

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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*I pledge allegiance to my flag and
the Republic for which it stands, one
Nation, indivisible, with liberty and
justice for all.*

SCIO, OREGON, JAN. 27, 1921

PRIMARY LAW ASSAULTED

The primary law in many states, if news dispatches can be relied upon, is or is about to be assailed by republican politicians mainly. It does not suit them. They want to do away with it altogether or amend it in such manner that they (the politicians and would be political bosses) can again manipulate and control the politics of the country.

Democratic politicians and oldtime bosses stand aloof but no doubt are privately giving the republican bosses all the aid they can in encouragement.

Politicians in neither of the two leading parties want the direct primary. It places too much power in the hands of the people and too little in their own. They can function as one of the people, and only one.

Yet even the warmest and truest of friends of the primary method of nominating candidates concede that the method is faulty in several particulars and the main one of which is our best men are too often sidetracked and men of lesser qualifications chosen.

Good men, men who would be most valuable to the people will not get down and scramble for office, while the fellow who has too often a sinister or selfish purpose, will.

Another fault of the primary as it now works out, the centers of population control nominations simply because these centers have the most votes. Men will vote for their neighbor even if they know he is just not the right man for the place rather than vote for an absolute stranger.

Another feature is that too little is known of what a candidate stands for and what he will do if elected.

The Tribune believes there is merit in a combination of both the convention and primary systems. Let the people in the several precincts of a county select delegates to assemble in an advisory capacity and to prepare a county platform of principles; also to recommend one or more prospective candidates and at the primary election later on ratify or reject the candidate or candidates proposed by the convention; or select a new candidate, all of whom would be morally bound by the declaration of principles formulated by the county convention.

Some plan of this character would bring out our best men for office, distribute the candidacies more equitably over the county and cause the people to feel that no one locality shall be permitted to gobble up all the offices.

More, the people would form a more intelligent opinion by coming in contact with people from all over the county through the delegates they send to represent them in the

county convention.

The county convention should select delegates to the state convention, but all this should be over with before the primary election. It would at least eliminate objectionable candidates who sometimes offer themselves for office.

The old plan of canvassing the county by the candidates of both parties where the people could hear both sides of the question at issue discussed should be restored in some way. The voter to act intelligently should be given all the information possible about men and measures. Joint discussions in every precinct would accomplish this result to some extent. It would at least let the voter hear and see the candidate he is to vote for or against.

But to repeal the primary law in toto is unthinkable. Voters do not want to become mere automatons to be manipulated by the political bosses at will which would be the case if the old convention system shall be restored. Yet our present primary plan can and ought to be improved but not improved backward.

If all men and women were politically honest, open and fearless in action, most any kind of method or plan would work satisfactorily. Unfortunately they are not and it is these dishonest and tricky people who are assaulting the primary method. The professional politicians—men who make politics their life business, are the people which made the direct primary necessary. They don't like to be rooted away from the political trough. Some of them do not like to even try to make a living in ordinary lines of business. They have trained themselves to live on politics. The direct primary put them out of business. If the people are wise they will resist to the death abandonment of the primary law.

PRESIDENT-ELECT HARDING

President-elect Harding is rapidly gaining the confidence of the people. His desire to consult with our leading statesmen of both political parties inspires the hope that he wants to be as nearly right as possible in his purposes when he takes the oath of office on March 4.

Mr. Harding while he evidently desires to please his party leaders, when he becomes the leader as president has shown that while he is a good listener he makes no declarations of what he will or will not do when he steps into Mr. Wilson's shoes, or if he does make such declarations they are not given general publicity.

He is, without intending to do so, inspiring a hope among the people that he will be president and not a mere automaton or puppet in the hands of the senatorial oligarchy.

And these same senators who have rather expected to give orders to the white house are becoming just a bit dubious that he will not be as clay in the potter's hands. They are beginning to conclude that Mr. Harding will be the president.

This is why Mr. Harding is gaining the people. They want him to be president, not Lodge or Penrose or any other senator.

When the old guard secured his nomination at Chicago they evidently expected he would manifest a disposition to be told what to do, a disposition to be led rather than to lead, as seemed to be the case when he was their associate senator.

But the Marion newspaper man has evidently awakened to the fact that he as president will be held responsible by the people for his acts and he cannot shift it to the shoulders of his former fellow senators. At least this is the feeling and the hope of the people.

The Tribune hopes and rather expects that President Harding will

not disappoint the hope he has built up in the minds of the people since his election.

The responsibility which will rest upon the American president for the next four years will be unusually great. Questions of world wide importance will have to be decided. We often wonder if a mere newspaper man is big enough to comply with the expectations of the people of the United States and the world. We are beginning to believe that Mr. Harding will not disappoint the people.

SOMEWHAT IMPUDENT.

Washington, Jan. 20.—Sir Ernest Raeburn, representing the government of Great Britain, will arrive in Washington within a few days to effect a settlement of British claims against the war department amounting to approximately \$25,000,000.

Great Britain's claim represents a part of the cost of transporting American troops to Europe during the war, approximately 51 per cent of the American expeditionary force having crossed the Atlantic in British bottoms.

What would have been the cost to Great Britain if these 2,000,000 young Americans had stayed at home instead of crossing the Atlantic in these British ships, for which she now demands \$25,000,000?

Both England and France were being constantly driven back by the victorious German army. These same English who now send a collector over here to collect a debt caused in the transportation of troops which turned what was sure victory for the Germans into an ignominious defeat.

England has never been a friend to the United States. She has never failed to take advantage of us when she could. Her actions during the Civil war showed she would be glad to see the United States government blotted from the earth. She gave our enemies aid and comfort; permitted them to fit out war ships in her harbors and manned them with British seamen. Then dilly dallied about paying for the damage these ships had done until President Grant advised our congress to pay the debt due our private citizens who suffered loss by these same ships, built, fitted out and manned by her seamen in her own harbors.

Then, when she found the debt was to be owned by the government she concluded very quickly to pay it, almost 10 years after the damage was done. Now she sends a collector over here in less than two years to collect the passage money for the men we were kind enough to send in her defense, is some rank impudence.

Not What She Meant.

She had received his gift of flowers with rapture.

"Oh, they are perfectly lovely!" she exclaimed. "And there's even a little dew on them still."

"Er-y-yes," he stammered, "there is a little, but I intend to pay it on Saturday night."

Officers charged with employing third-degree methods to extort confessions from three of the five convicted slayers of Sheriff Till Taylor in a jailbreak at Pendleton July 25 last, following their subsequent capture, were cleared of all charges Saturday by a grand jury investigating the prisoners' treatment.

There are 475 more manufacturing plants in Oregon than there were two years ago. New plants total 898, but 423 were destroyed by fire or are out of operation.

The Graves cannery at Brownsville, destroyed by fire, will be replaced at once, plans having been prepared for a fine fireproof structure on the site of the old building.

The Klamath county court has included in its budget \$50,000 for completion of the Hot Springs courthouse, ignoring an injunction issued by Judge Calkins of Medford.

Dairymen and business men at Amity have been holding conferences with representatives of the Oregon Cooperative Dairy league for the purpose of starting a cheese factory.

Return the Whip.

The party who took the cattle whip owned by Shelton & Large, which was hanging in the barn of Mrs. Vista Sims, is known. The party will please return same and save trouble. Shelton & Large.

They've started to run all crooks out of New York. That will be a lonesome town in a few days.

DR. FICQ DENTIST

I will relocate in Scio and be ready to care for all desiring dentistry by February 1, 1921 at the office formerly occupied by Dr. E. H. Holson. My work of the past is an evidence of what it will be in the future.

The price of shoes is to take a big drop. That ought to gladden many an afflicted sole.

J. F. WESELY

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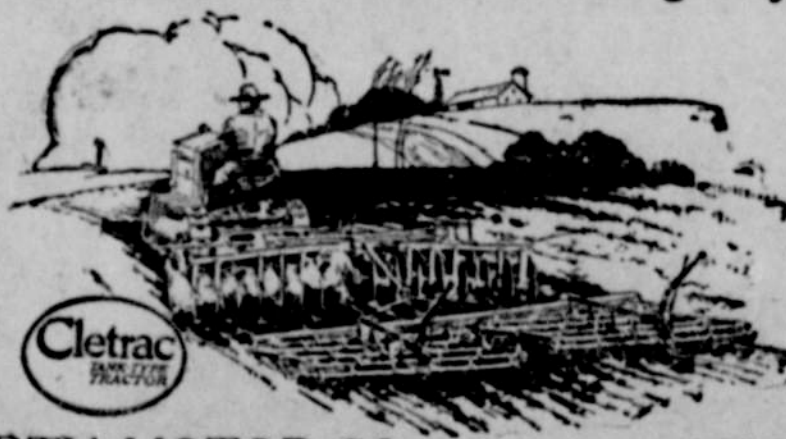
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