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CAN NOT BE FILED.

Attorney General Crawford has handed down an opinion for the guidance of the secretary of state, in which he pronounces the Referendum petitions fatally defective. If the secretary shall be governed by this opinion, not one of the petitions obtained through great trouble and expense, will be allowed to be filed. The cause of ths adverse opinion, is purely technical and such an one as only a pettifogging lawyer would resort to. Granting that there is some little irregularity as to the language used, the intent and purport of the petitions are unmistakable. General Crawford well knows what the people were endeavoring to do, and he should have overlooked a minor technicality that in no way mistakes or confuses the intent of the people. If the friends of the university are wise, they will insist on allowing the petitions to be filed. One thing, however, is certain. Attorney General Crawford has signed his political death warrant in rendering this opinion. It will be remembered that he was mixed up somewhat in shady practices as an attorney before his election as attorney general. This opinion is simply in line with his tricky practices, as a lawyer, before his election.

But can the university afford to accept victory on such technical basis? Does it not know that nearly 7000 people of Oregon are vexed because of this extravagant appropriation and that if victory is accepted upon General Crawford s construction of a mere technical point, that the displeasure which the people were disposed to hold only against the legislature, will be transfered to the university? Also, does not President Campbell and other friends of the university know that if the people are not allowed to have this matter referred, that an initiative bill of, perhaps, a more drastic nature, will be submitted and to which this defeat will give an increased impetus? If the university will insist upon the filing of these petitions, it will show a disposition to submit to and abide by the voice of a majority of the people. Should the university people receive benefit because of the decision of a shyster lawyer, who has boosted himself into office, they will show a spirit of disregard for the will of the taxpayers, that is sure to give that school trouble in the future. Should the university have aided in giving the people a voice in how their money shall be expended, and thus caused the reference to the bill, it would not have been left penniless, by no means; for the appropriation, as under the law of the past two years, would still have been at its service. Now, with the people angrier than ever, an initiative measure may be proposed and carried one year from now, that will leave the university without financial support—a result that now seems to be richly merited. The people, under proper consideration, would give the university a reasonable support. But to have matters crammed down their throats by a venile legislature and accepted in the same spirit venility by the university is simply a little more than they will stand for any great length of time. Must we class the university with the normals as leeches upon the body politic, which are ready to filch money from the state treasury whether or not the people are willing? The matter begins to assume that particular character in some degree, at least.

OUR METHOD OF SELECTING JURORS.

The extremely wide latitude allowed attorneys in the examination of prospective jurors in the very important criminal trials now in their preliminary stages at Boise and San Francisco, exhibits some defects in our method of selecting jurors which, in time, will have to be corrected.

In these days of free rural daily delivery of mails, the American people are becoming a reading people; and the farmer who is not a reader of a metropolitan daily, semmi-weekly or weekly newspapers, is becoming very scarce. These newspapers give a minute history of all happenings of public importance and, especially, events of a criminal character. These events are read and talked about by most all citizens. As a result every man forms some sort of an opinion concerning the matters he reads and talks about. He therefore, becomes disqualified to sit as a juror in cases of public importance, such as those above cited.

To ask a juror if he has read or talked about events of such a public character as the causes cited, in these days, is next door to insulting him. It should be assumed that every body has both read and formed an opinion. If he has not, he is an imbecile or willfully misstates a fact when he states he has not read or talked about and formed a more or less fixed opinion concerning the matter involved. It can be seen that, as juries are now selected, the tendency is to weed out and reject men who read and think and who are the better quallified to sit as a jurors.

Another objectional feature to our present method which is, at least humiliating to most men, is to require jurors to verbally subscribe to an oath, in all cases once and in very important criminal cases twice, before the matter is submitted to the jury for adjudication. It should be sufficient for the court to define what a jurors duty is and to admonish him of its gravity—that the truth as demonstrated by the evidence submitted, is the goal to be reached. Does the act of raising the hand towards the sky and assent to a few words spoken, cause honest men to be any more careful to ascertain the truth of a matter at issue than for the judge or other offices of the court to define a juror's duty as a citizen and arbiter? Not a whit.

The custom of requiring men to subscribe to an oath, is a custom handed down to us from the age of superstition—an age when men, because of their ignorance, were controlled through fear of something they did not understand—a time when a very few did the thinking for the many. At the present day, when men are in touch with all parts of the world through the medium of electricity and the daily newspaper, men think for themselves. They read or hear statements purporting to give the facts concerning specific events and from these statements, every intelligent man necessarily forms an opinion. Men who are not intelligent enough and have not formed an opinion upon questions of such great public import as the trials of San Francisco and Boise, are certainly unfit and unsafe men to reach a just and impartial verdict. The first twelve men subpoened in either case, providing they were honest and disinterested, were just as likely to reach a just verdict as any other twelve if the search for jurors should continue the remainder of the year. A court should be satisfied with the selection of any man as a juror, who is honest and level-headed. To endeavor to find twelve men who have neither read, heard, talked about and formed an opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the men who are on trial, is to endeavor to find twelve men without brains, or who have been so isolated they have not been in touch with the world, since the transpiration of the events at issue. Harry Murphy, cartoonist, in last Sunday's Oregonian gives an illustration of the class of men who would be competent to sit as jurors at San Francisco or Boise. Of course Mr. Murphy exagerates matters greatly in his drawings; yet he brings out a fact that is occurring daily at these two cities. Our method of selecting juries is certainly greatly in need of repairs and the fact was never more evident than is being shown at these two trials.

If one will take the trouble, when in Portland, to take a trolly ride up to Council Crest and take a topographical view of Oregon's chief city and her suburbs, and when we consider her location as being at the junction of tide water and our river system, the emensity of water power available, the long stretch of of deep water frontage, now on the Willamette river, but which is destined to reach out and take in the Columbia as well, the great railway center in which all of the transcontinental railway systems crossing the continent will soon have termani, it is not very straining on one's imagination to conceive that before many years pass Portland will be the chief city of the Pacific Coast. At the present time, fine large business blocks are rapidly replacing the earlier wood structures, not only in one or two localities but all over the city. At the present rate of growth, the next decade will see a city on the Willamette and Columbia rivers of a half million people. Portland has more and greater incentives to growth than any other city on the coast. Other cities may surpass her in some one particular, but none of them have so many different features to boost up the population by the thousand as has the Rose city. Portland may be inclined to be somewhat selfish when her own interests are at stake; yet her solid substantial growth, ever increasing in a sort of arithmetical ratio, is a matter in which every citized in the state has a feeling of pride.

When over in Lebanon, last Sunday, the NEWS man met and had quite a long talk with Senator M. A. Miller, who is a member of the state commission to select a series of schools text books. Senator Miller has his office in quite a good sized hall and in which are some 500 to 600 school books for the various grades and by all of the school book makers, for the Senater's inspection. Senator Miller is devoting much time and study to the duty that is before him, as a member of the commission and when it meets, next month down at the capitol city, he will be well equiped to consider the matter of selecting a series of text books in an intelligent manner.

All of the acts of the last legislature that had not already become laws because of having the emergency clause attached, became laws last Monday.

Nevertheless there is a law prohibiting cattle and other stock from running at large, it is not uncommon to see both cattle and hogs grazing on the public highways. Farmers and stock owners had better be careful in this regard, as some one who wishes to see law enforced may make complaint.

Reduced Round Trip Rates.

Because of the Rose Show and Fiesta, the Southern Pacific will place on sale, June 1st 9, round trip tickets from West Scio to Portland and return, limit June 23, for $2.95. Children at one-half this rate.

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No. 6—
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No. 5—
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Arrives Albany ..... 7:10 A. M

No. 9—
Leaves Corvallis ..... 12.45 P. M
Arrives at Albany ..... 1.30 P. M

No. 7—
Leaves Corvallis ..... 6 00 P. M
Arrives Albany ..... 6.40 P. M

No. 11—
Leaves Corvallis ..... 11 30 A. M
Arrives at Albany ..... 12 15 P. M

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Geese, per pound	07
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