

The Sentinel.

BY LEW. A. CATES.

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THE MAKING OF LAWS.

The Oregonian in its campaign for the assembly, against the direct primary law and the initiative and referendum, exclaims as follows:

"Thirty-two measures have been filed at Salem under the initiative or through the referendum to be voted on by the people at large in November. Will anyone say that a burden so stupendous should have been laid upon the electorate as a whole? Will anyone dare say that a duty so grave and so various can be performed intelligently or conscientiously or adequately by the people acting in the mass or by one-half of them or by one-tenth of them or by one-hundredth part of them? It cannot be done. It is impossible that it should be done."

The Oregonian's hysterics are due to the fact that the people of Oregon are given a chance to make 32 laws, or to defeat them. These proposed laws are placed before the people upon petitions for each signed by from 10,000 to 25,000 legal voters. They are filed four months before election. Each attracts a large amount of attention from the press and the advocates and opponents are given from now until November to make the public familiar with the proposed law and its merits and demerits. In addition, the state printer issues a pamphlet, containing arguments for and against each measure, as well as the measure itself, which is sent to every registered voter, thereby giving him ample opportunity to familiarize himself with the law. Given ordinary intelligence and appreciation, even in a slight degree, of the duty and responsibility of the electorate, there is no reason why any voter should wait until he gets into the election booth to determine the fate of these bills.

Continues the Oregonian: "Legislation is a solemn public service requiring expert knowledge, careful deliberation, open and public discussion, frequent revision and compromise, and intelligent insight into the purposes and probable consequence of every act."

The legislature of Oregon is in session forty days. Over 500 proposed laws are introduced for consideration and a couple of hundred new laws passed. All sorts of freak measures become laws, which the sober senses of all the people would snuff under. What "expert knowledge," what "careful deliberation" what "intelligent insight" enter into the consideration of these 500 bills by the legislature? The ordinary legislator possesses no superior ability to the ordinary voter. He simply happens to be popular personally in his district. If the legislator can duly weigh and consider 32 measures in four months. Half the enactment of legislatures are secured, not upon the merits of the measures, but through "log-rolling," wherein the father of the bill agrees to vote for certain other bills, in exchange for support for his own bill. A measure placed before the people must stand upon its merits.

It is easy for corporate or other influences, political, social or business to control and corrupt a legislature. It is done in every state in the Union. United States senators are elected and special legislation secured, none of which could be wrung from the people—who in the mass are honest. How often are meritorious measures demanded by the people, killed in legislatures? How often do legislators, puffed up with their brief authority, imagine themselves superior to those who elect them, and betray their constituents? The initiative and referendum is an excellent law. Through it the people have a chance to secure needed legislation which special interests defeat in the legislature, such as the good roads bill, and the bill protecting fish in the Rogue river. It also acts as a check upon the actions of the legislature, for any bill passed inimical to the public welfare can be held up until approved or killed by the people. Boiled down, the Oregonian's argument is simply that the people of Oregon are fools, incapable of knowing what they want, and that there is as much sense in submitting proposed laws to a lunatic asylum as to the people.—Medford Mail.

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.

The women citizens' taxpayers' suffrage amendment, to be voted on at the November election, provides that "no citizen who is a taxpayer shall be denied the right to vote on account of

sex." The Equal Suffrage association has sent out the following argument in support of the cause which it urges: "Women under present industrial conditions forced upon them by circumstances beyond their control, are compelled to compete with men for a livelihood, in rapidly increasing numbers every year. A disfranchised class, brought necessarily into ruinous competition with an enfranchised class, creates demoralization in business and works especial hardship upon all men and women who toil for a livelihood, thus adding an ever-increasing menace to the stability of the home.

"Women of the other extreme, who are supported in idleness and luxury, may not feel the need of the ballot, and some of them may say they do not desire it. But that is no reason why they should seek to deprive other women of the right of choice. Any sane man or woman can understand why an idle woman, or one engaged in life's frivolities, may not care to vote, but no person of safe and sane reasoning power can comprehend the motive that impels any woman who says she does not want to vote to attempt preventing any woman from voting who wants to vote."

MAYOR WOULD BOND.

Mayor Kime's proposition to the council, that the municipality issue bonds in the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of liquidating outstanding warrants and leaving some money in the treasurer for the transaction of general business, is a suggestion worthy of consideration. That trite old saying that "money makes the mare go" is well illustrated by the difficulty now being encountered by the administration in having necessary improvements made. Bids invited for betterments have gone begging because of the fact that contractors do not care to accept warrants in payment therefor when the time when they will be cashed is uncertain. And again, when bids for improvements are made the bidders figure higher than would be the case if they knew for a certainty that money for their materials and labor would be forthcoming upon the completion of the work. This much was brought out at a recent meeting of the common council, when it was boldly asserted that a contract for the construction of a sewer on the West Side would have been 10 or 12 per cent lower had the city the cash in hand to pay for the work. And this is only one of many similar instances that could be cited.

There are today warrants outstanding aggregating several thousands of dollars. These warrants bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent from date of issue. Could the municipality amend its charter, and issue bonds for a sum sufficient to liquidate these warrants and have a reasonable surplus with which to carry on the city's business, it would not only restore confidence in the municipality's ability to pay, but would forthwith reduce taxes, inasmuch as the bonds would run for a term of at least ten years, and increased population would assist in liquidating them. The rate of interest would not be greater than 6 per cent, and the city is now paying that interest on all its outstanding warrants. The suggestion of the mayor is well worth considering, as it presents numerous advantages over the present method of conducting the business affairs of the city. Under existing circumstances it is a difficult proposition to administer the financial affairs of the municipality to the best interests of the taxpayers, for lack of actual cash.

HOT WEATHER HINTS.

Yes, it's hot. Of course it is hot. This is the season when it is usually hot in this climate. You expected it to be hot didn't you? You didn't expect it to be thirteen degrees below zero in July, the longest days in the year, when the sun gets the highest in the heavens and pours his rays down straight upon us for the most consecutive hours of any time in the year? Of course it's hot. It ought to be hot. So what in thunder is the use of saying every time you meet some one, "It's hot, ain't it?"

But if you will be just a little sensible about the matter you will get through the hot weather all right and not be particularly uncomfortable. Use the same sort of judgment that you do about cold weather. In cold weather you dress warmly. You eat plenty of heat-producing foods. You take plenty of exercise and do hard work. In hot weather do the opposite. Eat sparingly and then of foods easily digested. Dress comfortably. Exercise as little as consistent with good health. Keep your temper. Nothing heats one up so much as "getting hot." Don't fret and worry. If you must worry do it in the cool of the evening, or put it off until winter.

ADVERTISE PROPERLY.

Does it pay to advertise? It certainly does, or there would not be so much of it done, and such large sums of money expended for that purpose every year. The Ladies' Home Journal gets \$5,000 an issue for their back cover page; \$4000 for an inside page, and \$1250 for a quarter page, general run of the paper. Yes, advertising pays, if done right and persistently. But spasmodic advertising does not pay. Spasmodic advertising is just about as valuable as spasmodic solicitation of

orders by a salesman on the road. If your salesman calls upon a man once and does not get an order, does he stop calling on that man, or does he keep on calling on until he finally gets his order? It is fair to expect an advertisement to do what a salesman cannot do with the goods to show? And yet people will insert an advertisement in a trade paper two or three issues, and if it does not immediately produce results in the way of orders, will condemn the publication in toto. The advertisement has not had time to get friendly with the readers before it is taken out.—Retail Merchant.

OUR REPUBLICANISM.

An old-line republican, doubtful if he is receiving his money's worth, asks The Sentinel to state what kind of a republican newspaper it is, and we have no particular objection to bunch and sum up the answers to this question occasionally. The Sentinel is republican because it believes that the republican party is still best able and willing to carry out the policies it believes in. It is not republican enough to accept and support policies it does not believe in because persons in control of the republican organization advance them contrary to the mandate of the people and in violation of pledges. Men and newspapers no longer say they support republican or democratic policies and leaders; they support certain well-defined policies and the men they believe will carry them out. This makes policies a question of principles and men rather than parties. The Sentinel supports the republican policies of McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft and Hughes; it opposes the policies Cannon, Aldrich, Hale and Lodge term republican and try to impose upon the country in legislation.

In other words The Sentinel is for the people whose taxes upon consumption support the government and whose votes placed the republican party in power and keep it there. It does not tolerate the selfish interests whose money puts republicans in congress to break pledges and deny promises made to the people when they were seeking election in order to perpetuate monopoly by which these interests enjoy the fruits of taxation. This distinction should not exist, and cannot be permanent, because no party can survive long thus divided. The progressive republicans of this commonwealth will soon put an end to it by reorganizing the party that the people will govern it, and it will keep the promise it makes to them. The Sentinel believes the people should rule.

KILL THE FLIES.

The man or woman who "wouldn't hurt a fly" is not, as we once imagined in our dark ignorance, a gentle, kindly person, but an enemy to the race. It is our duty to hurt the fly, to exterminate it in fact. Health boards, women's clubs, a national civic association, have declared war on the fly. The department of agriculture has thundered against it. Solutions of formalin in water will kill all the flies in the room, we are told. If you hesitate to take part in this deadly campaign, remember that the common house fly is now called the typhoid fly. There may be some doubt as to the exact propriety of this name, but we, not the fly, get the benefit of the doubt. The fly is filthy, a carrier of intestinal and other diseases, a menace to life and no good housewife, no dutiful mother, will tolerate even a few flies in the kitchen or dining room. Some lurid and unpleasant posters have been issued in certain cities to depict the evil deeds and disgusting habits of the house fly. It should not be necessary to resort to such methods. A sweeping indictment should be enough. The fly is more dangerous than the mosquito, yet the latter hasn't a friend in the world. Tell the truth about the fly in general terms, and every hand that is not hopelessly lazy will be raised against it.

GET RID OF ALDRICH.

It is an interesting paradox that the public business of the country is going to be facilitated by getting rid of the most skilled and experienced business manager the national government has had for a long time. The trouble is that Senator Aldrich, who has managed the affairs of the government from an unobtrusive committee room for many years has lost his power to accomplish results by losing the confidence of the people of the country. Perhaps it is not quite accurate to say he has lost what he never really had. He was powerful only when he remained obscure. He could manage the government through his control of legislative machinery only as long as the people did not know he was doing it. As soon as they found out a cloud of public distrust gathered ahead of everything he undertook and his progress in every direction was subtly impeded.

He rounded out his public career with the mastery triumph of passing a law in the interest of special privilege precisely opposite to that demanded by the people and promised by those the people had put in power. That tremendous effort exhausted his forces. It was his ambition to reform the currency of the country in the same way that he had reformed the tariff. But the dull mutterings of public distrust and opposition to every proposal emanating from him, however plausible and necessary, warned him that his

public usefulness was at an end. Probably no one is so competent as he for the work of currency reform, but the work will be advanced by his retirement because the people distrust everything he does.

If the next house shall be democratic probably half of the members will be elected by republican votes, like Foss of Massachusetts and Havens of New York. These will bring a broader intelligence to the problems of legislation than the present democratic majority shows under the leadership of Champ Clark. They will be more concerned to reform the tariff, control corporations and conserve national wealth than to make cheap capital for the democratic party. With progressives of both parties in control of both houses, the chance of legislation may be even better than now, with the republican majority hide-bound by machine organization and the democratic minority hunting for capital.

The parade last Saturday, given under the auspices of the Sweet Pea Show committee, was an unqualified success, reflecting credit upon those who participated as well as the promoters. The decorations were equal to those seen at the Rose Festival at Portland, and while on a much smaller scale the parade compared favorably with those at the metropolis.

Grant B. Dimick of Oregon City has entered the gubernatorial arena, and will make a campaign on uniform laws for the construction of public highways and strict economy in public laws.

Wanted, some man who can convince the mossback element of Cottage Grove that community publicity is a remunerative investment.

Jay Bowerman wants the endorsement of the assembly for governor. It is said that he has the pledge of the Lane county delegation. But there's something besides endorsement to get into the executive chair.

The primaries indicate that the voters are giving particular attention to the little Cannons, who carried out all the bunco schemes of the speaker and his senatorial ally in the committee on rules of the house of representatives. The voters have a way of personifying their vengeance. They cannot punish a whole legislative body without manifest injustice. The secret machinery by which the will of the people was thwarted and the promises made to them broken is too impersonal to reach. They who want to discipline the Republican organization pick their victims here and there, as a Roman legion was decimated.

Cottage Grove will have water in abundance late in September. The new mountain water system will then be completed.

Ex-President Roosevelt will make at least one political speech in Indiana this fall in support of Senator Beveridge, whose opponent is John W. Kern, former democratic nominee for vice-president.

The principal involved in the amendment proposed by the Good Roads association is the right of the people of any community to manage its own business. And this same principal is involved in the several county division measures.

Although the petition of the promoters of proposed Umpqua county was not filed with the secretary of state, it is conceded that the western portion of Lane county is entitled to self-government, and a bill for its creation will doubtless be initiated at the next general election.

Fully realizing that he is "not as young as he used to be," Justice Vaughn has declared his intention not to become a candidate for re-election this fall. He has served continuously for more than a quarter century, and although still active for one of his years he has concluded to give way to other aspirants who may bob up at the approaching election.

Over 1,000,000 foreigners came to America the past year. Of this number something like 11,000 were returned as undesirable. The year before 24,000 were shipped back. A million a year is a pretty big influx from foreign countries. It would be interesting to know how many of these immigrants will try to fasten upon this country the conditions they left behind.

The assembly or old convention plan for nominating candidates for office in Curry is decidedly a dead issue. If there is one man in favor of the assembly in Curry, he keeps his opinion to himself and it is well that he does if he has any aspiration for office. A man hunting office, wearing the assembly badge, would certainly be handled with gloves by the voters of Curry.—Gold Beach Globe.

The Brownsville Times has received Eugene's literature against the division of Lane and Douglas counties, by the creation of Nesmith, and remarks that it does not speak well for the "Eugene Spirit" of which the public has heard so much about during recent years. The Times is of the opinion that the circular will have the effect of making votes for Nesmith. It adds: "Any-way, Nesmith will win, and Linn county will help."



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200 Acres, 10 miles from Cottage Grove, 40 acres in cultivation, 40 acres seeded to pasture, 40 acres timber, 80 acres easily cleared, good family orchard of 300 choice fruit trees in bearing, good out range for stock, good 8-room farm house and large barn, wood house, milk and fruit house, chicken houses and yards, water at door, creek water, on county road. This is one of the best places for farming and stock raising in Oregon. Price is \$5,000. Terms on part.

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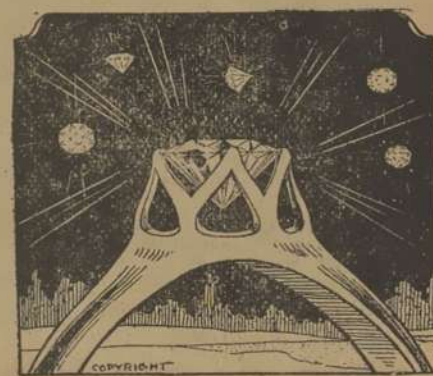
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