

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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DEFECT IN OUR PRIMARY LAW

Our primary law is a serious handicap to sections of the state and counties where population is less dense than in the population centers. The trend is to nominate candidates for political office almost exclusively from where the majority of electors cast their votes. Nor can electors be blamed for voting for the candidate with whom he is acquainted, who may be a friend or neighbor, in preference to a candidate of whom he knows but little or nothing about. It is a defect in our present law which ought to be corrected and which can be brought about only by a patriotic fairness on the part of the people. The population centers must not nor should not be allowed to absorb all political power in a county or state.

Our present plan of selecting legislators, can never result in a fair and equitable distribution of legislation, because so large a percentage of our lawmakers are elected from these centers. While the members so elected may be fair in their purpose to treat all portions of the state justly and equitably, they can not avoid, if they would, working for the interests of their immediate communities. They look out for these interests and expect the few members from the sparsely populated districts to care for the interests of their respective localities. But their members are so few and their interests so varied that harmony of action is impracticable. So legislators from the population centers get about all they want, while members from the cow counties get an occasional crumb in their favor from the legislative hopper.

Without amending our state constitution this condition cannot be remedied. So long as population is used as a basis for apportioning the legislative membership, the unfairness is likely to remain.

When our plan of state government was modeled, it was intended to be a miniature copy of the government of the United States. But the copy is a failure in one very important feature. The United States senate is composed of two senators from each state, regardless of population. That is to say Oregon with a population of less than one million has just as much power in that body as the state of New York with a population ten times greater. If the same rule of selection of our state legislature should be used, it would give, say Grant county an equal power in legislation with Multnomah in the state senate. If, for instance, each of our Oregon counties should be entitled to one senator and the membership of the house of representatives be based upon population, then our state government would be a more correct copy of our national government.

Another plan could be adopted for the purpose of nominating legis-

lative candidates, without a constitutional change, which would be a partial remedy. Divide each county into legislative districts corresponding with the number of senators and representatives for the purpose of nominations only, but the election of each would be by the vote of the entire county. Linn county would thus be divided into three nominating districts. This would avoid the election of three members from one locality, as was the case at our last election. The same plan for selecting candidates for our county court would be wise and more equitable. This would place the judge in one district and a commissioner in each of the others. This would insure a more equitable distribution of officials.

In the old days when delegate conventions made the nominations, greater equity in the distribution of candidates prevailed than under our present plan. Yet we would not return to the old corrupt convention days, when each political party, through its bosses, made up slates of delegates.

A plan of districting counties is worth considering. It would do away with bunching officials which, with our present plan of selecting candidates, is unavoidable.

SOCIALISM. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Socialism seems to have a different meaning in different countries. In Russia socialists seem to be pacifists. In Germany they seem to be supporting the kaiser. In the United States, they are divided, some supporting the administration loyally while others would, if they could, support the kaiser.

Now as a matter of fact, none of us desire war, if we could honorably avoid it. President Wilson opposed our entrance into the war until opposition became a stench in the nostrils of every patriotic liberty loving American citizen. Then congress declared war. It was not the declaration of democrats or republicans as political parties, but the declaration of American citizens, who deprecated war, but were willing to plunge the nation into war, rather than to submit to the domination of a nation, whose cruelties and disregard of the accepted law of nations to which it had agreed by solemn treaty, made her a nation of outlaws and an enemy to human liberty.

Russian socialists, by their contemplated action in practically suing for peace at the dictation of German intriguants, have shown themselves unworthy of the boon of political liberty. German socialists are proving that they are loyal to their government, though condemning the kaiser's action in involving the world war and with the purpose of breaking down the things for which socialists contend. American socialists, those who are loyal to the government, are proving that the life of our government and the cause of democracy are superior to any and all parties. But the wing of socialists, who secretly favor the kaiser and countenance I. W. Wism, are so contemptible that they should, one and all, be driven from the confines of a government they would destroy.

The socialist, democrat or republican who does not submit loyally to the will of the majority, is out of place as a citizen of a democratic government. The basic principle of democracy is the rule of the majority. There is no halfway or half-hearted American patriotism. A man must be for or against the rule of the majority. If against, he is more dangerous to the American government than is the kaiser. He is more dangerous because while openly he must, at least, pretend to

be loyal, he secretly would betray his country if he could.

The socialist party will do well to purge itself of these men who place party above country and who would rejoice to see Germany the victor in this battle between autocracy and democracy.

WHY STARVE OUR SCHOOLS?

It is difficult to understand the action of the majority of voters at our recent school meeting. In limiting the school levy to 9 mills, they placed our schools in an awkward position. One of three alternatives must result: The number of school months must be curtailed, the salaries of teachers must be reduced or a less number of teachers must be employed. Either alternative will result in destroying much of the efficiency of our schools and no right thinking man or woman should wish to do that.

Strange as it may appear, there is an occasional person who is opposed to maintaining our high school. Now as we will have to pay the high school tax whether or not we maintain such a school and as the teachers of the high school department are paid substantially from the county high school fund, we cannot understand the reason for opposition.

Very few of our boys and girls can afford to attend college. Nearly all of them can and do avail themselves of the advantage of the four high school grades with but small cost to their parents. Most of them board at their homes and the only cost are the books required. Without the high school, most, if not all of them would have to be content with what the common school grades would give them.

Just what those who voted for 9 mill tax hoped to accomplish is hardly understandable. It can only result in crippling the common school grades, for the high school can and probably will be maintained in any event. Also, we understand that the high school teacher cannot give all or even a part of his or her time in teaching the common grades, yet draw his or her salary from the high school fund.

The Tribune favors economy in school matters. It does not favor paying teachers an exorbitant salary. Yet we must pay about what other schools pay, if we would secure efficient teachers and, we believe, this is what the school board is doing. It may be economy in the minds of some people to allow our school building to deteriorate and decay. The Tribune does not think so and we believe a mistake was made at the school meeting in not providing funds for necessary repairs.

It is too late now to call another special meeting to reconsider this vote, or The Tribune would favor such action. At all events, it is a warning for the friends of good schools to be on hand one year hence.

Local Market Report

Wheat per bushel	\$ 1.80
Oats " "	.85
Bran per ton	44.00
Wheat chop per ton	65.00
Oat chop " "	60.00
Barley Chop " "	50.00
Flour per sack	2.65
Eggs per dozen, cash	.46
Butter fat per lb	.61
Chickens, hens per lb	.15
" spring " "	.15
" roosters " "	.10
Turkeys " "	.10
Geese " "	.10
Ducks " "	.15
Beef " "	.08
Veal " "	.13 1/2
Hogs, live per hundred lb	14.75
Hogs, dressed " "	.17 1/2
Mutton " "	11.00

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