

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC.

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What is Direct Legislation?

To many of the thinkers who are interested in reform movements, direct legislation seems the most important question of the day, while to many of the world's workers it is as yet only a name to which no definite meaning is attached. "What is it?" "Why do we need it?" are questions asked more frequently every day. It is a method of legislation which, its promoters declare, would enable the people themselves to decide upon every question affecting the public welfare in the town, the county, the state and the nation.

As the nation has grown, power has largely departed from the hands of the people, who are theoretically supposed to govern this country. But actually the mass of people, the farmer, the miner, the laborer, the small tradesman—those who do the work of the world and those who do its real business—have but little to do with the management of public affairs. It is generally conceded in business circles that a business is best managed when managed by the parties most interested. Every citizen, every inhabitant is interested in public business. Public business relates to the whole people and should be managed by the whole people. The interests of all are concerned.

We have ceased to be—if we ever were, which is doubtful—a self-governing people. Thoughtful people in all ranks of life deplore this fact. Is there a remedy? Is there any practicable means by which the people in a nation numbering perhaps seven millions, can make and repeal the laws under which they live? Will direct legislation relieve us from the rule of the professional politician? From bondage of political bosses? Will it enable us to vote for the measures we desire to see passed, without obliging us to vote for other measures which we believe to be detrimental to the best interests of our country?

The nation has outgrown its voting clothes. The suit which met the needs of three or four million people very well, is not pliable enough or made of sufficiently expansive material to meet the needs of an enlarged territory with a vastly increased number of inhabitants. The sturdy youth of four million has become a well grown giant of seventy million, and is it reasonable to ask him to wear his old voting clothes with only a few patches here and there? Under existing methods the voter has no opportunity to express his judgement on each measure. Very often he must vote for what he doesn't want, in order to get something that he does want. Some one else has chosen the planks and combined them into a platform, and the ordinary voter is placed in the unfortunate position of being obliged to not vote at all or to vote for that platform which contains the least objectionable features, none being presented with which he can thoroughly agree. He can not find a political coat that fits him so he must wear a misfit.

Direct legislation would do away with political misfits. The following definitions are found on the letter heads of the "Direct Legislation Record":

Direct Legislation—Law making by the voters.

The Initiative—The proposal of a law by a percentage of the voters, which must then go to the referendum.

The Referendum—The vote at the polls of a law proposed through the initiative, or on any law passed by a law-making body, whose reference is petitioned for by a percentage of the voters.

If the legislature passes a bad law, any voter can, under the referendum, within a given time, start a petition asking that the law be referred to the people, who can ratify or repeal it as they choose. But if everybody else thinks the law is right, the dissatisfied voter will not get signers to his petition. If a certain percentage of the voters, say one-twelfth or one-fifteenth, are also dissatisfied and affix their names to the petition, the question will be sent to the polls at the next election, and will be decided by the people themselves. This principle is well known and is in use in some of the states and so far as it is in use the people are self-governing. While politics are so largely controlled by professional politicians who are for sale to the highest bidder, it is scarcely to be wondered at that so many laws are passed in the favor of the one—or wealth—and so few in favor of the ninety-nine—or the people. Were every law submitted to the people for decision one can readily see that there would be

a change in public affairs. When the republic was founded there was no apparent need for direct legislation. The legislators were better known to the people, and had fewer motives for dishonesty because there was nobody rich enough to buy them. Under direct legislation all campaigns would become educational. By the use of the referendum in all cases, the people would really make the laws by which they are governed, and no corporation is rich enough to buy the whole world.

The initiative comes into use when the citizens wish a law which the legislature has not enacted or perhaps refuses to enact. "If anyone wants a new law, he gets it drafted, draws up a petition asking for the law and circulates it among his fellow citizens." If he is frantic, and is asking for a law that other people do not want, he will not get the necessary percentage of signers to his petition. But if it is a just measure which should be enacted he will easily get the requisite number of signers. The petition is then sent to the legislature. This body cannot alter a law which the citizens propose, but is obliged to send the question of its enactment to the polls at the next election. It is then in the hands of the people who vote yes or no. By the use of the initiative and the referendum together the citizens of this country could soon be living under laws of their own enactment. Reforms desired by a majority of the people could not be hindered. Each law would be a measure of popular intelligence on that subject.

A great and well organized society like the W. C. T. U., which possesses the power to educate rapidly through its organization, would find its usefulness in hastening all the reforms it advocated, perhaps trebled and quadrupled, under this form of government. Reforms could move forward as fast as the people were ready for them. Money would to a very large extent lose its power to defame measures which are in the interest of the people. For, while it has proven too often possible to buy a majority in a legislature, it will be utterly impossible to buy a majority of the people. The one can neither buy nor control the ninety-nine.—By Harriet E. Orcutt, in The Union Signal.

Press dispatches say "the Spaniards are using brass-sheathed lead bullets, and the brass tips, on touching, tear the flesh horribly, while the little brass splinters cause blood-poisoning."

OFF TO THE WARS.

Our own state is fast contributing to the flower of youth to compel a cruel nation to desist from her inhumanity to her own people at our very door and to avenge treachery unexampled for baseness, in the annals of modern warfare, except it be at Glencoe, Khyber Pass, the Alamo, or "The Black Hole" in India.

Since last we went to press a thousand of Umatilla's patriotic citizens turned out on Pendleton to bid adieu to her brave boys bound for Manila, and not long since fourteen companies of Idaho troops passed through Grant bound for the Philippines. And although they go quite to the opposite side of the world to fight the enemies of human liberty and progress, none of us doubt that they carry with them a spirit of freedom that will stand the test in any clime, a love of justice and equality that will nerve them to fight for the down-trodden even though they be a foreign race and inferior in civilization; and a few engagements with the enemy of their country will soon develop the same martial spirit that characterized their fathers at Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, Shiloh, Chattanooga, and Cold Harbor. As they speed across our borders we have scarcely time to say to them, Hail and farewell, brave boys. Show yourselves worthy of a noble ancestry and of the republic whose flag you bear to hostile lands mid distant seas.

The Government is building 35 new ships for the navy. One is to be called The Maine.

Scott's Place in History.

In almost a column of editorial on "A Great Magazine's Offense," in which Mr. Scott gives his customary unbridled restraint to his rage, indulging in such choice epithets as "addlepate," "notorious demagogue," "pernicious falsehood," "ignorance and viciousness," "the menace of populism," and "the revolutionary doctrines of the Chicago platform," he says: "It is passing strange that The North American Review should go to the empty head and luxuriant whiskers of Peffer for an article on the senate of the United States." But our readers should not forget that this is the same Scott that said the opposition to the repeal of the Sherman act should be "choked or starved into submission;" that it is the same Scott who said that if war should be declared against Spain "the Bryanites would get their heads knocked off on every street corner," notwithstanding Bryan has

tendered his service to his country while this old fire-in-the-sword is hidden away in his tower dividing on paper the dominions of Spain like a Pompey, a Caesar, or a Cressus.

Judging from the spirit of malice, intolerance and vindictiveness that so often manifests itself in the writings of the editor of the Oregonian, no one informed in history, a judge of human nature, and unprejudiced in his views, will doubt that, had Harvey Scott lived during the French Revolution, he would have been fit material for a Robespierre; or that, under James II, he might have divided honors with Lord Jeffreys of the bloody Assize. But had he been wanting in a single element, it certainly would have been the conscientiousness of Robespierre or Jeffrey's nerve. The most fit place for such intolerance to exercise itself today is, not where liberty of the press is guaranteed, but in the press censorship under the autocrat of the Russians.

In the immortal Declaration its broad minded author spoke of a "decent respect for the opinions of mankind," but the servile and obsequious foot-licker of monopoly who edits the Oregonian says, of Senator Peffer, "The door of every magazine that pretends to respectability should be slammed in the face of every such defamer of his country and assailant of peace and order."

Again, this intolerant Jacobite says, "If Peffer can teach us the constitution, why may he not also teach us finance?"

The answer is, trying to teach Scott anything contrary to Scott's thread-bare "currency debasement" platitudes, is like trying to teach James the second "sound finance"; and, too, like that vociferous prince who could not learn in schools where even fools are said to learn; Scott would see his country pay servile court for tribute to all the Louis the Fourteenth across the sea. He would wrest every purse-string by the policy from the hands of people and place it in the hands of a merciless syndicate. And his means of meeting out justice would be to courts and juries, but the knot, the boot, the thumb-screw, and military tribunals.

It is altogether reasonable that David A. Munro, the editor of The North American Review, a literary magazine now in the eighty-fourth year of its existence and of world-wide circulation, is infinitely now more competent to judge of who its writers should be than the insane old oligarch who edits a virulent political paper of the strongest bias almost up in the north west corner of the United States, whose venom and spleen could not find outlet through respectable literary journals. This latter is probably what throws Scott into a rage when he sees Senator Peffer's writings admitted to such distinguished columns. Another source of irritation to this incredible old plagiarist and paraphraser is probably the fact that Peffer's intellect helps to supply the fountain from which Scott needs drink in order to furnish his abject editorials, basing two in a single issue of his paper upon articles in the July number of The North American Review. His "National Expansion" taken from Bancroft's "Seward's Idea of Territorial Expansion" and other sources would do honor to the plagiarism of Jas. Montgomery. One brilliant idea is however, probably original with Scott. We submit it for consideration, for it certainly has few equals in the English language for modest allusion, delicacy of expression, force of comparison, and convincing logic. We fear this bit of argument in behalf of national expansion will secure for its author a niche in the temple of fame close by the side of the "Hon. Whiskers Addlepate."

Here it is: "To have refused to accept official responsibility for our action by declining to accept Hawaii offered to us by a people anxious to place themselves under our protection would be as base as it would be for a man to refuse to marry a woman and then to desert her leaving her to bear her punishment alone and wear the scarlet letter of shame."

Read it again! What a fit specimen with which to conclude a state paper! No wonder its author aspires to criticize the editor of a great literary magazine. But then let Mr. Scott write on from his exalted place in the tower, for this man in whom the milk of human kindness has changed to the mother of vinegar, knows full well that when he lays down his virulent and intolerant pen he must "darkle to his doom," "unwept, unhonored, and unsung."

"MONEY SEEKING INVESTMENT."

Under this head the Oregonian of last Friday says there is already springing up "an active demand for farm lands." Perhaps there are few localities in the United States where more acres can be tilled per hand than in Sherman county. Perhaps in few counties out of the 2900 and over in the United States has the price of so many farms been cleared at a single crop as in our little county;

and if money is seeking investment and "promises to be a drug on the American market this year," as the Oregonian puts it, Sherman county commands its share without doubt. It is a seek-no-further county. Why? Because of our fine climate, our productive soil, our cheap lands, our intelligent citizens, our schools and churches, our new rail-road enterprise, our enterprising business men, the vigilance, intelligence, and enterprise of our wives, mothers, and daughters, who are constantly on the alert for the moral status of our country; because of our proximity to the metropolis and to tide-water; because we live in the northwest, and the northwest is the richest undeveloped section of the United States; because many local enterprises await your money to develop them; and last but not least, because our county is always one of the very first in the state to pay its taxes. Make a judicious investment in Sherman county and time will verify your wisdom.

The Oregonian further says: "Money is so abundant that it is seeking investment, and it will be started westward when the country settles down to peace after the Spanish war. Vast sums of Eastern money will be put into Oregon and Washington farms."

Evidently this is the farsighted investor who will avail himself of this passing opportunity. Evidently the sagacity of our business men will see that a good share of this capital from abroad becomes invested in new enterprises in our county—manufacture, a system of irrigation, artesian wells, &c. Since farmers are now alone, it is just the time to begin to diversify farming. Our farmers have been heretofore forced to confine themselves to raising grain for export. Give our farmers 75 cents a bushel for their wheat this fall, and Sherman county will enter upon an absolutely new era.

Germany is getting a little saucy toward the United States. Since Uncle Sam is indisputably in the right in our war with Spain, it seems to us our German population could help their adopted country very materially through correspondence with friends and relatives in the Fatherland.

ONLY THREE TEACHERS.

The school board has done nothing toward putting on a fourth teacher. Of course three teachers can teach, and if there were two, the school would soon adjust itself to the new conditions; but the absurdity of trying to do justice to eleven grades with only three teachers is manifest to every one conversant with the actual requirements of a graded school. It is time an opportunity should be given the principal to teach all the branches of the ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades as well as a privilege to advanced pupils to pursue them, or else we should cease to dignify the department with the half-empty title of high school.

The Oregonian says money will be a drug on the market this fall. Why not? With the fruits of his own toil the farmer has brought British gold into our country, has paid off many old debts, and with a fair price for wheat this fall, will have millions to loan.

Very windy Wednesday. But old residents think so little about such occurrences that they have to file a copy of the Republic in order to tell ten days hence the kind of weather we had on this particular day. No body but a tender-foot pays much attention to a wind unless we have to put an extra brace or two against a brick wall, lay flat stones on the vacant post-holes to hold them down, hold your hair on, see half the real estate in the air, and the wind gets after loose things lying around like Bob Evans said the Oregon got after the Cristobal Colon. It is amusing when only a good stiff breeze, say a forty knotter, is on, to see some genteel looking stranger just from the band-box trying to cross the street on his sea-legs, blinking his eyes and wiping his grimy face, too big to cry, and looking for the world as if he thought there were "atmosphere in the air."

Gen. Miles has arrived at Santiago. Gen. T. refuses to surrender. An unconditional surrender is demanded by Gen. Shafter. Occasional firing on outposts. No casualties among our troops. Santiago completely invested. The besieged cannot possibly escape. Heavy rains drove our troops from their trenches for awhile. Shafter expected to open a general fire on Wednesday.

Our vessels are bombarding the city at a distance of over five miles. Each shell carried 250 pounds of explosives and travels 925 feet per second. One every five minutes was hurled on its death-dealing errand into the city.

T. offered to surrender if allowed to march off his troops with the honors of war. But Shafter gave him to understand that Americans neither coined nor captured vacuums.

The new firm of Pulliam and Jones is doing a general merchandise business. Give the new firm a call.

Business Brevities.

Remember the war stamp on legal documents after July 1st.

Orders taken for strawberries by the Columbia Packing Company.

When you are hungry, try the New restaurant, G. W. Brock, proprietor. Meals 25c.

Wanted—position of sack-sower on a Combined harvester. Inquire at this office.

Ask your druggist for Rosofom for the teeth. Manufactured by Clark & Falk, The Dalles.

Ask your grocer for Clark & Falk's pure, concentrated flavoring extracts for sale by all grocers.

Final proof applications for homesteaders will be made out without cost at the Republic office.

The new firm of Pulliam and Jones is doing a general merchandise business. Give the new firm a call.

Say, did you see those fine pictures at the Photo tent? They will open your eyes to the fact that you want some pictures. All work finished before we leave. Shurtle & Thompson.

Having formed a co-partnership with W. F. Johnson, all parties knowing themselves to be indebted to me are hereby requested to come and pay up at once. JOHN W. GOLDBEN.

F. H. Meader & Co., of Moro, Oregon, have the agency for Studebaker wagons, hacks and buggies. When in need of anything in this line call on them and get the best. They also carry the daisy McCormick mowers and reapers.

\$5.50 PER ACRE—100 acres of improved land for \$5.50 per acre, five miles from Wasco, on the public road running from Wasco to Rufus. 100 acres of this farm are now in cultivation, 65 acres in wheat. Here is one of the best bargains ever offered in Sherman county. This is known as the J. L. Holland farm. Call on or address M. A. Leslie, Wasco, Oregon.

Patriotic Meeting.

To be held in Moro on the evening of July 29.

An interesting program of patriotic speeches and music will be rendered. One of the good things will be an address by Rev. F. R. Spaulding.

Everyone cordially invited. Patriots urged to be present.

Bids Wanted.

Sealed bids will be received by School District No. 6, for the construction of a school house, plans and specifications of which may be seen at the Republic office in Wasco. Right reserved to reject any or all bids. Bids will be opened at China Hollow school house, at 1 o'clock p. m., July 16. Address FRANK HULEBY, Rufus, Sherman Co., Ore.

1600—100 acres of land all fenced. 125 acres now in cultivation. Improvements worth \$700. This is a well improved farm, well worth the money; if well farmed will pay an interest on \$3,000 or double the amount invested. This is known as the A. R. Doane farm, eight miles from Wasco. Call on or address M. A. Leslie, Wasco, Oregon.

C. J. BRIGHT,

Attorney-at-Law.

Will practice in all the courts of Oregon. Office over Krause's harness shop, Wasco, Oregon.

-Wasco-Antelope-

.. Stage ..

Neece & Ashby, Props.

New Coaches, with good accommodation for passengers. Express and packages promptly delivered. Accommodating drivers. Leaves as follows:

GOING SOUTH	GOING NORTH
Wasco 10 a.m.	Antelope 3 a.m.
Moro 1:30 p.m.	Kent 7 "
Grass Valley 4 "	Grass Valley 9 a.m.
Kent 7 "	Moro 1:30 p.m.
Arrives at Antelope 10 p.m.	Arrives at Wasco 4 p.m.

Columbia Southern Railway

Time schedule—In effect July 1, 1898. Connection is made with O. R. & N. passenger train at Biggs.

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By a CYCLONE CAMERA \$5.00 buys a camera that takes a picture 3 1/4 x 4 1/4 inches. Samples pictures at \$10.00 cameras make pictures 4 x 5 inches. Sold by M. Z. DONNELLY, Druggist, or at the REPUBLIC OFFICE, The Dalles, Oregon. Wasco, Oregon.

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When the Train stops at The Dalles, Get off on the South Side at the

New Columbia Hotel

This large and popular hotel does the principal hotel business, and is prepared to furnish the best accommodations of any house in the city at \$1.00 per day. First class meals 25c.

Office for all Stage Lines leaving The Dalles for all points in Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington, located in hotel. J. M. TOOMEY, Prop. The Dalles.

The Regulator Line

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Steamers—"REGULATOR" and "DALLES CITY" daily between The Dalles and Portland. Passenger and Freight service.

Passenger Service—We offer unsurpassed inducements to passengers, and respectfully solicit their patronage. Our specialties are Comfort, Quick Time and Pleasure. Our steamers have been put in thorough repair, and facilities added for the comfort and ease of patrons.

Pleasure—Too much cannot be said in favor of this line as a pleasure route. It is almost enough to say that "It is down the Columbia." The cooling breezes, the grand scenery, the freedom from smoke and dust, combine to make it a most enjoyable trip. Try it.

Freight—We are at all times prepared to handle carefully freight of all kinds, with promptness. We have a commodious warehouse, where shipments can be taken care of until called for. Wood and wheat shipments especially solicited.

Rates—Our rates will always be found as low as the lowest, and always as low as is possible to make them. Our aim is to endeavor to keep in line with our former policy, and make it in fact as well as name, "THE REGULATOR LINE." Write for rates, and illustrated folder. Purchase your tickets and ship your freight via "THE REGULATOR LINE." Correspondence solicited.

W. C. Allaway, General Agent, The Dalles, Oregon.

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A Rare Chance At Moro, Sherman County, Oregon.

12 Town Lots, each 66x165. Young orchard on 2 of them; also

Fine Residence Property on 6-Acre tract.

Just outside the city limit; neat residence, story and a half, six rooms. Comparatively new. Fine water; small orchard, several bearing trees. Finest shade trees in town. Title clear, price \$2,500.

Remember, the railroad is within ten miles of the town and is being pushed at the present time.

Remember, too, that Sherman County is one of the finest wheat raising counties in Oregon, and always one of the first to pay the state its taxes.

W. J. PEDDICCORD, Wasco, Ore.