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MR. SIGLER AND THE INITIATIVE. TO MY WAY of thinking, there has been no more vicious or pernicious law ever put on any statute than the initiative law as it is being used in the great state of Oregon.

Mr. Sigler charged that by the initiative, the citizens had saddled \$7,660,000 of bonded indebtedness upon the city of Portland in the last three years, and this was cited as one evidence of why the initiative is iniquitous.

How does Mr. Sigler reconcile his statements? In one part of his address he declares that the controlling motive of the voters is the desire "to escape paying something."

As to the \$7,660,000 of bonded indebtedness, it was not the initiative, but the people, that incurred it. Since they are to pay it, do not the people have a right to vote this indebtedness?

Mr. Sigler's real fight is not against the initiative, but against the citizens of Portland. When he assails the bond issues, he attacks, essentially, not the means by which bonds were voted, but the men who voted them.

THE GROWTH OF EAST PORTLAND. A VISITOR is to be impressed by the solidity and stability of the growth of Portland of course he must be shown the factories and skyscrapers, the mills and shipping, the railroads and warehouses;

Possibly the visitor is from an eastern manufacturing city, where a hard and deep cut line exists between the showplaces of that city, and the region where the workers live, or rather exist.

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and who owns them?" says your visitor. And you answer, "the smaller storekeepers, store and factory clerks and officials, the better paid mechanics and artisans, factory workers of all grades, streetcar men, and all these seemingly without end. As to ownership nearly every one owns his home, which if not entirely in great part paid for."

THE KELLAHER RESOLUTION. SINCE THE issue has been raised the senators who voted down the Kellaher resolution yesterday, should prepare and pass a substitute that correctly reflects their views.

By yesterday's vote, the senate stands recorded as against the Oregon plan. In effect, the assembly has won a victory. It is probable that the news has already been telegraphed throughout the country.

Governors in a large number of the states have, in their inaugurations, recommended the Oregon plan to legislatures. In these bodies the question of adoption is under consideration and there are members for and against.

Eighteen Oregon senators are, by their campaign professions, under obligation to vote for any reasonable resolution endorsing the Oregon system. Eighteen of them are in honor bound not to dodge behind Jonathan Bourne as an excuse for voting against a reasonable resolution.

Had the issue never been raised, there would be no need of action. But there should, in view of what has happened, be a reversal of yesterday which was in effect a triumphal day for assemblyism and assemblyites.

FIRE LAWS SAVE LIFE. EVERY HEAVILY forested state is menaced by that most fearful of calamities next to plague and earthquake—a sweeping forest fire.

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worth then? And, what an enormous influence on that value will be a lumber rate foreshadowed in the present cut rate on the steamship line operating via the Panama railroad.

ENGLAND'S SMALL CROP OF LAWS. IT MAY INTEREST some of our legislators at Salem to know that the average number of laws resulting from the labors of the British parliament has been, for the past 10 years, only 45 annually.

Letters From the People. And Jailbirds on the Pen Committee? Portland, Or., Jan. 17.—To the Editor of The Journal—Dear Sir: The members of the legislative committee would like to inquire.

On County Division. Pendleton, Or., Jan. 15.—To the Editor of The Journal—Your editorial of January 14, "Deliverance Wanted," you are evidently speaking in favor of settling the county division questions by leaving the questions to the people directly interested.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. IT IS A GOOD rule to occasionally abolish an office rather than add more. The Oregon ballot is already ready over long with multiplied officials.

Robin Hood and Little John. Vancouver, Wash., Jan. 17.—To the Editor of The Journal—Whether Robin Hood was a myth or a real person I do not know, but I do know that the midland counties of England are full of legends and traditions of him.

Borrowing Newspapers. Cornelius, Or., Jan. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—What kind of a principle do you call it when people that are well able to subscribe for a paper won't do it, but make it a rule to borrow newspapers from their neighbors?

Where Is Man's Chivalry? Portland, Or., Jan. 17.—To the Editor of The Journal—My attention has been called to an article entitled "Where Is Woman's Chivalry?" which is so illogical and manifests so much ignorance of the work being done both in an organized and unorganized way by the women for women that it is but just that it be answered.

EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURES. TWO HUNDRED million dollars' worth of iron and steel manufactures were exported from the United States during the calendar year 1910, a larger total in value than in any earlier year.

Not only iron and steel, but many other American manufactures, that are sold in all parts of the world. Electrical machinery goes to more than 75 countries. Our printing presses are in use in all European countries, in the orient, in Australia, Africa, and elsewhere.

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from 15 to 35 per cent more than foreigners for these manufactures. Is it strange that there is still an insistent demand by American consumers for a revision of the tariff?

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COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF. SMALL CHANGE. Bully for old King Chinook! Eleven of the 40 days gone already. Hesp chuck; more good weather for crop-raiser.

OREGON SIDEGLISTS. Corvallis is justly proud of its fine new hotel. Salem Fruitgrowers' union paid 5 per cent dividend on its stock.

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TANGLEFOOT. By Miles Overholt. FATE'S GOAT. 'Tis the guy who gets left when the train rumbles out.

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