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MR. BARRETT'S VOTE.

The action of C. A. Barrett in voting for Jay Bowerman, the leader of the assemblyites, for president of the senate, is bitterly characterized by some of his supporters as being a repudiation of the principles of the platform on which he was elected to the state senate in the recent campaign. The joint senator from Umatilla, Morrow and Union counties fought through the campaign as the champion of the anti-assemblyites and won over Dr. Hall of Union county, the democratic candidate. Therefore his support given to Jay Bowerman at the first turn of the political wheel, is causing all kinds of comment in the ranks of his erstwhile supporters.

"I don't believe that Barrett will do it, and I will not believe it until I see his name printed along with the rest of the Bowerman voters. If he does turn to Bowerman and vote for him, I am through with Barrett politically, forever." These are the words expressed by Oliver Dickenson, a well known farmer, who was a staunch supporter of Mr. Barrett in the recent campaign.

The reasons for Mr. Barrett's change of front are as yet left to a great extent to conjecture. Several are advanced. One is that he went over to Bowerman that Plamondon might secure the appointment as superintendent of the Eastern Oregon insane asylum; another, that he trafficked with the Furnish wing of the party before the election, the bargain being that he was to receive support from that element in exchange for his vote to Jay Bowerman for the presidency of the senate in event West won over Bowerman for governor. However that may be, the real reason seems to be hidden at this time, but the fact remains that his vote for Bowerman discloses some sort of a "deal," and that he does not wear the same living in his political coat that he did when he defeated Fred Wilson in the primaries and Dr. Hall in the election.

The Walla Walla Union says that a demand for the resumption of coinage of half pennies is being made from Oregon to Connecticut. The circulation of half-cent pieces has the source of origin in one of the interesting results of an era of near-maximum cost of living. When the American consumers have been compelled to "count the pennies" in figuring household expenses they find that each and every one of them is mulcted each year of an amount that would meet their life insurance premiums by the practice in vogue, and regarded as a right by dealers, of keeping the odd cent in all transactions. It is estimated that the placing in circulation of half-cent coins would save millions of dollars per annum to consumers.

The East Oregonian pretends to believe that Umatilla county is "with the losing side" in the Oregon senate. It says: "If Senator Burgess is left helpless the people of this county will have no one but themselves to blame. In voting for senator from this county they chose to reverse party name above actual political principles and they may reap their reward in loss of senatorial influence. If so it will be but poetic justice." This coming from the East Oregonian sounds like the whinney of a nightmare in retrospective review of the "game," "in the cold grey dawn of the morning after." Really, the Press can see no cause for the Pendleton paper's pessimistic view of the situation. To the contrary, it should be content to loll back in glowing cheerfulness at the prospect, for has it not gotten all that it contended for in the recent election—Joint Senator Barrett? He's in the upper house. He is Senator Burgess' colleague. He will deliver the goods. After all the East Oregonian has done for Senator Barrett and all that Senator Barrett has done before and after the election, it ill becomes the Pendleton paper to close its editorial with these words: "But it must be admitted that thus far things don't 'look good' for Umatilla county this session."

The Oregon National Guard is a state organization and if the state of Oregon can not see its way clear to render it sufficient financial support to make it self-sustaining the Press sees no reason why the plea coming from Pendleton for assistance from county fund for Co. L should be considered by the county court for a longer period than to properly turn it down. Umatilla county pays her share of taxes into the state fund and the state of Oregon because she sees fit to nigardly provide for her militia should bear the disgrace of militia disbandment without any financial contribution from the county to stave off the inevitable. "Dad" Gilliland "laid the matter over" for action of the new county court and Jim Maloney will see to it that the matter is "laid over" indefinitely or we'll miss a good guess.

Joseph Teal in his talk before the interstate commerce commission recently pointed out that the enormous land grant of the Southern Pacific held out of use for speculation was a factor that should be estimated in fixing transportation rates. Had these lands been sold to actual settlers as contemplated by the law the railroads would have had ample business and fair profits at reasonable rates. From the unearned increment of these lands the railroad will have ample remuneration in the future.

One of the strongest messages ever delivered to an Oregon legislature was read by Governor West Tuesday. Measured by his message, the new governor should be a tower of strength in his capacity of chief executive of the state.

Strikes and lockouts are a barbarism which very rarely may be excusable but which should never be resorted to until every other method of adjustment has been tried.

THE DEAREST GIFT.

A Pathetic Incident in the Life of Robert Browning.

A young American woman was traveling one day in an Italian railway coach, the only other occupant of the compartment being an elderly gentleman. Observing the interest of the young woman in the country through which they were passing and seeing also that it was new to her, the more experienced traveler pointed out objects and places of note.

From scenery the conversation drifted to books and authors, until something suggested to the young American one of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's sonnets, which she quoted.

She was astonished and abashed because the gentleman made no reply, but during the rest of the ride sat looking intently out of the window, having apparently forgotten the very existence of his traveling companion.

As they neared the station where the young lady was to leave the car she said timidly:

"I fear, sir, that I have offended you. Perhaps you do not like Mrs. Browning's poetry."

The man slowly turned upon her fear dimmed eyes, and in a voice full of emotion he said:

"Madam, that sonnet is the sweetest, as its singer was the dearest, gift God ever gave to me."

Her traveling companion was Robert Browning.—Youth's Companion.

A CURIOUS ANIMAL.

The Sea Cucumber Can Part With and Replace Its Organs.

Among the curious animals which inhabit the sea we may take the holothuria, or sea cucumber, so called from its resemblance to the cucumber.

When this animal is attacked by an enemy it does not stand up and fight, but by a sudden movement it ejects its teeth, stomach, digestive apparatus and nearly all its intestines and then shrivels its body up to almost nothing. When, however, the danger is past the animal commences to replace the organs which it has voluntarily parted with, and in a short time the animal is as perfect as ever it was.

Dr. Johnstone kept one in water for a long time, and one day he forgot to change the water. The creature in consequence ejected its intestines and shriveled up, but when the water was changed all its organs were reproduced. Although the animal is not eaten in Europe, it is a favorite with the Chinese, and the fishing forms an important part of the industry of the east. Thousands of junks are annually used in fishing for trepang, as the animals are called.—London Tit-Bits.

Cows That Never Drink.

The "wild cow" of Arabia, in reality an antelope, the Beatrix oryx, is said never to drink, which is probably correct, for unless these animals can descend the wells they can find no drinking water for ten months in the year. There is no surface water, and rain falls but precariously during the winter. Only once during my journey did I find a pool of rainwater, caught in a hollow rock, and even this I should have passed by without knowing of its existence had not my camels sniffed it from a distance and obstinately refused to be turned from going in that direction. These antelope, however, are provided by nature with a curious food supply, especially designed as a thirst quencher. This is a parasite which grows on the roots of the desert bushes and forms a long spadix full of water and juice. The antelope dig deep holes in the sand in order to get at these.—Wide World Magazine.

Easily Explained.

"They have to admit in the old world," said a New York theatrical man, "that we've got them beaten on every count. Talk to them about the matter and they can only quibble."

"Oh, yes," said an English banker to me the other day, "you've got a great country, the greatest country in the world, there's no denying that."

"Then he gave a nasty laugh."

"But look at your fires," he said. "Your terrible fires are a disgrace to mankind."

"Oh, our fires," said I, "are due to the friction caused by our rapid growth."

Man's Early Building.

The ruins of successive human habitations unearthed in Asia show how man advanced from primeval savagery to the pomp of Babylon and Nineveh. First he improved the caves in which he dwelt by leveling the floors and cutting windows to give him light. Afterward he constructed entirely artificial habitations for himself, at first roughly made tents of boughs and leaves, then huts of mud and finally dwellings of wood and stone.

Spiteful.

"Yes," said the engaged girl, "Dick is very methodical. He gives me one kiss when he comes and two when he goes away."

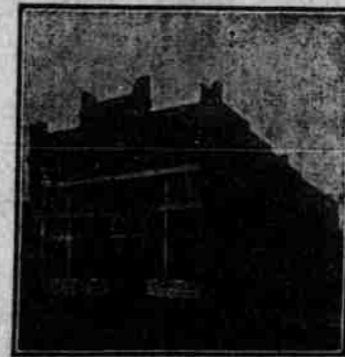
"That's always been his way," returned her dearest friend. "I've heard lots of girls comment on it."

Thus it happens that they cease to speak to each other.

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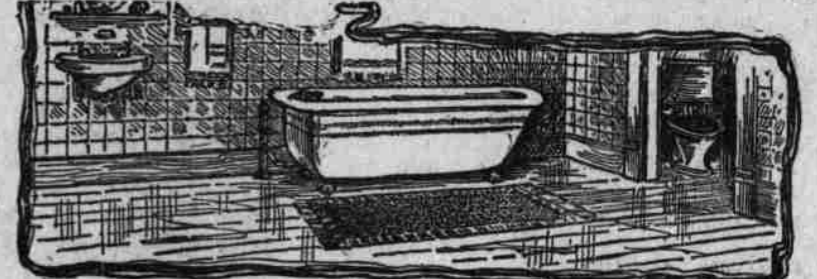
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