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THE CORVALLIS GAZETTE

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BETRAYING OREGON.

The New York Press, one of the leading republican papers of the state, makes the following pertinent remarks on the Senatorial situation in Oregon:

The hardihood as well as the unscrupulousness of professional politics is exemplified in the persistent attempt of the members of the Oregon Legislature to repudiate a solemn pledge which they made to the voters of that State at the polls. While a majority of the citizens of Oregon are Republicans, nevertheless they desired the election of Geo. E. Chamberlain, a Democrat, to be United States Senator. When they were about to elect their Legislature, therefore, the Republican voters gave the candidates of their own party the choice of agreeing to send Chamberlain to the United States Senate or of themselves being beaten for the Legislature. A pledge, known as "Statement No. 1," was offered to the candidates, and those who accepted it bound themselves to give their votes in the Legislature to the popular nominee for Senator receiving the highest number of ballots at the election—that is to say, for Chamberlain, who received that highest number of ballots of the general electorate.

Fifty-one of the legislators who are now to choose a United States Senator bound themselves by that pledge, but, secure in their seats, enough of them want to break their promise to land a Republican Senator, instead of Chamberlain, the Democrat. The excuse which they give for their contemplated violation of pledge

and default of trust is that they cannot believe the Republican voters of Oregon really meant what they said or were really any more sincere in offering the Chamberlain pledge than the candidates for the Legislature were in accepting it. The members of the Legislature who seek to repudiate their promise, therefore, are circulating petitions among the general voters, who are asked thus to reverse their decision and absolve the legislators from the pledge with which those voters bound them.

There is nothing so easy for practical politicians to do as to fill petitions with signatures, if they have to take the names from the tombstones in graveyards, so it will be astonishing if the defaulting legislators do not triumphantly flourish their letters of pardon when they stand up in the Oregon Legislature and sell out the voters of that state. But it will be still more astonishing if at the next election those Oregon voters do not kick the whole crew of wenchers into the Pacific Ocean.

It may be that the people of Oregon can be robbed; in this instance, of the Senator whom they have chosen to represent them in Washington, but the great programme of Direct Nominations will not suffer thereby, for the execution of the conspiracy against Chamberlain, the popular choice for Senator and the man whom the legislators are solemnly pledged to send to Washington, will put the political burglars who do that work permanently out of business.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

A Washington correspondent gives Senator Lodge the credit of suggesting Africa as a good place for the President to spend a two years' vacation after the 4th of next March. If he were to remain in the country after the inauguration of his successor, nothing

could prevent his being accused of being the master mind of the new administration, and that would subject Mr. Taft to a great deal of embarrassment. There is no more clever politician in the country than Theodore Roosevelt. He is credited with practically nominating his successor, and the part he bore in electing him was unequalled by any other single individual. Were he to remain he could not escape the charge of being "the power behind the throne," and he thinks too much of Mr. Taft to allow that to occur. So he disappears for a couple of years and by the end of that period the new President will have accomplished one-half his term, and become well established in his policies, for which he alone will be held responsible. If the story told by the Post is true, Mr. Taft and the country at large owe Senator Lodge a debt of gratitude.

AFTER HARVEST TIME.

The season of the year is again at hand which is most favorable of all for Grange work. In most parts of the state all have had an unusually favorable season for harvesting all kinds of crops, and for the most part, too, a bounteous harvest has been garnered. The large number of very successful and excellent fairs that have been held indicate the superb quality and the bounteous quantity of the products that have everywhere rewarded the labors of the husbandmen. With the rush of the harvest season over and the long evenings at hand more time can be found for cultivating the mental faculties. The stress of the physical side of life is, for a time, somewhat relieved and the intellectual, social and moral part of our being should come in for a share of attention. So the opportunities and advantages which the Grange gives should appeal to people, officers and members should be up and doing to have everything in good working order, not only for their own advantage and benefit, but in order to be in readiness to push the work of bringing in new members and make them feel well repaid for the step they are taking.

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