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Straight Talk

The return of Frank J. Cannon at the beginning of a senatorial campaign to the field of his early ambitions seems quite natural to the community, though possibly the villain and ingrate will be saddened to learn that some of those haunts he was wont to use during campaigns in the days of his greater political activities have passed from the scene.

We have not been informed as to whether or not he proposes to enter the lists this fall, but feel sure that if he does that he will be perfectly willing to speak on any side of any subject and change his political views whenever properly induced at the slightest possible notice. However, we doubt if his carrion (printer's error) call will reverberate through these "valleys of the mountains." Not that he would not have the nerve to again pose as a leader before the people whom he has scarified for compensation elsewhere for so long, but we doubt if he will receive an invitation from any of the parties engaged in the present contest, for the opinion held of him by people of every belief in this state is such as to scarcely warrant his services as a vote getter.

Fickle though the public is, it does not soon forget such a picturesque disciple of Treachery and Slander.

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When the County Medical association met on Monday evening, the committee on public health presented its report on the conditions found at Saltair, following the request of the management that representatives of that society investigate the resort. It was the idea that the committee's report would end the matter so far as the association was concerned, but it seems that the discussion on the subject waxed rather warm at the meeting, and it was decided to lay the matter over, and take it up at the first meeting to be held in October. If the recommendations of the committee are carried out, it will mean a vast improvement at the resort, but there is apparently a disposition on the part of numerous officials and among a number of physicians to apply whitewash liberally, just as though a bad smell could not penetrate that.

* * *

The Municipal Charities Commission of Los Angeles, has refused the Salvation Army permission to make any further collections because it seems nearly half of the funds they receive are sent to New York, London and elsewhere and further because it is found that it sells articles donated by the people of southern California in its industrial stores in large eastern cities.

We have always had considerable faith in the Salvation Army and the good work it has done and is doing, and it is to be hoped that a similar state of affairs does not exist here, though the practice would really not be harmful unless it is sending local donations away to the neglect of

those who need them here. However it would seem that the large cities both at home and abroad are in a position to donate all of the money and articles necessary of their own, without calling on the west to add to their funds and their stores even if charity through the Salvation Army is a world wide institution and discriminates in favor of no section or place.

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Again the pardoning board has commuted the death sentence of a hop-head burglar and murderer to life imprisonment revising its decision of a week before that Mewhinney must die.

By the admission of one of its members, nothing new was heard at the final meeting of the board, and it is just such acts as this which encourage crime.

We understand that the average term served by a lifer at the penitentiary is twelve years and that many of them are released earlier to continue their work against order. If this is true, every time a brute is granted a new lease of life, it means a greater menace to society. Our board of pardons didn't win any medals through its decision in the Mewhinney case.

* * *

A singular political condition which prevails in practically every state of the union when the time rolls 'round to select men for the legislature is that which finds but few of the leading business and professional men who are willing to serve.

The very men who would be strongest and who are most conversant with the needs of their community and their state, continually refuse to make the sacrifice and in many instances they are in such a position that the giving of their time and services would make no difference in their personal affairs.

Regularly during the session of the legislature and after it has adjourned, there are plenty of men who would have served to advantage, who are prone to severely criticize the work of the lawmakers, but when election time comes again, few, if any of them, can be induced to run.

The average legislative ticket is not the fault of the party which places the men in nomination, which is often handicapped by the refusal of strong men to act.

During the past two months the Republican party here has persistently sought the best representatives to be found who were willing to give their time and attention to the work and the result is one of the best legislative tickets ever put in the field. The average is so much higher than the opposition ticket that there is no comparison, and if there happens to be a weak spot or two it is because of the reasons outlined above.

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The tempest caused by the withdrawal of Joseph F. Merrill of the University of Utah from the legislative race amounts to little more than one of the tea-pot variety when the real facts are considered. As we understand it, the Board of Regents of the university, unanimously asked that he withdraw and the reason was that they do not desire that the student body become involved in politics, or for that matter anything of a political nature to hamper the work at the institution. The inference of Professor Merrill in his letter of withdrawal that the action was taken because of the influence of certain politicians is absurd on its face, because if any political influence had been brought to bear, it would have been necessarily from a source rumored not in entire accord with the men referred to.

It can be readily seen, should Professor Merrill continue to be a candidate what effect his candidacy would have on the young men under him, for it would be perfectly natural even though nothing were said to them, for them to toe the mark not only in their class work but in a politi-

cal way in an effort to gain all possible favor. Professor Merrill has always demonstrated his strict partisanship and the present occurrence is not the only one in which trouble has been caused by an attempt to inject politics into the University.

In asking for his withdrawal, the Board of Regents did exactly right.

WHAT PROHIBITION WILL DO

The twenty-fourth annual report of the California development board contains much that is of interest to people who wish to be informed as to what prohibition would mean to California. It shows that the manufacture of California wines and brandies is steadily increasing. In 1913 California manufactured 25,000,000 gallons of dry wines, 17,307,600 gallons of sweet wines, 1,695,406 gallons of commercial brandy and 4,674,350 gallons of brandy for the fortification of sweet wines.

"California wines," says the development board, "have a wide and improving market at home and abroad." In 1913 we shipped by rail 52,000 cases and 11,154,000 gallons, while the exports by sea amounted to 6,933 cases and 12,935,239 gallons, valued at \$4,605,724. To this should be added the brandy exported, which was 695 cases and 35,047 gallons valued at \$66,473. Twenty-four foreign countries received the wine. The output of champagne, naturally fermented in bottles, for 1913 was 950,000 bottles or 52,000 cases. The development board makes it clear that it hopes the good work will go on, but Prohibitionists from Ohio, the state that wants to label its fake wines as pure wines, are out here trying to persuade us to abandon this industry and give Ohio a clear field. But that is not all; they would have us tear down the seventy-five breweries in California that represent an investment of \$50,000,000, and that employ four thousand men and pay out \$6,000,000 in wages. Incidentally they would put an end to hop-raising and put a boycott on our barley crop which sells for \$30,000,000 annually. And of course if we make our state dry some of our manufacturers must be sacrificed, for our cooperage industry and our bottle makers depend on our brewers and vinticulturists. On the whole prohibition is a mighty serious proposition to California, so serious that it seems like a huge ironical joke. But Prohibitionists are not humorists. They are the sourest, solemnest lot of fanatics the world has ever seen. They are men who have gone out of their way to be absurd by a romantic effort of philanthropy. All the affairs of state must wait while they agitate their hobby which stands first in the order of business, takes precedence in its own right of every other question. Everything else is a criminal digression. The Prohibitionist is the theoretical enthusiast whose mind is warped like the mind of any of the inmates of an asylum for the insane excepting those that have lucid intervals.

He argues that all the miseries of mankind are traceable to alcoholic beverages. All the great bodies representative of the medical profession dissent from his views, but neither physiological congresses nor textbooks of medicine have any effect on his opinions which, he is convinced, are written in sunbeams. His quarrel is not only with drunkards, but also with moderate drinkers, and though he be shown that the record of prohibition is a record not merely of futility, but of positive and colossal mischief, this victim of a protracted debauch of total abstinence is not to be cured of his species of madness. Of all the states that have prohibition there is but one that the Prohibitionist cites by way of proof that his cause is in the interest of humanity. That state is Kansas, about which there has been much controversy. Now the federal census bureau presumably has reliable information on the subject,