

THE BEND BULLETIN

"For every man a square deal, no less and no more."

CHARLES D. ROWE, EDITOR

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 1909.

Just One Big Reason.

Bro. Myers of the Laidlaw Chronicle asks why The Bulletin opposed the measure before the legislature that would make it a misdemeanor for a candidate to subscribe to any ante-election pledge when said pledge is unconstitutional. His reasoning is that if a pledge is unconstitutional a law prohibiting such pledge should receive the support of all honest men.

The bill—now killed, happily—that was before the legislature, was one of those pernicious measures that appear to be praiseworthy on their face but which in fact are just the contrary. If that measure had become a law it would have made very improbable hereafter a majority of Statement men in the legislature. And the constitutionality of the Statement probably would never even have been questioned in the courts. The Bulletin believes the men who were responsible for the bill never intended to seek a decision on the Statement. Instead, during a campaign, the old-time machine politicians of the state and their newspapers would have preached and argued that no man would be fool enough to subscribe to Statement No. 1 when, if he did so, the Statement would be carried up to the supreme court and possibly declared unconstitutional, thus fastening upon him the charge of a misdemeanor.

This threat—held as a club over men who might subscribe to the Statement—would undoubtedly have been sufficient to forever do away with the possibility of a Statement legislature. And the desire of the machine politicians would have been obtained, and Oregon would again have been delivered into their hands insofar as electing a United States senator is concerned. The whole purpose and spirit of the proposed law was to keep men from subscribing to the Statement. The question of constitutionality was simply a blind, a hoodwink.

Now, why does The Bulletin support Statement No. 1? Simply because it is a step forward in securing the rule of the people. The Statement certainly has its faults and its inconsistencies. So does the direct primary law, the initiative and referendum, the recall, etc. But these laws are forward steps in the evolution of self government, and they are slowly but surely freeing the country from the grasp of corrupt politics and ridding the land of the machine politician who debauches our government and fattens from the graft he steals from the people. There is a mighty movement all over the land to down the corrupt politician and his corrupt politics, and the manner in which it is being done is by the adoption of the direct primary, the initiative and referendum, the

recall and laws patterned after Oregon's Statement No. 1. Behind this movement are such men as Governor Hughes of New York, Cummins of Iowa, LaFollette of Wisconsin, Johnson of Minnesota, Folk of Missouri, Jones of Washington, Bristow of Kansas, President Roosevelt, and many others—all of them champions of the people and fighters of corruption. This movement is the struggle of a mighty people fighting to free their government from the clutch of commercial greed and the child thereof—political corruption.

And Oregon is making a valiant fight in this direction. The eyes of the entire country are upon her and she is looked upon as a leader in this fight of the people against corporation government. The Statement, the direct primary, the initiative and referendum, and the recall are the weapons used by the common people in this fight. They have their weaknesses and imperfections, but they are the best that we have at present and until something better is provided, they should not be overthrown. There is a powerful movement in the state—led by the old-time leaders and politicians—to discredit all of these laws and kill them, and the moving spirit behind the bill referred to at the beginning of this article is these disgruntled, discredited politicians.

By favoring the bill and opposing the Statement, Bro. Myers aligns himself—although unknowingly, we believe—with this reactionary movement and in opposition to the grand forward movement going on over the land. If he wishes to do so, that's his concern; as for The Bulletin, it proposes to fight for what it believes to be the interests of the people and oppose the corruption and graft of the monopolistic corporations. That's why we favor Statement No. 1, and oppose any bill that would make it ineffective. Until we get something better, let us cling to what we have.

Bro. Myers asks if we have turned democrat or socialist. Neither. But if Bro. Myers thinks it democratic or socialist to fight for the common people and good government, then he must class us in that category, for The Bulletin most assuredly intends to so fight.

If the people, through the initiative and referendum, can ever surpass the present legislature in the consideration of fool laws, they will have to become past-masters at the art of foolishness. Just look at the edifying and state-wide usefulness and eminent statesmanship of some of those measures—nine-foot bed sheets, 10-inch hat pins, prohibiting swearing, and salary grabs galore. A record to be proud of. Yes, indeed.

Why damn the initiative and referendum? Held as a club over the present legislature, it has exerted a powerful influence in forcing through those laws that the welfare of the state demands, but which corporation greed opposed.

C. R. Kluger, the Jeweler, 1066 Virginia Ave., Indianapolis, Ind., writes: "I was so weak from kidney trouble that I could hardly walk a hundred feet. Four bottles of Foley's Kidney Remedy cleared my complexion, cured my backache and the irregularities disappeared, and I can now attend to business every day, and recommend Foley's Kidney Remedy to all sufferers, as it cured me after the doctors and other remedies had failed.—Bend Drug Co.

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Letters by the People.

A Little More Church Discussion.

EDITOR THE BULLETIN.—Dear Sir: I am glad Bro. Greenhorn thinks our little discussion has done good, "inasmuch as it has brought out facts lying deeper than the casual observer usually goes." I fear, however, that Bro. Greenhorn does not appreciate these facts or he would see differently. If the discussion has done anything, it "has brought out facts" that Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians do not stand for the same principles. I grant that in some points all agree, but the doctrinal principles which make these denominations what they are, are vital to each, and the principles are antagonistic, and if "the day is near at hand when Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and all others" will be a unit then somebody had better begin soon to surrender the principles to somebody else. The Baptists are not preparing to surrender till the Almighty gives another Bible and removes the one we now have.

If Baptists are right in their distinctive principles, can any denomination that holds distinctive principles which are antagonistic to Baptist principles be right? Does Bro. Greenhorn believe that two principles which are antagonistic to the one to the other, are both right?

Let us see if there are not some antagonistic principles "lying deeper than the casual observer goes."

1. A distinctive principle of Methodists and Presbyterians is infant baptism. The Baptists are positive that there is not one iota of scripture for such a practice, but that the Roman Catholics got it from the heathens and transmitted it to Protestantism. Is Bro. Greenhorn charitable enough to believe the Baptists are "right"?

2. It is a distinctive principle of the Baptists to baptize only those who profess to be saved. The Methodists and Presbyterians positively teach and practice contrary. Is Bro. Greenhorn so charitable as to believe all are right?

3. It is a distinctive principle of the Baptists to immerse only believers. It is a distinctive principle of the Methodists and Presbyterians to sprinkle adults and babies. Does Bro. Greenhorn say they are both right?

4. The Baptists and Presbyterians distinctly teach that a soul once saved shall never perish. John 10:28. The Methodists distinctly teach that the soul may be saved today and lost tomorrow. Would Bro. Greenhorn be so "uncharitable" as to believe the Baptists and Presbyterians wrong? He seems so broad (?) and charitable (?) that he considers anything right and a New Testament church so a respectable body of people claim it to be so. But Baptists teach that a religious organization in order to be a church of Christ must conform to the Bible teaching, and they did not make the Bible, nor have they the right to change it to fit Bro. Greenhorn's idea of a "great church." It is a fact, and Bro. Greenhorn cannot deny it, that if Jesus Christ should come to earth seeking a church home on the baptism he received from John the Baptist, the Baptist church is the only church that, according to its doctrine and practice, could receive him. Methodists, Presbyterians and others would have to change their doctrine and practice to receive him, for they say John's baptism is not Christian. Hence, if the Baptists should surrender their principles to be a unit with all others, then the Son of God would be left out in the cold. Baptists propose to stay with their Lord though Bro. Greenhorn may think they are "narrow" and "uncharitable."

Baptists, with the Bible, stand at one extreme; Roman Catholics, with the traditions and commandments of men, at the other; all other denominations in between. Show me what is scriptural in these denominations, and I will show you that the Baptists have it also. So if Bro. Greenhorn is so anxious to unite let him take his choice between the Baptists and the Catholics and not try to mix them.

Methodists do charity work, but can not boast in that above Baptists, Presbyterians, the Salvation Army and many others. Charity does not make things churches; if so, the lodges are all churches.

The illustration that Bro. Greenhorn used of his neighbor in providing fuel for the needy falls short of proving what is a Bible church. I commend a man for such noble deeds as his neighbor has done. Such work, I am sorry to say, is too often neglected; but I am glad to say it is not confined to any church. Hence I am not surprised that Bro. Greenhorn did not know whether he was a member of any church, for such acts are not necessarily denominational.
 MILLARD TRIPLETT.

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COMMENT BY OTHER PAPERS

The Value of the Direct Primary.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer.
 When the Young Republicans' Club of Brooklyn invited the Hon. Wesley L. Jones, of Washington, to speak on "Direct nominations" on the occasion of a dinner to be given next month in honor of Governor Hughes, they made a happy and appropriate selection.

After long and honorable service in the lower house of congress, a service which won for him the respect and esteem of Washington, Mr. Jones was voted into the senate of the United States by the people he had served with singular faithfulness and efficiency. At the Brooklyn dinner, therefore, he will be prepared to speak from first-hand knowledge of direct nominations, and what he has to say may serve to strengthen the fight Governor Hughes is now making in New York for a direct primary law.

So far as Washington's experience is concerned, the direct primary method of nominating candidates for public office is sound in theory and satisfying in practice. In this state the direct primary law made it possible for the people to rule. Mr. Jones' case proves both the efficiency and the wisdom of the new law. Mr. Jones was the choice of the people for the senate. The people elected him.

The immediate results of the passage of the primary law in this state were to strike from the electorate the trammels of a corrupt and corrupting system of political bossism, and to make of each qualified elector a political unit, at once the political equal of every other unit, and to thus place with the people a power which had been used, to the people's hurt, by plundering cliques and combines.

With political power thus restored to the people, public interest in political questions has been heightened; the people are more alert, more active in all matters of public policy; and as a result of this energetic and intelligent interest in questions of government, the tone of the public service has been raised, politics is a cleaner game, public opinion is healthier and firmer, and there is a diffusive moral sentiment which is rapidly finding its way to every fiber of the social fabric.

Speaking from Washington's experi-

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ence with the direct primary system, Mr. Jones may safely encourage Governor Hughes in the efforts he is making for a similar system in New York. The direct primary system will help New York.

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