

# SANTIAM NEWS SUPPLEMENT.

SCIO, OREGON, MAY 22, 1908.

## Chamberlain or Cake, Which?

In less than two weeks, the voters of Oregon will elect one of the two candidates for the United States Senate, which were elected the nominees of their respective parties, at our late primaries. If voters would banish from their thoughts, all partisan influence or personal bias, and vote for the candidate who can best serve Oregon's interests, it would be an act of wisdom. Possibly this may be done; though such a result is hardly probable. However, voters will do well to size up the two men in point of ability and fitness; remembering that interests of the entire state are in the balance, and that Oregon is entitled to the very best ability obtainable for the position.

The News attempts to give a brief history of the public career of each of the candidates; not that it will be of service to old residents, for it will not, but for the benefit of the young voter or those who have recently chosen a home in Oregon.

Mr. Cake's public career can be given in a brief paragraph. Two years ago he was a candidate before the primaries for the U. S. senate, when Jonathan Bourne was nominated and elected. He, at that time, as during the primary campaign of this year, was a strong supporter of Statement No. 1. Senator Bourne was a supporter of Statement One as well. This time Mr. Cake had no opposition in the Statement One camp and won out over his competitor, Senator Fulton, handsomely. After his success at the primary polls, Mr. Cake has seen proper to change front, to some extent, on Statement No. 1. He has found it expedient to placate the Fulton faction; because he wanted their votes, and now he has assumed the identical position held by Senator Fulton before the primary election. He is now attempting to effect a good sized straddle, by placing one foot in the Fulton camp while he attempts to retain the other in the Statement One or Bourne following. By assuming this equivocal position, he has been able to have his brother selected as chairman of the Republican state central committee. Close political observers believe he has made a grave tactical blunder, in so doing, which may result in his defeat. Further than the above, Mr. Cake has no record as a public man. Privately he is an honorable, genial gentleman and worthy the friendship of any man.

Governor Chamberlain has long been before the public eye. He has held numerous public positions and the manner in which he has acquitted himself in all of these positions, is a matter of record. The public has much from which to make up its opinion as to what manner of man he is, and whether he has been true to the various trusts imposed upon him.

Some time about 1875, George E. Chamberlain landed in Albany, a young man without money or friends. His only asset was a willing disposition to undertake any honorable employment that might be offered. The News man was one of his first acquaintances, and

assisted somewhat in his securing the position of teacher in a country school which position, we believe, he filled with satisfaction to his employers.

His first political position was as deputy clerk of Linn county. His clerical ability is of high order and coupled with a genial friendly nature gave him a general acquaintance with the people of Linn county, which has ever been flattering to himself and an honor to his acquaintances. At the end of two years, he entered one of the Albany law offices and, a few months thereafter, was admitted to practice in the courts of Oregon.

Mr. Chamberlain's nature is such that it is and was impossible for him to keep out of the political game. His first elective position was as a member of the lower house of the Oregon legislature. He next appears as the candidate of the Democrats of the third judicial district, for the position of prosecuting attorney. His opponent was Judge C. E. Wolverton, now of the U. S. district court, of Portland. The district then as now, was heavily Republican in politics. This did not deter Mr. Chamberlain in the least. He prosecuted such a vigorous campaign that he won out handsomely. Sometime about the year 1890 he engaged in banking, being cashier of the Linn county National bank. Banking not proving congenial, he retired in a year or two to the practice of law, still retaining his moneyed interest in the bank. His association with the Linn county National eventually caused his financial ruin. In the financial crash of the early 90s the Linn county National was among the first of the thousands of financial institutions to go to the wall. The crash involved the loss of, not only the stock Mr. Chamberlain held in the bank, but his entire private property as well. Being broken financially, Mr. Chamberlain thought Portland offered a better field of endeavor. So, with nothing but his law library as capital, he and family removed to the metropolis and he commenced rebuilding his finances.

When the office of attorney general was established, Governor Penoyer selected Mr. Chamberlain for the office. He was elected to succeed himself for a full term; retiring to his law office in Portland at the close of his elective term. A few years later he was nominated and elected prosecuting attorney in the Portland district, to which office he was re-elected. During his second term as prosecuting attorney, Mr. Chamberlain was nominated and elected to the office he now holds, and in which he is now serving his second term. It should be bourn in mind that in every public position Gov. Chamberlain has held, he has secured his election, by overcoming very heavy adverse majorities. This fact is a high compliment to his integrity as a man, and his devotion to duty as an official. He has made good in every public position he has held. He has proven faithful to every trust imposed upon him and at the command of the people he has ever moved up a step higher.

In his position as governor of a great state, he has shown to the people that he is far above ordinary men in point of ability, and that he is ever alert in taking care of the interests entrusted

to him. One of his first official acts as governor, was to call a halt in the method in which the school lands of the state were being frittered away. He believed that, even at the low price of \$1.25 per acre, the state was being defrauded. Investigation proved his suspicions to be true. He caused the selling price of school lands to be increased to \$6 per acre, and he recovered to the state thousands of acres which were being secured fraudulently.

Governor Chamberlain dug up an old law from whence it had been quietly sleeping for 25 years or more. He found, that when the locks were built at Oregon City, the state granted the locks company aid, and in return for this aid, the state was to receive ten per cent. of the gross earnings of the locks company. This ten per cent. was paid only for a year or two. The locks company then quit paying, and the state officers were so derelict in duty that they neglected to cause the company to live up to his contract.

But Governor Chamberlain believed that the statute of limitation did not maintain on a continuous contract. He saw that the locks company was defaulting in payment. He, therefore, caused suit to be brought in the Multnomah courts to enforce compliance. The court decided against the state and the Governor then caused the suit to be appealed to the supreme court. That court, a few days ago, decided in favor of the state, and the state will now be able to recover several hundred thousand dollars from the locks company; besides having the right to buy the locks at a reasonable valuation.

Something near two years ago, Governor Chamberlain became somewhat suspicious as to the manner in which State Treasurer Steel was handling the state and school funds. He caused Treasurer Steel (which was much against Steel's will) to double the amount of his bonds to the state. How wise the governor was, was established a few months later. When the Title Guarantee and Trust bank, of Portland, failed last fall, it was found that nearly \$400,000 of the state's money were involved in the crash; nearly \$300,000 being state school funds. The bonding company was forced to come forward and make good, to the state, the full amount. Had not Governor Chamberlain been alert and watchful of the peoples interests, a large part, if not all of the funds involved in the collapsed bank, would have been lost to the state.

Governor Chamberlain, as governor of the state has made good in an eminent degree. Any of the governors, during the past 25 years, had the opportunity of bringing the locks company to time. They failed to do so. Governor Chamberlain has succeeded, and to him full credit must be given.

This brief history of both candidates for senator is given, for the purpose, as before stated, of enabling voters who are not familiar with their public respective careers, to select the better man for that high position. Governor Chamberlain has been tried so long and so thoroughly and in so many public positions that we know he would be true to the peoples interests in every instance. We know we can safely trust him, and that he will make good,

as he ever has in every public position.

Mr. Cake is largely an unknown quantity. His only public act, that of changing front on Statement No. 1, inspires us with a lack of confidence. If he will sacrifice principle in order to secure an election to office, we are constrained to believe he does not possess that firm fixedness of purpose which we deem essential in an United States senator. Mr. Cake might prove sufficient to withstand the many influences which are brought to bear on the average U. S. senator—we say he might, but we don't know. On the other hand we know George E. Chamberlain would prove true to his trust. The matter is up to the voter to decide. Will you be governed in your selection by reason and judgement, or will you be governed by the party lash?

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