

# The Herald

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Monmouth, Oregon.

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### HOW ERROR OBTAINS

Just now the recall appendage attachment is getting an airing and comes in for a good deal of censure from various sources, and many persons are beginning to doubt the wisdom of having adopted the measure.

The same is true of the initiative and referendum and it does look at times as though these measures may be overworked to the disgust of the people and at the expense of the taxpayers, and perhaps to the inconvenience and injury of individuals. But, nevertheless, should such disgust and injury obtain, it will not be to the demerit of these measures, but must be credited to the lack of discretion on the part of persons who invoke the powers invested in them.

Just now there is considerable stir in the matter of the effort that is being made to recall Judge J. S. Coke, of the Roseburg district, because of instruction given the jury in a case where the jury found the defendant not guilty, and yet the instruction is said to be the same as that given by another judge in a case where the jury found the defendant guilty. If the statement made is true, and we have no reason to doubt its truthfulness, we are inclined to think that if there is any injustice done in rendering the verdict, that the jury is the party to bear the blame.

Governments are instituted and laws are enacted, not to keep righteous persons in line, but to keep rogues from doing injury to other persons because of their disregard for the rights of other people, so that laws are made and enforced because of the troublesome part of the human family, those who are always looking for an opportunity to get the best of some one else. We might add, that too often this class will try to use the laws of the state to accomplish their purpose if they think they can win out and injure some one whom they have designs upon; it is only a large bunch of malice in active operation.

Then there is another class that will call the law to their aid, and perhaps, this class will do it in good faith, as it consists of those who want to do what is right but have not the proper understanding in the premises aimed at.

It is a fact, whether well known or not, that persons when their understanding begins to open up and they discern things in a new light, their inclination is to become instructors along the lines budding into bloom, and as a matter of not having waited for the perfection of the thought, their instruction imparted to others is often full of error, and because of the inter-

mingling of the false ideas, which have not yet been eliminated, error is extended and erroneous conclusions obtain. "Be sure you are right and then go ahead" is a good motto, but it is not always carried into effect, since far too many persons take for granted that information which they receive from other is true and, hence, they build upon it without investigation and this is true in gossip, politics, religion and ever so many other things.

Laws are enacted to restrain the lawless and if educated integrity is not behind them to put them into execution they fail in their purpose.

How often we hear persons say, we should have this thing covered by law, or an enactment to regulate that proposition, or to right some other wrong that some party or persons has committed, taking as it were for granted, that all that is needed is to get the enactment in the statute book, but it is of no avail, laws are of no use unless there is a penalty attached and that penalty enforced upon the law-breakers, and laws will not be enforced unless there is the right kind of integrity behind them.

If there are rogues in office they ought to be recalled; if the legislature will not pass needed laws the people ought to have the power to inaugurate such measures, and if legislatures are guilty of doing that which they should not do, then the people should have the powers of the referendum to hold them in check, but these measures should be used only when justice demands and not at the whim of some party who has an axe to grind.

One good thing about parcels post agitation, is its forcing down express rates in various parts of the country. It would work a revolution in the cost of package transportation and reduce the dividends of the express companies to a normal figure.—Eugene Register.

They have a woman policeman in Moline, Ill., who says that in domestic troubles in which she is called upon to interfere she finds that the woman is to blame in nine cases out of every ten. Here is the first glimmer of hope that with woman in politics man will get a square deal.—Telegram.

In an address made recently before the Cincinnati Commercial association Hugh Chalmers defined the difference between a "booster" and a "knocker." His definition follows, "A booster is one who does all the good he can for all the people he can, for the longest time he can, and leaves the rest to God. A knocker is made to hang on the outside of the door—and for heaven's sake let it hang there."

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