

The Santiam News

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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ARE READING THE HANDWRITING ETC.

There is no use for the assembly people to try and disguise the fact that they are, one and all, opposed to our primary law from start to finish, and would consign the whole business, including the initiative and referendum laws to the lowest regions of hades, were it within their power to do so. But these people know that they must first overcome, not only a majority of their own party, but a vast majority of the people, before they can set aside these reformatory laws.

When the assembly plan was proposed, it was remarked with what unanimity the old guard throughout the state, ratified the idea. Every old time Republican boss, spellbinder and ward-heeler, pronounced the mass assembly just the amendment the primary law needed. They could readily see that the assembly, if generally adopted, would place the old machine in the saddle more comfortably and satisfactorily than in the days of the old convention. They could readily see that, if the assembly plan was adhered to in its completeness, it would restore the dictatorship of the machine boss more absolutely than in his palmist days.

But, since the launching of the assembly plan, a rumble of opposition is being heard from all over the state. Though the machine attempted to remain in the background and to make it appear that the demand for the assembly was of a spontaneous character and coming up from the people, the disguise has proven entirely too thin. They are now beginning to see that an amendment which sets aside the spirit and intent of the main question is completely out of order.

The great mistake of the assembly is, they sprung the trap about six months too soon. They have given the people plenty of time to sift the purpose of the assembly to the bottom and to find who were the instigators of and what was the purpose of the movement. Had the "plan" have been held in abeyance until next June or July, the people might have been rushed into the trap just before the meeting of the primaries and before they could ascertain what was the real purpose of the movement. But the people are not such great fools as these assembly boomers thought they were. The people have been driven to read between the lines, whenever anything emanates from the oldtime political machine and, in this instance, they are reading very clearly, what is the real purpose of the assembly. They see that the assembly is a very innocent appearing lever which, successfully inserted under reform legislation, will, eventually, tumble the whole business overboard. But, as before stated, the plan was sprung prematurely. That Portland Republican smoker was a grave tactical blunder. The words of Judge Henry McGinn, there spoken, have aroused the people throughout the state, who were responsible for the enactment of the primary law. They now realize just the character of the enemy which they must again meet and overcome.

It is amusing to notice that prospective candidates for state offices, who eagerly embraced the assembly plan, are now endeavoring to minimize its real purpose. Even the Oregonian, which rarely backs water on anything, is endeavoring to explain that the assembly is one of the inherent rights of the people and that an assault upon the primary law was not contemplated, in the least. The Oregonian now knows that it, with the other assemblyites, has made a tactical mistake and it would now tumble the whole assembly business overboard, if it could do so without openly acknowledging defeat.

The assembly plan has already shown it is a boomerang and the rebound is being felt. It has so emphasized

Statement No. 1, that it is doubtful if a candidate for the legislature, who does not subscribe to its provisions, can be elected, even in Portland. An anti-statement legislative candidate, outside of that city, will have very difficult sledding.

The only safe way for the people is to absolutely sit down on the assembly as outlined by the old guard down in Multnomah. If a few of the people wish to advise with each other as to who or whom may be the better man to propose as a candidate to be submitted to the primary voters, there is no fault to find. On the other hand, such advisory meetings are to be commended, providing there is no attempt to put up a slate for the purpose of controlling the primary election of candidates. Anything which, upon its face, attempts to dominate or dictate to the primary voters, should meet with a positive and emphatic veto by the people.

After all, what difference does it make to the people whether a Democrat or Republican is elected to office, if his heart is right and he works for the interest of all the people? We have found out to our sorrow, that such men as Cannon and Aldrich do not represent the people, but do represent the interests. Nor are our congressmen, Senator Bourne and Representative Hawley and Ellis any better, for their votes are always in support of what Cannon and Aldrich want. And there are Democratic members, too, who seem to be cut from the same piece of cloth; for they misrepresent the people and do represent the interests. The main requisite on the part of a congressman is that he be true to and represent the interests of all the people. It cannot be expected that a senator or representative, who owes his election to the influence of the railroad, Standard Oil, Sugar and Steel trusts will be true to the interests of the people, when such interests conflict with those of the people. A senator elected by all the people, as in the case of Senator Chamberlain, who knows that his service as senator will be limited to one term, unless he stands true to the interests of all the people, is not apt to prove untrue to the power which placed him in office. A Statement No. 1 legislature will elect just such men as Chamberlain—men who will stand for the interests of the people. Nor does it make any material interest to the people, whether he wears a Democratic or Republican color, if his heart is in the right place. Of course it makes a difference to people who expect to reap financial or other benefit, providing their man makes the election for governor, representative or senator in congress.

The people should guard with jealous care, the direct primary law in its completeness. They cannot afford to take a backward step and the counsel of reactionaries should be rejected with emphasis.

CHRISTMAS

GAIN IS THE annual festal day "Christmas" at hand. This is the day commemorative of the birth of our Savior and on which "Peace on earth and good will towards men" was promulgated to the world. It is the day of family reunion and good cheer throughout the Christian nations of the world when, by gifts and good wishes, it is sought to make all humanity of Christian nations happier and better—the day of Kris Kringle and Santa Claus—the day when all who are absent think of home and the loved ones. As such, Christmas day like Thanksgiving day, should be treasured in the hearts of all Christian nations; because its tendency is to make men and women better—to cause them to forget self and think of how they may add to the happiness of others.

December 25 is supposed to be the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. Early history, however, is so clothed in mystery, that any authentic date of the birth of our Savior, is a matter of exceeding doubt. The records of those days are of a legendary character which, transmitted from father to son, would not be regarded as reliable history at the present time. Education of the most primitive character, as understood at the present time, did not then exist. Printing had not yet been discovered, consequently, there were no books, except those in the hands of the priesthood and the few learned men, in manuscript form. Therefore much of the history of the time when our Savior lived as a man, here on earth, is legendary and clothed in doubt.

Our present era, as we now recon time, is supposed to commence with the birth of our Savior. But as our best authorities agree that Christ's birth occurred about four years prior to the year "1" of our era, and that the New year commences one week later than the day of His ascribed birth, the so-called historical data, which many accept, is of but little value. Nor do scholars who delve into the musty legends and tomes of the past, agree that December 25 is the correct date of our Savior's birth. Many of them think that April, May or June, are months which correspond more appropriately with the legendary date of His birth. So, as neither the month

nor year harmonizes with the date popularly ascribed as the date of His birth, we must conclude that the date of the birth of Jesus, so far as exact historical data is concerned, is a matter of doubt and uncertainty. Then the early method of reckoning time, is now known to be incorrect, in that it was necessary, several centuries after the reputed birth of Jesus, to correct the calendar.

It was the custom of what is commonly known as the heathen peoples, of the times of the Christian era—sun worshippers—to celebrate the date when the sun started back on its annual journey northward, with rejoicings and merry-makings. As this date corresponds, almost exactly with the Christmas of the present time, it is much more probable that our Christmas is coincident with this Heathen festal day, than it is with the acknowledged unknown date of the nativity of Jesus.

But, regardless as to whether Christmas day is due to the birthday of our Savior, or to the date when the sun starts upon her return journey north, it is a day replete with memories of the past and, as such should be treasured as one of the happy days of all Christian peoples. Perhaps, on no other day of the year, do so many people endeavor to make it a day of rejoicing and happiness to others, and in seeking to make others happy, they experience the fact that "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Then, by all means, let us continue to make Christmas a day of rejoicing and good cheer—a day when the privilege of making others happy, makes it a bright spot in the lives of all—a day when the absent boy or girl seeks to make the hearts of his old parents glad with thoughts of remembrance—and in fact as well as in fancy a day of "Peace on earth and good will towards men." In keeping with this spirit, the News extends to its readers, one and all, young and old, a merry, happy Christmas.

IS PONCE DE LEON'S DREAM A REALITY

So It Appears From Recent Investigations.

Hopeless Case Cured at the Mineral Springs Lead to Comment

In the days of Spain's splendor, when returning Spanish galleons brought precious cargoes of gold and other minerals back to Madrid, wild legends of springs of eternal life were told in every European court.

Ponce de Leon, a Spanish gentleman of great riches, fitted out an expedition and went in search of the spring of life. The ludicrous and pathetic ending of this expedition is known to every school boy, but it is very often called to mind by some new discovery of wonderful healing springs somewhere in the wilds of Africa, India or Asia.

The recent and practical demonstration of mineral springs which make marvelous cures has again brought forth the story abroad of Ponce de Leon's myth.

Paso Robles Hot Springs, California, are now the cause of universal wonderment because of the continued successful cures being made there.

But aside from any romantic feature of the springs, dealing with its Indian tradition or its occupancy by the Franciscan Monks, Paso Robles is today among medical men who know, the cause of much interest and scientific investigation.

Many are not aware of what a place Paso Robles really is. The town is by all means one of the most thorough health towns in the world. It is given over to the cure of the sick. Its citizens regard its waters almost in an infallible light.

The temperature, altitude, air and scenery make it an ideal retreat. Its cures of rheumatism, gout, stomach trouble, kidney and other organic diseases have been so remarkable that its citizens believe there is nothing its baths cannot conquer.

Invalids from all over the country come to Paso Robles. Here can be seen every strata of human life from the bank president in the sumptuous hotel to the sick man reposing in his tent on the meadows.

Paso Robles is distinctly a spot where weak women gain health rapidly, and an hour's conversation at the bath house will reveal tales of nervous women who have been cured.

One wonders, after being at Paso Robles (The Pass of the Oaks) whether Ponce de Leon really was without justification when he started in search of this wonderful "waters of youth."

A small book, neatly illustrated, has been recently published by the management telling the story of the Hot Springs in a most interesting manner and giving complete information. Send for it, either to Wm. McMurray, General Passenger Agent of the O. E. & N., Portland, Ore., or Dr. F. W. Sawyer, manager, Paso Robles, Cal.

Christmas Dishware

Our shipment of Christmas dishware has just arrived. Call and see them.



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| Berry sets | Salad sets |
| Dinner sets | Water sets |
| Chamber sets | Berry dishes |
| Hand-painted platters | Bread and butters |
| Toothpick holders | After-dinner cups |
| Fancy saucers | Salt shakers |
| Fancy cups | Cake plates |
| Vases | Jardiniers |

Christmas Candies

Just received several hundred pounds direct from factory, insuring not only cheaper but fresher candy than at other dealers. New crop of walnuts and fine almonds are now in.

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W. W. WILLIAMS

SCIO, OREGON

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