

THE BEND BULLETIN

CHARLES D. ROWE, EDITOR

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One year..... \$1.50
Six months..... .90
Three months..... .50
(variably in advance.)

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 11, 1909.

A Good Harvest.

The season's first crop of hay is pretty well taken care of throughout this section, by this time, and the yield has been very good indeed. In fact, much more and better hay has been cut this year by farmers on the segregation than ever before. A fair amount of this is being hauled into Bend and sold, the market price for hay delivered in town being \$14 a ton. A fair general average on the first cut of alfalfa and clover will put the yield at two tons to the acre. Some fields did not do that well but others did better, and the average will be about as stated.

The grain crops are ripening now, and a few fields have already been cut. The good record made by the grasses will be duplicated in the wheat, oat and barley fields. Many wheat fields stand to a man's armpits, and the oats even higher. Some might suppose that this meant too rank a growth of straw with a corresponding lack of grain, but as a practical farmer remarked to 'The Bulletin' not long ago, "I have never yet seen too long straw. The longer the straw the longer the head." This statement is proving true in this year's grain crop around Bend, the heads of grain being exceptionally long and heavy and filled with plump round kernels. The yield of grain will be O. K.

While the frost has nipped the potatoes to some extent, the majority of reports received by 'The Bulletin' are to the effect that the potato crop will be up to the standard for this section, which, as everyone knows, is entirely satisfactory. New potatoes have been on the market for a month and a half, and are A1 in quality.

The Assembly Plan.

Let there be no misunderstanding about the matter. If the people of Oregon wish to give up the direct primary and go back to the old convention system of nominating candidates for office, all well and good. But let's have done with all this folderol about holding "assemblies" as a part of and as an aid and improvement to, the direct primary.

What is the assembly plan? It is a system that is being proposed by some of Oregon's politicians whereby delegates shall gather in convention prior to the date for holding the primary nominating election, and "suggest" or "recommend" that the people nominate this and that man for this and that office. Then at the primary, the people may accept this suggestion or recommendation, or they may reject it if they do not like the men recommended.

Looks simple and fair, doesn't it? But in a short time, it would do away absolutely with direct nominations by the people. The man who had been "suggested" by the assembly would have the strength of the politicians and the "inner rings" behind him; any man who opposed him would be dubbed an irregular, an independent, etc., etc.; and the final result would be that no one but the man who had the endorsement of the assembly could secure the nomination at the primary. Which means that the nominations would really be made by the politicians gathered at the assembly. Which again means that the old convention system would be back in all its force, and the direct primary would have gone aglimmering.

Let us look into the matter a

little farther. Why is the assembly plan suggested? For one great (?) reason, which is that it is claimed the present direct primary has put the republican party out of business in Oregon. Caudally now, is the republican party down and out in Oregon? Oregon gave Taft a strong plurality over all others; with one exception Oregon's delegation in congress are all republicans; each and every one of the state's elective officers is a republican; the last legislature was strongly republican; and undoubtedly the majority of the county officers over the state are republicans. What grounds are there then on which to base the statement that the republican party is "out of business" in Oregon?

If the assembly plan is better, let us then adopt it. But fairness demands that it be named by its real name, which is nothing more nor less than the old-time convention. If the people are of the opinion that the direct primary is not giving satisfaction, then perhaps they are ready to go back to the old system.

But, as we said in the beginning, let there be no misunderstanding about the matter. The "assembly" is a new label tacked onto the old convention. And it's the old-time politicians who have done the tacking.

HARRIMAN's forces desire, it is said, not merely to block the construction of the Oregon Trunk Line up the Deschutes, but to wipe it from the face of the earth as far as its legal existence is concerned. That would be a nice way to preserve Harriman's Oregon fence—kill off the only rival who ever has attempted to enter his preserves, and then quietly stop all construction himself.

THE sympathy of the people of Central Oregon is plainly with Porter Bros. in the fight along the Deschutes. Little faith is put in Harriman's promises, and the common remark heard in these parts is that he would not be building now if Porter Bros. had not forced him to it.

PERHAPS after another thousand years or two have come and gone, governments will exist for the purpose of protecting those who need it instead of for handing over graft to the wealthy and powerful.

If Porter Bros. are only bluffing, they certainly believe in playing the game for all that's in it. But don't you think for a minute that they are bluffing. Their bluff will end only when their railroad is circling through the bluffs of Central Oregon.

CENTRAL Oregon will cheer loudly the man who first gives us a railroad. We care little for the war that is being waged. What we want is a railroad, regardless of who builds it.

By the way, Governor Benson said recently that the direct primary is a good law. And now there are several agile politicians after the governor's scalp.

Now that the tariff has been revised downward (?) by its friends, let's see if anyone can notice any lowering in the cost of living.

WHAT reward comes to the man or men who cause two railroads to grow where none has grown before?

RED CLOVER EXCELS.

Believed To Be Best Feed for Livestock—Good for the Land.

That red clover is a better crop for forage than alfalfa is the opinion of Prof. George Severance, head of the department of agriculture at the Washington State College, Pullman, and his opinion is based on actual results from experiments made on the college farm. Last year twelve acres of the college farm were planted to red clover. The field lies on almost the highest point of the farm and is a south slope, which, a few years ago, would have been regarded as utterly unfit for clover, alfalfa, or any other crop.

The clover did well, and this year it was cut for hay and yielded more than 31 tons, over two and a half tons to the acre. It is now several inches in height and there will be a fine lot of pasture on it this fall. The value of the pasture will be almost equal to the value of the hay, and this is \$25 per acre. Professor Severance says that clover is a better feed than alfalfa.

This spring two other fields of red clover were planted and are now being cut. A fairly good crop is being taken off, although it was sowed the last week in April. An old-fashioned "self-rake" mow-

ing machine is being used to cut the clover and this drops it in small bundles at convenient places. It is thought that a ton to the acre will be secured from the first crop, but it will not be pastured this fall.

"One great advantage of red clover over alfalfa is that the ground can be used for other crops," said Professor Severance. "Once seeded to alfalfa the ground is unfit for any other crop for several years. It is almost impossible to kill out the alfalfa. If one had a field which he wished to devote to alfalfa for an indefinite period, that crop might be all right, but where it is desired to renew the soil or improve it by rotation of crops clover is by far the best. It can be planted one year and some times, as was the way with us this year, a fairly good crop can be taken from it the first year.

"Two good crops can be taken the two succeeding years and then it must be renewed. By plowing the ground it makes the best wheat, oats or corn land imaginable, the three years in clover seeding to give it new productiveness and is better than summer fallowing. I believe that red clover is destined to become one of the best crops that can be grown in this country."

To Prevent Forest Fires.

To lessen the danger to standing timber along railway lines from sparks, in Northwestern states, the Washington State Forest Fire Association will start a campaign for the substitution of oil as fuel in locomotives. Every year during the dry season, millions of feet of valuable timber are destroyed as the result of flying sparks from locomotives. This is a great loss in wealth of one of the state's most valuable natural resources. President Earling of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul has announced that he will cooperate in the movement, as he does not want to see a foot of timber destroyed along his line. Accordingly, the Milwaukee is equipping forty locomotives with oil burners. They will be used in Washington, Idaho and Montana timber belts. President Earling believes that the use of oil will prove an economical innovation. As a result of 83 serious fires along railway lines in New York state last year, its public service corporation has decreed that oil must be burned by locomotives. An effort will be made to persuade the Washington Railway Commission to make a similar ruling. The matter will also be pressed in other timber states of the country.

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