strong editorial the Seattle Times repudiates this feature of the primary law of Washington which offers such pledge to the candidate for the Legislature; saying:

> To attempt to curtail the right of a member of the Legislature to exercise his own judgment as to who should be chosen after the Legislature has been assembled is to violate the fundamental law of the land—and he who attempts it is as guilty of lawbreaking as he who openly breaks any statute of the State of Washington.
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> This partial attempt of the primary law to prevent the members of the Legislature from exercising their own judgments, by substituting the judgments of their constituents, is an indirect attempt to violate the provisions of the Constitution of the United States—and it ought to be repudiated at once and forever.
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> For there is absolutely no difference between coercing a candidate for the Legislature prior to his election into agreeing to vote for a certain person for United States Senator, and in choosing that official by direct vote of the people—but that is positively forbidden by both the Constitution of the United States and the constitution of Washington!
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> These words become all the more pertinent because the law requires a majority of the members of the entire Legislature to choose a Senator—and therefore a minority of the people ought not and cannot legally or morally determine who that candidate shall be.
>
> In the voting which has taken place, as to preference for United States Senator, nothing but a farce has been enacted.

The argument is the same as that presented by Judge M. C. George, in his letter published by The Oregonian. In that letter the whole subject was carefully reviewed. To call attention afresh to its more salient points we reproduce these extracts, viz.:

> The National Constitution, that governs us all, makes it the sworn duty of state legislators themselves to select a man for Senator when the proper time comes, and no one has either a legal or a moral right to ask or demand that any legislator foreswear himself or promise away his constitutional duty of self-selection.
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> It is the legislator's sworn duty to select, by his own viva voce vote, and no citizen voter, bound by our National Constitution, can dictate that vote, and no such citizen should fail to recognize and respect a legislator's right and duty.
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> No citizen voter, morally or legally, can demand that any candidate, who seeks the office of legislator, shall break his oath of office, or pledge himself so that he cannot carry out his oath freely, or require that the candidate abdicate any constitutional right or duty pertaining to the office; and it becomes an unjustifiable hold-up by a voting citizen, or by the voting people of any state in our Union, to demand that any candidate thus promise that he will vote for any particular person for Senator.
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> In this matter the will of the people of Oregon is not supreme, but subordinate and subservient to the expressed constitutional will of the people of the United States, who have decreed that members of the respective Legislatures, sworn to do their duty, shall themselves freely choose a Senator, and not the people of any state, at any so-called election or otherwise.
>
> We all believe in "the will of the people" when lawfully expressed; but no will of the people of any state can put aside nor should it attempt to put aside, the constitutional will of the people of the United States.
>
> In Oregon many legislators, through more or less election duress, have promised, in effect, to abdicate their own constitutional function and plain duty under Federal law, and to vote, if elected, not for their own free deliberate choice, or selection, for Senator as will be their sworn official duty to do, but on the contrary to vote for whomsoever a plurality names for them through some subordinate state enactment for so-called "popular selection."

It is truth, doubtless, as Judge George says, that "neither they (the candidates) nor the impulsive people, fully realize the seriousness, legally and morally, of such action under our supreme law, which all are bound to respect." That "the questionable Oregon attempt is having an adverse influence elsewhere, to direct amendment of the Constitution of the United States on this subject," is certain, Judge George continues:

> We assume to teach the people of the whole country in the election of Federal officers, but no other state, nor any political party elsewhere dreams now of following seriously any "Statement No. 1" or of "instructing" legislators in matters wherein they are vested with their own constitutional discretion, and under oath to do their National duty.
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> Several other states have, thus far, been willing, within the great parties, to defer largely to some party man of popular choice, but we try to go far and beyond to force a winning party to elect a Senator from a defeated party.
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> In Oregon solely, we shall have the incongruous result of compelling, in defiance of our supreme law, if Statement No. 1 be followed, free legislators of one set of political principles, to vote for men of opposite principles.
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> Though it be reprehensible either to promise to do an unlawful thing, or be elected and not keep one's word, yet one thing is apparent—it ought not to lie in the mouth of any voter to complain, who held the candidate up to make a promise inconsistent with known sworn official duty. Every voter is presumed to know the law, and to know that no candidate can deprive or disqualify himself when elected from doing his official duty; and that all promises so to do, whether forced or voluntary, are contrary to law and public policy; and any and all such voters are forever estopped from complaining.
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> Less baneful promises have been declared by courts void in law, and void in public policy.

Is a promise inconsiderately made, that would require the member to violate the spirit and intent of the supreme law, to renounce a duty imposed upon him by law, and therefore in the highest sense void in public policy, to be accepted, treated, maintained and enforced, as the flower and fruit of reform? Then reform must have new definitions. "Such a course," —we make a final quotation from the Seattle Times—"is not only coercive, but destructive of all constitutional principles, and should be repudiated by a sensible people. The next Legislature should strike out all reference to United States Senator from the primary law."

THE MAINE ELECTION.

Again this year in Maine there is an acute contest on prohibition, and the Republicans suffer losses and the Democrats make gains. Opposition to prohibition in Maine smoulders for a time, then breaks out again. This is its year. In 1880 the Democrats actually carried Maine in September, yet Garfield was elected President. Davis, Republican candidate for Governor that year, received 73,544 votes; Plaisted, Democrat, 73,713. Yet two months later Garfield carried the state by a heavy majority, and was elected to the Presidency.

But it must be admitted that the reduction of the Republican majority in Maine at this time is not favorable to Taft. Maine, every twenty or thirty years, stirs, like Enceladus under Aetna, then falls back to normal conditions again.

The real contest this year, as so often heretofore, is in the states of the Great Middle West. It can hardly be expected that the majorities for Taft anywhere will equal those gained by Roosevelt; but there are supporters of Taft who think that his majorities might be less than those of Roosevelt, yet his election might still be assured.

Four years ago Democrats in every state by thousands refused to vote for Parker, and many of them voted for Roosevelt. This year the Democratic vote is coming out for Bryan. Whether it will exceed the Republican vote for Taft, is yet to be determined. In Maine, some years, the Democrats vote; in other years they do not. Even this year the whole Democratic vote has not been thrown. "Licker" comes nearer bringing it out than any other question.

HUGHES AND NEW YORK BOSSES.

If the New York bosses have their way, and defeat Governor Hughes for re-nomination, the Republican party there might almost as well hang up its fiddle; and the Republican cause in the Presidential campaign will everywhere be immeasurably damaged. The New York Republican machine doesn't want Hughes, because Hughes has no use for the machine and despises machine politics and machine politicians. It may be and probably is the fact that the Governor should have given greater consideration to the party managers. But he didn't; and it is a condition, not a theory, that confronts them. The condition is that Hughes is on their hands and they cannot get rid of him without sacrifice of every prospect of success for the state ticket in New York, and putting in great jeopardy there also the National ticket. Hughes' defeat will be public notice that the Republican boss is in the saddle still, that the machine still lives and rules, and that the Republican party purposes to stand by the old-time alliance with the powers that prey.

Hughes has not done much for practical party politics but he was done a lot for the party. It had a bad name in New York before Hughes' time; it will show this week at Saratoga whether it really deserves the good name he has given it.

EDISON THE EVANGELIST.

Science has even now proved that the body is composed of electricity; suppose it should presently demonstrate the same proposition for the soul? Ohm's law and the other electrical formulas would then become strictly applicable to the world of spirits. Theology would cease to be speculative and become an exact science. All the preachers would have to study Maxwell on electricity and magnetism. The seminaries for ministers would be forced at last to teach natural science. Creeds could no longer be quarreled over because we should simply sit down and compute them by the calculus and each separate article would be as impregnable as Taylor's Theorem.

Such are some of the joyful thoughts which sweep into the mind when one peruses Mr. Edison's remark that "Electricity is going to solve many of the mysteries of life and death." Nobody who has paid much attention to the trend of recent speculation and discovery in physics can doubt that the great inventor speaks advisedly. The advance of knowledge has already rid the world of a great many "mysteries," though plenty remain to plague us. The untimely death of children which used to be accounted an unfathomable providence is now a simple matter of sewer gas, diphtheria breeding filth or foul milk. World desolating pestilences which our fathers fought with prayer and explained as the decrees of an incomprehensible Deity we have also analyzed into the simple elements of dirt and sloth. Many other mysteries have been resolved by investigation and many shocking old dogmas shown to be literally true. Thus a generation ago polite people agreed that a merciful ruler of the world could not possibly permit such a dreadful thing as infant damnation to happen. We now know that it happens thousands of times a day and we know why. The damnation is not postponed to the next world but begins here and it is effected, not by imps with redhot pitchforks, but by heredity and environment. Long ago Bishop Butler put the Deists to rout by showing that their sentimental "God of Nature" did precisely the same cruel deeds as were ascribed to the deity of the theologians. At any rate the deeds occur and the ruler of the universe, by whatever name he goes, is responsible for them. This is a difficulty which those who believe in an anthropomorphic God have often evaded but never solved.

We see no reason why Mr. Edison's tentative speculation is not sound. Very likely life and death are electrical phenomena, as he suggests; and if they are there they can be reduced to mathematical formulas and forever rescued from the clutch of superstition. Our inability to understand life and death has always been the opportunity of the mystery monger. He has ever been ready with his explanation, invariably without the slightest basis of fact to build it on, and the explanation has uniformly been devised with singular ingenuity to benefit the pocket and enhance the power of the man or the sect who invented it. If life and death turn out to be mere electrical phenomena, as they are quite likely to, then what a world of queer beliefs, of hopes and fears, will vanish.

The rapid solution of mysteries in the past prepares us to anticipate that the surviving ones will ultimately be cleared up. In a few decades, more or less, there will be no such thing as "the occult," or "the supernatural." Everything will have been explained. "And then," cries the sentimentalist, "what a dismal place the world will be." Hardly so. Most of the disease, misery, cruelty and persecution which men have heretofore endured may be traced back to the influence of "mysteries." Nobody was ever tortured to defend the Pythagorean Theorem, but multitudes have suffered for the dogma of the Trinity. With every mystery that vanishes the real happiness of mankind increases. Compared with our forefathers we are like men who have escaped from a quaking bog and found footing on ground that is solid albeit somewhat beset with pitfalls. Through the work of men like Edison our children will be rid of the pitfalls. The most wholesome, happy and altogether blessed thing in the world is serene, impregnable, demonstrable truth. The more of it we have the better we shall be, the longer we shall live and the fitter we shall be to face our Maker when we come to die. Therefore the truest evangelists on earth are Edison and his fellow-workers.

BELATED OWNERSHIP ASSERTED.

We note with pleasure, and welcome with joy, the very recent discovery, made over in Washington, that the Evergreen State is willing to assert at least a slight interest in the Columbia River. Few Portland people who have ever taken an active part in endeavoring to secure appropriations for the improvement of that noble stream, will fail to recall the vehement declarations of the Washington press to the effect that the Columbia River was not only an Oregon stream, but it was actually a Portland affair, and that Portland alone should be forced to make all improvements that were necessary. Of course Portland and Oregon never sought to force ownership of a portion of the Columbia River on Washington, but simply regarded the matter of improvement as one in which both states were interested.

"We shot a deer," said one of two excitable hunters as the animal fell, but, as closer examination disclosed its identity, he exclaimed with vehemence: "You have killed a calf." When the ownership of the salmon or the regulation of their catching is involved, it seems to be a case of "we;" but when river improvement is mentioned it, is "you," and all of Washington's interest in the topic vanishes and it becomes a case of "you" with Portland and Oregon, footing the bills.

The outcome of the present badly tangled fishing situation is uncertain, but, if it should succeed in awakening in the minds of the Washingtonians a permanent feeling of proprietorship in the Columbia River, it will not be devoid of merit. Having publicly acknowledged that the river seems to have some value as a place in which salmon can swim (between traps) our friends across the stream, may eventually learn that the river is also of value for navigation purposes. The "second choice" vote, however, is about the best we can expect on this latter feature so long as Puget Sound, Washington, finds the Columbia River, Oregon, such an active competitor in the shipping trade of the two states.

DEEPER CHANNEL NEEDED.

Nearly forty ships and steamers, with an aggregate carrying capacity of about 150,000 tons, are now assembled in Portland harbor. A few of these vessels are in the coasting trade, but the greater part of the fleet is here for cargoes which have been sold to markets beyond the sea. It is the largest deep water fleet that has ever reached Portland so early in the season, and the quick dispatch that the vessels are receiving is proof conclusive that this city has increased its business in the same ratio as the tonnage of the port has increased. Among this fleet are a number of carriers of from seven to ten thousand tons capacity, or about twice as large as the average carrier of ten years ago, and three times as large as the vessels which came here twenty years ago. The size of these ocean carriers has increased proportionately with the growth of the port and the depth of the channel to the sea, and we have now reached a point where it is absolutely necessary that early provision be made for taking care of still larger vessels than those now coming to the port.

The problem of getting the freight of the inland empire, the Central Oregon country and the coast regions out to tidewater at Portland has already been partly solved by the building of the North Bank railroad, and its solution will be complete as soon as the railroad lines now projected for the state are built. Within thirty days there will be direct rail connection between Portland and the heart of the rich Wallowa country and a large volume of new traffic that is tributary to no other port will develop. Before the first train reaches Wallowa Lake, the North Bank road will be running trains into Portland, and there will be open to this city, a new trade field extending as far inland as the Bitter Root Mountains, and from which Portland has been barred for more than ten years.

The Tillamook line will be in operation for a considerable portion of the distance next year, and it is almost a certainty that the Central Oregon line will be hauling wheat out of a portion of that vast region which it enters, late next Fall, and within two years the entire region will be pouring out a rich traffic that will all find its market at Portland. These new feeders, which are drawing to Portland wealth from localities in which we have never before secured a foothold, will be supplemented by numerous electric lines, of which the Oregon Electric system stands at the head, with the United Railways promising to make a contest for some of the field already reached by the older company.

Practically all of the enormous amount of new business to be developed in these fields, which will soon be accessible, will come to Portland, which, on account of its geographical location alone, is the logical trading point for the immense territory just opening. But we cannot expect to retain this immense business, now in sight, if we are negligent in keeping our shipping facilities up to a high standard. We need a thirty-foot channel from Portland to the sea. This thirty-foot channel is a greater necessity than the twenty-five-foot channel was five or ten years ago. It will require time and money to secure the increased depth needed, and in order that we should be prepared for the increasing size and number of vessels that our rapidly growing commerce demands, no time should be lost in getting started.

The superiority of our railroad facilities over those of any other port in the Pacific Northwest is assured. We must place our shipping facilities in the same impregnable position, or we will be ill-prepared to profit to the fullest extent by our splendid location and the wealth of natural resources directly tributary to the city.

Japan seems to be awakening from her financial carouse. For the past three years, the Nippon empire has been spending money with all of the freedom and abandon of a drunken sailor, and quite naturally the bottom of the till has been reached. It was announced several weeks ago that the ship-subsidy graft, which was such a profitable affair for the shipowner and so expensive and useless for the taxpayers, would be reduced or abandoned entirely, and now comes the announcement that the army and navy estimates are all to be cut and the most rigid retrenchment practiced. There is a possibility that Japan has at last discovered that an army and navy of sufficient size to conquer the world were so far beyond her financial ability that it was the part of wisdom to abandon the attempt. This decision might have been hastened by the recent display of naval strength and cash resources by the country which was reported to be on the Japan list for early annihilation.

The inventive genius of man has perfected the railway block signal until it is practically infallible. Whenever a train aproaches a "block" on which another train has already entered, the danger signal is automatically flashed before the eyes of the engineer, and it remains as a warning so long as the train is on the block. But, while the block signal has nearly reached the point of perfection, no method has yet been discovered by which the careless engineer can be forced to keep a close watch on these signals. It was a temporary lapse on the part of a careless engineer on the Lake Shore road yesterday which caused him to run past a block signal into a collision that cost one life and injured thirty people. European railroads have no advantage over America in mechanical precautionary measures against train accidents, but they seem to have more careful engineers.

Bryan declares that his chief title to support is that he is the "heir" of Roosevelt. But Roosevelt, in an earnest letter commends Taft, as the man to carry out the ideas and purposes that have been pushed during his administration. Bryan now declares this may be very well, but Taft should speak for himself, for nobody can believe Roosevelt, whose "heir" Bryan boasts himself to be. Well, Taft will speak for himself. But it cheapens the Presidency to find the candidates for it running round among the electors, on a search for their suffrages. Washington didn't do it, nor Lincoln, nor even McKinley. Of course Roosevelt did not. But the vile example has been set, and Taft probably will follow it. It is, however, a striking mark of the degradation of our National politics.

Labor Leader Hardie, of London, is delivering lectures in America, telling his hearers how much better in the field of politics the English workingman has fared than his American cousin. According to Hardie, the English plan has had "so many good results that it would tire you if I tried to enumerate them." All of which may be true, but it still fails to explain why labor and the general industrial situation in England are worse off than anywhere else in the civilized world.

The San Francisco Commercial News, usually accurate on such matters, on September 11 printed a list of vessels at "Puget Sound and British Columbia" and included therein five vessels which are at Portland. These vessels were the Americana, Beechley, Boveric, Nederland and Suveric, totaling 13,375 tons net register, and accordingly of material aid in swelling the statistics for the Puget Sound ports.

"It's no affair of mine, and I don't want to interfere, and you'll do as you please, of course; but you fellows in New York are facing sudden political death if you don't nominate Hughes, and I shall be glad to help at the obsequies." That is not exactly what the President said, but is about what he meant.

Dairymen on the Siuslaw get a higher price for their butterfat, which comes to Portland, than do those on the Coquille, whence it is sent to San Francisco. One reason is the product rules higher, because of the better market up this way.

A Portland man, intoxicated, died from suffocation because his hat was by accident jammed too tightly on his face. The only moral some people can see in this unhappy incident is that it is a mistake to wear a hat while drunk.

Fortunately for the good name of Oregon, after that violent Debs circular about the "scab-herding aggregation of legalized murderers," it was not necessary to call out the militia to protect Debs.

There is no mistake this time about who is the residuary legatee of the Roosevelt policies. President Roosevelt says his name is Taft. Roosevelt ought to know whether he has an heir or not.

Hon. Milt Miller is back from the East and says it's all right for Bryan. To be sure; to be sure. But didn't the Hon. Milt also do a little pleasant predicting along about 1896 and 1900?

Bryan has opinions about the Brownsville affair and niggers in general; but they are matters of conscience, it seems, upon which no one has a right to interrogate him.

State Fair week and hop-picking time and no rain. Climatic conditions must be changing. Yet the week is young.

PRIMARY LAW NEEDS FIXING

Results in Whatcom County Are a Grave Disappointment.

Bellingham Herald.

While the defeated candidates are ruefully contemplating the wreckage and the victors are shuddering over the close shaves they had, a word on the practical workings of the direct primary may be received with a little consideration. With some degree of contrition this paper admits that the law is not all that had been claimed for it. It has been frequently maintained in these columns that, although the law is cumbersome, it would accomplish its purpose, which is to let the people express their choice. The results do not bear out this claim.

Unquestionably many who received a plurality of votes are not the choice of the majority. In many instances the man who won would have been defeated if there had been but two in the race. The effect of minor candidates upon the results is a thing that had not been fully considered. The man who cannot win may easily prevent the best man from winning. Courtesy demands that no specific case be referred to, and only general illustrations can be used. Suppose, for instance, that the liquor dealers want to elect a man who will not close the saloons on Sunday. On the other hand, the business interests generally approve a man who will close the saloons, but who stands for other things besides Sunday closing. It is a matter of history that the so-called "moral" element and those who represent isms are rarely content with half a loaf. They want the whole thing or nothing. To them the business man in favor of Sunday closing is just as objectionable as the saloon man. They, therefore, put forward a kindly disposed but wholly unfit gentleman who divides the moral vote, and the saloon man slides in. This illustration does not cover all of the shortcomings of the law in this respect, but it calls attention to an apparent weakness.

* * *

Another defect is to be found in the worry and expense and bitterness and travail of the campaign. Extremes were probably reached in Whatcom County, owing to the strong factions that exist here, but the case was bad enough in any county. Feuds that a generation may not wipe out were engendered. The hand of every candidate was at the throat of every other. Men who did not have money to meet ordinary expenses of everyday life spent hundreds in going into the highways and hedges for votes, and the only consolation they have is that they must work a little harder to recover from the effects of their folly. The whole community has been disturbed by the agony of a 30 days' struggle. And, when the results are contemplated, there are not many who will maintain that it was worth while.

Worst of all, from a party standpoint, the dominant party did not nominate its ticket. Democrats and Socialists, forgetting their party preferences, rushed into the Republican ranks, where the interests centered, and decided many of the results. Even some of the candidates would not have been Republicans under other conditions. Some unquestionably helped to elect weak candidates in order that they might defeat them at the general election. The Republican party in this county is torn into a dozen petty factions and the Democrats will smilingly profit by this unpleasantness. No such strife is to be found in the minority parties. In some instances they have not nominated candidates, but will center their fight upon a few offices. While the Republican party is inflamed the Democrats are serenely considering the future.

* * *

And they have every reason to believe that they will be successful, for it must be admitted that the Republicans, as a result of Democratic and Socialist interference, did not succeed in nominating strong men for every office. Many good men who have long aspired to certain political honors kept out of the race, because their dignity would not permit them to enter into an unseemly scramble. It, therefore, happens that the people have named men whom no Republican convention would have dared present to the people as the party's nominees.

On the whole, the direct primary needs a lot of fixing, and the people are not likely to raise a loud protest if the knife is applied by the legislature.

Too Many Candidates.

Hoquiam Washingtonian.

Now that the smoke of the primary battle is clearing away, the defeated candidate is nursing his wounds—if any—and cogitating: "Is it worth the effort?"

It has cost many a pretty penny during the campaign just closed, and it is a question if it would not have been the better part of judgment had about half the candidates remained out of the contest. Under the primary, it is left in the hands (too much) of the individual to choose whether he shall undertake to serve his country or allow some other fellow to have free access to the plums. So, when a man elects to enter the political arena he should put up his best fight and be prepared to look defeat in the eye with some degree of complacence.

Gone, but Not Forgotten.

St. Helens Mist.

The Oregonian expresses regret because, as it claims, Bryan's former speeches cannot be canned. Why can't they be canned? They can and should be canned. Their tin tin abulations should be sounded in the ears of Democrats of the Parker stripe who sing paens in honor of Grover Cleveland and dishonor his memory by surrendering to Bryanism. The cross of gold should not be forgotten nor the crown of thorns permitted to fall into innocuous desuetude. Those old speeches may be a little rotten for canning purposes, but those who swallowed them eight years ago would do so today if the Peerless prescribed the dose.

Easy Money.

Woodburn Independent.

A man went into Meehan's Tuesday and asked Al Edgar for the loan of $2.50 on a watch. Edgar loaned the money and took the timepiece for security. The man pondered awhile and decided he wouldn't "soak" his watch, and money and watch changed hands again. A few minutes later the visitor leaned toward Edgar and confidentially told him that he would take that $2.50 after all, whereupon Edgar gave him that amount. Then he walked out without leaving the watch and left for the country. Acting Marshal Beach tried to catch him, but he was too swift.

Why Not?

Albany Herald.

Bryan, the Peerless Leader; Chafin, the Beerless Leader, and Taft, the Fearless Leader—why not?

FRAUD AT STATE'S CAPITAL, TOO

Here, as Elsewhere in Washington, Democrats Masquerade as Republicans.

Olympia Recorder.

We would casually like to inquire what has become of the Democratic party? If Bryan ever gets to see the comparative vote in the primaries in Washington state he will have even his publicity bureau strike this state off their mailing lists as altogether hopeless. It was unquestionably true in Thurston County, as was found to be the case in Pierce, King, Walla Walla, Spokane and other large voting counties, that great numbers of Democrats called for and voted the Republican ticket at the primary. In this county it is safe to say that the bulk of the Democrats voting, used the Republican ticket. Just what the reason was is not plainly apparent and probably the trend of the Democratic-Republican vote differed in different counties. In Thurston County it is probable that the Gubernatorial contest was the main subject of interest, and, while some Democratic votes went for McBride, it is believed that the majority of them were cast for Governor Mead, although likely a desire to have a hand in the Republican nominations for various of the offices influenced the Democrats in changing political coats for the primary. In the larger cities, where the saloon element is more of a factor, doubtless a good share of the Democrats voting the Republican ballot did so for the purpose of supporting McBride for the Governorship.

But whatever the animus, and in the main such interference must be considered as attempted for the purpose of manipulating and weakening the majority party nominations, it is against the whole intent, spirit and object of the primary election law, and if party pride will not suffice to prevent such wholesale meddling, then such amendment should be made to the law as will remedy this serious defect so as to make the primary what it was intended to be, a party nominating convention of the electors of each party.

JIMMIE DURKIN, GAME LOSER.

Campaign Started as a Joke—But It Was No Joke.

Spokane Special.

"I have perpetrated a bigger joke on myself than any other person has ever perpetrated on me. No more political honors for mine. The only organization I had was a lead pencil, a small head, and a machine of newspapers, which are greatest medium of publicity in the world."

So declares Jimmie Durkin, Democratic candidate for the Gubernatorial nomination, who has conceded that he had abandoned hope of occupying for the next four years at least, the executive mansion in Olympia.

"My platform was written as a joke, but in five days so many people came to see me who took the joke seriously that I had to make fools of them or a fool of myself," explained Jimmie. "I took the latter alternative, saying to myself that I would go in and win.

"With the expectation of trying to overtake the joke, which had gone throughout the state, I spent considerable money. Old as I am, I have lots to learn, and one of the things is this, when you have started a joke do not think you are going to be taken seriously by the great majority of the people. Whatever you do in this world, do not take yourself too seriously unless you know that other people are doing the same thing, and before you start take a few lessons on the inside history of human nature.

"I have not given to one man a single drink or cigar nor have I paid five cents more or less to any man for political ends, neither have I seriously asked one man to vote for me.

"No more political honors for mine, I do not see where there is any great honor coming to any man in politics, except in so far as it tickles the vanity and selfishness that is in him in being able to say of his opponent, 'Well, I showed him that I beat him.'

"How any man who is in business and expects to grow, cannot see the value there is in newspaper publicity in putting his wares or political principles before the public is past my understanding, if he intends to have a growing business."

Why Wouldn't All the People Vote?

Yakima Republic.

We should say offhand that about two-fifths of the voters of this state stayed away from the primaries, in which the newspapers of the state had done their best for six months to arouse interest, and at which the question whether the gang should continue to rule the politics of the state was to be determined. Under ordinary circumstances we may expect to see a minority of the voters at the primaries, as of old. Most of the misgovernment of which the people complain is due to the fact that the citizens will not attend to one of their most important political duties, which is to see that this fountain head of all their privileges is kept pure.

What They Want Is a Railroad.

Madras Pioneer.

Beggars cannot be choosers, and on this principle the people of Central Oregon will have to be satisfied with Mr. Harriman's refusal to say which of the various routes into Central Oregon he will adopt when he builds the promised road. What Central Oregon wants is a railroad, from whatever direction it comes. In the meantime, however, there will be a perfectly excusable curiosity to know from which direction the blessed relief is coming. Mr. Harriman says, "we are keeping that to ourselves," which we are ready to forgive him, if he won't keep the secret too long.

One View of the Hopdealer.

Gervais Star.

The hop industry is one of the most valuable in this state, and yet it is virtually ruined through the machinations of dealers who have sapped its very vitals until the grower cannot and does not make his actual salt. It is nothing to these dealers that farmers are ruined; that a great industry is debauched; that barefooted children are abroad in the land. They make money and that suffices. With them it is either rule or ruin.

Satan Is Accommodating.

Washington Star.

"When you feel any temptations comin' along," said the friend and adviser, "you mus' say, 'Get thee behin' me, Satan.'"

"Da's what I done said," answered Mr. Erastus Pinkley, "an' den I 'magines I hyuhs Satan answer me back, 'Da's all right. We's both gwine de same way, an' it don' make no dif'unce to me nohow which leads de puhcession.'"

Chance for a Profitable Partnership.

Corvallis Gazette.

Some funny things happened in the award of the premiums at the All-Benton Fair. Miss Rose Tunison was awarded a 22 rifle, a boy's suit of clothes, and $5 in merchandise in a hardware store. Archie Rickard was awarded $10 in dress goods and is now looking for some good-looking girl to make suitable selection for him.

SILHOUETTES

BY ARTHUR A. GREENE.

The desire to achieve success in life is too often merely the desire to "rub it in" on the other fellow.

* * *

When thieves fall out the Prosecuting Attorney usually gets a confession.

* * *

When I look at some of the married couples of my acquaintance I am quite convinced that love is blind.

* * *

A fool and his affinity are soon parted.

* * *

The poet's allusion to "the cold chaste stars" is not intended to be applied exclusively to theatrical luminaries.

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As a rule six months is sufficient time to cure the most ardent of love affairs.

* * *

To the grief-stricken minutes seem hours. To the happy hours are but minutes.

* * *

Flirtations are dice games between fools and knaves.

* * *

It's a wise child that knows its own father—in these days of easy divorce.

* * *

The philosopher learns to bear calmly the troubles of his friends.

* * *

A full heart paralyzes the lips.

* * *

Pups Will Learn.

A foolish bull pup
Sought to sup
On the tenderloin of a cat;
But puss was averse
And licked him much worse
Than he ever was whipped before;
Now the pup is wiser and hates a spat,
And his head is exceedingly sore;
As his courage goes down his respect goes up
For that scrappy old tabby cat.

* * *

In the midst of dreams of happiness one may always be certain that Fate is winding the alarm-clock.

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Now that Senator Bourne has returned local interest in haberdashery is expected to pick up.

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You will notice that a thousand people talk philosophy where one lives up to it.

* * *

The man who is always agreeable is a half brother to the jelly-fish.

* * *

The dead are usually forgotten before the undertaker's bill is paid.

* * *

The bachelor may always console himself with the thought that "Peace hath her victories."

* * *

Women have a secret contempt for clothes that are comfortable.

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Love's Epilogue.

My love is like the rose that blooms too late,
Forgetful of its foredoomed fate
To die when frosts of Autumn come.

My love is like the lingering strains
Of haunting music that the memory clasps unto its bosom
When of the joys of life naught else remains.

My love's the olden glory of the gold that long past Summer's alchemy devised
Out of sweet nothings to ornate a gray and somber life
When love has come to one—alas, too late.

WOE FOR OUR COLORED BROTHER

Getting No Money From the Campaign, and He Resents It.

Portland Advocate (Colored).

Somebody is responsible for the statement that is going the rounds that a prominent Republican who is on the inside and is looked upon as a kind of leader in politics in Oregon, is quoted as having said that he didn't care how the D——— Negro voted. He may, or may not, have said this, but the whole outfit is acting just that way, for only a month or so ago a Taft and Sherman Club was launched, and a few dollars were asked for to pay hall rent, so as to have a place to meet. "We have no money," was the cry. But yet there has been $30,000 put into somebody's hands here in Oregon to conduct the campaign. The white club's place of meeting and printing is paid for out of this campaign fund. Why not the black man's? Does this look like the above statement is true? Does it look like the Republican party considers colored votes of any material interest to the Republican party in Oregon or elsewhere? We are forced to the conclusion that they do not, or else they are acting rather dilatory about it.

It is reported that Chairman Cake, of the Republican state committee, on his return from the East several weeks ago, brought back a big sack to be used in conducting the campaign in Oregon, but this news need not cause the colored brother to pick up his ears and extend his palm, for it is not for him, as the same arithmetic that his prédecessors used is still in vogue, to-wit: Naught is naught, a figure is a figure, all for the white man and none for the nigger.

Snell and the Senatorship.

Tacoma Daily Tribune.

Judge William H. Snell will be a candidate for United State Senator before the State Legislature.

Judge Snell was overwhelmingly indorsed in the primary vote of Pierce County and maintains that the Legislative representatives of Pierce are thus bound to vote for him for United States Senator.

Eminent lawyers doubt the constitutionality of the primary law, while others define it far differently from those who would have it thought that the greater number of votes would give a candidate the nomination.

Snell had the overwhelming indorsement of Pierce County. Jones had the indorsement of other counties, and Ankeny was indorsed by still others.

The real fight will be in the Legislature—and may the Pierce County man win is the wish of The Tribune.

When I Am Dead.

Buffalo Times.

When I am dead
Strew no roses at my feet
Nor burden me with vain regrets nor Fulsome eulogy.

But let me go
Hence as I came—aye, even so—
With all my imperfections on my head,
And all my sins to bear me company.

No intercession make for me.
The plea of pity, easily invoked.
Can change not jot or tittle of my state
When I am judged.

For as I hold it ill becomes a man
To joy in things forbidden by the book,
Through all his years, and when he comes to die
To play the craven.

And with bended knee to beg
Absolution for the evil he has done
When restitution is beyond him—so
When I am dead

Strew no roses at my feet
Nor burden me with vain regrets nor
Fulsome eulogy,
When I am dead.