

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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INSURGENTS AND INSURGENTS

IN A RECENT ADDRESS, ex-President Roosevelt objected to the term "Insurgent" as applied to that wing of the republican party which believes in a revision of the tariff downward and, also, in making the big business concerns of the county subservient to the law, just the same as the smaller business concerns and the ordinary citizen. Mr. Roosevelt thinks the term "Progressive" conveys the better idea of the movement. Webster defines the noun "Insurgent" as "a person who rises in opposition to civil or political authority, etc." This definition fits the present insurgent movement, almost exactly and which seems likely to revolutionize the entire political conduct of the government, which has been maintained since the close of the civil war and which, under the so-called "business interests" has gradually usurped the proper functions of government, until the present time. Now the people are in revolt. They are resisting, in a civil manner of course, this iniquitous system. This is what Mr. Webster says is an insurgent.

But whether Insurgent or Progressive, the movement is just the same, and it is sweeping over the entire nation with a force which cannot but be a source of alarm to the Cannon-Aldrich crowd and to the big business interests which have been receiving legislative favors from the government.

Insurgency may be, however, for a good or a bad purpose. A vast majority of the people of Oregon applaud the insurgency of the congressmen who fought through the special and regular sessions for the interests of the people. They believe these congressmen were endeavoring to restore government to the hands of the people. That is to say, make it subservient to the voice of the people and to make the financial and business conditions as favorable for the working, producing classes of the people as they are for the people who are notorious as the givers of monkey dinners. No sensible nor sane man can object to the governmental conditions being made equally as favorable for the toiling, sweating laborer as it is now for the pampered son of wealth. The people believe that insurgent congressmen endeavored, in a manner, to reach this result and, therefore, most of the people are insurgents; as the late primary and state elections indicate.

In Oregon, however, we have a different class of insurgents. Mr. Webster describes the Oregon insurgent just as distinctly as he does the LaFollette-Cummins-Beveridge type. Both types are endeavoring to overthrow established law. But there is a vast difference in their purpose. The national insurgents are arrayed against the big business concerns who have secured control of the government through congressional action. The congressional insurgents endeavored to have this congressional action modified in the interests of all the people.

Assemblies, Legal and Illegal

The Oregonian wants to know the difference between the Republican assembly that nominated two supreme court justices and the lawyers' assembly that nominated their opponents. Well, here is the difference. The lawyers' assembly was held in accordance with law and in conformity with both the spirit and the letter of the statute. The Republican assembly was held in violation of law and contrary to the spirit and letter of the statute. That is one difference. Another difference

is that the idea or principle of the lawyers' assembly is that judges ought to be chosen without regard to politics. The idea of the Republican assembly is that judges ought to be chosen according to politics. These differences are easily demonstrated.

The law provides for the nomination of candidates by assemblies of 100 electors, by petitions of a percentage of voters, and by primary elections. Political parties cannot nominate by assemblies nor by petition. They must nominate by primary elections and in no other manner. Political parties are

defined as organizations that have cast a certain percentage of votes at the last preceding election. The Republican party and the Democratic party are the only existing political parties in Oregon under that definition. All other groups or bodies of citizens than these political parties must, necessarily nominate their candidates and promulgate their ideas through either petitions or assemblies which are provided by law. If the Republican assembly had been an assembly of electors held under the same provisions of law as the lawyers' assembly and not purporting

In Oregon the state government has been rescued from the clutches of the big business interests or, more plainly speaking, from the hands of the political bosses, who played into the hands of the big business concerns. Now these bosses and big business concerns have turned insurgents and are attempting, through the assembly, to rescue the state government from the hands of the people and place it again in the hands of the business concerns, through their subservient servants, the political bosses.

The Oregon insurgent is the antithesis of the national insurgent. The former is laboring to take government away from the people, while the latter is endeavoring to restore government to the people.

Mr. Roosevelt prefers the term "progressive" for the national movement, but the NEWS thinks that a even stronger word than "insurgent" would fit the Oregon brand.

At all events, most people believe national insurgents are working in the interests of the common people. We know that the Oregon insurgent is working in the interests of the old time political boss and the big business interests.

PEOPLE SHOULD BE RELIEVED

THE OREGONIAN states "the direct primary has come to stay." This declaration should be quite a relief to the people, for most of us have labored under the impression that the Oregonian was opposed to the direct nomination of candidates, especially candidates for the United States senate. If the direct primary law is to stay and to control the selection of candidates, it is, certainly, the duty of every citizen to comply with its provisions in letter and spirit.

One of those provisions reads: "Every candidate shall have equal opportunity, etc." The late republican assembly selected a candidate for governor and is maintaining a headquarters in Portland, at which place a regularly organized campaign committee works to bring about the nomination of the said candidate selected, by the primary electors. There are three other candidates of that party who aspire for the position of candidate for governor; neither of whom has a machine behind him. Evidently the Portland headquarters is maintained for the purpose of causing all assemblyites to cast their votes at the primary election for Mr. Bowerman for governor. No one will, probably, deny this conclusion. But are Messrs Dimmick, Hofer and Abraham, the other candidates before that party, receiving a fair deal? Are they receiving equal opportunity with Mr. Bowerman? No one will say they are; for it is the purpose of the assembly to concentrate the votes of all who believe in the assembly, for the assembly candidates. Mr. Bowerman was the assembly choice. He, with other assembly selected candidates, will receive the solid assembly vote and, of course, will be given a better opportunity than anti-assembly candidates. They are to be given a preference and, in giving this preference, the provisions of the direct primary law is being violated. Can men who wilfully violate a law, be very strong friends to that law?

Any plan which violates a law, either in letter or spirit, cannot be in harmony with that law, which the Oregonian states is the purpose of the assembly.

The fact is, the first and secret purpose of the assembly is, to gradually undermine and eventually overthrow the whole system of popular nomination of public officials. But the Oregonian and other leading assemblyites is finding the movement is affecting only the old-time bosses, corporations, etc. The masses of the people will have none of it. It is now too late to switch, and that paper is now endeavoring to sugarcoat the dose, so that the present opposition will not increase to indignation.

Most people are fully awakened to the purpose of the assembly. From the manner in which delegates to the assembly were selected, the people know that it is an attempt to restore the old corrupt convention system; in which the great mass of the people had very little to say. So all real friends to popular government, look upon the assembly with suspicion. Only bosses, hangers on and lickspittles are supporting the movement.

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