

One Santiam News

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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THE BATTLE TO BE REPEATED

When the Oregon legislature, at its last session, refused to provide maintenance for the normal schools, it was thought by many people that this would be the end of the normals, at least, for some years. But such thought has proven to be a mistake. The question is to be revived through means of the Initiative.

The friends of Weston normal are now preparing to get out Initiative petitions and, probably, Monmouth and Ashland will do likewise, with several other towns of points to hear from. Weston is very modest in her demands. She asks that a levy of one-tenth of one mill be added to the state tax levy, annually, to be set apart as a maintenance fund for that school. They evidently think that the people will not refuse so insignificant a sum for the meritorious purpose of education. They know that most people consider money expended for educational purposes, money well expended and, therefore, they are preparing their petitions, confident of success. And if the people knew that this small tax burden would be all that would be asked for normal school purposes, they would vote the tax willingly. But most people know that this Weston measure will be but a starter.

Not alone will this small tax be insufficient for Weston's needs, but Monmouth, Ashland and, perhaps, numerous other towns, will come forward with like petitions. And they will be fully justified in doing so, too, for each of these other towns has just as much right to have a state college located within her limits as has Weston. Nor can the people justly refuse to maintain a normal school in any other county in the state, now without a state college, if the Weston petition is granted. In fact every town of any considerable importance has as much right to a state supported college, as has Weston, Eugene or Corvallis, for that matter. The state having once embarked in the college business, there is no point at which the brakes can be justly applied.

The News believes the state made a grave mistake when she stepped without the common school field and into the realms of higher education. Far better would it have been, and the state constitution saved a severe strain, if the large sums of money which have been expended for state colleges and their maintenance, had been added to the public school fund; thus making it possible for all public schools to be more efficient. The fact that the state is now appropriating from \$150 to \$300 per year for each state college student and only \$8 to \$9 per year for each public school pupil, does not seem exactly just.

Our present county high school law is a step in the right direction. It empowers any county to provide a county high school fund, to be used to maintain one or more high schools in such county. In other words, it enables any county to tax herself in order to make her schools better. Now if the funds heretofore appropriated for colleges had been used as a sort of state high school fund, in a manner somewhat like our present high school law provides, there is no doubt but what Oregon's educational standard would have been much better than it is today.

But, returning to the normal school question again, the only safe and just policy to adopt is to either vote a normal for each county or deny them to

all. There is no just middle ground. We know that these towns where normal school buildings are located, feel that they are grossly misused, by having their schools denied a maintenance, when the colleges at Corvallis and Eugene fare so munificently. And they have just reason to feel aggrieved, too; for these normal towns as well as all other portions of the state, are taxed to support O. A. C. and U. of O., yet are denied even a meager support for their own institutions.

Justly, the state owes no boy or girl a technical education. If she gives to each boy and girl a thorough rudimentary education, the News believes she has discharged her full duty. We care not how far this rudimentary program is carried, so that all schools in every part of the state are treated alike. Then every portion of the state would get back its portion of the taxes paid for educational purposes.

To be sure, the towns of Eugene and Corvallis are flourishing and property within their limits is rated higher than in other like sized towns of the state. There is good reason for it. The state at large is helping to foot the bills. To illustrate this point: There is not a very great difference in the amount of taxes paid to the state by Linn and Lane counties, each being about \$60,000. Linn gets back from the state annually, \$1000, while Lane gets back \$125,000 per year. In addition to this amount, Eugene has the \$390 to \$400 which each of the students, 600 to 600 in number, spend each year. Why should not Eugene and Corvallis grow under these favorable conditions and why should not the reverse be true of Weston, Monmouth and Ashland?

The News is well aware that to oppose the state college, is to take the unpopular side of the question, in the minds of many people, especially those who live in a state college town. It knows that many people argue that too much money cannot be expended for educational purposes. If the money should be expended so that all portions of the state and that all the boys and girls of the state could get their just proportion of it, then we would say amen. But when we know that when fully 95 per cent, of the boys and girls of the state, are compelled to be content with what the public schools can give and, besides, must work and help earn the tax moneys in order to send the other five per cent, to college, where they are taught technically as well as generally, it does not look just exactly fair. But as the News is regarded as an old foggy newspaper, its editor may be excused for entertaining these old fashioned ideas of education.

MERELY A BUNCO GAME

The assembly people claim Statement No. 1 as their chief cause of grievance against the direct primary law. But when their plan is sifted down to the bottom and the true inwardness thereof exposed, we ascertain that they wish to apply the principle of statement One all along down the line, including candidates for representative for congress and a full slate of state and county officers, so far as the selection of these candidates at the primary election is concerned.

Statement No. 1, as exemplified at the election of two years ago, was as follows: Messrs. Fulton and Cake made a tryout for the Republican nomination for United States senator at the primary election; resulting in a victory for Mr. Cake. The place for the Democratic candidate for the same office, was left blank, Governor Chamberlain's name had to be written by the voter. At the general election the people made choice between Candidates Cake and Chamberlain. The result was, as all know, Mr. Chamberlain's name, alone, was sent up to the legislature for ratification and to comply with the Federal requirement. The legislature had no other choice than to ratify the choice of the people.

The assembly people propose holding an assembly for the purpose of trying out or selecting candidates for representative in congress and state and county offices, the assembly to make selection as between rival aspirants and to send down to the primary election, the name of but one candidate for each respective office. As the primary law allows the voter to vote his party ticket only, the Republican primary voter, seeing that he has but one candidate to vote for, it can readily be seen, that nine out of every ten of them will vote for the candidate whose name is printed upon the ballot. True, the voter can "scratch" the printed name and replace it with a written one, but how many of them will take the trouble to do so? And he will violate party regularity, if he does so.

Under the direct primary law, any man may offer himself for office. If he complies with the provisions of the law, his name must be printed upon his party primary ballot. From the probable two or more aspirants, the voter has the power of selecting the man whom he desires to be nominated. The assembly proposes to take this option away from the voter. It assumes that the voter has not sense enough to make proper selection. He must delegate this power of selection to some of his neighbors, who assume to possess superior political wisdom.

Granted that under the present law, bosses and factions may bring out candidates, or that a candidate may bring himself out, it is necessary that he shall receive a plurality of his party vote before he can receive his party nomination. His success is entirely optional with the primary voter.

As the assembly will assume to select from, probably, several aspirants, the candidate to send down to the primary, it assumes the function of the people in bringing out candidates and of the primary voters to make selection as between aspirants. It proposes to do for the Republican party, in the case of all candidates, the same function which the people do for the legislature, in selecting United States senators. That party will have no other option than to accept the choice of the assembly. The assembly thus assumes the rank and file of the Republican party has not intelligence enough to make selection of the men they desire to fill public office.

The legislature, if controlled by Statement members, is under moral obligation to elect as United States senator, the man selected by the people at the general election. The assembly proposes to compel primary voters of the Republican party to nominate men for office whom it has selected. Is there not a similarity in these two propositions? The senator is selected by a majority of the people at the polls; the assembly candidates will be selected by the collective wisdom of political bosses from all over the state. Senators so selected, owe their allegiance to the people. Assembly candidates, if elected, will owe their allegiance—to whom? Not the people, but to self appointed members of the proposed assembly. Can the people reasonably expect good service from officials who are under obligations to a lot of political bosses and tricksters?

The assembly will have all of the evils of the old convention without any of its virtues. It will have no legal standing whatever; yet will attempt to dictate to and control its party's action. It will be a case of a bunch of political bosses and ward heelers running the political machine on the one hand, or a plurality of the party at the primary election on the other. It is the entering wedge to wreck our entire primary system first, and then the Initiative and Referendum laws later on.

These same bosses object to the dictation of the people in the selection of United States senator, yet assume to dictate, not only candidates for senators, but for congressmen and state and county officers, themselves. And this under the guise of party harmony and regularity? And old fable states that a lion and a lady went walking together. They both came back but the lady was inside of the lion. Something of this nature will be the result of the assembly and the primary. Let us hope that the primary will be the lion in this instance.

The assembly will, no doubt, nominate the very best candidates obtainable as a starter. It will do this in order to gain the good opinion of the voters. This may be expected, but the fireworks will begin later on. The only way to scotch this colossal bunco game is to "scratch" every assembly nominated candidate at the polls, no matter how meritorious the candidate may be. The primary law is the stake the assembly is playing for and it will be the winner, unless the people absolutely refuse to make terms with it. As before stated the assembly has no authority of law for its existence and does not deserve recognition by the voters. It is a graft upon our political system, which emanated in the gray matter of some dethroned political boss down in Portland and is calculated to make Portland a more absolute political dictator than she now is.

Surely the people of Oregon will have more political foresight than to allow a bunch of political grafters and bunco sharps to undo, in this manner, all of the political reformation made in the last decade? Oregon is gradually purging herself of graft and political debauchery. Our Direct Primary, including Statement No. 1 and the Initiative and Referendum laws is the physic which is bringing about the change. And because of this cleansing, Oregon is making the most rapid progress, in all fields, of her history. The eyes of every state in the Union are directed Oregonward. They are all watching the so-called "Oregon Plan." Politicians, that is to say some of them, would go to any length to break down and bring to grief our reform laws. Just a little over one year ago, one of the bunch from Washington D. C. came to Oregon to break down Statement No. 1, but to the credit of the Oregon legislature, he failed. Now if we withstand this assembly assault, our reform laws will be so firmly engrafted in the hearts of the people, that all future assaults will prove abortive.

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The District
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The County
State Senators—M. A. Miller, Frank Miller for Linn and Lane Counties
Representatives—L. A. Munkers, J. M. Philpott
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Commissioners—O. H. Russell, T. J. Butler
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Fruit Inspector—
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Marshall—L. N. Weddle
Treasurer—J. F. Wesley
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