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GOOD THING FOR THE BOSSES.

We were told during the June campaign that the direct primary law was calculated to take the management of the two political parties out of the hands of the "bosses" and place it in the hands of the rank and file of the parties. It is to be presumed that the "bosses" are the men to whom those most interested in the parties look for advice.

It would indeed be interesting to know just how the law will accomplish this object, and difficult to understand that it will not have the effect of more thoroughly eliminating the voter from voice in the affairs of the party to which he belongs. It is only reasonable to suppose that each of the parties will maintain headquarters and rely upon their central committees to look after the various matters which need attention.

Now, who will select party candidates? The direct primary law provides that candidates shall cause their names to be placed on the primary ballots by filing petitions with the county clerk, but isn't it reasonable to suppose that there will be some understanding beforehand on the part of the men most active politically? It frequently happens, in Multnomah as well as in outside counties, that difficulty is experienced in securing candidates. For the lucrative offices there are plenty of aspirants, but for the minor offices candidates are usually scarce. Who will see to it that these minor offices are filled? Surely somebody must attend to this most important matter, and quite as surely some committee of partisans will arrange for circulation of the petitions of the various aspirants for nomination.

This work is indispensable and must necessarily be done by the central committees of the two parties. The central committees are made up usually of one delegate from each precinct in the county, or, where there are large cities in the counties, of one delegate from each outside precinct and three from each city precinct. In Clatsop county the committees are composed of about 25 men, of whom nine—the city committeemen—attend all the meetings and arrange for primaries and elections.

It is plain to be seen that the affairs of the parties are to be taken out of the hands of the conventions and placed solely in the hands of the committees. This will minimize the number of managers to about one-twelfth of the number heretofore selecting candidates. The present system of nominating by petition offers no advantage over the old method, for the reason that independent candidates could formerly nominate themselves by petition. The old law had due regard for the rights of those dissatisfied with convention nominations, for it provided that the nominations of conventions should be filed up to within 15 days of the election. It was plainly the intent to allow dissatisfied members of a party to name opposition candidates.

Heretofore candidates have been selected by conventions made up of 100 to 125 delegates. Now candidates will be selected by county or city committees, made up perhaps of not more than 10 working members. As an instance of what "reform" will do to lift the burden of the "bosses" from the shoulders of the poor, downtrodden voter, Oregon's direct primary law is certainly a wonderful measure.

MONEY IN FRUIT GROWING.

Orchardists of the Wenatchee valley, in Cehlan county, are shipping 10 carloads of fruits to market every day, says the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The shipments consist chiefly of apples and peaches and are made in large lots to the cities of Montana, Minnesota and the Dakotas. Some choice apples are sent as far as Winnipeg, where they command good prices. One grower has an orchard of 23 acres in bearing apple trees from which he estimates his picking for the year at 10,000 boxes. These will net at least 50 cents per box, or over \$200 an acre, after deducting expenses.

Fruit growing offers one of the best opportunities for success in the horticultural field. The Wenatchee valley is especially favored because of a combination of soil, climate and water for irrigation purposes. Many of the marketable fruits can be harvested from orchards four years after planting. Some of the red apple orchards give an average of five boxes to the tree the fourth year from trans-

planting. In 10 years the trees return 10 boxes or more each and continue for many years to produce similar results.

Irrigation insures annual crops where dependence on rainfall and natural climatic conditions makes the crop an uncertainty. Under a good system of irrigation the orchardist has the elements of growth and development in trees and fruits in his hand. He can direct the formation of the tree and the fruits as the market demands. By cultivation and fertilization, which every fruit grower must understand, he can produce that which will take precedence in every fruit market of the country.

Orchard planting insures permanency in income, with but little expense for maintaining the original acreage. Selected trees are easily grown and last for years. Some of the bearing cherry trees of Puget sound have been giving annual crops for the past quarter of a century. The outlay for machinery and marketing boxes is never great. Pruning and spraying the trees require care and prompt attention, but do not represent a large cash expenditure to the acre. There is not a great deal of manual labor in the orchard. A good orchard is certainly a desirable thing for an old man to possess. Thousands of acres remain open for planting if the people will only accept the opportunities.

THE AVERAGE LIFE.

When we read where Montaigne, writing something more than three centuries ago, says that at 40 a man may well felicitate himself on length of days and may justly retire to compose his mind for death, we are tempted to moralize upon the exceeding brevity of life in those days of strenuousness and ignorance of medicine, says the Saturday Evening post. But what is the average life in our boasted civilization? Why, less than 40 years!

They used to have war and plague. We have machinery, recklessly handled, and sundry and divers self-indulgences in matters of eating and drinking and drugs that create false hopes and fresh diseases in place of those they throttle. And the average life of man remains below 40.

It is a curious reflection, isn't it, that at 45 one has lived far beyond the average? And 45 is still the heyday of youth, or ought to be—the age at which a man feels that he can trust himself to go freely about without some older or wiser person watching him.

But Montaigne's wisdom for three centuries ago doesn't apply today. Today's 40-year-old has no right to felicitate himself. On the contrary, he who is passing away before 40 knows that he has been cheated out of more than half his life—the better half.

More than 200 vagrants who were brought over in a single band upon one trans-Atlantic steamship are to be sent back by the Ellis island authorities. Here is a lesson which should convince the ocean companies that they can not now play fast and loose with our immigration laws, as they have been too ready to do at times in the past, says the New York Tribune. It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of strictly enforcing the statutes which prohibit the bringing into the country of the scum and refuse of other lands. The laws are wise and sound as they stand. Every steamship line must be forced to respect and obey them. The sending back to the old world of this gang of vagrants will involve considerable expense to the steamship line which carried them to Ellis island. But it may perhaps inspire greater caution among the managers of other vessels, as it ought to do.

Henry Weinhard was one of the coast's most progressive citizens. Perhaps somewhat late in life he awakened to his duty, but nevertheless his public spirit manifested itself. He covered Portland with magnificent business blocks, and in late years did more than any other three capitalists to build up the Oregon metropolis. Cities must depend upon the public spirit of their wealthy men for substantial growth. Those citizens who amass great fortunes and keep their money tied up in the banks do not fulfill their mission. The men who invest their fortunes in modern buildings are those to whom the community owes debts of gratitude. Henry Weinhard was one of those men. He loved his adopted city and spent his money to assist in its upbuilding. Portland could ill afford to lose him, and for more reasons than one his death is to be deplored.

We will get our first dose of the "benefits" of the direct primary law sooner than we expected. When voters find that the new law prevents them from voting, they may regret having supported the bill.

A Texas coroner, who was called on to sit in judgment over the body of a negro who had been lynched, held that the rope was guilty of ending the negro's life, not the men who had used it.

The total vote of Maine in 1855 was 110,477. The total vote of the state in 1902 was 107,877—a loss of 2600. Surely, this is not an enviable showing.

To be absolutely right all the time, one ought to oppose every political movement which W. S. U'Ren favors.

PROBABLY WERE MURDERED.

New Theory Formed in Case of Women Found on Railroad.
 Bucyrus, O., Sept. 21.—The citizens of New Winchester are investigating the death of Misses Mary and Lizale Kaber, who were found dead on the Ohio Central railroad tracks yesterday. They are supposed to have committed suicide. Investigation shows that there are no wounds on the body of Mary and no injuries on the body of the other woman except that the legs are cut off. It is believed they were murdered. Great excitement prevails.

BASEBALL SCORES.

Pacific Coast.
 At Seattle—Portland, 4; Seattle, 5.
 At Tacoma—San Francisco, 3; Tacoma, 5.
 At San Francisco—Los Angeles, 1; Oakland, 4.
Pacific National.
 At Boise—Spokane, 3; Boise, 4; 11 innings.
 At Salt Lake—Butte, 1; Salt Lake, 3.
American.
 At St. Louis—Cleveland, 9; St. Louis, 1.
 At Washington—New York, 2; Washington, 4.
 At Chicago—Detroit, 2; Chicago, 4.
 At Boston—First game: Philadelphia, 1; Boston, 5. Second game: Philadelphia, 3; Boston, 4.
National.
 At Brooklyn—First game: Pittsburg, 5; Brooklyn, 1. Second game: Pittsburg, 2; Brooklyn, 1.
 At Philadelphia—First game: Chicago, 4; Philadelphia, 7. Second game: Chicago, 0; Philadelphia, 3.
 At Boston—St. Louis, 1; Boston, 9.
 At New York—First game: Cincinnati, 6; New York, 4. Second game: Cincinnati, 2; New York, 0.

Fairbanks' Letter Made Public.
 Indianapolis, Sept. 21.—The letter of United States Senator Fairbanks accepting the republican nomination for the vice presidency was made public today.

Will Fight McGovern.
 New York, Sept. 21.—Eddie Hanlon, the pugilist who was recently defeated by Battling Nelson, has been matched for a six-round bout with Terry McGovern at Philadelphia, October 10.

Gorman in Role of Adviser.
 New York, Sept. 21.—Gorman today took up the duties of adviser of the national democratic committee.

THE MARKETS.

Liverpool, Sept. 21.—December wheat—7s 7½d.

Today's Weather.

Portland, Sept. 21.—Oregon and Washington, Thursday, showers.

Fearful Odds Against Him.
 Bedridden, alone and destitute. Such in brief was the condition of an old soldier by name of J. J. Havens, Versailles, O. For years he was troubled with kidney disease and neither doctors nor medicines gave him relief. At length he tried Electric Bitter. It put him on his feet in short order and now he testifies: "I'm on the road to complete recovery." Best on earth for liver and kidney troubles and all forms of stomach and bowel complaints. Only 50c. Guaranteed by Chas. Rogers, druggist.



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