

**Portland New Age**

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**EDITORIAL**

**THE PRIMARY LAW.**

It is yet problematical whether the primary nomination law will stand the test of public approval. Judging by the light vote cast, as compared with the actual number of voters in the state, it would seem that the people as a whole do not care as much about it as some of its advocates have represented they did. It has undoubtedly eliminated some of the methods in vogue heretofore in the nomination system, and has put bosses out of business or rendered it difficult for them, but there are serious objections to the new law nevertheless. One is that it makes it very expensive for men to obtain a nomination, and a poor man ought to have as good a chance to obtain an office as a rich man. It is also expensive to the taxpayers.

As to the popular nomination of United States senator, whose selection the legislature is supposed merely to ratify, the result is what The New Age predicted, a choice by a small plurality and a small fraction of the Republican vote of the state, which cannot be properly termed really a people's choice, at least not in a very large and impressive sense. While Mr. Cake has apparently received a small plurality and the nomination, Mr. Bourne in fact carried a far larger area and diversity of interests of the state as a whole than Mr. Cake. The latter carried this large city, and therefore may have won the nomination, but Mr. Bourne carried most of the other counties of the state, and about half the delegation from even this county are said to be favorable to him. Should not the representatives from those other counties vote for the choice of their local constituents rather than for a man whom they rejected at the polls? We are not making any specific argument, nor meaning to say that under the law this should be done, still less intimating that we prefer Mr. Bourne to Mr. Cake, only putting the case abstractly and using the result as to these two men as an illustration. Of course, if the law is carried out and Mr. Cake beats Mr. Gearin in June, it will be the duty of members of the legislature who signed "Statement No. 1" to elect Mr. Cake senator, but is the law in such a case working satisfactorily, and should candidates for the legislature so pledge themselves? Except legally and technically, did "the people" really instruct them or make a choice? If a candidate for United States senator receives say 15,000 out of 75,000 Republican votes in the state, a plurality of say 100 votes over his nearest competitor, is this as a matter of fact such a popular choice by the people as should bind the legislature? We think not, and yet there are good features about the law which may more than offset these grounds of criticism.

[Since the above was in type, Mr. Bourne's nomination, though not yet officially announced, seems certain.]

**RACE FOR GOVERNOR.**

The most interesting contest—in fact the only real one—on the state ticket in June will be that between Professor Withycombe and Governor Chamberlain. There may be something interesting as to the election of a United States senator next winter, and it is expected that Senator Gearin, whoever the Republican nominee may be, will get a good many more votes in June than the normal vote of his party. He is an able man and would make a good senator, but Oregon is a heavily Republican state and the Republican candidate will carry the state in June. This will doubtless be the case also with the

office of supreme judge, though it is expected that Judge Halley may also run ahead considerably. As to the other offices the Republican candidates have a walkover, and those for representatives in congress as well.

It is known and conceded that Governor Chamberlain is a strong candidate. He demonstrated this four years ago, as he had before. He possesses various elements of strength that are not to be ignored or despised. But since the Republicans have an excellent candidate and this is an overwhelmingly Republican state, it is unlikely that the governor can pull through again. If party amounts to anything voters ought to stick to their party with reference to such an important office as that of governor. In consequence of the election of a Democrat the state now has a Democrat for United States senator, for superintendent of the penitentiary, for game warden, and in other positions. This might well be endured if the Republican candidate were in any respect unworthy, but nobody can say this in this case. Dr. Withycombe is an educated man, a farmer, a good business man, identified with all the state's interests, and moreover has always been a loyal Republican. He should be elected and we think will be, and that Oregon will then again show up as a solidly Republican state.

But he may have to hustle some. The governor is a good campaigner; he now has a very wide acquaintance in all parts of the state; he has a genial personality, and aside from too much traveling and political work, his record as governor is unassailable. So interest will center in the race for this office.

**POLITICAL PARTIES AND CHANGES.**

Those who undertake to make party operations a mere clash of personal likes and dislikes, ambitions and jealousies, lose sight entirely of the larger facts in the domain of politics, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Natural leaders arise whose exceptional usefulness to the principles of a party give them, as long as they are true to the right standard, an extensive following and influence, but the notion that any great party is to be swayed by personal squabbling is ridiculous. A party may be injured by an indulgence of such foolishness, but thereby loses sight of its mission and opportunities. The number of voters in this country is becoming so vast that their judgment must be reached by clearly defined aims in public policies, and the feudal political chieftain and his clan have ceased to be of importance in his favorite role of disturber. Some of the states have more than a million voters, and it is vain to attempt to lead them here and there by small, egotistical quarrels they have no desire nor time to think about. It is only by machine politics, the game of getting nominations far removed from the people, that the squabblers find it worth while to pursue their spitework.

An electorate of 15,000,000 in the country, with a correspondingly large distribution of voters in the states, must be appealed to by responsible parties on issues that deserve, and often compel, general consideration. Such questions may arise quickly and under unexpected circumstances. It was so in the summer of 1896. The Democratic party had been overwhelmed by defeat in the preceding two years, and its prospects were at the lowest ebb. But by adopting a new issue and choosing as a leader a man, who, nationally speaking, had been unknown, and who even gained entrance to the convention in a contested delegation, the party made one of the greatest fights in its history, polling immensely its largest vote. Nothing short of a phenomenally big vote on the other side averted the success of that surprisingly sudden change of front in the situation. As the country grows, such developments in politics must occur frequently.

**SAN FRANCISCO.**

The tremendous catastrophe in San Francisco has almost completely absorbed public attention during the past week. While in many cases in other countries there have been greater losses of life, there was never probably so great a property loss in

consequence of an earthquake, for while fire caused the greater part of the loss, it occurred as a direct consequence of the earthquake shock. It is a catastrophe that staggers the imagination and calls not only for the sympathy, but the liberal aid in all possible ways, which is being afforded by the people of the whole country, and none have acted more promptly and and generously than those of Oregon.

San Francisco was a unique and particularly interesting city, and of vast wealth, commerce and business of all kinds, and it was in great part wiped out of existence. But it will no doubt be rebuilt, and before the lapse of very many years will rise greater than ever. An earthquake may occur there again at any time, but the chances are that the like will not happen again for a long time, and people will take the risk and the new city will be more solidly and scientifically constructed than the old, and will be better able to withstand such seismic disturbances.

**BOURNE FOR SENATOR.**

So, according to the returns at this writing, Mr. Jonathan Bourne has won the primary nomination for United States senator and will expect the legislature, if Republican, as it surely will be, to elect him. Mr. Bourne has made a strong, hard, and it appears successful, fight for the office he has so long coveted. He is a man of much ability, a "stayer" in a fight, and with practically unlimited financial resources, which he is never afraid to use when he takes a notion to do so. The wind-up of the contest, with regard to the returns, was very interesting. Up till Tuesday it appeared that Cake's nomination was assured and that Bourne had no chance at all, but the away-back counties all went heavily for Bourne, as against Cake, and wiped out the latter's plurality and gave about an equal amount to Bourne, so he will be the regular Republican nominee in June. Then the next interesting question will be: What will the legislature do? It will probably elect Bourne, as under the law he will be entitled to the office, and he is quite capable of making a very useful senator.

**TROUBLE IN THE SPRINGFIELDS.**

The Springfields seem to be getting about as unenviable a notoriety as Paterson, N. J. It was at Springfield, Ohio, where a mob recently attacked the colored people of the town without any reasonable cause whatever, and it was from Springfield, Mo., that the following dispatch, printed this week, came:

"Springfield this morning is a slumbering volcano. All is quiet on the surface, but there are 5,000 Negroes residing here in five settlements, and the officials expect rioting to break out. The officers are out with 35 bench warrants, charging first-degree murder against alleged leaders of the mob that lynched the Negro boys."

Notice, some Negro boys, perhaps for only some trivial offense, had been lynched, and because the colored people of the town felt incensed at this, trouble was imminent. If colored people had lynched a few white boys, there would also have been trouble, no doubt. We expect to hear from Springfield, Ill., and possibly Springfield, Mass., hereafter.

**RESULTS OF PRIMARIES.**

The New Age is pleased with the result of the primaries, in large part. It is especially gratified at the nomination of Dr. Withycombe for governor, Mr. G. A. Steel for state treasurer, Mr. Crawford for attorney-general, and Col. Gantenbein for circuit court judge. It supported these and some other successful, and some unsuccessful, candidates, but cannot complain, as it would have no right to do, anyway, at the general result. Most, if not all, of the Republicans selected by pluralities at the primaries will be elected as a matter of course, the principal exceptions to this statement being those for governor and for United States senator. We think Dr. Withycombe is the strongest man that could be put up against Governor Chamberlain, and should be loyally supported by all

The campaign won't be exciting.  
Coroner Finley couldn't be ousted.  
The colored people did their part.  
Judge Webster will stay another term.

Few Democrats in the state can scratch in.

Jonathan, Jr., had 'em guessing—and scared.

There were necessarily many disappointments.

Mr. Johns was also badly mistaken in his strength.

Bourne made a great home-stretch run in the count.

The sheriff hasn't Jim Stott to run against this time.

It is partly a Bourne delegation, or would like to be.

About half the Republican vote of the state was cast.

Governor Chamberlain is rustling, of course; he has to.

Withycombe clubs are now being formed. That's right.

Withycombe for governor. He was The New Age's choice.

Mulkey, Eakin and Ackerman got there without a struggle.

Four murders lately and only one of the murderers caught.

The great San Francisco calamity kept many from the polls.

Rand and Lachner, of Baker City, are among the "also rans."

The next supreme court judge will come from Eastern Oregon.

Let it be taken for granted that most of the best men won.

Looks like our versatile friend Brownell would get in again.

The people are to be congratulated on Mr. Pittock's narrow escape.

It was a very light vote—people lacked interest, or were too busy.

No use for young Charles Galloway to spend his time, money or breath.

Hawley and Ellis will doubtless be elected representatives to congress.

Can Mr. Stevens beat Sheriff Tom Word? Is a question many are asking.

Ex-Candidates Huston and Tooze will support Professor Hawley loyally.

Mr. Steel is a splendid business man and will make a first-class treasurer.

Baker county had too many candidates and none of them was nominated.

The Republican legislative ticket in this county will doubtless all be elected.

Mr. Bird will keep on flying, for that Shrievally plum till he plucks it—maybe.

A great disaster brings out the best traits of humanity—and in a few cases the worst.

Though we were for Wrightman for secretary of state, here's congratulations to Mr. Benson.

Though Judge Sears is a very fine man and judge, The New Age regrets Mr. Morrow's defeat.

To be sure one is elected or nominated and then find one is beaten is a great disappointment.

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