

Oregon City Courier

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DIRECT LEGISLATION THE NATION'S PAR- AMOUNT ISSUE

For a number of years the National Economic League has been perfecting plans for the education of the American people on economic and social problems.

First: To form a national council, composed of men of the highest type of intelligence and integrity representing all sections of the country.

Second: To organize, for the discussion of these problems, non-partisan clubs in as many cities and towns as possible throughout the country.

Third: To provide bureaus to assist the clubs in securing speakers for their meetings.

Fourth: To appoint special committees to study and investigate the subjects discussed and to submit reports covering their findings.

What the League hopes to accomplish is as follows: First: To have the great issues before the country directly initiated by the best independent thought rather than left, as now, to the exigencies of political conventions.

Second: To have these issues fairly and fully discussed before non-partisan audiences in all parts of the country by the ablest speakers obtainable representing all sides of a question.

Third: To secure the judgment of impartial expert commissions upon the issues considered, and, through the widest possible dissemination of their findings, to furnish to the people in concise form such information as will assist them to reach intelligent conclusions and enable them to choose as their political leaders the men who are most likely to represent the country's best thought and ideals.

For the purpose of determining which of the subjects named below were of the most importance a vote has been recently taken. The preferential system was employed in order to obviate the necessity of a third ballot.

First—Direct legislation, including direct primary nominations, direct election of United States senators, initiative, referendum and recall, 35 per cent; second, inefficiency and delay of the courts in the administration of justice, 19 per cent; third, regulation and control of corporations, 8 per cent; fourth, centralization of power in the federal government, 7 per cent; fifth, conservation of natural resources, 3 per cent; sixth, the tariff, 8 per cent; seventh, the public school system in relation to physical, intellectual, civic, moral and vocational training, 5 per cent; eighth, efficiency and economy in federal, state and municipal administration, 7 per cent; ninth, corporation influence in politics, 2 per cent; tenth, taxation, 3 per cent; eleventh, relation between employer and workmen, 3 per cent. As a second and final choice, direct election secured 55.6 per cent and inefficiency and delay in the courts 43.5 per cent.

The method of determining the preferential vote was as follows: A count was made of the first choices for each subject, the result showing that direct legislation as a first preference had secured 35 per cent of all the votes cast. The ballots for the subject receiving the smallest number of votes were then redistributed according to the preference of the voters and another count was made. This eliminating process was continued until only the two subjects receiving the greatest number of first, second, third and other votes remained.

The result of the vote may be summed up as follows: As between the first and second subjects on the ballot a majority of the voters favored the first. As against all of the other subjects voted upon, a majority of the voters favored the first two. These questions, therefore, direct legislation, and inefficiency and delay in the administration of justice, may be considered to be the choice of the National Council as the subjects of greatest importance for consideration by the country at the present time.

The advanced legislation of the

state of Oregon on the first proposition has been brought to the attention of many of the legislatures now in session in many of the eastern states, and in a number of instances members of different state legislatures have been elected on direct legislation as their platform. The time will come when all the states will enact direct legislative measures, but, like all great reforms, it will take time.

GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL ASSO- CIATION

It has been suggested that steps be taken on Washington's birthday this year to organize branch societies of the National George Washington Memorial Association, an organization that was incorporated in Washington in 1888 to bring about a popular memorial that would carry out Washington's insistent wish for the increase of higher education in this country.

Every citizen is entitled to form his own opinion as to this effect of the proposed memorial, from a definite statement of its purposes. The use to which the building will be devoted and for which it will be designed is to provide a world forum for every worthy cause that requires national or international conventions, with sufficient auditoriums and halls to accommodate any size of assembly, and different conventions at one time should need arise.

The Boy Scout movement throughout the country has increased so rapidly that they are now going to have a national annual convention, the first one of which will be held in Washington next week. It will gather together the leaders of the movement in various parts of the country, who will report on the growth of the movement and make plans for the ensuing year.

KEEP THE BALL ROLLING

The recent appropriation of seventy-five million dollars by the stockholders of the Harriman system for the purpose of bettering their system is taken by eastern financial men to mean that there is no present prospect of any depression in business circles. Although Harriman spent nearly four times that amount when he first acquired control of the Union and Southern Pacific in extension and improvement of old road beds, still, considering the tendency of railways in general to favor retrenchment wherever possible, this is an amount sufficient to keep a large number of laboring people employed for a long time to come.

The Grumpacker resolution, increasing the number of representatives to 433 has passed the house and will probably pass the senate. Under this apportionment California gains three representatives, Washington two, while Oregon, with more natural advantages than either state, gains only one. What excuse is there for letting our neighbors surpass us? It is because they have more live wires, better roads, and have more extensively advertised these attractions? It cannot be the climate as Oregon's climatic conditions cannot be surpassed in the United States. Possibly Oregon has too much law to suit timid investors. There must be a reason, and whatever it is should be remedied if it lies in the hands of the people to do so.

Why a Checking Account?

- The checking account at a good bank is a necessity with every one who wants to put system, safety and stability into his money matters. It records accurately every money transaction. It prevents the necessity of carrying a large amount of cash on hand. It provides, in the returned cancelled check, a receipt for every payment. You can open a checking account here at any time, with any sum from a dollar up.

The Bank of Oregon City

The Oldest Bank in the County

advantages of this locality. No time should be lost. A large number of American farmers are settling in the Canadian provinces for lack of information concerning Oregon's advantages. High taxes and small crops cause unrest among the agricultural classes in far eastern points and now is the time to distribute information concerning the innumerable inducements of this locality.

THE RECIPROCITY MUDDLE

Apparently the reciprocity agreement with Canada has placed the Republican party in a worse plight than it was in just after the passage of the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill. It was then run astunder by the accession of the so-called progressive elements, but now Senator Cummins, the leader of the progressives, refuses to sanction the progressive attitude of the president, asserting that the farmers of the West have much to lose and nothing to gain. Senator Cummins' views have evidently undergone a change since the debate on the Payne measure in the senate, as at that time he was one of the leaders in favoring a reduction of the duties on all articles necessary to cheapen the cost of living.

The Oregon University at Eugene has a civil war veteran among its students in the person of W. C. Cusick, 69 years old. The venerable student is making a study of botany, and has collected a large number of flora which he will turn over to the university when completed.

An exchange wants to know if women will change their opinions when they become judges of the court.

WEEKLY SUMMARY OF NEWS.

GENERAL AND PERSONAL

Madame Emma Eames proposes to pay \$100,000 to the discarded wife of Emilie De Gogorza, provided she will release her claims as the great singer and permit her to marry for her affinity.

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The Senate unanimously passed the bill locating the Panama fair at San Francisco, and it now awaits the president's signature to become a law.

Speaker Cannon in a letter to Senator Bailey of Danville, strongly opposed the reciprocity treaty with Canada.

The new mayor of Seattle has claimed down the lid and the undesirable are leaving the city.

Col. Goethels, chief engineer of the Panama canal, says the canal will be completed by September 1, 1913, at a cost of \$890,000,000.

Not satisfied with reciprocal relations with Canada, President Taft now wants to include all the South American republics in treaties similar to that proposed for Canada.

Judge Lovett, president of the Harriman system, in an interview in Chicago, declares that their roads will not only spend \$75,000,000, but a much more, and he sees many signs of encouragement and no alarm signals in the financial sky.

The Salloway pension bill which recently passed the house has been favorably recommended for passage by the senate pension committee.

The split in the Methodist church in 1844 over the question of slavery caused the formation of the Methodist Church and the Methodist Church South. The leading representatives of these organizations in convention at Chattanooga recently claim that there no longer exists any necessity for two associations, and they have decided that their publishing houses in New York, Cincinnati and Chicago, will be known hereafter as the "Methodist Book Concern."

Vivian Gould Beresford is rapidly becoming a full-fledged society lady. She has acquired the cigarette habit.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

United States military posts in Texas surrendered by General Twiggs to confederates.

Jefferson Davis inaugurated president and Alexander H. Stevens vice president of the Southern Confederacy in Montgomery, Ala.

President-elect Lincoln arrived in New York on way to Washington.

Lincoln arrived in Washington February 23. False reports of assassination were circulated.

Weston, the merchant, reaches Hartford on way to Washington to witness inauguration ceremonies.

In an address on the utilization of dairy products before the Oregon state dairy convention, Mr. James Withycombe claims that the cow of all animals on the farm takes the least from the farm and returns the most to the farmer. The cow is the conservator of wealth, because she manufactures from the crude feed the highest priced products of the farm without withdrawing much from its storehouse of fertility, or in other words the cow fattens the land.

President Taft is evidently on the eve of a rupture with the stand-pat element of the Republican party.

The Buchanan bill providing for protection against forest fires and appropriating \$50,000 for that purpose, has passed the house.

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OREGON NEWS NOTES

This is farmers' week at the Oregon Agricultural College and there is a large attendance of those interested in agricultural problems.

The California assembly unanimously passed a bill limiting the hours of labor for women to eight.

The Southern Pacific propose to have their road double-tracked from San Francisco to Omaha before the fair opens.

The Hampton Magazine, which was sued for \$250,000 on the charge of selling impure material to candy manufacturers, has made an apology to the Standard Oil Company and the matter will probably be dropped.

Ten billion passengers were carried on the electrical railways of the United States during the year 1910.

The Montreal Star, the leading paper in Canada, strongly opposes the pending reciprocity treaty with the United States.

Col. Theodore Roosevelt delivered a speech at Grand Rapids, Mich., on Lincoln's birthday and he took occasion to come out squarely in favor of the election of United States senators by the people and also in favor of the reciprocity treaty with Canada.

Speaker Cannon in a letter to Senator Bailey of Danville, strongly opposed the reciprocity treaty with Canada.

Mayor Gaynor of New York refuses to register as a Democrat, claiming that while he holds office he belongs to no party.

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STATE CAPITOL GOSSIP

The Huntington bill, providing for the appointment of county education

boards in counties having 40 school districts, has passed both houses of the legislature. The boards are to consist of the county superintendent and four other members, who are to serve without pay.

Representative Sutton's bill providing for a count of the votes at primary and general elections to commence within an hour after the polls open passed the house on Saturday with only two dissenting votes.

Gov. West has vetoed the bill to abolish the whipping post, declaring that the wife beater is as much of a relic of barbarism as the whipping post.

The house has passed the bill of the Lane county delegation appropriating \$503,258 for increased maintenance and additional buildings for the University of Oregon.

The governor has approved the bill appropriating \$50,000 for the Astoria centennial celebration.

A bill has passed the house providing for a second choice at primary elections. It provides that where no candidate has received enough votes to constitute a majority of the total vote cast, then a canvass shall be made of the second choice, and the candidate receiving the highest number of first and second choice votes shall be declared the nominee of the party.

Grangers in the house will support the bill appropriating \$10,000 annually for the establishment and maintenance of a department of college extension of the Oregon Agricultural College.

The Buchanan bill providing for protection against forest fires and appropriating \$50,000 for that purpose, has passed the house.

Senator Carson's bill providing for a registration of voters by county assessors has passed the senate.

The bill repealing the whipping post law passed the house over the governor's veto.

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