

THE PRIMARY NOT AN EXPENSIVE PLAN

J. W. Davenport Shows That Assertive Law Cost More Than "Old Way" Is Merely Fallacy — Cost of Senatorial Elections.

By T. W. Davenport in the Silvertonian-Appeal.

It is asserted by persons opposed to the direct primary law that it costs the people \$50,000 more than the old way.

This I must consider a baseless assumption, for although the cost of the direct primary is pretty well determined, the cost to the commonwealth of the old system was never known or could be known; then how can it be shown that there is a difference of \$50,000?

Now, notwithstanding the fact that one can be estimated in dollars and cents, and the other is incomparable in life denouement, I think there is no difficulty in comparing the two systems and arriving at an undoubted conclusion that the old system is far more expensive than the new one.

And to begin, the loss of time to the people in the work of the direct primary is no greater than in the others, so that is even. Then come the county and state conventions which are supplanted by the new method, and their cost eliminated.

There are 33 counties in the state, and the cost of holding that many conventions and a state convention, composed of not less than 100 delegates each, in all probably as many as 5,000 persons, paying board, traveling expenses and other incidentals, aggregating how much less than \$50,000? which somebody has to pay and the question is, who pays the bill? The political party? No, verily, they do not pay it at the time, but how do they get even? Or are they self-sacrificing patriots, working for the common good? Not on your life. They are aspirants to office or working for those who are, and expect remuneration in some way at some time not far ahead. They constitute a prospective army of invasion upon the commonwealth, as everybody knows. That such an army has been sustained at public expense for the last 50 years is as evident as any other human fact, for armies without pay or the prospect of pay, soon disbanded. If American politics had not paid its voters it would not have required any direct primary or other law.

Politics as foreigners truthfully describe it is the great American industry.

Assessment Work.

But to proceed; the candidates for office have been selected, and now the work of assessment begins. Members of the lower house of the legislature are assessed \$20 apiece, and more \$40. To pay convention expenses? No; the money goes into the party fund to be spent by the members, and never, except now or then, or to whom it is distributed—a wholly unnecessary proceeding, as they are all honorable men. The members of the legislature receive a per diem of \$3 for 40 days—\$120—and out of this come their board and wash bills, so that their assessment amounts to nearly half the value of the tax.

As they cannot avoid the assessment and be partisans, the question arises, is this system conducive to the better economy in their legislative career? Does it incline them to refuse a railroad pass, get along without abundance of clerks, refuse newspaper contracts, court reports, or any other convenient thing they have the power to get by a vote? Men of common sense know how to give correct answers to all such questions.

And when there is a United States senatorial election pending there is an eminent opportunity to recoup themselves for past expenses in partisan service. And does average human nature stand modestly back from grasping it by the handle, and come out with a "quid pro quo," either for himself or some member of his family? Experienced men can answer this too.

I asked a certain state senator from Linn county this question: "Captain, for whom are you going to vote for United States senator?" He immediately replied, "For the man who will do the most for Humphrey." This was in 1882 and as he voted for Mitchell I inferred that candidate who had the most money. Then, as always, the Southern Pacific railroad treasury was back of the deal.

An Example.

Meeting two girls of my acquaintance at the railroad station waiting for the train, I asked them as to their destination, to which they replied, "East City." "Going on business?" "No; to make a few days' visit." Knowing them to be poor in purse, I said, "That will be \$25 apiece." "Oh, no," they gleefully replied; "we have passes." "Why, who gives you passes?" "Senator _____ from _____ county." "A relative of yours?" "No; what an admirer! The girls I knew to be above suspicion of dishonor, and they further assured me by the remark, "You must remember that in United States senatorial election is elected this time." "Well, well," I queried.

Is it strange that the distinction between right and wrong is blotted out in the minds of the young, when the elders trusted with the management of public affairs "kick off duty like a worn-out shoe"? To proceed. The so-called moneyed offices are assessed much higher—all the way from \$25 to \$500. From the sheriff, the county treasurer, school superintendent, county judge, commissioners and surveyor of Multnomah county in one year was obtained \$600 paid into the treasury. The treasurer of the state central committee to whom up the election, so that the basic principles of the republican party might triumph. Least this is the euphonious phrase used to beguile the rank and file of the party. Of course, discreet people who have had a look back of the scenes understand the basic principles of the politicians are those that bear interest payable in coin or its equivalent.

Continuing; the higher up we go the higher the assessment, and candidates for the state offices, governor, secretary of state, treasurer, state superintendent of schools, and supreme judge reach into their pockets for hundreds and thousands, which go into the party fund.

Now, granting that the G. O. P. has won a great and glorious victory and the officers are installed, how are their friends and supporters to be recompensed for their services? Evidently they cannot work for mere glory or the least satisfaction of seeing the basic principles endorsed at the ballot box. The men who engage personally and actively in the partisan game are not in it for their health and don't diet on that kind of trash. Besides, they are of a strenuous nature to make their "wants" known and insist upon recognition. Can anyone doubt that the holders, from the highest to the lowest, are under continual pressure, and as they cannot consent to a division of and partnership in their salaries, which would be wholly inadequate anyway, there is left for them but to be continually seeking for a place or making a place for the important man, instead of thinking how to protect who has experienced what can be brought about by constant effort and pressure can prognosticate what has really happened. Offices have been created, emoluments have been increased, fees and perquisites have been multiplied, and appointed, and thereby the cost of government has been advancing much faster in proportion than the population. And even this has not sufficed to pay political debts.

Favors Politicians.

Laws especially designed to favor certain politicians and permit them to engage in fraudulent traffic in state lands have been passed by the legislature and such traffic has been carried on with ease in the office, and with side gas bills. Portland Gas company,

the knowledge and consent of the state board, consisting of the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer, and a few members of the legislature were so cautious enough to detect the real purpose of the law, but it is not most astounding that such a condition of things should exist for eight years, against frequent protests by the people, and receive no countermand from the state officers or any repeal of the accommodating statute by the legislative assembly? How can it be accounted for except upon the theory that the machine politicians of both parties were in the deal? And we do know that the principal beneficiaries were of both parties and that two men—one Democrat and one Republican—made independent fortunes from the sale of sea land basis, by which the irreducible school fund sustained a corresponding loss. Now, does anybody suppose that if the people had had the initiative and referendum at that time—or even the recall, that our public servants would have permitted the robbery for an hour? But we must pass to the next item.

The general government gave to the state well nigh 10,000,000 acres of so-called swamp land, but really meadow land, and in 1870 the legislature, then Democratic in both branches, passed a law to select and sell these lands, and Governor Grover signed the same. The price for these lands, which in great part lay in the southeastern part of the state and the most valuable, was to be found in the following: \$1 an acre, one fifth down at the time of filing upon them. The Republican members were opposed to its passage, and William Stewart, then governor, and Democrats had already staked out large tracts, and the law was framed in certain particulars to suit their circumstances and convenience. For 13 years the swamp land racket was on the tapis, a source of corruption and profit during Democratic and Republican administrations, that connived at the game and ended more disastrously to the state than Starkweather had the ability to foresee. Probably four fifths of those fine meadow lands are owned by two or three persons who withhold them from sale, thus retarding the growth and prosperity of the counties wherein they are situated. If these lands had been properly managed, as they would have been had our public servants been directly responsible to the people instead of being mere political puppets, the funds arising therefrom would have given every child in the state nine months schooling without taxing the commonwealth a penny.

Another Item.

There is another item of machine politics that must not be overlooked. It might be supposed that after the state school lands had been sold and the money in the treasury, it would be safe from the clutch of the politicians, but not so; it must continue to be depleted to carry on the political game. When the Democrats are in control of the state board, Democrats get what are called political loans; when Republicans are in power, Republicans are favored; and everybody knows that the political loans are based upon slim security, and in this way political debts are paid, and political support secured. By such means many thousands of dollars have been lost—in one instance that have in mind, \$10,000.

Contemplating the foregoing traverse of our experience in partisan politics, and recognizing the unvarying law that the same cause will produce like effects, however often repeated, why should those citizens of Oregon, who expect to live from the sweat of their brows and the proceeds of legitimate business—why should they second the effort now being made by hungry politicians to get back the old machine which has proved so disastrous to the general interest?

The plea offered by them that the basic principles of the G. O. P. are at stake is all bombast, the merest subterfuge. Ask any one of them what the basic principles are that he is so much concerned about, and he cannot tell you in the next half hour.

The words Democrat and Republican, without qualification, don't signify anything in Lincoln's time. Republican meant something definite. In Jefferson's and Jackson's time Democrat told exactly where a man stood in relation to the questions then in the public mind. "Who is a Democrat?" is no more of a "gag" than who is a Republican. When a Republican says Roosevelt, we know at once his spirit; and when one says Cannon or Foraker we know where he is at. The old principles of Lincoln, Republicanism are to be found now with Roosevelt, or Bryan; the old time principles of Democracy—I mean the spirit—is to be found there, too.

Citizens of Oregon, let me exhort you not to be fooled by the ravens howl of the politician out of a job, or the howl, while you stay by your own, a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

VALUABLE ACQUISITION.

A. J. Richardson Company Buys Out the Store of Albert Welch.

The firm of Welch & Co., high-class clothing, who had built up an exceptionally fine business on Washington street near Fourth, sold out their business and goods to a few days ago to the A. J. Richardson company. Mr. Richardson, the head and front of the new organization, is a merchant of experience in clothing, hats and men's furnishings. For the past 15 years Mr. Richardson has been identified with a very prominent mercantile house of San Francisco. He has always been known as a money-maker, and withal has accumulated a large and loyal host of friends. Mr. Richardson proposes to materially increase the stock of the establishment, and has already surrounded himself with a most competent staff of hatters and furnishing goods men. He is looked upon as a most valuable acquisition to the retail clothing circle of this city.

SAYS COTTON GROWERS SELL GOLD BRICKS

(United Press Landed Wire.)

London, March 7.—In the annual reunion of the cotton association of Manchester, Thomas Coles, president of a cotton company, and one of the delegates sent to America, made a notable statement that taints the honor of American cotton shippers. He said that he called attention to the shameless and fraudulent manner of weighing, in which they added five pounds to the weight of each bale, they acknowledged it. He declared that this fraud was not comparable with that practiced with woven goods, in which they add five pounds of canvas to each bale of goods.

Fragrant floral blooms, plant-milk, vegetable essences compose Satin skin cream. Choice 25c.

Save the Discount.

Send check or pay at office on or before the 10th to save the discount on March bills for the Automatic Telephone.

HOME TELEPHONE CO.,
Corner of Park and Burnside Sts.

Tomorrow and Tuesday will positively be the last days for discount on west side gas bills. Portland Gas company,

Cipman, Wolfe & Co.

Good Merchandise Only—Quality Considered Our Prices Are Always the Lowest.

Sale of High Class Embroideries

Values Up to \$1 Yd., Monday, 25c

MONDAY morning, the sale beginning at 8 o'clock sharp, we offer the most sensational embroidery event of the year—an opportunity to purchase your needs for the entire season. There is an unsurpassed assortment of new embroideries, 8 to 22 inches wide, made of excellent quality Swiss, nainsook, batiste, and cambric. Included in the lot are corset cover, flouncing, edging, insertion and shirtwaist embroidery—dainty patterns in shadow embroidery, floral, scroll and open effects. Without doubt the greatest values and the greatest quantities ever offered by any Portland store. Values to \$1.00. Monday sale..... **25c**

Extra clerks, cashiers and wrappers to wait on you. NO MAIL ORDERS, none C. O. D., NO PHONE ORDERS, NONE RESERVED

Values to 75c Yes, we've had embroidery events before, but nothing more sensational than this starting sale for Monday. Ten thousand yards of it. Not a piece in the lot worth less than 25c, some of them have sold regularly for 75c. Sounds like exaggeration, but it's a fact. The latest patterns in Swiss, Nainsook, and Cambric Edges and Insertions up to eight inches wide. Extra counters, extra clerks and extra wrappers will be on hand to serve the crowds that this announcement will bring. On sale while the lots last Monday at only..... **15c**

Great Ribbon Sale

Vals. to 75c for 23c



All-Silk Taffeta Ribbon up to six inches wide, all colors; also Fancy Dresden Ribbons with pink and blue flowers and colored borders. Values to 75c yard, Monday.... **23c**

5000 yds. 19-in. Color'd Taffetas

85c Quality 69c

5,000 yards 19-inch Colored Taffetas, same quality that all other stores sell at 85c. In a full range of shades, including cream, white and black. Monday only at the low price of..... **69c**

\$1 Pongees, 73c

\$1.00 Colored Shantung Pongees—the latest fabric for spring and summer wear. The colors are brown, light blue, navy, Copenhagen, champagne and black, at the extremely low price..... **73c**

Long Kid Gloves, \$2.79

300 pairs full 16-button length Kid Gloves in the fashionable spring colors of tan, brown and black. Regular \$3.75 values..... **\$2.79**

BLACK SILK PETTICOATS

Regular \$8.75 Values, at \$4.87



100 Petticoats of extra quality black taffeta silk, made with deep accordion-plaited flounce, trimmed with two gathered and tucked ruffles and dust ruffle. These petticoats are made and finished in the most up-to-date fashion and are extra full. Sold regularly at \$8.75. Special for Monday..... **\$4.87**

New Silk Princess Dresses

\$18.50 Vals. \$12.79



We have planned this sale with the expectation that it will be one of the greatest successes ever known in the Suit and Coat Section. Only one thing necessary to insure success, and that is for the women of Portland to take the trouble to inspect these suits and judge for themselves.

Made in the favored jumper effects with plaid silk piping and trimmings; new plaited skirts piped to match..... **\$12.79**

The colors are black, navy, Copenhagen, brown, also stripe effects. Regularly \$18.50.

Rajah Silk Tailor - Made Suits for \$25.00

25-inch Prince Chap Tailor-made Suits of fine Rajah silk in navy, brown and tan; made single-breasted, with half-fitted back; taffeta silk-lined. The skirts are made in the newest plaited effects. Real value \$35.00.

Tailor-Made Shirts for Women \$3.00 and \$5.00

Castleton Tailor-made Shirts for women—Smartest and newest effect. Made of finest imported Killenny gingham in dainty striped designs; also of Viyella flannel; made with plaited fronts and laundered collar and cuffs..... **\$3.00 and \$5.00**

Great Sale of "Fleet Serges"



One of the best colors for spring, 1908, is navy blue. But when the fleet comes up the coast, under the command of "Fighting Bob" Evans, everybody will be wearing navy blue serge. It will be scarce and high in a month or two. For Monday and Tuesday we offer a great sale of "Fleet" Serges in the navy blue and yachting white.

65c Serges 49c Yard	\$1.25 Serges 98 Cents	\$1.75 Serges, \$1.48
40-inch "Fleet" Serges, all wool, navy blue; also brown.	All-wool "Fleet" Serges, plain and herringbone stripes, 50 inches wide; cream and navy; also brown and black.	All-wool "Fleet" Serges, plain or stripes, 54 inches wide, in navy blue; also cream, brown and black.
\$1 Serges 83c Yard	\$1.50 Serges at \$1.29	\$2.00 Serges, \$1.69
All-wool "Fleet" Serges in cream and navy blue; 44 to 50 inches wide; also Copenhagen browns and black.	All-wool "Fleet" Serges for coat suits, in cream and navy blue, 50 inches wide; also brown and black.	All-wool "Fleet" Serges, clay or herringbone effects, in navy blue; also brown, cream, black.

\$6.00 Napkins at \$3.95

100 dozen fine 3/4 Napkins in a variety of the choicest designs. Do not match cloths, hence they are marked for clearance at, dozen..... **\$3.95**

Flannel at Half Price

Short lengths of Wool Flannel—1 1/2 to 4 yards—on sale Monday at just half price.

Madras Shirting, Regular 25c Values at 15c

Madras Shirtings suitable for ladies' waists and dresses. White grounds, with modest colored checks, dots, stripes and figures. Monday sale only..... **15c**

FREE Embroidery Lessons

Free Art Embroidery and Pyrography Lessons every afternoon by expert teachers. Largest and best Art Needlework Department.

La Vida Corsets

Like the rarest custom garments—are made entirely by hand, and stayed with genuine whalebone. While at least equal to the finest European corsets, the prices are very much more reasonable, as there is a saving of sixty per cent duty on each pair

