

# The Santiam News.

OUR LEADING CANDIDATES.

**N**EXT TUESDAY, EITHER Mr. Taft or Mr. Bryan will be selected as successor to President Roosevelt. It is, therefore, not out of place for us to ascertain what manner of men they are and what would probably be the ruling influences which will surround the incoming administration.

Mr. Taft is essentially an aristocrat. His environment, during his entire life, has been aristocratic. Born of affluent and aristocratic parents, educated at an aristocratic college, his entire official career, covering a period of about 20 years is such that he would be more than human, if the molding of his character had not been along aristocratic lines. If, therefore, his public acts partook of an aristocratic coloring, or if his judicial decisions had a leaning towards the interests of the aristocratic and wealthy classes, it should not be a matter of surprise. Mr. Taft's environment, because of his candor, is his misfortune. But if he shall be elected, his misfortune will become the misfortune of the American people.

On the other hand, Mr. Bryan is of the common people. Born of humble parents, his boyhood was spent among the common people. Educated at Illinois college at Jacksonville, Illinois, his associations at that college were principally of farmer boys. After his graduation in the law school and his marriage, he removed to Lincoln, Neb., to commence life. It can be seen that Mr. Bryan's environment has been that of the common people. His associations and thought have been of the common people. In his mature years, he has been true to the associations of his early manhood. He has never outgrown them.

Within the next four years there will be many laws enacted by congress, which will be of vital importance to the common people. The power of the President, in the exercise of the veto, will be, no doubt, the deciding power which accepts or rejects these various proposed laws. Now which of these two candidates, because of his life's training, is the more apt to turn towards the interests of the common people?

Mr. Taft, as before stated, has held public office for nearly twenty years. But at no time has he received office at the hands of the people. Political pull has placed him in every public position which he has held. He has, at no time, felt that he was answerable to the people for the way in which he administered the affairs of the office he held. He necessarily felt under obligations to the power to which he owed his elevation to office.

Mr. Bryan's office holding has been limited to two terms of congress. He was indebted to the people for his political elevation and to the people and for the people he rendered service. Nor did this service cease with his membership of congress. He has been serving the people with tongue and pen continually down to the present time. At no period in his career has he been a servant of corporate or trust interests. Are not the people's interests safer in the hands of a man, who has never known master other than the people, than he who has known only political bosses as to whom to look for political advancement? Voter think of this matter seriously when you go into the election booth next Tuesday.

## THE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL.

**O**N NEXT TUESDAY every voter will have the opportunity of expressing his wish with reference to the establishment of these schools.

Possibly some of our readers may not know just what is meant by "County High School." They may not know just what scope these schools will cover, nor what will be the expense.

Should the question carry, then it will become the duty of the county court, in making the tax levy, to provide for a county high school tax. The court will probably make a levy of one mill for this purpose; which will provide a fund of, approximately, \$20,000. This fund will be used exclusively for the maintenance of high school.

The law contemplates that there may be a number of these high schools. In fact, any district or number of districts which can furnish a sufficient number of pupils to justify the employment of a proper teacher, and which has a proper building

may have one of these schools. Therefore, it may be considered that the expense of providing the necessary building, will be born by the district or districts desiring the school.

The court will probably appropriate the high school fund in accordance with the number of high school pupils, and the actual number of days attendance by such pupils. Lane county bases her payments on 20 cents per day per pupil. If a school of 20 pupils can be maintained, the per diem allowance would be \$4 per day or \$80 per school month of 20 days.

The law contemplates that these schools will add four courses to our present public school curriculum; or four additional years work to that now given by the public school.

It is a well known fact, that not more than 5 cent. of our boys and girls ever attend college. When they have completed the eighth grade, their school days are over. The proposed county high school will supply this lack of college training to a considerable degree, and at no greater expense than that involved in the public schools of to-day.

In point of expense, the increase in the amount of your taxes, will be insignificant. Only one dollar on each thousand of assessed value. The great gain will be made in causing the thousands of acres of timber lands, lying in Linn county, to help maintain these schools in any part of the county—a burden which they are now entirely free from.

Almost every town now has a building or buildings, suitable for high school work. Populous country districts, at small expense, can provide them and five or six districts in nearly any locality can supply pupils enough to justify the employment of a high school teacher.

By the adoption of this plan, a high school education is placed within the reach of nearly every boy and girl. And when a boy or girl has completed the twelfth grade in a creditable manner, he is fairly well equipped for the battle of life. If he or she wishes to carry the work further, the completion of the twelfth grade prepares one to enter the Freshman class at the State University.

As our readers well know, the NEWS has ever opposed the state college system, as at present organized and maintained. But the proposed high school plan is different. It enables every locality to reap the benefit of tax moneys devoted to that purpose; whereas the state colleges simply favor special localities at the expense of those not favored. Oregon, in comparison to most other states, is not quite up-to-date with her public schools. While other states have been pushing ahead in development along public school lines, Oregon has stood, practically, still. Indeed our backwardness, in this particular, is a bar to emigration. Washington, California and Idaho, all have a superior public school system to our own. True, our city schools are equal to the best that can be found in any state in the Union. But not so in the country districts. We are not treating the country boy and girl fairly. The county High School opens the way, by which we can give them what is justly their due, and place them on an equality with their city cousins. Let every friend of progress and justice to the country boy and girl, vote "Yes" for the County High School next Tuesday.

The Albany Herald, as managed for the past year, is certainly becoming, in some respects, a degenerate among newspapers. The NEWS will say nothing about the Herald's abuse of the business men of Albany. That is a matter which concerns the business men attacked and the Herald. But when that paper makes a positive untrue statement about a public political meeting in that city on the evening of October 24, a matter which concerns, not only the people of Albany, but those of other localities as well, then it is the duty of other newspapers to sit up and take notice. The Herald states "There was a notable lack of enthusiasm on the part of the ones present who numbered 25 men and boys." The Herald knows that it deliberately lied when it uttered this statement. Its purpose was to deceive people who were not present; for those present (a number sufficient to fill all the seats in the room) know how grossly untrue the statement is. A newspaper which will deliberately deceive its readers is unworthy of patronage by the people. Tell the truth brother even if it is not just the way you would like to have it.

Every voter should think well, when he goes into the booth next Tuesday, who is the true friend of the people. Mr. Taft is supported by all the trusts and favored interests in general. They know who their friend is. The friend of the people is not a friend of the people.

## AFTER THE ELECTION, WHAT?

We are told by our Republican friends that if Taft is elected, a general prosperity, such as this country has never seen, will immediately ensue; and that if Bryan is elected a general collapse of the financial world will result.

Most people know such talk is mere political claptrap; for which there is no foundation of fact. Such balderdash can only influence ignorant minds. It is nonsense to suppose that the election of any man, no matter what his political sentiments may be, will make any difference in the growth of crops; nor any material difference in the average amount of food consumed by the people. Just as much clothing will be needed and worn regardless as to who shall succeed Mr. Roosevelt.

So, no material change is expected in the immediate future, by thinking men, whether it will be Taft or Bryan. Factories will be run, crops will be grown, stock will be marketed just the same in either case.

Should Mr. Bryan be elected, the senate at all events would be under the control of the Republicans. No revolutionary change in the financial conduct of the government, could be made for two years, without the consent of the senate; even if Mr. Bryan and a Democratic house should be elected. Mr. Bryan should be given credit as being a man of ordinary intellectual ability at least. He would be ambitious to have the country move along in a reasonably prosperous condition. Hence no abrupt changes in the political policies may be expected. And any changes would be made so gradually that the

business world will have ample time to adjust itself to the new conditions. Undoubtedly an endeavor would be made to reduce the tariff, and to curtail the privileges of the trusts. But as these changes are desired by the people in general, it is difficult to see wherein any body will be injured, save the trusts and tariff beneficiaries themselves. It would be no great hardship upon the American people, if the trusts should be compelled to sell their products as cheaply to the American as they do to foreign people.

Oh no! We need have no fear that crops will cease growing, nor that the people will abandon the use of clothing, should Mr. Bryan be the winner. Food will still be required to sustain life. The cows will still give milk, in case the Nebraskan shall be promoted to the White House. People are largely out

of debt and most of them have money in the bank, or cashed away in old stockings. So long as people have money they will buy. They will build houses and barns and other building enterprises will go on. Manufacturing establishments will still make cloth, steel goods, etc., so long as they can sell them and, therefore, labor will be employed the same as if Mr. Taft should be elected.

But suppose these dire disasters, which Republicans tell about, should come? Suppose these people, who are said to possess the powers, should bring on a financial collapse, as a means of disciplining the American people? Don't you believe it is high time that we, the people, should find out who is boss? Are we slaves or curs that we should cower before threats that emanate from predatory wealth?

When piracy was rampant on the Mediterranean sea and the American shipping, for a time, was forced to pay tribute to those North Africans, a single sentence, uttered in the halls of congress, aroused the fires of patriotism in the bosoms of the people. "Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute," was the words that sent the Intrepid Decatur to punish a foreign foe. Let us meet this greater foe to the liberty to the people, with the same spirit that sent our ships of war to punish the Algerian pirates.

If we are servants or slaves to the predatory classes, the quicker we find it out the better for us. If Mr. Bryan's election will bring this result to pass it is sufficient cause for his success on next Tuesday. Let the people, not the predatory rich, rule. No man, who has true interest of the American people at heart, will object to the rule of the majority. All others are enemies to our American institutions.

Just think about it! You can't even ask a man, how he is going to vote for the purpose of influencing his vote, on election day. You can only talk about the weather or about your wife's brother-in-law's black cat and kindred subjects. The Hunley corrupt practices act will be in force for the first time.

It's an even bet that President Roosevelt will be making speeches in New York before election day.

## Two Political Meetings.

Last week, while the NEWS man was in Albany, two political meetings occurred. As we deem it proper and right for the voter to hear the political issues discussed from the view point of both the leading political parties we made it a point to be present when Presidential Elector Butler, of the Republican party was billed as the chief speaker of the evening. The B. P. O. E. band was engaged for the occasion and rendered a number of very fine selections both in front of the Revere house and at the Court house.

When we arrived in the court room there were probably 25 auditors present. This number was increased from time to time, until 43 people were seated as the audience. After waiting for a full half hour for the audience that never came, Chairman Carl called the meeting to order. After apologizing for the smallness of the audience and, also, apologizing to the young men who were to address the audience, he introduced Presidential Elector Butler. Mr. Butler can not be regarded as eloquent, nor a deep reasoner. His address was made up of unsupported assertions, some true and some false, and eulogy of the Republican party. He was not sure at times, whether he was quoting the Bible or the Republican platform. The speaker, evidently, felt sorry that there were so few Republicans out to hear him. So was several Democrats who were present; for they feel sure that some of the absent Republicans would have become converted to the Bryan standard.

On Saturday evening at the same time and place political meeting No. 2 occurred. As before, the band rendered excellent music both on the street and in the court room. No waiting for an audience was necessary, for every available seat was occupied. At the conclusion of the band music, Chairman Biven, in a few appropriate words, introduced Senator M. A. Miller as the first speaker. Mr. Miller did not talk more than 30 minutes. His talk, however, was upon the leading issues and received frequent applause. He soon gave way to Hon. E. S. J. McAlister, who is one of the candidates for presidential elector on the Democratic ticket. The speaker did not attempt to be eloquent, nor to paint fanciful word pictures. But he presented an array of facts relative to the campaign issues, with such unanswerable reasoning that his large audience attested its satisfaction with frequent bursts of applause. Mr. McAlister makes Bryan votes wherever he goes. He should be kept at the work until the last day of the campaign.

If these two meetings at Albany evidenced the political feeling of Linn County, Mr. Bryan will carry the county by a very large majority.

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