

THAT AUSTRALIAN BALLOT BILL.

From the San Francisco Alta.

We have heretofore shown that the so-called Australian balloting system, which the Legislature of this State is asked to adopt, does not and cannot prevent two classes of frauds on the franchise against which it is aimed. Assuming the appointment as election officers in any precinct of men of the same character as those whose misdeeds have led to the outcry for electoral reform, fraudulent counting of ballots has been proved to be not only as easy as, but more easy than, under the present law. Assuming the existence of corruptible electors and of men willing to purchase their votes, we have shown that the so-called reform makes bribery more possible, by furnishing the nefarious trafficker in the franchise with the means by which he can assure himself of the delivery of that for which he pays. But there are still other defects that the bill now before the Legislature reveals on its face to any one who will take the trouble to study its provisions. Two years ago, at the State election, the full ticket voted comprised over eighty names. Outside of the two great political parties there were several independent tickets in the field. The names on all the tickets combined aggregated over three hundred. It is proposed that all these names shall be printed on the one ticket or ballot, to be furnished by the local authorities. Such a ballot would need to be printed in a book rather than on a slip of paper, especially when it is considered that nominations under the proposed law for any office that is to be voted for by the electors of any political division less than the entire State in extent, may be made by any one hundred persons, residing in such division. Under such a law the candidates will increase until finally the ballot-boxes will need to assume the dimensions of small cottages. But even with three hundred names on a ballot from which to select and mark with a cross upwards of eighty, how long do the advocates of the measure suppose it would take an independent elector to mark his ballot in the booth provided for the purpose? It is proposed by the bill under discussion to allow ten minutes, but that would in many cases be insufficient, though it would more than suffice for the straight party voter, who, of course, could designate with a single cross the group of names comprised in his party nomination, which would be only the work of a few seconds. But assuming that ten minutes can afford ample time for any voter to mark his ticket, there is another difficulty. The party back, with whom voting is a business, might, and probably would, take their places in line early in front of the polling booths. The business man who found a line of eight or ten ahead of him and calculated that sixty or eighty minutes might elapse before he could get a chance to vote, would frequently give up the attempt, and leave the voting to be done by the very men who have brought the electoral franchise into disrepute. It would be to the interest of the rogues, to whom the independent voter is an object of dislike, to make the approach of the latter to the ballot-box as difficult as the law would allow, and a small number of this class forming in line early and monopolizing the approach to the ballot-boxes could, by taking, in each instance, the full time allotted to them by law, easily outwear the patience of men whose only desire was to exercise their right of suffrage as a matter of public duty.

It should not succeed. An attempt is being made to amend the constitution of Nevada authorizing a State lottery similar to the Louisiana lottery scheme. The fight is a hot one on both sides. The Enterprise, of Storey county, Reno Journal and Gazette, of Washoe, Carson Appeal, of Ormsby, and Silver State, of Humboldt, favored the lottery bill. Evening Chronicle, of Storey, remained neutral. The Carson Tribune, of Ormsby, was independent. The Elko Sentinel and Eureka News, of Esmeraldas, and the Revueille, of Lander, are strenuously opposed to it.

A strong card of the lottery promoters was the statement that the object of the project is to establish a home for disabled miners, by putting aside a certain percentage of the profits. This statement miners are familiar with and consider the character of the promoters a reflection on their intelligence.

He Left His Promise Only. Sunday night at a meeting in Albany presided over by Major Hilt n, the temperance orator, a stranger donated \$200 toward paying the debt on the W. C. T. U. building. On calling for the money this morning, it was found that the stranger, who claimed to be E. W. Walter, a lawyer of Philadelphia, had skipped out on the morning train, leaving no check for the amount. He had re-appeared at the house as J. P. Horner, of Chicago. No cause for his shabby conduct is ascribed.

Attacked With Mosquitoes. The Baker City Blade says La Grande could be the leading town of Oregon if the citizens of the town were enterprising and active. Mosquitoism is a disease in La Grande and there seems to be no cure for it. The local papers are not supported, and look as if every citizen in the place begrudge every cent paid them for their valuable services. La Grande should wake up or it will wake up some fine morning to find itself not the town of the beautiful Grande Ronde valley.

J. F. Ryan, while horseback near Tillamook a few days ago, had a narrow escape from death. His horse stumbled, and both horse and rider went over a cliff and tumbled a distance of 100 feet. Both escaped with their lives, but painfully bruised.

The Gentiles, also city election at Oeden, Utah, was the day. The whole city ticket of the gentiles was victorious by about 400 majority.

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READ THIS!

It is of interest to Every Taxpayer in Oregon.

DEAR SIR: Would say in reply to yours of even date that the sum of \$77.00 paid to me by the Columbia Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of Portland, Oregon, for School Tax in District No. 1, represents more money than paid to this office by all the Foreign Insurance Companies doing business in this city. FRED A. DALY, School Clerk District No. 1.

THIS PROVES OUR ASSERTION

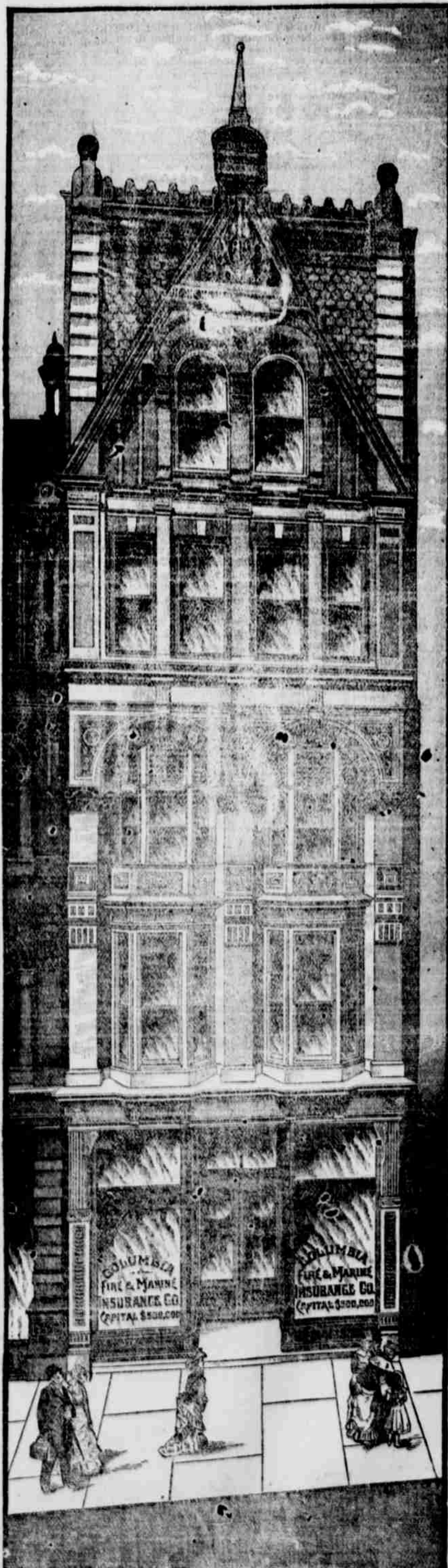
That to protect yourself you should give your Insurance to the Columbia Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of Portland, Oregon—organized under the laws of Oregon. Has a guaranteed capital of \$500,000 for your protection, which is ten times the amount of deposit required of Foreign Companies, who pay NO taxes, and SEND ALL THE PROFITS OUT of the State, thereby increasing your taxes. Think of this and give our Company a part of your INSURANCE.

Yours, respectfully, JOHN A. CHILD, Secretary.

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Subscribed Capital, \$500,000.



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