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WEST PLAN FAILS.

Even Senator McNary is not in favor of the wholesale withdrawal plan as suggested by ex-Governor West. That should settle it, if the proposition ever needed any settling.

Senator McNary telegraphs from Washington:

"Telegraphic advice having reached me relative to ex-Governor West's proposal that he and Messrs. Stanfield and King all withdraw from the primary contest, I desire to say that Mr. West's proposal came to me as a complete surprise. Being a candidate, I am not made the confidant of my opponents for the Senatorship in either party. What they do or may not do is entirely upon their initiative and not through any understanding with me. I have submitted my candidacy to the voters without reference to any other person's ambition and free from any notion or purpose that anyone should retire in my favor or make a political or personal sacrifice for me. Such a proposal does not command my sympathy, as I desire the voters to have a free hand in the selection of their Senator."

This matter having been disposed of by one of the principal candidates affected, the voters of Oregon may resume the even tenor of their ways and be comforted in the satisfaction that they will still be allowed the privileges of exercising their personal choice at the primary election.

The old convention system was abolished primarily to get away from manipulation and gag rule, and it is a satisfaction to note that its main purposes are not yet to be defeated by any one single man through the innovation of doing the political working and voting for the whole electorate.

If this West outburst was another step in the West-McNary scheme to keep the office of senator in the "political family," as many think it was, the effect has shown them that it will not go, and Senator McNary, after having had time to hear the rumbling, now comes out

and says he is opposed to West's plan. Let us all take the Senator at his word, thereby permitting the people of Oregon to vote—a privilege which West's plan would have denied them.

ONE THING TO LOOK AFT.

In the mad rush in which we are all living at the present time, let us keep in mind the Chamberlain-Ferris bill which would permit timber speculators to secure the large timber holdings on the grant lands and railroad lands. Soon there will be a reconstruction period following the war, when it will be necessary for this nation to do something for the real heroes who are fighting for us in Europe. Would it not be quite the proper thing for the lands mentioned to be held, along with their timber and stone and other resources, so that proper disposition can be made of them to the boys who come home?

Is there any reason why the contract price of \$2.50 per acre, including timber, should not be lived up to and this government settle those lands at that price, with a strong preference clause for the soldiers?

Up to this time but one metropolitan newspaper in Oregon has taken up the fight for the soldiers along the lines mentioned above, and that is Fred Boalt's Portland News. That paper is urging the matter in an earnest manner, and the Observer wishes to join Mr. Boalt in his efforts.

At a time such as this the public mind is occupied with other things, but there will come a time when attention will turn to this very important subject, but that time may be too late. It may be after the Weyerhaeuser and other timbermen have bound our government hard and fast with contracts such as are permissible under the Chamberlain-Ferris act. Then will come the scoring and the hammering. Why not avoid for once this crime of delay, which has been so apparent in many governmental matters. Why not take a stand now joining with Fred Boalt and the Portland News to make a vigorous protest to the national congress?

LET IT BE DONE.

The reports indicate that President Wilson will turn the spot light on the airplane business. This is as it should be. If there has been profiteering, criminal neglect—and any neglect at this time is criminal—it should be known and the perpetrators and conspirators be given their just deserts, no matter who it may be.

The country has had scandals of this kind before. There was immense profiteering during the civil war; the embalmed beef scandal of the Spanish-American war is still fresh in memory. There must be no more of it if there is enough conscience left in the country to stop it—that is to say, if the accusations are true.

The quickest way to find it out is by a full and fair investigation. It will be of no aid to the enemy to make everything all straight at home.

One of the big cards held up by the opponents of war has been this very suggestion that the necessities of the country in war have been used for private advantage. Let the investigations be thorough and complete. It is better to have the whole truth than for the country's interests to be strangled by the choking masses of doubt and infinitely less by full investigation and mistrust.



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