

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

Entered at the postoffice at Scio, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One year in advance	\$1 25
One year, at end of year	1 50
One year, at end of 2 years	1 75
One year, at end of 3 years	2 00
Six months in advance	75
Three months in advance	50
Single copy in wrapper	65

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THE OREGON LEGISLATURE

ON MONDAY, of this week, the Oregon legislature convened. Because of extravagant appropriations and vicious legislation in the past, the people have come to almost dread the assembly of these biennial trouble makers. But we have them again and, let us hope that they leave a record in the session of 1911 which will, in a measure, restore the trust of the people in Oregon law makers.

Oregon legislatures of the past, are solely responsible for the fact that we now have initiative and referendum laws and statement No. 1 of our primary system. The initiative, as all know, empowers the people to initiate measures which the legislature refuses or neglects to enact into laws. The referendum places the final power of veto in the hands of the people. Statement No. 1 binds the legislature to elect for United States senator, the choice of the people for that office. Each of the above mentioned laws is equivalent to a vote of lack of confidence on the part of the people in

ETERNAL VIGILANCE

W. J. Bryan has fought for half a generation for the kind of democracy that would not only benefit his party, but all the people as well.

When in 1896, single handed and alone, he assailed the citadel of plutocracy, the money power, he was branded as an anarchist, a disturber, a demagogue and a dangerous citizen generally.

But he touched the key note in all of his great orations—his forceful pleadings for the common man. He thundered his denunciations of monopoly and of the party by which it grew and prospered through tariffs and special privileges, and voters of the nation heard and were convinced and converted.

It required the largest campaign fund in history to manipulate the election so as to defeat Bryan that year.

Even that \$20,000,000 campaign fund would not have defeated Bryan in 1896 were it not for the colonization of the middle west by the unscrupulous Mark Hanna, then national chairman of the republican party. Had the election that year been held in September before the money power subscribed \$20,000,000 to defeat Bryan, he would have carried nearly every state in the union.

Since that time the democratic party won no victories except on the lines and policies enunciated by Bryan in 1896.

The Parker disaster of 1904 was the legitimate outcome of Wall Street influences that nominated Parker. The democratic party has suffered no such defeat as that of 1904 since its organization.

And yet, the Wall Street influences are again at work to repeat the mistake of 1904 and to reap a like disaster. Only progressive democracy advocated by a progressive candidate can win in 1912.

True democrats should see that the party stands for what the people want, not for what Wall Street wants, in 1912.

There is not room enough in forty-six states for two republican parties. Those people who are trying to republicanize the party of Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan should go over to the republican party where they belong.

The fight is on now. Will the democratic party permit Wall Street to Parkerize it again? The republican party has turned the government over to the soulless trusts that are robbing the people.

The democratic party is now the hope of the nation. Will it destroy its opportunity by flirting with Wall Street again?

The people need relief from trust extortion and tariff robbery. Will they ever get that under the leadership of democratic protectionists and trust attorneys?

Democrats, beware, or you party will be again corrupted and the people betrayed as in 1904.

Eternal vigilance is the price not only of liberty, but of success in any venture.—Kansas Commoner.

IN OREGON THIS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE

Ten per cent of the voting strength in Adams county, Ohio, is under indictment charged with corruption at the polls. A Portsmouth, Ohio, dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "With a total of 633 indictments and 114 pleas of guilty to charges of vote selling during the recent election, Adams county, Ohio, presents a condition unique in political history. A vigorous campaign of investigation carried on by a grand jury acting upon the instigation of Common Pleas Judge A. Z. Blair of Portsmouth has resulted in the indictment of nearly ten per cent of the voting strength of the county and predictions were made that the number of indictments would reach 2,000. Judge Blair says vote selling in every township will be probed. During a gubernatorial campaign in the eighties, republicans, by an alleged liberal use of money carried the county, which previously had been democratic. Since then control has shifted back and

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Oregon legislatures. They are afraid to trust them with exclusive law-making power and with the election of United States senator. It is because the legislatures of the past have abused the confidence of the people.

Of all the powers the people restored to themselves, the referendum is, perhaps, the most valuable. Legislators, knowing the people have the power of veto, are apt to enact only laws which they, the People, will accept. Before the referendum, the people had to accept whatever a bunch of grafters were disposed to give them, biennially. Now, the people do not have to accept any measure, if it is detrimental to their interests. Further, if the legislature neglects or refuses to enact a law which the people really want, the law can be enacted, regardless of the will of the legislature. And such a pressure accompanied with pledges, has been brought upon our law makers that they are, practically, bound to elect the peoples choice for the United States senate. So, if our present legislature makes a virtue of a necessity, it can establish a precedent in economy and sane legislation which will do much towards preventing a plethora of proposed laws upon our election ballots. The legislature, having been the sole cause of the adoption of referendum laws, the NEWS would be glad to see the body now in session do its duty to the people so completely that the ballots of 1912 will be, practically, free of initiative proposed laws. This end can be accomplished if our legislative solons will divest themselves of all party prejudice and influence of corporate interests, and enact legislation solely in the interests of all the people.

The people do not expect extraordinary brilliancy of their legislators, but they do expect reasonable economy and ordinary honesty in legislation. They do expect that legislative enactments will be, practically, free of corporate influence. They do expect that appropriations of public money shall be made wisely and with a view of economy for the taxpayers.

One feature, which has grown to be almost a public disgrace, is the committee clerkship graft and which can be eliminated, in a great measure. No one desires that legislative business shall be crippled for lack of sufficient clerical help. Yet every one knows that every member does not need a personal clerk. And the cost of clerical aid has come to be as great or greater than the cost of per diem and mileage of the members.

The people of the entire state would be glad to see the legislature of 1911, establish a precedent for economy and sane legislation. They would like to see an Oregon legislature become as noted for economy and wisdom, as are the people of Oregon in the enactment of initiative laws. And there is no reason why this cannot be true if our members are actuated by a spirit of honesty, frugality and a desire to serve the people.

THOMAS & SON

Grocery Department

Compare our prices with what you pay elsewhere

Good heavy 4 seam broom	25c	Columbia wheat, per package	30c
Arm & Hammer soda, 5c package, 6 pkgs.	25c	Regular 25 cent package of coffee	15c
3 bottles of mustard	25c	Pop corn, per pound	5c
3 packages of rasins	25c	10 pound best ground meal	30c
9 bars of laundry soap	25c	10 pound graham meal	30c
Best quality of peaches in sanitary tins, per can	15c	Delmonico Preferred stock cane syrup in gallon tins	90c
Best corn syrup, per gallon	45c	We recommend Heinz pickles, Shillings extracts Chase & Sanbourns teas, coffees, Hess Stock Food, Cleveland Baking powders, Preferred Stock canned goods.	
Best corn syrup, half-gallon	25c		
9 pound sack of corn meal eastern, per sack	30c		
Olympic pan cake flour per package	25c		

If any of these goods are not satisfactory, we will refund your money. Give us a trial order and just see what you can save. When you save \$2 on a grocery or dry goods bill, you have earned \$2.00, an ordinary days wages. Begin the New Year Right

DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT

Don't forget this department as it is getting more complete every week. We have just received a large shipment of Overalls, Jumpers and Pants. Yes, we have your size if you are not younger than 13 years or larger than 50 inches waist measure. We have a nice line of fancy up-to-date dress goods. Everything is new. Call and see them.

THOMAS & SON

Stayton

Oregon

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Aladdin Lamps are most durable in construction—easiest to take care of—simplest in operation. The light is brighter and easier on the eyes than gas or electricity.

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