

THE JOURNAL

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A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

MANY people of several states are moving in the direction of the Oregon system of government, for the adoption of its primary law—direct legislation through the initiative and referendum, election of United States senators by the people, a corrupt practice act and the recall—or some of these features of government of, for and by the people.

Millions of observing, patriotic, intelligent people in all parts of the country who are thoroughly dissatisfied and disgusted with conditions as they have been and are in their several states—with party, machine, boss government, with corruption and bribery in politics, with the cruel, insolent rule of utterly selfish, unscrupulous interests, and who are seeking to improve these conditions and bring about a cleaner, more just system of government, more of a people's government—have been studying the Oregon methods and are generally impressed favorably with them.

CALIFORNIA'S NEW BIRTH

VIRILE, capable and unbowed, Hiram W. Johnson emerges from the California primary campaign as a remarkable figure in the wave of insurgency now sweeping the awakening west.

He plunged into the fight with the same spirit he exhibited in defying the forces of graft in San Francisco courtrooms. The Republican state organization was against him, and it sent him a letter demanding to know whether he would support the nominee of the party, whoever won.

The saloons were for Curry. So were all the "good fellows" who declared Curry to have the best bar room manners of any man in California. The Southern Pacific wanted Anderson, who had once been mildly against it, but Anderson failed to arouse enthusiasm and at the last moment of the railroad strength was turned to Curry in the hope of defeating Johnson.

In reality a part of the national insurgent movement. This is shown by the remarkably close race indicated by early returns between Congressman Duncan McKinlay in the Second district and William Kent. The latter is an insurgent. He is wealthy, is inclined to philanthropy, but lived in Chicago until about two years ago.

CALIFORNIA INSURGENT

NOTHING more significant in the realm of politics and especially in the line of insurgency has occurred for years than the primary election in California yesterday. The nomination of Theodore Bell by the Democrats for governor was a foregone conclusion, and therefore without much interest.

Very significant, too, is the probable nomination by Republican insurgents of William Kent in the place of William McKinlay for congress in the Second congressional district. McKinlay is a typical stand-patter, a prominent Aldrichite and Cannonite, and may be beaten by Kent, who came to California only a few years ago from Chicago, and has engaged in fruit culture, in which he is an expert.

SMALL WHEAT PRODUCTION

FROM A statistical bulletin it is ascertained that of the entire land area of the United States in 1900, but 44 per cent was included in farms, and by farms was meant, also, stock ranges.

These figures show how needless is the alarm about the failure of sufficient wheat or other food production, so often sounded lately. The land of the United States can and will at sufficient demand produce a far larger percentage of wheat and other grains, and all sorts of foodstuffs.

THE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

THE ENTIRE west has been enormously, almost wildly, prosperous, reads the annual crop and business summary of the Continental and Commercial bank of Chicago, a careful and conservative commentator on the business conditions of the country.

One subject of disquietude has been the state of the foreign trade of the United States. Trade balances were falling just at the time the annual drain commenced from outgoing tourists and the other invisible sources of loss.

Roosvelt has been turned down by a clique of New York Republican politicians. It would be scarcely surprising to hear that Teddy and waked up some morning and declared that he would henceforth be a Democrat.

Pittsburg has over half a million population. The Palmsist was perceptive when he said that the wicked flourished like a green bay tree, and waxed fat, or something to that effect.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Letters to the Journal should be written on one side of the paper only and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. The name will not be used if the writer asks that it be withheld. The Journal is not to be understood as accepting the views or statements of correspondents.

PEOPLE SEEKING TRUE REPRESENTATION

THE CHIEF cause of insurgency is that too many public men do not really represent the people. Farmers and carpenters and drymen and professional men understand that very few of them can be elected to office; but they are demanding, more and more, true, right representation.

THE HARVEST IN OREGON

WHEAT in what we usually mention as the upper country is not yielding quite as much as usual, and there have been years when prices were somewhat higher. Some ranches are yielding only 30 or 40 bushels an acre, and the farmer can only sell at some 80 cents a bushel.

PUBLIC DOCKS

GOVERNOR HAY of Washington has addressed letters to the commercial organizations of all the coast cities in that state, asking them to give serious attention to the question of securing public wharves before all the available waterfrontage has been grabbed by the railroads.

These petitions should be liberally signed, so there can be no question as to the force of the movement behind them. It is a growing movement all over the country, and Portland will do well to lead in the northwest, before the difficulties of acquiring the needed property are multiplied.

A really great president would not wait for any undesirable man's resignation. He would have courage to fire the man. Would Jackson have had a Standard Oil Wickersham? But then, Jackson would never have appointed a Wickersham in the first place.

Progressive Republicanism seems to be entitled to the name; it is progressing considerably. The senatorial game in some states seems to be to beat the man that the people want for senator.

SMALL CHANGE

AGAIN it rained, but very meagerly. Nobody is suffering from heat these nights. Walla-Walla is 50 years old, but it acts young and gay yet.

OREGON SIDAIGHTS

Tillamook is likely to have a milk condenser. Stonecutters are wanted in Lakeview, says the Herald. Lots of Wheeler and Sherman county farmers are buying automobiles now.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 17.—The number of boats arriving at and departing from Brandon constantly increases. The knowledge that Jim Hill's Oregon Electric will, within 18 months, be running some 30-odd trains a day in and out of Eugene already helps some, says the Guard.

August 17 in History—Our First Steamboat

Few characters in our national history are more interesting than Robert Fulton, the inventor of the steamboat. Born near Lancaster, Pa., early in life he was left fatherless. As a youth, he showed an unusual natural talent for mechanical and inventive work.

TANGLEFOOT

By Miles Overholt. YES, IT'S SPREADING. LEAVE IT ASSEMBLY.

The wily politician. Gath'ring-benches at his side; says he's set out on a grand plan. 'Tis time to mount and ride. A clever plan occurs to me— 'We'll ride on the assemblers!'

The puny country editor. For office saddy pines; So he might pay his creditor. That's why his paper sines With "Come by, loyal vote for me! My only chance: Assemblers!"

Oh, sure, there never is a dearth. Of men who want to run, Who work the next year with the great earth, With Statement Number One, And so they frame a scheme, you see, And call it the "assemblers!"

Woman, Lovely Woman. When good Professor Knowit saw that "For office saddy pines," Was sad at night when women sought To pinch their ribs too tightly.

Very Good Politics. From Harper's Weekly. There was not a suggestion of politics in the president's speech—New York Times.

Not Taken Seriously. From the Albany Democrat. The "republican" effort to eliminate Gov. West and Jeff Myers from the gubernatorial contest on the Democratic ticket and put in Manning all alone isn't working seriously. If it is in the Oregonian politics it is easy to guess it isn't so.

An Easy Job. (Contributed to the Journal by Walt Mason, the famous Kansas poet. His prose-poems are a regular feature of this column in The Daily Journal.) It isn't hard to win renown as having an ever ready sneer to spring when others' names you hear. And if you hear some fellow praise for deeds that left the village dazed, insist that he's a false alarm, and doing far less good than you, just run them down, the long day through; insist that all their wealth was made by fooling with the board of trade. Say bitter things behind the backs of men who treat you smooth as wax. Distrust men's motives and insist that all hearts have a crooked twist, that all are cheats, and out for self—all men are liars, except yourself. Always raise a noisy storm when people speak of a reform. Old ways are always best, you know, and any progress here below is just the dream of foolish men and grafters pinning for the pen.

John Manning for Governor. From the Morning Mail-Tribune. Mr. Manning has no element of strength that would appeal to the Democratic masses. He has done nothing to command their confidence and support. His record as district attorney is not such as to justify further political advancement, nor will the rank and file swallow him.

MILK MAY WIN

It is generally conceded that B. F. Mulkey's prospects for winning the Republican primary for governor for congressmen from this district are highly promising. His opponent has been a dyed-in-the-wool Cannon man and the methods of Cannonism and the interests that were served through him have been so thoroughly stamped upon the minds of the people that there is little chance of their sentiments. The landslide in the Kansas Republican primaries and the recent Iowa state convention are unmistakable evidences of forthcoming events.

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Portland, Or., Aug. 17.—To the Editor of the Journal—I would like to state a few of the many reasons why the majority of the citizens of this city object to the assembly plan of nomination for city officers.

One of the reasons is that the present city administration is the fruit of the assembly, and no sooner had they taken their official seats than the gas company at one swoop raised their minimum meter rates from 50 cents to one dollar a month, and set up all over the city, regardless of the convenience of the general public, to put down hard surface pavements, where in many instances there was no need of them, and that at exorbitant prices. The public was told that paving was being done cheaper than heretofore, instead of which, taking into

consideration the quality used, it was really dearer. It has been stated through the columns of the press that a water main costing some \$25,000 was laid to the Malinda Heights, a property owned by some of our so-called prominent citizens. T. E. Wilcox, president of the city water board, being one of them. On this property there are as yet few, if any, houses, yet this main was paid for out of the water fund, but on such thickly populated streets as Marshall, Overton and other streets, the property holders were forced to pay for the laying of the mains.

At present a hard surface pavement is being put down on Nineteenth street at a cost of \$1.35 per yard, but they are charging 85 cents per yard for grading, while on Twelfth street the property owners were charged 85 cents for grading and that was considered a very high charge for that kind of work. When the private citizen goes to lay a sidewalk he gets an excellent job done for 90 cents to one dollar a linear foot, but where the city does the job, let contacts at \$1.10 and \$1.20 per foot, I am told.

Milkey May Win. From the Ashland Record. It is generally conceded that B. F. Mulkey's prospects for winning the Republican primary for governor for congressmen from this district are highly promising. His opponent has been a dyed-in-the-wool Cannon man and the methods of Cannonism and the interests that were served through him have been so thoroughly stamped upon the minds of the people that there is little chance of their sentiments. The landslide in the Kansas Republican primaries and the recent Iowa state convention are unmistakable evidences of forthcoming events.

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