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POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT

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THE PINCHOT-BALLINGER CONTROVERSY

FOR THE BENEFIT of some of our readers, who have not kept fully read up on the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, which congress now has under investigation, the NEWS will give a synopsis of the quarrel as we understand it:

It will be remembered that Gifford Pinchot was appointed Chief Forester by President Roosevelt and the forestry policy, up to the present time, was developed under his administration of the office.

When Land Commissioner Hermann was dismissed for supposed complicity in the Blue Mountain Reserve scandal, the present Secretary of the Interior Ballinger, was appointed to succeed Hermann in the land office. Mr. Ballinger conducted the office but for a few months and then resigned.

With the inauguration of Mr. Taft, Mr. Ballinger was made Secretary of the interior, which office he continues to hold at the present time. One of the chief field men for Forester Pinchot, was a certain Mr. Glavis, whose duty was to inspect certain Alaska land entries. While executing his duties, he found certain coal land entries, up there, which did not look good to him and the more he investigated, the less he liked the entries. By tracing the matter up, he became satisfied that the entries were inspired by a rich syndicate, behind which the Gugenheims were supposed to be the main instigators and, by appealing to the United States Attorney General, the entries were held up. About this time, or shortly before, Ballinger had retired from the general land office and had become the attorney for the entrymen, which were being held up and, of course, was pushing the interests of his clients, as an honest attorney should do.

Afterward came the Taft inauguration and the appointment of Ballinger as Secretary of the Interior. Soon thereafter, the order was made for these particular coal land entries to go to patent. Then is when the appeal to the Attorney General was made and by his decision, the entries were held up. In the mean time, by special order of President Taft and during his trip on the Pacific Coast, Glavis was dismissed from office.

The clash between Ballinger and Pinchot seemed ready to break out at any time.

There was a difference of opinion between them which seemed unreconcilable. Mr. Pinchot wished to carry out the policy which President Roosevelt and he had developed. He wished to have these coal lands inure to the benefit of all the people. Secretary Ballinger wished to have the law interpreted as it had formerly been understood and these entrymen, for whom he had been attorney, go to patent.

Thus the matter stood until the congressional investigation scheme was developed. A letter bearing upon the subject from Forester Pinchot to Senator Doliver was read in the open senate. This action brought the matter to issue at once. President Taft was forced to choose between Ballinger and Pinchot, resulting in Pinchot's official head falling into the basket.

The foregoing is a correct history of the controversy, as the NEWS man has been able to gather from reading the daily press dispatches. What the findings of the congressional investigating committee will be, remains yet to be seen.

Mr. Pinchot may have been a little too enthusiastic in his endeavor to carry out the Roosevelt policy and save these coal fields for the benefit of all the people. If so, his action will be looked upon, by most people who believe that timber lands, coal lands and water

power, should bring the largest and best possible returns to all the people, instead of passing into the hands of rich syndicates for a mere song, as meritorious. Mr. Ballinger's attorney instinct seems to influence his action, even since he has become Secretary of the Interior. His opinion, as attorney for the Gugenheims, if they are behind the entrymen, seems to control his action after having become a cabinet officer. Nevertheless, the Attorney General decided against him, Ballinger does not change his opinion and, doubtless, would allow these entrymen to go to patent, when he knows, in reason, that the claims are fraudulent. Moreover, he seems to have President Taft completely influenced to back him up and, most likely, will win out.

The whole matter, probably, depends upon the findings of the congressional investigations. If the controversy is sifted to the bottom and the facts fully ascertained, the NEWS believes Mr. Pinchot's contention will be sustained; for he seems to be contending for the interests of all the people, as against the people who make a business of exploiting the government.

THE RESULT OF THOUGHT.

Among the fifty or more newspapers which comes to our exchange table, is one which is strongly supporting the Assembly plan. In speaking of what will occur when the Assembly flag is flung to the breeze, when the political campaign opens and the Republicans rush pell mell to the Assembly standard, this exchange characterizes it "as a return from Populism. We wish our exchange had not said that; for it can not and will not be true, in any measure. Moreover, the expression indicates a spirit of political intolerance or illiberality, which we supposed had perished with the battles of the civil war. To use the term "Populism" in a derisive way politically, as it was used in this instance, is regrettable, in these days of modern political free thought. The name, or rather nickname, given alike by Republicans and Democrats to the Peoples party in its young days, was applied for purposes derision and to belittle the then rising popular movement. But the name stuck and the Peoples party adopted it as a party name.

Populism is but another name for popular thought; and when our neighbor said "return from Populism" as a consumation desired, he implied that those recalcitrant Republicans, who had permitted themselves to indulge in political free thought or popular thought would, voluntarily, return to the chains of partisan thought. This is a consumation utterly impossible. When a man once breaks away from the shackles of partisanship, and tastes of the sweets of liberal political thought, you can never rebid him. He could not rebid himself to the old orthodox tenets, which rank partisanship requires. When a man has once obtained knowledge, you can not take that knowledge from him, without destroying his capacity for thought.

Populism was the result of an effort on the part of some farmer folk, some twenty or more years ago, to relieve themselves from the chains of financial servitude, which the wealth of our nation was trying to weld upon them. These farmers had begun to think. They gave publicity to their thoughts, through the various farmer organizations, clubs and alliances. This caused other farmers to think. Laboring men, through their various labor organizations, did likewise. And these same people yet continue to think. They think and express their thoughts to their neighbors and in the Grange and Labor organizations. Every thought breaks away a chain of political party serfdom. To imagine these men who have become thinkers, will voluntarily surrender the result of that thought and become blind, biggoted partisans again, is a pure absurdity. They could not if they would and would not if they could.

By the way, did the thought ever occur to you, that nearly all of our most profound statesmen were once farmers or farmer's boys? And, also, that the most liberal thoughts, which influence governmental affairs, emanated from the farm? Trace, if you will, the histories of our greatest and best statesmen of the past and the present, who have exerted a formative influence in the conduct of our government, and you will find that the farm has been the nursery which made possible the after greatness of these men. The farm seems to generate men capable of more liberality and breadth of thought than the city.

Wealth, since history has kept a record of human events, has ever endeavored to enslave men. It demands servants and the more complete and a subject the servitude, the better, from the viewpoint of wealth. Ignorance on the part of the enslaved, is a necessity, if the slavery is complete. But occasionally, so say the records of the past, among the enslaved was a thinker. He caused others to think and, as a result of that thought, the conditions of the enslaved improved. Our Revolutionary war was the result of thought. The colonists, prior thereto, thought taxation without representation was unjust. It was a species of financial servitude

to which they objected. Finally all of the colonies began thinking in the same way and the immortal Declaration of Independence, followed by eight years of war, resulted.

When the new nation was born, African slavery had existed in most of the colonies for many years. It became a part of the new nation. The enslavement of the black man, was then regarded as lawful and was a source of wealth. In fact, the black man became wealth, itself; for the wealth of the southern planter, for many years, was estimated by the number of slaves he owned.

It required eighty years of thought before the shackles of bondage were taken from the black slaves. Since the black man has been given his freedom, wealth has sought new servants or slaves in the persons of people who labor. It sought to fasten the chains of financial servitude upon the farmer, through the absorption of his earnings, by unjust and exorbitant freight rates and large profits by the middle man. These farmers commenced to think and soon located the trouble. Populism resulted. Farmers yet continue to think. As a result of that thought, call it Populism if you will, we have here in Oregon our Initiative and Referendum and the Direct Primary laws, which the proposed Assembly plan is calculated to subvert or overcome.

Without the aid of individual Republicans, Oregon could not have enacted the Direct Primary, including Statement No. 1. Now the Republican party is telling us, through the proposed Assembly, that it did not know that the Primary law including, what the Oregonian styles "The holy Statement," was loaded and the boosters of the Assembly plan purpose drawing the load, thus rendering the law harmless to their interests.

When those individual Republicans assisted in the adoption of the Direct Primary, they did not do so blindly and without thought. They thought that the delegate convention system of selecting candidates had become so corrupt and so little expressive of the choice of the people, that they would try the plan we now have—the Direct Primary with Statement No. 1 included. Indeed, Statement No. 1 is the product of the thought of one of the most popular Republicans of his time, in the state. It is not reasonable to suppose that these thinking individual Republicans will joyfully rally under its folds, when the Assembly flag is flaunted to the breeze. As before stated, when men taste the sweets of independent popular thought, you can never rebid them with the shackles of partisanship. These individual Republicans are thinkers. Many of them are farmers and belong to the Grange. They read and study these matters in the quiet of their homes and discuss them with their neighbors and at the Grange, and it is unreasonable to suppose that they, like whipped spaniels, will meekly bow to the commands of a few disgruntled would-be political bosses and office seekers.

Yes, the Assembly was the product of thought, too; but it did not emanate from the brain of our farmer folk. Oh no. The Assembly could only be the product of the gray matter of a disgruntled politician, who had an ax to grind. It originated in Portland and it was not the product of one mind only. It was developed by a bunch of political wirepullers, down there who, hitherto have directed the destinies of the Republican party of Oregon. Nor are these same wirepullers disinterested patriots, overflowing with a desire for the good of their party. No indeed. Every mother's son of them expect personal results, if they can make the Assembly win out.

But the Assembly can't win. The individual Republican has formed the habit of thought. He can readily see that the Assembly is not so innocent in its objects, as the Oregonian would make it appear. He can see that the Assembly and Direct Primary are directly and diametrically opposed and will not nor can not harmonize. The Assembly, if successful, will kill the Primary law and the Republicans who think, know that this result will be true. Some of them, those down in Multnomah, know that it is true, too; for this was the object which the Assembly was intended to accomplish.

TOO MUCH SPECULATION.

The great Northwest is passing through a transitory speculative era and will not settle down to producing what it should in any line, with the exception, perhaps, of fruit, until this speculative craze has passed and we fear nothing short of a financial crisis will bring it to an end and the people to their senses.

We have naught to fear or say against fruit raising. It is a great industry capable of much expansion and development but in a way it is responsible more than generally realized for the light production of other crops in many sections of the Northwest.

Too many of the people coming to this country from the East are coming with the idea of making money through speculation rather than by the more legitimate method of producing direct from the soil, beef, butter, bacon, bread and potatoes as well as fruit,

Through the glowing accounts of boom literature these people have been led to believe that through the rapid advance in real estate values they can invest a few thousand dollars and without any particular effort on their part sell out in a few years for enough to enable them to retire and take life easy in the city. The high prices being received for fancy fruit, the occasional large profit realized from orchards here and there, the rapid advance in the value of orchard lands and the high figure at which producing orchards are held and occasionally sold have furnished the basis, largely, for the glowing accounts that have turned so many people's heads. In some portions of the upper Willamette and farther south land that was rated at from \$15 to \$50 per acre a few years ago and was producing regularly good crops of grass, hay, oats, potatoes, etc., has been bought up by speculators by the thousands of acres, subdivided and set to orchards and is being sold to the new comer and the eastern speculator at \$400 per acre with the idea that it will soon be worth two, three or five times that much. We are not saying that it will not be worth a good round price when it comes into full bearing, or that, if properly adapted to growing fruit, it will not produce more in orchard than in grass or grain, but we are saying that this speculation and this wholesale rushing into the fruit business has wonderfully reduced production. Many who have not sold or subdivided have folded their arms and are waiting their turn to sell out at a high figure. A prominent citizen of Oregon who is wide awake to what is going on and who recently bought land in the southern part of the state says he could take \$10,000 and buy all the surplus hay from Eugene south and that all along the Southern Pacific where tons of milk used to be shipped now only a few hundred pounds are loaded daily.

Fruit raising on fruit land is alright and of the staple sort may not be overdone, but there is no question but what hundreds of acres of land is being set to orchard and sold at a high figure by unscrupulous or ignorant speculators that is better adapted to the growing of grain or perhaps cheat hay.

We have our natural orchard lands, our lands and localities peculiarly adapted to dairying and yet other sections where the production of beef is the most logical thing. The man who by nature and training is a successful beef or hog raiser is not adapted to succeed at dairying or orcharding and vice versa. There is a crying demand for more beef and more pork. The man who by intelligence and science can produce two pounds where only one did grow is a philosopher and a philanthropist and had better be working at his trade than running off after strange gods. His sure reward is in sight.—Rural Spirit.

The Primary Will Decide.

"Recommendation of candidates for nomination is the right of any assembly or convention of citizens of any party, or of independent citizens who acknowledge no party. All candidates offered by assembly or convention, all candidates offered by groups of citizens, all candidates nominating themselves, alike must submit their names and claims to the approval of the voters at the primary nominating convention in September next; and regularly on every occasion. "Seeing then," says the Grants Pass Observer, "that the proposed assemblies in no way interfere with the rights of the people under the primary law, it is hard to understand how any person can honestly oppose them."

No person can or will, who understands the facts and has candid disposition towards them. No group of citizens who may recommend candidates, no convocation or association—whatever the name—can alter, abridge or diminish in any way the rights of the people in the primary. All may go to the primary and vote each and all for whomsoever they will. If electors don't like the candidates recommended by the assembly or convention, they may recommend and vote for others, of their own selection. Everything will be perfectly open and fair.

The assembly or convention will abridge the rights of no citizen or group or body of citizens. Everything is to be decided by the primary conducted under the sanctions of law, in which each and every man will have "his say." The primary law is not involved at all, nor initiative and referendum. A conference or convocation or assembly or convention or meeting or association of citizens—call it what you will or may—will simply offer candidates. To be voted on at the primary. The organized force and legal authority of the Republican party will offer candidates in the name of the Republican party. But there may be other Republican candidates, and independent Republican candidates. The primary will try it out between them all, and the general election later will decide the issue between all candidates, whatever the party name.

The conference, assembly, convocation, association—whatever you call it—will shut out nobody. The primary will determine who the candidates are to be. In the primary every man will have "his say."—Oregonian.

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