The Organizan understanding of the game that has reservation. The time is approaching when these characters will no longer that reason

POBILAND, OREGON.

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, OCT. 3, 1919.

VOTING-BOOTH LEGISLATION

The official title of a single proposed amendment to the constitution of the State of Oregon, under the initiative, is as follows:

lative, is as follows:
For an amendment to article IV Consti-ution of Oregon, increasing initiative, ref-utendum and recall powers of the people: power on state and municipal registration, requiring proportional electrion of members of the Legislative Assembly from the state at large, summal sessions and increasing members' salaries and terms of offices, providing for elections of Speaker of shouse and Freshest of Senate outside of members; restricting corporate franchises in 20 years, providing \$10 penalty for minimum of the provide all provides and proposed form of oath of office to provide against so-called Legislative Pag-rolling.

The Oregonian has several times tion to the varied, complex, radical and comprehensive character remarkable amendment and has sought to enlighten its readers as to its provisions, so that the people of Oregon might be fully enlightened govern themselves accordingly, The Oregonian's purpose in reprinting the official title of this single initiative measure (one of the thirty-two) is reassure the New York Times that there is no error about it and that a solemn duty of the Oregon electorate next month will be to dedare, by simply making a mark at a designated place on the wagon-bed ballot (X), that they want (or do not want) more initiative powers, more referendum powers, more recall powers, fewer emergency clauses and vetoes, proportional representation in the Legislature, annual legislative sessions, more pay for legislators, briefer terms for corporation franchises and other things too numerous to mention. The Times had commented on previous remarks by The Oregonian subject and had said that it "was enough to make the ordinary man's head swim." The Chicago Public, a "reform" publication, thereupon took casion to declare that The Oregonian's statements were and it sought to comfort the Times by the statement that it was "not true" that the Oregon plan worked out "in this absurd fashion," as the Times had

suggested The Public displays all the ignor ance about the "Oregon plan" that can be imparted by a reading of the Sourne pamphlet, which it seems has made its wordy way into the Public office. That paper also quotes ap-provingly a letter by Supreme Court W. R. King, who said among other things the following:

We deem the initiative and referends amendment to the constitution of this standard as success. Some criticism arises, bearing the fact that the people are compelled yote upon a large number of measures. I example, at the next election the number of meritarious. Hefore election a pamph pot meritarious. Hefore election a pamph is semething like 40. But this criticism pot meritarious and at the expense of

If the only available information about the various initiative and referendum measures before the were the pamphlet distributed at state expense, not much would or could be The pamphlet contains the text of the proposed acts, and a single argument pro and con on each bill. Supposedly this valuable document is eagerly sought and attentively conned by every one of the 150,000 lawmakers of Oregon, but as a matter of fact, it receives just about the same onsideration as all other matter advertising quack nostrums, legislative or physical, that goes through the mails. The waste basket and the ash heap are too often the receptacles for this precious compendium of the people's laws. It should not be so, and it is deplorable that it is so.

It is no impeachment of the public intelligence to say that they cannot properly or considerately pass on mis-cellaneous legislation. We do not elfaneous legislation. mean simple proposals or amend-ments that may be fitly and fully dissed of by a mere "yes" or "no." capable and as well informed as the average legislator, but the voting booth is not the place to consider, dis-It is not a safe or wise method; it is snapshot business that in the end will result disastrously if there shall not restriction and regulation of the entire scheme.

The Oregonian will freely confess that it is gravely concerned about this blem, but it is not more concerned than every citizen of Oregon ought to All other questions, or reforms. or innovations, such as we have been discussing and quarreling over for years, are of trifling moment in comparison. Where it will lead none can say, but that it is taking us in new and strange directions none will deny.

MINING SHARKS AND SHINING MARKS From figures and estimates suppited by Postoffice Inspector Dickin-New York, it is reported that \$200,000 per day is pouring into the offers of fraudulent mining brokers in New York City alone. In the three this vast sum came from the pockets great possibilities of the future. of small-salaried people, who were seeking to increase the very meager incomes which their labor produced. It is perhaps a very uncomplimentary reflection on the intelligence of our small investors that the bunco men who deal in fake mining properties should find them such easy victims. Naturally these modern pirates can secure no victims among men who are at all familiar with investments and their earning powers, and their field limited to those whose environment precludes a thorough characters just off the range and train was scouted, but the records day if it had not rained.

een worked for generations. The evil of these crimes a and they may properly be termed crimes, for they leave in their wake nothing but thousands of Eastern people who misery and suffering, and destroy all wish to see and feel the spirit of the misery and suffering, and destroy all wish to see and feel the spirit of the should have in human nature-does not end with the ruin wrought on the small investors. It has a blighting effect on all branches of legitimate mining, and retards the growth of good mining districts and prevents development of mines which would in the aggregate yield up vast treasure. Throughout Oregon and other North Pacific States, and thence north through British Columbia and into Alaska, are large numbers of excellent mining prospects. Scores, per-haps hundreds, of these mines have been developed to a point where the investment of capital would soon place them in the list of producers.

But the market for mining stocks has for years been flooded with so much absolutely worthless stock that it is almost impossible to interest capital in a good, legitimate proposi-The fake mires can offer the fake promoters so much greater inducements through inflated stock than can be offered by those who have strictly legitimate propositions that the latter must see their own prospects, which possess actual merit, lie undeveloped for lack of capital, while the fake stock finds a ready market. As a means for extracting money from poor people who are led to believe they will receive enormous returns on their investments, the New York mining stock swindle is worse than the now extinct Louisiana lottery.

PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE.

There is nothing ambiguous or doubtful about the letter of Acting Governor Bowerman printed today. He will let the primary law, including Statement One, alone as Governor, as he has not in any way attempted as legislator to interfere with or impede its complete and successful Moreover, he calls on all legislative candidates to subscribe to pledge which he himself makes that as legislators they will not disturb any enactment of the people

We suppose all this is called out by the groundless outery from his political enemies that Mr. Bowerman, as Governor, would attempt to destroy the primary law and all its works. It really would seem that Bowerman's legislative record ought to have been a sufficient answer to these calumnies. As Senator and as President of the Senate he has consistently supported the primary law and all the people's laws. He even voted for Senator laws. He even voted for Bourne in 1997 because that was his interpretation of the desires of his constituents. Could there have been a more absolute test of his good faith and correct and honorable purposes?

If the financial lull reflected by commercial statistics in other cities has any intention of getting in its work on Portland, this year, it will be obliged to hurry. Nine months of the year have already passed into history and every menth was a record break-

As a reflection of financial conditions in the Northwest, bank clearings for the week ending Saturday are in-teresting. Portland, with total clearings of \$11,278,184, showed a gain of \$4,382,265. Seattle with clearings of \$11,854,137 showed a decrease of \$81,clearings Tacoma. \$6.261,690 was \$460,245 under the figures for the same week last year. This showing was made by Portland with a much lighter grain movement than that of a year ago, and the heavy shipments of grain, fruit, hops, etc. still to come forward, assure a continuation of the present ratio of gain for the remainder of the year.

SPIEIT OF THE OLD WEST.

but the new West and growing interest in the spirit of the old West is shown in the remarkable success of the Wild West show which closed a three days' exhibition at Pendleton Saturday. This "roundup" was a reproduction on a what smaller scale of an annual event which for the past few years has drawn crowds of excitement-loving sightseers from the Atlantic and the Pacific and intervening territory to the little frontier city of Cheyenne Wyoming. The cowboy and the Indian with their ponies have foomed large in the history of the West, and as the Centaur-like combination is moving rapidly toward the purpling shades of the past, there is an increasing interest in them and their performances.

Buffalo Bill, with his Indians and his cowboys, has entertained millions of people on both continents, and has in a degree given a very faithful portrayal of frontier life. But riding around the country in Pullman cars. crossing the ocean in palace-like steamers, and doing their stunts in the crowded cities of the East and of Europe, has knocked most of the rough but distinctive "bark" off the 'play actors" who perform in the The participants in traveling shows. the Chevenne and Pendleton shows are the real thing. They have just ridden in from the reservation or the range to indulge in the exhilarating pastimes which amused them before there was any audience of consequence to applaud. The march of

intertained by stirring scenes of the old life on the frontier. The success of these shows at Cheyome of the minor attractions that in the past have drawn people to Portland's Rose Carnival or livestock show might be replaced by a few features such as prove drawing cards at the interior cities mentioned. The Rose Carnival comes at a bad time of year to take cowboys off the range, Wild West exhibition, in con nection with the livestock show Fall racing meet, would prove a heavy years following the panic of 1907, it drawing card. It would show in the is estimated that these harples se- most striking manner the immensity cured \$100,000,000. Practically all of of the state and its resources and the would show that, within a few hours ride of Portland, a strictly modern city of more than 200,000 people. there still remains much of the old West with all of its opportunities, and the picturesque characters that have

made it famous in song and story. More than 60,000 people visited Buffalo Bill's Wild West show during its two days' stay in Portland. Within the confines of the state is an abundance of cowboy and Indian talent to put up as good a show with real

be available. that Cheyenne is annually invaded by

PRESIDENT TAFT, PROGRESSIVE.

A concise and well-worded sum mary of political problems was that contained in the Saturday speech of President Taft in New York City, before the National Republican League. It was not plumed with platitudes nor fired with catch words of roaring radicallsm. The President at intervals makes speeches which show him a man of clearest thinking and aptest expression, as that last Saturday; or the one at the St. Paul conservation congress a month ago, or as that at Rochester, N. Y., last March.

No public man states political ques tions more clearly from time to than has President Taft. Not all citizons agree with all his opinions. Yet as a straightforward, simple-speaking man he belongs to the first rank of

our statesmen.

It is worthy achievement, now-adays, to hold popular attention with a political address that does not incite unreasoning retaliation upon political "Progressive" statesmen too often lack specific, concrete expression. "A party of true progress is not a party of radicalism," the President said Saturday—which is true and sound. "Yet," he continued, "it is not a party of ultra conservatism. A progressive Republican is one who recognizes existing and concrete evils and who is in favor of practical and definite steps to eradicate them." Yet few so-called progressives know the practical and definite steps. They are more familiar with a lot of gen-They eralizing rhetoric. That is the big servationists. The President scored them roundly for it in his conservation address at St. Paul.

The New York speech shows plainly that wage-earners have more to lose than wealthy citizens from extreme corrective measures. "Hence it is the legitimate office of those charged with "Hence it is the governmental responsibility to do what they can to prevent the apreading of hoarding place and prevent the investments necessary to carry on the news items that at Milan "the avia-widely expanded business of the country from which our people derive their live'shood." These are soher words uttered in a truly progressive spirit. Corrupt control of governmental

agencies and greedy combinations of ment of restrictive and corrective laws. For exism is not progressiveness. ample, it is absurd to harangue the people that "interests" must be turned out of politics. For, obviously, the so-called interests have good and bad purposes in politics. It is wholly proper and also necessary that interests should use their influence in poli-tics in open and honest manner to protect property and capital.

President Taft's speech has refreshing sound, amid the bolsterous oratory of people-flattering politicians. His detail of measures enacted by Con-gress and of further issues to be gress and of further issues worked out has the merit of unusual Bellingham. It was also on directness and clearness. His renewed that the Canadian Pacific subject on which the country never will agree and never has. Even Colonel Roosevelt is unable to cope with the difficulty.

THE RECORD.

The purpose of the New York address of President Taft was clearly to summarize completely for the current campaign the achievements of the during the eighteen months of its ships float if they get too far out of troubled existence. They are in many the channel. ets noteworthy and valuable, and there is little disposition anywhere to he has really done. Yet the public is apathetic in its commendation of day with at least one death the President and for the most part name of his predecessor and the acemplishments he would possibly record if he were President are menpromised

The cardinal mistake by President of the Payne-Aldrich tariff. The American people will not forgive him that blunder, though they readily con-doned many faults in the Roosevelt they never thought the worse Roosevelt for boldly carrying the load of Paul Morton. Many other grievous errors were freely overlooked in Roosevelt, while every fault, real or supposed, with Taft is harshly

Why is it? The only explanation appears to be that the one is Roosevelt and the other Taft.

BIRDMEN OF THE FUTURE.

The mission of the aeroplane is not one of war, according to a suggestion by Leslie's Weekly, but of peace; not for the annihilation of armies, but the upbuilding of mountain tions in palace cars and enjoy the comforts of modern life while they are car has made suburhan life to the encouragement of modern life while they are homes for wage-earners, while the automobile has made the luxurious country place popular for the wealthy city dweller. But the trolley and the automobile flourish best where no heavy grades are to be overcome. The delights of the hilisides and mountain slopes have been practically inaccessible because of the toll that is re-

quired to reach them. The aeroplane, to which grades are no obstacle, is halled by this optimist as the agency that will cause these high places of earth to be dotted with It makes its own pathway homes. through the air regardless of grades and all mundane obstacles. Continuing, the journal quoted says: ome-as it undoubtedly will -a safe and convenient vehicle of transportation, city dwellers can fly off to the hills and enjoy the cool and healthful atmosphere, the wide sweep of vision and all the picturesque

charms of the mountain top." This is indeed a breezy prophecy, out who shall say that in the coming years it will not be fulfilled? Few of us can hark back to the days wherein the idea that a locomotive would ever be able to move a railroad

show that this theory was looked upon as chimerical, and the attempt to re-It is for that reason duce it to practice as foothardy extreme, dangerous to human life and distinctly detrimental to the farmers interests. All this is so distinctly of the past that reference to it excites ment. Conditions that confront the development of the aeroplane are different yet similar, in view of the people into the belief that I am a reacfact that development along this line as upon that depends upon the inven-tive genius and mechanical skill of It is asserted, and has practically been proven, that the key mystery of sustained aerial navigation has been discovered. If only remains to perfect, by experiment, the methods whereby it can be used to the fullest advantage.

> While there is no reason to discredit the statement that a Dayton, Wash., or repeal, or in any other manner ren-orchardist harvested \$62 worth of apples from one tree, there is every reason not to use these figures for exploitation purposes. An apple crop of nearly \$4000 an acre is not believed. The hard-headed Easterner sets it down as fiction; he doesn't wish to believe it. It is hard enough strain on his reason, to say nothing of his imagination, to accept authentic rec-ords of \$300 an acre for the best apples when prices are high. In more than one favored district of Oregon and Washington the average yield of good orchards, ten years old or older, has been greater than \$300 an acre. Any number of apple orchards will do better than \$500 an acre this year. Isn't that figure high enough for publicity use? It never pays to talk too big. even when you keep within the truth. Besides that has never been Oregon's way of doing things. Let's tell inquirers and homeseekers of fair average crops. Don't stagger them with of occasional extraordinary productivity.

Frequent collisions at sea demonstrate that the ocean is not roomy enough for some of the men who navigate thereon. On land we are continually reminded by railway accidents that two trains cannot pass each other on the same track without disaster, With both land and water displaying limitations in this respect, it was, of course, reasonable to expect which will drive capital to its thing of the kind in the air, and it is not surprising to read in yesterday's tors Dickson and Thomas collided while circling the aerodrome here at a rapid pace today. Dickson was probably fatally hurt internally. Thomas was injured about the legs and head." There is more air than there is land capital present evils of glaring kind. and water, and at first glance these They must be abated through enforce- aviators might seem to be censurable for this initial aerial collision. In axlaws. But the laws need to be of cuse, however, it might be stated that practical and definite sort. Radical-railroad trains and steamships are supcuse, however, it might be stated that posed to be operated under rules garding right of way, and as yet the airship men have no established code.

With a desire to beat the Seattle Times in the circulation of the news, we are pained to state that the diminutive lighthouse tender Heather is aground in the Columbia River about alf a mile out of the channel near Warrior Rock. The accident happened Saturday, the same day that the new His steel steamship Kulshan ran aground on Strawberry Island, near Deception Pass, while en route from Seattle Bellingham. It was also on Saturday praise of the Payne tariff touches the Princess Beatrice ran aground in Van-loudest hote of discord. Yet that is a couver Narrows, and the tug Albion went ashore at Black Point, near Scow Bay. These accidents are modern demonstrations of an experiment that Noah conducted some years ago, when the staunch, well-found Ark grounded at Ararat for no other reason than that there was insufficient water to float her further. There is no great difference in the specific gravity of water on Puget Sound and that of the National Republican Administration Columbia River. In neither port will

The football season opens a month deny to the President credit for what later than the deer hunting season, but each manages to score on the opening number injured. The football death becomes enthusiastic only when the roll for the 1910-11 season is headed this year by Melville Waters, a 17-year-old boy in the Carlisle, Kansas, high school, who was kicked in the The schedule of things done head in a game Saturday, and died an never appeals to the popular mind hour later. At Middleton, Conn., anwith the same force as the things other student is in a serious condition as a result of injuries received during a game between college elevens. Mod-Taft was in his emphatic indorsement ern education carries the youth of the The present day along at a pretty gait, but does not seem to be able to reduce the fatalities of football. college course that would insure the Administration. Nor will they excuse parent against death of their offspring Ballinger — poor Ballinger!—though on the football field ought to be very attractive.

> The ninety students taking "long-felt want" course in the Uni-versity of Washington will graduate with knowledge to steer clear of journalism.

What a libel on the Kansas farmer to say the luxury of joyriding is a cause of race suicide! Is it for this the land of the Kaw and soft corn?

Lotteries being barred, the fake mine is the natural pure food for the "sucker." By the way, that title is a libel on a good fish.

Idaho jurists will have a nice point of law to determine in finding guilty of manslaughter the man who scared woman to death.

Evidently more insurgency is in demand; else why would defending the Payne-Aldrich tariff?

The proposed location of the Post-

office will add a burden to flirtation

patrons of the general delivery. Nobody is going to find fault with plain Bill Hanley's platform of more railroads for Eastern Oregon.

After a score of years people again "Keep their eye on Pasco." The ploneer slogan is long-lived.

The Santiam triplets, transplanted Washington, swept the stakes at the Vancouver fair.

If there be a milk trust in Portland it has not yet dared water its stock. Poor old St. Joe has lost a quarter

of its padding of ten years ago. Before there are any more fatalities, et the new football rules be amended.

The Beavers might have lost yester-

WHAT MR. BOWERMAN WILL DO. Supports the People's Laws, Including

Primary Law. PORTLAND, Or., Oct. 2 .- (To the Editor.)-In the Portland evening papers of September 30 there appeared an interview credited to Senator Bourne. in which he endeavors to deceive the tionary and am not in favor of progressive legislation and favor returning to the old system of electing United States Senators.

In answer to this communication and other false and misleading articles re-cently published, I wish to say: Statement No. 1 is a part of the direct primary law and I have heretofore pub licly stated, and now state again, that will oppose by every means within my power any effort to amend, modify part of the direct primary law, including Statement No. 1, or any other law written on the statute books by the people of this state under the initia If I am elected Governor I will veto

tive and referendum any and every measure which attempts or undertakes to amend, change or repeal the direct primary law. ment No. 1, or any other law adopted by the people, or any part of any of them As a member of the Senate and President of that body. I have never endeavored in any way, manner or form to induce any other member to violate his obligation or pledge under Statement No. 1, and if I am elected Governor I shall pursue the same course and shall not in any manner or by any means interfere or attempt to interfere with the conduct of any member in this particular or induce him to violate his pledge.

It is impossible for the Governor alone to prevent the passage of any law, or the Legislature has it within its power to pass a bill over the veto the Governor. In order to prevent the possibility of any attempt being made to amend, modify or repeal any of these statutes I would suggest that the can-didates for the Legislature be invited to subscribe to the same obligation I have heretofore taken and now take, namely, that they will oppose in every way any attempt to amend, modify or repeal any law made by the people. This will be an effectual guaranty to the people that these men, when elected, will not undertake to tamper with these laws, and I respectfully call upon the cominees to define their position upon this question.

I do not anticipate that Senator Statement No. 1 will be repealed or changed, or that I will violate any of the moral or legal obligations I would owe to the people as Governor of this state, but I do believe he is simply indulging in a few cheap heroics for the two-fold purpose: first, of endeavoring to induec the people to forget his own shortcomings in the recent past as a Senator, and second, in the further hope that he may create a false issue inder which he might be returned to this high office. He evidently feels that he will need the office of Governor to assist him in his primary campaign two years hence, and perhaps has many doubts as to his ability to coerce, or otherwise induce me to favor him over other candidates in that primary nomination. JAY BOWERMAN.

New Railroad Regulation.

New York Times. Heretofore it has been thought that the function of government was merely to assure that rates were reasonable and just, that is, neither extertionate nor discriminatory, toward either persons or places. If the position assumed on behalf of the shippers is sustained there is no detail of the man-agement of the railways too trivial for examination and control. enough for the railways to sustain their claim that they need more money They cannot justify on totals, but must prove in detail just how much they want for terminals, just how much they

est, and so on indefinitely.

The rallways pleaded that they cannot do it, and that nebody could. However, that may be, it is evident that the ess of the contention would establish a new definition of rallway regu-lation, and one not in accord with the present law.

New York's "Ingrowing" Flats

Morning Telegraph Smaller and smaller grow the flats of New York. Now you can get an apartment consisting of one room, a kitchenette, a bathroom, and a closet, big enough for two persons to live in if they don't mind being crowded, enough, but strangely enough many of them cost as much as a six-room flat, sometimes more. In Eighty-sixth street, near Broadway, stands a fourteen-story apartment-house which makes a spe-cialty of two-room and kitchenette apartments. They rent for \$1000 a year. and on the next street one can rent a six-room apartment for \$900. Rents have gone up all over the city, and it's a wonder to me where so many hundred thousands of persons get the money.

PORTLAND, Sept. 30.—(To the Editor.)—Will The Oregonian kindly inform the voting public as to the qualifications required of a legal voter in Overgon?

A. M. H. Oregon?

He must be a citizen of the United States, native born or naturalized, and a resident of Oregon for six months. Aliens, also, who declared their intentions (took out their first papers) one year prior to the election, may vote.

Change of Programme Washington Star.
Soon, as the mild, warm days depart
To other tasks we'll turn us,
We'll pass the ice box by and start
On filing up the furnace.

CURRENT NEWSPAPER JESTS.

The Caller-Time passes quickly any, doesn't it? The Victim-Do

"All the world loves a lover." "So I've heard." "But why?" "Because everybody enjoys a joke."—Cleveland Leader. "We are making great strides," says English suffragette. It is evident that the don't wear the hobble skirt over there. Buffalo Express.

"What has become of our poets" asked the literary editor, sadiy. "Those tha haven't starved to death are working for the advertising agencies," remarked the sporting editor.—Philadelphia Record.

Little Willio-Say, pa. what is a worm? Pa—A backworm, my son, is a person who would rather read a back eat, or a worm that would rather book than read—Chicago Dally News. "What was the trouble between Swinton and his wife? Was it his fault or hers that they were unable to get along together?" "It's rather hard to decide: It appears that whenever one of them had an irresistible impulse the other had an unaiterable objection."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"What did your husband think of your crullers?" asked the cooking school teacher. "He was very much interested," replied young Mrs. Torkins. "He says that if I

Initiative and Referendum Measures

Three Conflicting Amendments to the Oregon Constitution Relating to Tax-ation—A Jumble of Proposed Laws Would Follow Their Adoption—It Is Sale to Vote "No.".

Article No. 1. Two organizations working with different purposes in view have succeeded in securing presentation to the voters in the November election of three amendments to the state constitution relating fern states. to taxation.

One organization, the State Grange, induced the Legislature to propose two of them, and the State Federation of Labor proposes the third by initiative petition.

And now, although the last-mentioned amendment conflicts vitally with one of the other two, from two distinct jources have come appeals for the approval by the people of all three. One of these appeals is found in the state pamphlet giving the text of measures submitted to the people and arguments thereon, and was prepared by officers of labor organizations. The other appeal appears in a recently published pamphlet sent generally to voters throughout the state and prepared un der the alleged auspices of the Fels Commission Fund, but which is more

phlet. The most important of the three pro posed amendments is the one prop by initiative petition and numbered "Yes 336" and "No 327," and is most important because of the far-reaching, and by some asserted to be, dangerous cons quences that would follow its adoption. Not only this, but in one of its pro visions, it is unhesitatingly pronounced by a competent lawyer to whom it has been referred by The Oregonian, to be repugnant to the Constitution of the

familiarly known as the Bourne pam-

United States.

In brief, the amendment submitted seeks to withdraw from the Legislative Assembly its power and authority to regulate taxation and yest that power wholly in the people at large, by whom it may be exercised by means of the initiative. In addition it seeks to remove all restrictions of the constitution on measures approved by the people, declaring what property shall be taxed or exempted and how it shall be taxed and exempted; proposes to authorize counties to regulate taxation and exemptions within their own borders and Prohibits the levying of poll tax.

It is in the attempted restriction of

the powers of the Legislature that the Bourne has any fear whatever that Federal Constitution becomes involved. Section 4, article 4 of the United States Constitution guarantees to every state in the Union a Republican form of government. Eminent authorities have frequently discussed this section of the Constitution and almost without exception declare that a Republican form of government is one governed by a representative Legislature chosen by the people and leaving an elective non-hereditary executive. A distinction is drawn between a Republican and a Democratic form of government. A pure democracy is held to be a commonwealth in which all the people make the laws and elect the officers directly. This is the question raised by the initiative tax amendment: Would not the withdrawal from the legislative assembly of so important a function as the regulation of taxation be a depar-

ture from a Republican form of government? Prominent members of the Oregon bar, who approve of the initiative as a principle of government, express the view that Oregon has skated to the edge of thin ice in enacting the present initiative and referendum law, and is probably still safe, but that to go so far as is proposed by the initiative tax amendment would take it over the brink.

Eliminating the element of conformity with the United States Constitution, which in the absence of a court decision must remain a doubtful fea-ture, the dangers in the proposed amendment are enhanced.

As heretofore pointed out, under the workings of such an amendment, all changes or reforms in the exemptions from and regulation of taxation would have to be accomplished through the initiative, either by petition or through proposal by the legislative assembly. Through the revoking of an important power now held by the legislative assembly, all means of adopting emergency legislation in the event of fatal error in the laws adopted are obliter-The Legislature may be summoned in special session, but the initiative may be exercised only at general elections, which occur every two

years. Again, no perfect method of taxation has ever been put into operation and as a consequence dissatisfaction by a considerable portion of the taxpaying community is found with every method now in practice.

Some 25 years ago the State of New Jersey created a central body empowered to assess all railroad property. Two years ago Oregon centralized the railroad assessing power in the State Tax Commission. In the last five years the general effort in the State of New Jersey has been to dispose of the centralization of railroad assessment, which it was so desirous of creating 25 years ago. It is said to be a have had the centralization method in use for a number of years are endeavoring to return to the old distributive or local assessment method, while those states which have the local assessment method are clamoring for centraliza-

The point in this is that there are all manner of taxation theories that certain individuals are anxious to see put into practice, and without doubt they would take form under the operation of the proposed amendment in the presentation of numerous conflict-

ing tax bills at every general election.

There is the land tax method proposed in the Bourne or Fels pamphlet. which has been in operation in Australlan and New Zealand towns. Taxation students are familiar with the discussion of this question in Great Reitain and the attempt made to work out the results in the exemption of improvements on real estate in Australian and New Zealand cities, and with the consideration and study necessary the way this discussion brought out a great diversity of opinion from both and with three proposed, two conflictprovinces as to whether it was a good

There is the business tax method as a substitute for the personal property tax in use in some parts of Canada.

There is the land tax with an improvement tax added on a basis of floor

space measurement tried in Winneper There is the method of applying a very low rate on intangible property in order to bring it from hidis which is in operation in several East-

There is the general plan of divorcing state and local taxation generally worked out by taxing public corporation property exclusively for state

There is the plan proposed by the Oregon State Federation of Labor, permitting counties to regulate taxation within their borders and which could not be put into practice without the passage of a general statute

There is the so-called Purdy system of taxing public service corporations, which provides for the levying of a rate upon the profit declarations of the company, both stocks and bonds, whether they be in the form of dividends or interest. And so on ad infinitum.

This proposed constitutional amendment, in conjunction with the free discussion pumphlet proposed in the Oreon Gazette bill, also to be voted on this year, would almost without question promote the submission of several of the foregoing theories and probably others in the form of numerous conflicting bills. If Oregon wants tax reformation it would have to adopt some of the bills presented through the initiative or do without. It is not only possible, but probable that two more conflicting bills would carry. The one that received the greatest number of affirmative votes would become oper ative and such portions of the other bills approved that were not in conflict with the first bill or with each other, would also become operative. That a jumble of taxation laws would be placed on the statute books is not a groundless fear, but almost an inevitable result of the adoption of the amendment. . . .

Added to this jumble of general statutes is the further conglomeration of tax laws that would be permitted in each county. In the absence of a general statute exempting livestock county might exempt il estock and all other counties refuse to do so. tributive or local assessment of sheep is now one of the serious problems confronting the counties of Eastern Oregon. In some counties a sheep is assessed at double what it is in others and the great roving bands of sheep are taxed in the counties where they happen to be on March 1. With one county exempting livestock and others not doing so, the great trek of sheep to the one county would begin early in the year and overrun it by March L. This is only one of the numerous consequences that may readily be forefold and many others may be imagined when the many classes of movable property are taken into consideration. Neither would the dream of experimenting in small ways in each county with taxation theories likely be realized, for the counties must necessarily be subservient to the state law and with constitutional restrictions removed, state-wide exemptions and new methods of taxation would undoubtedly cush the counties in their efforts to experiment.

Why any men or set of men should favor all three of the proposed taxation amendments is difficult to The labor amendment, if adopted by the greatest number of affirmative votes, would nullify in part and make wholly useless in all other features the two remaining amendments even if they also carried, for it specifically provides that "none of the restrictions of the Constitution shall apply to measures approved by the people declaring what shall be subject to taxation or exempted. even though that portion depriving the legislative assembly of the power to regulate taxation were declared repugnant to the Federal Constitution.

The Grange amendment submitted under House joint resolution No. 17 is apparently designed principally to permit the divorcing of state and local taxation. This amendment empowers the Legislature to provide for the levy and collection of taxes for state purposes and for county and for other municipal purposes upon different classes of property and to provide for the ascertainment, determination application of an average rate of levy and taxation upon property for state purposes. But the labor amendment declares that the Legislature may not have any part in the regulation of taxation other than to propose laws for submission to the people.

In this conflict the one of the two amendments that received the greater number of affirmative votes would prevall if both carried. The Grange amendment would also permit the levying of a very light tax on intangible property. A similar amendment overwhelmingly defeated two years ago in the State of Washington, and one like it was defeated by the people three times in the State of Ohio. The principal objection to the removal of the constitutional provision that taxes shall be equal and uniform lies in the fact general rule that those states which that it permits the levying of a small tax on property most able to pay. Opof methods that will force intangible property from its hiding places with this end in view Oregon two years ago gave broad authority and power to the State Tax Commission, which has not yet had a full oppor tunity to work out a feasible plan for relieving the burdens of taxation from those who now pay more than their share of state and municipal revenues.

Of the tax amendments proposed the two offered by the Grange are the less objectionable of the three, and the chief danger has been accomplished by throwing into the pot the amendment presented by initiative petition. Taxation is an abstruse subject. It is safe to say that not one in ten voters in Oregon has made a study of the question or has more than a cursory knowledge of the taxation methods now in operation in this state. Not one in ten has time to give the three amendments for him to vote intelligently thereon ing, and arguments presented favoring the approval of all three, confusion at the polls as to the separate character ch is certain. The Oregonian has advised those who do not understand the purport of an initiative measure to vote "no" thereon.