

A Low Standard.

"Mr. J. M. Pittenger, of Albina, presents the case of a good man misled by designing politicians. Mr. Pittenger was a 'Mitchell republican.' As such he had been taught the silver free-coinage creed. Mitchell himself was a free-coinage man, and always has been. In his honest simplicity Mr. Pittenger thought he ought to vote for Bryan, and did so. Now he is told that he cannot be deputy district attorney."

—Oregonian.
It would appear then that the measure of a man's patriotism was the selfish reward that he was to get. That, although Mr. Pittenger talked and voted as his conscience dictated, and what to his mind was for the best interests of his country, it seems as if he was misled because he cannot secure an office. We suppose that if Mr. Pittenger had voted contrary to his earnest and honest convictions, and as a reward for such betrayal of his own manhood he would have been appointed to some office, then it would have been all right. It is a low plane of politics, a low political standard that will weigh a man's political actions and convictions by the selfish reward that he is the recipient of.

An exchange says that more than 100,000 applications for office have been filed since the administration changed, and that they are increasing at the rate of 600 per day. It plaintively adds: "But the spectacle of the president of the United States worked to the point of exhaustion as a distributor of patronage among a hundred thousand hungry and determined office-seekers is not one of which our people ought to be proud, or which does credit to our institutions. There ought to be a way to relieve the president of this work." There is a way to relieve a part of this strain. Let the country be restored to an economic condition whereby the people can earn an honest and decent living through the ordinary channels of trade, commerce and labor, and this mad scramble for office will be to a great extent relieved. It is not that the people are to be blamed for this struggle for office. It is a fact that at the present time about the only assured way of getting a reasonable living is by getting an office and drawing the salary attached thereto. There are thousands of good, honest and intelligent men who are asking the administration for office today that would scorn to do so were it possible for them to make even half of the salary in the ordinary channels of like. Some of them have been swept out of business entirely by ruthless conditions which have existed in late years, while others have seen their business diminish and grow smaller until the profits have become lost sight of entirely. The same is true of laborers. What blame can be attached to them then if they ask for office, when they look around them and see that of all callings and industries office-holding is the only one whose profits and emoluments have not been diminished with the hard times. Of course there are chronic office-seekers, lots of them, that will pester every administration, but let the country be taken out of the grip of the trusts and its economic condition restored again to a fair standing and the rush for office will fall off amazingly.

A steamer arrived in Seattle from Alaska last week that had on board nearly \$1,000,000 in gold, all of it belonging to the various miners who were on board. This gold was taken from mines in the Clondyke district.

The price of fish on the Columbia has been reduced to 3 cents per pound, the lowest price ever given.

The Chautauqua at Oregon City is proving an immense success this year. Much of this is due to the energetic efforts made by the Assembly president, Col. R. A. Miller.

Salem has a man by the odd and peculiar name of Smith that has been a true and consistent member of the M. E. church of that city for fifty years. His semi-centennial membership was celebrated by the M. E. church of that city in a proper manner last Monday.

John Durbin, of Marion county, died at the home of his grandson in that county on Saturday last. Mr. Durbin, at the time of his death was 102 years, 10 months and 4 days old. He came to Oregon and settled in Marion county in the spring of 1849, nearly half a century ago. He was an honored and respected citizen of that county till the day of his death.

The Oregon City Enterprise advertises for a boy to learn the printer's trade, but stipulates that the boy must not be a cigarette smoker, and must have ambition to make something of himself. Bro. Meserve is quite right. A boy with ambition to make something out of himself soon gets all the ambition knocked out of him by smoking cigarettes.

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