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ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

THE DIRECT PRIMARY LAW.

We are in receipt of a letter from W. S. U'Ren of Oregon City, secretary of the Direct Primary Nominations League, asking us to lend our support to the direct primary law which will be voted upon by the people of Oregon at the coming state election. With the delinquents do their duty today. the letter comes a circular from Michigan, which attacks the present method of making nominations and urges revolt against "machine" methods in politics.

We are unable to find any redeeming feature in the direct primary law, and must, therefore, advise voters to cast their ballots against it. Its principal present. feature is contrary to American principles. This law requires that a man shall state his politics and be known as republican, democrat, socialist, prohibitionist or whatever political faith he may select. There are, unfortunately, a great many persons who can not afford to declare themselves politically. These men have families to support, and partisan politics or even active political interest may interfere with similar computation, and in fact the sum has often the supply of bread and butter essential to the main- been worked out. tenance of the home.

to the effect that two elections shall be held-one for tion. Our population increased in the 10 years bethe purpose of making nominations and the other tween 1890 and 1900 at an average rate of about for the purpose of voting for candidates nominated 1,330,000 a year. When the annual volume of immiat the first election. This means that a poor man gration runs from a quarter of a million to nearly a can not make a political campaign. The law also million it is plain that it must make wide variations excludes from the alleged benefits of its provisions in the total increase. Since the greatest immigrathose political parties which have not cast at least tion in our history has come within the past three 25 per cent of the vote for congressmen at the next years, in which time 2,000,000 steerage immigrants preceding election-another un-American provision, have landed at our ports, not counting the arrivals trip passengers can stop at their pleascalculated to shut out the smaller parties.

the party committees select delegates to the conven- be nearer 82,000,000 than 80,000,000. tion, but the will of the voters can not be thwarted What we really need, to make our annual esti-

embarrassing to the applicant and troublesome to the election officials.

Registration requires but two or three minutes time. The voter goes to the office of the clerk, states his name, age, place of birth, residence and occupation, or, if foreign-born, displays his naturalization papers if he has not previously registered. Without any undue annoyance he paves the way for a quick vote on election day, and is of no inconvenience to election officials or his friends.

All men entitled to a vote should register. They may say before election that they do not care to grades of uncut stones. vote, but they will vote, just the same. On election day the friends of the various candidates will ask them to vote and they will do as requested. Apart from this, it is their duty to vote. If they fail to do so, they are not good citizens. This being the case, everyone should register.

Only one-half of the voters of the city of Astoria have registered. Go into any place where four to back and sides, no appetite, growing 10 men are employed and ask how many have registered. Invariably it will be found that but one or two have done so. The tardy ones should not longer delay. A president is to be chosen this year, and registration is necessary in order that a man may vote for one of the various candidates.

Astoria should register 2000 voters this year. Let other victim." No one should fall to

POPULATION GUESSES.

The census office announces that it is going to publish annual estimates of the population of the United States. It starts by allowing us 80,000,000 people at

There is no new information in this estimate, or, rather, guess, says the Saturday Evening Post. It is based on the simple assumption that we have gained one-tenth as much in each year since the last census as we gained in the 10 years between that census and the one preceding. Anybody can make a

The weakest point of the census office rule is its The direct primary law's terms are substantially failure to take account of fluctuations in immigrafrom Canada and Mexico, it is probable that our ure west of the Missouri river or St. We see no objection in the present method of mak- present population is considerably in excess of the ing nominations and electing candidates. It is true figure estimated by the census office. It is likely to

rate of \$13.50 added to above

Hungarian Novelist Dying. Budapest, May 4.-Maurus Jokal the Hungarian novelist whose serious illness was reported yesterday, is much worse today and his death is hourly expected.

Advance in Diamonds.

New York, May 4 .- Diamond importers have been advised of another advance by the European syndicate in the selling of stone. The charge amounts to 5 per cent and affects all

ROBBED THE GRAVE.

startling incident is related by John Oliver of Philadelphia, as follows: "I was in awful condition. My skin was almost yellow, eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Then I was advised to use Electric Bitters; to my great joy, the first bottle made a deelded improvement. I continuerd their use for three weeks, and am now a well man I know they robbed the grave of antry them. Only 50 cents, guaranteed, at Charles Rogers', druggist.

The Northern Pacific Railway Company will place round trip tickets from Portland to St. Louis and return on account of the world's fair on sale a follows:

May 11th, 12th and 13th. June 16th, 17th and 18th. July 1st, 2nd and 3rd. August 8th, 9th and 10th. Sept. 5th, 6th and 7th. October 3rd, 4th and 5th.

The round trip rate to St. Louis and return from Portland will be \$67.50 Tickets will be good for return via any direct line.

A round trip rate of \$72.50 will also be made from Portland to Chicago and return

If a passenger desires to take in both Chicago and St. Louis the round trip rate will be \$75.00

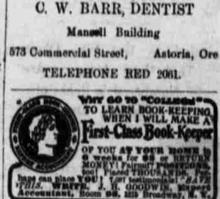
All tickets will be good for 90 days from date of sale. Tickets will be good going ten days from date of sale so that a limited stop-over can be had on the going trip and on the return Paul. These rates apply via direct lines, but if passenger wishes to return through California tickets can be sold accordingly, but at an increased

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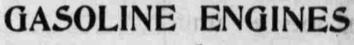
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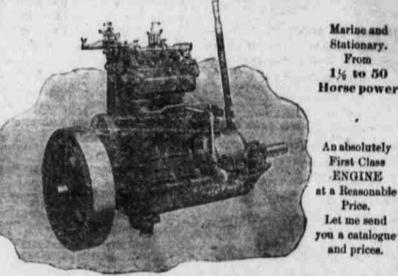
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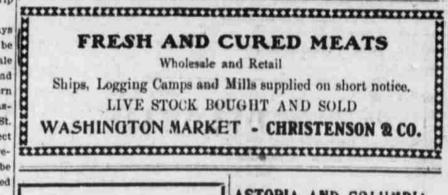
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by these committees. Men are bilked politically only mates of population something better than guesses, when they permit themselves to be bilked. The ordi- is a national system of registering births and deaths. nary political committee will select the very best With vital statistics as accurately recorded as they man available for office, else the ticket will not win, are in most European countries, all we should have The voters may express their preference for delegates to do to get at our increase of population would be to the convention after the lists are made up by the to subtract the deaths from the births and add the committees, so there can be no reasonable objection to net immigration. Then we should not have to guess this feature of our present method of conducting at the number of our population between census, political matters.

The primary reformers set up a great cry about the machine in politics and appeal to voters to support their fanciful scheme because of the general efficient in representing a strike in the Austria-Hundishonesty of politicians. They forget, however, or garian empire. On April 21 the employes on the try to make the voters forget, that the people are behind all political movements which are successful. long-standing demand for increased wages and the The voters have the situation well in hand at all men on the other government roads followed suit stages of the proceedings. Nominations are not neces- completely tying up traffic except on the private rail sary, and men have been elected whose names did ways. The nine Hungarian state railways operate not even appear on the official ballot. We had a case about 8,600 miles, while the dozen or more private of this kind in Astoria only a few years ago, when lines, mostly very small, aggregate less than 1000 the "citizen" candidate for police commissioner was miles. The government lost no time in arresting elected, notwithstanding his name did not appear on hundreds of strikers by virtue of their connection the ballot. Voters went to the polls and wrote his with the military service, and took such vigorous name on the ballots which were handed to them. The steps to fill the places of those who did not promptly vote for the candidates for police commissioner was return to work that on the 26th it was announced quite up to that cast for other candidates, demon- that the strike was ended, and that passenger and strating the practicability of the provision of the law freight trains were again running regularly. What under which the election of the citizen candidate was effect this demonstration for better pay will have on brought about.

ers had something better to offer, we would support much less chance of winning in their demands on the measure, but our advice to all voters-democrats, railways owned by the government than on the lines republicans, socialists, prohibitionists and all the of corporations. rest-is to vote against the direct primary law. It ought to be deefated by a very large majority.

VOTERS MUST REGISTER.

Within about two weeks the registration books for the county and state and presidential elections will be closed. After the night of May 16 voters who have not registered will be excluded from exercise of more than 30 years ago, and in the years since that their elective franchise, unless their votes are sworn famous conflagration, British and European cities in at the coming elections. If they would vote at have suffered few ravages from flames which could both elections, their votes must be sworn in twice.

of the great annoyance incident to the swearing in fire departments on this side of the water have been. of votes. Six freeholders-legal voters who own as a rule, hard working enough, but too many of our property-must be found to make affidavit to the buildings have been quick burning structures. right of the applicant to cast his ballot. Trouble is

always experienced in finding six men who are ae-| Bourke Coekran is the favorite democratic orator quainted with the applicant and who know he is this year. Four years ago he blew so lustily on a re qualified to vote. The formality of swearing in a publican horn that the democrats had to stuff cotton voter takes from 15 minutes to an hour's time, is in their ears.

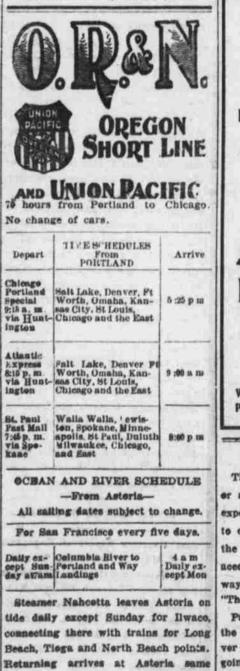
We should know.

Government ownership of railways has proved Western Hungarian railway all struck to enforce a

the parliament remains to be seen, but the event at least seems to prove that labor organiations have much less chance of winning in their demands on the set man between the set of the se The present system is good enough. If the reform- least seems to prove that labor organiations have

Rumors from Germany that the fire insurance companies in the realm of Emperor William are dis cussing the advisability of retiring altogether from business in North America because of their heavy osses in Baltimore, Toronto and other cities on this continent seem hardly credible. Yet it cannot be disputed that even before the destruction of Chicago, be compared in extent with those which have swept Those who frequent the polls on election day know away so much property in this hemisphere. Our

For any additional information de stred, call or address A. D. Charlton Assistant General Passenger Agent, Uorthern Pacific Ry., 255 Morrison street, corner of 3rd, Portland, Ore.



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