

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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WHY NOT CONSTITUTIONAL?

ONE OF THE claims of the knockers of Statement No. 1 is, that its observance is a violation of the Federal constitution. A careful reading of the constitution will fail to show any thing preventing a legislator being instructed or being obligated as to how he shall vote upon any measure that may come before the legislature for action; even to the extent of voting for United States senator. If a constituency wished to require its representative in the legislature, to vote for, say John Smith for United States senator; the Oregonian or any constitutional lawyer, will not undertake to say, the Federal constitution prohibits such instruction? Then, if the legislator may be instructed to vote for Smith or Scott or Jones, the matter of the particular politics of the individual voted for, so far as the constitution is concerned, cuts no figure.

The majority of the Republican party does not particularly object to binding the legislator to vote for the Republican voters choice; but renig at requiring him to vote for the people's choice. Such Republicans place the interests of the Republican party before the interests of the people and such reasoning carried to its logical conclusion would place party above country—partyism above patriotism.

The greatest fear of the Oregonian and other opponents of Statement One is, that Governor Chamberlain may receive a majority or plurality of the popular vote. That, with a popular majority of 30,000 votes, the Republican party, through a divided political opinion, will be unable to concentrate enough votes upon any one candidate to elect him over Chamberlain. Then, of course, if a majority of the legislature was bound by Statement One, the Governor would be elected. Such a result would spell dire disaster to the pie counter devotees. Therefore, any means to prevent such a calamity must be provided; no matter at what cost. And the surest way to accomplish this result is to elect men unpledged, sufficient to control the legislature; so reason the Republican bosses. So far the bosses have made the most noise about this matter. The people are to be heard from later on.

As a matter of fact our form of government is dominated too completely by party rule. The political doctrine of "To the victor belongs the spoils" when coupled with extreme partisanship and more or less dishonesty on the part of the spoilsmen, has undermined and shaken our system severely. Unless corrective features, such as the Initiative and Referendum, the Direct Primary including Statement No. 1, etc. shall come to the rescue throughout the country, we will be compelled to conclude our political system, as conducted during recent years, is a failure.

Oregon is the pioneer in these reformatory measures. Of course these measures are crude and not yet what we wish. Yet they are a movement in the right direction and, the people believe, a great improvement over the corrupt partisan methods of the past. At all events, the corrupt practices of the political bosses under the old system, drove the people to the adoption of the present plan, incomplete though it may be. If these knockers of Statement One would give their talents to the building up and perfecting the rule of the people, rather than to destroy the progress we have made, they will write their names much higher on the scroll of fame.

However, we have always had politicians of the "Rule or ruin" order, such as the Oregonian and a few would-be-bosses down in Multnomah county. They know full well the enforcement of Statement No. 1, destroys the old time political rings and bosses and that their power for political evil will be greatly limited. True, bosses may grow up under any and all reform systems. When they do they will have to be eliminated, just as we are endeavoring to eliminate the boss ridden political convention of the immediate past.

But, for the sake of argument, suppose Statement No. 1 does conflict with the Federal constitution? Suppose we find the Federal constitution unequal to the demands of the conditions our modern civilization requires? In the civil war days we found it necessary to add the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments. The conditions then seemed to require those amendments. Present conditions may require the enactment of further amendments in order to insure a government of

the people, by the people, for the people.

One idea should never be lost sight of in discussing any and all political ideas and that is "Government was instituted for the happiness of man." Men existed before governments and governments are the creations of man. Therefore, if the machine proves inadequate for the work required, let us improve it until it will perform the required function.

These opponents of Statement One say they are in favor of electing senators by direct vote of the people. We doubt the honesty of their assertions. Our primary law furnishes the nearest approach to this desired end which is possible until the State constitution as amended. Statement No. 1 simply points out a method by which our primary law, in the selection of senator, may not miscarry. If the majority party is foolish enough to have three or four candidates, while the minority party has but one, who receives the plurality vote, common fairness would dictate that the plurality candidate should win. He is liable to be the better man and also, such a result enables the majority to kill off a lot of people who think more of personal preferment than they do of party success.

The outlook at the present time is that Governor Chamberlain will have a larger vote than either of the three Republican candidates. It is even possible that he may have a majority over all. If so the NEWS thinks his election should be ratified by the legislature.

However, suppose Governor Chamberlain receives a majority vote of the people and the legislature, being Republican and unpledged, would refuse to ratify the people's choice? Will the Oregonian or anyone who believes in majority rule, justify such action by the legislature? The NEWS does not believe Governor Chamberlain will receive a majority of the people's votes. But he is very likely to receive a plurality vote; consequently he will be elected. Otherwise not.

As the NEWS sees matters, every reformation that has been placed on our statute books during the past four years, depend on the election of a Statement One legislature. Should the Republican bosses succeed in defeating Statement No. 1, that is to say nullify it, they will next attack the primary law itself, as being inimical to the interests of the Republican party. Then the Initiative and Referendum will in turn set aside, and an era of corruption unparalleled will follow. All this will be the case, if the bosses again get into the saddle. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" never was more true than it is to day. The only safe course for friends of reform is to vote for no man for the legislature who will not subscribe to Statement No. 1. The Republican bosses have thrown down the gauntlet. We dare not let it lie. If we would preserve the progress we have made in reform, we must fight and fight hard.

The candidacy of both Mr. Cake and Mr. U'Ren for the nomination for United States senator, can lead to but one result—a plurality of the Republican votes for Senator Fulton. This is an unsatisfactory condition. A clean cut fight for and against Statement No. 1 in the Republican ranks, is very desirable, at the present time. The NEWS believes a majority of the Republican party honestly favors the election of United States senator by the people, and with either Mr. Cake or Mr. U'Ren as the candidate representing the Statement No. 1 element of that party, would receive a good majority of the Republicans. But to divide the friends of Statement One, means a plurality for Mr. Fulton. Of course the present conditions are very satisfactory to Mr. Fulton. If both Cake and U'Ren stay in the field, Mr. Fulton and his friends can give their entire attention to the election of an unpledged legislature. If they succeed in their desires, no matter if the Democratic candidate should receive a majority, at the polls, Mr. Fulton or some other Republican will be the winner. So the people should fully understand that the permanence or success of our efforts to elect senators by a direct vote, depends upon the maintenance of Statement No. 1. The political sentiment of the senator elected is of far less consequence, than the maintenance of the principle of his election by the people. The legislature should understand, once for all, that its only province in the election of United States senator, is to ratify the choice of the people.

Linn county collected about \$225,000 in taxes last year. Money appropriated for county and state purposes amounted to \$152,000. This leaves \$73,000 yet unaccounted for. Judge Stewart's article in last week's issue did not make the matter quite plain. The debt of \$30,000 or over due the state for the last half of 1904 taxes were to be paid; yet Judge Palmer claims over \$50,000 in cash and uncollected taxes was turned into Judge Stewart's court with which to pay it. A little more explanation is yet in order.

If the money that is appropriated for state colleges, should be added to the public school fund and the tax increased, if necessary, to make the public school fund amount to \$15 per scholar, don't you think the improvement in the quality resulting to the public schools all over the state, would be a greater attraction to the emigrant than our present condition in school matters?

Political Announcement

In this column will be published the announcements of any citizen who desires to be a candidate for any office, subject to the will of the voters at the forthcoming primaries.

To the Republican voters of Linn County:
I hereby announce myself as an aspirant, subject to your will at the forthcoming primary election, for the candidacy for the office of
COUNTY RECORDER
GRANT FROMAN,
Present Recorder.

To the Republican voters of Linn County:
I hereby announce myself as an aspirant, subject to your will at the forthcoming primary election, for the candidacy for the office of
COUNTY TREASURER
J. B. LEATHERMAN,
Albany, Oregon.

To the Republican Voters of Linn County:
I hereby announce myself an aspirant, subject to your will at the forthcoming primary election, for the candidacy for the office of
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
T. J. BUTLER,
Albany, Oregon.

To the Democratic Voters of Linn County:
I hereby announce myself an aspirant, subject to your will at the forthcoming primary election, for the candidacy for the office of
COUNTY JUDGE
C. H. STEWART,
Present County Judge.

To the Democratic Voters of Linn County:
I hereby announce myself as an aspirant, subject to your will at the forthcoming primary election, for the candidacy for the office of
COUNTY JUDGE
C. L. SHAW,
Price Precinct,
P. O. Albany, Oregon.

Only a Dog.

Bix is dead. Bix was a dog in the animal kingdom, but a tall man in the attributes of kindness and loyalty. He never spoke about his own virtues, but he showed them in his every day life. I wish I might know the man who gave the deadly poison to my dog. I have no desire to carry physical injury to that man, but only a desire to make him a better and a gentler man by painting for him a picture of poor Bix and his sufferings. For many days, under skillful treatment of a veterinary, and the nursing of those who loved him, Bix fought against the effects of the drug, never complaining, never showing resentment, rewarding every effort in his behalf with a wag of his tail or with an expression of thanks from his kindly eye. In the last effort of his life he dragged himself to my feet, raised his drooping muzzle and laid it in my hand, as if I've seen a child repose a weary head on mother's knee. Thus he died, and in the death-glass upon his crown eyes I thought I read a message of pardon for the whipping I gave him one day, when anger had driven from my head that fair sense of reason which should direct the movements of men, if not of dogs. I have never been able to accept the teaching of those ancients who held that at death time the souls of men and women sometimes are transferred to the bodies of birds and dogs, but if I could accept that view I should then believe that one day there lived upon the earth a rare and radiant soul within the body of the gentlest woman that ever came to brighten and bless the earth with her good presence, and that when she died the death of the body the gods transferred her soul to the body of poor Bix, so gracious and good he was. But I can't believe such things, and all that is left for me now is to give to Bix in my memory garden a place among the roses, with a promise and a pledge to strive to make my own life among men reflect somewhat the lessons in loyalty and kindness acquired by contact with my dog. And so, good Bix, good-bye.—Columbus (Neb.) Telegram.

In selecting a county officer, fitness qualification should rule, rather than political or charitable sentiment. A man may be a Democrat a Republican, a Prohibitionist or a Socialist, yet be dishonest or incompetent. He may be a cripple and worthy, yet not possess the ability to discharge the duties of an office properly. We are about to select a new board of county officers. A number of the present incumbents are standing for re-election. If they have discharged the duties of their respective offices, honestly, economically and capably; if they have been accommodating and impartial in their conduct with the public; if they have shown that they possess special fitness and capability for their respective positions, the NEWS believes they should be re-elected. Linn county is entitled to the very best service a public officer can give. If he has had experience which will enable him to give the public a better service

HI THERE!



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You don't have to stay in bed all the time just because you haven't clothes to wear. GET UP! Wrap a blanket around yourself! GET READY! Come along with us to the

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because of that fact, the NEWS thinks it would be foolish to turn him down and replace him with an untried man. On the other hand, a change might result in securing a better or more competent officer. But to make the change simply to "pass a good thing round" is certainly a manifestation of unwisdom which is deleterious to the public service. We are about to select public hired men. Let us use, at least, as good judgement as we do in selecting the private hired man. Banish sentiment and personal party favoritism, and think only of the good of the public and you will make no mistake.