

**THE EVENING NEWS**

BY B. W. BATES

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1910.

**ASSEMBLY DOES NOT NOMINATE.**

Eugene Register: A correspondent of the Grants Pass Courier, writing on the county assembly held in Josephine county, in the course of his article says:

Will the exponents of the assembly plan explain just what you expect to gain by the methods pursued in your recent meeting in which you took the naming of candidates for county office out of the hands of the people? Where do you get one single hint of authority for what you did?

It might be well for the "Life-long republican" who propounded this deep and learned question to explain where the assembly has taken the naming of candidates for county offices out of the hands of the people. If he has made such a wide study of political questions, and of the direct primary law in particular, he must know that the only way for republican or democratic candidates to get their names on a ballot is to have petitions, signed by the proper number of registered electors, presented to the county clerk, or secretary of state, as the case may be. Endorsement of the assembly in no way obviates the necessity of going through the regular and prescribed formula.

But suppose for just a minute that the selection made by the assembly did go onto the ballot without further action on the part of the candidate or his friends, wouldn't the electors have the right to write in the names of any other candidate that they might prefer? Would there not be, in effect, a referendum, even surer than the referendum on laws which now can be referred on laws? Would it be necessary to vote for the assembly candidates if there were no other names on the ballot? Not at all. It is an American right to vote for whomsoever the person voted for be named in the ballot or not, and even in the case of the primary election, voters can, and have named a man not on the ballot.

But the fact remains that endorsement by the assembly does not in a single particular supersede the workings of the direct primary law. Candidates have to secure the needed number of signatures for their petitions, and from the requisite number of precincts. By the naming of candidates in the assembly, it is held that a greater degree of party feeling can be developed, that leading men of the party may be made to feel that a considerable number of their fellows of the party believe in them and are ready to support them, and thus encourage them to make a canvass for the nomination. Able men do not care particularly to give up lucrative private business for a public office with all the criticism it entails, nor do they wish to be the butt of ridicule or being considered egotistical in aspiring to an office.

Taking it all together there are many good reasons for the holding of an assembly, and one of the chief of the reasons is that by so doing suitable men are encouraged to run for office, and without in any out doing violence to the laws of the state.

**WHY THIS POWWOW?**

The charge of the democratic press that the republican state assembly



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was either a violation or an evasion of the direct primary law is groundless, says the Salem Statesman. It was neither. Tiring of democratic domination of the principal offices in the gift of the people of the state, the republicans convened an advisory assembly. At this gathering, which is not prohibited by the very strictest interpretation of the direct primary law, the 1200 delegates from all sections of the state discussed the party's plight and resolved, if possible, to remedy the situation. To that end a declaration of principles was enunciated and candidates pledged to those principles, were endorsed for nomination by the republican voters of the state in the direct primary nominating election.

In no way has the direct primary law been circumvented by the assembly. Neither have the rights of any individual or group of individuals, under that law, been abridged by the action of the assembly. The same privilege of assembling for purposes of conferring is available to any other group of voters.

The action of the assembly in recommending candidates for nomination at the hands of the republican voters of the state was only advisory. Every candidate endorsed by the assembly for nomination must submit his candidacy before the voters of his party in the regular nominating election on September 24. In prosecuting his candidacy, every assembly candidate is obliged in every particular to the provisions of the direct primary law. These

include circulating a nominating petition which must be signed by the legal voters residing in the district in which he seeks office. This nominating petition is required to be filed with the county clerk or the secretary of state within the time specified in the direct primary in exactly the same manner as the nominating petitions of other candidates.

In other words, the assembly candidate is on the same footing as all other candidates. He cannot ignore the most insignificant requirement of the direct primary law if he legally qualifies as a candidate. We are constrained, therefore, to inquire wherein is there anything wrong with the assembly? What could be more fair? Indorsement by the assembly did not carry with it a nomination to the office for which the candidate was recommended. He must go before the electors on his merits, and unless his candidacy receives the approval of the voters, he is no longer a candidate. The people are the final judges. They will make the nominations. The operation of the direct primary law is not disturbed. Why then all this powwow in the democratic camp against the assembly?

G. W. Gage, of Dillard, was in the city for a few hours today, and from him it was learned that the first car load of melons from Dillard was shipped to the northern market yesterday. The melons were a fine lot, as such fruit from this section always is.

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