

# Coos Bay Times

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
COOS BAY DAILY TIMES  
Marshfield Oregon

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### PRIMARY ELECTIONS

At least one of the greatest Oregon publications, the Oregonian, evidently does not believe in the Oregon primary election law. That it was born of a condition of hysterical clamor at the corruption of individual politicians and officials, is some justification for its existence, but it does not require a very large power of analysis to foresee that it will be the productive cause of yet many future troubles. It is a question of whether the cure is not worse than the evil. The Oregon Primary Election law does, without doubt, destroy all partisan politics in the state and brings men to close popular inspection before they can hold office. But it pledges them to nothing. They are not even informed by any plebiscite or party platform as to what is expected of them or what the people want. Political contests become simply and solely contests of popularity and personal attraction like the prize contest of a newspaper.

It is thought in some states where the Oregon idea has been partially adopted—notably in Minnesota—that this Primary Election idea is a marked advance in the direction of better and more democratic government. The American politician, generally speaking, is singularly conceited, concerning his own and his nation's superiority in the law making business. He is equally as ignorant of what other countries have done in the same line and usually refuse to study the experience of a foreign country much less to accept it. For this reason the Australian ballot law, now accepted everywhere as a model, was bitterly opposed, and even now, in many states, exists only in a mutilated and impotent form. For the same reason the laws of many countries which have been tried and found suddenly efficient have been waived aside as "unsuited to the genius of the American people."

The Germans have a primary election law which recognizes that measures are more important than men, but which brings men into the line fight for close inspection when they are candidates. It recognizes parties as having the right to exist as exponents of principles and as having the right to select candidates who represent their principles. The primary election is the first election which is in all respects as completely an election as the second election which follows. Let us illustrate: Suppose the state of Oregon had a primary election law like that of Germany. The Democrat, Republican, Populist, Prohibition and Socialist parties would each hold a convention and announce its platform of principles and nominate its candidates to stand on such platform. At the first election each voter would declare his preference, presumably, being actuated by his principles, to vote his party ticket. If the Democrats and Republican parties were the highest in the total ballot, the Populist, Prohibitionist and Socialist would drop out and at the second election cast their vote to decide whether they preferred the Republican or the Democratic candidate. If the Socialist should be one of the highest and the Democratic third, then the latter would drop out at the first election and the decision would be between the Republican and the Socialist and so on. Thus the minority party always has a chance to show the growth of its status in popular sentiment and measure its rank before candidates.

Under the Oregon law nothing is considered but men and it is extremely expensive for each man to make a campaign for nomination. He has not begun to fight when he has won his nomination and another expensive campaign is begun. Only wealthier men can afford to be in such politics, and each man must make his own platform. It may not be a platform which the people are especially interested in, but if two men upke an issue, no matter how unimportant, no doubt, if they fight vigorously they can get the people to take sides. But to what purpose? The story is told of the great

## WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

GOOD EVENING.

Every man is worth just so much as the things are worth about which he busies himself.  
—MARCUS AURELIUS.

OLD LETTERS.

Faded letters! How I love them! Why, they seem to touch a string On the harpsichord of mem'ry 'Till the hosts of angels sing— Sing to me of loved ones, and the Hands that penned each loving line Seem to reach across the chasm And clasp them close to mine.

Faded letters! From a sweetheart— From a mother dear to me— From a brother, and another Far across the briny sea— From a wife she sent to cheer me In a strange and foreign land, And the best of all, the letters Where she traced the baby's hand.

Chubby fingers How I loved them! How the fleeting years eface! Or, is it my tears, I wonder, That bedim the loving trace? Though the cheerless years be many Since we worshipped at the shrine, Still I feel those little fingers Close around this heart of mine!

Faded letters! How I love them! Letters from my loved ones and 'Tis, the best of all, the letter Where she traced the baby's hand; Little imprint on the paper, And upon my heart I fear, Sets the harpsichord of mem'ry Playing music sweet to hear!  
—Buffalo News.

There was an awful gulf of gloom in the poets corner last night. It was occasioned by the assertion of a member that he knew that there were some verses that were worse than those printed recently. Everyone thought th elimit in doggerel had been reached and it grieved them to think that there might be something somewhere that was worse. When the meeting adjourned to the Gold-le room the following was found: The editor sat in his usual state, Demouring the fact that the mail was late And the Portland papers had failed to come So he could not steal his items therefrom But he had resort to the old, old plan, Used by papers since time began, And equipped with scissors and old magazines And Country Exchanges where doggerel teems, Boldly clipping therefrom the silliest verse Added some of his own, consid'rably worse; How he smiled as he thought of the space it would fill And the money he'd save from his telegraph bill, But on reading it over, the man was afraid And most promptly the blame on the innocent laid; Selecting some friends for their good nature noted He claimed that the sad stuff from them had been quoted, Then he gaily went forth to his pretzels and beer With a smile on his face and his conscience quite clear.  
—ONE OF THE VICTIMS

lawyer, Rufus Choate, that he was once engaged in trying a patent case where the question was whether his client had wrongfully infringed the other man's invention. After several days had been spent in the contest a friend asked Choate at a noon recess, how they were getting on, to which the lawyer replied: "Finely. We are now trying the question, who's got the best machine, and we shall beat them." The brightest candidate under Oregon's primary election law may do the same. The people have nothing to do with the issue—only the men. But the Oregon law does not, and cannot, without infringing the constitution of the state and nation, prevent parties from holding conventions, nominating candidates and submitting their candidate so nominated to the primary election for endorsement. This might, if it were undertaken, supply some of the defects of the law. It would provide a platform. It would give a candidate some backing so that a poor man might dare to run for office. At the same time it would prevent a bad nomination from being confirmed and placed on the ballot, as the voters would not endorse it, it is absurd for the parties not to hold conventions.



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## Business Directory

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Phone 1611. Marshfield, Ore.

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Physician and Surgeon.  
Office over First National Bank.  
Residence, two blocks north of  
Crystal Theater. Office Phone  
1431. Residence Phone 1656.

### Lawyers.

Francis H. Clarke Jacob M. Blake  
Lawrence A. Liljeqvist  
CLARKE, BLAKE &  
LILJEQVIST,  
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW  
Times Building, Marshfield, Ore.  
United States Commissioner's Office.

J. W. BENNETT,  
Office over Flanagan & Bennett  
Bank  
Marshfield, Oregon

C. F. MCKNIGHT,  
Attorney at Law.  
Upstairs, Bennett & Walter Bloc  
Marshfield, Oregon

COKE & COKE,  
Attorneys at Law.  
Marshfield, Oregon

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