

Portland New Age
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EDITORIAL

MEMBERS NOT BOUND.

If the law under which it is asserted that Jonathan Bourne, Jr., must be elected Senator is so perfect and sacred, what would legislators do if the man who received a bare plurality in April should be in jail or under indictment the next January when the legislature has to elect him—for after all it is the legislature that must elect? Suppose the land fraud cases had not come to light, and Mr. Heney had not shown up in Oregon prior to last April, and suppose that then Mr. Williamson or Mr. Hermann, having been a candidate for the senate, should have received a plurality of votes, and suppose between that time and now the disclosures about him that have been made, were made—does anybody say that the legislature would be bound by the elections last spring to elect Hermann or Williamson? It is true that Bourne has not been convicted of crime or indicted; but his supporters say he must be voted for blindly, without inspection or argument, regardless of anything discovered about him or any revision of judgment upon him, solely on account of the vote last spring. But we say No; if a member of the legislature who agreed to vote for the plurality nominee at the polls finds that the people made a mistake, that the man selected is not such a man as he was thought to be, or that such a man would not make a fit senator, or is assured that if the people had it to do over again they would not do what they did nine months before—then that member is absolved from that probably not very wise or well considered promise, and the people would thank and honor him for correcting the mistake that had been made.

One paper that with a wry face makes a weak argument in Bourne's behalf admits that "the people were imposed upon" but says "that is no reason they will be all the time." Well, if they were imposed upon, it is the duty of the legislature to see to it that the imposition is not carried out and the people thereby wronged. Besides, if Jonathan imposed on the people to get the office won't he impose on them while he holds it? And won't he try to impose a senator of his own choice on them in Fulton's place? What is the use or sense in railing at the bad uses to which money is put in getting offices and electing senators back East—in New Jersey or New York or elsewhere, or by Rockefeller or Harriman or others—and then let practically the same thing happen here?

Say, when Jonathan gets control of the patronage of Oregon—and if elected he will spare no pains to get it—what sort of republicans will he appoint to federal offices? Maybe not republicans at all, but Bourne men. That will be the chief consideration. We shall have here a Bourne machine with a vengeance. Jonathan will be the boss of a strictly Bourne party, and faithful and loyal republicans will be turned out to short grass. How many republicans want a period of the rule of Bourne buccanniers in Oregon?

The sum of the whole matter is that members of the legislature are in no wise bound to respect Statement No. 1 in opposition to the dictates of their better, truer and final judgment, and that in spite of last spring's faux pas they ought to repudiate Bourne on account of his lack of principles and political integrity. If the candidate had been selected before Statement No. 1 had been agreed to, or if the choice had been between only men of good standing, unblemished character and party loyalty, then members of the legislature might have considered themselves in duty bound to support the primary nominee, but when it is possible for an admittedly and notoriously unfit and unworthy man to receive

the nomination then the promise ought not to hold. Under such circumstances such a pledge is not only foolish and unreasonable but it is disloyal to the party, to the state, to the constitution, to legislative duty and to the people.

PROGRESS OF THE NEGRO.

Those who argue that the colored people are something either to be enslaved or gotten rid of, banished or exterminated, as incomparably inferior and hopeless people along the lines of progress and civilization, might well consider carefully what the colored people were less than half a century ago, and what progress they have shown, under not always very encouraging circumstances, since their emancipation 43 years ago. As to the criminal propensity or inclination of colored people it is much exaggerated by some, and to many a crime committed by a black man is tenfold or a hundredfold more heinous than the same crime committed by a white man. We are no apologists for crime by whomsoever committed, but if there is to be any excuse made or leniency shown, it ought to be in behalf of the weaker man, the one who has had less advantages, who for only a little over a single generation has been his own master and responsible for his acts as a citizen. Some men can quickly see and magnify the criminal negro, but are blind to the hundred or thousand criminal whites who go out to lynch him, and often without knowing that their victim is guilty of any crime.

Some insist that the negro is not and cannot be intelligent, but remembering that he emerged from bondage only a little over two-score years ago, homeless and moneyless, ignorant and unprotected, let us note what progress, with the aid of philanthropic white friends, he has made. The candid and impartial inquirer will find 1,000 news papers and magazines published by negroes, 250 books whose authors are colored men, 4,000 first-class typewriters, 1,325 male telegraph operators, 326 colored women telegraph operators, 7,496 first-class engineers, 2,400 colored carriage manufacturers, 2,500 colored mail carriers in the United States mail service, 50,000 in business of one kind or another, 1,100 negro lawyers, 1,250 graduated negro doctors, 150 colleges and universities with negro presidents, 32 negro banks in the United States with average paid up capital of \$350,000 and average deposits of \$1,190,000, real estate owned by negroes to the amount of \$400,000,000, together with 6,000 graduates turned out from the Booker T. Washington school, besides 1,500 students enrolled this year.

As to the possibility of the native African one might mention W. T. Vernon, registrar of the treasury at present, and the Rev. M. C. B. Mason, D. D., field secretary of the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal church, which has forty-two colleges, white and colored, that are supported by this society under his supervision; Edward W. Blyden, LL. D., Ph. D., who speaks and writes fluently forty different languages; Prof. William Scarborough, whose Greek textbooks are used in Yale and Harvard universities, and last, but not least, the millions of church-going negroes following as their leaders tens of thousands of colored teachers and educated negro ministers, with nearly a score of negro bishops.

With such statistics at hand it seems absurd to say that the negro is incapable of education, of progress or recognition as a man and a citizen.

THE PRESIDENT ON LYNCHING.

The president has not yet discussed his unjust action in dishonorably discharging the colored troops at Brownsville, Texas, but he did express himself very plainly and gratifyingly to colored people in his message on the subject of lynching, in part as follows: "When mobs begin to lynch for rape they speedily extend the sphere of their operations and lynch for many other kinds of crimes, so that two-thirds of the lynchings are not for rape at all; while a considerable proportion of the individuals lynched are innocent of all crime." He quotes from several prominent Southerners, two governors and a bishop, to prove this statement—that entirely innocent

colored people are often lynched, as the New Age has repeatedly claimed. Governor Chandler of Georgia says he has saved half a dozen colored men pursued by mobs, who were proven innocent; and Governor Jenks of Alabama says:

"The innocent frequently suffer, and it is my observation, more usually suffer than the guilty. The white people of the South indict the whole colored race on the ground that even the better elements lead no assistance whatever in ferreting out criminals of their own color."

The president goes on further to say:

"There is but one safe rule in dealing with black men as with white men; it is the same rule that must be applied in dealing with rich men and poor men; that is, to treat each man, whatever his color, his creed, or his social position, with even-handed justice on his real worth as a man. White people owe it quite as much to themselves as to the colored race to treat well the colored man who shows by his life that he deserves such treatment; for it is surely the highest wisdom to encourage in the colored race all those individuals who are honest, industrious, law-abiding, and who therefore make good and safe neighbors and citizens. Reward or punish the individual on his merits as an individual. Evil will surely come in the end to both races if we substitute for this just rule the habit of treating all the members of the race, good and bad, alike. There is no question of "social equality" or "negro domination" involved; only the question of relentlessly punishing bad men, and of securing to the good man the right to his life, his liberty, and the pursuit of his happiness as his own qualities of heart, head, and hand enable him to achieve it."

A GREAT NEWSPAPER.

The Oregonian is 53 years old, and may well take a dignified pride in itself, in its history, its growth, its work, its success, its achievements, its reputation and its prospects. It is without doubt one of the very great all-around newspapers of the country, and incomparably the greatest one published in a comparatively small city like Portland. Outside of three or four New York city papers, probably not one has so great a reputation in the country away from its home town as the Oregonian; and while there is now or in the near future will be room and opportunity for another successful daily in Portland (beside the Telegram) none is likely, even in half a century of effort, to rise to the level of the Oregonian.

The editorial page of the Oregonian has long been widely noted for its great ability, but besides or beyond mere ability in thought and expression, the Oregonian is editorially great because of its independence, its fearlessness, its disregard of sporadic popular clamor and ephemeral fads, political, economic and religious. It not only has the ability to think out what is true, but it has the courage to say what it thinks, regardless of the wrath of designing politicians or the howls of light-brained pulpites. In the long run, in almost every case, its judgment is found to be correct, its reasoning sound, its conclusions true. Beside the comparatively petty men who from time to time attack Mr. Scott, the greatest editorial figure of the country, he towers like a serene giant amidst a lot of passing gesticulating piggmies.

The New Age wishes him many years of active usefulness yet, and the great Oregonian the unbounded prosperity that it so well deserves.

PEOPLE AND HARRIMAN.

The people of the Willamette valley are awake at last to the imposition and business iniquities practiced for so many years by Harriman in the operation of his railroad lines in Oregon, and appearances indicate that there will be "something doing" with regard thereto at Salem next winter. It is fully time something was done for the Harriman policy has become simply intolerable and the people will not endure it any longer. He has caused millions of dollars of damage and losses in this state, directly and indirectly, and has been insolent to the people and defiant of reasonable laws,

and it is high time that he was made to know that the people of this state have some rights that he is bound to respect.

And while the people of Western Oregon outside of Portland are thus deliberating and forming plans for their relief and to secure justice from this unconscionable Wall street gambler, who has been standing on their necks and jumping up and down on their stomachs so long, it is a wonder that the city council of Portland does not get busy and repeal that old Fourth street charter and take measures to force this nuisance off of that street, as the people almost unanimously demand shall be done. The people will take the matter in their own hands next June, and unless the council acts soon, not a member of it who refuses or neglects to rid the city of that intolerable nuisance need expect to be re-elected, or even elected to any other office in this city. The people will have their opinion as to the probable reason for such councilmen's non-action.

The Topeka (Kansas) Capital remarks: "Talk about the superiority of the white Tillman to the negro race, imagine Booker Washington in Tillman's place in the United States senate. Is it possible to conceive of a greater improvement to the senate?"

The senate will inquire into that arbitrary order of President Roosevelt discharging the colored troops, and he may yet see occasion to regret his hasty action.

Did anybody ever figure up the cost to the state of Bourne's hold-up of the legislature 12 years ago? And the mere money loss was the smaller part of it.

Whether future state printers are allowed to graft any or not, Baker has surely had enough, even if he is not yet satisfied.

The state of Washington is lucky in having had a Hill instead of a Harriman to deal with.

Should Oregon be represented in the senate for the next six years by a republican?

Somebody is trying very hard to dig up something against Senator Fulton.

Almost anybody could name a Good(e) man for senator.

Hermann will still draw his salary for three months more.

Some of Tillman's talk is black enough.

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