

The Santiam News

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT

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CONDEMS THE PRIMARY.



XGOVERNOR Gage of California, is quoted in a column interview in the Oregonian as being bitterly opposed to the Direct Primary.

Of course, the Oregonian gave the article prominence with scare headlines, etc. But what should one expect from a California politician other than condemnation of, not only the Direct Primary, but any other reform measure which would restore the government to the people?

Governor Gage poses as a great admirer of the Federal constitution and believes this venerable instrument is perfect and could not be improved upon.

To admit this contention, we would place a block in the way of all progress. It would place a bar upon any change of condition whatever. When the Federal constitution was adopted, it was found to be imperfect in several particulars—so imperfect that twelve amendments were adopted before the government was a score of years old, and three more amendments were added before the century mark had been reached.

Every student of governmental affairs, knows that our Federal constitution was the result of conflicting interests. No doubt it was the very best instrument attainable at that time; but far from being the perfect instrument which Governor Gage would have us believe. This fact was plainly set forth by our Revolutionary sires, in that they themselves, amended what they considered its defects no less than twelve times.

The governor places the Federal constitution in the same class with the Lord's prayer and the multiplication table. The Lord's prayer is regarded as being sacred and, therefore, is not admissible of change. The multiplication table is a demonstrated unchangeable fact. The Federal constitution was a compromise of the opinions of the men of those times and is, consequently, subject to change whenever the opinions of men, subject of course to the requirements thereof, deem it expedient. At one time in the age of the world, men thought the world was flat,

but this error was completely exploded by an amendment to the world's knowledge. There are some facts in the world which, when thoroughly demonstrated, become axiomatic. They are not subject to change and cannot be improved upon. But anything in the way of opinions of men are subject to change. Later and more thorough investigations may demonstrate that the previous accepted opinion may be wholly or in part wrong. Government constitutions and theories of government are of this class.

Any man who has trained under California politics, or has been one of the "ins" of that state, might be expected to oppose the Direct Primary law. In a state where Southern Pacific political methods have had control so long, almost any man who has held office there, measures it from a financial viewpoint. They estimate what it will cost to get office and what will be the probable emoluments thereof. A state wherein graft is looked upon as being almost legitimate, cannot be expected, from those of the inside, to favor a Direct Primary law. For it would take power from their hands, just as it has done in Oregon and, of course, they don't want it.

From the beginning of recorded human history, there has been an element in the character of men, which causes them to desire to be leaders, rulers, office holders, etc. This element in the human character established the ruling royal families of monarchies and political leaders and machine bosses in the more liberal republican forms of governments. These royal families and political leaders and bosses, as a rule, have ever opposed and resisted reform in the ideas of government; for they were and are content with the existing conditions. They were not and are not patriots, because of their selfish love of power. Governor Gage is of this class. He is one of the favored few and any change would, probably, relegate him to the shades of private life. We have such men here in Oregon. They are the prime movers and agitators of the assembly.

The history of the world sets forth this one fact very forcibly: As the knowledge of men has expanded, in like manner has the liberty of men expanded and broadened. One man, or a few men develop a new fact in the science of government or physics. These facts are not adopted by the world until the people, generally, are educated to the truth of the new fact. A fact once demonstrated to the satisfaction of the world, is never refuted. Consequently progress in either government or physics never turns backward. Men may block the wheels of progress for a time, just as the church and royal rulers of the past have attempted to stay the progress in science and the art of government. But such blocks or stays have proven temporary in the past, as they will in the present and future. The Governor Gages and the assemblyites in Oregon can no more stem the tide of governmental advancement, than they could stay the tide of a river when at its flood stage.

The science of government is far from being perfect. There is great room for improvement, even in our own government, which is acknowledged to be the most advanced form of government among men. As defective features are developed and made apparent by the selfish abuses of misfit rulers, they must and will be corrected with reforms. Our Federal constitution was the very best production of the minds of as noble patriots as the world has ever produced. But what was then the best, the experience and advance in the science of government for 125 or

more years, has shown to be defective for the conditions of the present age. Seeing these defects, it is the natural right of the men of to-day to correct them, insofar as they have developed in knowledge.

Men who originate and advocate reforms, will, doubtless, make mistakes in the present as they have in the past; for while the mind has and is making progress, it has not yet reached the summit of perfection. And our Governor Gages and advocates of the assembly are serving a useful purpose, too. They are causing the promoters of reform to study well the measures which they advocate and pare the defects away. But while their plausible sophistries may serve as a sort of governor or regulator of misdirected and ill-advised reforms, we should not allow them to switch us from the purpose of advancing human government towards the summit of perfection, so far as lies within our power.

A MATTER OF PENSIONS

OUR GOVERNMENT'S most expensive bill in the making up of the annual budget, is that of pensions. While some people object to the payment of pensions, the News believes that the payment of a monthly stipend to the civil war veterans, is wholly justifiable and is only the ratification of the implied contract the government made with the recruit at the time of enlistment. Regardless of the fact that the soldier was required to hazard his life on the battle field, or that his health was jeopardized by encampment in unhealthy and miasmatic swamps in the Southland, his insignificant wage of \$16 currency, entitles him to something more from the government for which he risked his life. Sixteen dollars currency, during the war days, was equal to but a few dollars, or less, of gold. Even had the full wage been paid in gold, the sum was insignificant for the service required. At the same time, the commonest day laborers, in the North, were receiving \$30 to \$50 per month, besides having an abundance of food and a good warm bed in which to sleep, which the soldier in the field had not. No one can know the discomfort the Union soldier was required to undergo, except he has been one of the soldiers who wore the blue or the gray.

The pension to the civil war veteran is but a matter of justice and right—a making good of the implied contract between the government and the recruit. But now another class of pensions are being advocated by some of the members of congress, viz., for the superannuated clerks, who have spent their business lifetime in the service of the government. Pity might dictate the granting of pensions to these people, but the News believes, to do so, would be unjust to the people at large. The government clerk secured his position, after months of personal endeavor, perhaps, and assisted with the influence of his member of congress. Having secured his position, our clerk, at once, proceeded to obtain as comfortable a place to live, as the volume of his salary would allow. As a rule his hours of employment were short, not more than six or eight, at most, thus giving him plenty of time to participate in the social life of the national capital. At the end of the month he or she receives a salary sum, which would have been sufficient to pay the wage of the civil war veteran for from one to two years and, in some cases, the wage for his entire three or four years service. Bear in mind, also, the clerk's salary is not subject to a discount of 50 to 60 per cent, if he desires to exchange his currency for gold, as was the case of the veteran. Further, the clerk's time of service is not subject to a term of three years enlistment. If he takes a notion to be absent without leave, he is not subject to arrest, as in the case of the soldier. He would receive no further punishment than the loss of his position and not even this, if he happened to have an influential congressman for a friend. At any time, if the clerk gets tired and homesick, he can hand in his resignation and terminate his service, at once. The soldier simply has to serve the time for which he enlisted. The clerk does not have to risk his life on the battle field nor be compelled to encamp in places noted for their unhealthfulness. No is he subject to capture and confinement in the cattle pen prisons of the South, where starvation and disease caused the death of nearly half of those imprisoned.

When the government employe secured his position, there was no implied contract, that after serving 30 or 40 years at a salary of from \$100 to \$500 or more per month, he would receive a gratuitous pension. This gratuitous pension now proposed, is of but recent origin in congress and is, doubtless, inspired by the clamor of the about-to-be-retired clerks. If these high salary employes have wasted their substance in extravagant and riotous living as fast as it was earned, no one is to blame save themselves. They could have saved a competence upon which to retire, in their old age, if they had lived frugally; but they would not,

Now they ask the government to make up for the result of their folly.

If congressmen would give their attention to the providing new ways of raising revenue, instead of devising new ways to spend it, the annual financial deficit would be quickly converted into a surplus. But, until a class of men are elected as congressmen, whose only purpose is to serve all the people, instead of the interests, we may expect grafts of every nature and description, to bob up. This pension graft is but one of the many schemes of the tax eaters to consume the substance of the taxpayers. In fact our government is honeycombed with graft, of which the tariff graft is the greatest. Our national expenses are doubt what they would be, if graft could be completely eliminated.

WILL BE BORN IN JULY.

THE ASSEMBLY child has been conceived and is billed to be born next July. An attempt to make the state meeting, representative by apportioning something more than 1200 delegates among the 34 counties of the state has been made. Multnomah, as might have been expected, gets nearly one-third of the delegates. A Portland man, Judge M. C. George is selected state chairman, to succeed W. M. Calk.

Not exactly perfect harmony prevailed, but as all inflammatory speeches, by common consent, were barred, the meeting will be listed as one of harm any. Multnomah's portion of delegates is 350, was regarded as being too unyielding to be selected by the usual mass precinct assembly method, so it was agreed that her delegates might be selected by the county central committee. In so doing, the hand of the Multnomah machine is exposed. Of course, only men trained and experienced in political methods will be selected which fact, added to the large number of delegates apportioned, will give Multnomah a dominating influence in the state assembly. This means that a Republican aspirant for office, in order to win, must first placate the Multnomah machine. Another feature of the assembly plan, which does not look good, is the barring of all proxies, giving the delegation from each county authority to vote the full number of delegates apportioned from their county. It is not probable that full delegations from outside counties, especially the distant ones, will attend the state assembly. Only the machine politicians from the far away counties are likely to be there.

The logical result will be, the state assembly will be absolutely under the dominance of the political bosses from the various counties. And as all of the Multnomah delegates, appointed by the Multnomah machine, will be there, there is no doubt that, indirectly, the Multnomah machine will dictate who shall be nominated on the Republican state ticket. Such procedure may be thought to be representative of the rank and file of the state; but to a disinterested outsider it looks like the will of the political machine, pure and simple. At least, this will be the prevailing opinion among non assembly Republicans throughout the state.

The late Portland meeting, was not fully attended. A number of counties were conspicuous because of their absence. Whether this absence is an indication that these unrepresented counties are opposed to the assembly or not, is not known. Linn is one of the absent counties and, it is believed that the assembly spirit is not overwhelmingly strong in this county. Anyway the assembly is an experiment and we will see what we shall see next November.

Clubbing Rates

As the time of year is now at hand when winter reading should be provided for, we make the following clubbing offer to our readers. One year's subscription to the Santiam News is included in all the prices quoted below: The Weekly Oregonian (Portland) \$2.25 The Semi-Weekly Journal " \$2.00 The Breeders Gazette (Chicago) \$2.25 The Thrive a week World (N.Y.) \$2.25 Any \$1 a year magazine " \$2.00 We can give you clubbing rates with any newspaper or magazine, no matter where published.

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35 acres 1 mile west of Scio about 20 acres have been cultivated, balance cool ash and oak timber; make fine lot of wood. Can all be cultivated. Price \$5 per acre, \$500 cash balance 9 years time at 6 per cent.

R. SHULTON, Scio, Oregon.

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Chicken, per pound .12
Turkey, per pound, young broilers .12
Wax, per pound .12
Soybeans, per pound .12
Oats, per bushel .45
Corn, per bushel .45
Soybeans, per bushel .45
Wheat, (spring) per bushel .45
Oats, per bushel .45
Corn, per bushel .45
Soybeans, per bushel .45

BOOK SALE

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Notice of Final Settlement
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned administrator of the estate of Allen Van Ness, deceased, late of Linn County, Oregon, has filed with the Clerk of the County Court for Linn County, Oregon, his Final Account, and the court has fixed the 7th day of March, 1910, at the hour of 9 o'clock A. M. for the hearing of objections, if any, against said account and the settlement of said estate.