

"Among Friends"

THE reader, if he noticed the leading editorial on this page yesterday, knows that United States Senator Dill of Washington is suggesting that his state force the issue on the claim that Washington is discriminated against in not having the number of representatives in the lower house of congress to which it is entitled; therefore not as many electoral votes.

Through the failure of congress to make a new apportionment after the taking of the 1920 census. The reader, if he noted that article, also knows the forcing of this issue would bring up the matter of the south's larger delegation in congress than it would have if the United States constitution were regarded below the Mason and Dixon line, in the clause of the 14th amendment depriving a state of the privilege of "abridging" the right of a voter to cast his ballot, and still have that voter counted as a unit in making up the population entitling a state to its quota of the members of congress.

"What is the constitution among friends?" asked the tipsy Texas congressman. The constitution among friends has been nothing at all, ever since the southern states began to deprive their colored voters of the right of suffrage through their "grandfather" and similar laws.

Now, the writer is not very much wrought up over this matter, either. If he were a resident of a southern state with more potential colored than other voters, he would likely be for the "grandfather" law of that particular state.

In other words, he would not like to run the risk of having a negro state supreme court and governor (and superintendent of public instruction, and so on down the line. Not that there are not good and wise members of that race; but that the good and wise ones would likely be left at home, and the other kind selected, in the welter of politics.

What the writer tried to show yesterday was that there is a possible interesting situation suggested in the demand of Senator Dill.

The second section of the 14th amendment was written for the very purpose of giving the negro the right to vote in the southern states; written and adopted at a time of intense political feeling; on the heels of the greatest war in history up to that time.

But it has been a dead letter ever since it was adopted. It is not in the least regarded, nor even referred to often. The people of the north deserve credit for this, do they not? "What is the constitution among friends?"

True, But Not New

SAID a Portland Journal editorial on Thursday: "The present state administration has been highly successful in its conduct of the penitentiary. The men are at work helping to pay the cost of their maintenance. There have been practically no escapes. There have been no parole holidays. But a convict paroled from the Salem institution was arrested in Portland Tuesday. He was serving a three-year term for burglary. He was paroled Thursday, after serving 13 months of his sentence, on condition that he leave the state. But the man who had received clemency at the hands of the parole board did not leave the state. Instead, he came to Portland and undertook another robbery. He is now in prison again. Clemency in proper cases may be expected from Salem. When men give reasonable evidence of repentance and reform it is proper that they be given a chance to become free, useful and law-abiding citizens. But all parole boards have found that men trying to get out of the penitentiary do not always keep their pledges."

What the Portland Journal says is true, but it is not new. And the fault in the case named, if any, is not with the parole board; it is with the law. Counting the "good time" according to the law and the rules, the man had a right after 13 months to petition for a parole. If he made a good showing, and nothing could be found to discredit it, the parole board had the duty of granting his request.

There should in any modern prison be paroles; but not one should ever be made merely on account of the lapse of time. The law in Oregon is faulty there. Paroles should be made because of reformations, and with an understanding not only of the fitness of the petitioner for citizenship, but with a showing that he has a place to go where he may have work, or may be taken care of.

And every sentence should be indeterminate; not administered like a dose of pills; so many years for this or that or the other offense. Some day, modern penology will have its way, and all sentences will be indeterminate; absolutely.

Constitution Week

RADIO and luncheon club speakers have reminded the country that this week marks the 141st birthday of the American constitution. It is the oldest written constitution in force in any country and under it 13 thinly populated Atlantic seaboard states have spanned a continent and won commanding place as a world power.

These speeches have been mostly laudation untempered with criticism of any faulty feature or inadequacy of the historic document. Such an attitude is either a reaction from harping radicals who see in the constitution a very dam of conservatism which stops their flood of social panaceas from swamping present day social organization, or it is a result of knowing more platitudes than history of the constitution.

When the historic document was signed on September 17, 1787, only 39 members were willing to sign it and not one of them was satisfied with it. Washington, Hamilton, Franklin and Madison were among the heavy hearted signers who felt they had done their best but largely failed. These experienced leaders had met to save the 13 states from the anarchy which threatened under the pathetically weak confederate government. They had borrowed and adapted from colonial governmental experience the elements they thought would correct the crying abuses existing under the confederation. Liberal interpretation and a few amendments have enabled their constitution to serve the nation for almost a century and a half, something its discouraged creators did not dare to expect.

What constitution week should inspire is not worship and the expression of platitudes, but careful and critical study, so that the citizens may really know the constitution in such a fundamental way that they can perceive the processes of adaptation and change needed to keep abreast of our changing social order.

In the heat of the presidential race neither party is forgetting that the control of both the house and senate is at stake this year. The republicans must reelect 14 senators to insure the same majority as they now have and the democrats must save all of the 20 vacancies occurring on their side in order to maintain as good a showing as at present. As usual the situation favors the republicans, and the chance of a democratic margin in the upper house is small.

An American engineer has made a proposition to the French government to turn the waters of the Mediterranean sea into the Sahara desert and create 10,000 square miles of inland sea. All he wants for his trouble is concessions on 50,000,000 square miles of adjoining land which he hopes to make productive. That would make quite a sizable ranch. He would need Bill Hanley of eastern Oregon to help him run it.

Al Smith in his swing around the circle through the western states is drawing and will draw immense crowds. He is getting and will get tremendous applause. When that is said about all will have been said. The silver-tongued Bryan did all that and more, but he missed by a wide margin the presidential goal. People are willing to madly cheer many a man for whom they have no intention of voting. A noise is not a vote.

Striking a Balance



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Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

Buy Saturday in Salem—

The busiest of the year today. But they will all be busy now till after the holidays.

Steve Chadwick did not win the democratic nomination for governor in Washington. He was defeated by Scott Bullitt. There are a lot of Steve's old friends in Salem who believe with many residents of Washington that Steve is a straighter shooter than Bullitt, and that the chances of democratic success in that state in November would have been improved had he been chosen.

Contending that, in the case of a close election, the state of Washington may throw the matter into the U. S. supreme court on the claim that his state is denied the number of electoral votes to which it is entitled. But read the editorial in The Statesman of this morning for further information, and discussion.

Independence man, talking in Salem hotel lobby a day or two ago, made the statement that Independence ships more freight than Salem, and that his town has a million dollars' worth of goods to sell, from this year's crop. That man is a good booster for his town. He is about right in his statement. But it takes eight switch engines and crews to handle the freight into and out of Salem. It is likely that the one crew handling the Salem parcel mill business compares favorably in volume with all the freight business done in and out of Independence, both in dollar value and tonnage. Or the one crew serving the state institutions, including the prison industries. And this is not saying Independence is not a mighty good town, and ought to grow still faster and prosper more.

"Do Fish Feel Pain?" inquires the fish editor of the Oregonian. No—they don't have to read the daily fish editorial in the state's leading morning daily—Corvallis Gazette-Times. Now will you be good, Mr. Ben Hur Lampman, as a consolation, the Bits man will

say sincerely that the fish editorial was a good one—and, further, all the Lampman editorials are fine. Claude Infells of the Corvallis paper is just jealous. He writes good editorials, too, but no one in the whole American newspaper fraternity can equal Lampman in his chosen fields of writing. He is superb.

This brings up a story. No doubt the reader has heard it. Small news boy carrying a pile of newspapers as big as the boy. Kind old gentleman in sympathy asks him if he does not find that very hard work; does he not get very tired? "No," answers the small boy. "I don't have to read the papers."

When Tom Heeney returned to "down under" the other day, he was met at the wharf by the largest crowd ever assembled in Auckland. If such a mob met Heeney, defeated, what would have happened in New Zealand if he had licked the Hon. Mr. Tannoy? They would have had to rent a part of Australia in which to put the crowd. Referring to which, a neighboring paragrapher says: "If Mr. Heeney had come over here and won a prize in some intellectual pursuit, he would have not had a single friend at the depot. We have not advanced so very far from the primitive after all. Those who claim that man was made in God's own image are awfully con-celcted.

"Gov. Smith had his picture taken at the Syracuse state fair standing by a prize Guernsey bull—and the bull booted when the camera clicked. Boiting the governor has come to be a habit this year. Maybe the bull couldn't stand the competition."—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

Old King Tut knew how to mix a brew that modern chemists are unable to analyze. Lord Carnarvon who excavated the ancient Egyptian's tomb, was killed by a poison found in the urns left by the king's bier, but what the liquid is or how it was made is too much for modern science, in that respect it resembles the stuff that the bootleggers peddle.

NEW YORK—Minnie, sea-going cat, has not missed a voyage on the ocean liner Minnewaska since she joined its crew almost five years ago. When the ship is in port here Minnie is absent for days at a time but she invariably appears on deck half an hour or so before the gang plank is hauled in for an Atlantic crossing. She knows her way about London, too, but she dislikes foggy nights, and never spends a night ashore when the Minnewaska is at the King George V docks in the Thames. Capt. Frank Claret of the vessel regards Minnie as the best sailor cat in the world because she knows the sailing habits of the ship so well. Her best friends are members of the crew, and seldom does she become chummy with passengers, although she did take a liking to William Gillette, the veteran actor, this summer, and allowed him about the ship for hours. Her kittens, as rapidly as they arrive, are handed out to pas-

may or may not have been a Boy Scout in his varied career, but he believes in being prepared. The youthful Thespian, who has been appearing before the footlights on Broadway plans a tour of France and Germany and already has learned French so that he will have a means of saying what he wants to say when he makes his first appearance in Marsellesse October 26. He has five months to learn the German language before he crosses the Rhine, but he is at work on it already. He intends to sail on the Majestic October 5.

Harry Lamar holds the record so far as is known, for having saught the largest black bass in any Oregon stream. Lamar's bass weighed four pounds and 14 ounces, and was exactly 20 inches long. It was caught in the Willamette slough here.

It is expected steps will be taken to enter condemnation proceedings for a right-of-way for the proposed portage railway across the O. R. & N. company's property at today's session of the board of Portage commissioners before Engineer A. E. Hammond.

A concerted line of action for future operation of the child labor law will be determined at the Friday meeting of Governor Chamberlain, State Superintendent Ackerman, and the state board of labor commissioners.

"The Dairy Farm" will be tonight's presentation at the Grand opera house.

Another merger of radio manufacturers has been effected. The companies involved are the Electrical Research Laboratories, Inc. and the Greene-Brown Manufacturing Co. to be known hereafter as the Erla Corporation.

A Salem woman claims, in her plea for divorce, that her husband beat and bruised her and threatened her life. Maybe she insisted in wearing half-socks.

"Kidnapers Take Brew Magazine" says a Statesman headline. How come? Now if they had taken his output, 'rinstance—

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS KILL 18 IN AUGUST

Eighteen persons were killed and 492 persons were injured in a total of 2493 traffic accidents in Oregon during the month of August, according to a report prepared here Friday by T. A. Rafferty, chief inspector for the state motor vehicle department.

Approximately 1255 of the accidents were due to carelessness on the part of the driver, while 227 accidents were caused by cars passing on the wrong side of another vehicle. In 358 cases drivers involved in accidents did not have the right of way. Improper lights were responsible for 129 accidents.

NORTH HOWELLITES AT SILVERTON HIGH

NORTH HOWELL, Sept. 21.—(Special)—Among the young people attending high school in Silver-ton from here are Myrtle Curry, Donald Vinton, Paul Rickard, Edwin Johnson, Alan Wiesner, Delphine Goffin and Earl and Leonard Rutherford.

Gilbert Oddie has returned to Forest Grove for his senior year at Pacific University.

Lloyd Vinton and Carol Rickard are working at Eastmans' in Silver-ton.

Howard Rumler is attending Willamette University and Russell and Edwin Kumlir will enter high school in Salem.

J. E. Waltman and Lucile Waltman drove to Portland last Sunday.

Ronald Stevens and Paul Rauch are going to Portland to attend Behrke-Walker business college.

Mr. and Mrs. August Woelke and Mrs. E. Engstrom spent last week at the coast.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Wiesner, Daryl Wiesner and Ellisworth Fletcher drove to Jantzen beach last Sunday.

Gilbert Dixon, Harley Oddie and the Richter boys have gone to Hood River for the apple-picking season.

A Washington Bystander

WASHINGTON—Just what Senator Borah's part in the Hoover election campaign is to be does not appear as yet. The bary Idaho senator, whose prohibition questionnaire before the nominating convention afforded the republican nominee a chance to express himself, with due delay, so much to his own satisfaction that he repeated his answer to Borah in his acceptance speech would like to get a crack at republican spell-binding in the south. He received a lot of letters from the south in connection with the questionaire business and thinks he could be effective in Dixie. But there is no present sign that grand strategy of the Hoover field marshals will cast him for that role.



Kirk L. Simpson

On the contrary, there is some talk of starting Borah out to follow Governor Smith's western invasion route. He's a hard hitting talker and comes of the same stock as the folks in the farm states to whom he would be talking in an effort to offset what ever inroads on republican vote strength the Hoover campaign has made. Borah himself is said not to fancy the job, and if that is the case he is so much a free agent in the republican camp that it's certain he can't be drafted against his will.

Dixie Stalwarts' View Borah's notion of sounding off for Hoover in southern territory brings to light the stoutly maintained view of such southern democratic stalwarts as Swanson of Virginia that the Hoover forces are due for a surprise when Dixie's votes are counted in November.

They maintain that there has always been reserve regular democratic voting strength in the south which will be turned out for the first time in decades due to the agitation of anti-Smith factions. They even insist that most southern anti-Smith democrats will not go beyond a sort of political sabotage, staying home from the polls and urging friends who think as they do to follow the same protest course. The celebrated case of Senator Simmons in North Carolina, who failed to round out his anti-Smith pronouncements with a pro-Hoover declaration, is cited in this connection.

The Smith democrats hold that whatever reduction of normal democratic pluralities in the south might flow out of this stay-at-home protest will be far more than offset by the election day turn out of Smith voters who in other years would have been satisfied to let the primaries and national convention settle things.

Brookhart Has Question While this skirmishing was in progress, Brookhart of Iowa, Hooverized republican irregular, passed through Washington bound homeward. He was planning a flank attack on Smith prohibition modification declarations.

The Iowan will ask, he indicated, why, if Governor Smith really desires to bring about modification of prohibition enforcement, he is supporting for election or re-election some 20 democratic senatorial candidates all but three or four of whom are pledged to keep the Volstead Act virtually intact and without whose votes in the senate, if elected, no modification could actually be accomplished.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talk From the Statesman Our Fathers Read

Sept. 23, 1903 The three-day session of the Pacific Northwest Photographers' association convened at the armory here today. Charles Butterworth of Portland is president.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Holmes of Carthage, Mo., have returned to Salem to make their permanent home here. Mrs. Holmes is a daughter of Mrs. C. H. Walker of this city.

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There were 726 arrests by state traffic officers. Warnings were issued in 8951 cases. Delinquent fees were collected in the amount of \$4711.45. Stolen cars recovered by the state operatives had a resale value of \$2850.

The traffic officers traveled 22,613 miles, visited 469 towns and cities and were in the field continually during the month. Fatalities due to traffic accidents during the month of August, 1928, showed a slight decrease when compared with those in August last year.

Advertisement for a telephone number. It features a large illustration of a telephone receiver and a rotary dial. The text reads: "New Phone Number Call 500 for all departments. All telephones in the Statesman building can now be reached by calling 500. News, advertising, commercial printing department, as well as society editor and Pacific Homestead, Northwest Poultry Journal, and Western Education. Call 500."