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**A BILL TO DEFEAT**  
 A bill which should by all means be defeated next week is that entitled the Majority Rule Amendment. This measure, if passed, would require for the adoption of any proposed constitutional amendment or measure submitted by initiative a majority vote of all the electors voting at such election, instead of a majority of those voting on the amendment only. With the amendment in effect the initiative would become nothing more than "a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal." The people would have shorn themselves of power under the initiative. The only danger of this amendment passing is that the people may approve it through ignorance of its intent or as a result of the vigorous campaign which is being made by the interests to effect its passage. Only a moment's consideration is necessary to convince one that to secure a majority of all votes cast at an election in favor of an initiative measure would be practically impossible in view of the fact that few citizens will vote on all and most on only a small percentage of the initiative measures submitted. To defeat the Majority Rule Amendment vote 325-No.

**COUNTY FINANCES**  
 Figures given in another column as to the financial condition of the county speak for themselves. Hood River has every reason to be proud of the splendid showing. Compared with Jackson county, which has warrants amounting to more than \$500,000 outstanding and drawing interest, Hood River has every reason for congratulation. County affairs have been conducted in a business-like, conservative manner and this is the result. It is gratifying to report that the county has paid off this year the indebtedness contracted during the extensive road construction last year. Judge Castner, since his appointment by Governor West, has co-operated with the commissioners in continuing this policy of economy. As a result of the satisfactory service which he has performed during his incumbency, he was prevailed upon to become a candidate for election. On the record he has made and on a platform of continued economy and good roads, Judge Castner should receive the united support of the taxpayers of the county.

**THE CITY PRIMARY ELECTION**  
 It is evident that the city primary nominating election is out of place in Hood River. It has been given a fair test this year and the results as given in another column, permit of only one conclusion. For large cities the primary election may be and no doubt is a practical way to nominate city officers, but for a municipality the size of Hood River it is impractical, cumbersome, and an unnecessary expense. Indeed, the attempt to hold such an election this year demonstrates that it is more than impractical; it is impossible.

It is easy to see wherein lies the weakness of the law when applied to a city the size of Hood River. It provides that the election shall be conducted along party lines. Each aspirant for the nomination must run as a party candidate. At the election this year it would mean that there could be but two nominees for any office at the regular city election in December as only the Republican and Democratic parties would be entitled to places on the ticket. In addition, petitions would have to be circulated before candidates could run

for the nomination. With the small percentage of voters required, the aspirant might better wait until after the primary election and insure himself a place on the ballot by means of a petition.

The ticket this year will be made up in that way. The kernel of the whole matter is that politics have no place in city elections, at least not in a city the size of Hood River.

**THE INITIATIVE**  
 Never before in the history of the state has such an interest been aroused in the laws proposed for enactment as has been awakened during the present campaign. The initiative and referendum has been responsible for this interest and in inciting the people to a serious consideration of proposed legislation it is performing a service which is incomparable with the minor disadvantages attendant upon its operation.

In view of the state-wide interest which has been aroused in the principal measures to be submitted, innuendoes to the effect that the initiative is a failure and a menace to the state are not borne out by the facts. Had the single tax measure, for example, been submitted to the legislature it is doubtful whether the people would have had even a glimmering of knowledge of the law or of what it proposed. The big attendance at the public discussion of this question Friday evening showed what an intense interest is taken in this measure when submitted to the people under the initiative.

The people of Oregon are educating themselves to vote intelligently upon the measures submitted to them and a two-fold benefit will be the result. Oregon will secure a set of progressive, people-made laws and at the same time the citizens of the state will be incited to take an interest in state legislation which can bring only good results in the end. It is not to be expected that a large proportion of the citizens will vote upon all the proposed measures, but it is assured that the great majority of those who do vote will be intelligently informed. The ignorant vote will be eliminated and the intelligent citizens of the state are many times better qualified to pass upon the proposed measures than a legislature, pressed for time, swamped with work and composed of representatives many of them with no special knowledge of legislative measures.

When the voter is advised to vote "No" upon all measures which he does not understand he is being advised to block the initiative by rejecting all measures proposed under it whether good or bad. The voter who does not understand a measure is not justified on account of his own ignorance in condemning it. It is rather his duty to leave to the intelligent voters of the state the privilege of passing judgment upon those measures. When this course is followed Oregon has nothing to fear from the initiative.

**FOR JONATHAN BOURNE**  
 More than any other man Jonathan Bourne has stood before the American people as the exponent of the Oregon system. He has turned the eyes of the country towards Oregon as the leader in progressive politics. But Senator Bourne has done more than that for the state which he has represented. He has gained a commanding and influential position in the Senate and because of the important committees upon which he has secured a place he is pre-eminently qualified to serve Oregon in that body. He is chairman of the committee on postoffices and post-roads and is a member of the committees on appropriations, commerce, fisheries, public buildings and grounds and railroads. From Oregon's point of view these are the best committees on the list,

Through the influence thus gained Senator Bourne has secured appropriations totaling several million dollars for public works in this state, among them being the preliminary appropriation for the construction of the road from the Upper Valley to the headwaters of the Sandy River in Multnomah county, a project of great importance to Hood River county.

To refuse Jonathan Bourne endorsement at the coming election would be to repudiate his services for the state and to sacrifice the one candidate who is best qualified to serve Oregon interests during the next four years.

**"TRY IT ON THE DOG"**  
 "Try it on the dog," appears to be the policy of Mr. Fels in attempting to put the single tax into effect here. Why Oregon should be experimented upon and her industrial prosperity threatened by the operation of this untried law is yet to be explained.

If the present system of taxation exempts valuable franchises, water power sites and public service corporations, it is a fair question to ask why the entire system should be abolished in order to prevent these exemptions. If such exemptions and inequalities constitute one of the greatest injustices of the present system, as Mr. U'Ren maintained in his debate here, why not let these inequalities and exemptions be adjusted through amendment of the present tax laws. Asserting that Oregon should sweep aside all existing tax laws is making the remedy worse than the disease. It is more than even the philanthropic Mr. Fels should ask and it is a safe prediction that it is more than the people of Oregon will grant.

**CAN MAKE 67 CHOICES**  
 The News last week printed the ballots to be used in Hood River county next Tuesday. The ballot this year is one which will engage the attention of the voter for some little time if he undertakes to pass judgment upon all of the candidates and issues submitted. It will be his prerogative to express his choice upon no less than 67 candidates and measures. Of these 37 are candidates for county, state and national offices. The balance are measures submitted under the initiative and referendum.

The ballot is 17 by 27 inches in size. It is divided almost equally in half, one-half being occupied by the names of candidates and the balance with the proposed legislative measures.

It is a ballot which will appeal to the intelligence of the Oregon voter. It is one, too, which will test his power as a legislator. Only one other state—Colorado—has a list of proposed new laws which will compare with those on the Oregon ballot.



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