

The Santiam News

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AN ASSAULT ON THE PRIMARY

THE EFFORT on the part of the political boss to overcome the intent of our primary law, unless it is combatted by the people energetically, will be successful.

The purpose of the Direct Primary law, is for the people to make nominations for the various offices at the primary election. It was not intended for one prospective candidate for office to have any particular advantage over his rival candidates; but that the electors should select whom they prefer, from the number of names submitted and, in order that a nomination shall result, the candidate who receives the plurality of votes, is declared the nominee.

So far as the Direct Primary has been tried, it has proven, generally, more satisfactory than the old plan of nominating through delegate conventions. We say "satisfactory" advisedly, for if not satisfactory to the bosses, the people are well satisfied with it.

Every person who is at all familiar with the politics of the old convention days, can well remember the "salutes" prepared by the bosses, before the convention, and of the trades for support of this or that candidate for votes for other particular candidates, etc. We can all remember of the lists of names for delegates prepared at the county seat and sent to each precinct on primary day and the "knifing" on election day of any candidate who was not dictated by the "machine," etc.

All of these undesirable, to the honest electors conditions, have been removed by our present Direct Primary law. And while the present law may be defective in some of its features, which experience will enable us to eradicate through amendment, the law is infinitely superior to the old delegate plan.

The method of assault which the bosses are formulating, a detail of which is given every few days in the columns of the Oregonian, is through the medium of a mass advisory convention, to be held prior to the primary election. As this advisory convention is not provided for by either law or custom, it will be composed entirely of voluntary self appointed delegates. Naturally these voluntary self-appointed delegates will be enemies of the Direct Primary law, for the reason that its friends being satisfied to abide by the results of the primary election, will not attend. Of course we will find among the active but silent participants in these mass conventions many of the old time political bosses.

They will make a great parade of their disinterested patriotism and will advise placing none but the names of good competent candidates before the primaries. This will be done for a purpose. They will, in so doing, try to show to the people, how much better the advisory convention is, than to trust matters entirely to the primary election.

As a matter of course the candidate who has the advisory convention "masheen" behind him, will have a great advantage over any other candidate or candidates, who may oppose him. He will have an organized "masheen" to aid him, while his opposing candidate will have only his personal fitness to recommend him to the electors.

When the intent of the Direct Primary is completely broken down, then the bosses will begin to show their teeth. Then, it will be found that no man can be nominated for office, except he wears the colors of the bosses. A condition infinitely worse than the old time delegate convention period will result.

The only way for the people to avert this new danger, is to refuse to participate in the mass convention; to refuse to support, at the primary election, any candidate the mass convention may

name and, finally, if the convention candidate should receive the nomination at the primary election, then, regardless of party, scratch him at the general election. By so doing, a quietus will be given to this final struggle for the political boss to reinstate himself in power.

Of course, in this assault on the Direct Primary, the old time political boss will be careful to keep himself under cover. Men who, hitherto have not been extremely active in politics, will be the leaders and directors of the mass convention. But in the back ground and secretly, these bosses will be the real directors. For they will know, that should they openly advocate and participate in the so-called mass convention, the people would, at once, know that something was up, which would be derogatory to their interests, and would reject the whole business. Oh, yes! The bosses will be conspicuous by their silence. They are all wearing gum shoes. They are conducting a campaign of stealth but, in the end, look out.

Just why the Oregonian is allowing itself to become the mouthpiece of the enemies of the Direct Primary, is not plain. Many of its readers, if not a majority of them, are friends of the present law. Their votes caused the law to be enacted and when they become fully assured that the Oregonian is an enemy to the welfare of the people, the circulation of that paper is sure to suffer. Of course the Oregonian will say, the people do not know, nor did not know what they were doing when they adopted the Direct Primary law. But just the reverse is true. The people knew they were knocking the bosses, when they enacted this law. They know that the bosses are now powerless for evil and they will never put a club into boss' hands, with which they can knock the political heads of the people.

No, no. Let us amend the primary law, so that its faults will be eliminated; but, in the name of political freedom and honesty, let us preserve the law with all of its intent and purpose.

Possibly the principles of the Direct Primary are not lived up to, strictly, in Portland. Possibly there may be men, down there, so dishonest, politically, that they will help nominate a candidate who will be easily defeated at the polls, in order that their particular candidate can win out. This is not a fault of the primary, but is because of the political dishonesty of the people of Portland. Elsewhere in the state, the intent of the primary law is scrupulously carried out. At least it is in Linn county. Make Portland as honest, politically, as the rest of the state, and the Direct Primary will be found to be all that was expected of it. It will be found that the people, not the bosses, rule.

WE MUST HELP OURSELVES

IT SEEMS TO BE A FACT, that if Scio ever gets direct railroad connection, she will, at least, have to take the initiative herself. While those, who have the progress of Scio at heart, have made the strongest possible showing to the S. P., the effort has, seemingly, amounted to nothing. It is evident that we, the citizens of Scio, must start the ball rolling.

Aside from being located immediately on a railway line, there is not a town in the Willamette valley that has a better natural location than Scio. The rich Thomas and Crabtree valleys have their only natural outlet through Scio, besides much of the South and North Santiams country. True there are the small towns of Crabtree and Shelburn, but they are so situated that but a small portion of country is tributary thereto. Without a doubt, give Scio railway connection and with her flouring mill, milk condensery, planing mill, schools, etc., she would double her present population in two years. Besides, every foot of property in the town would double in value.

Can Scio finance the proposed electric line to Munkers? The NEWS, after consulting many of the business men about town, believes she can and that the investment will pay from the start. It is believed that such a line would do \$15 worth of business, on an average, per day. The cost of operation, at most, would not be above \$10 per day. The lumber trade alone, will amount to 200 cars per year and, from present indications, the output from the condensery will amount to near 100 cars next year. Local freight and passenger traffic is, also, continually increasing. So from a purely business investment, our citizens can reasonably expect the line to pay a small dividend, at least. But suppose it only pays operating expenses, the convenience of getting to and from the outside world and the increase in property values, would be a handsome return for the investment.

It is estimated that an expense of \$20,000 will build and equip the line. To be safe, say the cost is \$25,000, then the investment will be gilt edge.

Scio's property is easily worth \$100,000. If 25 per cent. is added to this value, in consequence of the railroad, the expense of building the line is returned. Further it will add \$10 per acre to the value of every farm in this immediate vicinity.

It is quite evident that if we ever

have outside railway connection, we will have to take hold of the matter ourselves and act. Other towns have been forced to take hold of the transportation problem themselves, and have won out by doing so. What others have done, we can do. Scio has the reputation of doing things, and if this railway project is taken hold of, as the NEWS believes will be done, she will make a successful go of it.

Years ago, when the railroad stub was operated, the flouring mill, aside from the local traffic, was the only patron. Now we have two sawmills, the condensery, the flouring mill and large quantities of cream for shipment which, with the express, mails, merchantile freight, etc., will furnish a paying patronage.

If everybody interested in the development of Scio, will take hold of this matter in a liberal spirit, the full amount of money required can be raised. But if men, who are abundantly able, refuse to give aid, it is doubtful if the necessary sum can be secured. It is a case a long pull, a strong pull and a pull altogether.

Furthermore, as soon as the electric line south from Salem, crosses the North Santiam next year, it will be glad to take over and operate the Scio road and pay back to the contributors, the cost of the same. It will, simply, assure Scio of being placed on the network of electric railway lines soon to cover the Willamette valley. Subscription papers for right of way, cash, work and material, will be presented to the public. In the name of the future prosperity of Scio, let the name of every citizen of Scio and vicinity, appear on the list. Even if you can only give a few days work, it all counts and goes towards making up the amount of money required.

THE BANKERS OBJECT

AS MIGHT HAVE been expected, the late bankers convention which met in Chicago, pronounced against both the postal savings and guaranty banks. Bankers are extremely sensitive whenever anything is proposed which, in any manner, curtails their assumed prerogatives. They wish to convey the impression that there is something in the business of banking, which ordinary humanity cannot understand and that but few men are fitted, by nature, to become successful bankers.

Possibly there are but few men who would be successful in the tricks of illegitimate banking and the general methods of high finance. Indeed, it would be a blessing to the world, if nobody could be successful in the class of banking and financing, whose central purpose is to skin its depositors or patrons. But there is nothing about legitimate banking which may not be thoroughly understood by any ordinarily bright business man.

But for all the resolutions of the bankers convention to the contrary, either postal banks or guaranty banks are sure to become a feature of our financial system, in the near future. Some plan which will make the keeping of the people's savings absolutely safe, is as sure to be adopted as that two and two make four. The people are supremely disgusted with the species of wildcat banking, of which the Oregon Savings and the Title Guarantee and Trust banks, late of Portland, are fair examples. People place their savings in banks for safe keeping and they will soon enforce the enactment of laws which will make the banks absolutely safe.

Of the two plans, postal savings or guaranty banks, either of which will make the money deposits of the people safe, the NEWS believes the postal preferable. Besides furnishing the people absolutely safe deposit and encourage thrift, the government would soon be supplied with a sum vast enough to call in every outstanding bond. Supposing that two per cent. interest would be paid on the deposits, the interest now being paid on the bonded debt would be reduced nearly one-half. Supposing the savings of the people would take up the outstanding bonds, as above indicated, the animus of the bankers opposition to postal savings banks becomes, at once, apparent. Without government bonds there would be no national banks, unless organized with a different class of security as a basis of circulation. Possibly these bankers at Chicago had this possible result in view, when they pronounced against making the people's savings absolutely safe.

It is well known to people who understand the national banking laws, that men who operate national banks, have but little money invested. Ostensibly, they buy a sufficient amount of government bonds in the open market, to deposit in the Federal treasury, to secure the bank's circulation. Besides paying the bank four per cent. interest on the money invested in the bonds, and as the bonds are exempt from taxation, thus amounting to about six per cent. interest, the government returns to the bankers the full amount of their investment.

To illustrate: A, B and C conclude to engage in national banking. They buy, in the open market, \$100,000 in government bonds. These bonds are deposited in the Federal treasury. The

new bank is chartered and the government returns to the bank \$100,000 in currency. Now, as before stated, these bonds are non taxable. This fact added to the four per cent. the government pays on the bonds, makes the investment worth from five to seven per cent. on an investment of \$100,000. This is true, for the bank has all of its money in its vaults or loaned out to the people at eight per cent. interest.

Then it is simply reasonable that bankers vehemently oppose any feature of banking which can, in any way, conflict or interfere with the fat privilege they are now enjoying. But, all the same, the postal bank is coming. President Taft and both political parties demand it. We know the bank influence is almost all powerful in matters pertaining to National finance. Yet the NEWS believe that the president and both political parties, will prove sufficient to overcome their opposition, in the end.

Albany Apple Fair

Reduced railroad rates to the Albany Apple Fair, October 27-28-29, have been granted on the lines of the Southern Pacific and Corvallis & Eastern railroads. Round trip rates will be one and one-third fare from all points on the S. P. south of Oregon City and north of Eugene on the east side; south of McMinnville and north of Corvallis on the west side. A special one fare rate for the round trip from all points on the Corvallis & Eastern. The rates cover the territory embraced in the forthcoming apple fair and ought to insure a large attendance.

One of the attractions at the fair will be R. H. Rice, the secretary-managers of the second national apple show of Spokane, Wash., who will deliver an address on some topic relating to the apple industry for exploitation.

In connection with the apple fair this year, the ladies of Albany are arranging for a Chrysanthemum carnival. A committee consisting of Mrs. E. W. Cooper, chairman, Mrs. C. H. Stewart and Mrs. L. E. Hamilton, has prepared a list of prizes which will be offered for the following displays:

Greatest number of varieties of Chrysanthemums, quality considered.
Best collection of ten varieties.
Best collection of five varieties.
Best cut single specimen (first and second).
Best specimen in pot (first and second).
Best general floral display.
Best display of house plants.
Active work is being done by both Apple Fair and Chrysanthemum committees.

It is stated that President Taft will recommend to congress, in his message to the coming session, a great central bank, which will replace all of our National banks as banks of issue. This central bank, if established, will be to the United States, what the bank of England is to Great Britain. It will have complete control of the currency issues. If the Republican party, through its congressmen, enacts this Standard Oil scheme into law, it will write its death warrant in lines so plain that they can be read from a train of cars moving at a 40 mile gait.

Schools throughout the valley are being opened these days. Invariably an increased attendance over last year is reported. This is an evidence of the rapid growth of population, which Oregon is now making. The census of next year will disclose the fact that the population of Oregon is now nearly double what it was ten years ago.

1013 Portland, No. 0274

Notice For Publication

United States Land Office

Portland, Oregon, August 27, 1906.
Notice is hereby given that the Northern Pacific Railway Company, whose post office address is at St. Paul, Minnesota, has on this 25th day of August, 1906, filed in this office its application to select under the provisions of the act of Congress, approved July 1, 1906 (34 Stat. 582), as extended by the Act of Congress, approved May 17, 1906, the N.P. & W. Co. Sec. 2, Tp. 11 N., R. 2 E., W. M. Any and all persons claiming adversely the lands described, or desiring to object because of the mineral character of the land, or for any other reason, to the disposal of applicant, should file their affidavits of protest, in this office, on or before the 10th day of October, 1906.

Algermon S. Dresser
Publ. held in the Santiam News, located at Scio, Oregon.
Algermon S. Dresser, Register.
First publication September 16. Last publication October 15.

1-16 Portland, List No. 02181

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