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Politically Independent

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SHOULD STAND TO THEIR COLORS

IF THE QUESTION SHOULD BE ASKED, "Who is the most prominent representative of assemblyism in Oregon today," nine men out of every ten would answer "Bowerman." And they would answer correctly, too; for Mr. Bowerman is the most prominent production of that schism. In fact, the assembly was called into existence to secure his nomination; for it could have been secured in no other way, probably.

Mr. Bowerman dominated the late state assembly. It was filled with delegates who were known to be friendly to his interests. No other choice for the office of governor was expected by those who had the handling of the wires. Messrs Withycombe, Smith and Ackerman had just about as much show for nomination in that assembly as a blind man would have in a game of cinch. Mr. Beach, one of the chief assembly manipulators, was able to state before that body met, within three of the number of votes that Mr. Bowerman would get. He knew, because the self constituted board of managers, of which he seemed to be the chief, had much to do with the selection of the delegates throughout the state.

Then as Mr. Bowerman is the product of the assembly, consistency should cause him to stand or fall upon the principle of assemblyism. He should be proud to champion the principles which gave him the nomination. But he is not; for he has, practically, renounced assemblyism in indorsing the primary law and Statement No. 1, as well as all other laws which the people have enacted.

Why did he do this?

Now it is unreasonable to suppose that Mr. Bowerman's real opinions have changed, other than he was mistaken in the number of his party who would support assemblyism. Consequently his change of front can be accounted for in no other way than for the purpose of catching votes; for the primary election demonstrated that a large majority of the republican party were opposed to the assembly. And, to be successful, next month, Mr. Bowerman knows that he must have the anti-assembly republican vote. For this reason, the public has a right to assume that his outspoken indorsement of the primary law and Statement No. 1, was for that particular purpose.

What confidence can the public have in a candidate, whose principles are so chameleon like? What assurance can the people have that he will not make another flop as soon as he is inducted into office? The "anything to win idea" has about reached its finish in Oregon. Mr. Bowerman is likely to find, next month, that his change of front was a grave political blunder. Above all things, the people desire that a candidate shall be brave enough, at all times, to stand steadfastly for his principles. And should he go down to defeat with his flag flying, he will retain the respect of his enemies and the love of his friends.

Congressman Hawley, Governor Benson and Judge Burnett are, also, products of the assembly. Presumably, like Mr. Bowerman, each of these

gentlemen would be glad to have the people forget that fact and remember, only, that they were winners at the primary election. They do not nor will not talk now for the assembly as they did prior to the primary election. All want votes and they know that they cannot be elected, unless they get the most of the anti-assembly republicans to support them.

All of the assembly nominees are, we believe, estimable and men of ability and, had they not assisted in a movement which they now know was a mistake and one which the people believes was a violation of, at least, the spirit of the primary law, would be worthy of trust. But they, for the above reason, merit the sternest rebuke possible at the polls in November, from the viewpoint of the anti-assemblymen.

On the other hand, every candidate on the democratic ticket was an outspoken friend of the primary law and Statement No. 1, both before and after the primary election. They do not have to eat crow as their assembly candidate opponents seem to be doing. They, also, are men of splendid reputations and admirably qualified for the positions for which they are candidates.

Candidly, Mr. Voter, do you not prefer to trust a public official, who is steadfast in his opinions, rather than he who changes his opinions to harmonize with circumstances?

Sheriff D. S. Smith is again a candidate for reelection to the office he now occupies. His record, during the past four years in that office, has shown him to be scrupulously honest and most efficient. Every cent of the more than \$325,000 of tax money collected annually have been turned over to the treasurer promptly and the amount of delinquent taxes during his administration have been exceedingly small. Owing to the fact that the sheriff elect will have to, almost, immediately after his induction to office, undertake the collection of more than \$300,000 in taxes, it is very essential that the work be done correctly and in a manner satisfactory to the people. Mr. Smith has demonstrated his ability to do this; a new man in that office would have to be tried. Nor could he be expected to give as satisfactory service at first as our present sheriff and might not even be so efficient. We know Vanny Smith and know his capability. An Albany lawyer remarked, a few days ago, "Vanny is better posted upon law as related to the sheriff's office, than any lawyer in Albany." There is no risk to run. The people know that Sheriff Smith will do his duty and that every cent of public money which passes through his hands will be accounted for. Linn county has had many sheriffs and will have many more; but she has never had a more efficient officer, nor one who gave better satisfaction to the people than Vanny Smith.

The democratic county legislative ticket is one which commands the respect of everyone, regardless of to which party he belongs. They are all men of affairs, who keep well informed on the political questions of the day and who, if elected, will be excellent legislators and to whom no taint of graft nor corrupt action will ever attach. All of them are outspoken supporters of the primary law and all will, if they have not already, sign Statement No. 1. On the other hand, at least two of the republican candidates are assemblyites. Candidate Beatty, who opposes Hon. M. A. Noller, was a delegate to the state assembly and, as yet, has not renounced assemblyism. Candidate Train wrote a letter to the Oregonian for publication, in which he indorses the assembly in as strong language as he could command. The other republican candidates for the legislature, so far as we have heard, have not announced their standing with reference to assemblyism. But every candidate, regardless of party, should be made to show his colors on this important matter; for it means much to the future of Oregon.

Ex-President Roosevelt has, seemingly, won a great victory in New York; but which may, in the end, be the cause of his political downfall. Should he fail to elect the ticket, which he practically dictated at Saratoga, he will be discredited as a politician and this discredit will, probably, retire him to private life permanently. There are some indications that the New York bosses, whom he dethroned, would not regret a democratic victory, if such victory would get the returned lion hunter out of the way permanently. Nor can he expect much aid in the pending campaign from big business interests, unless he is willing to make concessions and promises which would discredit him in the eyes of the people. Victory is absolutely necessary to him, if he preserves the political prominence he now seems to possess. His assumption of political matters in the Empire state, may be the most disastrous political blunder of his life.

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