

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER WITH PLENTY OF BACKBONE
BEDE & GRANT, Publishers :: :: :: ELBERT BEDE, Editor

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BUSINESS OFFICE: :: :: :: 26 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
Wednesday, September 16, 1914.

Be Sure to Get Stop Over
at Cottage Grove.



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Initiative Measures

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

THE SALIENT FEATURES of this measure are that under its provisions an elector could vote for but one candidate for the legislature regardless of how many were to be elected from the district in which the elector resided, but that he could vote for a candidate from any district in the state and his vote would be counted for that candidate. Minority parties and organizations, such as the Socialists, Progressives, Prohibitionists, labor unions, retail merchants' associations, newspaper associations, church organizations, anti-prohibition organizations, etc., could, by concentrating their vote in the entire state upon one or a few candidates, secure representation in the assembly.

This kind of a measure appeals to the fair-mindedness and patriotism of a voter in a state that has declared for popular government. It is only fair, at least theoretically, that every party or faction should have representation in proportion to its strength. There is no reason to believe that those who have put the measure on the ballot have any other object than to secure just what they say the bill will give them.

The danger is not that it will do what its supporters expect it to, but that, like so many experimental theories that have been tried on the state already, it will do, or is likely to do, so much more than is expected. It is another measure that appeals to the voter of the dominant party who wishes to be fair to minority parties, but who doesn't stop to study its possibilities.

IN THE FIRST PLACE it is an experimental or freak measure. It is founded on theory only. Nothing exactly like it has ever been tried before and nothing similar to it has ever been tried under political conditions such as those that exist in Oregon.

It is a U'Ren measure. Mr. U'Ren helped to initiate it and, no doubt, drew it up. He most heartily supports it, along with \$1500 single tax limited and the universal eight-hour day. These reasons alone are sufficient to cause the voter to study the measure carefully before taking chances on voting favorably.

Under the provisions of this measure, with sixty representatives to be elected, every candidate receiving one-sixtieth of the vote of the entire state would be elected.

To show what could happen, let us assume that Lane County Republicans have three-sixtieths of the vote of the entire state, that there are three Republican candidates, three Prohibition candidates, three Democratic candidates, three Socialist candidates and three Progressive candidates from this county. Let us also assume for the sake of argument that parties other than the Republican and Democratic have no candidates in other counties, or, at least, have only weak ones in other counties. The Republican party by dividing its vote equally could elect three candidates; and if the Prohibitionists, Socialists and Progressives of the entire state concentrated on their Lane County candidates, Lane County would get a representation of twelve in the Legislature while only entitled to three, and other districts would not get their proportional representations. Districts with only one to elect might be left out in the cold.

It would not be impossible for the above to happen and it is more than likely that something similar on a smaller scale would happen quite frequently.

Under whatever conditions that might come up, minority parties, by concentrating their votes, would be almost certain to give certain districts over-representation and other districts under-representation.

ALL KINDS OF THINGS might happen in Multnomah County, which now has but one-fifth of the representation with one-third of the voting strength of state. It is more than likely that it would materially increase its representation from the mere fact of having the voting strength, but it would easily be possible for the reverse to happen.

It might easily happen that three, or some other small number of the candidate from that county, would be so popular that they would get almost the entire vote. Remember that each elector could only vote for one candidate, despite the fact that Multnomah now has 12 representatives and is entitled to more. Each voter would be likely to pick out the most popular or best-fitted and all votes could be cast for one person, as far as that is concerned. With sufficient votes to elect twenty representatives (which it might do by splitting them properly), Multnomah might, by the method of voting that would prevail under proportional representation, get only one, two or three representatives. This would not be fair. Figuring the other way, it might divide its vote equally among twenty candidates and elect them, making its power at Salem almost double what it is now.

The fall election comes in the wet season. Let us presume that there is a steady rain that day. The result would be that the country vote would be very small while Multnomah's vote would not be materially affected. It might cast half or more of the entire vote of the state and might, if the votes were properly divided, elect one-half the legislators, while some districts would not get any.

ONE PRINCIPLE OF THE MEASURE is not fair. If Lane County is entitled to three representatives, every voter should have the privilege of saying who those three shall be. He is just as much entitled to vote for every official from his representative district as he is to vote for every state or county official. A proposition that a voter could vote for only one state official or that if, in a city election, he should vote for mayor he could not vote for a councilman, would not take very well.

Proportional representation would make our election system more complex than ever, when the tendency should be to simplify it.

The argument that proportional representation would reduce the use of the initiative is an admission that its promiscuous use is becoming unpopular, and is a plausible argument with which to catch votes, but it is not likely that such would result.

There is a great probability that better men would be elected, as voters with but one vote each would be likely to concentrate on the best-fitted or most popular candidates. The measure would also give representation to minority parties.

No fault can be found with these features, but its dangers are so great and the measure is so fraught with probabilities and possibilities that it is too dangerous to take chances with in order to secure the slight good that seems certain.

TRYING TO INSTRUCT ITS TEACHER.

THE SENTINEL HAS at different times expressed pride in the progress and aptness of its pupil, the Spectator, a sprightly weekly published at Portland. It seems now that such action was unwise. Praise from its teacher has caused the little weekly to become so imbued with its own eruditeness that it would reverse the positions and become instructor to the paper from which it has learned so much. Like all youngsters, however, it draws its conclusions hastily and from superficial knowledge. Its youthful ardor is to be complimented but it should be held in check, lest it cause The Spectator frequently to make a consummate fool of itself, as it does in the following editorial:

Such improvement we anticipate before a great while and we will welcome the necessity of again returning to an eight-page paper.—Editorial in Cottage Grove Sentinel.

A serious error in philology, friend. If you had anticipated the improvement in business, you would have increased, instead of reducing, the size of your paper. If you are in the writing business, be a writer, and not a blacksmith.—Spectator.

If this pedantic philologist had referred to a dictionary it would have found our use of "anticipate" perfectly proper and in conformity with recognized usage. We refer our hypercritical critic to Webster's International Dictionary (which we do not presume it will have the supreme temerity to dispute), from which we quote the following: "Expect, anticipate, hope agree in regarding some future event as about to take place."

Had we used "expect" in place of "anticipate," we might have saved our choleric contemporary from making itself ridiculous.

The Spectator should guard against developing too much along one line. A scholar in one branch of learning quite often makes serious mistakes in other branches. Anyone in the writing business should be as thorough in orthography, grammar, rhetoric and punctuation as in philology. The Spectator is devoting too much effort to philology with apparent neglect of other subjects.

There is before the city council of Portland a freak ordinance for the sterilization of rags. From what we have heard concerning one of the daily "rags" of that town we are led to express the opinion that the measure should be passed with an emergency clause attached.

Congressman Hawley, while himself assiduously attending to the duties which he is paid to perform, has established headquarters at Salem under the direction of Ronald Glover. A systematic campaign is planned.

MISS RANKIN EXPLAINS PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

1030 East Main Street, Portland, Ore., Sept. 8, 1914.—To the Editor: Your voluntary correction of an error gives us great confidence in your fairness in considering this measure. Let us now proceed.

August 5, Cottage Grove Sentinel has the following excerpt taken from the editorial column: "We may well believe that he doesn't know the provisions of his \$1500 exemption measure, his eight-hour measure, his proportional representation measure and his bill to abolish the Senate. If he doesn't take the trouble to know what is in his own laws, why should any one else study them sufficiently to cast an intelligent ballot? The thing to do is to vote 'no' on these four measures."

Our first letter was a protest against voting "no" without investigation and the statement that it was exclusively a U'Ren measure. Our second letter cleared up, satisfactorily to ourselves, the editor's "mixed statements," and we are now ready to discuss the merits of this measure.

This plan of proportional representation creates a state-wide district for voting. A candidate's name will appear on the ballot only in the district in which the nomination is made. A voter may vote for any candidate, whether he has been nominated in the voter's district or in another part of the state. If the voter chooses to vote for a candidate who is not a resident of his own district, he may write or stick on the ballot the name of that candidate. Each voter may vote for one representative and no more.

By the use of stickers in a state-wide district, minority parties, or industrial and commercial organizations (as the measure provides that these may put up a candidate of their own if they choose) may conserve their votes by concentrating them upon some nominee anywhere in the state.

Two objections have been found in our campaign, to proportional representation. One is that such a variety of ideas would tend to obstruct legislation and the other is that log rolling would come in order that each faction might get what its party wanted. It is plain to be seen by these criticisms that they have no material weight, as they contradict each other. One says we will get too little legislation and the other says we will get too much and both say it will come from the same cause. Their argument is therefore not worth considering.

This measure provides that the sixty candidates from over the state receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. If men and women who receive the sixty highest votes over the entire state are elected to represent the people it is quite certain that better

legislators will be elected and that better legislation will follow.

The change from voting for but one nominee instead of from two to twelve in districts that have more than one is not so radical as to confuse the casting of an intelligent ballot by any one. The placing of an X mark before the nominee's name or the writing or sticking of some name, not on the local ballot, taken from another district, simplifies rather than complicates the manner of voting.

No district will fail of its representation for the reason that minority party votes will be concentrated in districts that have more than one nominee and the proportional representation will come out of these districts; leaving local districts with but one nominee, their regular representation. Minority representation, like minority reports of committees in committee work, generally have new and improved ideas. It is the function of a majority party to manage and govern, while the function of the minority is, always, to revolutionize or change.

The one great and beneficent feature that will come to all parties alike, is the relief it will bring to the overburdened and enforced abuse of the initiative. Minority ideas and expressions of legislation can be placed before the people through their regularly elected representatives, and initiative petitioning will be reduced to the minimum.

It is not expected that great changes will come or that the now majority party will be deprived of the management of affairs. It will allow new ideas to be considered and appeals can then be taken to the people who may receive them "intelligently" without a great amount of "study."

NETTIE MAE RANKIN,
Secretary Proportional Representation Bureau.

Eugene Register: County Commissioner R. J. Hemphill yesterday attended to the shipping of 100 feet of road culvert to Cottage Grove, to be used by Supervisor Tullar in road work at the edge of that city. Sixty feet of the culvert was of corrugated iron and 40 feet of cement. The county as a rule uses the iron culverts, but the supply has been exhausted.

An Oklahoma girl advertised for a husband and got him. The total expense for advertising, wedding outfit, etc. was \$11. He died within a year, leaving her an insurance policy of \$10,000. And yet some people claim that it doesn't pay to advertise.

There was a man who was wondrous wise; he jumped into a bramble bush and scratched out both his eyes. Then he put a want ad. in The Sentinel and got them back again.

School Days

Let Us Fit Out the Boy and Girl
We Can Do It Stylishly and Lastingly

School Books and Supplies
School Suits

School Overcoats

School Raincoats

School Caps

School Underwear

School Sweaters

School Hats

School Shoes

LURCH'S

The greatest soil in the world for producing crops is located around Cottage Grove. The greatest place in the world to get results from want ads. is in The Sentinel.

DIVORCES and SEPARATIONS

Statistics show that divorces and separations are much fewer among home owners than among non-home owners. There may be many reasons for this condition, but the principal one probably is that when a couple own a home they have so much more to draw them together. They become one in the plans to beautify it. They plan their little vegetable garden together, they dig about their flowers together, they develop a partnership in so many things that separation is unthinkable—they develop a deeper love working together and planning together. Hubby stays home to work about the yard and wifey doesn't have time to do so much gadding. Staying at home together develops home-loving that makes divorce impossible.

If this argument has struck you as sane and sensible, see us today about a lot in Manitou Park, the slightly Ninth Street Addition.

BETTER TALK IT OVER WITH US TODAY

VEATCH & SPENCER

Real Estate : Insurance : Collections

AGENTS FOR A. L. WOODARD

HARDWARE

FURNITURE

KNOWLES & GRABER

No other paper, daily or weekly, reaches one-quarter as many people in the Cottage Grove country as does The Sentinel.

SPECIAL Round Trip FARES

TO THE
THIRD ANNUAL

Grange Fair

TO BE HELD AT

Cottage Grove, Sept. 17-19

SALE DATES AND LIMITS:

Tickets will be sold from all S. P. stations, Main Line and Branches, Woodburn to Roseburg, inclusive; also from Corvallis via the C. & E. and from all P. E. & E. stations Corvallis to Eugene, inclusive, September 16 to 19 with final return limit September 21st.

Full particulars as to fares, train service, etc. from any agent of the

Southern Pacific

JOHN M. SCOTT, General Passenger Agent
Portland, Oregon

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