

# The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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### THE REASON WHY

THE ALBANY CITIZEN of last week gave the NEWS a small sized lambasting, because we had given a reason, in a previous issue, for the non-support of Judge George H. Burnett for the office of supreme judge.

While the Citizen, a part of the time, endeavors to occupy a sort of middle ground in republican politics and panders to the anti-assembly wing of that party, at other times its partisanism breaks forth in a manner which shows its real-down-in-the-heart-sentiment. Seemingly, it cannot see that the maintenance of a principle is of vastly more importance than the success of any candidate, no matter how meritorious he may be.

The NEWS has absolute confidence in the integrity and legal attainments of Judge Burnett and if we should ever be so unfortunate as to have our life placed in jeopardy before the law, we would prefer Judge Burnett as the presiding judge to, almost, any other which could be named. But he permitted himself to become a part of the assembly plan and, therefore, allies himself with the enemies of our direct primary law; for it is nonsense for a candidate to say that he favors the assembly plan and the direct primary at one and the same time. The two ideas are incompatible. One is destructive of the other. Just as the primary law destroyed the old convention system, would the assembly destroy the direct primary, if it is allowed to become a successful feature in the nomination of candidates. For this reason, no friend of our present direct primary can afford to compromise matters with the assembly plan as lately promulgated by the republican assembly. We must "touch not, taste not, handle not," if we maintain the principle of direct nomination of candidates.

The fact that men, who were the choice of the assembly for candidates, saying that they are in favor of both the assembly and the primary, is pure demagoguery. By taking such position, they acknowledge that they are either too ignorant to see the inharmonious of the two systems or, seeing it, they are willing to accept support from the people under guise of friendship, when it is their purpose to betray that friendship, if elected.

Now our primary law is right or it is wrong. There is no middle ground a candidate can occupy, as above stated. He must, if he is honest, favor the one or the other. If he accepts the friendly support of the assembly, it is fair to assume that he will give the assembly his influence, if elected.

We have heard Judge Burnett say that he had but small opinion of initiative made law and, as he has aligned himself with the assembly, presumably, he would construe law, if elected to the supreme bench, as favorably as possible for the assembly. These reasons are sufficient to warn the people that, though his honesty and knowledge of law is unquestioned, he is an unsafe custodian of the people's interests when construing law upon questions to which he is personally opposed.

Knowing that it is the secret purpose of assembly to undermine our primary system until the

people will return to the delegate convention as the lesser two evils, it is simply reasonable that friends of our present primary and other reform laws, should be exceedingly suspicious of a class of politicians, whose acts and schemes in the past caused the adoption of our present reformatory laws. And these same politicians are a shrewd bunch, too. They have named for office, several candidates, in whom the people have the most profound confidence. They have done this in order to win back as many as possible of republicans who at heart, are opposed to assemblyism. By so doing, they hope to keep the assembly and its purpose in the background as much as possible. But let assemblyism win at the polls and the men, who are the prime movers and managers thereof, will soon make themselves known and assume the mastery of a situation which their schemes have created.

The NEWS is not an alarmist; but being quite familiar with the craftiness of these old-time professional politicians, it feels suspicious of any movements or professions they may make. They never do anything without there is a purpose behind it, and that purpose is, usually, selfish. Unfortunately for the people, some strong men have permitted themselves to be drawn into the assembly movement—mere pawns to be played as an assist to the ultimate design.

When such republicans as Judges McGinn and Lowell condemn the assembly in unmeasured terms there is reason for the people to take warning and to prepare to meet the issue in an uncompromising attitude.

### WHY?

When will partyism throughout the nation become of minor importance and men will advocate and vote for the common good of all? A vast majority of both old political parties think, practically, alike. They are patriots in the true sense of the word. They desire that government shall be administered, so that the interests of the largest possible number of the people shall be conserved. They are opposed to class legislation by congress, consequently are opposed to a high protective tariff. While not free traders, they believe that public revenue should be the only interest consulted in adjusting the tariff. They, also, believe that the general government is warranted in interfering with the greed of monopolistic manufacturers in the interests of the great mass of the common people.

But partisan prejudice is yet sufficiently powerful to prevent a coalition of the progressive elements of the old parties into one harmonious whole, and so long as this condition exists, will the selfishness and greed of the interested classes prevail in the councils of the nation.

Interested corporations and tariff barons have made partisanism an asset for years in obtaining what favors they desired from congress. The trained lobbyist knows well how to appeal to the partisan prejudice of a member of congress to facilitate the accomplishment of his purpose and just so long as congressmen, who really desire to serve the peoples interests are arrayed against each other by party lines, can the lobbyist successfully ply his trade.

But when the progressive element—people serving element of each political organization are united and working for a common purpose, the majority of the people will be so overwhelming, that favor seeking interests will not dare make their selfish interests known. Anyway, what difference does it make to the average citizen, what political label the president wears? If he is honest and true to the peoples interests, every truly patriotic citizen will be satisfied. The NEWS believes that the welfare of the country would be conserved in a manner satisfactory to the people with LaFollette, Cummins, Governors Harmon or Folk occupied the presidential chair. Or what is the difference if the majority of the members of congress are democratic or republican, so that such majority is absolutely true to the peoples interests. The sooner political prejudice and strict partyism is eradicated from the minds of the people, the better. An honest, upright man whose heart is filled with true patriotism, is a good citizen, regardless as to what brand his politics may be.

A great political campaign will soon be in full blast. Questions of vital importance to the American people are to be passed upon by the people. Is it not quite time that we quit voting for congressmen, who industriously serve the interests of corporations and, seemingly, forget that they have a constituency to represent? As soon as election day passes, men of the class of Congressmen Hawley and Ellis seem to forget that their first duty is to their constituents. They are overwhelmed with the glamor that the interests are able to bring to bear and, hence the interests of the common people are allowed to suffer.

The vast majority of the people of the United States are honest and desire a good government. They can have as good government as they desire if they will elect officials who are honest and true to their (the peoples) interests. But they must, to a great extent, forget selfishness and partisanism and exercise good hard horse sense in selecting officials, if they accomplish the end they desire. Men should remember that it is their duty to be patriots before they are partisans. If a bad or inefficient candidate is named for office, even if he is your party candidate, your duty to yourself, your family and your neighbors, demand that you vote for his opponent, providing he is the better man. Remember, all of the bad men do not belong to one political party and that there are good men in all parties. They are all American citizens and all, especially the good ones, desire that government shall be administered honestly and efficiently. And it is getting quite time when all good men—lovers of good government and lovers of equal opportunity in life for the boys and girls growing up around us, to act together for common good of all.

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