

FAIR PLAY ASKED

Republicans Demand a Square Deal at the Primaries.

REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARDS

Judges and Clerks Should Not Be the Tools of the County Committee, but Good Men.

The sentiment is almost universal among Multnomah county republicans that this year's primaries should be conducted with the utmost fairness. The judges and clerks must be republicans of the best class, and not the personal chums or tools of members of the county committee; the different factions must have representation among the judges and clerks; the primaries must be conducted in an orderly manner; every republican must have the right to cast his vote for the candidate of his choice, and have his vote counted. In no other way, argue the republicans who are demanding fair play, can primaries which will have the full confidence of the party throughout the county be held. In no better way than by fair primaries can the campaign of 1900 be inaugurated. All republicans agree that a ticket nominated by a city and county convention composed of delegates chosen at primaries at which every republican is given a full and fair chance, will be so strong that it will sweep everything before it.

In election years, the county committee, upon the approach of the primaries, meets and selects the judges and clerks for each precinct. Invariably these officers are the friends of the county committee or of its individual members, and as a general rule they are selected because of their known ability to carry out orders. Under this system an abuse has arisen which has a tendency to keep the party divided into discordant factions. It also keeps many republicans away from the primaries. They contend that the county committee controls the officers, that it has workers enough at the primaries to elect the delegates of its own choosing, and that there is no use of fighting the organization when there is not the slightest show of success. The present complaint is not against the men who run the primaries by this method, but against the method itself. It would be useless to blame one county committee for what another has done before it. In fact, the way of conducting primaries has been so long established that county committees have come to consider the naming of their friends for primary officers as a sacred prerogative.

Republicans are determined to break up the old system this year and give the party a new and more satisfactory one. This decision has been made because of the present harmonious status of the party. There is very little discontent among republicans. All are anxious for party success at the general election in June, and at the presidential election in November. "If we are expected to stand by the party in the elections," said a republican yesterday, "can we be charged with being unreasonable if we ask a little say in the management? We are just as much interested in the party's success as the county committee is, and we certainly should have the assurance of fair primaries."

The demand for representation for all the factions, at least the principal ones, on the primary boards, proceeds from a basis which no one will say is unreasonable. In the first place, all the factions are republicans. Take that small body of men who in the past have called themselves silver republicans. Nearly all of them have found that the silver issue was one of the widest kind, and have drifted back to the old party ready and anxious to vote the regular ticket. Then there are many others, good men, who

parted from the regular organization for one cause or another. This year finds them in the party column, and without a prefix to their names. They say that they have always been republicans, and that they would like to act with the party. They deem it hardly fair that they should be told to step aside and do penance for not having always been regular. They want no offices; they are not seeking to control the organization. All they ask is representation on the primary boards, to the end that fair primaries may be held. They may not get what they ask, but if it shall be granted to them, the republican candidates in this county this year may rest assured that they will have the support of every republican in Multnomah. What this strength is may be judged from the way in which the party lined up for McKinley in 1896.

Primary troubles in Multnomah county well nigh destroyed the harmony of the state conventions of 1896 and 1898. In each of these conventions two sets of delegates from Multnomah asked for seats. Wrangling debates followed in the effort to determine who was who in this county. The convention of 1896, tired of the wrangling and jangling, and fearful of the effect the trouble would have on the rest of the state in presidential year, split the Multnomah delegation and bequeathed the discord to the convention of 1898. What occurred at Astoria nearly two years ago is well known. Two sets of delegates from Multnomah presented credentials. In the settlement of the matter all of Multnomah's dirty linen was washed for the edification of a large audience. Men of long standing in the party openly charged another of participating in or supporting unfair primaries. Republicans from other sections of the state said that they could not believe that such a state of affairs could exist in Multnomah county, and would not have believed it if they had not heard Multnomah republicans tell of it.

Republicans fully believe that the city and county committee will make such arrangements for the forthcoming primaries as will insure fair play to all, and representation to those whose republicanism entitles them to it. They cannot believe that the county committee will turn a deaf ear to a demand for justice. They cannot believe the committee will throw away this splendid opportunity to reunite the party under one banner by giving all republicans a show.

NEED OF A WAGON ROAD.

It Would Bring Trade of Klamath County to Portland.

H. L. Benson, one of the circuit judges of the first judicial district, who is in Portland from Klamath Falls, says he and George T. Baldwin, a hardware merchant of his town, had quite a time finding the road as they drove over to Ashland in their own conveyance. The distance between Klamath Falls and Ashland is 60 miles, and the road was buried so deep in mud in many places that they did not find it at all. If this highway could be improved, Judge Benson says, the trade of Southeastern Oregon would seek Portland more readily than it does.

At present the people of Klamath and Lake counties have only one outlet, and that is by Astor, a point on the Southern Pacific south of the California line. This condition favors a commercial relationship with San Francisco, though his people would much rather do their trading in Portland. A railroad is now being surveyed from Klamath to Klamath Falls, and should this be built, it would give Portland an even chance with the California city in securing the trade. He does not look for the completion of this railroad very soon, however, and therefore favors an immediate improvement of the wagon road between Klamath Falls and Ashland.

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Rubber-Cement Floor Paint...

Dries hard over night and wears like iron. For sale by all first-class paint retailers, or by the manufacturers.

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The more progressive railroads are abandoning wooden freight cars in favor of steel-built ones, and it is a question of a few years when all leading lines will use no other kind.

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ANOTHER WEEK

Of our big discount sale has just closed, and another opens tomorrow. It perhaps may be to your interest in a financial way to remember this is a January clearance sale, and can't last much longer. It's still your opportunity to get this

Your Decision as to Qualities and Values

is arrived at nowhere so easily as here on

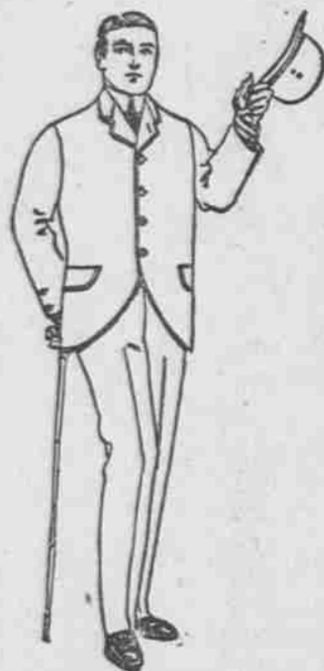
Men's Suits

Good Does not begin to express the quality of this line. They are mostly fancy chevrons and serges—stylish cut suits that have sold all season at \$22 to \$24..... \$10.20

Better Values of more stylish suits have never been offered here in this city than we are showing in this line of Socrates. A rough effect, and the values were there when we sold them at \$15.00.... \$12.75

Best In style and greatest in value; elegantly made, richly trimmed, everything harmonizes, except the price, which should be from \$20 to \$25..... \$17.00

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In extent of variety we invite comparison

Overcoats

HERRING BONE COVERT overcoats, with velvet collars, elegantly made, with an exclusive style to them you can't help but appreciate. These lines of coats have sold all season at \$12 and \$14..... \$10.00

TAN COVERT OVERCOATS—A truly swell garment, stylishly cut and made and sold regular at \$15; you need not be a close observer to see they are exceptional values at..... \$12.75

OXFORD CHEVIOT OVERCOATS—Velvet collars and lined throughout with silk; style the latest, fit perfect; quality beyond compare; sold regular all season at \$20..... \$17.00

Boys' all-wool reefer suits, in brown checks and mixture, strongly made; \$3 values; all sizes..... \$2.15

Boys' tan covert top coats, with velvet collars, very stylish and strictly all-wool garments; \$5.00 values..... \$3.65

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