

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 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 unbossed, 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 defeating 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 1909, but 44 per cent was included in farms, and by farms was meant, also, stock ranges. The land included in farms, but 21.8 per cent was under cultivation.

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.

But the victory is not personal with Johnson. He did much to concentrate the movement, and through flaming legends in the sky that brought the common voter to the primary polls. But the movement of which Johnson is an exponent is

promises a yield 25 per cent greater than the 16 years' average, oats and barley also are better than usual, the total production of all kinds of grain being over 400,000 bushels in excess of the average for 10 years.

PARTY

WELL, WHAT is a Republican? What is a Democrat? Does anybody know? In the matter of a county commissioner or clerk or sheriff, should anybody care? Is there any sense in the appeal to and for "party"? If so, we would be glad to demonstrate it in this newspaper.

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.

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.

But then, Jackson would never have appointed a Wickersham in the first place. We commend to the thoughtful study of assembly candidates the results of the California primaries. But perhaps a meat ax is the only argument that will adequately impress upon their minds that the people are at last determined to rule.

pleasing to hear that Teddy and waked up some morning and declared that he would henceforth be a Democrat.

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. Letters should be made as brief as possible. Those who wish their letters printed should enclose a stamped envelope. Correspondents are notified that letters exceeding 300 words in length may, at the discretion of the editor, be cut down to that limit.

THE CHILD CITIZEN

Dairy, Or., Aug. 15.—To the Editor of the Journal—I was deeply interested and highly edified by the editorial comments of The Journal on the suggestion of Mayor Seidel of Milwaukee respecting the employment of making use of the children for the voluntary cleaning up and beautifying of the streets of that city, and venture to add a thought regarding boy patriotism, and boy efficiency in the hope that it may inspire a better appreciation of the possibilities of the future usefulness of the boy.

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. Now don't fail to help make that fair and livestock show a success. Roosevelt's silence is more eloquent than any speech he could make.

COMMENTS AND NEWS IN BRIEF

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.

OREGON SIDAIGHTS

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.

MILKEY MAY WIN

It is generally conceded that B. F. Mulkey's prospects for winning the Republican primary for congress 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 his winning.

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TANGLEFOOT

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

Mr. I don't know just how you feel about it, but personally, I think I'm one of our best little poets. Not speaking egotistically, mind you, but just gently uttering a fact. And so—

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 assemblage!'

The punny country editor. For voice and style, you're good. So he might pay his creditor. That's why his paper sines with. 'Come be loyal, vote for me! My only chance: Assemblage!'

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

PUNK JOKE. "This ring is brass," said the irate woman at the jewelry shop. "You're well, you ordered it by phone, didn't you?" said the clerk. "Yes, but what has that got to do with it?" "Why, I thought you wanted phony goods," said the clerk in an apologetic tone of voice.

Woman, Lovely Woman. When good Professor Knowit saw that "For voice and style, you're good. So he might pay his creditor. That's why his paper sines with. 'Come be loyal, vote for me! My only chance: Assemblage!'

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

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 praised 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.