

The Sentinel

A Weekly Newspaper With Plenty of Backbone

Elbert Bede and Elbert Smith Publishers
Elbert Bede, Editor

A first-class publication entered at Cottage Grove, Ore., as second-class matter Business Office—412 East Main

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One year—\$2.25 (Three months—.65c)
Six months—1.15 (Single copy—.5c)
No subscription listed for less than 65c
A reduction of 25c for paying a full year in advance

Member of
National Editorial Association
Oregon State Editorial Association
Oregon Newspaper Conference
Lane County Publishers' Association

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1920

ADVICE ON MEASURES.

Following its usual custom, The Sentinel this week offers its advice on measures presented to voters. In doing so, it again urges voters to read the official pamphlet and study for themselves the arguments presented there.

300-301—Compulsory Voting and Registration Amendment.—Referred by legislature. Does not prescribe methods, but makes it possible for laws to be enacted by people or legislature permitting voting by persons absent from their precincts on election day, or unable to go to polls on account of illness. Also enables people or legislature to make voting compulsory. The latter provision is the result of the continued decline in the percentage of voters going to the polls. As an enabling act only it is not dangerous but The Sentinel thinks considerable care should be taken in the prescribing of any methods to make voting compulsory, or partially so. It does not believe the legislature or the people would follow this act with any legislation that would put compulsory voting into effect. For that reason this would be an unnecessary law. The first provisions of the amendment may be desirable but would add greatly to the expense of elections.

302-303—Constitutional Amendment Regulating Legislative Sessions and the Payment of Legislators.—Referred by legislature. This amendment would lengthen the legislative session from 40 days to 60 days, would prohibit the introduction of bills (except appropriation bills and bills having to do with the national defense) after the fortieth day, and would raise the pay of legislators from \$3 the day to \$5 the day. The salient feature of this amendment is that it gives for the introduction and enactment of bills the same number of days that are contained in the entire present legislative session and then gives 20 additional days for careful and deliberate consideration of the legislation which has been introduced but not acted upon. This is an amendment made necessary by the growth of the state. The business can not be handled in the same length of time it could 50 years ago. The provision of 20 days for consideration of legislation is a wise and progressive one and will do away with the last minute rush which often accounts for unwise legislation. The provision for raise of pay of legislators needs no comment. No one any longer works for \$3 a day, and few for \$5, the wage proposed in this amendment. Most of the legislative clerks and stenographers now get more pay than the legislators. Be particularly not to confuse this amendment with the divided session amendment, which will appear further down on the ballot.

304-305—Oleomargarine Bill.—Enacted by legislature. Referred to the people upon petition circulated by associated industries. Bill was only enacted after amendments had taken the teeth out of it. Originally designed as a protection to the dairy industry, it means nothing to that industry in its present form, nor does it greatly hamper the oleo industry, at which it was aimed. No arguments appear in the voters' pamphlet either for or against the bill, indicating that neither side deems it of any great importance, which makes it appear an unnecessary piece of legislation that would only encumber the statutes.

306-307—Single Tax Amendment.—Proposed by petition by Single Tax league. At last the single taxers have brought out a measure devoid of deception. No need to discuss the possible harmful effects of a single tax. This measure should be snowed under even deeper than those of sim-

ilar import which have appeared in years past in sheep's clothing.

308-309—Amendment Fixing Term of Certain County Officers.—Proposed by initiative petition. Would fix the terms of office of county clerk, sheriff, treasurer, coroner and surveyor at four years. No great demand for this amendment. Plenty of candidates at present two-year term. This kind of legislation should properly be first presented to the legislature for reference to the people.

310-311—Port of Portland Dock Commission Consolidation Bill.—Proposed by initiative petition by leading business men of Portland. This is a local measure, in that the port of Portland pays the taxes, but the courts have held that all measures affecting the port are of concern to the entire state, so that the port has no option but to present the subject to the entire state. This measure gives the port of Portland the power to provide port facilities and an adequate channel to the sea. In case the people within the port do not favor this bill, the port commission, so it is announced, will not issue the bonds authorized by the measure. On the other hand, should the people of the state as a whole defeat the measure, the bonds could not be issued, even though those who would pay the taxes voted unanimously for the measure. To vote for the measure is, therefore, equivalent to giving the people of the port the privilege of doing as they please with their own money.

312-313—Anti-Compulsory Vaccination Amendment.—Proposed by initiative petition. This measure is a vicious one and its title misleading. It not only would do away with compulsory vaccination but would take from health authorities the power to enforce any health regulations. There would be no power to control epidemics. The leper and the smallpox sufferer would be allowed to go wherever they pleased, whenever they pleased. A more vicious measure never proposed. Swat it good.

314-315—Constitutional Amendment Fixing Legal Rate of Interest in Oregon.—Proposed by initiative petition.

Commonly believed that this measure was proposed for the purpose of getting "hush" money from those it directly affects. No affirmative argument appears in pamphlet. Note particularly that this measure proposes only to fix legal rates in Oregon. Of course, Oregon voters could go no further, but these two words point out the danger in the bill. Money would be driven from Oregon and invested in states where it could earn higher returns. Loans now made would not be renewed. No new capital would come here for investment. That already here would leave. Bankruptcy of farmers, business and industries would follow. The most vicious attack upon agriculture, business and industry ever made in Oregon. Read negative arguments in the pamphlet and swat it good.

316-317—Roosevelt Bird Refuge Measure.—Proposed by initiative petition by some of the state's best citizens. Would cede Malheur lake in eastern Oregon to the federal government for a permanent bird refuge, forever taking the lands within the boundary line from control of the state and from the tax rolls of the state. There may be some question as to whether or not this should be made a permanent bird refuge, but there is no question as to the issue of whether or not we want more of our lands taken off the tax rolls and taken from our control. Leave the disposition of this lake to the legislature, which has ample power to act.

318-319—Divided Legislative Session Constitutional Amendment.—Proposed by initiative petition by State Taxpayers' league. This measure would divide the legislative session. In forty days legislation would be introduced and acted upon as at present. After an intermission of 60 days the legislature would again assemble, at which time legislation which received affirmative action at the previous session would again come up for action and at that time could only be amended upon a four-fifths vote. This is a freak measure modeled after a similar measure enacted in California, which is reported as not working as well as the former method. During the intermission of two months all manner of influences could be brought to bear upon legislators, the legislative organization would be lost and could hardly be put in working order during the ten-day session. The provision for a four-fifths vote to make an amendment means four-fifths of the membership, and not four-fifths of those present, which would put into the hands of a few the power to defeat the will of a large majority, which feature in itself, undoubtedly put there as a safeguard against sinister influence, is so contrary to the idea of government by the majority that it is enough to defeat

the amendment. Be particular not to confuse this amendment with the second amendment on the ballot which provides for an extended legislative session but with no intermission. The former measure, the second on the ballot, was submitted by the legislature itself, which rejected the divided session idea. The members themselves should be the best judges of how the business best can be conducted and the amendment proposed by them, the second on the ballot, should be given a trial before the freak divided session amendment is given consideration. This freak amendment would enlarge the influence of the press and put money in its coffers because of the advertising that would be likely to be used during the intermission between sessions, but this is not sufficient to warrant its adoption. It would not do away with the last minute jam of legislation, for all laws must be favorably acted upon at the first forty-day session or they get no further consideration.

320-321—State Market Commission Act.—Proposed by initiative petition by State Taxpayers' league. The title tells the story. The object is to reduce the cost of getting produce from the producer to the consumer. Undoubtedly this will increase the amount the producer will receive and decrease the amount the consumer will pay. While two new offices, with salaries attached are created, the fact that the State Taxpayers' league is behind the act would indicate that the additional expense put on the state is much more than offset by the benefits to accrue to the individuals of the state. Patterned after the California law which is said to be getting best fiscal results.

[Voters who compare the explanation of measures given here with the explanations of several of them by individuals published elsewhere, will find some slight discrepancies in stating the provisions of the measures, but we believe that if voters will study the pamphlet they will find that The Sentinel's explanations are the correct ones.]

BEAN WRITES ON FREAK MEASURES.

No one in Lane county is more familiar with legislative affairs than Representative L. E. Bean. For that reason the following discussion of measures is valuable:

Eugene, Ore., Oct. 16.—(To the Editor.)—There are eleven constitutional amendments and measures on the ballot to be voted on at the November election. As is usual, some of these measures are extremely freakish and calculated to do great harm and disturb general business conditions and in fact do injury to the good name of the state of Oregon. Among these measures is the proposed single tax amendment which has been before the people in various forms at many elections, and is probably sufficiently understood by the voters to insure its defeat; the proposed constitutional amendment fixing the legal rate of interest in Oregon at 4 per cent which has also been more or less discussed and, of course, should be voted down; but of all the freaks to be voted on is the proposed divided legislative session. This measure, if adopted, will make Oregon the laughing stock of other states and is so ridiculous in its attempt to do away with representative government and majority rule as to be unworthy of the least favorable consideration.

Under this proposed measure, if adopted, the legislature would first convene in January and be held in session for 40 days, during which time bills could be introduced, but none passed, no matter how many bills were ready for final action. At the end of 40 days the legislature would have to adjourn for a 60-day period. Necessarily all clerical help would be discharged, all members would go home at state expense and the working organization would be broken up.

After a 60-day rest period, the legislature would reconvene at state expense for the final session of 10 days, at which all bills introduced during the 40 days would be up for final passage. As there must be one Sunday intervening in the 10 days there would be only 9 working days, so a jam of bills such as an Oregon legislature has never seen would necessarily follow, which would mean that no measure could be properly considered. Amendment of bills is made practically impossible, as a four-fifths vote is required for that purpose, thus doing away with majority rule and completely destroying representative government. For illustration: The senate consists of 30 members. Four-fifths of 30 is 24; to amend a bill there must be 24 affirmative votes. If it should occur that 6 members were absent and one senator should vote no on any amendment and 23 should vote yes, the one vote, under the proposed bill, would defeat the 23 who desired to amend a measure. Under such form of legislation it would be possible for one or two big interests to block all legislation or get anything demanded, as a price for no opposition.

Every citizen of Oregon, having the welfare of this state at heart, should vote against this freak measure, No. 319 no.

There is a measure, however, on the ballot pertaining to legislative sessions, known as house joint resolution No. 8, which was submitted to the people by the last legislature and provides that the legislative session shall be extended so as not to exceed 60 actual working days. This additional time to consider bills would give ample time for good, safe and careful work and avoid congestion of legislative business in the closing days of the session. This measure was submitted by the legislature after careful consideration and full knowledge of the need of further time in the legislative work. The measure provides that no bill can be introduced after the 35th working day of the session, except upon unanimous consent upon roll call of the members, which would prevent a flood of bills during the closing days. Twenty-five days, or such of that time as may be needed, is provided for final consideration of bills introduced during the first period, and insures against congestion of the legislative work during the closing days of the session. Under this measure, all work of the legislature will be continuous, and above board.

In the interest of economy and good legislation this measure should be approved by the people as a part of the constitution of this state. No. 302 yes, L. E. BEAN.

Phone your news. The Sentinel wants it. Our number is 159-J.

"Capital and Industry, Keep Out!"

Would You as a Patriotic Citizen of Oregon, Place Such a Sign on the Borders of the State?

That is exactly what you will help to do if you do nothing to prevent the passage of measure No. 314 and 315 on the November ballot entitled, "Constitutional Amendment Fixing Legal Rate of Interest in Oregon."

This measure proposes to limit the rate of interest in Oregon to 5 per cent. You can, by law, fix the rate of interest in Oregon, but you cannot, by law, force the loaning of money in this state, when a much higher rate can be secured elsewhere. The passage of this measure would force the withdrawal of the millions of foreign capital which is today loaned on factories, business and real estate in the state and send your local money owners outside of the state to better investments.

Passage of this measure would mean foreclosure of thousands of mortgages; would result in financial paralysis, and would mean widespread unemployment.

You, no doubt, understand the viciousness of this measure, but have you talked to your neighbors and friends about it? We urge you to do everything you can to defeat this measure. Oregon's reputation as a sound state for investments requires that this measure be overwhelming, by defeated.

Vote 315 X No

and urge your friends to do likewise

Paid Adv.—622-29pd

STATE TAXPAYERS LEAGUE

As a Citizen of Oregon You Need the Port of Portland

If you owned a store you could not make a big success unless your business methods were as modern as your competitors'. Unless Oregon develops her shipping facilities she cannot expect to get her share of the world's business. It rests with the citizens of this state whether Oregon shall develop her wonderful resources and reach out for bigger markets, or remain practically an inland state.

To become a real port, a 30 foot channel must be dredged in the Columbia and Willamette rivers from Portland to the Pacific ocean. This will enable farmers, stockmen and lumbermen in the interior of the state to reach the markets of the world at a lower freight rate and greater profit to themselves.

The taxing and bonding power to make these improvements can be granted the Port of Portland only by the people of the state. You and every other citizen will benefit if you, on November second,

Vote 310 Yes on the Ballot—the Port of Portland Dock Commission Consolidation Bill.

Pd. Ad.—Oregon Port Development League, L. W. Trimble, Secretary

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