

ET TU BRUTUS?

For many years past the Salem Statesman has come regularly to The Astorian, and we have heretofore regarded it as a sincere newspaper, at all times aiming to advance the interests of Oregon. We have found it fair in the past and have enjoyed its honest comments on matters of public inter-

But the Statesman has retrograded. In its issue of Thursday it contains an editorial entitled, "Astoria's Candidate," that is so glaringly unfair, so plapably uncalled for and so strikingly dishonest that one can scarcely believe the Statesman responsible for it. The article is in affect that the election of Mr. Fulton to the United States senate means the closing to navigation of the Columbia river above Astoria-a condition that the interests of Astoria demand, and for which every Astorian has always contended! Read this from

There is but one sentiment which actuates every Astorian. They are good people down there, but they will sacrifice everything ' else within the bounds of reason to whatever will further the interests of their town. No one blames them for this, but when the growth of Astoria involves the shoaling of the Columbia river from the town of Portland in order that it toria's interests must be made subservient to those of the rest of the state.

If the Columbia river were allowed to shoal from Portland to Astoria so that no deep sea vessel could come this side of that city, and a forty foot channel were maintained across the bar, it would necessitate the sending of all the immense business of the entire country by rail. The magical effect this would have on Astoria's growth is too well known to need more than a mere And to do this is the dream of every Astorian. And why shouldn't it be? In every controversy between Portland and the sound on the question of commercial interests, Astoria papers universally take sides against Portland. The reason is plain.

At this time every Astorian, even those who for ages have fought Mr. Fulton bitterly, is shouting for his el-The Astoria people are a unit against the improvement or the river above Astoria. The sentiment there is universal in the beltef that Astoria is that the effort to maintain Portland's supremacy in that regard is an arbitrary distortion of natural conditions. Everybody knoows this, and no one knows it better than the people of Portland.

In answer to all this Mr. Fulton says: "Have I not repeatedly declared my belief that the Columbia river should be opened to the sea?"

This is true, but how are we to know? There are Astoria's interests, which all point the other way, and so do all of Astoria's people.

So the Statesman believes, with the Oregonian, that Mr. Fulton should not be elected to the United States senate because he lives at Astoria? Well, this is a surprise. We had all along thought that the Statesman was too loyal to the interests of its own city to father the sectional strife that the Oregonian has attempted to create, and even now we doubt its sincerity in thus attacking Senator Fulton. Resort to "argument" of this sort shows up the weakness of the Statesman's contention for Governor Geer, and makes it plain that the capital city paper is in sorry straits for campaign thunder.

The Astorian knows whereof it speaks when it says that the Statesman departs from the truth in insisting that every Astorian wants the Columbla river closed above Astoria. At times during the great common point discussion-an agitation that was carried on as much for the benefit of the city of Salem as for that of the city of Astoria-it was stated that the people of Oregon would be the better off if the Columbia river terminated at Tongue point, but there has never been any antagonism to improvement of the river above Astoria. The matter of the extension of terminal rates to this city has rested solely with the railroads. whose refusal to accede to Astoria's demand for recognition has settled

the question definitely. When Mr. Fulton is elected to the United States senate, let us have the Statesman understand, he will represent all of Oregon. He will work as

propriation as for the bar appropriation. He will not go to Washington to represent Astoria alone, as the Statesman would make it appear, but to advance the interests of all the people of the state. To oppose his candidacy on the ground that he is a sectional candidate is downright dishonest, and the Statesman has ample reason to be ashamed of itself for thus resorting to low methods.

for a job lot of German claims, "***

The United States is the only country on earth that produces such men as Minister Bowen. In handling the vexatious Venezuelan matter for the South American republic he has stamped himself a diplomat quite capable of successful contention with the wife representatives of Great Britain, Germany and Italy. He is endowed with that great quality peculiar to Americans-the propensity that won the Revolutionary war and the unpleasantness of 1812-14-backbone. Efforts to intimidate him are vain. Great Britain, Ger many and Italy would be only too happy to pronounce Bowen's a case of that popular German ailment, lese majeste, and quarantine him accordingly, but with the moral backing of his Uncle Samuel our Caracus representative feels quite secure in his position. In an indirect way the three creditor powers are seeking to discredit Monroeism, despite contrary disclaimers. It is greatly to the displeasure of the triumverate that the United States' notice "keep off!" remains tacked up in a conspicuous manner in South America, and everything possible to weaken our posttion will of course be done. But Mr. Bowen is equal to the occasion. He has figured out a fair plan of reimbursing the creditors of Venezuela, but he will not permit of the disintegration of that republic, which has all may become the seaport of Oregon, As- along been assiduously sought. His ultimatum to the world is that freedom shall not lose its identity in the western hemisphere, and that those who do not take kindly to our ideas of government may avail themselves of the alternative of coping with white painted vessels of war.

A few days ago Miss Sadie Sharp (aged 14) of Portsmouth, a Portland suburb, mysteriously disappeared from her home during the absence of her parents, causing the mmuch anguish. Three days later, after the neighbors had scoured the country for miles around looking for the lost child, Sadie telephoned her papa that she had found a position as nurse girl in a Portland home. She said she did not realize that her absence would cause alarm, and therefore did not notify her the natural seaport for the state and parents. Sadie needs a spanking, and he needs it badly. A child of 14 is not supposed to be capable of making her own way in the world, but she is enough intelligence to know that mysterious disappearance would provoke some slight interest, particularly in her own household. The half world is full of girls who, like Sadie, have disregarded home tles, and Mr. Sharp is indeed fortunate that he found his child in a respectable home. However Sadie should be soundly spanked.

> A San Francisco exchange of January 29 reports a list of sales of Alaska Packers' association shares, including 150 at \$152.50, a heavy decline from prices lately ruling for this stock. We are not at all surprised at this decline in affairs in the annual statement recently issued, coupled with the fact of their selling pink Alaska salmon at \$2 per case and chums at \$1.50 per case-prices which must leave a tremendous loss even if they got the fish for nothing.

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