

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

WE WANT TO KNOW.

THE TAXPAYERS OF Oregon are required to pay out a large amount of money annually, for the support of the various state institutions. Most of these institutions render itemized statements of the sums expended, showing for what and to whom the taxpayers' money is paid. We are thus informed how much and to whom money is paid in the conduct of the various departments of state, the penitentiary, the insane asylum, the schools for the blind, deaf and dumb and for the state's bad boys. We know how much salary each employe gets in all of these institutions. Also, we know what the state pays to each of the employes of the Soldiers home. But when we come to the state schools, the salary list is not given. We do not know how many teachers are employed at any of these schools, nor how much they are paid.

Now this is a condition that ought not to exist. There should be publicity of the management and expense of all these schools. To simply state how much is paid for salaries, how much for buildings and how much for incidental expense is not sufficient. We want a little more specialization, and we have a right to know.

The management of both the State University and the State Agricultural College are entirely too secret to suit the people. We know that a large amount of money is expended at each of these institutions annually; but there our knowledge ceases. We do not know how many teachers are employed at either institution; nor how much they are paid. On these matters the people know nothing. They simply know that the state expends something over \$100,000 each year to maintain these schools, and then their knowledge ends. Now the people, who foot the bills, are not now nor will not long be satisfied with this meager knowledge of how their moneys are expended. We are justly entitled to and will know about these things. At the same time, the people do not claim there is anything wrong in the management of either of these institutions. It is publicity we want and to which the taxpayers are entitled. It has frequently occurred that state institutions have come to grief and the management disgraced, simply because there was too great secrecy in their management. The people of Oregon do not desire that any of her institutions shall suffer in this way. Publicity of expenditures, in an itemized manner, will tend to prevent both dishonesty and extravagance; while it will not injure the proper conduct or management in the least. The News has lately received a pamphlet, issued by Dr. Kerr, of the O. A. C. In this pamphlet the sources of revenue of this institution are given. But it is entirely silent in regard to the expenditures other than in a general way. What the people want, Dr. Kerr, is a balance sheet, showing the receipts and an itemized list of disbursements. We knew before the publication of this pamphlet, what the receipts were and from whence they came. But we do not know nor do we have any means of knowing, how these funds are expended.

THE CONTRACT IS BINDING.

The law governing contracts and agreements, is so generally well understood, that anything of an explanatory nature is superfluous. We all understand that when two parties agree to do anything and one of the parties does the thing the contract or agreement requires him to do, the other party becomes morally and legally responsible for his end of the bargain. For instance, if A employs B to do a certain work, for a specific payment, and A does the work, B is held responsible. Or if B should pay in advance for the work or whatever may be the consideration, then A becomes responsible. But, if before either A or B commences to do or has done any part of what the contract calls for, then, at the instance of either party, the contract may be abrogated. But if either party has performed the part stipulated for him to do, the other must comply with his part. Everybody understands these propositions. They enter into the daily life of everyone. Now the contract that Statement No. 1 legislators made with the people, is not an unusual one. Legislative candidates have made contracts with the people in the past and will make them in the future. Indeed, every man who becomes a candidate for any office, legislative or otherwise makes a contract with the people. That is to say he agrees to do certain things—to be controlled by certain principles if the people will give him their votes. Now it is very evident that this contract becomes binding only when the people have elected the candidate by giving him their votes. In which case, the legislator, if such be the office, becomes obligated to do the things he promised when on the campaign, to do. The contract is just as simple as if the legislator had been employed to do any other class of work.

When he is inducted into office, he makes oath that his legislative action shall conform to the requirements of the constitution of the state of Oregon and of the United States. If during the

campaign, he promised to do anything which conflicts with constitutional law his oath or office would become a bar to such action. But all things else he promised, he is morally obligated to execute every means at his command to do.

Fifty-one legislators obligated themselves to make the people's choice for United States senator, their choice. There is not a line in either Federal or state constitution which such pledge or contract violates. Indeed, the spirit of our form of government—the rule of the majority sections such a course. And as the people have complied with their part of the agreement, there is but one thing the pledged legislator can honorably do and that is, to conform to his part of the contract. True, he might refuse to live up to the conditions of his pledge. But who would ever have anything to do with or have any confidence in a wretch—a betrayer of trusts?

In Multnomah county petitions are being circulated for the purpose of releasing the legislators, elected in that county, from their pledges. Now it is plain to see that only voters who voted for these pledged members, are proper petitioners. Those who voted for the anti-statement members, in that county, have no more right to sign a petition of release, than if they lived in the state of Missouri. And unless every voter who voted for Statement One, signs the petition of release, the contract remains binding. As it will be impossible to get all of these signatures, our Multnomah brethren are simply butting at a stone wall.

Machine politicians and machine methods die hard. They have manipulated and controlled political matters so long that they have come to look upon politics as vested rights, of which the people have no right to divest them. Well it may be a little tough for these parascrappers to have to rustle for a living like the rest of us, but they will probably have to rustle.

But these Multnomah people have no moral right to petition men to do

We do not know how many teachers are employed; nor what salary they receive. Nor do we know whether any of the state funds are used to maintain a foot ball team, or not.

There are a great many things you can tell us, Dr. Kerr, by which we will become better acquainted with you and your methods. And as you are in the employ of the people, Doctor, we the people, have a right to know what kind of service you are giving us. An itemized balance sheet will give the publicity the people want. And as a printing office is a part of the equipment of the institution over which you preside, the expense of making the financial exhibit would be nominal.

What the people desire of the Corvallis school, they desire of the Oregon University and the normal schools as well. The very best way to allay all suspicion of wrong doing and to prevent extravagance, is plain statement of expenditures.

We require financial statements from our banks and large corporations and from our state elements vary institutes. Why not place our state schools upon the same basis? Publicity of public expenditures should apply to all of our public and semi-public institutions.

NOTHING BUT DISHONOR.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO quite understand just what ideas actuate Senator Fulton in his endeavor to overcome the voice of the people in the selection of a successor to himself in the United States senate. No man who is a good citizen and who has a proper estimate of the relation of an office holder to the people, should desire to hold a public office when he knows that a majority of the people are opposed to him. Senator Fulton knows that he was turned down at the primaries last spring, and that Mr. Cake, who triumphed over him at that time, was turned down at the June election. The people, President Roosevelt and President elect Taft knows this fact as well. And everybody says "Let the people rule" except Senator Fulton and a handful of machine politicians here in Oregon. Had Senator Fulton bowed to the voice of the people, as any honorable man should, he could have retired from the Senate on March 4 next still retaining the respect of the people. Now, having failed in having both President Roosevelt and Mr. Taft to use their great influence to break down the Oregon primary law, he will retire at the end of his term, a disgraced man.

Most people would have forgotten the association given him with land fraud matters last spring, by Mr. Heney, if he (Senator Fulton) had taken a manly, dignified course in this senatorial matter. But now, that he has attempted to secure his re-election to that office, by the disgrace and dishonor of members of the Oregon legislature, the people will conclude that he was none too good to participate in a land fraud, and that Mr. Heney had ample cause to make the accusations he made.

Senator Fulton you have made a grave tactical mistake; a mistake that only a petty, office seeking, narrow minded, small souled politician would make. And you will retire from office knowing that you and your methods are despised by all honorable, fair dealing people. Oregon would have been glad to have you retire with honor; but she is more glad that you are likely to fail in your efforts to dishonor her legislature.

wrong; to violate their honor as citizens; to do a deed which will not only dishonor themselves, but their wives, children and friends, as well. They have no right to attempt to have the will of the majority of the people set aside. They—these petitioners—cannot be good citizens when they advise and demand that men shall commit moral perjury. And every man, who places his name on one of these petitions, places it upon a roll of dishonor. It won't do gentlemen. No honorable man will ask his neighbor to do a dishonorable deed—to commit an act of infamy. Statement One legislators should deem a petition of this kind an insult and unworthy of notice.

\$31 For an Ear of Corn.

A large number of our citizens attended the Corn Show held in Springfield last week. The show was a great success. The display of corn was most attractive and interested thousands of people. The other features of the show were likewise attractive. Doubtless the most fascinating of these was the exhibit of the game birds from the State Game Farm. That alone was worth the price of admission. People have read about this game farm and the work which is done, but at the Springfield Corn Show they were enabled to see "with their own eyes." It was a substantial demonstration of what well directed efforts will accomplish.

One of the features of the Corn Show was the sale of the prize winning exhibits. Ten ears of yellow corn that had won nearly \$1,000 in cash and about \$1,500 in merchandise prizes were put up at auction and sold for \$510, or \$51 an ear.

The grower of the corn, Mr. Webb Workman of Maxwell township, bid in his own corn after a lively set-to with a number of others who wanted it.

These ten ears were declared by the judges to be the best in the whole show. They secured the best in the county prizes, the grand division prizes and finally the grand sweepstakes. People have read about this game farm and the work which is done, but at the Springfield Corn Show they were enabled to see "with their own eyes." It was a substantial demonstration of what well directed efforts will accomplish. One of the features of the Corn Show was the sale of the prize winning exhibits. Ten ears of yellow corn that had won nearly \$1,000 in cash and about \$1,500 in merchandise prizes were put up at auction and sold for \$510, or \$51 an ear. The grower of the corn, Mr. Webb Workman of Maxwell township, bid in his own corn after a lively set-to with a number of others who wanted it. These ten ears were declared by the judges to be the best in the whole show. They secured the best in the county prizes, the grand division prizes and finally the grand sweepstakes. People have read about this game farm and the work which is done, but at the Springfield Corn Show they were enabled to see "with their own eyes." It was a substantial demonstration of what well directed efforts will accomplish. —Democrat Carlinville Ills.

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