

The Herald

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A Voice From the East

Oregon adopted a direct primary law for the election of United States senators. It was the first state to do so, and it has now been imitated by more than 10 others. Oregon's new law, the first time in operation, resulted in the naming of a Democrat, Governor George Chamberlain. Six months later, at the recent November election, Oregon went strongly Republican. Since then the following has been a favorite slogan on the part of those who want the coming Oregon legislature to evade or defy the mandate of the people through their direct primary law:

"We are convinced that a state which gave Taft a plurality of nearly 25,000 does not want a Democratic United States senator."

Simultaneously in the west, some newspapers of large circulation and presumed influence are running on the editorial pages a series of legal decisions of ancient vintage, evidently collected by the same hand, garbled and expurgated, with the unmistakable design of paving the way for the popular approval of future court decisions which are expected to undo the work of the people. These newspapers overlook the fact that in the last campaign many states whose electoral votes will be cast for Mr. Trft, and which likewise elected Republican legislatures, declared in favor of Democratic governors. The people of Oregon evidently appreciate the fact that an upright Democratic senator is worth to them any two or a dozen corporation controlled Republican senators. They are leaders in the universal revolt against conditions which have prevailed in the senate, and not a mob of irresponsible electors.

Oregon has been utterly disgusted with the legislative hold-ups and factional fights of the past. In 1901 it took 53 ballots and 22 days for the Oregon legislature to elect its senator. When Charles W. Fulton was elected in 1903, 42 ballots and 32 days were consumed in the election. Barter and sale and political pulling and hauling were common. The Oregon legislature can now elect the people's choice and go about its legislative work and adjourn. The Oregonians have made a long hard fight for political justice and fair dealing. Either the present law or some equally effective mode of popular expression they are determined to have. If Oregon does not like its present method of choosing United States senators, Oregon can change its statute. But to evade the plain effect of the law

while it remains on the books would be, on the part of the commonwealth, an unusually saddening spectacle of moral deterioration.

The choice of the people of Oregon can be undone at the coming session of the legislature only by the acts of six men. These six must come from among 36 whose names are known. The six must forswear their solemn written pledges. That it would be necessary for them to flee the state after their apostasy goes without saying. But their ignominy would follow them. There is a precedent for them in the case of three members of a former Pennsylvania legislature.—Collier's Weekly.

The Herald will get out a mid-summer number about the first of next July for distribution at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition and we want everyone that has the best interests of this part of Oregon at heart to help us make it the best of its kind ever gotten out in this county. It will cost considerable money and a lot of work. If you have an extra large potato, beet or cabbage get it photographed and we will have a picture of it in the paper. We will want some photos of some extra fine cattle, horses, sheep and goats. These can be taken in the spring when they are looking their best. It takes about six months to get out a good edition for such a purpose. The number of copies will depend largely on the amount of money we are able to raise for that purpose. Think it over and see what you can do for it.

City election is coming on and it is to be hoped that something will be done looking to bettering the city in many ways. First we want an adequate water system provided for. Secondly there should be some provision made for a marshal. In order to get a marshal we will have to provide a salary commensurate with the work done, or to be done. There are a number of good ordinances, so it is said, on the record book of the city, but they are sadly in need of being enforced. Stock running at large was voted down in the county and it is said that an ordinance to that effect was passed by our city councils several years ago, but it seems to be a dead letter now.

When a paper berates the business men of the town in which it is published for nonsupport, there must be something radically wrong, either with the business men or with the paper. Especially is this true where there is only one paper in the town. Sometimes it happens that a paper believing it has a monopoly puts the price higher than its merits demand. In other words does not give value received. We believe that if a paper meets the business men half way, that there will be no difficulty in getting business. We have always found it so and have always been well patronized.

We have a buyer for a sheep ranch of from 150 to 200 acres. Must be good land, but can have considerable brush on it. Polk County Realty Co.

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