

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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IS HUMILIATING TO THE NATION

LAST WEEK the United States senate gave Senator Lorimer, of Illinois, a clean bill of political health. A majority of that body said that he had been legally and honestly elected. Nevertheless some five or six Illinois legislators had sworn that they had received bribe money to vote for Lorimer, our august (?) senators, by a sufficient vote, said that his election had been regular.

Of course everybody knows that politics outweighed patriotism in this particular instance. Probably there is not one senator, who voted to vindicate Mr. Lorimer, but what was fully satisfied that he, Lorimer, indirectly, had bought legislative votes and that his election was accomplished by means of these boughten votes. They knew this before they voted him a clear title to his office. What can the people think of men who thus violate the spirit of their oaths of office?

Lorimer is but an episode. He is a man who will wield but an ordinary influence in the senate. But he can be relied upon to vote with the republicans every time, right or wrong, and for the "interests" all the time, unless someone should throw in sight a few thousand dollars; for a man who will bribe, can be bribed. Mainly for the subserviency of his character has he been given a seat in what ought to be the most august legislative body in the world.

The action of our U. S. Senate cannot but have a humiliating effect upon the American people. Every man who believes in halfway honest politics, must now have a lesser degree of respect for the United States senate than he had before the Lorimer disgrace had transpired. Of course, the senators who are responsible for this political blunder, can and are being retired to private life; yet the stigma will remain. There will always be a lurking suspicion that even our United States senate can stoop to dirty politics. It does not satisfy to say "it is politics" and let it go at that. Oh, no. There are hundreds of thousands of both republicans and democrats who will not stand for such methods. They believe in honest politics—in the rule of the majority, and they will not condone the briber or the bribed, if they know about it. There are but, comparatively, a few people who depend upon politics for a livelihood. They do not want office nor will they vote for a man for office who will stoop to such low methods.

The people do not expect anything honorable from Senator Lorimer during his term of office. If there are any jobs set up, Lorimer will be found connected with the job in some manner. They do not expect him to stand for honest politics so long as there is something to be made by being crooked.

Most of the American people are honest. They believe in honest politics. Mr. Lorimer has demon-

strated that he is not American in this respect. He belongs over in China or to some other grafting and self-serving people.

THE TAX BURDEN

THE TAX PAYER, when he comes to discharge his obligation to the county, this year, is sure to give voice to more or less grunts. He knows that his taxes are increasing at the rate of ten to fifteen per cent. annually. Yet when he sums the matter up, he finds that he is only getting or paying for what he voted for.

If we want new school houses; if we want to build good roads, etc., we must expect to pay for them.

A few days ago, the NEWS man made his annual visit to the county seat, as all other citizens are requested to do about this time of the year. Of course we indulged in the usual amount of growling, which is the tax payers privilege. We, facetiously, asked Sheriff Smith if he would take the property for part pay. "Oh, no," said Smith. "All we want is for you to pay your taxes and you keep the property, for we will want to tax you again, next year."

When we come to reason the tax matter out, we found that the expense to the county and state amounted to but one-third of the sum. The other two-thirds was due on account of school district, city and road taxes. We want and must have good school houses and schools. We want good roads and to carry on city improvements. All cost money and there is no body else to pay for it, except the tax payers. The tax payer growls at the increase of his tax burdens. If the growl gives him any relief, no one will deny him the right to exercise his constitutional privilege. But, if he will but think, he is shouldering burdens he voted upon himself. True, he may have voted against this or that public expense; but a majority of his neighbors did and in our kind of government, a majority must rule.

As a matter of fact, taxes ought not to increase more rapidly than the increase of wealth and population. Yet, if we wish for the improvements, which older and wealthier communities enjoy, we must expect to pay for them. So, pay your taxes. Growl, if it will relieve you to do so; for the growl can harm no one. Next year your burden will be a little larger, if that fact is any consolation. But, then, you will be a little richer, you know.

Congress adjourned, last Saturday. If it accomplished any meritorious legislation, save passing appropriation bills, most people have forgotten it. Of course, there is not much legislation expected at the short session; but there were several measures which the president desired enacted into law and which were meritorious; but this standpoint congress would not come through. The next congress will be controlled by democrats and insurgent republicans. It will soon be demonstrated who are friends to the people and who are friends to the interests.

From now on every American citizen who takes a cheering cup of coffee for breakfast will drink to the health and prosperity of J. P. Morgan and associates, it having been shown by investigation that a \$75,000,000 coffee combine is now in existence, manned by Brazilian and American manipulators, Morgan being the chief operator at this end of the line. The Sherman anti-trust law cannot get at this combination, so the public will either pay the price and look pleasant or they can quit drinking coffee. —Pacific Outlook.

The Oregonian may succeed in convicting Governor West of extreme partisanship; but from the present outlook, the governor has the people with him and is likely to have them with him to the end. Any public man may make a mistake. Governor West may be no exception to the rule. But if he does make mistakes, they will be of the head and not of the heart.

The new city charter may not be just what some of our citizens desire; but it will be infinitely better than the old obsolete affair. Modern conditions require modern legal regulations and the proposed new charter seems to have everything which a modern up-to-date town requires.

Scio's park block should be improved and beautified. A small expenditure and energy on the part of every citizen would make it "A Thing of Beauty and a Joy Forever." A public meeting should be called to start the ball rolling.

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