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FARMS OR BIRD REFUGES

Editorial from Portland Spectator

It is more than probable that only a very small proportion of those who vote at the November election will decide whether the State of Oregon shall turn over to the national government the basin of Malheur Lake for a permanent bird reserve, have any adequate idea of the importance of this measure. Those who have sincerely tried to investigate it has been lead to believe that the only question involved is whether or not some 30000 acres of school land, which if drained will become valuable, shall be given to the government without payment.

As a matter of fact this is not by any means the most important consideration. The real question is: shall some 150000 acres, out of a hundred million acres of the vast desert area lying east of the Cascades and south of the Blue mountains, to which we are accustomed to refer as the "Inland Empire" an empire only in extent—be reclaimed by irrigation, or shall it remain the waste of sage brush and sand that it now is?

Few of the voters have ever seen this "empire." If they had there would be no question of the result. The only possible reclamation agent is irrigation, and there is water for only a small fraction of this great wilderness.

The statement of the backers of the measure that once the waters has reached Malheur Lake it cannot be further used for irrigation is true but is only a part of the truth. It is as necessary to provide drainage for irrigated lands as it is to provide the water itself, and to do this the level of the Malheur lake must be lowered.

The Spectator is heartily in favor of bird refuges, but it is more in favor of bringing into cultivation the small fraction of Central Oregon land that can be cultivated, even if the entire Malheur reservation should thereby be destroyed.

But destruction is not necessary. The entire eastern end of the Lake which is of little value for agriculture, and comprising 10000 or 15000 acres, can be diked off and continue to be an ideal breeding place, ample in size, without crowding, for all the water fowl likely to be attracted to it. In addition to his we have scores of thousands of acres in the Klamath lakes and marshes to take care of any possible overflow.

Vote NO on the Roosevelt bird refuge measure and give the struggling farmers of the Harney Valley, as well as the birds a chance to exist.

The voters of Oregon are to pass judgment on this measure next November 2nd. We have had attempts in various ways to lessen the load on the borrower by legislation but it has always hit back and hit back hard. There was the mortgage tax law in Oregon years ago and the borrower always paid the tax by higher interest rates. The proposed limitation of interest rates by contract to 5 per cent and the legal rate to 4 per cent as provided for in this bill will re-act as all former attempts to legislate what the borrower shall pay have re-acted.

There are forty eight separate states in the Union with forty eight separate laws on interest rates leaving forty seven which Oregon has to compete with for money for development purposes as well as to renew existing indebtedness and Oregon needs development more than any of them. Do you want to stop this development? Do you want to return to the jackrabbits and coyotes what farms we have developed? Then vote NO on this measure.

If one of the other forty seven states wants to experiment on a law of this sort let them do it, but Oregon needs the money and our soil will produce it. Our government cannot borrow money at 5 per cent with the best security in the world, so how do you expect to borrow at that rate?

Do you want to put the brakes on the development of your State and the consequent increase in the value of your property?

Then Vote NO.

The allies are said to be putting teeth in the league of nations. But if they do the blamed thing may chew itself up.

Political Writer Says Harding's Chances Threatened

(By Ward A. Irvine.)

Events of the last few days seriously threaten the chances for Mr. Harding's election. They indicate that his support from pro-League republicans will leave him in November. Such an eventuality, political observers agree, means his certain defeat.

Following his Des Moines speech in which he definitely abandoned the league he is seeking, no interpretations, representatives of 30,000 women in California wired him that if he was correctly quoted, their support must be withdrawn. Following that address, Hamilton Holt, vice-chairman of the executive committee of the non-political League to Enforce Peace and editor of the Independent, announced his decision to vote for Cox and Roosevelt in the interest of Peace. A few days before, Mr. Holt had come out as a republican.

Also following the Des Moines address, Herbert Parsons bolted to Cox and Roosevelt. He resigned as a member of the New York republican county committee to lead a stampede for Cox and the League of Nations.

These defections following the defections of the Roosevelt progressives to Cox and the defections of the republicans who jumped with Irving Fisher to Cox and peace indicates that Harding will not, as seemed, be the case two weeks ago, be able to secure the votes of both the anti-League of Nations republicans and the republicans favoring the League.

Close political students think Harding made a grave political blunder when he disclosed his intention to beat the league. Thousands of republicans had hoped that they could vote for Harding and still get a League of Nations. The Des Moines statement in which Mr. Harding boldly declared his opposition to the league with or without reservations has, close observers think, broken the camel's back. The pro-leaguers are bolting, and political students realize that Mr. Harding has very seriously impaired his chances of election by submitting to the dictation of Borah.

What seems to have clinched the league vote in addition to the open declaration against any league by Harding is the Cox declaration that he will accept reservations. He says he will accept and reservations that are deemed necessary to insure America's independence of action.

The showing by Cox also, that Taft, Hughes and Root all played a prominent part in drafting the league has made its impression. People now realize that the attempt to make capital out of antipathy to President Wilson in certain quarters was a political dodge. The incorporation into the covenant of four amendments proposed by Mr. Taft, of five out of seven proposed by Mr. Hughes, of five out of six proposed by Mr. Root, have proven to the satisfaction of many that it is not a Wilson league, but a league established as a result of the united effort of the best brains in America—democratic and republican. The nine cablegrams between Mr. Wilson in Paris and Mr. Taft in America are added proof to those who have been fed with the "Wilson league" doctrine.

Moreover, the Cox backers have been able to prove to the satisfaction of many that charges that American boys could be sent to Europe

without our consent, and that England has six votes to our one, are flabodoodle. It is realized now that the constitution of the United States cannot be superceded by any treaty, and that the constitution specifically states that war can be declared by Congress alone. They are also coming to understand that the nations represented in the league council each have one vote, and that an opposing vote vetoes any measure. That realization, discounting as it does the statement that England has six votes to America's one, is throwing many more votes on the side of Cox and the league.

If Mr. Harding can hold for three weeks more both the league vote and the anti-league vote, his chances for election are very good. If he loses the pro-league vote, as it seems now he surely will, James M. Cox, it is agreed, is in a very fair way to become the next president of the United States.

NEXT YEAR'S LAWNS DEPEND UPON PROPER MAKING NOW

(Continued from page one)

and expense will overcome mistakes in preliminary preparation. A suitable soil is the first consideration in lawn making. This is especially true where the climate is unfavorable to the best growth of the turf-forming grasses. There are few soils that can not be improved by treatment, and in the case of most soils such treatment is necessary. Good drainage, good texture, and good preparation are essential considerations. Good drainage should be secured before further preparation is made. In very few cases is tilling necessary for the ordinary lawn, but for an extensive lowlying area or for areas where thorough surface drainage is impracticable tile properly laid will result in much improvement.

To improve an old lawn is frequently more difficult than to make a new one. It is usually impracticable to attempt the improvement of turf that is very poor. Reasonably good turf, however, can be bettered materially by reseeded and fertilizing. Reseeding an old lawn should be done at the same time of the year as new seeding. South of New York it should be done in the early autumn. If a lawn is patchy the small areas should be scratched with a field rake or similar implement and dressed with a mixture of good loam, compost, or humus and the grass seed then sown. The loam or humus forms a suitable medium for the germination of the seed and the development of the young grass plants. If the turf is thin over large areas, seeding can best be accomplished by a disk seeder, which cuts into the turf and deposits the seed. If a disk seeder is not available, some implement should be used that will loosen the soil but not tear the turf badly. After seeding, a dressing of loam or compost should be given and the area rolled lightly.

Reseeding The Lawn

In the northern tier of States reseeded should be done early in the spring. At that time the soil is more open than later in the season and offers a better seed bed. Light rolling after seeding in the spring is usually beneficial. Care should be taken when mowing or watering newly patched areas to avoid disturbing the young grass. The care of a lawn after seeding has much to do with its success. In most parts of the country constant attention is necessary in order that even a fair lawn may be maintained.

We, however, are heartily in favor of a league—of Americans.

We just knew the women of this country were endowed with becoming modesty as well as good sense. Not a single one has shied her millinery into the presidential ring for the election four years hence. Dispatches from France state that the government has limited the price of American hard coal to \$32 a ton. But what gets our nanny is the fact that France can get our hard coal when we in America can not.

SEED TREATMENT MAY HURT

Careless treatment of seed is often the cause of thin stands of wheat says D. E. Stephens, Moro experiment station man. Exact amounts of water and either formaldehyde or bluestone must be determined by measuring or weighing. Formaldehyde may be measured in a small graduated bottle which may be got from the drugstore, 4 ounces to 11 gallons of water being about right. If bluestone is used less injury will follow if the grain is dipped into a lime bath—1 pound quicklime to 10 gallons of water. Treated seed is best sown immediately or entirely dried out.

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