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members to organize and for the purpose in hand control both houses, as they can. If they are to keep their pledge, and are sincere and firm in that purpose, they cannot well pursue any other course, since the opponents of election of senators by the people are making every possible effort to organize the legislature. A great, vital principle is involved, of incomparably greater importance than the election of any particular man or the success of either party, and it is the high duty of every member pledged to that principle to do everything in his power to uphold, establish and maintain it.

CRIMINALITY AMONG JEWS

IN THE North American Review for November Police Commissioner Bingham of New York City published an article in which he asserted, though incidentally, that there was more criminality among the Jews of that city than among other people. This aroused the indignation of Jewish organizations, and they investigated the matter and produced facts which caused Bingham to publish a full retraction of his former statement. He explains that his purpose was not to inquire into the race or religion of people charged with criminality, but only to make a plea for a secret service fund. He wished to impress the fact that the authorities had to deal with a great number of foreigners, and that a knowledge of racial customs and manners is essential. It seems the figures he used were misleading, because referring to the proportion of Jewish boys in the House of Refuge only, where nearly all the youthful Jewish misdemeanants are sent, and these are mostly the children of the poorer and more ignorant Jewish immigrants, whereas the comparison should have included the occupants of all such institutions. Hence Mr. Bingham says: "I withdraw the statements challenged, frankly and without reserve."

Mr. Bingham's statement in the North American Review attracted wide and curious attention, and was not credited by many, because it is a matter of common knowledge that there are no more law abiding and well behaved people in the country than Jews. The adults among them, if we except a portion of the pawnbrokers, seldom violate any of the laws, and their children are usually well governed. In a great city and immigration port like New York, where there are a million Jews, and a large fraction of them uneducated immigrants, there must of course be considerable delinquency among them, but even the "children of the Ghetto" will compare favorably with children and youth of other people in similar circumstances.

A COLOSSAL FOLLY

IT IS the announced purpose of Governor Chamberlain to recommend to the legislature the enactment of a stringent law with respect to concealed weapons. The murder of Ralph Fisher is an eloquent appeal for such a law. The reports of murderous pistols around us almost every day in the week herald the need of such a law. The multiplying victims, the grief-stricken families and bereaved children are living testimonials of the importance of such a law. In the midst of the carnage and mourning it is the business of the state to know what men walk about armed and why they are armed. It is the business of the state to know whether the newly purchased revolver is to be used for the murder of some useful citizen. If society is to be an armed camp with every man a walking arsenal, the state should make the fact public so all may be warned. We pass laws to keep the peace, but put a loaded revolver into the hand of every lawbreaker so he will be nerved to pillage and rob. We boast of our protection to society and make mockery of it by arming the vicious for our own destruction. We preach Christ crucified to the orderly and load up the malevolent with cartridges and the latest automatics. We legislate against the tobacco habit, the liquor habit and the gambling habit, but lend every encouragement to the gun habit.

In civilized life the revolver has seldom saved a threatened life, but has slain thousands. It has rarely delivered a life from danger, but has surrounded it with a million perils in gaping pistol muzzles. The whole business is a monumental folly and there is crying need for the legislature, for the officers and for public sentiment to deal most vigorously with it. If in doubt about it let the doubter go to the bier of Ralph Fisher and contemplate.

THE MYSTERY OF A MURDER

TO THE normal man—the man with a "heart," a conscience, some sympathy in his nature—such a creature as James A. Finch, one who could commit such a murder on such an excuse, is an inexplicable curiosity. For is it possible that any one could thus deliberately prepare to murder a clean, upright young man like Ralph Fisher without thinking of his intended victim's young wife and baby? And it must be the hand of a horribly, mysteriously depraved and desperate soul that would not be stayed at that thought. Fisher himself had really done Finch no wrong; only Finch had wronged Finch; but even if he thought Fisher

deserved death at his hand, how could he, how could any man, any rational being but a moral monster, so wound and wrong and afflict and torture and make desolate that innocent young woman; how could he orphan that cooing child? The normal man in this age cannot fathom the mystery of such demagogical cruelty.

If Finch had rendered himself temporarily an unreasoning wild beast of slaughter, forgetful of everything but revenge for fancied wrong, and has since emerged from that frenzy, has become a normal man or anywhere nearly so, what tortures he must suffer as he thinks of his deed and its consequences, not only of the life snuffed out that cannot be restored, but of the sorrow and pain, beyond any description, beyond the imagination of any who have not had a like experience, of that young widowed mother. "How could any man do it?" she wailed. Indeed, "how could any man do it?" It is one of those tragedies that may well cause men to tremble at the criminal capabilities of human nature, of this, that or the other person whom we may know without ever suspecting what unaroused demon is sleeping and somehow being nourished in his soul.

Let no remark herein be construed as intimating that this murderer was irresponsibly insane or as crediting for a moment his conceit of forgetfulness. It was a deliberate, willful, malicious, inexcusable murder, and as such ought to be punished, and that promptly.

PROGRESS OF RECLAMATION

THE CHIEF commissary office for the various government irrigation projects is located in Chicago and it is said that the supplies purchased in that city for shipment to the scenes of these projects average \$2,000 a day the year through. This is of itself a striking piece of evidence of the magnitude of the work being carried on.

The present reclamation law was passed June 17, 1902, and as it took several years to carry on investigations in the field and acquire a fund, it appears that pretty satisfactory progress has been made. Work is now being carried on in 29 different places, by which it is estimated that more than 2,000,000 acres will be reclaimed, at an estimated cost of \$46,000,000, or about \$23 an acre on an average. As the land was in most cases practically a desert, or at best was but slightly valuable as stock range, while under irrigation it will become worth from \$100 to \$1,000 an acre, it is clear that this was one of the best laws ever passed. The government will eventually get all its money back and thousands of new homes will have been created. As the average reclaimed farm is 40 acres, the 2,000,000 acres already under process of reclamation will provide homes for 50,000 families, or, allowing five persons to a family, 250,000 people. It has been estimated that there are 100,000,000 acres susceptible of reclamation, and if so this, when the work years hence is fully accomplished, will afford homes for 12,500,000 people.

The possibilities of irrigation, both government and private, are beyond computation or estimation. Not only will the government continue this work for years to come, but thousands and tens of thousands of private land owners are realizing as never before the benefits of irrigation. Right here in the Willamette valley, a reputedly rainy region, we shall see irrigation spreading year by year, and in southern and eastern Oregon it will give thousands of new homes and vastly increase the total products of the state.

On farms where irrigation is possible and is resorted to understandingly, crops never fail, are never even short. And crops that are always in demand at good prices can be raised. There was an old song about "The Independent Farmer," but the farmer on irrigated land is the most independent of his tribe. He smiles at drought; it only raises the prices of his products.

When the long history of Theodore Roosevelt's administration and public services shall be written, probably the thing for which he will be given most credit will be his elevation of the standard of civic righteousness, but next to that and the most beneficent and useful to this and future generations of any single act or policy, will be, we think, his persistent and zealous advocacy of this reclamation law. Many others are indeed entitled to much credit for their advocacy and support of it, but it needed Roosevelt's help, and this was one good law that, owing, perhaps, to his stand in its favor, Cannon and his coterie could not defeat.

The few politicians or near-politicians who started out to secure monster petitions of Republicans asking Statement No. 1 members of the legislature to violate their pledge regarding the senatorship seem to have undertaken a very difficult and even an impossible job. Comparatively few Republicans will sign any such disgraceful and insulting petition.

rule" in Oregon. But if the legislature should "choose" any one else, he would also be a notable figure, but for a very different reason and in a different sense, and he would be viewed in a far less favorable light.

Japanese statesmen are reputed to be very "foxy," but we can nevertheless trust any treaty making with them to our secretary of state. If they get the best of him they will have done some diplomacy worth crowing over.

It is in order to suggest to Senator Fulton that he recall to memory that familiar couplet of Burns: "O wad some power the giftie gie us To see ourselves as ithers see us."

Letters From the People

Letters to The Journal should be written on one side of the paper only, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, and if possible, the name of the newspaper or other publication to which the letter is not to be understood as intended. The Journal is not to be understood as assuming any responsibility for the return of letters, unless they are returned when the writer is notified that they are not to be returned.

Says Teachers Are Not Overpaid. Portland, Nov. 28.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In reply to a communication of November 23, entitled "Why Better Pay for Teachers?" may I please speak from a teacher's point of view?

Let one and all are not equally entitled to a flat raise, any more than is every union man entitled to