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ABUSING THE INITIATIVE.

The proper function of the initiative is precisely the reverse of the referendum. That and nothing more. When the legislature attempts to enact unwise legislation the referendum is called into action to keep it from going into effect.

The converse. When needed and wholesome legislation is proposed and the legislature turns it down the initiative is brought into requisition to force responsive action by the law-making body. That is its proper function and only safe use.

When applied to its proper use the initiative will prove a wise and wholesome power in the hands of the people instead of an encumbrance on the ballot and the source of much illogical and foolish legislation as it now is.

The trouble is that the initiative power is being exercised as an instrument of original legislation instead of one by which wholesome legislation can be forced in spite of an unresponsive legislature. If the initiative is to continue to be abused as it is now it will soon usurp every prerogative of the legislature and render it useless, loading the statutes with ill-advised, immature and inconsistent laws. Now every person with a pet notion, or a grudge, whether actuated by malice or beneficent intent, juts forward his measure, until the ballot is utterly encumbered by the multiplicity of proposals to the electorate. Last year there were forty-eight of them and at the coming election the voter will be confronted with twenty-nine of them. To determine the degree of intelligent action possible in voting upon this hodgepodge it is only necessary for each voter to ask himself whether last year he was able to exercise matured judgment on each initiative measure on his ballot. Unless he had more time and inclination than the writer he is bound to answer he did not. Efficient, economical government cannot be brought about and maintained except by careful, honest, intelligent legislation. The initiative, applied as it is now in unwieldily undigested gobs, will not bring about wholesome results.

Great powers, those of initiative and referendum, in the hands of the people, carefully and intelligently exercised, but dangerous indeed if improperly applied or diverted from their proper uses.

Every legislative proposal should be first presented to the legislature for action. If the legislature fails to respond and there exists a strong popular demand for the measure, let the initiative be brought to bear in its proper function.

Let Oregon quit running wild with a good thing—quit abusing the powers of initiative—or her statutes will soon become so incongruous, ridiculous and unfitting that wholesome government will be impossible under them.

PRAYER FOR PEACE.

United prayer for world peace will be offered in every church, Sunday school and religious organization in America Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. President Wilson has issued a proclamation calling upon the American people to pray for peace, not alone in the war zone, but through the entire world.

The Ashland ministers will respond to this request and offer prayer for the great cause of humanity. Every citizen in the home fireside should let his voice be heard. At this hour peace is the utmost desire of every one on earth, be he in the ditch behind the firing line or in the home of plenty and comfort. Worldwide peace, harmony and friendship, untroubled by thoughts of war, is the devout desire of all. Therefore let us lend our voices as well as our best efforts in the great cause.

HOLLISTER VS. HAWLEY.

From all we are able to glean from his history, Hawley is an exemplary private citizen. As a congressman he is a flat failure. Oregon cannot hope to get on in national influence with a "ME TOO" representative. She needs congressmen with initiative—with stamina—with a purpose, and that purpose must be to put Oregon on the map in national legislation, influence and appropriations. In a republican congress, with a republican administration, Hawley was weak enough—he accomplished no great good for Oregon—but with a democratic administration and congress he is absolutely nil. He has not the punch to command respect either from friend or foe. He attracts only those who love monotony—who are content to slide along—and stop when obstacles are encountered, be they ever so small. He has gained a few pensions for old soldiers. That is commendable. But that told the story ends. Put your finger on any great accomplishment, if you can, where Hawley has been the power behind the result, during the past eight years while he has encumbered an Oregon congressional seat. In accomplishment he is a flat failure. If he is elected this time it will be more because of his franking privileges than his performances.

The Tidings thinks it is a fair judge of men. It knows the difference between a live and a dead one, and, take our word for it, Hawley is a dead one as far as result getting is concerned. Eight years continuous trial without a result proves it. On the other hand, Hollister is very much alive. He has proven a force in his own community. He is a forceful citizen of the state. He is putting the punch into his campaign. He is full of energy, of ambition, of good judgment and ginger. He will be elected, as he should be, will make a cracking good congressman, and, being in harmony with the administration, will get results.

All things being equal, the Tidings is inclined to the support of republican candidates. In this case the match is uneven, too much difference in the men—there is greater difference in the timber than is possible in the party. Therefore as between Hollister and Hawley a republican can support Hollister without the least party compunction, unless, by chance, he thinks more of his party than the glory and welfare of his state.

ORGANIZATION FOR LEGISLATION.

In the August 20 issue of Life, attention is called to the efforts of organized physicians to secure legislation such as they desire, ostensibly for the public interest. We quote from Life as follows:

"At a recent meeting of the American Medical Association at Atlantic City, fifteen reasons were advanced for the establishment of a national department of health. Among these perhaps the best one—from the medical standpoint—is that which states, 'To influence state and city authorities to enact reform legislation in relation to health matters.' The kind and quality of legislation to be enacted would of course be determined by the doctors themselves. They would quite naturally not be willing to admit that anybody else is competent. * * * This is a beautiful system. * * * It aims for nothing less than the direct control of the health, the liberty, and the person of every American, whether male or female."

As the bulk of medical legislation asked for by the medical societies in the past has included a definition of the practice of medicine drawn in such terms as would include all who heal the sick, whether by medical treatment or not, there can be but little doubt of the correctness of Life's conclusion. The intention of such proposed legislation is to make it a crime for any person who is not a physician, in the most limited sense of that term, to attempt to heal the sick; but inasmuch as the only person who ever healed all manner of disease and never failed to heal those who applied to him, was not a physician, and did not practice the system which the American Medical Association stands for, it would certainly seem that to create a monopoly in favor of and at the behest of physicians who have never equaled this record, is not in the interest of the people.

The Tidings editor had the pleasure of going through the high school building with Professor Briscoe Monday morning. It is a plant for which citizens can well feel proud. Mr. Briscoe has organized it with the view of bringing it close to the needs of the people. He is giving attention not only to academic education, but to the practical as well. When girls and boys finish in the Ashland high school they will be equipped for the duties of life as well as have the elements of academic knowledge.

SELECTING A CANDIDATE.

(Eugene Guard.)
For the second time in the history of the state of Oregon the people will this fall elect a United States senator. George E. Chamberlain, the present incumbent, a democrat; William Hanley of Burns, a progressive, and R. A. Booth of Eugene, a republican, are the candidates. By an amendment to the federal constitution a new obligation has been imposed upon the voters and the position brought closer to the people. It is to be their will who shall be elected, and in making the selection it is a duty of every man and woman to consider this matter carefully. Their decision should be above the plain partisan politics. Unless they follow such a course the purpose of the constitutional amendment providing for a direct vote will have been defeated and we might as well go back to the old method of caucus selection and election by state legislatures.

In some of the counties of Oregon the present campaign is assuming an unwelcome aspect in the eyes of the citizens. The cry of the partisan press deceives no one. Abuse of a republican candidate by a democratic paper because he is a republican is a poor and unfair political policy. Tirades against democratic candidates by the opposition press were at one time deemed essential to a party campaign, but the ultra partisan and his methods are no longer effective in creating public sentiment. Times have changed and the people have changed. The voters can no longer be herded into the polling place and the herders are no longer necessary. The people are independent of the machine, and being independent are guided more by their own judgment than they are influenced by the panic of the political stampede.

Newspapers, like men, are beginning to realize that their greatest power lies in political freedom. The newspaper which accepts all the candidates of any party on the wholesale party ticket principle destroys its greatest field for usefulness in a community. It stamps indelibly upon its editorials the marks of prejudice which the voter recognizes at sight, but which, a few years ago, were in harmony with the attitude of voters in general. Something more is expected of the newspapers than unqualified support of any political machine at a time when the people are forcing the adoption of laws providing for the direct election of all public officials.

The Guard under the present management has been independent in political matters. The editor is registered as a republican, but his politics are absolutely independent. He has been an ardent admirer and supporter of Woodrow Wilson, president of these United States, and his policies. He has watched the college professor grow into the diplomat of nations, and the conduct of the country's affairs, under his guiding hand in time of crisis, has revealed to him a man whose service has been a godsend to the nation. The Guard has repeatedly emphasized its position and it has supported the administration not because it was democratic, but because of the power of this great and sincere man and of actual services performed.

The Guard has urged the election of Frederick Hollister of Coos Bay, a democrat, as a candidate for congress and, today, announces that it will support R. A. Booth of Eugene, a republican, as a candidate for United States senator. In Mr. Hollister it recognizes a man of ability, fully qualified to fill a position in which W. C. Hawley, the present incumbent, a republican, has made an utter failure.

In political matters there is no middle ground. A newspaper should make its position known and not seek to dodge an issue or offer a pretended support. A thing is either right or wrong, and it must be either for or against a candidate. It has ascertained the views of the candidates upon important issues. It has studied their fitness for the position, and in announcing its decision does so with the conviction that best results, so far as the people of Oregon are concerned, are to be attained through the election of Mr. Booth.

The Guard has not been influenced by partisan politics. This decision is the result of independent consideration of the candidates and those things which have been paramount in determining the course of the paper in this matter will be urged during the remaining weeks of the campaign as reasons why Lane county's candidate should be elected to the United States senate.

The political backers of Mr. Hawley are hereby requested to show up and "point with pride" to his record. Why are they so silent?

Fifty cents invested in a Tidings "For Sale" ad often sells a \$5,000 property. Did you ever try it?

"INNOUOUS DESUETUDE."

Heretofore Hawley has won by default. Nobody has ever thought of looking into his record—into the things he has accomplished, or, rather, the things he should have, but has not.

Mr. Hollister is the first opposing candidate that has forced Hawley's hand. He demands of Hawley that he give an account of his stewardship. Hawley replies: "No interest to serve but the people's interest." A fine enough platitude, indeed, but the record shows beyond doubt that he has served no interest except Hawley's interest, and only that by drawing his salary as congressman, and mileage, amounting to about \$9,000 per year, and his salary as member of the executive board of the Modern Woodmen of about \$1,200 per year. If the records show true—and our source is the Congressional Record—he has given the people of this district absolutely nothing for their money. He has done nothing. True, he claims credit for some of the appropriations Bourne got for Oregon, but the records do not bear him out. The only real fight he ever put up in congress was against a resolution to cut down the mileage of congressmen to the actual traveling expenses. Against that he made a lively fight. If he had been as aggressive for the 170 bills he introduced during the past eight years, and let die for want of force, as he was against reducing his own mileage allowance, no doubt he would have had some legislation to his credit, but, alas, when the mileage resolution was defeated he sank at once into a state of hopeless desuetude, where he has remained ever since, at least until Hollister got after him.

ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH.

Of late we have examined into the record of Congressman Hawley. He has introduced 175 bills in congress and 170 of them were killed while he slept at the switch, and the other five were private pension bills. The pension bills are all right. We are in favor of liberal pensions, but there must have been a lively sentiment in favor of pensions or Hawley would never even have landed these, for he has succeeded in getting nothing else, as far as we can judge by the records.

Hawley's record will not stand the strain of a campaign. He will have to make his run on something more tangible, for the record is flaccid as a spider web.

The Tidings has been scrutinizing the Congressional Record carefully. Hawley has persistently stood pat and slept while he stood pat. Hawley is a "ME TOO" congressman, and nothing more. The Tidings is opposed to reactionary do-nothings wherever found.

STANDING FOR SOMETHING.

This is what Frederick Hollister stands for as expressed in his petition for nomination: River and harbor appropriations; public lands for home builders; national equal suffrage and prohibition.

All of which looks good. Besides, Hollister is a man of stamina—of good red blood—and ability, energy and courage enough to inject his ideas favorably into congressional action. We are a little tired of soft dough backbones and jelly fish constitutions.

Hollister's moral back is built of strong bone and muscle and he is constitutionally a hustler.

That's why he will be elected to congress.

Mr. Prohibitionist, look up the record and answer this: What practical support has Hawley ever given to either state or national prohibition? He has straddled the fence—been asleep on the job all round. Hawley is a splendid specimen of jelly fish. He lacks stamina. Hollister went on record on prohibition the first pop. He was not afraid to tell where he stood on that vital issue. Whether popular or unpopular, he stood for the right. And that is why the Tidings is for Hollister. He has backbone enough to take a stand on vital issues and energy and ability enough to vitalize them.

Hawley is a reactionary elected from one of the most progressive districts in this Union. He has been indeed fortunate. Until this campaign opened he has not before had a formidable opponent. He has heretofore been elected by default. The Tidings has failed to find in the Oregon press, either before the primary or since, one single argument why Hawley should be returned to congress. The Oregonian put forth the best argument we have yet heard when it said, "Of course Hawley will be elected." If measured by his record Hawley falls at once into the do-nothing class.

Phone news items to the Tidings.

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Hawley Has Two Jobs and Salaries

W. C. Hawley has served four terms in congress from the state of Oregon, says the Eugene Guard. He now seeks a fifth term. As a rule a man begins to show some signs of life after eight years in the national legislative body, but Mr. Hawley has failed to create a stir sufficient to attract attention even among his own constituents. Possibly Mr. Hawley does not measure up to the position. Perhaps he has been devoting too much time to private business or to a fraternal insurance organization by which he is employed and from which he receives a salary, and has been compelled to neglect the affairs of the people.

The Guard considers Mr. Hawley by what his services to the state and district have been worth. It is not a pleasant task to condemn a man, but it is sometimes necessary if we are to apply the same sound principles to governmental affairs as we invoke in business. An employer pays his employee a certain sum for the performance of certain work. Results must be accomplished or new hands will take their places. The just man gives every other man a reasonable chance, but the man who does not measure up to the required standard, or who neglects his work in seeking to serve two masters, by handling a side line, sooner or later is dismissed. There is a time when forbearance ceases to be a virtue and the man in business is forced to act for the preservation of his interests. When that time comes, no matter whether the employee is a republican or a democrat, that fact will not, and should not, hold him in his position.

The people are awakening to the fact that the public servant is not unlike the employe. They have a right to expect that he shall perform a certain service, and when that service is not performed they should dismiss him, regardless of political entanglements. The people have been reasonable with Mr. Hawley. The hour of judgment has arrived. Has he made good, or has he neglected the business of his district, the state and nation in an effort to earn a few hundred dollars additional over and

above his salary of \$7,500 a year as a member of the managing board of an insurance organization?

A few days ago the people of Oregon read with humiliation an account of the fact that Mr. Hawley has been appointed as a member of the committee of forty-eight, representing the various states of the Union, to attend the funeral of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, wife of the president of these United States, but that he was not in Washington at the time.

The Congressional Record of August 8, page 14,699, quotes Speaker Clark saying:

"Yesterday morning the chair appointed the gentleman from Oregon, Mr. Hawley, on the committee of forty-eight to attend the funeral of Mrs. Wilson. The chair has just received a telegram saying that he had just gone to Oregon and cannot be there. The gentleman from Oregon, Mr. Eafferty, has not been here for two or three months, so the chair will appoint the gentleman from Oregon, Mr. Sinnott."

This is a deplorable record for the state of Oregon to hold forth to the people of the country at such a time, if true. Mr. Hawley did not come to Oregon. He has not been here. There was at about that time a meeting of the insurance board of which he is a member. We do not know that he was in attendance, but the salary of \$75 a month which he draws from the organization makes attendance at such meetings incumbent upon the members of the board of managers of which he is one and provides additional compensation for all meetings attended.

It is not to be assumed that Mr. Hawley receives such a sum of money for nothing. He must perform some service and such a service requires time. Mr. Hawley, it cannot be disputed, has a side line.

Think it over. You have a few weeks to make up your mind. Are you going to assist in the re-election of a man to the congress of the United States for a fifth term, solely because he is a republican? Is there no other consideration? One thing that America needs more than anything else is political independence in the individual, here and in Washington, and as this develops more men like Mr. Hawley will be devoting all their time to side lines.

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