

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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OREGON LEADS THE WAY

AS STRENUOUSLY AS POLITICIANS and political bosses oppose the direct primary, in some form it seems to be winning out. Oregon, with her Statement No. 1, had taken the most advanced steps of any of the states, until Nebraska adopted "the Oregon plan," a few weeks ago. Other states will follow in our lead, from time to time, until a majority of our United States senators hold their positions by virtue of the votes of the people; when an amendment to the Federal constitution will be submitted to the people providing for the election of senators in congress the same as the representatives of that body.

When our Federal government was formed, our revolutionary fathers had just emerged from kingcraft. The experiment of self government had yet to be made. The wonder is that a government so close to and subservient to the people could be formed, at that time. Indeed, we are fortunate that the United States senate was not patterned more like the English House of Lords, than it is. The English House of Lords is composed of aristocrats and hold their offices for life. The plan adopted by our Revolutionary sires, was slightly more democratic. While the American senator does not hold his office in consequence of title conferred, he is elected by our legislatures for the term of six years. Elected in this way, the average United States senator feels that he does not owe his selection to the people, but to the legislatures and other influences. Our fathers, evidently, thought that the people could not be quite fully trusted to elect their law makers. There was still a remnant of the awe and respect of kings and aristocrats, which dominated somewhat in the form of government established. They no longer trusted kings and aristocrats, yet they feared to place too much power in the hands of the people. But our revolutionary fathers reared a most admirable governmental structure. It was the freest and nearest the people of any government which had, as yet, been devised by man.

Since that day the American people have had 120 years of experience in the government of the people, for the people, by the people and it would be remarkably strange if we had not profited by that experience. We have learned that the people can be trusted more fully and completely than our Revolutionary sires thought prudent. In other words, the people have progressed beyond the compromise method of government established at that time. For that matter, all governments, kingdoms and monarchies, have grown more liberal and nearer to the people. The people of all nations have become so educated in the science of government that they will no longer submit to autocratic rules and methods.

Oregon, located away off in the Northwest corner of the Nation, only 50 years old as a state, has become leader of the Nation in the science of progressive government. With our direct primary, reinforced with Statement No. 1, and the initiative and referendum, we have shown to the other states of the Nation, a plan by which the political boss becomes powerless for evil. We have shown that the men of Oregon had political honesty enough to stand by their pledged words and elect an United States senator who was a political opponent, because the people had instructed them to do so. If some of our legislators registered a protest in doing what they had voluntarily agreed to do and in which their pledges, as men, was the only compelling force, we can overlook the matter and regard their protests only as a means of easing their political consciences.

Oregon now has two United States senators, who hold their positions by virtue of a majority of the votes of the people. Instead of wrangling for weeks through a legislative session, in which legislatures of this and other states have been debauched, but one ballot was necessary to elect either Senator Bourne or Senator Chamberlain.

Oregon has thus pointed out and exemplified a plan through which the American House of Lords can be brought nearer to the people. She has pointed out a plan which reduces the power of the boss to a minimum. Nor is there the

slightest danger that she will ever return to the old way. "The fool of the family" (the Oregonian's name for Oregon when speaking of Statement No. 1) has been wiser than her elder sisters.

Of course the people, in the election of United States senators, and in the enacting of initiative law, may make mistakes. But as legislatures have been known to elect bad men as United States senators, and to enact bad laws in numerous instances, the people need not feel discouraged if they should make an occasional mistake. They know that a mistake made by the people is a mistake of the head only. Too often have the mistakes of legislatures been mistakes of the heart.

So Oregon, though unintentionally, has become the leader of progressive governmental ideas, among all of the states of the union of states. We have laws upon our statute books, enacted by the people and we now have two United States senators elected, virtually by the people. Have we not approached, more nearly, Mr. Lincoln's government of the people, for the people, by the people, than any other state?

THE PROPOSED UNION HIGH SCHOOL

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL, representatives from this city will visit the adjoining school districts to the Scio district and explain the full purpose of the proposed high school in Scio. A few words of explanation in the NEWS, will pave the way for the later explanations.

In the first place, Scio has a splendid school building which she purposes to complete and furnish absolutely free for high school purposes, for the use of the union high school. Nor has Scio any selfish purpose in view in attempting to secure the location of the union high school, further than she can have a better high school with 50 or 60 pupils than she can have with 15 to 25 pupils.

Second, all districts within reach of Scio are invited to vote at the annual school meeting, whether or not they will join in the union high school district. If they elect to join, then the chairman of the joining district board of directors becomes a member of the board of directors of the union high school district, and will have just as much say in the management of the high school as will the chairman of the Scio board of directors. In this matter Scio will have no more control than will any other district, which is a member of the union.

The cost will be absolutely nothing to adjoining districts, for the reason that the tuition of each high school pupil will be paid from the county high school fund. The County Court, treasurer and school superintendent, constituting the County High School board, will have a general supervision over all of the county high schools.

The NEWS believes that when the people fully understand this proposition, that there will be no dissenting voices. As we see the matter, Scio is paying the cost of building, furniture, etc., while the outside adjoining districts receive equal advantages which the union will make possible. It should be remembered that the union district will not interfere with the regular districts as now organized, in the least. It will simply furnish the opportunity for pupils who can no longer attend the district school to obtain a higher education, without cost to the parent. There can be no loss to the adjoining districts and the gain will be great to every boy and girl who has passed the eighth grade. It is only by a union of this character that the high school becomes possible to the county district; for no one district has pupils sufficient to maintain a high school.

Only a very few parents can afford to send their children to college. The union high school will place a higher education within the reach of all. Nor should any argument be necessary to convince the people of this fact. When the cost of a higher education is thus placed within the reach of all, there is no reason why the general intelligence of the people, in time, may not be materially advanced.

To our adjoining districts, we will say, if you do not become a member of the union district, it will be your own fault. Scio offers the building furnished, free of cost and the county will pay the teachers. What more can you ask?

In two weeks more the Scio Milk Condensery expects to be ready for business. As strange as it may seem, there are people who look upon the new business enterprise with disfavor. Just why this should be the case, is difficult to understand. The condensery people expect to pay a higher price for milk than the high prices of butter fat at the present time and during the past winter, will justify. They expect to employ a number of people and buy every thing the new plant will require and which can be supplied in this vicinity, from the people of this locality. They, also, expect to manufacture a quality of milk, which will make the name "Scio" a household word far and near. Seeing that nothing but good is contemplated for every feature of cost which enters into the manufacture of milk, and as every feature of cost except, possibly, the cans which will contain the milk, will inure to the benefit of someone in this locality, it is strange that anyone will utter a word detrimental to the interests of the new industry. Indeed, everyone should aid, in every way possible, to make the Scio Milk Condensery a success, for its success means much to Scio.

The Other Side of the Road Question

We notice in the last weeks NEWS, an item concerning a change of road for which Wilson Richardson and others had circulated a petition. Mr. Powell therein states that the proposed road would only be of benefit to four farmers. Wilson Richardson, Henry Miller, Jas. Craft and M. Mubly. We do not know what Mr. Powell means by maliciously stating such a falsehood; excepting that he therewith desires to put the four parties named in a wrong light before the public. That the proposed road would be of benefit to dozens of farmers living up on Crabtree creek and as far back as Lacomb, everybody knows that knows this part of the county. Instead of being of benefit to but four farmers it would be of benefit to at least 75 farmers; as it would shorten their round trip to Scio and back, at least 1 1/2 miles. That the hills which the proposed road would avoid, are not short as Mr. Powell tries to make them appear, is clearly shown by the farmers who now go to Scio by the Richardson Gap road, instead of coming the road leading east from the cemetery; although it makes the round-trip several miles further. Furthermore we cannot see where it will put the public to any serious inconvenience by closing the old road, as there would be ample space left for hitching teams on the road leading all the way from Scio to Lebanon, during the progress of a funeral. Furthermore, we wish to state that the proposed road has been tried for, some two years ago. Freeholders had from then until now to give the proposed change of road their thought and we believe that they have not made such a grave mistake by signing the petition as it appears in the last item.

Right here, we wish to state, that if it is the general desire of the public to maintain the road now running East of the cemetery, that we, the undersigned, will petition the County Court not to vacate said road, providing the proposed road will be granted. We estimate that the proposed road will cut off from 60 to 70 acres out of Mr. Powell's 400 acre farm. Mr. Powell's farm being very mountainous, such land is assessed at a low rate, from \$5 to \$10 per acre. At this rate the \$1000 damage Mr. Powell speaks of would be more than the full assessed value of the land. That Mr. Powell should be allowed a reasonable amount for damage, no one denies. But \$1000 or more is unreasonable and ridiculous.

M. Mubly,
Wilson Richardson,
Henry Miller,
Jas. Craft.

The NEWS publishes the above that both sides to the controversy may have a fair hearing. As we stated in a previous issue, we are not nor do we wish to take sides in the matter. Now that we have given both sides a hearing, we bar anything further on the subject.

Card of Thanks.

We desire to thank our many friends for the help and sympathy that comforted us during the sickness, death and burial of our wife and mother; also for the beautiful floral offerings.

Cal. Carson and Children.

The Scio Milling Co., is cleaning and trimming up things along the mill race, this week, which adds much to the appearance of that part of town. If the trees along the creek and unsightly brush could be taken away or trimmed, our town would look 50 per cent better.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Calavan, who recently purchased a home at or near Oregon City, left yesterday morning for the new home. Mr. C. closed his school in the Franklin Butte district, last Friday. The NEWS extends its best wishes for them in their new home.

DR. W. R. BILYEU
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