

The Oregon Statesman

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DIRECT PRIMARY LAW NOT SATISFACTORY

"Do you consider the direct primary law satisfactory? Would you favor a return to a convention system? Would you favor a change to some form of direct election?"

"Please comment." The above is a letter from a high school boy of Oregon to the editor of The Statesman. He explains: "I wish this opinion for debate work and would appreciate an immediate reply." The letter is dated Thursday. Presumably he has sent a similar letter to other Oregon newspapers.

The editor of The Statesman does not consider the direct primary law of Oregon satisfactory. He does not think it gives or guarantees, on the average, any better candidates, or any better officials, than did the old convention system—perhaps not as good—

And it is expensive; very expensive. Expensive to the taxpayers. And expensive to the candidates, or their friends. Theoretically it gives the poor man a chance. In practice, it does the opposite, generally speaking.

No; the editor would not favor a return to the convention system. It would do no good to wish it for the present, for the majority of the people have not yet had enough of the direct primary system. A sort of idol worship will hold it for a time yet. But there can and will no doubt finally be worked out a system that will eliminate some of the faults of both the convention system and the direct primary system.

A better system than either— Eliminating the faults of the expensiveness of the direct primary system and its likelihood to result in the nomination of the least fitted among a large field of candidates for any particular nomination. And eliminating the viciousness of the boss rule that grew up under the old convention system, and that would grow up again if it were brought back as it was in the days before the direct primary system was adopted.

There remains this question: "Would you favor a change to some form of direct election?"

Just what does the high school student mean by this? We have a direct election now, in Oregon, for principal state, district, county and municipal officers. The election is direct, whether the nominations are by direct primary or by convention.

The writer believes there should be a direct election of the President and Vice President of the United States—cutting out the Electoral College, which has never since the first election functioned as was intended by the men who framed the Constitution of the United States.

Coming back to the first two questions: The old convention system was not satisfactory. The present direct primary system is not satisfactory. It does not come up to specifications; does not bring about the reforms the people who proposed it and voted for it believed and hoped it would.

Any system in this field will have its faults. Popular

government is a matter of growth; of experiment. Nothing made with human hands or springing from finite minds will ever be perfect. We can only approximate perfection.

In the course of time, there will be new experiments in the field under discussion—

And let us hope that the new system, that will itself be on trial and subject to be put aside for a still better system, will be better than either the old convention or the present direct primary system.

We have here in the United States, and in the different states in this country, the best governments in the world, and the best the world has so far seen; but this is not saying that there may not be constant improvements. There must be, if we are to remain progressive—if we are to benefit from all past experience and all new knowledge.

The way to retrench is to retrench.

You cannot eat your cake and have it too. There can be no lowering of taxes without cutting down expenses. A shifting of burdens may help some, too, if they are arranged justly; and some new sources of revenue may be found without hampering industry and initiative.

Why would it not be a good idea to have a commission of American business men aid in the solution of the reparations problem? It is understood that the initiative of such a movement came from the United States Chamber of Commerce, of which Julius H. Barnes is president.

If the penitentiary can be made self supporting, that will count for about \$175,000 a year in the saving of a million dollars annually promised to the taxpayers of Oregon during the last campaign. A dollar earned is a dollar saved. The penitentiary can be made self supporting. Developing the flax industry there will do it.

The same corsairs of commerce in this country who were against the protective tariff, to a large extent, are the ones who are opposing and seeking to hold up the proposed ship subsidy bill, or any legislation looking to the creation of an adequate American merchant marine. The increase in foreign trade under the protective tariff law is discrediting these pirates of business, and the enactment of the right kind of a bill aimed at encouraging American ships on all the trade routes would discredit them as badly as they are being discredited by the operations of the present tariff law—or worse.

NOVEMBER ANSWERS ANTI-PROTECTIONISTS

An \$86,000,000 increase in exports, November, 1922, over November, 1921, is a very definite answer to the statement persevered in by opponents of the new tariff law, while it was under debate, that it would put the brake on our foreign sales. Exports for November, 1921, totaled \$294,

000,000, and for November, 1922, the first full month under the Fordney-McCumber law, (October figures included 10 days of September) they totaled \$380,000,000. With the exception of exports to Asia, which fell off \$4,000,000, those to every other grand division showed marked improvement. To Europe they increased \$63,000,000; to North America, \$9,000,000, and to Africa and Oceania, \$3,000,000.

Every European country mentioned in the advance sheet of the department of commerce took more of our goods in November, 1922, than in November, 1921, the most marked increases being to France, \$13,000,000; to Germany, \$3,000,000; to Italy, \$5,000,000; to the Netherlands, \$3,000,000; to Russia in Europe, nearly \$2,000,000; to Spain, \$2,000,000; to Sweden, \$1,000,000, and to the United Kingdom \$29,000,000. These are the countries which some of the Democrats assured us, would stop buying from us when the law became operative.

The country was assured last September that the Republicans were erecting a Chinese tariff wall from Eastport, Maine, to Puget Sound, Washington, to keep out Canadian goods, and that as a consequence Canada would probably boycott American goods and the country would be ruined. But we sold Canada \$41,000,000 worth of our products in November, 1921, when the Democratic tariff law was in operation, and \$56,000,000 worth in November, 1922. And Canada got a good slice of our market at the same time.

Sales to Mexico fell off \$4,000,000, the two periods compared, but to the ten other Latin American territories mentioned, which include Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Colombia, our exports increased from \$26,000,000 to \$39,000,000. A 45 per cent increase to Cuba is worth noting, since we were told that an increased duty on sugar would peeve the Queen of the Antilles so that she would take her trade to some other shop. Exports to Australia and New Zealand increased \$2,600,000, indicating that there is no insuperable wall

between us and the wallabies, and they have their own protective policies also. There was a falling off in exports to Japan of \$4,600,000, which further confounds the Democratic prophets, since they were predicting that the decreases in sales would be to our debtors—and Japan is not one of our debtors. Japan has a little kink in her purchasing power just now, and besides, she is increasing her ability to manufacture her own goods.

Altogether, the export trade for November is a pretty good indication that the opponents of the new law did not know what they were talking about a few months ago, and that the sob sisters of anti-protection are a hard lot to be wished off on our Uncle Samuel.

THAT NATION OF SHOPKEEPERS.

When Napoleon sneered at the British for being "a nation of shopkeepers," he touched the secret spring of their long dominance in world affairs. Since then a greater nation of shopkeepers has come to the front—yet even this greater nation apparently can still learn points from its older rival.

In the present muddle of post-war debts and settlements the British instinct for scenting a good bargain is standing that nation in good stead. Thus while America was building wooden ships to win the World War, Britain was consolidating the rubber supply of the world against the coming peace.

In the Malay peninsula and other tropical British possessions the planters developed so immense a supply of crude rubber that the price tumbled to levels never before reached. In the Philippine Islands Americans have lands equally adapted for the production of rubber, but while they could buy it so cheaply from the British, American capital fought shy of entering this seemingly over-exploited field.

More than once American industry has had to pay the price of thus relying on foreign imports. The rubber deal has proven another striking case in point. For while American manufacturers employ 70 per cent of the rubber produced the British control 80 per cent of the world's rubber supply.

It is the old story of having first established a monopoly with the object of afterwards fixing a price. Only in this case the British government has been the price-raiser and the reason for the rise has been a stiff tax on all rubber grown in British territory, the tax to pay the war debt owed by that nation to America, which, of course, upsets all the preconceived notions that England is still a free trade country. This is now merely a tradition. As soon as it comes to paying foreign debtors the British government will turn to a high tariff with no regard at all for the ghosts of Bright and Cobden.

The old nation of shopkeepers is evidently still capable of engineering a shrewd business deal. By manipulating the world's rubber market the Briton can in effect make the American automobile owner pay the debts England contracted during the war. And since it takes at least seven years to bring a rubber plantation into bearing, the American automobile owner has no apparent alternative but to pay the tax.

A debtor that can practically make a creditor pay his debts for him doesn't have to fear dishonorable bankruptcy. While the British retain this business instinct, the day of the Anglo-Saxon will close in nothing darker than a mellow northern twilight.

PASSING OF PARNASSUS

The harsh arm of the iconoclast is ever busy. Now they say that Parnassus is being given over to goat pasture. This memorable mountain, which once housed the shrine of Apollo and overlooked the groves of Delphi, is now the stamping ground of a flock of Angoras. The peak where the Bacchantes had their mystic revels is now peopled by nannies. The inspirational source of poetry and song is now a mere bleatery for a herd of phlegmatic goats. The beautiful groves of Parnassus and its cooling spring are now under the domination of a group of Nubian bucks. There is no more poetry or imagination left in the world. Parnassus has been given to the goats.

COMING BACK

Austria is making another determined effort to get back into the world. The wise heads are planning for the future. They realize that they must improve old records to get on. The farmer must raise more than 20 bushels of wheat to the acre and the cow must increase her store of milk. So they are using so-

EDITORIALS OF THE PEOPLE

Is There Oil in the Willamette Valley

Editor Statesman: Many attempts have been made to answer the above query by persons who had faith enough to believe there was, to induce them to spend their money to put down test wells to ascertain if there was enough petroleum under the surface of this beautiful valley. Generally, for lack of capital, the work has been abandoned before a sufficient depth was attained to determine what was below us.

It remained for the Willamette Valley Oil & Gas Co., putting down a test well 18 miles north of Salem, to demonstrate the fact that there is oil in the Willamette valley. While drilling at a depth of a little more than a thousand feet a small vein of oil was found which evidently was forced up through a seam in the shale rock in which they were drilling, from a lower level by gas pressure, and as the seepage of oil is continuous as the drill goes deeper is a strong indication that it is coming from a larger body of oil below.

The Willamette Valley Oil & Gas Co. and others who have investigated, are enthusiastic in expressions of their belief that oil in paying quantity will soon be found. The oil company is sending their drill deeper with good prospects of soon achieving the desired results.

Two other companies who have been watching the progress of this well are so pleased with the showing for oil that they are bringing in machinery and material preparatory to beginning operations on other wells in that vicinity.

Would Assure Prosperity

The citizens of Salem and vicinity can scarcely realize what it would mean to the business interests and property holders of this valley if oil in paying quantities was found at this well. The enhancement of property values, the increased volume of business among the merchants, the influx of thousands of people with money to invest, the erections of hundreds of derricks in all parts of the valley to drill down and tap the great source of wealth, the petroleum itself if it actually now lies unused beneath the surface of the Willamette valley would bring to this vicinity a wave of prosperity that the most optimistic have scarcely dreamed of.

Money Needed

The Willamette Valley Oil & Gas Co. have done bravely in the prosecution of this work so far. They have given liberally of their services and means to demonstrate that there is oil in this valley, but they lack the money to finish the undertaking and bring in the flow of oil that we believe from present indications is near at hand. We believe every business man and every property holder interested in the prosperity of this valley should contribute toward the completion of this work by investing a small amount in stock of the company, and thus help bring success to this enterprise and add to the prosperity of our state.

The board of directors of this company consist of six business men who are selected to conduct the business affairs of the company and to see that all money received from the sale of stock is used in the prosecution of the work at the well so as to obtain the desired result as quickly as possible.

Few Dollars Wanted

Mr. L. H. Roberts is the Salem representative on this board. He is prepared to give accurate information in regard to the well and to the expenditure of all money received from the sale of stock. If you are interested in the well, please send your name to the office of the company, 123 N. Commercial St., Salem, Oregon. The company will send you a prospectus and a list of names of those who have already invested. The company will also send you a list of names of those who have already invested. The company will also send you a list of names of those who have already invested.

the success of this industry in our midst. Mr. Roberts is at his office at 331 1/2 State street. We feel assured from present indications at the well that every one who invests a few dollars to help this industry along will in the near future reap a rich reward and help bring prosperity to the Willamette valley, the Garden of Eden of the United States. —ALBERT COFFEY, Salem, Oregon.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Legislators taking a rest.

But the rests will be less the rest of the session.

You can easily get up a first class fight by taking sides on the murder trial in old Polk.

Mr. Smith, the new superintendent of the penitentiary, is going down the line on the flax industry. If he gets the proper backing, he will make the prison self supporting; and then some. Then he will be the biggest man in his line in all Oregon.

Life and hash are what you make them.

Henry Ford makes \$254,026.41 a day, and a Salem man says he's glad he is not Henry, because he could never have the nerve to take a day off.

One of the problems of life is to get our neighbors to love us as we love ourselves.

When a member of the legislature votes against any old bill that looks like an appropriation or an increase of taxes he is remembering what he said in the last campaign. So do not hold it against him.

In certain ways, on certain days, this old world is getting better and better. On other days, you wouldn't notice it so much.

30 CARS OF PAPER MAKING MACHINE

The Last Piece Is Due Next Week, and the Big Machine Will Soon Run.

The men who are setting up the new machinery for the great new paper making machine of the Oregon Pulp and Paper Co., in Salem's paper mill, are more or less marking time just now.

They are waiting for some of the machinery. Some of it has arrived, and all of it is on the way, and the last piece is due and expected to arrive next week; will be here if it is on schedule time.

There are 30 car loads of this machinery; to say nothing of a great deal of the driving and other parts that have been and are being made here. It will not take long to get all the parts of the big machine together when the last one arrives—and in a few weeks it will be adding substantially to the output of this great mill.

What next? There are rumors of still more additions and more machines for making paper. If all expectations are fulfilled, this will be not only the best but one of the largest paper mills in the United States, or in the world.

KIDNEY TROUBLE CAUSES LAMENESS

"A lameness followed me for some time, and I felt that it was caused from kidney trouble. One bottle of Foley Kidney Pills had the desired effect," writes H. B. Ar buckle, South Barre, Vermont. Backache, rheumatism, dull headache, too frequent or burning urination are symptoms of Kidney and Bladder trouble. Disordered kidneys require prompt treatment. Neglect causes serious complications. Foley Kidney Pills give quick relief. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

Why not have a propaganda to get rid of the word propaganda? Doesn't it grate on your nerves?

DAIRY MEET IS STRAINED

Ice Cream Manufacturers and House Committee Cannot Agree

There may be some members of the food and dairy committee of the house of representatives who agree with some members of the ice cream manufacturing industry of the state, but there was nothing in the hearing held on the two bills to raise the butter-fat content of ice cream that would indicate this situation.

"Put in more butter fat and you help the dairyman," argued Representatives Overturf and Cary, authors of the two bills now before the house.

Situation Strained "Put in butter fat as required under this bill and the dairymen of the state will lose \$230,000 a year," argued the ice cream manufacturers, who trekked up to Salem to protest before the committee.

The committee has reached no decision. There was a more or less strained situation throughout the hearing, which started off with a statement by Chairman Cary to the effect that the farmers believed they had been misled long enough by persons claiming to be working for the best interests of the agricultural and dairy industries of the state.

Meanings Resented No one present admitted that he was the object of the veiled thrust but several appeared to resent the implied meaning.

Only once did the potential dynamite of the meeting get near the surface and that was when John Mickle, former state food and dairy commissioner, and now representative of the Oregon Dairy Council, questioned the origin of the move to change the ice cream butter fat content.

"Everyone was satisfied until the last political campaign," said Mickle, "and this thing is born out of the last political campaign and it does not come from a very good source."

The manufacturers presented statistics to show that a high butter fat content produced a heating effect on the body, cut down the sale of ice cream and therefore cut down the sale of milk and cream for the dairymen.

May Amend Bill It was suggested that the bill would be amended before it had reached the floor of the house to provide that in addition to raising the butter fat content that the per centage of solids not fat should also be definitely fixed at possibly 10 per cent.

Members of the committee who complained against the retail cost of ice cream appeared surprised to learn that the wholesale price of ice cream in Portland is \$1.10 a gallon.

For Colds, Influenza and as a Preventive



The First and Original Cold and Grip Tablet. The box bears this signature E. W. Brown 30c.

The Junior Statesman

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For Boys and Girls



Basketball Lessons

No. 8. Play of the Forwards (This is the eighth of twelve lessons in basketball by William C. Grave of the University of Pennsylvania. Intercollegiate high scorer for 1921. Mr. Grave was captain of his team in 1921, and was named as All-Collegiate center in 1919, 1920, and 1921. He holds the record of having played 90 basketball games and losing only five.)

The forwards are the scoring aces of the team. They should be fast, good shots, and good dribblers—in fact, they must be good in all the phases of the game. When his team has the ball, the forward should always be cutting for the basket. Cutting for the basket is a quick dash toward the basket so that the guard can be left behind. Many forwards are useless because they stop cutting after a few tries. The game is to cut all the time. If you cut 10 times and receive only one pass and a goal is scored, that means two points successfully made.

Outside the Guard In lining up for a play from center, try to get between your guard and the goal. This would help you to get a start for the goal. A forward should always fol-

low every long shot that is taken by his team. Many a basket can be scored by a quick follow-up shot. If the ball is not closely followed the other team will get the ball and your team will have to go on the defensive. Cut fast and often, follow every shot, and you will score many points. (Next week: "Play of the Center.")

THE SHORT STORY, JR.

Rover and the Lost Fur Gone! It was gone! Pauline leaned against the car and tried to swallow her heart, which insisted in jumping out of her throat. Her mother's lovely fur was lost. "It just couldn't have fallen out," she thought. "It must have been stolen." Being too warm with her coat and the fur both on she had taken it off and put it in the back of the car.

"Home again, Polly?" asked her father. "Why, what's the matter? You look as though you had lost your last friend." "Oh, Daddy, it's worse than that. What shall I do? I've lost mother's new sable fur." "Whew!" whistled Mr. Black, looking serious. "That is bad. When, where, and how?"

Pauline told him all that she knew about it. Mr. Black jumped into the car. He decided they better go back and look for it. "Where's Rover?" he asked, as they tore along the road. "Why, I don't know," Pauline answered. "He did go to town with me, didn't he? I don't remember when I saw him last. He just won't stay with me. He always is straying off."



"Look! There he is now!" cried her father, pointing ahead of them to a dark spot in the road. "Whatever is he doing to that man?"

They watched the dog, a mere speck in the road which rapidly grew larger. He seemed to be guarding something from the man. "Oh, what an awful looking tramp!" cried Pauline.

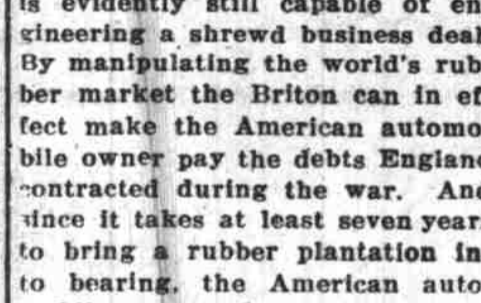
As the car drew up to them the tramp slunk away to the side of the road, Rover snapping at his heels. "What are you doing?" cried Mr. Black. The tramp pointed to a black object up the road. "The dog won't let me get that fur me wife lost," he whined.

"Fur!" In a second Pauline was hugging her mother's sable fur in one arm and dear old Rover in the other. "And to think I scold because he's independent. Why, he has better sense than I have."

PICTURE PUZZLE



Answer to yesterday's: R. S. V. F. show, vote, pass.



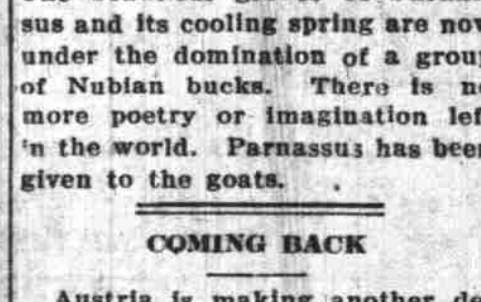
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