

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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POPULAR ELECTION OF U. S. SENATORS

THE POPULAR selection of United States senators by a direct vote by the various states, seems much nearer a realization than ever before. For the first time, a resolution has been introduced in our American House of Lords, to submit an amendment to our Federal constitution to the various states, requiring that United States senators shall be elected by a direct vote of the people instead of by the legislatures as heretofore. The lower House of congress has passed a resolution of this character a number of times; but the resolution has always been smothered in the hands of a senatorial committee. This time, however, the measure will reach a vote in senate. Whether that body will consider the matter favorably, remains yet to be seen. But, at this time, conditions seem most favorable.

While the resolution may be defeated, as the personnel of the senate now stands, there are indications that the discussions of the bribery through which Senator Lorimer, of Illinois, secured his election, will have a tendency to cause, even, some of the standpat republican senators to vote for the resolution. It is fair to assume that all of the democratic and insurgent senators will vote affirmatively, and if a half dozen or more of the standpatters vote likewise, the measure will carry. Of course the Lower House will support the measure as it has done a number of times; when the matter will be submitted to the legislature of the states.

Should the measure be submitted to the states within the next month, most of the state legislatures will be in session and the amendment can become a part of the Federal constitution within a few months.

But why should Senator Lorimer be made the senatorial goat? He is not the only senator, nor the first by many, who has secured his election through the bribery route. In fact, there are not, at the present time, more than a dozen members of that body, who have not employed bribery in some form to secure their election.

There are many different kinds of bribery other than the use of money. A promise of a fat political position, or a promise to secure desired congressional legislation in exchange for the votes of legislators, should be considered bribery just the same as if hard cash was paid, either directly by the senatorial candidate or by his secretly appointed agent.

Senator Lorimer is accused of bribing Illinois legislators through the payment of money through an authorized agent. These facts are proven by the confessions of some of the bribed legislators. Yet, nevertheless these confessions, the senatorial investigating committee reported the charges without a basis of fact to rest upon. That is to say, a majority of the committee so reported. Senator Beverige, a member of the committee and be it said to his honor, brought in a minority report, charging that Senator Lorimer held his seat illegally. Upon this minority report, a resolution has been submitted to the senate to unseat Lorimer. The whole matter will be threshed out upon the floor of the senate.

But, we again say, why make a goat of Lorimer when, if reports are true, Senator Guggenheim is many more times guilty than he. When the Colorado legislature elected Guggenheim, it was stated openly and without blushing, that legislative votes were secured for the Guggenheim interests through bribery, by the dozen. Yet the United States senate did not question the legality of Mr. Guggenheim's election, when he appeared before the bar of that body to subscribe to the oath of office. Every student of politics believes that Senator Guggenheim is even more guilty than Senator Lorimer.

However, if there is ever to be a reform instituted along these lines, a commencement must be made. And as Lorimer's own state has convinced the world that he, Lorimer, is guilty of bribery, indirectly perhaps, the senate is compelled to sit up and take notice, else stand before the world as a corrupt body of men.

As before stated, some of the standpat republican senators, who hale from progressive states, may feel morally bound, providing they have any moral feeling, to support the resolution, because of the progressive sentiment of their particular state. Any of them, who can forecast the future a little bit, must know that the people will force the popular election of senators in a few years, at most, regardless of what action the senate may take. And some of these so-called "regular" republican senators may be wise enough to cast an anchor to the windward, make a virtue of a necessity and vote for the measure.

They know that Oregon has pointed a way by which the difficulty can be overcome; and that the people of many of the states are not going to be slow to adopt the Oregon plan. They can see that a large number of the states are watching Oregon's lead, not only in the election of United States senators, but in the workings of the initiative and referendum, as well. Even, many people in the city of New York are studying the Oregon plan, not for purposes of ridicule, but with a view of adopting the plan, or something similar.

For the above reasons, the NEWS believes the election of senators by popular vote is near at hand. The people can see this fact and why may not a few of standpat senators see it as well?

Senator Beverige will retire to private life in a few weeks. But, he is likely to establish a reputation in his fight for popular government, which will not allow him to remain long hid. His state and the nation, needs such men in the halls of congress; in the supreme court, and in the White House. And if our nation is to live and retain leadership among the nations of the earth, such men must direct its destinies.

Governor West is making a splendid start in handling the affairs of the state of Oregon. Nor is he at all backward in stating just what particular legislation the conduct of the state government requires, in order that it may be administered in the interests of the people. Governor West, in the various public positions he has held, has established a character of doing things and, as governor, the people have reason to expect that many reforms in the various institutions of the state, will be instituted. The NEWS believes that Governor West will make good as chief executive, as he did as railroad commissioner and state land agent.

No one will object to a tariff commission, providing it can be kept from being unduly influenced by men who are directly interested in maintaining an excessively high protection. If a system of tariff taxation shall be based upon the principle of the greatest good for the greatest number of people, such a system and such only, will prove satisfactory. The day is passed when the people will willingly admit to being robbed for the benefit of a few people.

The Oregon legislature is exhibiting some indication that this session is to give us some wise legislation; though there seems to be most too much disposition to raid the state treasury. Of course, most of the appropriations which are being asked for, are meritorious. But there is a limit in spending money, even for a good purpose.

Undoubtedly the first great measure the democrats will undertake when they secure control of congress, will be the revision of the tariff. Should President Taft veto a revised tariff bill, which will be downward of course, it will insure his successor to be a democrat or a progressive republican.

Speaker Rusk and President Selling, of the Oregon legislature, have shown themselves to be entirely above being peanut politicians, in the appointment of legislative committees.

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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	50c
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 \$2.00 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 3 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.

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Idaho Northern Railroad Co.
Ilwaco Railroad Company

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Wm. McMurray
General Passenger Agent
Portland, Ore.

W. D. Skinner
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