

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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A NEW PRISON POLICY

IF GOVERNOR WEST'S new prison policy proves a success, he will add another very large straw to the Oregon reform regime. Until but a few years ago, a criminal was treated as if he was an irredeemable outlaw. He was regarded as a "bad" man who should be treated with the utmost rigor. Now a more humane policy has been adopted at most prisons. Governor West is the first to place prisoners on honor and, with two exceptions, the trust has not been violated. It is said that the sixty or more prisoners who were faithful to the trust placed in them, are very much chagrined at the conduct of the two that cut and ran.

If not more than 30 per cent. of the prisoners violate their honor liberty, the Governor's plan will be regarded as a splendid success. It will, in a measure, restore the lost respect of the prisoner for himself and, at the expiration of the prisoners term, place him before the world a reformed man, in most instances.

Judge Ben Linsey, of Denver, has pursued a somewhat similar policy in dealing with juvenile offenders. By appealing to the better or moral nature of these boys and by trusting them, he has originated a method of treating these youthful offenders, which has given the judge a wide and most enviable reputation before the world. Besides, he is making useful and respectful citizens

Will Attack on Initiative Deceive Oregon Voters?

Now comes some more "friends" of the initiative and referendum and propose to stab both in the back with the provision that only the presence of the county clerk and in his office can a citizen sign an initiative or referendum petition.

This would be worse than requiring 25 per cent of signatures instead of eight. If to this was added the stab the legislature proposes—to require that a majority of all going to the polls, whether voting on a measure or not, to affirmatively vote for a measure—then the initiative would be a great hulking corpse. The first would require that a citizen go many miles to sign a measure unless he went to register or had some other business with the county clerk.

The requirement that men go 60 to 75 miles to register works a great hardship on the people now. Thesecond would give every ignorant or careless voter a vote against any and every measure he did not vote on at all.

The real friend of the initiative will let it alone. All its false friends want to creep upon it with some sort of deadly thrust in the dark.

What is wrong with the initiative and referendum? The people have voted down every measure that was an attack upon it so far. The people have voted intelligently and discriminatingly, using far better judgment than the average legislature or city council. The idea that the initiative is being overworked is a cry gotten up by the special privileges, whose beneficiaries realize that it is going to stop some of their long legalized piracies.

True, some county division measures lumbered up the ballot at the last state election. That was the fault of the legislatures previously that refused to make provision for county divisions. It was also the fault of some sharp boosters, who expected to get their money back, and who had their fingers rapped so hard by the people that they will not drop any more money that way for a long time.

True, a large number of measures the people wanted have been passed that didn't suit the big interests. The interests blocked progressive legislation in Oregon for a quarter of a century, and, of course, a number of measures came before the people that the legislature should have passed. Among them was the direct primary, gross income tax on corporations, Statement No. 1, forbidding legislature to call constitutional convention, giving the people power in various forms, etc. The big interests fear that the people will now use power to re-enact in a permanent form the gross income tax, to tax special privileges, to reach out after land monopoly in one way or another. Therefore some men of influence and standing are being encouraged to attack the initiative with this proposed reform or that, every one of which would cripple it, paralyze it, poison it, bury it.

The people need to keep their weather eye open for the prominent and eminent citizen who endorses a measure to take away from them the power of the initiative to the slightest degree. It is working all right, just as it is. It is not injuring the people in any way. Some idols of the people may hit the dust trying to tinker it to suit the big business beast of Oregon. The referendum is in the same class, and an at-

of boys who, otherwise, would develop into enemies of society.

Oregon is now the leader of all other states in political reform and if the Governor West "honor" policy proves a winner, which all good citizens hopes for, another "Oregon plan" will add luster to the state.

THE TARIFF FRAUD

AN AMERICAN WHO has settled in the Australian province of Victoria, a man of high rank in the engineering profession, sends an item of information which ought to interest American voters. It is as follows:

"The unspeakable fraud and rascality of the tariff shows more plainly here (in Australia) than at home. I bought some hay making tools last week. They are manufactured at Springfield Ohio. To get here they travel more than halfway around the world, pay 5 per cent duty and the agent's commission, yet I get them for 1-3 less than the Ohio price.

"That is the kind of protection the Ohio farmer votes himself.

"Owing to our rapid growth the state works could not build locomotives fast enough. Twenty were bought in America and twenty in England, all made after Victorian design. The American engines are cheaper than the British by 15 per cent. Why then should the Baldwin works be protected?"

Albany is going to make the eagle scream, this year, without an oration nor the reading of the venerable Declaration of Independence. Of course, not much attention is given to a 4th of July oration unless the speaker happens to be a man of national repute; yet we believe our Albany friends have made a mistake. If we are to make our national birthday one of mere sports, devoid of all sentiment, it is far better that we forget the day entirely. We ought not to forget the thought or inspiration that the day suggests.

Governor West's confidence placed in two of the sixty prisoners he has given almost complete liberty to has been violated. These two skipped out. However, other "trusties" have committed a like heinous offense against the penitentiary authorities, heretofore, and others will, probably, do so in the future. But if the governor's plan results in making men of the other fifty-eight it will, certainly, prove a most valuable and humane innovation.

The cost for publishing an itemized list of county expenditures would not be great, were it published in all of the county papers. It would, also, make public any disposition to graft on the part of those who have bills against the county.

Secretary of State Olcott has placed a ban on the habit of state officials paying "tips," to be charged up as expense against the state.

tack on one is an attack on the other. The workmen of Oregon, whether in field or in shop, should not allow dust to be flung into their eyes by any men or papers, no matter how great their reputation. Influential men have been fooled where they could not be bought. Honest men are sometimes led astray by catchy phrases. Oregon should stay with the initiative and referendum.

Simplicity of English

Do you know how many words in the English language mean crowd? To a foreigner, anxious to master the language, it was explained that a crowd of ships is termed a fleet, while a fleet of sheep is called a flock. Further, a flock of girls is called a bevy, a bevy of wolves is called a pack, and a pack of thieves is called a gang, and a gang of angels is called a host, and a host of porpoises is called a shoal, and a shoal of buffaloes is called a herd, and a herd of children is called a troop, and a troop of partridges is called a covey, and a covey of beauties is called a galaxy, and a galaxy of ruffians is called a horde, and a horde of rubbish is called a heap, and a heap of oxen is called a drove, and a drove of blackguards is called a mob, and a mob of whales is called a school, and a school of worshippers is called a congregation, and a congregation of engineers is called a corps, and a corps of robbers is called a band, and a band of bees is called a swarm, and a swarm of people is called a crowd.—London Answers

Some people can increase prices as the cost of living advances; but others can't. If you do, you will be boycotted.

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