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THE PERJURY MILL.
It is reported that special inspectors will be sent to examine into the manner in which the land offices in this state have been and are being conducted. It is proper, of course, to keep close watch over any and all departments of the government, yet it is not the officials or the office that needs watching, for they are usually straight, but rather those having dealings with them.

In the case of the land offices this is especially true. As a usual thing the homesteaders comply with the laws regarding residence, etc., but there are hundreds of cases in which the affidavits are the only thing made or done according to law. Some person engaged in business, or employed in the city, gets a pointer as to the location of a good piece of land. He cannot afford to leave his business or his employment, for the length of time required before he can commute, 14 months, so he saves his conscience by visiting the place once every five or six months, and he oils it up again when he makes final proof by noting that two neighbors are willing to swear him through.

The fraudulent entries under the homestead law, however, are few and far between when compared to those arising under the timber and stone act.

Under this act, provision is made for locating those lands not suitable for cultivation, or at least, that was the original intention of the act. Under it the applicant makes affidavit that the lands sought are more valuable for timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, that he, or she, locates the same for his own use and not for the benefit of any person, corporation or syndicate.

Now, as a matter of fact, in nine out of ten cases the applicant has all his arrangements made for selling the land, and in a large majority of cases has the money furnished him by some company, with which to pay for the lands, and the expenses of making proof. Thousands of acres of land have been taken under this act, that should have been kept for the bona fide homesteader.

For this the government is to blame. It permits the applicant to select the land and relies on his statement and that of his witnesses to establish its character. If the government would classify the lands this feature would be done away. In every locality where there is timber, the local newspaper contains weekly items of the arrival of gangs of from three or four to a dozen or more people from Iowa, Nebraska or still further East, who came for the sole purpose of locating timber lands, led thereby by the informant, that companies and syndicates stood ready to buy them, or to advance money for the purpose of getting them. People, American people, do not consider it any crime to rob the government, and men who would rob with horror from committing perjury in the courts, will walk into the land office, and swear to any kind of a falsehood without batting an eye. In making final proof, blanks are provided by the government which might be called "Lessons in Lying, or Perjury Made Easy." The land officers simply see to it that the answers are such as the law requires; there is no cross questioning of witnesses, no one to represent the government, and the applicant gets his certificate, and proceeds to turn it over to the person or company with whom he has just sworn he had no understanding.

Under this carelessly framed and loosely conducted system, most of the available timber lands in the state are already in the hands of companies,

THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

The attorney-general of the state has announced it as his opinion that the "Initiative and Referendum" amendment is now in effect and needs no legislation to make it operative. This is, as we understand it, the effect of his opinion. Much as we may regret it, The Journal is compelled to dissent from his conclusions, and assuming that Governor Geer really favors the principles which are crystallized into this amendment, respectfully submits from a layman's standpoint, reasons which show conclusively, that while the amendment is in effect, legislation is required to make it operative. On its face it bears irrefragable proof that action by the Legislature was contemplated and, indeed, is as a matter of fact indispensable if its purposes are to be made effective. The last clause of the amendment reads as follows:

"Petitions and orders for the initiative and referendum shall be filed with the secretary of state, and in submitting the same to the people he and all other officers shall be guided by the GENERAL LAWS and the act submitting this amendment, until legislation shall be especially provided therefor."

The first question we desire to submit to the governor is to request that he be pointed out the "GENERAL LAWS" now in effect and which are to be the guide in the premises. If there are no such general laws, then the "guide" is lacking and there is no method prescribed for submitting questions and such method must be provided. A reasonably patient search by The Journal has not disclosed any such laws.

Turning to the Constitution, a section is found for submitting proposed amendments to the electors. An investigation and analysis of that provision shows conclusively that legislation is imperative. It in effect provides that after being adopted by two successive Legislatures, it is the duty of the Legislative Assembly to submit the proposed amendment to the people; requires its publication for at least four consecutive weeks in newspapers throughout the state, etc., etc.

The method by which the Legislature submits amendments under this Constitutional provision, is illustrated by their action in submitting the amendment under discussion. The Legislative Assembly passed an act prescribing just what was to be done in the premises and requiring the governor to submit it at the June election of 1902. The law prescribes the duties of clerks of the various counties, the words to be printed on the ballot, etc. See acts of 1901. But this was a law passed SPECIALLY FOR THIS ONE AMENDMENT. WHERE IS THE GENERAL LAW?

We also suggest in the friendliest way to the governor, to request the attorney-general to advise him what official or authority has power to submit the proposed law or question to the people?

He certainly must look to the "amendment" for his answer, for even the attorney-general cannot legislate.

We respectfully submit that only by inference, can it be assumed that any one has such authority. The only expression in the amendment from which it can be gathered any one has such authority is found in the last sentence and that can be construed many different ways.

After providing for the filing of petitions with the secretary of state, the amendment reads "and in submitting the same to the people HE AND ALL OTHER OFFICERS shall be guided by the general laws," etc. It is prudent to allow so serious a question and one so easily remedied to remain in doubt? Finally, after passing these several questions, will the governor kindly inquire of the attorney-general in the event the secretary of state refused to submit a question to the people claiming he was given no such authority, or that no method was prescribed for so doing, just how he, the attorney-general, would proceed to compel its submission. Mandamus would probably be the remedy suggested, but mandamus will not lie to compel an officer to perform an act which is not clearly prescribed and enjoined by law, and it is The Journal's opinion it would puzzle the attorney-general to find just which official has power to act and what method should be pursued to act under this amendment. How is the subject of the proposed legislation to be designated on the ballot? What provision is there for notice to the voter to advise him as to the nature of the proposed legislation? If notice is to be published, where, by whom and how is the same to be published? What is it to contain and who is to pay for the publication? If it be said the secretary of state has power to submit the proposed legislation to the voters, shall he publish it in some obscure paper or shall it be published so that every voter may know the scope of the proposed legislation, and if so where is the law that will compel him to do so that every elector will know what law he is voting for, and thus make this amendment practical as it was intended by the people. Certainly no one would suggest that the people should not have an opportunity to fully understand the subject matter on which they are to vote.

Our suggestions are meant in all kindness. We are strong supporters of the principles underlying the initiative and referendum, and are convinced that legislation is imperative to effectuate its purpose.

If the object is to render it inoperative like the "anti-pass" clauses of Constitutions of other states, no better method can be desired, than by letting it alone to "work itself."

If, on the other hand, it is the desire to carry out what was practically the unanimous will of the people, as expressed at the polls, no more effective way can be found than by calling a special session of the Legislature and laying this subject before the members for action.

and long before the law with its ponderous machinery gets in motion, there will be no timber land left. The fact that the government is now beginning to look into the matter is proof positive that the thing to be looked into has got beyond the stage requiring its examination.

THAT PROVIDENTIAL PARTNERSHIP.
It seems that Baer is not the only member of that Providential syndicate, on earth. He should have made mention of the silent partners in the concern.

The Islands Commission, which has just returned from Hawaii, has a report in its inside pocket, which will throw a little more light upon the subject. In the business of managing the earthly end of this syndicate, Mr. Baer only has charge of the coal fields. In the insular and colonial departments, the missionaries seem to be the regularly accredited delegates.

Mr. Burton of Kansas, a member of that Senatorial committee, sent to investigate conditions in the islands, reports his findings. He says that Protestant missionaries—not only American missionaries—but Boston missionaries—think of it—Boston missionaries—have given certain Hawaiian natives certificates entitling them to a place in Heaven, in return for valuable real estate. No verbal promises, but written contracts, signed, sealed and delivered. Deeds have been executed for the lands, the missionaries are in possession and the transactions are complete so far as the earthly end of the trade is concerned.

All that remains to be done to complete the deal is for the natives to go and take possession of their property. It is not likely they will be in a hurry to consummate the exchange. However, being Bostonians, related to David Harum, the missionaries have seen fit to "clinch" a good bargain by taking possession.

A CHANGE FOR LO.
It is stated that President Roosevelt is in his forthcoming message will recommend the dissolution of the tribal relation of the Indians, as far as their property and funds are concerned. This may be the proper thing, and yet, we doubt it. We doubt it because the whole history of the management of the Indian affairs shows that everything attempted for him has always proved a little worse than the conditions sought to be changed. History tells us that when America was first discovered the Indian was a simple child of nature, honest, truthful, hospitable, generous, all of which is no doubt true; but he has changed, or

THE TABASCO COLUMN.

The sailors on the battleship Alabama have subscribed a month's salary to a fund with which to give a ball. It has only been a short time since a prominent Rear-Admiral sent the sailors to everlasting seclusion, by saying that they did not know how to lead a cotillion gracefully, and were therefore not entitled to promotion. This is probably just a little practice event, looking to promotion.

Why did your uncle call Portland the Holy City?



Why, you see, he had an occasion to drive over some of our streets.

Mrs. Jennie Blasco is indignant because a jury only allowed her six cents for the damage done her heart by faithless William Sloane's refusal to keep his promise of marriage. Cheer up, Jennie. You have accomplished much, for has it not been judicially declared that you are a woman with a heart practically undamaged?

The bank robbing industry back East has almost ceased to be profitable. The recent robberies have disclosed the fact that those institutions only have from \$4,000 to \$5,000 in their vaults. A robber with any regard for his profession must feel like he had been West, and robbed a boot-black stand or a peanut roaster.

The train on which W. J. Bryan and party were travelling was wrecked in Colorado and the gentlemen were put in an empty refrigerator car and taken to Leadville. Some fairer will next advertise cold storage eloquence stolen from this car, which to be enjoyed, will only need be thawed out.

Dr. Robert Bell, who has made a study of Baffin land, says it contains 300,000 square miles, and is the second island in size in the world. The Danish West Indies being out of it, may be the administration might make a swap for the big one.

Poster L. Backus, a New York attorney, fainted in the court room, while defending a policeman. He probably ran out of breath, in reciting the virtues of his client.

The American Humane Association of Albany, N. Y., after a fierce debate, decided that the way to kill a dog is to shoot him. Why not hang him and let him die like a man.

Governor Odell of New York says he wants above anything, a business administration. He owns a grocery which furnishes supplies to the state institutions.

If F. D. Locke doesn't swear off political speaking, he is a tough one. A crowd recently cheered him, mistaking him for Chauncey Depew.

The New York Journal has changed its name to the New York American, but it was no use. Max O'Reil couldn't be side-tracked.

Uncle Samuel will pay the Samoan bill passed up to him by King Oscar, without saying much—and he will certainly not Samoa.

Mrs. Annie Kingsley in whose heart the doctors took six stitches died the day after. However, they say it was a splendid operation.

The Duke of Portland, kicked because his nephew married a plow-girl. What did he want him to marry? A steam shovel?

Lord Roberts is contemplating visiting this country. Come on Bob; we won't let any "Spyin' Cops" bother you.

It is said the "end of the Santo Domingo revolt is in sight." This reminds us of a joke from the Philippines.

Johnny Bull hasn't long between



pufts.

The reformation of the tariff and trust by their friends sounds pretty, but when is the reformation process to begin?

A lady typewriter has become a lion tamer. Wonder what the fellow who used to dictate to her feels like now.

The grand jury says grafting is going on, but those that ought to know it can't find it out.

Lipton having secured control of most of the tea, now wants the cup,

THE STATE PRESS.

The Hog in Demand.
Seventy-five thousand pounds of hogs, consisting of 865 head, were sold in one day in Bedford this week at 5 1/2 cents per pound, making the nice sum of \$4,000 left in Oregon pockets.—Southern Oregonian.

Will Need Legislation.
In last week's issue was an interesting and able communication by "Rancher" on the question of the range limit between sheepmen and farmers. This is rapidly becoming a prominent question. Idaho has a two-mile limit law, that no sheepman is permitted to range his sheep nearer than two miles of any farm. This law has been sustained by the courts. Some agitation is arising in Oregon favoring some kind of a law in that direction. As to what is the proper remedy is a debated question. We have heard from one of the leading farmers of the county on the subject and our columns are open to the other side of the question. The trouble constantly arising between sheepmen and farmers indicate that it is a question soon to become prominent and should be settled equally with proper regard for both interests. As to what is the best remedy is now the problem before us.—Ontario Democrat.

The Largest School District.
Malheur County has the largest school district in the United States. Its school house is in Crooked Creek Valley, in the southwestern portion of this county, 80 miles from the nearest railroad, which is its nearest postoffice, 100 miles from a rail road, and 140 miles southwest of Ontario. The district has but seven pupils and school six months out of every year. The district contains 4,000 square miles, being larger than the State of Delaware.—Ontario Democrat.

French Prunes to France.
The following placard, printed in bold, black type, will advertise the Oregon prune orchard on the cars bearing a shipment from Salem to Bordeaux, France:

FRENCH PRUNES,
SALEM, OREGON.
Sold to
BORDEAUX, FRANCE,
A part of a
HALF MILLION POUNDS,
Shipped from
OREGON TO FRANCE.

These placards will be conspicuously posted upon both sides of all of the cars in January, and will travel clear across the continent and spread the fame of Oregon, especially the Willamette Valley, abroad.—Salem Journal.

Proves Teddy Wrong.
The statement made by Mr. Knox, United States attorney-general, to the effect that the laws on the federal statute books are sufficient to control the trusts, proves this: President Roosevelt's consent that an amendment to the constitution is necessary to control the trusts is nothing but wind, and the Republican party is loath to attack the law-defying combinations of capitalists who have furnished its campaign funds. This attitude of the Republican party toward them is shown by the recent action of Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, who dumped some \$20,000,000 into Wall street to relieve the gamblers in watered stock.—Oregon City Courier-Herald.

Wants No Extras.
Oregon needs a special session of the Legislature about as much as a dog needs two tails. When the regular session meets in January, let them get down to business and pay more attention to work and less to the lobbyist and they will have ample time to transact all the business that is necessary to come before it.—Sheridan Sun.

Sings for Ship Subsidy.
The secretary of the treasury is going about the country announcing that the "Star Spangled Banner" is a "Republican song" and singing it on the way for the ship subsidy bill. But then it is not surprising that the Republicans should imagine that they own the earth.—Telephone Register.

Should Incorporate.
It is good for labor to organize, it would be better for the people to insist that since they are organized they must incorporate and it will be best if both capital and labor get made to give bonds to the state to keep the peace.—McMinnville News.

Will Grow Brighter.
The death of Elizabeth Cady Stanton removes from the world a great woman. Like all the pioneer women who have labored to improve society and elevate men and women she has been the subject of criticism and slight remark by the unthoughtful. But her work has been fruitful, and along with the course of time her name and reputation will brighten as the years pass, until hers will become one of the most honored in the pages of history.—East Oregonian.

Like Portland.
We wear blinders to avoid seeing what is on either side of us and flatter ourselves that what we do not see does not exist.—McMinnville News.

It Needs Protection.
As a striking example of what protection will do for the range it is only necessary to look at the right of way, inside the railroad fences. The bunchgrasses attain a height of 24 inches inside this inclosure, while just across the fence it is eaten to the ground and the roots practically killed by the constant tramping of stock.—La Grande Chronicle.

The Railroads' Part.
The commission which President Roosevelt has appointed to arbitrate the coal strike will be obliged to take cognizance of the factor which the railroad rates cut in the problem. Its reports cannot fail to be of great effect in compelling Congress to find some means of regulation which will prevent gross discrimination.—Astoria Budget.

Wants Special Session.
The politicians of the state are not going to prevent a special session and consideration of the pledges they made the people without having the whole matter aired. The people voted for the referendum and flat salaries almost unanimously, and are entitled to a fair trial of these reforms in good faith. The Journal believes they will get this, and believe those who strife with such matters will be punished with public condemnation, as they deserve.—Salem Journal.

He Totes Fair.
President Mitchell says Morgan tried to settle the strike. In words of praise of the financier, Mitchell conceded fairness on Morgan's part; in other words, gave the devil his due.—Woodburn Independent.

Cayuse Still the Style.
Eastern Oregon is not generally worried over danger from the Cayuse, but the double-headed Cayuse with a back-acting hind leg occasionally gets in his work.—East Oregonian.

LESS LEAD POISONING.
Improvements in the arrangements of two large factories in England, reduced the number of cases of lead poisoning in one year from 172 to 74.



TONIGHT'S ATTRACTIONS.

The Marquand-Dark.
The Baker—"Held by the Enemy."
Cordray—"On the Stroke of Twelve."

COMING ATTRACTIONS.
The Marquand-Herrmann, The Great Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, with popular price matinee Saturday.
The Baker—"Held by the Enemy" for the week.
Cordray—"On the Stroke of Twelve," Tuesday and Wednesday nights. "Finnigan's Ball" for the balance of the week, with matinee on Saturday.

Gillette's "Held by the Enemy."
Gillette's powerful war drama, "Held by the Enemy," was given its first production at the Baker Theater by the Neil Stock Company on Sunday afternoon, with a splendid performance in the evening. It will probably have the capacity of the house to accommodate the people who will desire to witness the production.

Mr. Morris has staged the piece with his usual skill and good taste, which, by the way, is of a high order. The production is a masterpiece of dramatic art, and the company has another chance at the lines and business of this great war play, they will give a very good performance.

When the company has another chance at the lines and business of this great war play, they will give a very good performance. The production is a masterpiece of dramatic art, and the company has another chance at the lines and business of this great war play, they will give a very good performance.

There are several spots in the production which by their application to the scene in his feeling of repugnance at freighting himself at the expense of another. This scene should begin with every voice moderate in volume, and feeling only at moderate strain. It would then be possible to construct a climax, gradually increasing the intensity of the situation to the end and the denouement of the scene.

But there is a world of interest in the production by this company. It is essentially a man's play, for they get the better of the opportunity.

Mr. Glendon, as Col. Prescott, is the hero and a good one, his love-making being excellent, and the heavier passages in the story being finely done. Miss Counsell, herself a Southern girl, in this play a character as Rachel McCreary, a spirited beautiful Southern young woman, and were she not the artist she is could enact the role anyway. Especially in the last act there was a delightful quality in her acting. Mr. Wyngate again appeared in comedy and was highly successful in causing the audience to see the funny side of things. It is a rather far cry from a John Tom or a Senator Ruthford to a Tom Bean, "Special for Ladies," yet the transition was accomplished easily by Mr. Wyngate. Mr. Mower, as usual, was a good general. Mr. Southard was the brigade surgeon and for the most part was quite pleasing.

Miss Edmond, as Susan, was sweet and sprightly and winsome and seemed to have the enthusiastic endorsement of the audience.

"On the Stroke of Twelve."
Cordray has "On the Stroke of Twelve" as the attraction for the first three nights. The production was lively and was witnessed by a good house. It is a melodrama, melodrama of the melodramatic sort. There is a villain, Horton, by Mr. Porter, who has an accomplice, Levi, played by Mr. First. Mr. Porter, a web of their depravity around everyone with whom they come in contact and strive to cause so much misery as they may. Jack Rutledge, by Mr. Noa, was a good character. The elder Rutledge was by Mr. Monley.

Miss Alice Mortlock appeared to advantage as Doris, as did Miss Fairfield as Jess.

There is a Yiddish character in the play. Levi, which is taken by Mr. First, and is somewhat different from anything in that line usually seen on the stage.

There are several features that are introduced as specialties, not in the original drama, but in the production. The people. Encores were numerous and appreciation was evident.

MARKS' ANNOUNCEMENTS.
"The Senator."
The Neil Stock Company will produce at the Baker Theater next week starting with Sunday matinee, the comedy in which William H. Crane made such a grand success. "The Senator." The piece is in the foremost ranks of good plays, and as a first-class class of comedy it has no superior. The Neil Stock Company has already proved its ability to handle any class of plays it has been called upon to produce, and the success they will attain in "The Senator" will be a most distinct one. The play, as well as the company, there is no room to question its splendid qualities and the production of it that will be given at the Baker Theater will be fully equal to, if not better than the best that the Neil Stock Company has ever produced. It is proved by the immense houses which greet every performance.

"Finnigan's Ball."
Gallagher and Barrett, who essay the principal roles in "Finnigan's Ball" this season, were among the most successful of last season's vaudevillians. They open Tuesday for the night, November 3, 7 and 8, and matinee Saturday, at Cordray's.

Last Week of Reifsky's Painting.
If you appreciate art and beauty do not fail to see Reifsky's great painting, now on exhibition on Stark street, across from the Chamber of Commerce. It is undoubtedly the finest oil painting ever seen in Portland. It is a work of art, a veritable masterpiece of the hand, and the memory of its stay in the city is limited, and lovers of art and the beautiful who miss seeing it will certainly regret it later. The picture is elevating and possesses a vividness that comes as near reality as is possible. This will be the last week this great painting will be on exhibition.

Herrmann, The Great.
Herrmann the Great, a favorite entertainer and the most expert conjuror now before the public, will appear at the Marquand Grand Theater next Friday and Saturday nights and Saturday matinee. He is a remarkably clever manipulator with his hands and his palming and sleight-of-hand is marvelous. He has been seen here many times and his enterprising mind has not extended comment. They have attained a fame for excellence well known to all theater-goers. Herrmann and magic is synonymous. Mention of one recalls the other. The program is the present season contains much that is new to local theater-goers, much that will astonish, mystify and amuse. In aerial mystery, "The Princess Mahomet" is probably the star attraction on the program. Herrmann hypnotizes a young lady, rattles her on a couch, and slowly raises her to a considerable height, then passing a hoop around the suspended figure savant, until it seems beyond belief that the illusion is not a reality. "Voyage Instantaneous" is another very effective illusion which is expected to create a sensation. "The Hindoo Magic Trick," "Les Fete des Fleurs," "The Sand Dunes," and "Chinese Washer Washer" will also be seen for the first time in this city. The musical Goodman will give added variety to a long and interesting program. The advance sale of seats will open Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.

First Symphony Concert.
The first Symphony Concert of the four seasons will be given Wednesday evening, November 5, at the Marquand Grand Theater. The program to be presented is an interesting one and will include the fascinating "Slavonic Dances" by Dvorak, who has the modern instinct for gorgeous orchestration. The soloist, Carrie Brown, Dexter, of San Francisco, has a soprano voice of great range, and remarkable sweetness. He will sing the "Polacco" from "Mignon" which gives her every opportunity for brilliant coloratura work, in which she is so proficient. The sale of seats will begin tomorrow morning at the box office and the prices have been graded to meet the need of all students of music for such education. The program is derived from just such orchestral concerts.

FROM OTHER VIEWPOINTS.
A Rapid Increase.
Between 1870 and 1901 there was an increase of 125 per cent in the number of school children in the United States, and an increase of only 100 per cent in population. Evidently the country either has more children in proportion to its population than in 1870, or the population has increased to a larger proportion than in 1870. In either case it is peculiar. St. Paul Pioneer-Press.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton.
A very notable woman has passed away full of years and all the honors that her sex could win. For years Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the leader in a reform which in the older states has seemed hopeless, but in two or three of the newer states has won at least some apparent success.

But if she accomplished but little in the particular object for which she was so strenuous—the granting of the suffrage to women—she was instrumental directly and indirectly in bringing about many other reforms that have finally in almost all the states given wives an equality with their husbands before the law in respect to their children, their inheritance, and the right to gain an independent livelihood.—Chicago Journal.

Another Combine.
Now it is the market gardeners who are feeling the world impulse toward combination, and they are considering the advantages and feasibility of organizing for the purpose of securing better prices for their produce. And why not, pray? With labor organizing to get—and getting—better wages; with capitalists organizing industries, to get better prices for their products, why should not the industrious purveyors of share vegetables also organize to get a share? Let him who is without organization cast the first stone at them.—St. Paul Dispatch.

Here's an Utter Ass.
Perhaps the coal duties ought to be repealed; but the free trade organs that are urging such repeal should bear in mind that one of its effects would be to put American miners in direct competition with the foreign miners. Ask the American miners how they would like to see the duty taken off coal, and if they don't mope, it will be because they can't get at you!—Dayton, O. Press.

Word From Idaho.
From Idaho comes word that the Democratic state ticket is going to be elected by as large a majority as was given the Democrats in 1900, and there are indications that the Democratic margin will be increased. That the Legislature will be safely Democratic, insuring a United States Senator of the Democratic faith to succeed Senator Helfield, is also a certainty.

As a matter of fact, the Idaho Democratic officials are entitled to a vote of confidence from the people. They have given the state a sound, conservative administration of the trust reposed in them. At the same time the administration has been active and progressive in the right direction. In spite of the enormous expenditures for public improvements of a permanent character, the funds have been well cared for, and the state treasury is secure a marked reduction in the state debt. The burden of taxation has been lightened and the people generally are satisfied.—Salt Lake Herald.

A Needed Reform.
Some members of the Federation of Women's Clubs and the civic section of the California Club, have taken up the project, now on trial in New York City, of establishing a "civic court," which shall have jurisdiction over offenders, male and female, under the age of 16 years. The ladies hope to bring about this project and will appeal to the next Legislature to pass a law creating such a court.

The herding of juveniles with old offenders in city prisons, county jails, the docks of criminal courts and in penitentiaries is, beyond doubt, a serious evil. It is notorious that prison and penitentiaries are nurseries of crime. The boy convicted of his first offense is rarely incorrigible. But in confinement he meets old offenders who school him in vice and crime and turn him out a finished professional criminal.

It is not ruled by evil associations in prison, the disgrace of having been convicted clings to him through life and mars his whole career. What is said of boys in prison time may be said of the greater force of girls.—San Francisco Bulletin.

Mr. Chamberlain.
Mr. Chamberlain's desire to go to South America and look into the condition of things there with his own eyes is probably well taken. Reports on the subject are very contradictory, and it is of the highest importance that the truth shall be known. The British government is both difficult and complicated, and the work will be cut out very largely by him. He is of course not popular with the Boers, nor for that matter with some of the British residents of South Africa, but nevertheless he is recognized by friends and enemies alike as a powerful and resourceful man, with strong claims just now upon the world's attention. The war is over. British authority prevails everywhere. The Boer war has been a change means better government and progress for everybody in interest. This promise must be kept; and the more thoroughly assured the British government is of the situation in its newly acquired territory the better.—Washington Star.