

The Oregonian

Portland, Oregon. Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter. Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance.

Portland, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 1912.

BOURNE AND THE CAUCUS.

Mr. Bourne as Senator owes his committee appointments to the Republican majority in the Senate acting through the Republican caucus. It is on that account difficult to be patient with the dominating representation of his publicity bureau, which talks about the day of the party caucus being over and the "merit plan having been substituted" in the assignment of Senate committee appointments.

THE VOTER REMEMBER.

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DENEEN IN THE ANANIAS CLUB.

One of the Progressives who stood with Roosevelt in the struggle for the Republican nomination, but who refused to leave the Republican party when that struggle failed, is Governor Deneen.

THE WELCHER.

The people admire a good loser. They have contempt for the man who, after he has been beaten in a fair fight, refuses to quit.

DR. VAN HISE ON COMPETITION.

Dr. Van Hise, President of the University of Wisconsin, has invented a new maxim to take the place of the familiar "Competition is the life of trade." In his opinion "Combination is the life of trade."

LABOR RESENTS WILSON'S SLANDERS.

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Beyond that limit they are, of course, unwieldy and expensive, as Mr. Brandeis has shown conclusively. Hence it ought to be part of the business of the Government to commission a study to fix a proper limit to the size of combinations. The purpose he has in mind is to secure the best results for the public with as little sacrifice of commercial liberty as possible.

CONGRESSMAN HAWLEY.

Willis C. Hawley is a candidate for a fourth term as representative in Congress for the First Oregon District. He served the state well during the past six years. He is alert, industrious, thorough, honest, careful and efficient.

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ADVICE ON INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM MEASURES

Titles of All Bills on State Election Ballot Given in Condensed Form, With Brief Explanations and Suggestions as to Their Desirability—Road Problem Seems Hopeless.

The Oregonian gives herewith its views on the 38 state measures and the two local bills presented to the voters for consideration at the general election, November 5.

It may be said, by way of preface, that the prosperity or welfare of the state or its people does not depend on the adoption of a single one of the initiative measures presented. In making this statement, the Oregonian is not unmindful of the importance of enacting comprehensive road legislation. But it has considered the numerous road bills long and earnestly, and has reluctantly reached the conclusion that the only hope for a road programme rests in the session of the Legislature to convene next January.

There are three independent sets of road bills. Each is backed by active organizations. Each is working against the other two. In order for it to carry, one of these plans must have an equal vote greater than the combined vote of the other two. It is therefore almost inevitable that all will be defeated. The Oregonian believes there are good points in the harmony bills and good points in the Grange bills, and it does not advise the voters to vote

"no" on all road measures. But it does definitely decline to enter into a discussion of their relative merits or give specific advice, because it believes it would be to no good purpose. If the voters will express their convictions, however, the Legislature will at least have a fair guide, even though all bills are defeated. The Legislature must and will take up and solve the problem.

While no serious consequences would follow defeat of all initiative measures, there are certain fundamental and elemental issues presented which it is advisable to dispose of. There are a few desirable measures that, owing to restrictions heretofore placed in the constitution, cannot be enacted except by vote of the people. There are certain measures that ought not to be on the ballot, but which may be readily grasped by the ordinary voter, and on some of these the Oregonian will give no advice, deeming it well to leave to the voters to decide whether he wishes to rebuke overuse of the initiative by voting "No," or to record his convictions.

For purpose of identification, the first few words of the official ballot title are given in each instance, but to save space the remaining portion is condensed.

Equal suffrage amendment, 300, Yes; 329, No. A bill putting the State Printer on a flat salary was adopted by the Legislature in 1911. The initiative measure would advance the date on which the act becomes effective. Plainly an abuse of the initiative power. Vote 329, No.

For constitutional amendment creating office of Lieutenant-Governor, 302, Yes; 303, No. This office would cost the people \$200 a year. It would prevent log rolling in the election of a presiding officer of the Senate. Vote 302, Yes.

For an amendment permitting taxes to be levied upon different classes of property, 304, Yes; 305, No. Anti-single tax, though the measure is not necessary to defeat a single tax. Would prevent rational tax reforms. Vote 304, Yes.

For constitutional amendment to repeal all of section 1A of article IX, except that prohibiting poll taxes, 308, Yes; 309, No. One of the most important measures on ballot. Anti-single tax. Anti-county option in taxes. Approval would minimize activities of paid propagandists and ex-penetrators in taxation. Vote 308, Yes.

For amendment of section 1, article XVII, providing for majority rule in adopting constitutional amendments, 310, Yes; 311, No. This measure would increase the difficulty of adopting constitutional amendments. It is probably aimed at abuse of the initiative, but, in the opinion of the Oregonian, initiative abuses have not been experienced so much in adopting undesirable measures as in the continued imposition upon the voters of the necessity of studying and defeating them. Every voter ought to have his own convictions on this amendment.

For constitutional amendment relating to liability of bank stockholders, 312, Yes; 313, No. This amendment would increase the liability of state bank stockholders to that held by national bank stockholders. It is a protective measure for depositors and other creditors of banks. Vote 312, Yes.

An act vesting the Railroad Commission with power to regulate rates and service of public utilities, 314, Yes; 315, No. Meritorious bill in the interests of the consumers of electricity, gas and other utilities. It was referred to the voters as the result of personal attacks by the politicians. It has been endorsed by the Governor, the Railroad Commission, the Washington Public Service Commission, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and other recognized authorities. Vote 314, Yes.

A bill for an act to create the new County of Cascade, 318, Yes; 319, No. Purely local measure. Improperly on ballot. Vote 319, No.

A bill for an act creating a single Board of Regents and levying millage tax for support of university and Agricultural College, 320, Yes; 321, No. This act would remove the two educational institutions from legislative log rolling and prevent unnecessary adoption of courses of study. It is properly on the ballot because it is readily grasped and, being a tax measure, cannot now be acted on by the Legislature. Vote 320, Yes.

For the amending of section 1, article VI, so as to require a majority vote to approve initiative measures, 322, Yes; 323, No. Would make adoption of initiative measures more difficult. As stated in connection with another amendment, the Oregonian believes that the chief defect in present methods of direct legislation is not in the act, but in the ease with which undesirable measures may be placed on the ballot. The question, however, is elemental, and Oregon voters should need no advice thereon.

A bill for an act authorizing any county to issue bonds for road construction, 324, Yes; 325, No. This is one of the Grange road bills. It, and the next amendment, are framed with the idea of giving the residents of each county control of character, location, grades and amount of money to be expended on good roads, and do not contemplate bond assistance from the state at large. No advice. See introduction.

A bill for an act to create a highway department, 326, Yes; 327, No. This is the Grange road amendment; the vote should be the same on this as on the preceding bill.

A bill to put chapter 266, laws of 1911, in effect December 1, 1912, instead of January 1, 1913. 328, Yes; 329, No.

WEST FIGHTING AGAINST ODDS Attitude on Temperance and Vice Subject of Praise. CORVALLIS, Oct. 21.—(To the Editor.)—However much any one may dislike the Governor's pro-tem policy, it seems to me that it is fair to commend other acts which meet with his approbation. It has seemed that in his anti-vice crusade, he has gone about it in a way different from the way some others would pursue, and up to date with barren results. Where one man alone is pitted against an army, every member of which is thinking day and night how to keep his hands clean and evade the consequences of violated law, it would seem to be quite a contract the Governor had undertaken, and more or less indifferent results may be expected.

The statement made by Governor West before the W. C. T. U. convention Saturday night, as reported in the Sun-day Oregonian, has moved me to write this letter. Whatever we may think of his methods and their probable utility, it is encouraging to people inclined as it is to find in the state an official, not only in accord with their work, but actively engaged in the same endeavors.

The cases animating the Governor to cast himself against vice, and particularly against the saloon, are harrowing indeed. How many blasted homes in Oregon and throughout the Nation can unite with him in this sentiment. There are many others, too, hard-headed, practical men of affairs, who are dominated by the same sentiments. One has but to look about the next little bit to notice the drinking of liquor in any form is indeed evil. It disqualifies men for many positions absolutely, and generally impairs their usefulness, not to mention its disintegrating effect on the character of most persons who use liquor.

I am not desiring to deliver a temperance address. My sentiments on the saloon evil are known wherever I am known, and I am considerably disliked by all persons in any way engaged in either making or selling the article, wherever I have lived long enough to become known.

To my mind Governor West is to be praised for his attitude on the question of suppressing vice and his endeavor to compel men to obey the law. Our laws are not perfect. But such as we have should be obeyed. J. H. WILSON.

Little Brother's Night Out. Chicago Daily News. She—My little brother will not bother us tonight. He—That's good. When does the funeral take place.

Half a Century Ago. From the Oregonian of October 23, 1862. The session of Olympia drew to a close on the 21st for the purpose of adopting some suitable means to perpetuate the memory of General Isaac I. Stevens, who fell while leading his comrades in one of the most important victories gained over the rebels since the war began.

Louisville, Oct. 14.—It is stated that 5000 prisoners have been captured at Perryville, Mo., by the Cavalry of Robinson. The enemy are falling back rapidly towards Cumberland Gap.

An alarm of fire aroused the "boys" and not only the "boys," but it seemed to us as if everybody ran to see the slight flames, and the flames proceeded from a stable on the corner of Fifth and Stark streets, belonging to Messrs. Johnson and Perkins, which had recently been filled with new hay. The building was almost instantly wrapped in flames, preventing all possibility of recovery, and the only thing that could be done was to tear down the burning mass as quickly as possible to prevent the fire spreading to other buildings.

E. W. Nottage had his nose broken by some shoulder-hitter at the fire last night.