

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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ATTACKS THE PRIMARY LAW

DOWN IN PORTLAND, recently, in order to cause a unity of political action in the selection of a candidate for mayor, the bosses held a sort of rump convention. The purpose of this convention was twofold. First, the naming of a man for the office of mayor and second, a covert assault upon the Direct Primary law.

With the first of these propositions the people outside of the city of Portland, have no direct interest. If the people of Portland want Mr. Simon, Mr. Rushlight or any other man for mayor, that is their affair. But, with the second feature, the people of the entire state have a direct interest.

It is well known that the city of Portland exercises a dominating influence in the politics of the State of Oregon. In that city almost all plans and schemes which effect the political welfare of Oregon are incubated. Nearly all of the plans for carrying measures through the legislature are conceived in that city. Hence, any political movement which is calculated to involve the political welfare of the state thereafter which is inaugurated down there, is a matter of concern to the entire state.

The attempt to return to the old convention method of selecting a mayoralty candidate, is a covert attack upon our Direct Primary law. It is a direct attempt to place the political boss in the saddle again, a condition which drove the people to the adoption of the primary law. If fifty or five hundred unauthorized men are permitted to dictate or advise whom a candidate for office shall be, a less number, say five or even one has the same right. Thus boss rule, plain and simple, would be reinstated. No other conclusion is tenable. If the people of Portland must submit to an advisory, self-constituted convention to name her candidates, a return to the old time delegate convention would be far more preferable.

The rest of the state is concerned in this matter. If a bunch of disgruntled Republican politicians can succeed in breaking down the spirit of the primary law in Portland, in which more than one-third of the people of the state are involved, it would be an easy matter to extend the revolt so that the people of the entire state would be involved. If a bunch of Republicans can do this, another bunch of Democrats, Socialists or Prohibitionists can do likewise.

The advisory mass convention would soon become so corrupt and dictatorial, that the people would gladly return to the lesser evil, the delegate convention plan. Just think of it! A half-dozen or mayhap fifty politicians and bosses, assembling at their own instance and saying to the people of Oregon "You can vote at our primary election for A B for United States senator, C D for congressman, E F for governor and so on. Would this not be the most complete political bossism possible? Yet this is the only logical outcome of this mass convention movement in Portland.

The NEWS believes that the people, through the Direct Primary, may make an occasional mistake in the nomination of candidates. But as mistakes were frequently made in the selection of candidates in the old delegate convention days, the people have lost nothing, in this respect, by the adoption of the primary law. Doubtless Mr. Fulton thinks a mistake was made, last year, when he was turned down and the nomination was given to Mr. Cake. The NEWS is in doubt about that. As Senator Chamberlain has contracted the habit of being elected when he stands for an office, Mr. Fulton would have been defeated as badly as Mr. Cake was. Be that as it may, as the people come to understand the importance of a proper selection of candidates, fewer mistakes will be made and the real choice of the people will be selected.

Every friend of the Direct Primary law, in Portland, should vote against Mr. Simon, in order to rebuke the method of his selection. A fire is more easily subdued in its incipient stage. This attack upon the primary law is not unlike a fire. If allowed to spread, it will soon involve our entire political structure. A decisive vote against Mr. Simon, who represents the revolt, will put a final quietus to the attempted return to political bossism.

NOW FOR GOOD ROADS

THE SEASON is now at hand when road work will be in order. Heretofore, in certain localities, the work on the public highway has been conducted in an intelligently practical manner and the splendid condition which the roads in these localities now are in, is an evidence of the fact. In other and most localities, the work has been directed in a perfunctory manner and the conditions of the roads in these localities evidence this fact as well.

Now what can be done in one road district can be done in others, if the same degree of practical intelligence is employed. There is no particular reason, for instance, why the roads in South Scio precinct should be in better condition than those of North Scio precinct, the conditions for building roads being, practically the same in each precinct. Every other precinct in Albany prairie can have just as good roads as Tangent precinct, if road building is prosecuted in the same practical, intelligent method. It is a fact well known to every teamster, that the drawing power of a team of horses must be measured by the load it can draw over the steepest hill or over the roughest or softest roadbed between the points to be traversed. Now if the steep hills could be graded down, or a new road made where the grade would be less abrupt, the load could be doubled without overtaxing the capacity of the team. If two tons is a heavy load for the team, with the steep hill to negotiate, or the stony or soft road to be passed over, it could draw double this amount if these difficult places were replaced with better conditions.

Now every farmer or teamster, who transports freight of any description over the highways, knows these conditions to be true. He knows that a new wagon is required more frequent, if the road he is compelled to pass over is filled with stones or has numerous unavoidable holes and chucks. If a few days labor contributed annually by every farmer and teamster in a neighborhood, will remedy these defects, don't you think the contribution would be a good investment?

The road from our town to West Scio is the most-traveled road in this immediate vicinity. But go in almost any other direction and the road is found to be smoother and more pleasant to travel over. Cannot this mile and one-half of roadbed be placed in a more servicable condition during the coming summer? Our condensery will be sending out over this road, tons of its product weekly and dozens of heavy loads of lumber besides the ordinary traffic daily, emphasizes the need of a better highway between the points mentioned.

This year there will be a larger fund to be applied in road building, than ever before. The people have tax-d themselves to provide this fund and they have the right to greater improvements in the roads in consequence.

The opinion of the newcomer is, largely, colored by the condition of the public roads. Mayhap he has come from a locality of good roads. If so, he will notice, sharply, any defect in this particular. He will compute the cost of getting the products he purposes to procure, to market. For this reason, if he is compelled to traverse a rough or hilly road when he goes to inspect the farm or other property which is offered for sale, the price he will be willing to pay, is influenced in a more or less degree, by the condition of the road. If the roads are objectionable, the property will, probably, be rejected; unless the price asked is sufficiently low to overcome the handicap. We may, therefore, assume as a fact, that the better the road the better the price the property will sell for.

This article is written, hoping that it will call the attention of our supervisor readers, more pointedly to the importance of good and practical roadbuilding. Upon them more than anybody else, depends the benefit which the tax moneys appropriated for road purposes, will accomplish. Everyone who has charge of road building, should go to the trouble of advising with road builders in localities where they have model roads, if possible. The people demand that their tax moneys for road purposes shall be expended in the very best possible practical manner.

In almost any direction from Scio save, possibly the west, can be found ideal fruit lands—land which can be made as productive and profitable as Hood river lands. All that is necessary to make them as valuable and productive, is development. All of these hills, which are now used for pasture only, are ideal apple lands and are far better for this purpose than the valley lands. The farmer who has a north hillside and which he now regards as being only fit for pasture or the production of firewood, has an ideal site for an orchard. If he will clear it of brush and plant it to apple trees of a salable variety, and give the trees proper attention, in a few years he will be getting \$100 per acre or more from land which he now receives but a nominal income from. These hills, on the north, east and south of us, can be made just as valuable and productive as the high-priced Hood river lands, if we will use the same care and judgment in preparing the land and selecting the trees. It would not be expensive to clear, prepare and plant in fruit trees an acre or two every year, and there is every reason to expect rich returns from the capital and labor invested. The experiment is well worth trying. The demand for good apples in the markets of the world promises to be both continuous and remunerative, in the future.

New Industry to be Supplied by Farmers

(Special Correspondence)
Portland, Oregon, April 26th, 1909.—Swift and Company announce that the plan to begin actual packing operation in their new plant at Portland in July. This brings to the surface the necessity for the farmers of Oregon to grow more hogs. Pigs can be raised until they are three months old on vetch or other roughage at practically no expense other than for pasturage. A fat 200 pound hog in Portland today is worth \$15.50 cash, live weight. The packers will have to get a supply, must they send the money for the hog to Nebraska, or will we raise them in Oregon?

The Livestock Sale at the Portland Country Club this week means a great deal to everyone in Oregon. Saturday and Sunday witnessed thousands of people visiting the grounds to inspect what is universally conceded to be the greatest gathering of blooded horses ever collected in the Pacific Northwest to be sold to the highest bidder. The sales at Portland have uniformly been more successful than even those in Chicago, in proportion. The sale will continue up to Friday night at the Country Club, Saturday being devoted entirely to cattle at the Union Stock Yards. Oregon is making a wonderful showing, and there is assurance the buyers will be here from all neighboring states and British Columbia.

Two millions of dollars for the four hundred and sixty two acres universal known as the "Ladd Farm" put Portland city lots in a class with Oregon orchards, and the developers of this magnificent property will certainly be satisfied if it pays dividends equalling those of a well-kept, model orchard.

While estimates as to the present population of Oregon vary, some men who have the right to be called well posted feel that the state today has upward of three-quarters of a million people. With every county in the state getting new settlers, some have attracted a greater immigration during the past year than for five years before.

A party of Illinois investors recently clubbed together and sent one of their number, who had visited Oregon during the Exposition, for a trip through the state. Upon his return to Portland this gentleman said he had found Oregon people much changed. At the time they were intensely conservative today they are enthusiastic, optimistic and unanimously predict a great future. In fact, many of the communities are growing so rapidly that they imagine they have all the growth; but those who have seen the new orchards, the substantial farm houses and other improvements taking place everywhere know that the next decade will see record-breaking advancement along every line. Asked if he was satisfied he replied: "I wouldn't return to Illinois, but shall remain here to receive my friends who are coming in parties of three, five and even ten."

Acres Tracts

If you are looking for a nice piece of acreage, for a home or investment buy one or more acres in the Ewing & Richardson plat, in and adjoining the city of Scio on the west. No. on soil, will grow anything which grows in Oregon; nearly all cleared; road through tract, price, only \$150 and up; small cash payment, balance in installments have your earnings and place it in real estate where it is safe. For further particulars, call on B. Shelton, agent.

Notice

Those knowing themselves indebted to the undersigned will please call and settle. I need the money.
E. C. PEERY.



THE SURPRISES

Our spring assortment in mens' wear we have for you are varied and pleasing.

In suits we have everything to be found at the high class metropolitan establishment—numbers and numbers of suits just your size and fit—and all different too!

In furnishings, our spring neckwear is a delight to every man who takes pride in his personal appearance. In all the lustrous shades and tints so popular just now.

Its easy to get just what you want at this store.

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Mens Suits \$5.00 to \$20.00
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