

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent

Entered at the postoffice at Scio, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY
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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One year in advance \$1 2
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One year, at end of 2 years 2 0
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WE STILL WANT TO KNOW

A SHORT TIME AGO THE NEWS, in an editorial article, asked Dr. Kerr, president of the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis a number of questions relative to the management of that institution; the expense thereof in detail, etc.

Dr. Kerr was kind enough to give us an answer in a general way, but failed entirely to give the information which the taxpayers desire. Now, by common report, a large appropriation will be asked for the O. A. C., at the coming session of the legislature. It might be well to state that this college derives its support in part from the Federal government and part from the state. Heretofore the state has appropriated for maintenance, aside from special appropriations for buildings, \$50,000 annually; the Federal appropriation is nearly as much. So, it can be seen, look at the matter from any viewpoint we may, that it is the people's business and we, the people—taxpayers, have a just right to know about it.

The NEWS has ascertained that some 80 teachers are employed at O. A. C., but is totally ignorant as to what salary each receives. One reason which Dr. Kerr assigned for not publishing a detail of financial expenses, in his reply, was the expense the publication would involve. The public will applaud economy on the part of the managers of any of our state institutions; but to exercise economy in withholding, from the public, information as to the financial management of any or all of these public institutions, is not a satisfactory method of economy. Now, Dr. Kerr, the NEWS makes you the following proposition, which will give publicity to at least a part of the financial management of the college.

If you will furnish us with the names of teachers and employes, whose names appear on your salary list, together with the annual salary paid to each, the NEWS will publish the same, free of cost to O. A. C. or to the state.

This is a matter that interests tax payers; for whether these salaries are paid by the state, or by the United States, the money required comes from the pockets of the people. Also, Dr. Kerr, you know there is a strong sentiment throughout the United States against nepotism. It is reported that you employ a number of your relatives in and about the college. Is this report true and, if so, what salaries do they receive?

It is further reported that you are maintaining a book store at the college. Is this true? If so, is it maintained by authority of the state and with state funds? If the store is not maintained by state funds and by authority of the state, is there a rental paid for the room the store occupies?

Oregon now has enacted a high school law, by which any county may maintain one or more high schools; to be supported by a special high school tax. It is optional to any county whether or not it maintains the County High School. Linn county decided, last June, to establish the County High School, which will carry the pupil up to and including the twelfth grade. Now, as pupils who have completed the eighth grade are permitted to matriculate at O. A. C., this places that institution in an attitude of opposition to the High School. The Oregon University at Eugene permits students to matriculate after they have completed the twelfth grade only. The Eugene school has an enrollment of about 500 students; while the Agricultural college has 1100. Obviously the admission of eighth graders accounts for this large attendance at O. A. C. The number can be further increased if the doors should be opened to public school pupils below the eighth grade.

Now as each additional 100 pupils have to be provided with class study and dormitory rooms, it follows that new buildings are constantly being erected to furnish the room necessary. As each county now has the authority to establish High schools, it is quite time that our state colleges should admit only twelfth graders to matriculation. Don't you think, Doctor, that it is your

duty, seeing that you are at the head of one of the state's great educational concerns, to aid the County High School by denying students who have not passed the twelfth grade admission to O. A. C.?

PRINCIPLE IS AT STAKE.

The biennial trouble will commence at Salem, next week. Probably a legislature was never organized in this state so utterly at sea as to whom the offices shall go. At this writing King Caucus seems to be very small potatoes and but few in a hill. This condition is just what the people desire. They do not like the idea of a few political bosses meeting down at Portland and arranging all matters relating to organization, before hand. The people believe, if the bosses have power to dictate who shall be speaker of the house, president of the Senate and the other officers and committee chairmen, they have power to dictate legislation as well. When the people adopted the Initiative and Referendum amendment and the Direct Primary law, they did so surely to break down corrupt political boss domination.

Prior to the adoption of these laws, the people were absolutely at the mercy of bossism. Bosses dictated the organization of legislatures, the election of United States senators and the amount of the people's money appropriated. At one session of the legislature along in the 80s, one man controlled the State Senate at will, and in collusion with two or three members of the House, controlled that body as well. It is to escape the domination of one man, or half-dozen-men power that the above mentioned laws were enacted. It is most important that the people guard carefully these restored rights.

There are a handful of the dethroned political bosses now engaged in the endeavor to break down the Primary law, through the overthrow of Statement No. 1, a most important feature, for it practically places the election of U. S. Senator in the hands of the people. But Statement No. 1 sentiment is so strong with the people and so many legislators have subscribed to its provisions, that the effort to restore bossism is doomed to ignominious failure. A rich corporation, also, is engaged in the effort to break down Initiative law making. It is the Pacific Coast Telephone people who are thus trying to defeat the people's will. Why? Simply because the people of Oregon made a law requiring this corporation to pay its just proportion of the taxes. The law suit brought by this corporation, has been transferred from the State to the United States courts. If the last named court decides that the people have a right to make laws and enforce them, Initiative law making is destined to spread until the entire nation will be freed from the domination of the political boss.

So the people should impress upon the minds of their respective legislators, the importance of exercising a most vigilant care against any apparently harmless legislation, restricting the powers of the people.

The assault upon the Direct Primary law is to be made in the attempt to defeat Governor Chamberlain's election as United States senator. The Governor, being the people's choice for that office, should be elected. Not alone on his personal account; but because his defeat means discredit to the law which made him the people's choice.

Another danger his defeat involves, is the establishment of the principle that the legislator is not a servant, but a master of the people.

There has grown up in our country, in recent years, a disposition of non-responsibility-to-the-people, that is a serious menace to our form of government. Public officials and especially our law makers both in State and Nation, seem to forget that they derive their lease of power from the people, that the people possess the supreme power and are greater than legislature, congress, the president or even the Federal Constitution itself.

When our Revolutionary Fathers promulgated the Declaration of Independence and later on formulated and adopted the Federal Constitution, their only ideas of government had been gathered when they were under the influence and domination of kings and emperors. The wonder is that their education in governmental affairs permitted them to form a government that protected the rights of its citizens so broadly, as they did. But we have had 125 years of experience in free government since that day. We have found the weak places in the government then formed. In our endeavor to remedy these weak places we have added sixteen amendments to the Constitution they then adopted. All of these amendments were adopted to further protect and extend the rights of our citizens.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" is an oftentimes quotation used. A more auspicious time to exercise vigilance has never existed for the people of Oregon, than at the session of the legislature to be opened next week. Success of the political bosses in the defeat of the election of Governor Chamberlain, means a setback in political reform which will require many years to recover.

James A. Finch, who murdered Ralph B. Fisher in Portland, the last of November, has been tried, found guilty of murder in the first degree and has been sentenced to be hung on Friday, February 5. The celerity with which this case has been handled exhibits a zeal on the part of courts and court officers, that is unusual, but is commendable. But then Finch has not been hung yet and there is always a chance to appeal to the higher courts.

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Tainted Editorials.

Senator Carter, of Montana, presented in the senate a few days ago some specimens of the literature prepared by the Bankers' association to be used against the postal savings bank bill. He called attention to the fact that the literature was being sent to local bankers with the request that it be inserted in the local papers, and those sending it out took the precaution to ask that the instructions sent with the literature should be removed before it was delivered to the press. Here is a deliberate attempt to manufacture opinion antagonistic to the postal savings bank, and those who are back of the movement are unfair enough to seek to make the arguments appear as if of local origin. It is bad enough to have a great central bureau supplying ammunition for a fight against the people, but what shall we say when these ostensibly respectable men resort to deception and seek to give their arguments a weight to which they are not entitled? What shall we say, too, of the local papers that are willing to print as editorial matter the stuff furnished by those who are back of this crusade.

The republican platform demanded the postal savings bank, and the democratic platform endorsed the postal savings bank conditionally, that is, if the guaranteed bank could not be secured. More than ninety per cent of the voters have supported the republican platform or the democratic platform, and a large majority of the people can be counted as favoring greater security to the depositor and yet the Bankers' association does not hesitate to resist this demand and to begin a fight to defeat the verities in favor of the postal savings bank. If the average voter knew how much of tainted news he reads and how many tainted editorials are accepted as genuine, we would have no difficulty in securing remedial legislation, but the press has not yet awakened to its duty to the public.—The Commoner.

Annual Meeting.

Every member of the Linn County Fair Association and all others interested (and all should be interested) should attend the annual meeting to occur in his city to-morrow, Saturday, Dr. Vithycombe, the director in chief of the experiment station at the Oregon Agricultural College, at Corvallis, will be present and deliver an address, which is of the utmost importance to farmers.

At the Christian Church.

There will be preaching services at Christian church Saturday evening, 7:30; Sunday morning, 11, and Sunday evening at 7:30.

Subject for Saturday night will be "The valid excuse;" Sunday morning "Looking forward;" Sunday night "The way home."

Dear friend, you can not afford to miss any of these sermons and remember that you are welcome.

DAVID E. NORCROSS, Minister.

BORN.

WARWICK—On January 1, in this city, to the wife of J. S. Warwick, a son.

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SECRETARY, C. A. WARNER

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