

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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IS RULED BY POLITICAL PREJUDICE

ANY NEWSPAPER which poses as a fair exponent or critic of public opinion, is always willing to approve acts of the public official, providing they are for the betterment of the condition of the people at large. But if such newspapers are partisan, or are organs of only certain political candidates or party, they cannot be regarded as being newspapers whose basic purpose is the betterment of the condition of the people.

The Morning Oregonian, nevertheless, is regarded as the leading newspaper of the northwest, is extremely partisan in all of its deductions. It can see nothing good in the action of a democrat. It, even, regards with suspicion, the movements of progressive republicans. Hence, as might be supposed, it was a strong supporter of assemblyism and the adherents of that cult. And, also, it regards any man or newspaper, who stands for our direct primary as defined at the present time on our statute books, as being an enemy to our governments, both state and national.

Two weeks ago the NEWS commended Governor West for his fearless exercise of his veto power. Chief among the bills vetoed, was the Second Choice of Candidates bill. As the NEWS considered this bill, providing it became a law, a practical annulment of the spirit of our primary law, it condemned the proposed law and commended Governor West for vetoing the same. This editorial squib brought down the scorching wrath of the big Morning Daily upon the NEWS, in one of its leading editorials last week.

Well, the NEWS has, fortunately, a pretty thick covering of cuticle upon its back, from which all such lilliputian attacks fall harmless. They are harmless, because the NEWS knows that it is right and that the Oregonian was simply voicing its partisan hatred of Governor West. But if the Oregonian will give its attention to making apologies for such of its ideal statesmen as Cannon, Aldrich, Depew and, even, President Taft, it will have less time to speak of the good or bad things which Governor West has done.

However, it is all right brother to criticize a public official who goes wrong, or public state institutions which are conducted extravagantly. In all such endeavors the people and all newspapers which are honestly standing for the interests of the people, will condemn the Oregonian. Yet such small and nonsensical criticism as was the editorial in question will win the Oregonian no friends; for every one can see the animus which inspired the criticism.

Say, Brother Oregonian, you can lead the people, but you cannot drive them a little bit. They have fed from the husks of "big business" as given to them through the columns of corporation controlled newspapers, as in the case of the Oregonian, until they have become convinced of the selfish and

grasping disposition of "big business." The people do not propose to submit to such injustice any longer. They are on to all of the old political tricks and schemes of "big business," and it is the little country newspapers, which "big business" did not consider worth buying, which have made them wise. The long dismal night of trust prices and grafting is about over. "You can fool a part of the people a part of the time, and all of the people some of the time; but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." The sooner "big business" and its advocates of the Oregonian caliber lives up to this truism, the sooner will active war on the part of the people against "big business" cease. The people will never surrender the power which they now enjoy through the initiative, referendum and direct primary laws. The Oregonian will gain friends if it will assist in carrying out the purpose of these laws and quit fighting every attempt which the people make to make their condition better.

THE PROPOSED NEW CITY CHARTER

THIS WEEK the proposed new city charter has been issued and is now before the people. The NEWS man has read the proposed charter carefully and we urge every citizen to do likewise. This is the purpose for which it is placed before every citizen; for if it is adopted, it will become the fundamental law of the city. That is to say, no law can be, hereafter, enacted by our city council which conflicts with this charter, if adopted. Of course, if the citizens of the future should see fit to adopt another charter, they can do so; for the people of every age should have a fundamental law suitable to the conditions of their day.

If the proposed city charter is adopted, until changed, our future city councils will be governed by its provisions. It is for the guidance of future councils. It is to our city, what the state constitution is to the state, or the national constitution is to the nation.

It is most important to the citizen in fundamental law—the charter or constitution, that the citizen shall be properly safeguarded. We know that citizens, when under the stress of great political excitement, are prone to do things which, under a more sober thought, they would not do. If, after doing an unwise thing a charter or constitution says "You cannot do this thing," how relieved we feel, if we, under the stress of political excitement said what we would do.

Our present city charter is obsolete in many particulars. We are not saying that our first city fathers did not know what they were doing, nor that they were not men of unusual good judgment. We simply say the men of a half-century ago could not formulate laws which will fit the conditions of today. This fact is pertinent in both state and nation; witnessed by the sixteen amendments of our national constitution and the numerous changes of our state fundamental law. City charters are usually amended by the adoption of a new one; just as Scio is attempting to do at the present time. We are attempting to establish an organic law which will more completely cover the conditions of the present time.

Possibly the proposed charter may not suit every citizen in every particular. No charter can do that. But if you think, after reading it, that it is more modern in its requirements and privileges than the present charter and that it fully guards the rights of the citizen, vote for it.

Scio, nor any other community, can progress if hampered by a charter which is obsolete and antedated. All know that social and financial conditions are widely different now from fifty years ago. Our national and state governments have kept pace with the progress of the people in their constitutions, and why should not Scio do the same?

If the report is or should be true, that Japan has smuggled a large number of trained soldiers, organized and officered into the Hawaiian Islands, disguised as laborers, the United States would have just cause to declare war upon the "Cherry Blossom" kingdom. The Chinese are supposed to be a people which are up to tricks peculiar, but the Japs seem to be capable of giving the "Chinks" cards and spades in the trick business. Of course the United States and Japan will have a war some day. Their interests in the Orient clash and Japan purposes to be the leading and dictating power on the Eastern Asiatic coast. At the present time the United States, owing to her position, power, wealth and fighting ability, would make the Mikado Kingdom look like thirty cents before the conclusion of such a war. The Japs think they are great fighters, because of their victory over Russia. When they go up against the Stars and Stripes, they will sing a different song.

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