

away and conferred on itself. Such an amendment would place the supreme court back into the position the fathers intended it to occupy, and give to other branches of the government some chance to help govern.

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

A NATIONAL convention has never been held as far west as Denver, where the Democratic national convention will be held this year. Conventions have been held in St. Louis, and once a Republican national convention was held in Minneapolis; but Denver is "the limit," so far. Speaking of national conventions, the Boston Globe interestingly says:

The first regular national Democratic convention was held in Baltimore in 1832, Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren being the nominees respectively for president and vice-president. It was in this assembly that the famous two thirds rule was adopted by which all subsequent Democratic conventions have governed themselves in making nominations. Mr. Van Buren was not the free choice of the Democrats for vice-president, but Jackson desired his nomination and it was made. The Democrats met in Baltimore also in 1835, 1840, 1844, 1848 and 1852. In the 1835 convention it is related that the office-holders who took part were counted and their names were published. In the body which assembled in 1840 there was but one member to cast the vote of Massachusetts, and several of the western states were thinly represented. At that period it was not so easy to travel long distances as it is now, which accounts for many absences when the roll of delegates was called. In 1846 the Democrats tried Cincinnati, but in 1848 returned south, meeting first in Charleston, South Carolina—there being some seceders who held a separate meeting—and adjourned to meet in Baltimore. The Democrats tried Chicago first for a convention city in 1844, went to Tammany Hall, New York, in 1848, and in 1852 nominated Horace Greeley in Baltimore. But since then they have met in either St. Louis, Cincinnati or Chicago.

The time may come, with faster time and cheaper rates on railroads, when a national convention will be held on the Pacific coast—at San Francisco, Seattle, Tacoma, Los Angeles or Portland. Why not? Delegates would spend only a few days more time and a few dollars more money and could thus make a delightful summer excursion. Since the Democrats have ventured so far west as Denver this year, why not begin to work up a movement for a national convention in Portland in 1912? Very likely we might get it. Denver put up \$100,000 to get the Democratic convention. In 1912 Portland will be a city of about 200,000 people, and \$100,000 would not be much to raise for such a purpose. We submit the suggestion to Tom Richardson, Whitney Boise, et al.

The Journal assumes that Senator Fulton meant exactly what he said when he declared at Corvallis that he would not be a candidate for reelection before the next legislature, if some other senatorial candidate should receive a larger vote in the June election. But it is certainly surprising that he now declines to reiterate that declaration. This is a matter of too much importance to be ignored or evaded. If Senator Fulton's position has changed and if he now proposes to seek election at the hands of the legislature even though defeated in the primaries or in the June election, the people have a right to know it. On two occasions within the past fortnight, once at Washington and once in Portland, the Journal has asked Senator Fulton the direct question whether he still stands by the pledge which he gave in his Corvallis speech, but each time he refused to give an explicit reply. What is the meaning of this refusal?

"Republican voters' choice" is a pledge that has not been fully understood by the rank and file of the people. It does not mean the choice of the Republican party, but the choice of the Republican bosses. That is why the machine politicians are so ardently in favor of it.

Some of the machine politicians are apt to discover that there is another April fool's day on the 17th of this month, when the people will vote at the primaries. And the joke will be on the politicians, not on the people.

Abe Hummel says he has \$1,000,000 left and is going to have a lot of fun out of it. We all know how, if not quite where, he got it. Abe Ruef will have \$1,000,000 or more, too, as soon as he gets clear. Nice boys, these Abes.

Registration is showing up fairly well, yet there are several thousands of eligible voters who have not registered. Register! Do your duty as rulers.

A morning contemporary has waked up enough to inquire whether Bryan will be nominated. This should afford the editor of the Commonwealth a pert paragraph.

A MEANINGLESS PLEDGE

LEGISLATIVE candidates who have pledged themselves to vote for the "Republican voters' choice" for United States senator are, to all intents and purposes, absolutely unpledged.

Neither Mr. Cake nor Senator Fulton, if defeated by Chamberlain in June, can be a candidate before the legislature. Mr. Cake is an uncompromising adherent of the principle that the people's choice for senator must be elected by the legislature and is publicly proclaiming that he will abide by the result in June. Senator Fulton declared in his Corvallis speech: "If it shall happen that some other candidate receives a larger vote for United States senator than I do, at the election to be held next June, I promise you now that I will retire from the field and will not permit my name to be presented to the legislature for that or any other office."

If, therefore, Governor Chamberlain should receive the popular vote in June, his Republican opponent, whether it be Mr. Cake or Senator Fulton, cannot in honor become a candidate before the legislature. To do so would be a gross breach of a pledge publicly and voluntarily given to the people of the state.

Assuming, then, that Chamberlain should receive a plurality of the people's votes in June, for whom does the legislator who is pledged to the "Republican voters' choice" propose to vote? Not for Cake, not for Fulton, for neither can allow his name to go before the legislature. How then will this legislator determine who is the "Republican voters' choice"?

The answer is easy. The machine and the bosses will once more elect Oregon's United States senator. Once more the people will witness the disgraceful scenes of the past, when legislators were bought and sold like cattle, when all the business of the legislature was subordinated to the interests of rival senatorial candidates and when the corporations, not the people, finally named the man.

Already a little coterie of politicians here in Portland is scheming to manipulate the legislature in the interest of a dark horse candidate. They care nothing for Cake or for Fulton. They care nothing for the people's will. "The people be damned!" say these self-constituted rulers. "We will name the United States senator. It is easy to fool the people into voting for legislative candidates who are pledged to the 'Republican voters' choice' and then we shall have matters in our own hands."

"Republican voters' choice" is empty and meaningless claptrap, a pledge that binds no one, a shallow trick designed only to deceive the people and to rob them of their hardly-won right to elect the United States senator by their own votes.

No man should be nominated or elected to the legislature who has not subscribed unqualifiedly to Statement No. 1.

parties above all its other objects," remarks the Pendleton Tribune. We think not; rather that its main object is to put the people's affairs more in their own hands.

President Roosevelt pays scant heed to the kaiser's objections to Dr. Hill. Is another international complication to ensue?

Running Shots

Written for the Journal by Fred C. Denton.

Stranger things have happened than Little Bob for president.

It would appear as if New York City had been annexed to St. Petersburg or Moscow.

Colorado is trying to come into the limelight as a dynamic state again, but New York goes it several better.

The saloons are all going to be good, we are told, but the license committee of the city council is still very short sighted.

After the victim of a murder has been dead a year or two public sympathy turns to the murderer about to be made a victim by the state.

By dodging the issue Astoria Charlie has played what his senatorial brethren would call good politics, but they are accustomed to Statement No. 1.

To break strikes mine and railroad companies have encouraged the importation of hundreds of thousands of the most ignorant, degraded and lawless. Now the state of New York is committing the same error in importing Russia and will have to break the strike breakers.

Unless the two-by-three statesmen afflicting this city in the council take a tumble to the fact that Mayor Lane is regarded as having a "hot" seat, in a minute the whole push of them possess in a year, more than one of them will be honored with a recall to private life whenever a special election is called.

The five members of the United States supreme court are clothing themselves with great responsibility in standing between the people and the extensions of the state's power, but the common herd will find a way or make it when the pressure gets too strong. Government railroads will come in a swift chariot of justice is not done.

Cities in Maryland offer inducements to manufacturing plants in the shape of tax abatements. In the last year ending in 1900 manufacturing capital increased from about \$38,000,000 in the city of Baltimore alone to over \$129,000,000 and is supposed to have increased to fully twice that in the last eight years. What Maryland permits its cities to do, Oregon might do as a state. Manufacturing plants in Oregon do not pay taxes on but \$10,632,389, or less than our furniture and farming machinery.

Special instruction in the public schools is needed on how to address a letter. The read of wonderful stunts done by the postal sharps with illegible epistles, but we do not hear much about the many letters never delivered because of scrawling and careless or insufficient directions. Some of our best business houses are guilty of most shameful carelessness in directing letters that not only result in failure and delay, but absorb the much-needed time of clerks and managers. Write letters that are addressed with just "corner" this and that street without a number. Three fourths of the public school teachers cannot, or do not address local letters correctly. The children are actually taught that anything goes with Uncle Sam in the postoffice. Several volumes of letters could be written for the special use of Portland children and grown-ups.

No Good Reason.

From the Pendleton East Oregonian.

Can you give one good reason why a Republican should be afraid to take the Statement No. 1 pledge, in Oregon, a state having a Republican plurality of at least 40,000 voters? Republicans are the ones to see that this pledge is taken and adhered to. That is the way to keep the state in the Republican rank. Nothing will cause it to change to a Democratic state quicker than for Republicans to shirk the people.

Build Up, Not Down.

Brownsville, Or., March 30.—I note that the university appropriation friends continue to preach about the Eugene university being the head of our public school system. Now, providing this be the fact, I would like to ask the question, Why not commence at the ground and endeavor to build up our educational system?

Why not appropriate \$125,000 for our common schools and raise their standard to such an efficiency that our schools will be prepared to enter our colleges and universities? Salaries are now so low that rural districts can hardly support a teacher, wages range from \$10 to \$15 a month. It is a lamentable fact that Oregon's common school system is a disgrace when compared to

Opinions of State Press on Statement One

Republicans Must Stand by It. From the Silverton Silvertonian-Appeal (Rep.).

Apparently there is a growing necessity for absolute honesty in the political field, and we can conceive of no better means to accomplish this to the fullest extent than by or through the direct primary law, and yet, we find Republicans who have seen aggregations or overthrown its one important feature, Statement No. 1, on the ground that it is a non-principle movement. They evidently do not appreciate the magnitude of the task which they have assumed. Long since has the suffering public seen, with shame, the evils of machine politics; long have they seen aggregations of the "bosses" ignore the law and subvert justice by bribing legislators to frame statutes favorable to the bosses and against the best policies of the state.

Are these the kind of principles looked for in the Republican party? Are they the principles those who desire to get back into the old political rut are objecting to Statement No. 1, which simply means an election by United States senator by the people, and has no bearing whatever upon the real motive.

Statement No. 1 is not particularly in opposition to Republican principles, but is in opposition to the Republican demands of the people.

The election of United States senator by the people is in conformity to all Republican principles. Statement No. 1, being one necessary requirement to accomplish the desired purpose, should not balk an earnest and candid Republican. Long have the Republican legislators passed resolutions asking congress for an amendment to the federal constitution authorizing the people to vote directly for members of the United States senate unless we are to assume that the Oregon people are shams or so simple-minded that they do not know how to elect their own representatives by the method they have adopted with unanimity.

Not True. From the Albany Herald (Rep.).

A recent report from this county under a Lebanon date lists purports to tell the world at large that Linn county Republicans are against Statement No. 1. This is untrue. If, as this correspondent says, Statement No. 1 is opposed by a majority of the Republican voters who are that after laboring for weeks to get a meeting of the county central committee together to "quell" the statement the scheme failed to work. The fact is that Statement No. 1 found in this county is centered around the city of Albany. A few of the old-time politicians and party bosses are endeavoring to supply courage to prospective legislative candidates on the Republican ticket, hoping to get them elected on the "ghost of a chance" by the contrary of the wishes and sentiment of the people. Linn county will send three Statement No. 1 men to the next session of the legislature. The Lebanon correspondent to the contrary notwithstanding.

Nothing Wrong About It. From the Union Scout.

For years both great parties have advocated election of United States senators by the popular vote. That is what Statement No. 1 is and that is what is on Statement No. 1 is carried out the people of Oregon can take a broadside shot at the United States senators. If it is adhered to, the United States senators will swing into line and before many years the people will own that which they long coveted, the privilege of choosing their own representatives. We fall to see what is wrong about it. The bosses may not believe that the common people have sense enough to elect their own representatives, but they have never known to do any good for the country at large.

A Struggle Against Bossism. From the Oregonian.

We see bossism and machine politics refuse to die without a struggle, consequently the opposition to Statement No. 1 and our primary election law. Of course brother Scott of the Oregonian fears the government will get the question on the question. The citizen is "Shall I allow political bossism to do my thinking or shall I go forward until the government shall be in truth of the people, for the people and by the people?" Long live the primary law and may Statement No. 1 be adopted until we elect United States senators by popular vote independent of state legislatures.

Not Progressing Well. From the Harney Valley News (Rep.).

The fight to eliminate all adherents of Statement No. 1 from places of honor in the Republican party is not progressing to the full satisfaction of the would-be dictators, some extent of the fight of some of the champions of it refused to be "eliminated."

One Against Many. From the Harney Valley News (Rep.).

It looks very much as if the Oregonian was testing its strength against the fight for our state in an effort to wipe out the primary law and the initiative and referendum. The Oregonian is practically unanimous in its opposition, as are several of the smaller dailies.

that of other states. University friends acknowledge this fact. They argue that the university is turning out graduates who do not care to mention the fact that they all aspire to something higher than a "country school" education. The university friends do not sympathize with the university.

If this appropriation had been given for the support and maintenance of the university, it would have been raised by the multitude of farmers and graziers of our state. The university's friends are as large as the supply. So it is, especially so in the rural districts, but salaries range so low that the state can barely out an existence on such dogs' wages. The outlook in Oregon at the present time is very discouraging for the common school teacher; indeed, it is far from bright.

To be sure, a certain per cent of our boys and girls want a college education, but the majority of them do not want to be given; in the meantime they will not suffer.

Citizens of Oregon, I appeal to you, is it right, is it justice, to spend money at our university and a whole host of normal schools while our common schools are starving? If we want improvements for our common schools we levy a tax on our districts and districts in our pockets for the cash. Now if the university wants new buildings and more land we are compelled also to furnish them the money. Let it not be so. We can kill this measure. Let us stand together for a good and noble cause.

I appeal to you, voters of Oregon, as a man who has been a student of our state colleges and who has seen the working system of our state colleges. I regard the agricultural college as an institution which is bettering the condition of the farmer. It is a disgrace that there is no farmer's friend, and this will be proven at the coming election.

FRED E. HARRISON.

Small Change

The people will tolerate no more machines.

The "Portland Gateway" is difficult to keep closed.

Will it be allowable to wear a "merry widow" on Easter?

The only way some spinsters will ever get a husband is to advertise.

Ellis, Geer, Shepherd; guess on Multnomah county, and the result in the district.

How mad Count Boni must be that he counts to raise the price to follow Count Helle over.

All Republican candidates for the legislature in Union county subscribe to Statement No. 1.

Anna Gould says she will not marry anyone who advertises that she wants to marry again.

"Raise Your Own Dukes," is the title of an article in an exchange. Yes, it is occasionally necessary.

Make it 500 a day from now on, run it up to over 80,000. Portland has that many voters—and then some.

Good-bye, March, you have been quite decent. You came in like a lamb, and went out like a kid nannycot.

The opinion grows that Taft will not have a walkover. His brother's millions may hurt more than help.

There are 19,000 unemployed men in the Rhode Islands. They will all have good jobs as soon as the Aldrich bill passes.

Dorothy Dix says one of the spring hats are millinery gigles. Rather, from coarse man's point of view, gutfaws, Dorothy.

Even farmers have their troubles. Some over on Columbia slough say they can't sleep o' nights on account of the mewling of catfish.

A Copenhagen trust company has failed. It was "some time" ago that Mr. Hamlet remarked that there was something rotten in Denmark.

If the capital of the United States were moved from Washington to Portland, members of congress and other Washington officials and employees would live a good deal longer.

A West Virginia Democrat is basing his candidacy for congress on a demand for higher tariff on peanuts. Now who will say that there is no foundation for the phrase "peanut politician"?

A Brown university professor proposes to use nitrogen explosives as motive power for airplanes. This seems all right; this stuff will send them up, all right, and they will come down of themselves.

Detroit Tribune: If the duke of Westminster, who takes tribute from the West Indies, inherited holdings in the heart of London, would he not say, "I will take off our hats to him as the ideal of successful