

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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MINORITY PARTIES.

A MINORITY PARTY, in our political system serves a better and more useful purpose than simply to be defeated. The majority party or the party that is successful, is satisfied with the conditions that exist; while the minority party in its efforts to gain the ascendancy, necessarily advocates the reform or reforms which the people demand. The minority party is the real driving element in progress. While it often makes the mistake of pushing a reform to the front, before the people are educated up to the importance of the reform still, if the measure is worthy, the majority party soon incorporates it in its platform of principles and, as a result, the measure is, in the end, enacted into laws.

The editor of the News remembers well when the Republican, the now dominant party, was the minority party. The reform which that party was endeavoring to make a policy of government, was a resistance to the spread of human slavery. Men and women who are now among the oldest of our citizens, remember well the intense interest of the people in the campaigns of the anti-civil war days. Men gave an earnestness to the campaigns of those days that is entirely lacking in modern campaigns. In those days Republicans regarded Democrats as personal enemies, and vice versa, because of the intense political feeling. But, in the end, the resistance to the spread of human slavery was successful. Why? Because the principle is right. Nevertheless slavery was the cause of the bloodiest war which the pages of history record, the right was triumphant, as the right must always triumph, in the end.

Abraham Lincoln is regarded as one of the greatest men this nation has ever produced. Why? Because he had a mind broad enough to see and advocate the rights of human kind, from the highest to the lowest. He believed that the interests of a man or of men should be given the preference when the man and the dollar seemed to clash. To him it mattered not whether a man was white or black, when considering the inalienable right to live, to breathe and to enjoy the fruits of his labor. In his opinion no man was good enough to govern another without that other's consent and, to this principle, he devoted his energy and life. He lived to see the shackles struck from four millions of human beings whom he believed had the same right to exist, and to enjoy the fruits of his labor as he did. No one, at this time, will say that the principle for which Mr. Lincoln contended was not right. It required more than a half century of education to establish the principle and truth of the Declaration of Independence. But from a handful of abolitionist, grew a minority party of respectability, whose teaching educated the American people to the justice of human liberty.

During the decade from 1880 to 1890, a small body of farmers associated themselves in what was then known as "The Farmers Alliance." They formulated a code of principles, based upon justice and right. From this alliance grew the Populist and People's party. The mission of this minority party, which was given birth by the long whiskered grangers, was to educate the people. All can remember how these bewhiskered Populists were ridiculed and caricatured. But the precepts they taught are largely now incorporated into the laws of the nation.

Likewise have the principles which Mr. Bryan advocated, become the law of the land. The measures and principles advocated by President Roosevelt in his messages to Congress, of a reformatory character, were advocated by Mr. Bryan before Theodore Roosevelt was inaugurated President. And the reforms upon which Mr. Bryan has gone down to his third defeat, are just as sure to become laws in the near distant future as the sun shines. The guaranty of bank deposits; the election of United States senators by the direct vote of the people; the establishing of the physical value of the railroads, and the publication of campaign contributions before election, are all measures based upon justice and right. Just as soon as the people become educated to the justice and right of

these measures, will they become the law of the land.

Socialism and Prohibition, are both educatory forces that are sure to have an influence in the political policies of the country in the future. Not the impractical theories taught, but all portions of the teachings of these now significant minority parties, which are found to be right and practical by the people, will be adopted. One is safe in making the assertion that no political party has ever existed, which has not been of an educatory character and which has not left an impress of good behind it. It matters not whether a party over gravitates to great political power. Such of its teachings as are just and right, are adopted, in whole or in part, by the law-making or ruling power.

So minority parties should not be discouraged. Just in proportion as they teach truth and justice, will their mission among men be valued. When we know that the political party in power never originates measures of progress, and that all such measures come from the teachings of minority parties, then will we begin to appreciate the value to society, of the minority party. Indeed the minority party is the only hindrance to unbridled corruption of the majority party. Without strong influence of the minority party or parties, on our politics, progress would be blocked and the decline of the nation immediately commences. The minority party is as valuable to our body politic as is the majority. So, though defeated and seemingly annihilated in many of the states, Democracy has yet a most important work to do in the political economy of the nation.

THE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL.

OWING TO THE FACT THAT THE County High School carried by the narrow margin of 62 votes it is, probably, in order to explain just what the term "County High School" implies, as interpreted by the petitioners.

The law under which the petition to the County Court was framed, has several provisions. One of these provisions authorizes the County High School board to select some point in the county and there erect a High School building and therein maintain a County High School. Another feature of the law authorizes the County High School board to contract with any High School in the county, to teach any or all of the High School pupils in the county. This is the provision of the law under which the petition was formulated. The court evidently has authority to contract with one or more high schools to teach the County High School pupils. The natural inference is that the County Court will authorize any High School in the county, to teach any High School pupils, who may apply.

The court will levy the High School tax, which will probably be one mill on the thousand dollars of assessed valuation, and make an order for the payment of a stated amount per diem for each High School pupil and then let the matter rest; leaving all else to the initiative of any school district in the county.

High Schools will probably be instituted in most of the towns and in the populated country districts. Harrisburg, Halsey, Shedd, Tangent, Oakville, Albany, Oakville, Brownsville, Sodaville, Lebanon, Sweet Home, Seio, Lyons, Jordan and, perhaps, other points will be open to any high school pupils of the county who may wish to attend.

To illustrate the plan: Seio has an ample school building. Within easy touch of Seio are six or seven districts, whose pupils, after passing the eight grade, could attend. Most of these pupils would board at home while doing so. Such a condition is just what our lawmakers intended to reach. They wanted to place the High School within the reach of all; and the law under which the measure has just passed, makes that condition as nearly possible to all as legal enactment could foresee. As a matter of fact it is not possible to have a high school situate next door to all who would patronize it. Necessarily some will be situated more conveniently than others; and the principle of the greatest good for the greatest number will, in justice, have to maintain. As a consequence, the towns, in most cases, will be the seats of the high schools. Yet there is no reason why populous and remote country districts, may not have them as well. There is no reason why Jordan and the surrounding districts could not maintain and support the high school grades.

The County Court will be likely to commence the application of the law in Linn county as outlined above for the reason that the county, as a whole, would be relieved of the expense of furnishing the building or buildings. This particular portion of the burden would devolve upon any particular districts or districts, desiring to avail of the privileges. Likewise the Court or County School board would be relieved of any care in the matter, further than to see that the various district school boards carried out the interest the law.

It is believed that by adding one mill to the tax levy, a fund ample to meet all expense of the County High Schools, will be obtained. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the term "County High School" was mentioned in the singular number, as placed upon the ballot. As the plan of calling out the vote was originated in Seio, it is proper for Seio to explain what was desired, in the petition.

Seio expects to be the seat of one of these County High Schools. Albany, Lebanon, Brownsville and the other county towns, doubtless, expect

to be equally favored. The provision of the law under which the measure was invoked, and which permits the court to contract with any district to teach any or all of the County High School pupils. Hence the court will be apt to establish a code of rules of a general character, so that any district complying with these rules, can avail itself of the high school privilege.

This class of higher education is what the News has always contended for. As all of the people pay the tax, the High School privilege should be made as nearly available to all as may be. In other words, it makes it possible for every tax payer who contributes to the High School tax, to get a direct return for his money. In the case of the state colleges, the return is remote.

It is now in order for adjoining school districts to form Union High School districts, provide the necessary building and be ready to take up the High School work, next year.

The County Court should, at an early day, formulate and declare its plans under which the work can be taken up. The question is not optional with the court. The people have made the order; the province of the court is to obey. Let us hope that the County Court and all concerned, will enter into the matter with a purpose single to the building and maintaining the best possible degree of efficiency in our public school system. It means progress to every neighborhood and the establishing of a higher class of citizenship.

"Good road" is a measure that will probably attract quite a good deal of attention, at the legislature.

Does it not make you think a little more of the enterprise of a farmer to get a letter from him on a neat letter-head advertising his specialty, if he has one, and every farmer ought to make a specialty of some one branch of his business, or a modest cut of his farm buildings or the name of his "ranch" and correct postoffice address printed in plain characters.

The Oregonian is bringing every possible argument to bear to cause the Republican legislators to violate the voluntary pledge they made the people last spring. These pledged legislators, by their pledges say "Let the people rule." The Oregonian advises them to not obey the people, but to obey the bosses, if which that paper aspires to be the chief. As for the argument that to obey legislators by a pledge is in violation of the Federal constitution, it is simply nonsense. There is not a word or syllable in the venerable document that prevents the representative to represent the people. The name "Representative" implies that the legislator is to represent, what? The only answer admissible is "The will of the people." The majority or a plurality of the people said they wanted Governor Chamberlain as one of their United States senators. Despite the fact that he is a Democrat, they preferred him to Mr. Calkins and Mr. Calkins to Senator Fulton. Now as a matter of fact if the Governor was a Republican, the Oregonian would shout loudly and often "Let the voice of the people be obeyed." But this independent newspaper, which secured its fealty to the Republican party some months ago, is so intensely partisan that it advises men to commit moral perjury rather than to elect a Democrat to this high office, in accordance with the people's direction. The Oregonian is willing for the people to rule as long as they rule in accordance with its wishes; but not otherwise. If these pledged legislators are MEN, they will invite the Oregonian and all such advisers to go to Hades and prove to the world that their allegiance to truth and veracity is greater than their partisanship. The big daily evidently believes that these pledged legislators are either fools or scoundrels and it is not very particular which, so long as they do not vote for Chamberlain.

Mr. Taft was on Tuesday last elected President by a large majority. A solid South, with three or four small states West of the Mississippi, sustained Mr. Bryan, but the rest, aggregating a vast majority, were for Taft and Sherman. The most marked returns were from New York City, which gave a majority to the Republican candidates, which shows either treachery on the part of Tammany or that the great money center discounted in advance any possible excuse that the stock manipulators might conjure up upon to bury the market.

Perhaps Mr. Taft, in education, experience, training and intimate acquaintance with public affairs, is the best equipped man ever elected President. He has, with all, a temperament perfectly balanced for the exalted place. He is calm, deliberate of judgment, kindly of nature, self-poised and strong. He ought to exit the high office. So trained a jurist as he, will naturally insist upon obedience to the laws, but so broad is his patriotism, so profound his reverence for peace, that there will be no outbreaks of rage from him, no threats, no unseemly criticisms—in short, the very opposite of what we have become accustomed to. He will be much such a President as was Mr. McKinley, but stronger; his judgment

will be as steady as was Mr. Harrison's, his nature as kindly as was Mr. Lincoln's. His administration ought to draw the people nearer together and invoke a deeper patriotism among them. —Goodwin's week!

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION.

On October 31 the president issued the annual Thanksgiving proclamation, in which he pointed out the steady growth of the nation in strength, worldly power, wealth and population, and that the average of individual comfort and well-being is higher than that of any other country in the world. For this, he declares, Americans owe it to the Almighty to show equal progress in moral and spiritual things. The proclamation follows:

By the president of the United States of America—A proclamation. Once again the season is at hand when, according to the ancient custom of our people, it becomes the duty of the president to appoint a day of prayer and thanksgiving to God.

Year by year this nation grows in strength and worldly power. During the century and quarter that has elapsed since our entry into the circle of independent peoples we have grown and prospered in material things to a degree never known before, and not known in any other country. The thirteen colonies which struggled along the seacoast of the Atlantic and were hemmed in but a few miles West of tidewater by the Indian-haunted wilderness, have been transformed into the mightiest republic which the world has ever seen. The domains stretch across the continent from one to the other of the two great oceans, and it exercises dominion alike in the Arctic and tropic realms. The growth in wealth and population has surpassed even the growth in territory. Nowhere else in the world is the average of individual comfort and material well-being as high as in our fortunate land.

For the very reason that in material well-being we have thus advanced, we owe to the Almighty to show equal progress in moral and spiritual things. With a nation, as with the individuals who make a nation, material well-being is an indispensable foundation. But the foundation avails nothing by itself. That life is wasted, and worse than wasted, which is spent in piling heap on heap, those things which minister materially to the pleasure of the body and to the power that rests only on wealth. Upon material well-being as a foundation must be raised the structure of the lofty life of the spirit, if this

nation is properly to fulfill its great mission and to accomplish all that we so ardently hope and desire.

The things of the body are good; the things of the intellect better; but best of all are the things of the soul, for, in the nation, as in the individual, in the long run it is character that counts. Let us therefore, as a people, set our faces resolutely against evil and with broad charity, with kindness and good will toward all men, but with unflinching determination to smite down wrong, strive with all the strength that is given us for righteousness in public and private life.

Now, therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States, do set apart Thursday, the 26th day of November next, as a day of general thanksgiving and prayer, and on that day I command that the people shall cease from their daily work, and, in their homes, or in their churches, meet devoutly to thank the Almighty for the many and great blessings they have received in the past, and to pray that they may be given strength so to order their lives as to deserve a continuance of these blessings in the future.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this 31st day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eight, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-third.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.
By the president: Alvey A. Adee,
acting secretary of state.

T. L. DUGGER Notary Public

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