

One Santiam News

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT

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T. L. DUGGER

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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ADVISORY ASSEMBLY ALL RIGHT

NOMINATING ASSEMBLY ALL WRONG

No sane man can object, with reason, to the people assembling together for the purpose of advising as to ways and means of political procedure, to declare what are the paramount issues and to select, for office, men who would be most likely carry these issues into effect. This was the intent of the old time party primary meetings, to be followed later on by the party nominating convention. If this method had been carried on with the purity of its original intent, there would have been no need for the people to resort, for relief, to our present direct primary law. But the old plan degenerated, as we all know, into a mere political machine which was directed and dominated by one or more central figures or heads. We can all remember when lists of names were sent out from the county seat to each precinct in the county, to be elected as precinct delegates, and how the entire organization was mapped out before the meeting of the convention, by having the chairman and members of committees all selected before the fall of the gavel calling the convention to order. Because of the ability of one or more men to thus manipulate a county convention with such machine-like precision arose the name "Political Machine" and the master hand which directed the machine as the "Boss." This condition is desired again by that class of men who make politics a profession and office holding an occupation and the proposed assembly as the means to accomplish that end.

No man can or will object to the members of a political party meeting in assemblies for the purpose of consultation. Such meetings are necessary if there is to be unity of action. There can be no objection to men assembling prior to the date of the primary election and declaring their ideas of what the party policies should be and measures it should advocate. Then the candidates nominated at the primary election, know what their party expects them to do, if elected. But, if this assembly assumes to dictate who may or may not stand for office before the primary voters, then it assumes an authority not given it by law. In the old delegate convention day, the members of a convention were authorized by law, to say who should be candidates for office. The convention delegate received this authority from the voters at the precinct primary. Citizens meeting in a volunteer assembly, have not this power. Such power can only be conferred by the primary voter in the election booth, as now provided by law.

The Oregonian often states that the Democratic party has always held assemblies, for the purpose of bringing out candidates. In a measure, this statement is true; but such assembly is not held for the same purpose for that which the Republicans contemplate. A minority party is never troubled with an overplus of candidates. Men who have an itching for office, do not seek nomination at the hands of a party able to elect only by accident. Hence, it is often the case that nominations by the minority party go begging. In other words, the nomination seeks the man, rather than he the nomination. This fact is generally true of the Democratic party of Oregon, and its assembly is held for the purpose of drafting candidates in order to complete the ticket.

The reverse is true with the majority party. The Republican party of Oregon always elects its candidates when ever there is a unity of action. For this reason, men who are office hungry, are eager to become a Republican candidate and there are, usually, a number of aspirants for each office at the command of the people. That party does not have to draft candidates and, therefore, does not need to hold an assembly for that purpose. The Republican assembly is to be held for the purpose of selecting which of the numerous aspirants shall be voted for at the primary election. If the names of all the aspirants of that party for office should be submitted to the primary voter, then there would be no fault to find. But such is not the purpose. Only one candidate for each office will be selected. We will, therefore, have a Republican ticket, dictated by an illegal body of men. Candidates so selected is a plain violation of the direct primary law and will not be supported by men who wish to see the direct primary law maintained.

Nor is it true that there is a general demand by the rank and file of the Republican party that an assembly, such as has been contemplated by its promoters, shall be held. The grange will oppose assembly nominated candidates, almost universally, and a large majority of grangers are Republicans. Most Republicans, who live in the country, will do likewise as well as a considerable number of those who live in the city. Those who oppose the assembly are not asked to express an opinion publicly, for only assembly boomers are desired to be heard from.

Some of the strongest advocates of the assembly plan, claim it will harmonize all the various factions of the Republican party. The NEWS believes that it will make the breach wider than ever, and result in two Republican tickets being placed in the field. That party can gain nothing by the assembly movement and stands to lose much of its power in Oregon politics, if the plan considered is carried out.

TAX BURDENS SHOULD BE EQUAL

Now that our annual taxpaying time is at hand, one is apt to give some thought as to what he gets in return for the large sums he contributes annually, under the general name of "taxes," to the state.

Taxation is the price we pay to live under a civilized form of government for the protection it gives us and for the privileges we enjoy. Now if this burden of taxation could be equitably distributed and every property owner be required to pay his just share, the burden would be much lighter upon him who makes an honest return of his property to the assessor. But it is impossible, seemingly, strive as we may, to cause every property owner to pay his just portion.

As a rule, when the assessor makes his annual visit, men endeavor to have the lowest possible valuation placed upon their visible property and often forget that they have invisible property. The amount of cash on hands has a very wonderful shrinkage, just about the time the assessor is expected. Notes and accounts become exceedingly worthless at the same time. The \$300,000 stock of goods of the merchant suddenly dwindles to about one-fourth of its salable value and a like shrinkage of value is true of all classes of property. If a true and honest return of all classes of property should be made, it is easy to see that the burden of taxation would be greatly decreased upon property which is visible to the assessor.

From the reports of the ten Linn county banks, it is shown that there is not far from \$2,500,000 on deposit. If we add another \$500,000 which is in active circulation and in secret hiding places, we have \$3,000,000 which should be listed on the assessors books. It is doubtful if one-tenth of this amount will be reported. There is, probably, \$1,500,000 worth of merchandise carried by the numerous stores of the county. The assessor will be lucky if he lists one-third of that amount.

Most men are honest and would make an absolutely truthful return of his property to the assessor, if he knew that his neighbor would do likewise. But when he sees his neighbor, who possesses more and better property than himself and whose bank account far exceeds his own while, at the same time, this neighbor's tax receipt shows a less amount paid than he has paid, he becomes convinced that there is something wrong. Because of his honest return to the assessor, he feels that he is made to suffer. The disposition to shrink the value of his property another year is at once generated. He becomes dishonest just because his neighbor had saved a few dollars by a dishonest return the year before.

For some reason many men, or we may say truthfully, most men—men who are honest in dealing with private individuals, do not hesitate to swindle the public in the payment of taxes. A few years ago, a Linn county minister of the gospel died. His estate was valued at over \$12,000. The tax rolls showed that he had been paying taxes, for years, upon a property valuation of less than \$2,000. But all of the people who make a false return of their

property to the assessor are not dead. A great many of them are yet living and continue to swindle the taxgatherer year after year.

It is due to the property owner whose property is visible and cannot escape the eyes of the assessors, that a more drastic and searching law regulating the listing of property for purposes of taxation shall be enacted. A law requiring a note or account to bear the assessor's stamp before they could be collected by law, would probably cause them to be reported to the assessor. If necessary, an invoice of merchandise should be made and the deposit books of the bank should be open to the assessor, etc.

When men learn how to evade a law, it should be the business of our lawmakers to make its provisions so stringent and the punishment for violating it so heavy, that men would not evade it. It would create no hardship for the truly honest man and would serve the dishonest taxdodger according to his deserts.

Food Price Increase

A report by the Bureau of Labor of the Department of Agriculture sent to Congress January 29, contains the following interesting statement:

"The report of retail prices is based on 6087 price schedules or statements secured from 1014 dealers in 65 different cities, in 39 different states, on 30 staple articles.

"The price of every article except coffee was higher in 1907 than in 1896, the year of lowest prices during the period, and in the case of 16 of the 30 articles it was more than 25 per cent above the level of 1896. There was an increase of 62.7 per cent in bacon; potatoes, 56.6 per cent; eggs 48.4 per cent; salt pork, 47.9 per cent; fresh pork 46.3 per cent, and lard, 45.1 per cent. The price of only three articles was lower in 1907 than the average for the 10-year period from 1890. Prunes were 11.6 per cent lower; coffee, 5 per cent lower, and sugar, 4 per cent lower."

Weighed accurately, according to the purchasing power of the pay envelope, the report shows that for a dollar bill the workingman got approximately:

Six and a half pounds of beef in 1907, instead of more than 7½ pounds in 1890.

Six and three-quarter pounds of fresh pork instead of almost 10 pounds.

Five and a half pounds of dressed chickens, instead of 7½ pounds.

Three and three-quarter dozen eggs instead of 5¼ dozens.

Three and a quarter pounds of butter instead of 4½ pounds.

Thirty-two pounds of flour instead of 34½ pounds.

Thirty-five and a quarter pounds of corn meal instead of 46½ pounds.

Notice of Dissolution

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the firm of Carson & Co., heretofore proprietors, is dissolved, Thomas Large retiring and Cal Carson succeeding to complete proprietorship of the business.

All bills due the late firm and bills due others, are only collectable or payable by the undersigned.

CAL CARSON

Wire Fence Notice.

Parties wishing fence will do well by examining fence before purchasing. I can save you, at least, 2 cents per rod on your fence if you will take the height of the fence in consideration pound for pound and 10 to 15 per cent on strength and durability, 20 rods free on trial with any other fence on the market if you are not satisfied it is a better fence take it down and return it and it costs you nothing. The American fence is the fence that will stand the test. Larger wire means longer life. For sale at the Scio Planing Mill.

The Page Fence

I have appointed Blatchford Bros., of Shelburn, agents for the Page Woven Wire fencing. All people in the vicinity of Scio, who desire to purchase the very best woven wire fence on the market, can do so by buying the Page at Blatchford Bros.

G. H. MORLEY,

General Agent, Lebanon.

A Remarkable Offer.

The NEWS is now prepared to make the following most remarkable offer: THE SANTIAM NEWS, "The Commoner" (Bryan's paper) and "The American Homestead"—the three papers for almost the price of one \$1.90.

"The Commoner," Mr. Bryan's paper, is a weekly and is devoted to the discussion of National politics. Any man, if he wishes to understand National politics, whether he is a Republican or a Democrat, should read both sides of all questions. He cannot reach an honest understanding without doing so. The Commoner discusses all questions from the progressive Democratic viewpoint, without indulging in abuse of those who think differently.

The American Homestead, is an excellent monthly farm paper, filled with valuable information for the farmer, stockraiser, orchardist, poultryman, gardener and housewife.

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Secretary of Labor—Charles Nagel

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The State

United States Senators—Jonathan

Bourne Jr. and Geo. E. Chamberlain.

Representatives—First District, W. C. Hawley; Second District, W. R. Ellis

Governor—Frank W. Benson

Secretary of State—Frank W. Benson

State Treasurer—George A. Steel

Superintendent of Public Instruction

J. H. Ackerman

State Printer—Willis R. Dunniway

Supreme Court—Chief Justice, Frank

A. Moore, Associate Justices, Robert

Eakin, Will R. King, W. T. Slater,

Thos. A. McBride; clerk, J. C. Moreland

The District

Judges—George H. Burnett, William

Jalloway; Prosecuting attorney, John

H. McNary

The County

State Senators—M. A. Miller, Frank

Miller for Linn and Lane Counties

Representatives—L. A. Munkers, J. M. Philpott

County Judge—J. N. Duncan

Commissioners—O. H. Russell, T. J. Butler

Clerk—J. W. Miller

Sheriff—D. S. Smith

Treasurer—W. W. Francis

Recorder—Grant Froman

School superintendent—W. L. Jackson

Assessor—D. B. McKnight

Surveyor—Alfred L. Geddes

Coroner—William Fortmiller

Fruit Inspector—

Health Officer—Dr. W. H. Davis

The City

Mayor—Henry M. Myer

Recorder—E. D. Myers

Marshall—L. N. Weddle

Treasurer—J. F. Wesley

Councilmen—Perry Bilyeu, W. A. Swigg, R. M. Cain, J. L. Calavan, W. E. Arnold, N. I. Morrison, J. A. Bilyeu

Justice of the Peace—Jas. A. Bilyeu

Constable—J. A. Bilyeu

School directors—E. C. Peery, A. G. Prill, R. M. Cain

Officers of Linn County Fair Association—President, A. G. Prill; secretary,

R. Shelton; directors, A. G. Prill, John Wesley, E. C. Peery, M. C. Gaines, I. A. Munkers, G. G. Belts,

D. H. Bodine, J. A. Bilyeu, W. G. McDonald.

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In connection with this, the third annual Horse Show, a big sale will take place on Saturday afternoon, April 9, 1910. Buyers will be here from all sections. Parties having stock for sale will please list the same with the secretary as soon as possible. These will be tabulated in order and copies mailed to prospective buyers. It is the intention to make this a prominent feature of our annual exhibition. Call or write the secretary for further information.

C. L. DICK, President.

R. C. PAULUS, Secretary, care Salem Fruit Union.

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