

THE JOURNAL

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IN WASHINGTON TODAY

BEFORE the supreme court of the United States the initiative and referendum are on trial for life. In ten states in which the system has been adopted, the court will be watched with much anxiety.

The first state to adopt the system was South Dakota in 1895. Oregon, which is popularly credited as the pioneer in the plan, followed in 1907.

In Oklahoma fifteen percent is required both to initiate or refer, while in Arkansas but three per cent is required for the referendum. In Missouri, but five per cent is required either to refer or initiate.

In seven states, constitutional amendments adopting the system have already been referred to the people by the legislature. They are Washington, Wyoming, North Dakota, Nebraska, Idaho and Florida.

An adverse decision by the court would have far reaching effect. It would project the system into the open as one of the overshadowing issues of the time.

It will be a happy solution if the court pronounces the system constitutional, and sound lawyers hold that such will be the decision.

DISCUSSING the decline of prices in the iron and steel trade, Henry Clews' letter says it is "rapidly bringing our most important industry into a healthy and more promising condition."

This is not the utterance of Mr. Bryan. Nor of Mr. La Follette. Nor of Mr. Roosevelt. It is the non-political discussion of the business situation by the head of a great New York banking house.

THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY ABROAD DISPATCHES from Omaha agree that the exhibit of products from Benton, Lane, Linn and Marion counties is attracting wide attention.

The exhibit is concrete evidence of Oregon productivity. Pumpkins do not lie. Big apples do not exaggerate. The story that is told by Oregon grains and grasses cannot be denied or disputed.

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COMMENTS AND NEWS IN BRIEF

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LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

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SEVEN FAMOUS EXILES

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HARD LUCK

When I'm inclined to weep and wail because my luck seems kind of stale, I always think of William Wax, who lives down by the railroad tracks.

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TANGLEFOOT

I'm the man who invented the aeroplane. But the Wright brothers gobbled the child of my brain.

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WATCH PORTLAND GROW

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