

THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

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And Remember to Get a Stop-Over for Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1915.

IDEAS OF LIBERTY CHANGE.

Decided changes in ideals of government have come into the American life in the half century that has just passed since the death of Lincoln, the Great Emancipator. One of the greatest changes, perhaps, is the enfranchisement of women, a movement in which the Western states have taken the lead, but one which is attracting attention in all of the states. Enfranchisement of the negro came as the result of a great war; the enfranchisement of women is a bloodless revolution, but a sweeping one. The time is not far distant when all citizens of the republic will join in the selection of its officers and the enactment of its laws.

Another decided change in policies of government since the days of Lincoln is in regard to the enactment of laws. In those days the representative principle of government was strong—the people elected their officers and then depended upon these officers to execute the laws. Nowadays we have the initiative, the referendum and the recall, and the people are becoming the final authority, with lessened responsibility upon the elected officers.

Two causes have produced this change. One has been the disclosure of graft in high places, which has caused the people as a whole to distrust in a measure their officers. A feeling that special interests were securing undue concessions in too many cases has led the people to reserve to themselves the right to pass final judgment on legislation, or to initiate it themselves if they feel that there is need.

A contributing cause to this distrust of officials has come from the officials themselves. Whenever some problem faced a legislative body the solution has been, "Refer it to the people," with the result that in many instances minorities have been able to dictate policies. Just as an example, a few years ago the Eugene council submitted four different sites for a city hall to the people for a vote. A plurality of less than 200 carried the day for a site to one side of the center of the city and on the side opposite the line of future growth. This particular lot was owned by an organization of several hundred members, who were desirous of selling. Fortunately for the city, a better site has now been selected.

This attitude of officials, however, in their fear to take the initiative and decide the questions for which they were elected to office, has aided the sentiment that officers need constantly to be watched and checked, and even recalled from office upon occasion.

These forms of government and this extension of the franchise were probably not in Lincoln's mind when he spoke of "government of the people, for the people and by the people," but they have indeed become a part of the life of the Nation for which Lincoln gave years of his best effort and then his life.

BUSINESS MUST COME INTO THE OPEN.

Here is sound advice from a man well qualified to give it. The speaker is Elihu Root and the occasion a dinner in Philadelphia of a famous club composed largely of successful business men.

Ex-Senator Root says:

"The first thing is that the business men of America should become vocal. Talk, agitate and explain. Fight to clear the air." The trouble with business men—which is a vague term, but

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MONTHS in advance of its opening the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco was 95 per cent completed. The photograph above shows a stately alcove in the Court of the Four Seasons, of which Henry Bacon, designer of the Lincoln memorial at Potomac Park, Washington, D. C., is the architect. In each of the four corners of the court are niches containing fountains and symbolizing the seasons—spring, summer, autumn and winter.

pretty well understood—is that he regards "agitation" as the exclusive property of the social reformer and the civic busybody who is forever trying to "unsettle conditions." When agitation is in the air the business man contents himself with peevishly inquiring why the heathen rage, and then regards himself as abused when the people, naturally enough, imagine vain things.

The method that has almost always been adopted by the business man to meet a threatened crisis is just the method that appeals least to the taste of the American public. It has been characterized by unobtrusive organization, executive meetings, aversion to publicity. "Talk, agitate and explain," says Mr. Root. Above all, explain. Nothing is more easily misunderstood than secrecy. "Gumshoe" is much more opprobrious than "agitator." It is better to be frank than to be misunderstood.

When business finds itself forced to combat the procedure of irresponsible troublemakers it must make in the open at least as good a showing as its opponents. The class of publicists who frequently are blamed for present conditions never have been bashful about stating their case to as large an audience as possible. The theorist with a minimum of taxes to pay has no false notions of dignity. And if the owners of much property decline to "talk, agitate and explain," who is to hear both sides of the controversy? —Spokane, Wash., Spokesman-Review.

OPPORTUNITIES NOT ALL GONE.

Henry Ford, the automobile manufacturer, was an engineer in an electric light plant in Detroit, says an exchange. Charles Murphy, the baseball millionaire, was a reporter on the Cincinnati Enquirer. Thomas I. Ince, the motion picture magnate, was a comic opera comedian, glad to get \$50.00 a week. Charlie Weeghman, owner of the Chicago Federal baseball team, and a string of restaurants, was a waiter in a quick-lunch room. And so it goes. The list could be strung out to a column's length. Therefore when you hear a boy or a young man complain that he has had no chance, take him by the arm and tell him a few things. There never was a time in the world's history when there were more opportunities for a young man to push to the front. There never was a time when a little intelligence and determination would provide a man with a competence in a few years. This is particularly true in the farming business—for farming is a business. The young men of today who will take hold of a farm with the idea of making it the best farm in the county and who will work intelligently for ten years, with that idea always before him, will not have to work for the remainder of his life.

Someone has suggested that Carranza makes good use of the emphatic notes he has been receiving from the United States—he probably uses them as curling papers for his whiskers.

Progressives are congratulating themselves on the fact that the Republican party has developed so much and in such a way as to permit them to indorse its views.

Scientists are at work on a new explosive. Thought there were enough kinds already.

Bay City—The Tillamook Bay Fish company will build a cannery.

North jetty at the mouth of the Columbia river will receive \$1,500,000 in the next fifteen months.

Baker—John Waterman will erect a brick block at Center and First streets.

Frank M. Roberts has established the weekly Watchman at Waldport on the Alsea.

Burns—new metallic toll telephone line going in to Riverton.

Oregon City—Contract has been signed for \$286,765 pipeline 25 miles long to a fork of the Clackamas river for a municipal water supply.

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