

## POLITICAL POT-PIE

The indications at this writing point strongly to the fact that the next municipal campaign in Seattle will be fought with Sunday closing as the chief issue. In other words Mayor Moore will be supported by the church element for the stand he has taken on this question for renomination and election, and if the Republicans fail to nominate a candidate equally pronounced on the subject of Sunday closing as is Mayor Moore there is grave danger of the Republicans losing the battle and Billy Moore again winning by a political scratch.

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The charge that Mayor Moore has entered into a collusion with a saloon keeper to relieve another saloon keeper of \$50 a month on a two year's lease, reads just like a lie. The Pie-maker is not one of those who do not believe Billy Moore is averse to a handsome retainer from a client, but he does not believe that he would give the cut in a \$50 graft a moment's consideration, as that would not buy him cigars for a day. To fight a political opponent on the policy he is pursuing is the bounding duty of one partisan toward another, but to trump up cheap charges for the sake of discrediting an official in the community is too low, mean and contemptible to be considered by men.

The Ross investigation is still being heard in the distance with nothing of a tangible nature coming to the surface in the investigation. As has been previously stated in these columns the whole affair is one faction of politicians in the Republican party trying to trump up a charge on another faction for the express purpose of defeating one of the members of the other faction from being renominated and elected. However this is just a way they have of doing politics out West and no amount of moralizing will bring about any change in the situation.

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The vote on the direct primary law developed opposition to it in places unlooked for. No one thought for a moment that Ruth would be against the measure nor did they think under the circumstances that George U. Piper would be against the measure notwithstanding the fact "a majority of the voters in his district oppose such a law." He pledged himself in convention assembled to support the measure and he made his campaign on that plank in the platform and party pledges should be held just as sacred as personal pledges. Everyone, who knows George Piper, knows that when he gives his word to a fellow man that he will live up to it if it took an arm off and he should hold his political pledges just as sacred.

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The general public felt greatly relieved to learn from the daily press of the city that John Riplinger, erstwhile Seattle politician and political idol, who listened to the whisperings of over zealous friends to take too long a leap in the dark and was plunged into a fathomless abyss below, the

shock of which so completely wrecked him that he was forced to leave for parts unknown to seek his health, who, according to the vague news that the public could pick up from time to time about him, was trembling between life and death, has sufficiently regained his health to be up and about, though he is still on crutches, the results of a partial stroke of paralysis. John Riplinger is one of the "whitest" men that ever entered the political arena and he deserved a better fate than that handed out to him a year ago in Seattle when he was defeated for mayor by a Democrat. It was a mistake for him to accept the nomination under the circumstances, but he was too good a man to be so mercilessly slaughtered. The politician, however, tells us that these are all the fortunes of war, and those who go to war whether with a just or unjust cause must expect to meet such reverses.

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The legislature adjourns next Friday and until it shall have adjourned the political situation so far as state politics is concerned is quite at sea. No combinations can be made until it is known whether or not the direct primary bill will become a law. If it becomes a law it will be up to the people to say who will be nominated for the various state and county offices, but if it does not become a law then the factions will begin at once a battle royal for the control of the next state convention. At this writing the anti-Ankeney forces are on the run, but with the direct primary put on the shelf and under the influence of barrels of "dough" they would soon be in the saddle again and they would assume control of the Republican politics of the state for the next decade.

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Representative Beebe of King county has fathered a bill through the legislature of this state and the same has been signed by the governor making it a felony for either fathers or mothers to desert their children when under the age of 16 leaving them in a necessitous condition. The measure is a much needed piece of legislation and the people should see to it that its provisions are rigidly enforced. So often it happens that scoundrels who are forced to marry a woman they have betrayed leave them in a few days thereafter and for the most part in a most pitiable condition from a financial standpoint. While the instances are not so numerous of mothers deserting their own children yet that sometimes happens and in each case the one so deserting such necessitous persons whether wife or children should if found be tried and sent to the penitentiary or otherwise punished. That the general public may become better acquainted with the measure, which will be a law after the requisite three months shall have passed, it is quoted in full:

"Any person who shall, without lawful excuse, desert or willfully neglect or refuse to provide for the support and maintenance of his wife in destitute or necessitous circumstances, or any person who shall, without lawful excuse, desert or willfully neglect or refuse to provide for the support and main-

tenance of his or her minor children under the age of 16 years who are in destitute or necessitous circumstances, shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment in the penitentiary at hard labor for not more than three years, or in the county jail for not more than twelve months, or by both such fine and imprisonment; and should a fine be imposed it may be directed by the court to be paid in whole or in part to the wife or to the guardian or custodian of the minor child or children: provided, that before the trial, with the consent of the defendant, or after conviction, instead of imposing the punishment hereinbefore provided, or in addition thereto, the court in its discretion, having regard to the circumstances and to the financial ability or earning capacity of the defendant, shall have the power to make an order, which shall be subject to change by it from time to time as circumstance may require, directing the defendant to pay a certain sum weekly for the space of one year to the wife or to the guardian or custodian of the minor child or children, or to an organization or individual approved by the court as trustee, and to release the defendant from custody or probation during such time as the court may direct upon his or her entering into a recognizance, with or without sureties, in such sum as the court may direct. The condition of the recognizance shall be such that if the defendant shall make his or her personal appearance in court whenever ordered to go so within the year, and shall further comply with the terms of the order and of any subsequent modification thereof, then the recognizance shall be void, otherwise of full force and effect.

"If the court be satisfied by information or complaint and due proof, under oath, that at any time during the year the defendant has violated the terms of such order, it may forthwith proceed with the trial of the defendant under the original indictment or information, or sentence him under the original conviction, or enforce the original sentence, as the case may be. In case of forfeiture of a recognizance, and enforcement thereof by execution, the sum recovered may, in the discretion of the court, be paid in whole or in part to the wife or to the guardian or custodian of the minor child or children.

"No other evidence shall be required to prove marriage of such husband and wife, or that such person is the lawful father or mother of such child or children, than is or shall be required to prove such facts in a civil action. In all prosecutions under this act any existing provisions of law prohibiting the disclosure of confidential communications between husband and wife shall not apply, and both husband and wife shall be competent witnesses to testify to any and all relevant matters, including the fact of such marriage and the parentage of such child or children. Proof of the desertion of such wife, child or children in destitute or necessitous circumstances or of neglect to furnish such wife, child or children necessary and proper food, clothing, or shelter is prima facie evidence that such desertion or neglect is willful."