

The Commonwealth of Oregon

A Brief History of the Organization and Development of One of the Forty-eight United States of America, Submitted in a Series of Comprehensive and Interesting Letters, Written Particularly for Those Who Have Commenced Studying and Preparing Themselves to Pass the Examination for American Citizenship.

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V.

SOME FACTS ABOUT OREGON'S GOVERNMENT

IN THIS LETTER, I shall give some of the more important facts about the executive and administrative departments of Oregon's government. I shall give only those facts which I believe our citizens should know and which men and women seeking citizenship should learn.

At the head of the executive department is the governor who at the present time is Walter M. Pierce. The state constitution provides a term of four years with only one re-election in a period of twelve years. This means that a governor after serving two terms or eight years must wait four years before trying to be elected to the office again. Any person to be chosen governor in Oregon must be an American citizen, must have reached the age of thirty, and must have lived in the state at least three years. In the case of his death or removal from office, the president of the senate becomes governor and holds the office until the next regular election; and, in case this officer dies while in office or is removed from office, the speaker of the house assumes the office.

The duties of the governor are heavy and many. Following are some of the most important:

He is commander of the state militia, that is, the soldiers of the state, whom he may use to aid him in carrying out his duties.

He must see that the laws are enforced. This is his heaviest responsibility. It is true that every county and every city have their officers of the law who are directly responsible for this duty; however the governor is, in a sense, over them and back of them. In case he learns that any law in any county, for example, the law against the sale of liquor, is not being enforced, it is his duty to take steps to see that the law is put into effect. To do this, he may send into the county officers representing the state who shall take over the duties of law enforcement and the punishment of crime and, if he thinks best he may also send the state soldiers to protect lives and property and keep order in that county. This was done a few years ago in Baker County. The governor at the time was Oswald West. Believing that the law in regard to the sale of liquor was not being enforced in a little mining town on the Snake River called Copperfield, he sent to the place an officer representing his office and a company of militia who for several weeks did the work of administering government there, which should have been done by the county and town officers. As a result, the somewhat lawless condition that had come to prevail there was done away with. Every governor has the same power and, if he be a man of unflagging devotion to his duties, will not hesitate to use it when the need arises.

However, it should be said here that in America every community is expected to enforce for itself the laws. It has officers chosen for that purpose who, if

they have the courage and patriotism needed in their offices, will not have reason to call on the governor for help. Our system is such that any community which cannot maintain order and enforce law is a liability to our country, not, as it should be, an asset. Every good citizen knows this fact and tries to help in the enforcement of law by reporting or checking disorder, by serving on juries, by voting only for good men for office, and voting only for the right sort of laws.

The governor also shall now and then recommend to the legislature needed laws and report about such matters of government and financial support of state business in which its members are interested. Such reports and recommendations are always printed in the newspapers and may be considered as being made to the people as well. Moreover, when he thinks it necessary, he may call the legislature together in special session.

Other duties are the granting of pardons and reprieves to those convicted of crime and the filling of vacancies in offices by appointment. Such officers, though, shall hold office only until their successors have been elected and have qualified for the offices.

A somewhat unique power given the governor is
(Continued on Page Thirteen)

For REPRESENTATIVE



To the State Legislature
From Multnomah County

VOTE FOR

H. J.

Langoe

Editor "The United American"

Republican Primaries
Friday, May 21st, 1926

LANGOE STANDS PLEDGED to work for:

The Protection and the Betterment of the Home.
To encourage Land Settlement and Home Ownership.
Equitable Revenue, License and Tax Laws.
Simplification of State Government.
Elimination of Autocratic Bureaucracy.
Consolidation of our numerous Expensive and Tax-eating Boards, Bureaus and Commissions.
To stop the prevalent raids on the Public Treasury by Public Officials and Political Freebooters.
To restore Honesty to State Government.

Vote 75 X on the Ballot

Paid Adv.