

## Political Notes and Comments

THE OREGON primary election, May 16th, is approaching. The citizens of Oregon are gradually beginning to realize that they are once more called upon to analyze the platforms and statements of hundreds of candidates, all different and so general in character that a Philadelphia lawyer, the acme of Blackstone knowledge, would be stumped, if called upon to say just to what program the candidate has specifically pledged himself. The political parties in Oregon are only nominally in existence under the present Oregon primary system and in so far the system has virtually brought about a state of political chaos. The declaration of party affiliation can at present have no material significance in relation to political government in Oregon. The political party, as such, has at the present time no power in this state to regulate and determine what may be presented to the electorate in the name of the party. The candidates for office make their own platforms; republican, democratic, Non-Partisan League, socialistic, communistic or what not. It is up to the voter of either party to discern the deception, if he can, or he will eventually contribute to the nomination and election of men whose principles are not of the party. The unsavory thing for the party is that it must take the blame and assume the responsibility for the elevation to political power of individuals who are politically unsound. If the principles of the political party are preferable to the notions of the individual, nominally claiming affiliation with the party, then some means should be found by which the political parties in Oregon may again function in the interest of party government.

The present system will always give room for action by uncontrolled groups and cliques. Their work, carried on within the political party, will continue to weaken the faith in party, and eventually cause the partisan to become affiliated with one group or another which functions and operates under cover within the party.

Oregon's experience along the political trail that leads away from the highway of the political party is not an argument in favor of a free for all form of political organization. The political uncertainty that has come to characterize Oregon has caused nation-wide apprehension and few substantial citizens of other states are willing to risk coming here for fear that the next legislative assembly may enact a law that might destroy them financially or that the people will do the same thing through the initiative.

Meanwhile every voter must use his best judgment in selecting and nominating men for public office. Close friends of some prominence in business life should be consulted. Sample ballots should in all instances be obtained, carefully studied and marked before going to the voting place on election day. The voting is then an easy matter, merely

laying the sample ballot alongside of the election ballot handed the voter in the election booth, thereby facilitating quick marking of the ballot. The sample ballot should then be taken home and destroyed or, if desired, kept for private personal reference.

Some facts about the candidates seeking nominations for office are herewith

presented briefly for the benefit of The United American readers:

Charles L. McNary, Oregon's senior senator at Washington, has submitted his name for re-nomination as United States senator, to the electorate of the republican party in Oregon, in the primaries on May 16th. Believing it his duty to remain at Washington to attend to the important public matters now before the United States senate, Senator

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