

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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PLUTOCRACY VS. THE PEOPLE

The people are rapidly coming to know the significance of the word "plutocracy." They rightfully believe that it represents everything pertaining to governmental matters that they do not want—that it represents that element in American politics that is debauching and demoralizing government, Municipal, State, and National. They know that this plutocratic element has managed to secure control of all branches of the National government, legislative, judicial, and executive. They know also that the plutocrats are endeavoring to gain control of State governments and that of our principal municipalities as well. Just how to break away and segregate this insidious control from governmental affairs in all departments is a problem for the American people to solve.

Plutocracy, under the guise of "business interests," has obtained special favors and public franchises from National, State, and Municipal governments that are absorbing and encroaching upon the rights and guaranteed privileges of the private citizen and legitimate business interests of the people, and at this time the people are feeling most grievously the chains of financial thralldom that have silently been forged about them. The people are learning, sorrowfully, that at the present time—the beginning of the twentieth century—that while they have been boasting of American freedom, they are practically financial slaves to the plutocracy.

The beginning of plutocratic power was in the Civil War days when Wall Street, New York, demanded and had the exception clause placed upon the National greenback. Later on, at the dictation of Wall Street, the funding law was enacted by Congress, the effect of which was to call in a large part of the currency in circulation which was not bearing interest, and replace it with interest-bearing bonds. Later on Wall Street demanded the passage of the "Credit Strengthening Act," which made these bonds payable only in coin. These bonds had been bought with greenbacks, worth at that time only 40 and 50 cents on the dollar in gold. The Credit Strengthening Act thus made a present in coin to plutocracy of just as much as the bonds had originally cost it. Later on Wall Street called for the demonetization of silver. Congress, the obedient servant of plutocracy, obeyed, and these bonds, that were bought with greenbacks, became payable only in gold or its equivalent.

In addition to making these presents of millions of dollars of the people's wealth to plutocracy, Congress commenced making presents of the public domain in the way of land grants, to railroad and wagon roads. At the demand of the so-called "business interests" the tariff has been increased from time to time until, at the present, the people are paying to plutocracy, the highest tariff ever allowed since the formation of the Government.

It is not difficult to ascertain from whence these plutocratic fortunes, especially the foundation of them, were obtained. With these gifts from the Government as a starter, special privilege from City, State and Nation have done the rest. Governments, national, state and city, through the tariff and the granting of franchises, have compelled the people to pay exorbitant tariffs, freight charges and tolls to plutocrats, who look upon franchises and tariffs as vested rights, which the people can in no way recover.

The late election demonstrated that the people are becoming alarmed at the encroachments and menace to our National institutions of plutocracy. New York would have elected an entire Democratic ticket, had the people of that state felt sure of reform at the hands of the Democratic party. President Roosevelt's operations towards the prosecution of trusts, caused many Republicans to vote for the G. O. P. candidates; thinking, by so doing, they were sustaining the president in his efforts towards reform. All honor to the president for his efforts towards correcting the wrongs of the people, but the plutes are so fortified behind laws enacted for the benefit and protection of themselves and interests that let him do his utmost along the line of reform, his efforts will be snatched on the seashore.

Plutocracy is wholly lacking in politics and patriotism. It will always favor the party that will most subserviently conserve its interests. Whenever it is necessary these scoundrels can act as a unit. Just so long as they can keep the people divided and their attention attracted to other than the issues which effect the so-called business interests, plutocracy is safe. But let there be a concerted action on the part of the people, as was the case in New York recently, or in the Bryan campaigns and that of James G.

Blain, and there is no trouble to concentrate the strength of plutocracy to the party of the least resistance to their predatory designs.

Lincoln is credited with saying: "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time; but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." The last clause of this often quoted proposition is now at hand. Plutocracy has fooled the people about the last time in State and National elections. The Republican party emerged from the late election with a loss of several states and more than one-half of its majority in the lower house of Congress. It must make good, in the eyes of the people during the next two sessions, or else go down to defeat in 1908.

So these predatory fortunes, now of immense magnitude, can easily be accounted for. They are among the princely fortunes of the world and are a menace, as managed, to American institutions. Unless curbed by the strong arm of the law, or the might of the American people, they will soon change our form of government in order to more effectually protect their interests and safety. When we consider that every dollar of these immense fortunes represents the sweat of labor's brow, and not one dollar of which was earned by the present possessors, such a feeling of hostility is aroused within one that argues a warm time for the plutes when the day of reckoning comes. If, when this day comes, as it surely will, plutocracy ought not to complain if the American people measures its treatment to them by the standard that they, themselves, have erected. The people, if they would protect themselves from the predatory designs of plutocracy, must banish all feelings of party prejudice from their minds. An officer, no matter what his official position may be, who makes good by sustaining the cause of all the people honestly and fearlessly, must be sustained regardless of which political party places him in power. His hands must be held up by the force of the strongest of public opinion possible. The political prejudice of the people is the string that plutocracy touches the oftenest, in order that it may be let alone. "Let well enough alone" and "stand pat" are expressions used with great unctious by plutocracy and its political underlings. They have fooled the people in this way quite often. But the people, in the future, will require more than such claptrap. They will require action and action that counts.

If the Republican party will take heed from the lessons of the late election, and at the coming session of congress, aid President Roosevelt in his every effort to curb the aggressions of plutocracy under the name of organized capital, all will be well. Otherwise there will be something doing in the campaign of 1908.

We heard a prominent Linn County politician say a few days ago that it was his opinion that the coming session of the Legislature would prove to be the most extravagant and corrupt legislative body that has ever met in Oregon. Just on what grounds he rests his opinion this writer knows not. Let us hope that this prominent politician will prove to have been mistaken. We know that a strong effort will be made by the various State colleges to obtain large appropriations; that a strong effort will be made by Eastern Oregon members to have the State embark in the jute mill industry and numerous other assaults will be made upon the State treasury. Yet the members know that just as surely as any unusually large appropriations are made for any purpose other than for the support of the State government and institutions, the referendum will be invoked. The people are willing to be taxed for a liberal support of the State government, but they will not stand for anything of the nature of a graft. They would be pleased to see the coming session establish a reputation for economy as the last one was for extravagance. The people would gladly see the clerkship graft done away with and the Normal Schools reduced to not more than two—one would be preferable. By waiting for two months or better, we will see what we shall see. It is reported that Penatletton will endeavor to secure, at the coming legislative session, an appropriation for the erection of a Supreme Court building in that city. Of course that little clause of the State Constitution that requires all public buildings erected by the State, to be placed at or near the State Capital, will not be at all in the way. Just a little log rolling on the part of the members from Umatilla will do the trick. But suppose in that event some fool believer that the Constitution should be obeyed, should enjoin the building thereof and the question finally reaches the Supreme Court for adjudication? Will the Court hold as it did in the case of the branch insane asylum?

The people generally throughout Oregon are getting very weary with the continual war with words between the Oregonian and the Oregon Journal. It would be a relief if they would get out in a back lot somewhere and fight it out with fists or popguns. There is plenty of room in the State for both newspapers, and the News would be glad if each of them could get 50,000 subscribers. But it is common with everybody else is getting anxious for the fins of the rumpus.

The Corvallis Times wants Congressmen Hermann and Williamson to resign. Its no use brother. Neither of them possesses that fine sense of personal honor which would bring about that result. Unless Congress should conclude that its dignity requires their expulsion, they will continue to draw their per diem until March 4th next.

The evil of our shortage is felt all over the country. Locally it is difficult for shippers to get a car. Just why the railroads permit this condition to exist and what has become of the cars, this writer will not attempt to explain. One year ago there seemed to be plenty of cars to handle the shipping business and surely the freight business has not increased in one year, sufficiently to swamp the entire freight service of the country. Usually when there is a car famine in one locality, there is a congestion of cars somewhere else. This explanation will not do this time, for the cars seem to exist everywhere. The country is entitled to more railroads and a better service on those we have. It is up to Congress and the legislators, to do a little regulating in this respect.

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Corvallis & Eastern R. R.

TIME CARD NO. 31.	Trains From and To Eugene.
No. 1	Leaves Eugene..... 4:30 A. M.
	Arrives Corvallis..... 8:45 A. M.
	Arrives Albany..... 11:40 A. M.
No. 2	Leaves Eugene..... 1:30 P. M.
	Arrives Corvallis..... 5:45 P. M.
	Arrives Albany..... 8:40 P. M.
Trains To and From Detroit.	
No. 3	Leaves Albany for Detroit..... 7:00 A. M.
	Arrives Detroit..... 12:30 P. M.
No. 4	Leaves Detroit..... 1:00 P. M.
	Arrives Albany..... 5:45 P. M.
Trains for Corvallis.	
No. 5	Leaves Albany for Corvallis..... 7:00 A. M.
	Arrives Corvallis..... 8:45 A. M.
No. 6	Leaves Albany..... 1:30 P. M.
	Arrives Corvallis..... 5:45 P. M.
Trains for Albany.	
No. 7	Leaves Corvallis..... 8:00 A. M.
	Arrives Albany..... 11:40 A. M.
No. 8	Leaves Corvallis..... 1:30 P. M.
	Arrives Albany..... 5:45 P. M.
No. 9	Leaves Corvallis..... 6:00 P. M.
	Arrives Albany..... 9:40 P. M.
No. 10	Leaves Corvallis..... 11:00 A. M.
	Arrives Albany..... 4:45 P. M.
No. 11	Leaves Albany..... 12:45 P. M.
	Arrives Corvallis..... 5:30 P. M.

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ORDINANCE NO. 52.

As Obedience to prevent, restrain, and punish by fine or imprisonment, or both, intoxication in any street, house, or place, within the corporate limits of the City of Seas, defining what shall constitute the same, and providing for the punishment thereof.

The Common Council of the City of Seas do hereby enact as follows: SECTION 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person to be intoxicated in any street, house, or place, within the corporate limits of the City of Seas, and any person who shall violate the provisions of this section, shall, upon conviction thereof before the Recorder's Court, be punished by a fine of not less than \$5, nor more than \$100, or by imprisonment in the City Jail, or not less than two days, nor more than 10 days, both by such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the Court.

SECTION 2. Any person, being under the influence of any narcotic, opium or any other intoxicating drink or drug, which causes a state of mind in which a person is partly or completely overbalanced or overpowered, so that his reason is diminished, that he more commonly resorts to stagers in walking, drunken, or to render one stupid, or gay, sultry, furious or vicious, disorder in the families wholly or in part, shall be considered and deemed intoxicated within the meaning of Section 1 of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. In any case of conviction for the offense mentioned in Section 1 of this ordinance, the Court shall adjudge the offender to pay the costs of prosecution, and if it be impossible to collect such fine and costs adjudged, commit the offender to the City Jail at the rate of one day for each two dollars of such fine and costs. However, that such imprisonment shall in no case exceed thirty days. And it shall be the further duty of the Court, when anyone committed to the City Jail by its judgment for the offense mentioned in this Ordinance, to have an order of the Marshal requiring him to work and prisoner upon the streets of the City, or upon any City works necessary to be done, during the term for which he is imprisoned.

SECTION 4. If any prisoner, during the term of his imprisonment shall refuse to work when so ordered, he shall be secured by bail and released and given only bread to eat and water to drink during the time he so refuses to work.

SECTION 5. The Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its approval by the Mayor.

Examined and approved by me this 1st day of November, 1906.

Attest: L. E. MILLER, Mayor. P. H. MacDONALD, City Recorder.

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SCIO, OREGON

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