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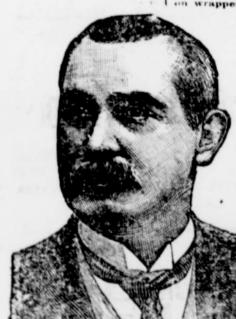
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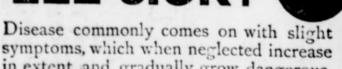
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in Oregon--Law-making

A shrt explanation of an imprtant Reform being Advocated By the People.

NO. 1.

Published by request of the Joint Commfttee on birect Legislation. W. B. U'Ren, Sec'y, Milwankie, Ore.

This is not in any sense a partisan question, nor the property any party. It was proposed in Oregon and has been supported by a union of the State Farmers' Al liance, State Grange, Knights of Labor, Portland Federated Trades and Portland Central Labor Council. Money for the work has been supplied by these organizations and ov republicans, democrats and peo ple's party men individually.

In case of urgency, if enough pe titioners can be obtained a special lection may be held to enact or re peal a law, but there has never een good reason for this as to a law made by the people. In our wn country the only excuse for -pecial sessions has been to correct evil class legislation.

When all the citizens make the law, and the vote of one counts for as much as any other, class legislaion must cease, because no class, per cent of the voters are enabled is strong enough to over rule all to bring a proposed law to a vote of wher classes at the ballot box. the people without the consent of The mechanics and laborers on the the legislature, is not provided for farm, and in the city will have a by the laws of any state. power in law making that must be. The Referendum, by which all

tax-eaters will fix the amount of people at the ballot-box is applied public expenses. Under the pres- to constitutional amendments in nt system it is not so. When the every state except Delaware. appropriation bills come up all Oregon's constitution provides

orant class.

T e progress of the Swiss under The legislatures of many states h Lattative and Referendum.

par cutarly noticeable. Tramps \$12 0, while for local officers \$400 is a high salary. The low salaries suff r.

b dies can make a law, raise their terested in such things" wages, or appropriate more than

INITIATIVE & REFERENDUM very small sum for any purpose without an endorsement at the ballot box. We shall be saved from that minority rule of which the repeal of the Sherman silver law is an example. On the vote 193 ccn. gressmen voted for the repeal and 94 against it. Of the 12,000,000 votes cast when these men were elected the 193 received a trifle over 3,000,000, while the 9,000,000 were east for the minority. This is what can be done under our present

The Initiative and Referendum is the only practical plan thus far made by which the majority does really govern. It is the only peaceable way to obtain an undisputable expression of the will of the people on any question,

This system is not wholly new in the United States as will be shown hereafter.

INITIATIVE & REFERENDUM

Showing that the System is in Vogue to a Limited extent in Nearly Ever State in the Union.

No 2

The Initiative, by which a small

laws proposed by the legislative The tax payers instead of the body are approved or vetoed by the

partisanship disappears. Republic . that laws locating the state capitol, ins and democrats are almost a county seats, and some other matunit for everything in sight, from iters, may take effect or not upon . r. handle pocket knives to | the vote of the electors interested. oranch asylums, and a populist The issuing of bonds by cities, draws mileage to go home via. San counties and districts, locating the crancisco. As tax-eaters they are capitol and county seats, and other gainst the tax pavers. They have minor matters have been decided he power and we foot the bills. | by the Referendum in Oregon.. Some men say that the people Its operation so far has been most r too ignorant to vote wisely on satisfactory. But all the most he laws that may be submitted, important legislation, appropriab t we have yet to hear any man; tions and salaries has been kept in peak of himself as one of that ig the power of the legislative bodies for some special "commission."

he Initiative and Referendum is have at times applied the Referenmazing. Their experience proves dum or asked for an advisory vote that "the wisdom of the whole peo on a proposition the politicians were ple is greater than that of any part" afraid of. Such was the submis-Their greatest state, Zurich, has sion of the Chinese question to the ma e all her laws and appropria I voters of California in 1876, "Just tions of public money since 1848, to quiet the hoodlum element," but nex ess of a very small sum, by out of 160,000 votes only 800 favordirect vote of all the people, and ed the Chinese. Since then the they boast that they have no beg. | only question on the coast has been g r no paupers, nor does any man as to the form of the law necessary own 1 000,000 worth of property in ture of California referred nine to do the work. The last legislatheir sate. The city of Zurich different proposals to the people, has a population of 92 000 and and they were voted on at the last makes all its laws successfully my presidential election. Seven were approved and two were rejected, r magnificent highways are the vote ranging from 14 to 1 down to a majority of 5704. Over 200,ex mple for the whole world, 000 votes were cast, and while 70,po-tal facilities are unequaled 000 who voted for presidential electand their resdom from financial ors did not vote on the laws, we p nics and social disturbances is must remember that no statement as to the effect of the law, and reasons for and against its enactment, are unknown. Their president was presented to enable the voters gets only \$3000 a year, very few to make an intelligent decision upother otherals receive more than on their respective merits. Although the voice of the press, was raised against some of the good laws and in favor of others that were questionand close watch over public expen able, the voters separated the good ditures destroys the great thirst from the bad in a manner that f r public office from which we should forever answer the silly objections we hear, "It's too complicated," "The masses are too ignor-By the Referendum none of these ant," and "The people are not in-

TO BE CONTINUED.