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LET THE PEOPLE RULE.

IN A FEW WEEKS our legislature will assemble in, probably, one of the most important sessions in the history of the legislatures of Oregon. It is important, because one of the principle reforms adopted by the people of Oregon, is to be assaulted by all the force and vigor its enemies can bring to bear. The overthrow of our direct primary law, including Statement No. 1, is and will be the object of this assault.

It, therefore, behooves the friends of this reform and that of direct legislation, to organize and arm themselves for the battle.

Of the 90 members of the legislature, 51 are pledged to Statement No. 1; 38 are opposed to the Statement and one member is independent. Statement No. 1 members have a majority of each house and a majority in joint session, exclusive of the Independent member, of 13. Fifteen of the ninety members are Democrats; all of whom have subscribed to Statement No. 1. If the Independent member will stand with the Statement 1 Republicans, that party will just be equally divided as regards Statement No. 1.

The first business, when the legislators assemble, will be organization. The anti-Statement members will make strenuous efforts, through a preliminary caucus of the Republican members, to secure the organization of each branch. Right here is where the friends of the Direct Primary and of Direct Legislation, should stand firmly together. Both Houses should be organized by Statement 1 members; for if they fail in organization, they will have lost a point of vantage which will be seriously against them during the entire session.

Statement No. 1 members, regardless of political sentiment, should hold a caucus prior to opening day and agree upon candidates for the respective officers of each House. There should be neither Republicans nor Democrats; but Statement and anti-Statement members at this session.

To this end, all Statement members, in either House, should act in harmony, secure the chairmanship of committees and thus place themselves in a position to maintain the Primary and Direct Legislation laws, else these measures are sure to be effected by antagonistic legislation. Democratic members should be willing to meet Republican Statement members more than half way; for do not all of them stand pledged to vote for Governor Chamberlain for U. S. senator? Then go into the caucus and assist in the organization. Help elect a Statement 1 Republican president and a like speaker. You will lose nothing in committee assignments, besides you will weld together the Statement members in a solid phalanx, capable of successfully withstanding any assaults upon the reforms, which the people have placed on our statute books, which may be brought.

As stated in the beginning of this article, the coming session is a most important one. It will maintain reform legislation already secured, if reform members simply stand firmly.

The very strongest appeals to partisan prejudice will be made, accompanied by political threats, dire and dangerous. But members should place honorable citizenship above partyism.

The NEWS believes all of the Statement No. 1 members are honorable men and that they will firmly stand to the pledge they voluntarily made the people. They cannot do otherwise if they would return to their families and constituents with stainless names. In politics no honorable advantage should be neglected. The organization and control of legislative committees can and will maintain a dominating influence over legislation during the entire session. But no compromising or selfish combinations should be entered into. Every member should be free to vote upon every measure as his sense of justice and duty to the people may dictate.

The NEWS believes it is important to the state of Oregon that Governor Chamberlain should be elected United States senator. Not because of his personality or political sentiment; but because

HE IS THE CHOICE OF THE PEOPLE and his election will maintain the indirect method of election of United States senator, by the people of Oregon. We believe that the reform legislation now on our statute books, should be maintained; and that all honorable means, to defeat the efforts of the Oregonian and other would be political bosses who are endeavoring to defeat the will of the people, should be employed.

Oregon may be denominated "The Freak State" by the political machines and bosses throughout the country. But when it is found that this "Freak" legislation is successful and gives to the people a more honest administration of public affairs, then will these other states begin to sit up and take notice. Our legislators hold the honor and integrity of the people of Oregon in their hands. With them rests the power to make Oregon the admiration of her sister states; because of her political honor and integrity or, on the other hand, to place her on a par with other states which are controlled by grafters and political degenerates. No man, who believes in the rule of the majority and in honesty and square dealing, will assist these contemned petty politicians, in their attempt to defeat the voice of the people. Their methods and principles are of the Smitz-Ruef brand.

BORROWED PROSPERITY.

CORVALLIS BOASTS of having constructed 200 dwelling houses during the present year. Eugene, also, tells of her paved streets, dwellings and business blocks as well. These evidences of prosperity are a matter of gratification to the citizens of Oregon, other than those who reside within the corporate limits of these prosperous towns; for every citizen of Oregon is interested, indirectly, in the financial prosperity of each. Every taxpayer in Oregon is assisting in the prosperity of both cities to some considerable extent.

Corvallis has the largest educational institute in the state. The enrollment at the Oregon Agricultural college has passed the 1000 mark this year. Of this number probably 900 are not residents of Corvallis. These students expend, probably, not less than \$200 each during the school year; which amounts to \$180,000, spent annually with the merchants and boarding house keepers of that town. Then the annual appropriation by the state of \$59,000 and of half that amount by the Federal government, besides an average special appropriation by the state of \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually makes a total of nearly \$300,000 which is, practically, all expended with the Corvallis business men, boarding houses, mechanics, sawmills, etc. This amount, in addition to the ordinary patronage which the surrounding country supplies, ought to make Corvallis a reasonably prosperous town, to be sure.

What is true of Corvallis is more or less true of Eugene. The expenditures on account of the Oregon Agricultural college and the University of Oregon, about all of which go into the money tills of the merchants of these respective towns, supply the place of a magnificent payroll. As a natural consequence Corvallis and Eugene are among the most progressive and prosperous towns of Oregon. The same conditions would make any other towns equally prosperous.

But suppose, for instance, that the splendid income from these two big schools should cease. The result can easily be foretold. Decay, empty houses, broken merchants, and general retrogression would follow. So, while our neighbors are to be congratulated in their prosperity they should not forget that their prosperity is due to the people of the entire state, rather than to the exertions of their own citizens. There are other cities and towns in Oregon which are equally prosperous, whose prosperity is due to the enterprise of their own citizens.

TARIFF REVISION.

IF THE QUESTION OF "Tariff Revision" could be submitted to a vote of the American people, provided the measure was disconnected with any entangling alliance with any other question, there is no doubt but what the people would pronounce largely in favor of a revision downward. The tariff has been a bone of contention in our national legislative halls, almost from the date of the organization of the government.

The questions "What is the object of a tariff?" and "What is the tariff?" may require explanation for the benefit of some of the readers of the NEWS, especially the boys and girls, and for their benefit we will endeavor to answer the questions.

What is the tariff? It is a sum of money which our government requires for the privilege of selling foreign made or produced commodities, in the markets of the United States. Boys, your school books will tell you that there is two methods of assessing these duties, viz. Specific and Advalorum. The specific duty is a stated amount of money required for each article, regardless of its value. The advalorum duty is a stated per cent. upon its value.

What is the object of the tariff? Primarily, to raise money for the support of the general government. This was the only purpose of the tariff until about the closing of the civil war when the second purpose was declared, viz. "As a protection to our infant industries."

Since the civil war there has been some four or five revisions of the tariff. Strange to relate every revision, as a whole, has been upward. Instead, however, of a corresponding increase of revenue to the government, the result has been the reverse.

As stated above, the primary purpose of the tariff is to produce revenue for the government. Hence the duty should be placed at the highest figure admissible with a free importation of the foreign commodity. For it is readily seen that, at some point, a duty would become prohibitive to importers; whence the revenue would cease. Or the duty may be placed so low that the revenue arising would be consumed by the expense of collection. Somewhere between these two extremes, the duty should be placed, which is the Democratic idea of "A tariff for revenue only." Since the day when the civil war or Morrill tariff law was enacted, every revision has been made with the Republican plan of "A tariff for the protection of our infant industries" as the basis or object. As only the interested "infant" has been consulted in every subsequent revision, the rule has been to revise upward whenever any tariff tinkering was thought necessary. Tariff revision was one of the issues of the political campaign just closed and a special session of congress will be called soon after March 4 next, to consider this subject.

As the Republican idea is "A tariff for protection" we may expect that the new tariff will be adjusted along lines satisfactory to the friends of the protection theory. Indeed, the testimony being now taken by the tariff commission, indicates that the protected "infants" are not to be molested materially. But the friends of the protection theory have lately heard from the people on this subject. A number of the most pronounced protection congressmen failed to be re-elected and it is just possible that the new congress may conclude that the people most receive consideration in the arrangement of the new schedules.

Evidence can be produced that because of the protection our present tariff given to the manufacture of steel rails, road rails, rails are sold in the American market for more than double the price at which they can be profitably manufactured for. Andrew Carnegie is authority for this statement. That steel rails can be manufactured at a profit of \$14.50 per ton. They are now sold to our railroads at \$30.00 per ton. What is true of the railroad material is true of most all other products of our infant (?) industries. The people who are the consumers, are paying from 5 to 10 per cent. more for manufactures good than, in justice, they ought to pay. The Republican plan of a tariff for protection, is wholly responsible for this condition.

For many years the Republican party claimed that high protection enabled the manufacturer to pay a corresponding high wage to his employees. But this claim or argument has been so easily punctured—it is false—so plainly shown, that we now rarely hear it mentioned. The fact is, protection enables the manufacturer to multiply his profits; and the increased price for an article, which our protection tariff laws enables him to exact, simply adds to his already reasonable profit.

Andrew Carnegie commenced the manufacture of steel in his young manhood, comparatively a poor man. In a business life of not more than 40 years, he accumulated a fortune of, it is said, nearly a half billion dollars. Our protection tariff laws enabled him to do this. The American people earned this money; not Andrew Carnegie. Our tariff laws simply enabled Mr. Carnegie to take money from the people's pockets and place it in his own. Now Mr. Carnegie can not be blamed for doing this. He did not create the condition that made the accumulation of this vast fortune possible. The fault lies with our law makers and to them must we look for the remedy.

Suppose the new tariff law should be enacted with a view of the greatest good for the greatest number of the people. This should be the basic principle in the enactment of all laws, that would be the result? The tariff schedule would be arranged with a view of encouraging the importation of foreign made goods. A large revenue for the government would result. This would enable liberal appropriations to be made for the improvement of our rivers and harbors and other beneficial purposes. The foreign manufacturer would become a competitor in our market with our American manufacturer. A necessary result would be better articles at cheaper prices.

If congress will look at these matters from the consumers view point, a substantial reduction in the tariff schedules will result. But if the manufacturer's interests alone are consulted, which now seems probable, we are not likely to see any material reduction.

Until tariff reduction is made a campaign issue and a congress friendly to reduction is elected, the American people will continue to pay tribute to the manufacturers. The necessity of protection for our infant (?) industries exists no longer. We can and do compete in the markets of the world with the manufacturers of other nations. We sell woolen and cotton goods, shoes, steel goods of all kinds, farming machinery, locomotives to foreigners, and deliver them in a foreign market at a less price than the same goods can be bought in our home market for. Possibly the big profit of our infant (?) industries are also in demand from the American consumer, enable the infants (?) to enter the foreign market and compete with the manufacturers of these other countries. But is it right to do this? The American people, as a rule, are opposed to the payment of subsidies. Yet our high tariff laws forces the people to pay exorbitant subsidies, in the way of high prices, to our protected manufacturing industries. Is it just? For over 40 years the American manufacturer has been protected at the expense of the American people. It is quite time for this order to be reversed. But come to think about it, there is no body to blame but the American voter. This unjust state of affairs could have been rectified years ago, had not the people been asleep to their rights and privileges.

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