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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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One of the best rules in conversation is never to say a thing which any of the company can reasonably wish we had left unsaid.—Swift.

SALE OF SENATORSHIPS QUITE "CONSTITUTIONAL"

THERE IS not a grain of honest sincerity in all this argument that an agreement on the part of members of the legislature to elect for senator the people's choice is violative of the constitution because it deprives them of voting for their personal choice.

AN UNNOTED RULER

AGAIN IT is reported that both the nominal emperor of China, and also the dowager empress, the real ruler, are dead, or dying, but such reports have proved false heretofore and may be so now, though they seem to be more credible than usual, especially as regards the so-called emperor.

ENCOURAGING INCIDENTS

THERE WAS here and there a gratifying result of the late elections, aside from partisan considerations. It is sometimes said that it is useless for decent, moral, high principled voters to struggle in elections against ignorant and vicious voters and interest-serving politicians and corrupt party machines.

At a very private dinner in New York the other day were Vice-President-elect Sherman, Speaker Cannon, Representatives Dalsell, McKinley, Lousenberger and several others, the object being to discuss

SHALL TAFT BE PRESIDENT?

WILLIAM H. TAFT has not yet been elected president. All that was done November 3 was to declare him the popular choice. On that day the people indorsed him for the presidency by an overwhelming majority, comprising two-thirds of the states.

But he is not yet elected. It was the presidential electors that were elected. Mr. Taft will not be elected until these electors meet and cast their votes for him, as they were instructed to do by the people. The actual election of president rests solely with the electoral college.

Exactly identical is the situation with respect to the Oregon senatorship. The people have instructed for Mr. Chamberlain for senator, just as the people have instructed for Mr. Taft for president. The election of senator is to take place in the legislature, just as the election of president is to be accomplished in the electoral college.

Will one Taft elector repudiate his tacit pledge to the people and vote for Debs? Has there in all this hundred years that the system has been in vogue, been one Judas that betrayed with an unspeakable treachery those who trusted him?

ways and means to reelect Cannon speaker, and continue past policies. Of these men the New York American says: "Everyone of these gentlemen is the hand-picked selection of the trusts, and goes to congress by trust preference. Every one of them represents not the people but the trusts in the councils of the nation."

THE AMERICAN system is a government by public opinion. The newspapers are a chief factor in forming public opinion. This is the view of Mr. Bryce in his excellent American Commonwealth, and it is accurate.

A weighty responsibility thus rests on the American newspaper. Its power for weal or woe for the nation is enormous. It can be constructive or destructive. It can be uplifting or degrading. It can elevate the standard of citizenship, or it can go a long way toward corrupting it.

Dr. Hadley, president of Yale, says: "We cannot have responsible and rational government unless we secure a responsible, sober, honest press, and we cannot have such a press unless readers learn to demand the qualities named and resent dishonesty, deception, unfairness, in the newspapers they patronize."

per. Even its news columns are a means of advancing that leadership, and are so employed by many journals. In cases the news is colored to serve the personal purposes of the publishers, but that is a despicable resort and only unprincipled papers employ it.

THE DASTARDLY attempt on the life of Prosecutor Heney is the price of disorder. It is the consequence of aid and comfort given by so-called business and other interests to the defense.

PROPOSED SCALP BOUNTY LAW

EASTERN OREGON sheepmen are preparing to bring a strong pressure to bear upon the next legislature to enact another scalp bounty law, especially as to coyotes, which have lately become more destructive of sheep than for years past.

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AN ORGAN'S BAD ADVICE

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What do the people of Astoria care, Republicans though most of them be, or why should they care, what is the politics of the men who attend to their local affairs, so long as they are attended to well?

Interests of Astoria. He put his politics aside as to local affairs and worked solely for the good of the city. Now the Astorian wants to change this and elect men to city offices not because they would probably follow this example, but solely because they are Republicans and would maintain a Republican machine.

Speaking of the case, and not of the candidates, as individuals, we say this is very bad advice. City governments ought everywhere to be divorced from party politics, as completely as is possible.

THE PRICE OF DISORDER

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THE COURTS, the laws, the officers and the ballot box are the only agencies of order. Efforts to set them aside or interfere with them in their proper process is demoralizing to the body politic.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1708—William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, was born. Died, Mar. 23, 1778. 1787—Richard Henry Dana, author, was born in Cambridge, Mass. Died in Boston, February 2, 1820.

THE RESULT OF INCREASED RAILWAY RATES

From the New York American, October 25. Now that the railways are almost out of the way, railroad men are organizing for a vigorous campaign to force an advance of freight rates.

coming out strong again on Republican party "principles." It is a fine, large word, this "principles," but what they are is not stated.

A Poem for Today

At the Door. By Harriet Beecher Stowe. [The selections from Mrs. Stowe's poem are interesting, apart from their literary merit, as showing the source of one of the best known hymns.]

Rest, dear soul, he longs to give thee; That's the only dreamed-of pleasure. Dreamed of gifts and golden treasure, Dreamed of jewels in thy keeping,

CHARLES M. DICKINSON'S BIRTHDAY.

Charles Monroe Dickinson, well known in diplomatic and consular circles, was born in Lowell, Mass., November 18, 1841.

SENTENCE SERMONS

By Henry F. Cope. It takes more than good living to make the good life. It takes a lot of piety to stand up against prosperity.

A Sermon for Today

The Eternal Will. By Henry F. Cope.

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."—Matt. vi. 10.

Is that the prayer of craven submission? It might be but for the first sentence of the petition. He who talks to his Father and knows the affection of that infinite fatherhood will know that there can be nothing higher or better for him than that Father's will.

There seemed something noble and admirable in rebellion against the will of the deity so long as we thought of him as a person who, in arbitrary fashion, decided what we must do, as one who used his omnipotence for our subjugation, while he seemed to be a coward who bowed his neck in tame submission to decrees and obligations imposed upon him by one who sat in foreign splendor in another world.

But if we think of the will of this Father as being the infinite law that runs through all the universe, as that which the least atom and the vast planets obey, as that law of harmony which means fullness and beauty of life, then we shall have a different view of the endeavor of every right life to do that will, to be in tune with that universal harmony.

The will of heaven is not written on tablets of stone, nor can it be set down in books nor compassed in prescriptions and regulations. The infinite, divine will is not subject to the interpretation of every passing regulator of the conduct of others.

The will of the Father is not this or that or the other detail. We do his will not by the scrupulous observance of any round or routine of ritual or duties. He is doing the will of God who is making the dust the servant of the divine, who is setting the soul above the soul, who is bringing the kingdom and rule of the spiritual to this world.

Such a prayer subdues our individual desires to its high purposes. It teaches us to see in pain the perfecting of the life for the purposes of divine affection; it sees in losses the cutting away of that which might lead the life down and prevent its moving in harmony with all developing life into the heavenly glory of character.

THE RESULT OF INCREASED RAILWAY RATES

The only way for the American railroads to save the rich trade of the northwest is for them to reduce dividends and handle the situation in a sensible, businesslike manner, instead of wasting their time crying like babies and shedding tears that they know are not justified.