

Tomorrow being Christmas, no paper will be issued from this office. We therefore take this opportunity of wishing the readers of THE CHRONICLE, one and all, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Hon. Henry W. Corbett, of Portland, is reputed to be a rich man, a very rich man, and therein lies his strength as a candidate for United States senator. It is useless to disguise the fact that if Mr. Corbett were worth \$10,000, or even \$100,000, no one would have thought seriously of choosing him to represent the people of Oregon at Washington at this critical time in the history of the state. But he is a millionaire and wants the senatorship, and he has but to press the button and the fly-wheel begins to turn and the machinery to move, and in a twinkling the whole mechanism is whirring and buzzing. Professional politicians are scouring the state, legislators are slipping into Portland on free passes in ones and twos and threes, and drifting into the back parlors of the First National bank. So it is said a tremendous commotion is stirred up by the liberal use of money and the favorite and well-known methods of the Portland managers. And by the time the legislature assembles we will perceive that body in a ferment of excitement over the question whether enough members have been prevailed upon to go into secret caucus and submit to the shameful prostitution that marks the process by which the rich man reached the goal of his ambition.

Senator Simon ought to be fired bodily from the United States senatorship. He leaves his seat vacant in the United States senate and remains at Portland to help in the election of H. W. Corbett. Meantime, the democrats consider it of sufficient importance to gain another vote there to have Chas. A. Towne qualify as senator from Minnesota and take his seat, although it will be but a few days more or less that he can hold under the governor's appointment before his successor is elected by the republican legislature. The questions upon the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, the Nicaragua canal bill, the army bill, and the river and harbor bill will all have been disposed of in the senate while Simon is absent from his post of duty. Great questions these, and of tremendous importance to the people of Oregon, and every republican vote is needed in the senate. But Simon lingers at home and busies himself with the petty intrigues and corruptions of factional politics. If McBride had stayed at home as Simon has done, the air around the Oregonian tower would have been sulphurous as the fumes of Vesuvius.

America is likely to be confronted with the question whether it is willing to give up a portion of Alaska to England for the sake of fortifying a canal which can be very well guarded by our floating fortresses. It is sincerely to be hoped that the administration will clearly understand that it was elected upon the understanding that it stood for no surrender of territory once gained, says the Astorian.

The Hickory Ridge Missourian is in favor of reorganization with a vengeance. It says: "We are in favor of reorganizing the democratic party or abolishing the whole shooting match. When it's got so that we haven't any principles of our own and have to take them second hand from a lot of Kansas and Nebraska cranks and granddaddy long-legs with yeller hair and their pants in their boots, who don't know anything but free silver and calamity hooting, it's time, by jingo, to call a new deal! We're tired of holding

the sack for the republican snipe hunters. It's going to be a blamed, long, cold winter for us this year. Wood, coal, and corncocks wanted on subscription, and wanted right now!

The Eldridge block at Salem, where Jonathan Bourne and Joseph Simon herded the members of the hold-up legislature in 1897, will probably be the scene of a high old time during the coming session. Pliable members will find Doc Keene in attendance, ready and eager to introduce them to that grand old man, H. W. Corbett, "who has often expressed a desire to form your acquaintance."

The Clatsop county court has instructed the county treasurer to remit to the state treasurer the scalp bounty tax for 1899, amounting to \$660.34. In this connection it is quite pertinent to suggest that the county court of Crook county might profit by the example of its brother of Clatsop.

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