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OREGON'S
SELF APPOINTED DICTATORS

The latest opposition to the assembly is a pamphlet from nobody knows whom or where otherwise than responsibility for it is assumed by ten men whose names appear on the title page, some of them office holders, others who possibly expect to be. The writers of the pamphlet condemn the assembly in unmeasured terms in advance of knowledge of its virtues or shortcomings and in fact clearly demonstrate that they are in favor of government by an oligarchy instead of through representatives of the people.

As far as we know no one except themselves has called upon these pure minded and disinterested gentlemen to assume so much mental effort and expense for the regeneration of their fellow voters. Who is assuming the expense of this voluminous document? We do not know, but there is an effusion in it from one gentleman who occupies the highest office in the gift of the state whom we doubt not would be more than willing to do so. In fact his most particular distinction to statesmanship is his reputation to conduct the most expensive state wide campaign through the mails ever invented or thought of. Of course we refer to that able legislator Jonathan Bourne. Mr. Bourne's contribution is an article in favor of nominating the president of the United States by direct vote. It is sufficient to say in regard to it that it is elucidated in the usual profound manner of this bo(urn)e statesman.

The other names are those of Geo. M. Orton, E. S. J. McAllister, C. Schuebel, C. E. S. Wood, Lee M. Clark, H. J. Parkison, Will Daly, Henry E. McGinn and W. U'Ren, who the pamphlet states are responsible for the authorship of unsigned articles.

In short these ten men without the advice, suggestion or direction of any party, organization or meeting as far as is known would seek to dictate the politics of the state. The proposed 1,100 or 1,200 delegates to the assembly of the state must not be assumed to have the right or intelligence that this self-appointed council of ten has. Or as Judge Henry McGinn, one of the most ardent disciples of this "holier than thou" elite, puts it: "these self-appointed saviors" of the state's politics. The judge's contribution is a speech which he delivered before the Union Republican Club in Portland recently, in which he wanted it emphatically understood that he had reformed; in which he adopted the attitude of the publican, raised his eyes aloft and remarked "Oh Lord I thank thee that I am no longer as other men," and the other men no doubt thanked the Lord that he was not.

In arraigning the Republican party for its past delinquencies Mr. McGinn expresses no hope for its re-generation in the future, except through the channels prescribed by the council of ten. Progress, moral and industrial is taken no account of; political conditions must be the same in the future that they were in the past. Having waxed fat under the rule of the party that has brought the greatest era of progress and prosperity to its people of any nation in the world, the judge declares in holy horror "What do you mean by Republicans; the Aldriches, the Paynes, the Cannons? Then I am not a Republican." It is probable that if the Aldriches, the Paynes and the Cannons were called on to give an opinion of the Republicanism of the McGinns, the Bournes and the U'Rens, that they would return the compliment by echoing this

sentiment in regard to the latter.

Judge McGinn announces that he will stump the state to defeat the assembly and if necessary to disorganize the party to do it. In other words, while not called upon to do so, he will assume with his fellows the role of dictator notwithstanding his much vaunted sentiment of representative government as applied in the direct primary. As a prophet of evil Judge McGinn lacks the saving grace of a Demosthenes and causes us to opine that he has something up his sleeve.

The pamphlet covers many other features aimed to disrupt the Republican party in the state. It opposes the calling of a constitutional convention to revise the obsolete measure that is now serving Oregon and a revision of which would undoubtedly do away with some of the provisions that are inimical to the state's development. It also favors the ownership of railroads by the state. Not content with running the affairs of the state the council of ten makes suggestions as to laws for governing counties that they shall be more subservient to a central power, making its authority more absolute.

Its concluding advice is in favor of establishing non-partisan commission government for cities. In this connection the form

mean special privileges to capitalists who could secure control of government land, crop it, perhaps, and hold it indefinitely for a rise in value. The measure is certainly not framed in the interest of those whom the homestead law was passed to benefit.

There have no doubt been abuses of the provisions of the present law, but when the hardships that many men, and it may be added women also, who have taken up homesteads have endured, are taken into consideration it is not to be wondered at. Volumes about the struggles of these heroic men and women could be written and then their stories not half told. Nevertheless, the conditions of acquiring government land under the present law will still continue to leave the field open to the brave and hardy who have not the means to secure it otherwise.

Wherever the provisions of the proposed bill have been analyzed it is being opposed, and it should be. The public lands should be left open to the settler and homesteader. For, besides leaving a ray of hope for the man with little or no means to secure land, it will result in greater development to the state.

THE O. A. C. EXPERTS

The visit of the experts from the Oregon Agricultural college should prove valuable to the students of horticulture and growers generally

as possible and encourage these men to come more frequently, in addition to getting information that may prove of great benefit. While the professors of agriculture do not know it all, it is admitted that they have advanced the occupation of tilling the soil or growing fruit to a position akin to science and their advice and instruction should be courted.

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of election used in England is used to bolster up the idea, notwithstanding that conditions in that country and others which it cites are totally different from those in the United States. The merits of the commission idea of government are not above reproach. It is openly stated that the commission recently elected to govern the city of Boston savors notoriously of the "machine" which the council of ten so loudly decries.

In truth the pamphlet is an advocate of untried political methods which, although gaining ground in several states, is apt to bring about an unsettled condition of national and state affairs that can best be described as alarming to the country's future prosperity. Like the oligarchy who would govern Oregon the movement has its counterpart in other states where men would tear apart the fabric that has made the state and nation, and give it nothing or a dangerous remedy as a substitute.

BOURNE'S HOMESTEAD BILL

We are in receipt of a copy of a bill being espoused by Senator Bourne in Congress making the production of crops instead of residence the provision for acquiring title to homestead land. The measure looks harmless, but as a matter of fact its adoption would

at Hood River. It is by an interchange of ideas between the horticultural expert and the practical grower that the best results can be achieved. Growers should see to it that they arrange their affairs to attend as many of these meet-

from the action taken by Congress last week looking toward its suppression, and from the action of the City of New York in appropriating \$25,000 to bring about the conviction of the guilty ones in that city.

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