

BACK TO CORRUPTION?

WHEN United States senators were elected by the Oregon legislature the control of the senate and house organization was of great value to the political boss, and to the invisible influences that guided him.

The current market price of legislative votes suffered an awful slump when the direct election of the United States senators became the law and that function of government was transferred from the ballots of the assembly to those of the general electorate.

Now, Senator Moser and Senator Banks, both of Multnomah county, offer a plan to restore the old ruling prices insofar as it may be possible so to do.

COURTING DISASTER

THE legal rate of interest in Oregon was only 4 per cent and the contract rate only 5 per cent. Oregon money would go to other states where higher rates could be obtained.

You can make the legal rate 4 per cent but you cannot make people lend their money at that rate. Or, you can make the note or contract rate 5 per cent, but the people will themselves decide what to do with their money—they will send it to be loaned in other states, where rates are higher.

Petitions are in circulation providing for submission to the people of an amendment fixing interest at these low rates. It would be foolish to sign them, and more foolish to adopt the amendment.

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

OUT in St. Vincent's hospital is Holmes Gabbert, 20, with one leg cut off by the wheels of a moving street car, and the other so mangled that it must be amputated.

MANUFACTURER PROFITEERS

SENATOR GAPPER of Kansas has the virtue of plain speech. When he has spoken he leaves no twilight zone of misunderstanding as to what he meant to say and to whom he referred.

SPEAK A NEW LANGUAGE

ASTORIA, it seems, has no grudge against Portland and Portland has no antagonism against Astoria.

HOW THE CROOKED STRAIGHT TICKET BILL WAS PASSED, AND KILLED

C. C. Chapman in the Oregon Voter. Crooked methods—not financially crooked but legislatively crooked—were followed in the futile attempt to deprive independently elected senators of their present form of ballot and foist the straight ticket form on them without regard to violence done to existing law or the traditions of good government.

With the bill passed, the chief concern of Senator Moser as the Republican party chief was that it would be referred by petition. If so referred, it could not go into effect until after the November election, in which event its main object, the hoped-for defeat of Senator Chamberlain, would not be accomplished and the whole trick would have come to naught.

As might have been expected, Senator Gus Moser was the leader in the plot. It was at the somewhat celebrated hour midnight-to-be exact 10:30 p. m. of Thursday night of the session that he sprung his scheme. The bill had been held back until that late hour of the day and session for the palpable reason that the state was expected to have a referendum on the proposed law of disreputable practices of old days when the gang machinery got into full swing.

THE REAL CULPRIT

IT IS THE REAL Wilson that is holding up the treaty! Lodge didn't do it—he has been for the treaty all the time. Johnson didn't do it—his voice of thunder, as he stood with one foot on the sea and the other on the land, has been all along for the treaty, and nothing but the treaty. Nobody but Wilson has been against the treaty if by the newest position of the Oregonian is to be accepted.

There is Borah and there is Poindexter—how they have labored with the wicked Wilson in patriotic fervor and with no thought in their pure souls about the 1920 campaign, and all in vain. The president is so "obstinate."

However, in passing, how would it look for the president to advocate changes in the treaty? After reaching agreements under the most difficult contentions with the allied negotiators, could Mr. Wilson appear in a very good light before his countrymen and before our late associate nations in the war, if he came over to America and publicly advocated changes in the agreements made at Paris? By that course would he not be vacillating and unstable man in the eyes of his own countrymen?

LOSING NEEDED FRIENDS

IN the house, plans had been carefully laid to jam the bill through in one of the rushes so it would attract little attention. But the plans of the Republican leaders were frustrated by the stand of this bill along with all the other bills yet on the clerk's desk was referred to a special committee of five members for them to report in arranged in order of priority to the committee before adjournment. On this committee were the spokesmen for the opposition to the bill—Eugene E. Smith and Chris Scheibel.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Portland, Jan. 21.—To the Editor of The Journal: I have been reading the voting systems of other states which is of some interest to your readers at this time. I lived many years in Missouri, near the voting system of that state. Iowa has the identical law just passed by the legislature of Oregon. In Missouri the voter before entering the voting booth is given a separate ballot for each party having nominees to vote for—Republican, Democratic, Socialist and so on. He returns to the election judge and folds up the ballot he wishes to vote, and the others unfolded, as he got them. Should he not want to vote for the candidate printed on his ballot he can erase

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE: The Crane Commercial club is taking steps toward the incorporation of the town.

SIDELIGHTS: "This warm Oregon" rain is the most effective antidote yet discovered," aptly observed the Eugene Guard.

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL

Random Observations About Town: Their proceedings lighted only by candles, the Greeters met at the Imperial hotel Tuesday evening with a new set of officers presiding.

Indeed, those were the happy days when romance was young. To those who were engaged in the work of contributors to the construction and use of the little private telegraph system that connected the very firesides of lover and beloved, the pretty little Polk county city of Independence will ever be a shrine of memory.

Robert Hay, city passenger and ticket agent for the Canadian National railways at Vancouver, B. C., was a Portland visitor on Wednesday. Hay has been in California for several weeks enjoying a sabbatical vacation and is now returning to his home.

IMPRESSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE JOURNAL MAN

By Fred Lockley: [More good stories of Arctic argonauts are here presented by Mr. Lockley. He writes the more or less amusing adventures of George W. Joseph and muddier partners of his while they were adventuring in Alaska once upon a rather strenuous time.]

George W. Joseph of Portland is a better lawyer than cook, if his old "sourdough" partner is to be believed. This is a fortunate thing for he makes a living, and a good one, practicing law, while I am afraid he couldn't earn his salt as a cook. Judge Adams, his partner, who was a good cook, took charge of the kitchen and the dining room on the first week. Bright and early the following Monday morning George assumed the duty of cooking. He made the bakin' good for the first time. He had a suggestion, my boy, if you don't mind," said the judge. "Next time you make the tea I believe it would be well to put a little tea in the hot water. It will keep the hot water whiter and melt the ice, judge, if you will do the cooking," said the junior member of the team. "A most excellent suggestion. A Daniel come to judgment," said the judge. "I'm old-fashioned enough to prefer my coffee cooked, so hereafter I'll do the cooking."

OLDEN OREGON

How Vancouver, and Not Gray, Might Have Found the Columbia: One of the few incidents which change the course of history was the meeting of Gray, the American, and Vancouver, the Englishman, off the coast of Vancouver in 1792.

Curious Bits of Information For the Curious

Gleaned From Curious Places: Joseph Hopkinson, a Philadelphia lawyer, wrote "Hail Columbia" to help out a young actor friend, Gilbert Fox. It was written in 1778, at a time when President Washington was having great trouble with the British.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

I don't reckon anybody really wants the Kaiser to be tucked out and hung, but by keepin' up a racket he'll stay in Holland to be safe. He makes me think of a Pete Madrone, down in LaVaca county, Texas, who got jailed for stealin' cattle and broke out 'fene his trial come off. The vigilantes got after him and Pete tuck back to jail as fast as his legs could carry him, and was mighty glad to be there, while the vigilantes was mighty glad to know he was there and not in active life.

THE OREGON COUNTRY

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader. OREGON NOTES: More than \$150,000 has been loaned by The Dalles National Farm Loan association.

Estacada's water supply has been cut off at stoppage at the intake, which is clogged with debris. The water supply of the state university infirmary, sixty cases of influenza were recorded Wednesday.

The Eugene farmers' creamery, with its stockholders, has refused to merge with the Eugene Creamery, but has decided to remodel its plant. Development of the 30,000 acre Langley valley district in Klamath county is halted by a strike of the valley of a \$800,000 bond issue.

The county agent of Clackamas county is planning a campaign to interest farmers in planting alfalfa. In addition to the syrup, the crop of which is valuable as chicken and hog feed.

Four thousand rabbits were killed in a drive near Burbank. Walls Walla county has 3000 head of stock in the county.

The National Paper Products company has acquired the paper mills at Fort Angeles and will at once begin the production of news print paper exclusively.

The expenditures of the state bureau of mines during 1919 were \$14,261. The annual meeting of the Canyon county farm bureau that was postponed from last year will be held at Caldwell January 28.

Watermasters will be elected March 1 at approximately 70 places of election throughout the state department of reclamation. Tom Watoki, a Japanese, has been arrested on the charge of padding the payroll of a logging gang on the Oregon Short Line, which he has been running.