

Polk County Observer

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THE INITIATIVE.

The results of the recent election point unmistakably to the fact that as a lawmaking prerogative, the initiative has failed in its mission. But very few of the proposed measures sought to be initiated have been successful and, while the voters have wisely relegated some of the misfit pieces of legislation to the scrap heap, some very good and meritorious measures have gone along with them.

Special reference is made regarding the proposed Millage bill for the support of the Oregon State University and the Oregon Agricultural College. First, and foremost, the people of Oregon are supposed to be in favor of education. They are believed to be willing to support educational institutions, yet it appears that the majority of them are unwilling to furnish funds for such support and this attitude cannot but result in injury to the state's resources in this regard.

The millage bill was a meritorious measure. It was formulated by a non-partisan commission appointed by the governor, composed of prominent educators of the state, and men familiar with conditions and the urgent need to furnish the educational institutions with the money to carry on their work. These men were not partisans of either institution. They took up the work with an eye single to what would be best, in their judgment, for the University and the Agricultural College. They recognized, first, the necessity of divorcing them from the bane of politics, and of removing them from all taint connected with the frequent charges of "log-rolling" antics in connection with past legislative appropriations. This commission was interested in state educational matters and they sought to formulate a practice that would, in the one instance, redound to the benefit of the two institutions and, in the other, lessen the burden of taxation upon the people. The millage bill defeated at the recent election, was evolved and placed on the initiative ballot with a certain confidence that the people would be quick to recognize its merit and give it the endorsement of their ballots.

That they would have approved it is probable had there been time in which to discuss it, or had the ballot not been overbalanced and unwieldy with other measures. But the great majority went to the polls wholly un-informed upon the merits of the proposed bill, or what it planned to do. They only saw a measure which contemplated a "tax" and that was enough—they voted "no" without thought of the consequences of such vote. They employed the safe tactic as taught by many of the opponents of the initiative and voted against all propositions they did not fully understand.

The bill creating the office of lieutenant-governor was another measure that met defeat, and yet no serious objection against this plan can be urged by anyone. But there was no active campaign for it. It didn't amount to much anyway. Its friends probably imagined that there would be no serious opposition to it. There was no open opposition but when the voters had their inning they wanted that plan also. The most of them knew nothing about it. They had not studied it. When the title of the bill met their eyes—"A Bill for an Act to Create the Office of Lieutenant-Governor"—that settled it. Here was a bill creating a new office, and supposedly additional salaries, and the great majority never got any further than the first line of the title. The merits of the bill were not investigated—they just killed it; voted "no" once more because they didn't understand it. Yet the passage of this bill would not have added one cent to the expenses of the state, and it would have placed the state with all others, and given it a well-defined and sensible succession in the governor's office. The present plan of requiring the Secretary of State to perform the duties of the office of governor during his absence from the state, or the death or removal of that executive, is unwieldy. It isn't fair. The Secretary of State already has his hands full to administer the affairs of his own office, and to add to them by asking him to assume also the responsibilities of the chief executive, is to compel him to slough both jobs.

The defeat of the latter measure is of no great consequence, but the killing of the millage bill will greatly hamper the work of the Eugene and the Corvallis institutions. Why do we have them, anyway? Of what moment is it to us whether they're at or not? Why not close them up and permit our youth to take their higher courses in education in some of the neighboring states that have been broad enough to recognize the urgent necessity of equipping and maintaining their universities and their colleges with sufficient funds to enable them to operate intelligently, and helpfully, to the constantly increasing number of students?

But we do not believe that the people of Oregon would have rejected the millage bill had they been fully informed as to its merits. And here is found one of the greatest objections to the initiative. If all the people who vote would thoroughly inform themselves upon every measure, they could then vote intelligently and

would exercise their best judgment. But they do not so inform themselves. They do not take the trouble. Rather, they go upon the broad theory: "Vote No on all propositions you don't understand" and it is so much easier to do it that way, they let it go at that. Future regulations should be extended to the initiative if it is to prove the real benefit to the people. The number of measures should be limited, thus preventing the multiplication of bills which are sure to prove too great a job for the average busy voter to untangle. Thus the people would be more apt to look into the questions submitted and by personal investigation and discussion through the medium of the public press, would be able to vote intelligently. If that were done in all cases, the Observer has confidence to believe that the people of Oregon would decide all questions and that their verdict would be beyond cavil.

The defeat of the single tax proposition is an illustration in point. This question was discussed with much vigor throughout the state. Everybody had an opportunity to post themselves. They knew whether or not they wanted it, and the emphatic way in which they killed it shows that the judgment of the people is true and honest. Had the millage bill been given the same attention the Observer does not doubt that it would have carried.

Taken in the main, the Oregon system is all right, but it could be vastly improved by the embodiment of additional restrictions which would permit the electorate to inform itself and intelligently vote upon all questions submitted to it. In its broad sense the doctrine "vote no and be safe" presupposes inability to understand, which is a slander upon the people of Oregon. In another sense, however, it is manifestly impossible for all to familiarize themselves with half a hundred measures such as encumbered the recent ballot and the only safe and sane method is to restrict the pseudo-lawmakers who flourish in Oregon like a green bay tree.

The Observer doesn't believe in too much self-praise, in "blowing its own horn" so to speak but it cannot refrain from calling attention to the fact that it has once more demonstrated its position as a NEWS-PAPER. Last week the first election table, showing the result on the county ticket, compiled from unofficial returns, was printed two days after the election had been held and this week, as usual, it was the first newspaper in Polk county to give its readers the complete official count. It has been able to do this because of its superior equipment and competent mechanics and further for the reason that its publishers believe that the subscribers of this paper are entitled to the best and no pains nor expense is spared in giving it. The big table in Tuesday's issue was set entirely on The Observer's type in four hours, a feat that could not have been duplicated in a "hand shop" in two days or even more. This is only another evidence that Dallas is in the front rank of progress and modern methods in the newspaper, as well as other lines.

While the Socialist vote generally throughout the nation increased considerably at the recent election, the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the congressional district in which that city is situated, overwhelmingly defeated all socialist candidates and re-elected Congressman Berger after one term at Washington. The communities that have tried the wild vagaries of the propaganda and that have had a taste of the methods of its office seekers usually embrace the first opportunity to return to safe and sane conditions.

Judging by expressions heard, the last election was the most satisfactory ever held to men of all parties. The Democrats are satisfied because Wilson has been elected, the Republicans are satisfied because Roosevelt was defeated and the Unionists are tickled to death because Taft wasn't successful. Let us therefore dwell together in harmony.

No, it wasn't a Democratic "land-slide." The total popular vote for Wilson was not larger than Bryan received in 1908. It was the split in the Republican party, instigated and engineered by Roosevelt, that put the forces of protection to rout. Just that—nothing more.

The Observer notes that its neighboring contemporary, the Enterprise at Independence, has just passed its thirtieth milestone. The Observer cannot refrain from felicitating its good neighbor and offers a "bumper" for the future.

Eugene is ambitious. She now wants the state capital. To a man in a suiting it would seem that she has her hands full to retain the university.

Whooping Cough
It is an old saying that whooping cough must run its course, but the use of Dr. Bell's Pine-Tar-Honey has demonstrated beyond doubt that such is not the case. It can be cured by the use of this remedy. At Statin's.

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First Sunday, 7:30 p. m.
Second Sunday, 11:30 a. m., 7:30 p. m.
Third Sunday, 11:30 a. m., and 7:30 p. m.
Fourth Sunday, 11:30 a. m., and 7:30 p. m.
Everybody welcome.

Christian Church.
Bible school, 10 a. m.
Morning service, 11 a. m.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 p. m.
Prayer meeting, 7:30 p. m.
Prayer meeting, Thursday evening, 7:30.
The public is cordially invited to attend all these services.
C. C. CURTIS, Minister.

Baptist Church.
Sunday school 10 a. m.
Morning worship 11 a. m.; theme, "Our Country."
Junior society 2:30.
Young People's meeting 7 p. m.; subject, "Common Mistakes."
Evening worship 7:30; topic, "The Most Popular Sin in Dallas."

Christian Science.
Christian Science services held in Adventist church Sunday, November 17, at 11 a. m.; subject of lesson sermon, "Mortals and Immortals."
Sunday school at 10 a. m.

—A. J. Bailey, a R. R. engineer, Batesville, Ark., says: "I suffered with kidney and bladder trouble so bad I was unable to work. I had such severe pains in my back I could hardly get up. I tried several physicians with no result, but Foley Kidney Pills have done wonders for me. I recommend them to all." Sold by Conrad Statin.

Resolutions.
Whereas, Our Heavenly Father, in His infinite wisdom, has called our beloved sister, Mrs. Pearl Bryan Ellis, to the better land, where all tears are wiped away and where shall be no more sorrow nor sighing, and Whereas, Our dear sister was one of our most interested and efficient workers, and by her devoted service to the cause of Right, and her sweet gentleness of spirit, endeared herself to us all, therefore, be it Resolved, That our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy be extended to the bereaved, whose loss we feel also, to be our loss and whose hope is our hope. Be it further Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the following: The bereaved husband, Morton G. Ellis, the sorrowing mother, Mrs. Susan Bryant, the grieving parents-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ellis; to each of the sorrowing brothers and sisters, and for publication in The Dallas Observer and the Falls City News. Signed by order of the Falls City W. C. T. U. in session assembled.
Committee:
MRS. CHLOE A. SEYMOUR,
MRS. BELLE GOTTFRIED,
Falls City, Ore., Nov. 12, 1912.

—Wm. L. Cook, who was postmaster at Nelhart, Montana, writes: "I recommend Foley's Honey and Tar Compound to all my people, and they are never disappointed with it. Foley's Honey and Tar Compound for coughs and colds gives the best possible results." Sold by Statin.

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Nerve Specialist and Spinal Adjuster
114 Court St., Dallas, Oregon.

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REBEKAHS—Almira Lodge No. 26 meets first and third Wednesday of each month at Odd Fellows' Hall.

NOLA COAD, Noble Grand.

ORA COSPER, Secretary.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—Dallas Camp No. 209 meets in W. O. W. Hall on Tuesday evening of each week.

TRACY STAATS, Consul Com.

W. A. AYRES, Clerk.

A. F. & A. M.—Jennings Lodge, No. 9, meets second and fourth Fridays of each month, in Masonic hall on Main street. Visiting brethren welcome.

W. L. SOEHREN, W. M.

WALTER S. MUIR, Secretary.

UNITED ARTISANS—Dallas Assembly, No. 46, meets on first and third Mondays of each month at Woodman hall. Visiting members made welcome.

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WILLIS SIMONTON, Secretary.

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