

Gordon Hats



\$5.00

Westenhaver & Gilbert

La Grande Oregon

Representative Form of Government Expresses Peoples Will

(Continued from Page One.)

The house of representatives was representative of the democratic idea, its members being elected by a direct vote of the various districts entitled to representation.

It is a remarkable historical fact that the government of these United States was the first to begin its life under a form of written constitution. In social and political development, schools of philosophy have been evolved, one where under there should be the largest degree of individual liberty, conforming to the Jeffersonian doctrine that man least governed is best governed.

And the other, known as the socialist political organization, where under the individual is absorbed in the state and all industry and property are so owned and controlled.

At the institution of our government the theory of individualism was established in its fullest degree and

legislation was controlled by a series of checks and balances resulting in a century of material advancement and social development.

Of late the trend has been toward the social system and in Oregon we have discarded the checks and balances and have established the unbridled rule of the electorate, the constitution retained has only the force and dignity of statute.

No longer do constitutional provisions hold in check the sway of popular thought. In the arts and sciences man has made wonderful progress. He has adopted the lightning as the messenger of commerce, rivaled the eagle's flight, traversed the uncharted paths of ocean depths and caught the falling raindrops in their journey to the sea, increasing incalculably the units of industrial energy.

In the arts years of training and apprenticeship are required. In the sciences years of study precede admittance of authority to speak. In medicine and law patient thought and study are necessary. In legislation and politics alone is mankind considered qualified by nature to act as a legislator or public official. Neither study, training, learning, sound sense nor good character are necessary to become a legislator or public official.

Under our direct primary we have not even a passing knowledge of the qualifications of candidates for public office. I know, for I have been in the legislature.

The departure from constitutional government has been but little perceived and less appreciated.

The attempt to have the government take over the ownership and operation of railroads has its origin in the thought of the socialization of industry.

The engagement of government, national, state and municipal, in the construction of public works is along the same line.

Social democracy implies the application of a degree of intelligence and amount of time entirely incompatible with necessary devotion of mankind to his individual affairs.

It is my thought that the representative form of government is more fully expressive of the ideals of a free people and the realization of the people's aspirations than is the social democracy.

The conspicuous failure of the Soviet government in Russia is a conspicuous example of the inherent weakness of the social state.

Citizenship under free government involves the thought of liberal education. Education in a degree which up to the present time is but an ideal and hope.

Contrary to an opinion widely held, education does not tend to human equality. Upon the contrary, the inequalities of man are accentuated thereby, so long as ambition inspires to effort and success measures its re-

ward, so long as thrift attends industry, and that supreme law of nature, "Caution produces differentiation," prevails, human inequality will exist, let altruism blossom and flower as it may.

Under its inspiration the most altruistic efforts but contribute to equality of opportunity, thereby opening the door to ambition, ability, industry and worth.

Notwithstanding the marked advance made by man, men still have their homes in the tree-tops and thousands of unemployed have not even the cave for protection against the storm, with bursting granaries men, women and children hunger.

With unmeasured potentialities for production men stand idle. In some degree we still lack that definite persistent and consistent movement which is indicative of advanced social thought and development.

In politics the same want of intelligent movement is observable. A public service commission made obnoxious by failure to conserve the people's interest in the control of public service corporations is threatened with recall and immediately there offers for political preferment a conductor and an advertising manager of two railroads.

When it is proposed that the law relative to the selection of public service commissioners be amended and that power to appoint be given to the governor the president of a telephone company offers himself as a candidate for gubernatorial honors, to assist the people in the management of their political affairs a leading official of one of another of the public service corporations assumes the leadership of the Ku Klux Klan.

Under our political system the public no longer meets in assembly and convention for a discussion of their social problems and the qualifications of candidates for public office.

During the war all flags save the stars and stripes were banished from the people's recognition in public affairs. Yet today, in the metropolis of this state, under the aegis of the skull and cross-bones men foregather for political action.

The direct primary has failed to meet the expectations of its proponents. It has abolished party government and substituted irresponsible popular government.

Eliminated the party boss and substituted straw-bosses and apprentices. It has substituted personal ambition for public preferment, public indifference for public interest, the favor of the press for the will of the people, candidates with slogans for parties with platforms and principles.

It has eliminated the conference, the convention and the public assembly and has substituted therefor the star chamber, the lodge room and the church vestry and the soft drink parlor. It is exalted creed and is an accredited religion. It has substituted class hatred, religious intolerance and bigotry for fraternity and brotherly love. It has substituted invisible government for the orderly administration of public affairs by party rule, shattered commandments and made a travesty of the declaration of rights. It has substituted the hymn of hate for "My Country 'Tis of Thee." It denies the citizen's right of political preferment because of race, color or religion.

It has made the Oregon system a joke and has raised hell.

Coe A. McKenna of Portland, also a member of the commission said: "Heavy Burden on Property."

"The State of Oregon is facing a crisis in matters of taxation. Real property has been carrying such an enormous burden for state, county and city governments that a great portion of our state is now facing confiscation. If real property is to be saved to private ownership the burden must be equalized. Real estate bears 85 per cent of the burden of taxation in Oregon and 9.9 per cent of the property of the state is now delinquent in their taxes for last year and new taxes now payable.

"Union county is to be congratulated on a showing of only 8.2 per cent delinquency, which is a tribute to the thrift and prosperity of this county but there are five counties in the state with over 32 per cent tax delinquency and little hope of paying during the coming year.

"Serious factors, however, are shown in the following figures: The population of Union county increased but three per cent during the past ten years and taxable wealth increased but 6 per cent while state taxes increased 479.1 per cent and all taxes for the county including state taxes increased 131.5 per cent during that period. This increase is 43 times as fast as population and 22 times as fast as taxable wealth. Such an increase cannot continue. Economy must be practiced in governmental affairs. Expenditures cannot increase above ability to pay, and we have already passed the point where real property alone can continue to foot the bill. Taxes must be cut down even to the extent of discontinuing apparent necessities.

"People Determining Factor."

"The committee on tax investigation cannot cut down taxes, the people alone are the determining factors, and in the hands of the people are the forces that can save the present situation. The tax investigating committee hopes that in the present emergency that no radical action will be taken but that the present tax problem will be solved after some conservative consideration of the economic problem that confronts us."

Concluding Mr. McKenna said, "Taxes must be equalized and a portion of the burden removed from real estate; we must have more money to pay the taxes and more taxable wealth; and the cost of more efficient must be reduced."

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Style pictured above is a Men's Mahogany Bal. Oxford, welt soles, Strand last, **\$3.69**

Men's Mahogany Lotus Bal. Oxford, pictured at the right, with perforated quarter and tin, welt soles, half rubber heel, Savoy last, **\$4.50**



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