

# BUXTON STRIKES CONVENTION RULE HEAVIEST BLOW

Master of State Grange Says Assembly Plan Would Destroy Direct Primary—Defends Farmers in Article.

Declaring that if attempt be made to work the assembly and direct primary together one will destroy the other, insisting that the principle in the two are diametrically opposed and cannot mix, Buxton, master of the Oregon State Grange, has issued a statement that is widely regarded as one of the heaviest blows yet dealt the effort to return to convention rule in this state. The statement appears in the Grange Bulletin, the official publication of the order, and is issued as warrant to the subordinate granges for the stand they are taking in defense of the direct primary.

**Quotes From Declaration.**  
It quotes from the "Declaration of Purpose" adopted by the National Grange at an early date in its history to show that, in their unrelenting opposition to the assembly, the subordinate granges and the members thereof are clearly within their rights, and in complete harmony with the purposes of the organization. In full, Mr. Buxton's statement is as follows:

"There are times when it is necessary to exercise great care, wise forethought, as well as firm conviction and dauntless courage in the conduct of grange affairs. While it cannot be said that the grange itself is on trial in this state, yet it is true that many of the policies which the grange has been championing to a greater or less degree, are on trial and that there is an attempt on the part of many to fasten the responsibility for any alleged defects or so-called vagaries in these political ideas and principles of government upon the grange.

**Attempts Made to Ridicule.**  
The attempt is being freely made to cast ridicule upon this organization for the part it has taken in promulgating these ideas and in defending those principles.

"It is being criticized for fighting for political principles while claiming to be a non-political organization. We have been and are being told, in effect, that the farmers should mind their own business; that we should tend to our plowing and sowing, and the harvesting and garnering of our products in order that the world may eat, but that we should leave political matters to those better fitted by their training to handle them intelligently. Let us see.

"In the 'Declaration of Purpose,' adopted by the National Grange early in its history, and which has stood as the platform upon which the order bases all its varied lines of work, are found these statements:

**Grange Not Political.**  
"We emphatically and sincerely assert the oft repeated rule taught in our organic law, that the grange is not a political or partisan organization. No grange, if true to its obligations, can discuss partisan or sectarian questions, for call political conventions, nor nominate candidates, nor even discuss their merits in its meetings.

"Yet the principles we teach underlie all true politics, all true statesmanship, and, if properly carried out, will tend to purify the whole political atmosphere of our country.

"It is right for every member to do all in his power legitimately to influence for good, the action of any political party to which he belongs. It is his duty to do all he can in his own party to put down bribery, corruption and trickery; to see that none but competent, faithful and honest men, who will unflinchingly stand by our interests, are nominated for all positions of trust.

**Farmers Large Factors.**  
"The farmer is a part, and in many states a large part, of the political factors of the country. He has an undoubted right, and should maintain the undoubted right, to exercise it. He should, through his political representatives, affect his political welfare, and use his organization to advance his interests along these lines.

"The people of Oregon, like those of most other commonwealths, have often found that their political machinery did not meet their political needs. They found that their representative government, so-called, did not always represent the true interests of the whole people. They found that the influences of bribery, corruption and trickery were too often felt in the selection of candi-

dates for office and in the conduct of public affairs.

**Refers to Judge Lindsey.**  
"These conditions as already indicated, have not been peculiar to our state. We have not been more unfortunate than many others. Read Judge Lindsey's story of conditions in Denver. How, when he saw the plain trail of the political tiger leading to the camp of one of the great parties, he turned hopefully and confidently to the other. How he soon found there the unmistakable signs that the same beast had preceded him. It is again the same old story.

"Ordinarily it makes little difference to the tiger, the system, the interests, or whatever term you may choose to apply, what party may happen to be in power so long as they are able to make their influence felt in naming those who may be nominated as candidates. This service they are usually able to perform for both parties and this is the whole milk of the coconut.

**Oregonians Take Steps.**  
"But the people of Oregon have taken steps to prevent this influence in the naming of the candidates in the first place and to prevent the radical misrepresentation of their interests after election.

The grange, true to its original platform, has championed those principles which appealed to it as tending to purify the whole political atmosphere of our country, and which guaranteed that none but competent, faithful and honest men who will unflinchingly stand by our interests are nominated for all positions of trust. It has favored direct legislation and the direct primary law, and it now desires to see these laws upheld. I think it must now be clear that in this the grange of Oregon has not in the least overstepped its original purposes or principles of the organization and the criticism which others have sought to direct against us on this account is without foundation.

"Whether or not the means we have favored to attain the ends desired are the best that could have been devised is a matter of judgment.

**Measures Distasteful.**  
"That these measures are exceedingly distasteful to the professional politicians, that they are being continually ridiculed by this element under the guise of friendship, that they are subject to a fire of repeated criticism from an unfriendly press, which is seeking by constant hammering to create a public sentiment against them, that there is a growing boldness on the part of those who have been inspiring much of this and secretly plotting their overthrow—all this is no argument that they are wrong in principle or that the methods that they suggested were either right in principle or conducive to public morals or public good.

"But I am writing at this time not so much to answer objections to the measure in question as to answer the criticisms which have been directed at the grange for rallying to their support.

**Change Are False.**  
"It has been charged that the grange action springs from total misapprehension of facts and conditions. It is said that the convention or assembly, which is a milder term that has been adopted to allay suspicion, cannot supersede the primary, and all those who are calling most loudly for a return to the convention methods are continually proclaiming with the same breath their undying love for the direct primary.

"I submit that this proposition is ridiculous. Just exactly as the direct primary supersedes the convention, so a return to the convention system will supersede the primary. The two systems are diametrically opposed to each other. They are based on opposing principles and will not mix. The convention system opens the way for the rule of a boss or machine. Control of nominations through packed conventions, when desired, never has been or never can be effectively prevented. With the direct primary, there is no packing and such control is impractical except it be exercised over the whole electorate.

"Is there any misapprehension in the fear of such abuse or control of the convention system? The history of the system is too plainly written, the tale has been too often and too clearly told to merit repetition here.

"But, it is said, the assembly will not make nominations. It will simply offer candidates, who must go to the primary for approval or rejection—and no one supposes their presentation can be would shut out others. Indeed, but the assembly does propose to 'offer candidates.' This is its particular object. And it will place behind those who will be selected, by the methods of the old time convention, the united support of all the influential and influential political machine is able to command and boost them at the primaries.

"Is anyone simple-minded enough to suppose that an independent candidate would stand a ghost of a show against those backed by the convention? There would be no show. These candidates for each office, and he would receive the votes that machine influence could control. The other votes would be scattered among all those who offered themselves by any other means. Does anyone have any doubt who the burnt offerings would be? The nominees and the nominees would go, under such conditions?

**Principle Would Be Gone.**  
"Would anyone who felt an overpowering desire to serve the dear people think of offering himself by any other means than the convention, after it had been fully restored to power? It might still be left a mere name, but the principle involved would be gone, and all nominations for important offices would regularly be made at the convention.

"In an article regarding direct legislation I pointed out a short time ago that the attempt was being made to involve the question in partisan prejudice. The same thing is true in this case, and therein lies the danger to the grange, as well as necessity for care in treatment of the matter referred to in the opening of this article. I believe that no fear of ridicule or criticism or threat of political disruption should be permitted to swerve the grange from steadfast adherence to the principle involved in both these measures.

"With the partisan aspects which are sought to be thrown about the case, the grange is not concerned and should, under no circumstances, permit itself to be involved. Furthermore, the grange should carefully avoid associating itself with the question in such a way as to advance any individual's personal interests.

**Salem Poolrooms Raided.**  
(Salem Bureau of the Journal.)  
SALEM, Or., Jan. 22.—Chief of Police P. D. Gibson with Officers Al Foland, Frank Jory and Sam Burkhardt raided two Salem pool rooms last night and arrested were made for violations of the law relating to minors visiting such places. S. L. Morgan and L. H. Gier, two proprietors, and Dudley Johnson, N. P. Bennet and Lloyd Rigdon, alleged minors, were taken into custody by the police squad.

**Notarial Commission.**  
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)  
SALEM, Or., Jan. 22.—Notarial commissions have been issued to Louis Vierhus, Oregon City; W. W. Austin, Hamilton; George T. Cline, Klamath Falls; S. L. Tompau, Portland; Al C. Crawford, Hermiston; and John F. Wallen, Adams.

## \$2,325,000 For Oregon Reclamation Work Prior to 1912

By John E. Lathrop.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 22.—Bearing vitally upon the future of irrigation in Oregon, Senator Chamberlain recently handed me correspondence which passed between him and Secretary Ballinger, in which the secretary virtually ends all question as to the abandonment of the Malheur project, saying that the land owners in that vicinity prevent the government from entering on work. The secretary also in answer to Senator Chamberlain's letter asking comprehensive information as to the status of the government's irrigation operations in Oregon reviews the history of what has been done to date.

It is pertinent at this point to say something in answer to criticisms which have been passed on the reclamation service for alleged failure to give notice to settlers that they could not be assured that water would be placed on the lands they took up, and that estimated dates for completion might have to be extended.

The reclamation service arranged that the general land office should give to all settlers on proposed irrigation projects official notice in these respects, and if these notices did not get to the settlers it was not the fault of the reclamation service, but of the land office. It is maintained.

Quoting Senator Chamberlain's letter to Secretary Ballinger in part, he says:

**Chamberlain's Letter.**  
"Section 9 of the reclamation act of June 17, 1902, directs that the major portion of the funds arising from the sale of public lands within Oregon shall be expended in that state, and that ultimately, in any event, within each 10 year period after the passage of the act, the expenditures shall be equalized according to the proportions therein indicated. As I understand the matter, the funds arising from the sale of public lands in Oregon for the fiscal years from that ending June 30, 1901, to that ending June 30, 1908, were a little over \$5,000,000, and for the two years additional they may be estimated at something over \$2,000,000, making in all an amount of \$7,000,000 or more.

"The major portion of this \$7,000,000 would be at least \$5,100,000, and this should be expended within the state of Oregon within the 10 year period after the passage of the act, or by June 17, 1912. On the Umatilla project there has been expended about \$1,200,000, and on the Klamath project about \$2,100,000, of which latter amount 75 per cent is chargeable to Oregon, making a total of \$1,575,000 on this project chargeable to that state. This, added to \$1,000,000 of the Umatilla project, makes \$2,575,000 out of the \$5,100,000 which is expendable in Oregon up to 1912. In other words, there is \$2,325,000 more or less which should be devoted to work in Oregon."

He then submitted five questions, to which he asked answer categorically, these questions being quoted in Secretary Ballinger's reply, which read as follows:

**Ballinger Replies.**  
"I have received your letter making certain inquiries regarding the policy of this department with respect to the construction of irrigation works in the state of Oregon.

"Below is given a full text of section 9 of the reclamation act, to which you refer, and particular attention is requested to the portion underscored:

"Sec. 9. That it is hereby declared to be the duty of the secretary of the Interior in carrying out the provisions of this act, so far as the same may be practicable and subject to the existence of feasible irrigation projects, to expend the major portion of the funds arising from the sale of public lands within each state and territory, hereinafter named for the benefit of arid and semi-arid lands within the limits of such state or territory, provided, that the secretary may temporarily use such portion of said funds for the benefit of arid or semi-arid lands in any particular state or territory hereinafter named as he may deem advisable, but when so used the excess shall be restored to the fund as soon as practicable to the end that ultimately, and in any event, within each 10 year period after the passage of this act, the expenditures for the benefit of the said states and territories shall be equalized according to the proportions and subject to the conditions as to the practicability and feasibility aforesaid."

"Soon after the passage of the reclamation act, investigations were started throughout the arid portion of Oregon to discover feasible irrigation projects, with the result that two projects were found which appeared to be feasible from a physical standpoint, namely, the Klamath and Malheur projects. After surmounting a great many difficulties, including necessary legislation by the United States and the states of California and Oregon, and the purchase of the lands involved, the project for the Klamath project was finally approved and construction started. Efforts were made to remove many difficulties in the way of the Malheur project, the principal ones being the large holdings and interests of the land owners and the complications of rights of way, water rights, etc. After strenuous and long continued attempts to overcome these obstacles the project was finally abandoned as being infeasible. This decision was reached mainly because of the sentiment of the land owners, expressed in letters received by the department in August, 1905. One of these signed by 21 leading land owners and business men on the project, contains the following:

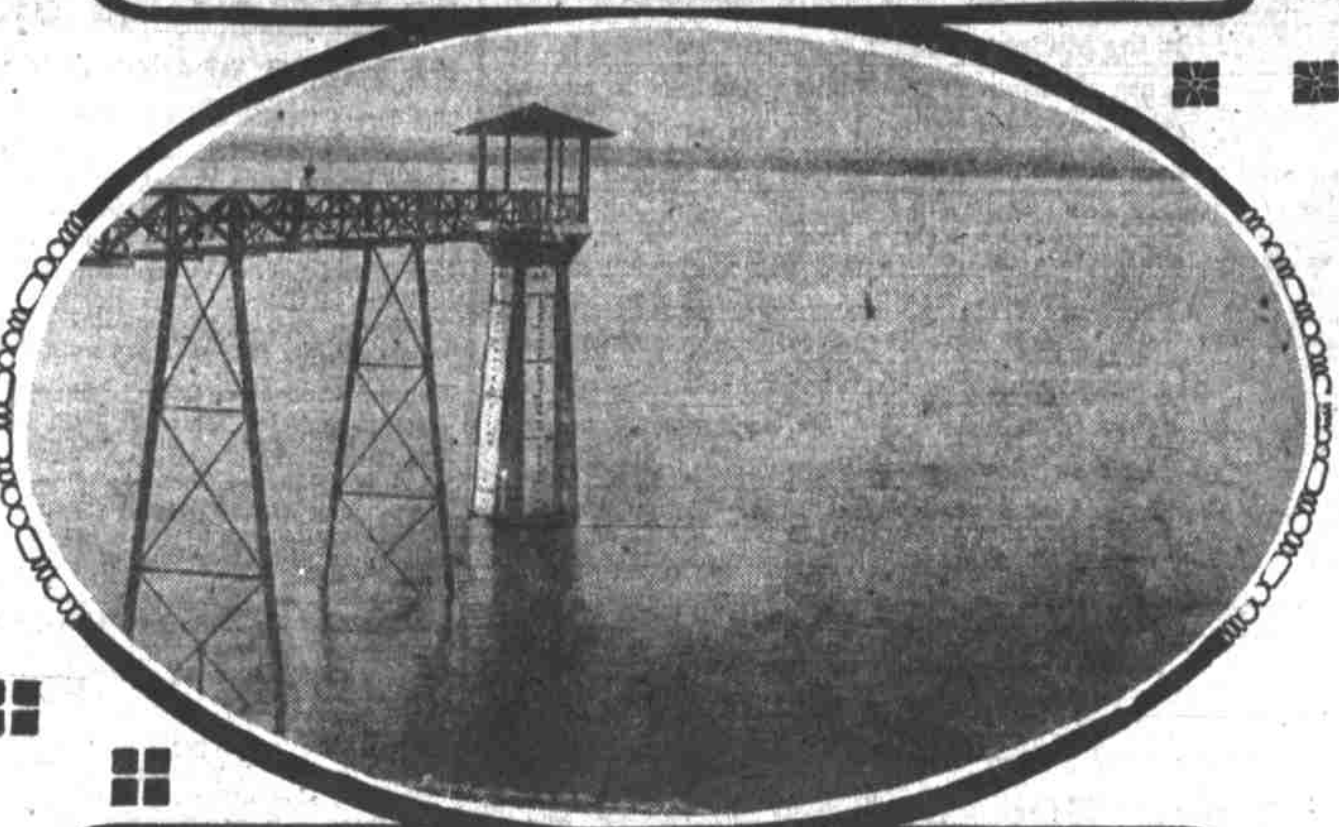
"We are not to be understood as criticizing the reclamation service; in fact, we are relying on it, and we assume that \$42 per acre is the lowest acreage charge on the government plan. It is our judgment that a very heavy percentage of the land selected by the reclamation service to bear this lien will not bear it, and the farmer who undertakes the task will, as to much of this land, find himself in bondage and beaten."

"A letter dated August 26, 1905, and signed by C. E. S. Wood, attorney for the Wagon Road land grant, began as follows:

"The settlers in the Malheur valley believe that no enough land can be bought under the present Malheur irrigation system at \$42 an acre to warrant the carrying out of the present plan."

"Investigations had in the meantime been pushed on the Umatilla project, and this was finally approved and construction has been advanced nearly to the state of completion.

"The local climate, lack of transportation facilities and prior rights of irrigation companies, and other difficulties on projects in the central part of the state, have, up to date, prevented the fulfillment of the conditions of the reclamation act by any known project in that region.



At the top: United States senate commission at Browning, Mont., Blackfoot project, Senator Chamberlain in automobile at left; in center, Klamath project, Oregon, intake gate gatehouse and concrete lined canal; at bottom, Umatilla project, Oregon, Gold Springs reservoir and outlet tower.

of existing projects so as to comply with the law.

**Specific Questions and Answers.**  
"Specific answers to your five questions are given herewith:

"First—Do your plans contemplate expending the major portion as above described—that is, \$2,325,000—in Oregon to present expenditures before 1912?"

"They do, subject to the conditions of feasibility and practicability as outlined in the law.

"Second—Will this amount be available from the probable revenue, and will it be devoted to work in Oregon, even if projects in other states must be held back correspondingly?"

"The amount mentioned is much less than the annual receipts into the reclamation fund, and will be available from probable revenue by holding back work in other states.

"Third—Assuming that this money is to be expended in Oregon, is it your plan to utilize this sum for the completion of the Klamath project, which I understand will require in all about \$4,800,000?"

"It is, subject to the compliance by the water-users with all the terms of the contract between the United States and the Water-Users' association.

"Fourth—The amount of \$2,325,000 will, I assume, be more than sufficient to complete Oregon's share of the Klamath project. If this is the case, will the balance be devoted to extension of the Umatilla project, or to begin some other project in the state?"

"It will be the policy to do whichever appears most feasible, subject to the conditions of practicability and feasibility, as defined in section 9 of the reclamation act.

"Fifth—Assuming that there will be a balance which will not be needed for Klamath and Umatilla, will you devote this balance to the Malheur project?"

"None of the difficulties have been overcome which were at one time regarded as rendering this project infeasible, and it is not likely that they could be overcome at this time. The department has not felt justified in assuring the land owners that the project would be taken up in case those difficulties could be removed, because the cost of the cheapest project that can be properly worked out on the Malheur is more than \$5,000,000, and is so much in excess of the requirements of the law and would impose such a hardship upon

## OREGON DIOCESE GROWS AMAZINGLY

Second Among All of United States in Percentage of Growth for Year 1909.

The Episcopal church in the diocese of Oregon stands second among all the dioceses in the United States in percentage of growth during the past year. This statement is made by the Living Church Annual, of Milwaukee, Wis., and is based on official reports.

Contributions from Oregon churchmen for their own work and for missions have been much larger than in former years, and aggregate more than the districts of Olympia and Spokane combined, and are as large as California and Los Angeles.

The report, Bishop Scadding said, "It is a satisfaction to hear this news, but it might give Episcopalians a bad case of 'megalomania' were it not for the counter-irritant of the consciousness of the many things we have not done, of the many places where we have not grown."

"The growth in membership and contributions is largely due to the hard work of the clergy, and the strong additions to our clerical force recently of the following clergy, who have come to us from the east: Rev. S. M. Dorrance to Ashland, Or.; Rev. F. B. Bartlett to Grants Pass, Or.; Rev. William Lucas to Medford, Or.; Rev. C. W. Baker to Roseburg, Or.; Rev. O. W. Taylor to Seaside, Or.; Rev. Roy O. Remington to All Saints, Portland; Rev. F. Baum to Corvallis, Or.; Rev. William Rosenmuller to Astoria; Rev. H. R. Talbot to St. David's, Portland; and to the deaconess' work done by Miss Caroline P. Sheffield in vacant missions.

"I hope," continued the bishop, "that the high standing Oregon has taken among all the dioceses in the Episcopal church will stimulate our members to greater things next year. Girls—St. Helen's Hall and the Good Samaritan hospital are self-supporting, and are doing excellent work in the community. But in almost every parish and mission there are men and women who are mere church adherents, nominal members, who are taking but little interest, and less activity, in church extension. These must be aroused, and this means personal work on the part of bishop, clergy and those laymen and women already bearing the burden.

"Our immediate attention must be turned to the reopening of the Bishop Scott academy, as the adequate endowment of the Episcopal fund, in order to relieve parishes and missions of heavy assessments for the bishop's salary. Our trustees have both these matters under consideration. I am far more pleased with the 'family-idea' which is uniting us in our work; with the evidences in many places of a quickening of spiritual life, than with all the good results that can be tabulated."

## IDAHO FALLS LEADS AS POTATO 'CENTER'

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)  
Idaho Falls, Idaho, Jan. 22.—During the past year the freight records show that over 5000 cars of produce were shipped from Idaho Falls, most of which were potatoes and small grain, although a few cars of cattle and other produce was also shipped. Potatoes are the main crop and Idaho Falls is fast winning the enviable reputation held so many years by Greeley, Colo., in the eastern markets, and now Idaho Falls potatoes are in just as great demand. The successful farmer raises 500 bushels of potatoes to the acre, which sell easily at 60 cents per bushel, making \$300 to the acre. Joe Taylor, known as the potato king of the Idaho Falls country, has the product of 85 acres which he intends shipping east as soon as the price is satisfactory.

other projects, owing to the present state of the reclamation fund, that I do not feel at this time warranted in considering the project 'practicable,' under present conditions, even though the removal of all the difficulties involved should render it 'feasible.'

"A provision by congress for the issue of bonds as recommended in my annual report, or other means of expediting the work of the reclamation service, would undoubtedly bring the Malheur project within the realm of consideration.

"If conditions on the Klamath and Umatilla projects warrant pushing work at those points with rapidity so that they can be completed in 1912, the cost of these projects will exceed the present restricted fund for Oregon by more than \$1,000,000. The uncertainty of future receipts is such that there is at present no assurance that the amounts expended upon these two projects will not nearly or quite equal the restricted fund at the end of the 10-year period."

(Signed) R. A. BALLINGER, Secretary.

Journal want ads bring results.

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