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Popular Election of Senators.

Probably nine-tenths of the American people are in favor of electing U. S. senators by direct vote of the people. This condition of mind, on the part of the people, has existed for at least a full decade and is becoming emphasized by the conduct of several members of the aristocratic branch of of congress. When this sentiment of the people seems so clear, that the large majority are in favor of popular election, what is it that prevents people from expressing their sentiments at the polls? The stumbling block is simply the U. S. senate itself. Several times has the federal house of representatives passed a resolution to submit the necessary amendment to a vote of the people, but it has invariably received its quietus when brought before the senate. The question at once arises in the mind of the thinking man, "have we, the people, created a legislative power that is no longer responsible to the people for its acts?" If so, the sooner this fact is demonstrated, the better.

At the present time we have two United States senators convicted of crime. Are the sentences being carried out against them in the same manner that ordinary crimnals are served? Not by any means. By taking advantage of their rights of appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, these high class crimnals are able to stand off the execution of their sentences for a year or two. In the mean time, they are drawing their salaries of $5000 or $8000 per year, just the same as if they were serving their states in an exceptable manner.

Just why the American people submit to the dominance of this American House of Lords, is difficult to understand. The people know that whenever three-fourths of the states demand that an amendment to the federal constitution shall be submitted, that such a demand has just as much force as if it was submitted by congress. And this is the only way in which the election of senators by popular vote will be reached.

Just now President Roosevelt and the lower house of congress, are in favor of a law regulating railroad freight rates. But it will be blocked by the senate. Senator Elkins, one of the senators that holds his office by virtue of his millions, is said to be preparing a measure, ostensibly for this purpose, but the real purpose of which, is to circumvent any harmful legislation against the railroads. The railroads recognize that they must submit to some sort of legislation to this end; but they, like some Republicans on tariff revision, want the bill to be enacted into law, to be prepared by their friends.

Such action on the part of the senate will but emphasize the demand for popular election of senators. The people have submitted to the dominance of the millionaire branch of congress just about as long as they will. There are to many Mitchells Burtons, Elkinses and their like there who can see no further than their own interests or the interests of the trusts and corporations they serve. Because senators are elected by legislatures, instead of the people, they do not seem to think that they are under any obligation whatever to the people. Instead of being servants of the people and giving their service to the interests of the people, they seem to think they are obligated to the trusts and corporations only. Well perhaps they are correct in their conclusions; for most of them do owe their election to the office they dishoner, to the trusts and corporations alone; If the people were consulted about the matter, not more than one-half of these millionaire trust servers, would be honored by an office as high as constable; to say nothing about the U. S. senate.

The people, when taking up reform measures, move slowly. Too slowly to many of us that have been at work for reforms for years. Perhaps this slowness of action is for the best; for in that case a reform is not undertaken until the peiple are ready for it. The time is near, when reform in selecting U. S. senators will be undertaken. When senators are elected by the people direct, corporation and trust senators will be somewhat lonesome about the national capitol.

The Prospect of Reform Looks Good.

We Americans are largely controlled, in many respects, by fads, fashions, etc. One community doing something that gives it notariety is sure to be paterned after by others. Notably has this been the case in the surpressing of gambling in our state. One city or community fearlessly executing law, seemed to inspire other cities to do likewise and as a result there are bot very few towns now, where gambling is carried on openly and above board; whereas, a year or two ago public gambling could be found in every city or town of importance in the state. The same condition seems to exist in the prosecution of boodlers and official law breakers. Attorney Gerome, of New York, and Attorney Folk, of St Louis, commenced prosecuting boodlers, gamblers, etc., at about the same time. Then Minneapolis and Philladilphia look up the work. Governor LaFollette, of Wisconsin, proceeded in a different manner, but reached about the same result. Now comes up Mr. Colby, of New Jersey, the mother of trusts, who is successfully combatting the "masheen." He has been elected to the assembly of that state against the open opposition of the trusts and political bosses, and seems to have carried a majority of the assemblymen with him. We may, then, expect something to be doin' in this state that has mothered more trusts than all other states combined, in a short time.

The American people have much to hope for and expect from the growing spirit of reform and decent government that seems to prevade almost the entire nation. Reform and decency are becoming fashionable and all sections will take up the work in the near future.

If it were not for reforms and men who dare to execute the law, our government could not long exist. The reform agitators, while they may seem not to be of any benefit to the public at the time of their active careers, sooner or later become saviors of the nation. Such has been the history of nearly every reform that has been encorporated into the constitutions of state or nation. Truly does the good that men do live after them. Conspicuously was this true of the slavery question. Most of the champions of freedom had passed away when Abraham Lincoln issued the famous emancipation proclamation. Such will be the case with the many, who are today fighting for a better and a purer government.

Absolute perfection will probably never be reached in the conduct of our government; but all will admit that there is room for great improvment over our present condition; and it is only from the work of reform agitators that progress for the better can come.

Then we say all hail, to the Roosevelts, the Folks, the Geromes, the LaFollettes and the Colbys. To you and men of your class, will the permanent perpetuity and prosperity of this nation be due. May your example become contagious, until the virus of reform shall reach to every nook and corner of the nation. Some of you may be impractical and cranky, yet the entire nation recognizes that, at the bottom of your hearts, rests the welfare of the American people.

The government pays eight cents per pound to get its mails transported. The express companies gets its matter carried for one cent per pound. Why should the government pay eight times as much to the railroads as private corporations pay for the same amount of service? President Roosevelt has an immense field of opportunity to earn the gratitude of the American people if he will but instigate some plan by which this legalized robbery shall cease at once.

If railroads were required to carry the mails as cheaply as it carries express matter, the government would save enough money to overcome the deficit in the revenues; and then have millions to spare.

Oregon stock seems well able to hold its own with prize winners from Eastern flocks and herds. A large majority of the awards made at the Lewis and Clark stock show, have been given to Oregon breeders. As a matter of fact, almost anything, either animal vegetable or cereal, that is produced in Oregon, reaches a greater degree of perfection than in any other state in the union.

If the Republican party desires to immortalize itself and perpetuate itself in power indeffinetely, it can do so if it will drive every boodling dishonest office holder from power, enact and execute laws in the interests of the entire people, instead of the interests of the few and compel the railroads and other common carries to work for a fair and reasonable price.

Is it not just a little unfair, that we Americans are compelled to pay more for certain manufactured goods, than the goods are sold for in foreign lands? This is the price we pay for maintaining the exorbitantly high tariff, the standpatters of the Republican party refuse to change.

Just now the demand for flour for shipment to the Orient is very active. So much so that the price has taken a turn upward. If this demand becomes permanent we will, to a certain degree, be independent of the Liverpool wheat market. The price of wheat, in consequence, is somewhat stronger.

It is being established that Oregon hops are the only first-class hops in the world to-day. Our dealers will do well to not be in too great a hurry in selling. The fancy price of last year will probably not be realized; but they will get a fairly profitable price later on.

The Development League that meets to day at Eugene, promises to be the most interesting and instructive session of its history. It is composed of business men who are working for the development and upbuilding of Oregon.

In a former Williamson-Gesner trial a willingness was expressed by some of the jurrors, it is said, to find a verdict of "guilty" for Gesner and Biggs, provided a verdict of "not guilty" was found for Williamson. Now as a matter of fact, if Gesner and Biggs are guilty, so is Mr. Williamson; for identically the same evidence applies to Williamson as to his co-defendants. To people up the valley, this sentiment on the part of the jury, if true, indicates that Mr. Williamson was bringing a political influence to bear upon some of the jurors. Just what the verdict will be of this, the third jury, remains to be seen. But the public has fully made up its mind, that it ought to be "guilty." Whenever political bias affects the judgement of a juror, no matter who may be the defendant, American liberty is in jeopardy. For this political influence can be exerted against a prisoner at the bar as easily as in his favor. If Mr. Williamson is not guilty, neither is Gesner nor Biggs; for they are all tarred with the same stick. One thing, however, is certain, Mr. Williamson's political goose is cooked for all time. He may escape the punishment he justly deserves; but he cannot escape the condemnation of an outraged public. The same feeling exists for Congressman Hermann who has, as yet not, been brought to trial. The minds of the people are fully made up that Hermann is guilty; though by his known adroitness he may escape paying the penalty of his crimes.

SCHOOL LAND TRIALS COMING ON.

To the people of Oregon the coming prosecutions of the state school land frauds are scarcely less important than the trials growing out of the land frauds practiced on the national government. Immense tracts of school lands have been stolen in this state during the past few years by methods so glaringly criminal that it is a disgrace to the commonwealth that prosecution and punishment have been so long delayed. In consequence of the delay many of the most notorious of the offenders will go unwhipped of justice; for our too liberal statute of limitations has cast its shield before them. Some of them however are still within reach of the arm of justice and great importance attaches to the trials which are to take place at Salem during the October term of the circuit court.

It is a notorious that forgery, perjury and bribery were freely practiced for several years before the present state administration came into power, by the big operators in Oregon school lands. Immense tracts were secured by Benson and Hyde, against whom a score of indictments have been returned by the federal grand juries, and it is a matter of familiar history that in a single day 60,000 acres of school lands in this state were secured by one of their agents through confessed forgery and perjury. Rings of timber thieves and land speculators were operating on a scale scarcely less and it is estimated that three-fourths of the school lands sold by the state during the recent years were secured through gross frauds on the part of the purchasers.

Recent investigations of the state land office have shown that in hundreds of cases deeds to school lands were issued upon fraudulent applications to persons who never existed, these dummies being merely the instruments by which the big buccaneers who were preying upon the state's domain secured their booty. A few months ago a Marion county grand jury returned indictments against a few of the men who were concerned in these frauds. Their trials are now near at hand and it is of great public importance that the defendants, if guilty, should be convicted.

Thus far the investigation of these cases and the gathering of evidence for the trials has been conducted almost wholly by Oswald West, secretary of the state land department, and District Attorney McNary of Marion county. Governor Chamberlain has plainly shown his sympathy with their efforts and indeed it was by his direction that the investigations were begun. Something more than sympathy is now needed and in the coming trials the prosecution should receive all the assistance which it is in the power of the state to give.

Sidelights have been thrown on the school land frauds by the trial of Congressman Williamson in the federal court, and still further information is likely to be forthcoming when Congressman Hermann is called on to explain his alleged connection with the famous Blue Mountain conspiracy. But such information is merely incidental, and earnest effort on the part of the state authorities may bring to light much more valuable evidence. It is unfortunate that the ringleaders in these frauds on the state have thus far escaped indictment but vigorous prosecution of their subordinates may force the principals into the limelight and may result in giving them the punishment they deserve.—Oregon Journal.

RESTS WITH OREGON GROWERS.

The prices at which the hop market has opened are naturaly disappointing to growers, but it must be remembered that the 10 and 11 cents paid in Washington was for goods of an inferior quality. On hops of this grade the market is decidedly weak, but this does not apply to choice growths. Hops that will stand inspection by a critical Eastern or English brewer must be as near perfect as it is possible to produce them, and for these a reasonable and profitable price may be expected. Furthermore, Oregon alone of all the American hop states will have this quality to offer in sufficient supply, and it is here that the exporters and Eastern dealers must eventually come.

The making of prices is therefore largely in the hands of the growers. With abundant crops all over the world they cannot expect the sensational returns of last year, but it is not to be supposed, on the other hand, that they will sacrifice their wealth at the behest of professional bears who must cover their short sales at low prices or go out of business. It may be that all calculations will go for naught and that phenomenally low prices will yet prevail, but no indications of such a condition are discernible on the face of the market.—Oregonian.

The good soaking rains that have fallen this week, will enable our farmers to get at their fall seeding in good time so that grain will make a good growth, before the frosty weather of the winter sets in.

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