

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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THE PEOPLE ARE SOVEREIGN

THE OREGON JOURNAL, of Portland, says that Editor Scott originated the "assembly" plan. If this is true, a cause for the Oregonian's tremendous endeavor to make the assembly win out is discovered. Just what Mr. Scott hopes to gain, of a personal nature, is yet to be exposed to view. As he is an old man with but a few years of business or political activity ahead, at most, it seems like time, energy and printers ink wasted, so far as personal reward for himself is concerned, even if the assembly shall win. But there are other reasons behind the Oregonian's almost frantic efforts to make the assembly a winner.

The Oregonian is a business enterprise. Mr. Henry Pitcock, a man for whom we have the greatest respect, looks after the business end and, it is fair to assume, that he sees that any proposition which the big Morning Daily advocates so extensively, contributes a satisfactory sum to that paper's exchequer. So the public is warranted in considering every editorial it publishes, boosting the assembly, as a purely business transaction for which the Oregonian receives so much per for. But can the Oregonian, our recognized greatest newspaper, afford to champion a cause for which it has the best of reasons to believe, to which a vast majority of the people are opposed?

When the direct primary law was adopted by the people, and which included Statement No. 1, the majority was so great that a mistake on the part of the people was overwhelmingly disputed. And when the making of Statement One compulsory was voted upon separately the majority was still greater. From this last vote, a reiteration of the vote by which the direct primary was adopted, we have a right to assume that a vast majority of the people favor the selection of United States senator by a direct vote. Now there is not the slightest ground upon which to dispute this verdict. The people were so enthusiastic for the election of United States Senators in this manner, that they were willing to accept the Statement No. 1 makeshift, until the Federal constitution could be amended making such election alike lawful in all of the states.

So the Oregonian has no grounds whatever to defend its championship of the assembly, other than it has a personal interest in the defeat of the direct primary law including, of

Admitted at Last

Even as a canary flits from flower to flower, Chairman George in his new ukase, flits from thought to thought to thought. In one flit he said: "The assembly doesn't nominate, it recommends." In his next he said: "A man who is endorsed at a public meeting should have preference over a man who has been privately endorsed."

And there you are. "The assembly does not nominate," but the man recommended by it "should have preference over a man who has been privately endorsed." That is to say the open primary should be nullified, and the whole power of the assembly organization will be invoked to nullify it. The whole scheme is to make the assembly supersede and set aside the open primary, and make the holy assembly exercise the exact and only function the open primary was created by law to exercise. By a chance slip of his tongue we have the frank admission from Chairman George that the assembly nominee shall be voted for and any other candidate voted against, in which event, what is the use of having an open primary? What is the use of the citizens coming out to vote in the open primary if only the assembly nominee is to be supported? What is the use of taking the time to vote

on something that the assembly has already settled? With just one victory for an assembly governor and an assembly legislature, there will never be another open primary in Oregon except after a period of convention abuses and another ballot revolution. In his impulsive flits from thought to thought, sipping wisdom here and distributing it there, our impulsive chairman has admitted everything opponents of "my high-browed assembly" have ever contended. Its success will be a skull and cross bones for the direct primary. It is up to the voters now.—Oregon Journal

The Bigger British Dollar

An article in the current World's Work makes statements under the caption "The Englishman's Bigger Dollar," which the tariff commission that is going abroad might do well to verify and consider. Comparing the wages and cost of living of a family of cotton weavers in New Bedford, Mass., with those of a like family in Burnley, England, the writer finds that the following wages are paid in the American city: Weekly wages of man, \$9.72; girl of 20, \$7.78; boy of 17, \$5.55; girl of 14, \$2.63; total for the four, \$25.93. The actual cost of living for this family was \$21.15. Protection enabled this family of four workers, barring sick-

ness, to save the magnificent sum of \$3.93 per week. In Burnley, England, the wages were lower—no protection for labor there. The wages were: Man, \$6.86; girl, \$5.04; boy, \$3.92; girl, \$1.47; total, \$17.89. Hurrah for the protection. The American family earned \$7.99 more than the English family. But there is another side to the story. While, as stated, the actual necessary expenses of the American family were \$21.15, allowing a saving of \$3.93, the expenses of the British family were only \$12.05, leaving it a surplus for the week of \$5.84. It seems that if protection gives a little better wages, it more than evens up the score by charging the family more for everything it buys.

Each item in the total cost of living in both cities is given. Here are a few instances: American flour that sold in Burnley for 49 cents, cost 70 cents in New Bedford. American sugar in New Bedford, 16 pounds for \$1; in Burnley, 25 pounds. American rice in America, 10 cents a pound; in England, 6 cents. Soda that costs 5 cents here can be bought there for a half penny, 1 cent. Gas there is 54 cents per 1000 feet; carfare is 2 cents—and so on.

Protection is doing great things for us, no doubt; it is making the cost of living so high that one feels rich if he has money enough to pay the bill

course, what it calls "the holy statement." Had there been no Statement No. 1, the Oregonian nor its cohorts would, probably, have opposed the direct primary law. It has and had a personal interest in the election of U. S. Senators by the legislature; for that paper is not ignorant in this particular. Yet there is still another reason, a business one, for its opposition to our whole present primary system. Prior to the adoption of this law, that paper received, annually, a large amount of money for legal advertising and, since the adoption of the primary law, this advertising has usually been done in less expensive newspapers. From this viewpoint, the Oregonian is excusable for making the kick. We, including the country weeklies, know how convenient a snug sum of money from the county treasury is at the end of the month. It helps to foot the monthly bills wonderfully. If, therefore, the Oregonian's advocacy of the assembly is of a personal and business nature, the people do not find fault except to the deception. If it will come out squarely and state honestly what its reasons are, its loss of friends among the people will be less.

The Oregonian, of course, knows which side of this political controversy to champion, from its viewpoint. It knows which side will give the quickest returns. But, in the end, we believe it will be the loser; for the people are going to win this fight. It may take them years to do so. The assembly may impose obstacles which will take years to remove. But the people will win in the end, for they are and ought to be sovereign. A representative form of government is all right so long as the representatives do the people's will. When the representatives fail to do this, we, the people, will seek out a remedy. State legislatures and congress, for many years, have been singularly active in the interests of corporations. Representatives in both state and nation, have been derelict in their duties to their constituencies. Oregon has found a remedy for this dereliction and the Oregonian, for selfish reasons, is attempting to destroy the remedy. Next November the people will have an opportunity to destroy the barrier to their rule which the assembly is attempting to rear and, we hope, the destruction will be complete and all the time.

The News admires the Oregonian for its fearlessness on most questions, but we believe it makes a grave mistake in boosting the assembly. We believe it is butting against a stone wall which is sufficiently adamant to resist any and all assaults that paper and its cohorts can bring to bear. While the assembly is being manipulated and managed by trained politicians we believe, like Jeffries, they have trained too long. They have become stale. The people are onto the whole business. They do not want nor will they have a bunch of political has-beens to tell them whom they shall elect to office. The people are sovereign and they have discovered that fact.

The time for filing petitions for the nomination for county offices will soon be at hand and if eastern Linn county is to have any of these offices, our citizens should get their think-tanks at work. We should have, as a matter of justice and right, one-third of the county officials from this part of the county. At all events we should have one of the members of the legislature and one member of the county court. About one-third of the people of the county live on the east side of the South Santiam and it is neither right nor just that nearly all of the county officials should come from the west side. All of Linn's legislators were chosen from the western portion of the county two years ago, as well as all of the members of the county court are from that section. This condition should be remedied at the coming election. To this end the NEWS will support good men for these positions, whose homes are on the east side, regardless as to what their political sentiments may be, excepting that they must be supporters of the primary law including Statement No. 1, first, last and all the time.

Some time ago the NEWS predicted that ex-President Roosevelt would soon get into the political swim, after his return from the African hunt. Nevertheless he stated when he was about to land on the home shore that he would not say anything political for two months, such a strong pressure has been brought to bear upon him, together with his known aggressiveness, that he has practically declared his hand in favor of the insurgents. This is the position that the NEWS expected that he would assume, and so predicted several months ago which its files will verify. Mr. Roosevelt sees the golden opportunity and he is too astute a politician not to step into the breach. We are inclined to attribute Mr. Roosevelt's insurgency to a desire to serve the people rather than for any personal aggrandisement which he may receive, and we hope never to have cause to change our opinion.

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