

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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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, JUNE 30, 1921

A SENATORIAL MISFIT.

Last week Senator Stanfield visited Portland, his home town. While it is true that his visit was rather unexpected the senator excited but little more attention than an ordinary hobo landing in town would. The press merely mentioned that the senator was in town. His arrival would hardly have been mentioned except for the office seekers were to be jollied. There's a reason.

A congressman is expected, in his activities, to represent the sentiment of the people of the United States in general and that of his home state in particular. It is doubtful if Senator Stanfield represented 500 of the people who elected him, when he advocated the interests of the "big five" packing companies before the U. S. senate.

Few people, however, were surprised at his action. In the campaign of last year, owing to Stanfield's intimate relations with the Swift Packing company, that he would represent the packing house interests in the senate.

So he did not disappoint many Oregonians when he announced in a speech before the senate that they (the packing houses) had developed the best and most economical system for the distribution of meat products in the world.

But most Oregonians, whether producers or consumers of animals slaughtered for food purposes, consider the packing companies next door to enemies. They know it is the purpose of the packing houses to hold down prices of meat-producing animals to the lowest possible figure and to exact the highest prices for the meat after the animal has passed through the slaughtering process.

The people see in the packing companies friends, not to any considerable amount of the people, but of themselves only. They pluck the producer and skin the consumer. Hence the people of Oregon, though they do not openly say so, privately in their hearts they curse Stanfield. If a new election could occur now, as between Stanfield and Chamberlain, Stanfield would not receive one-third of the votes of the people.

Oregon has been represented in the U. S. senate in the past by some very poor material. But Stanfield is the first senator to advocate a measure to which the vast majority of his constituents were opposed.

Had it been known that Stanfield would thus quickly misrepresent the people of Oregon he would have been sunk so deeply in oblivion that he would never have been heard of in a political way again.

Bob Stanfield is a traitor to the people who made him a United

States senator. He, knowingly, has misrepresented them; for he well knows that the packing companies are, in a business way, friends only to themselves. He knows that these slaughtering concerns have secret understandings with each other to hold down prices on the raw products on the one hand and to hold up prices on the finished product on the other hand.

Yet he had the gall to stand up in the senate and advocate the immaculacy of these robber concerns and to vote against government regulation for them. Stanfield should be censured by the people of Oregon in every possible way.

Harding Should Take the Lead

That President Harding should take the lead in shaping legislation and in rallying the republican majority in congress to its support is inevitable, if anything is to be done. The people look to him as president not only to enforce the laws that are on the statute books, but to secure the enactment of the new laws they want. The instrument through which this must be done is the republican majority. Mr. Harding is not only president but leader of the republican party, and it is incumbent on him to take the lead in giving effect to the policies advanced in its platform. Not only the rank and file of his own party, but all the people, look to him to lead, and to the party to act under his leadership. By electing a republican president and congress the people have imposed on the republican party the duty to govern the country in accordance with the platform which the people by their votes have approved.

If he leaves congress to run itself the president will have gone to the other extreme from the dictatorial methods of President Wilson. So long as the democrats controlled congress, the custom was for department heads to draft bills and hand them to party leaders in congress with a request that they be passed. Opposition of a department chief to a bill was usually fatal. A subservient majority could be relied on to pass or kill a bill, as the executive branch of the government wished. Mr. Harding seems to have shown overscrupulous regard for the prerogatives of congress and congress drifts. The pernicious seniority rule has brought to the front men of mediocre ability, men whose years of vigor are past or men who are out of touch with the prevailing tendency. This situation and the faction breeding character of huge majorities have made the opportunity for men like Senators Borah, Norris and La Follette to push free-lance legislation and for men like Senators Kenyon, Kendrick, Capper and others from the farming and cattle-raising states to pander to the class interest of agriculture.

The only way to get the party in congress to work as a coherent whole is for the president to take the lead, acting in close co-operation with such leaders as there are and making them his lieutenants. Some men doubtless will break away from the party on some of the important measures and play the free lance, but Mr. Harding should be able to hold together the great majority of his party and to swing it as an effective majority in each house. He would do well to apply some of the methods by which President Roosevelt made his administration a brilliant success in legislative as well as executive achievement and to take warning by the failure of the too amiable President Taft.—Oregonian.

The labor department shows that a year ago the dollar had a buying power of 37 cents as compared with its value before the war. Now the power has increased to 65 cents.

Breaking the Taxpayer.

The papers are full of proposals of how to raise money for government expense, both state and national, by various new forms of taxation. The whole thought seems to be more and more and more. Our taxes have been increasing at a much more rapid rate than our wealth and population.

The more new methods of taxation that are invented and the higher the tax burden is boosted, the less and less business will eventually be done, for money is being driven into tax-exempt securities the funds from which are spent in governmental activity which requires the collection of the taxes, and not in new and productive enterprise.

We have seen this work with our excess profit and our surtax; the sources of wealth which formerly produced this tax revenue are drying up. It was all right to talk about taxing wealth and the big interests, but when you have taxed this capital out of existence who carries the tax load that has been built up? The burden falls on millions of ordinary citizens who are still maintaining homes and business.

Instead of studying new ways to increase revenue through new forms of taxation it should be the aim of every honest public official to study methods of reducing the tax burden in proportion to the reduced cost of living and commodity prices, and retrenchment in every line of industry. Unless this is done in a systematic manner there will be a public reaction some day against oppressive tax burdens which will shake the very foundation of our government.

Remedy Worse than the Disease.

North Dakota has been kept in the public eye on account of its socialistic political experiments. No political unit was ever more completely turned over to political experimenters with socialistic inclinations than North Dakota. The result has been chaos in the state's financial affairs. The farmers who were told they would profit under the scheme of state socialism, have suffered the greatest losses.

The remedy which they sought to apply to a grievous situation has been worse than the trouble they attempted to cure. The adoption of an unsound principle of government is no remedy for a short-sighted business practice which it seeks to correct. North Dakota has learned this, and other states and our nation itself can profit by North Dakota's experience and refuse to accept the doctrines of visionary agitators who would turn our government over to socialistic experimenters, if they had the power.

The republican party has now had control of the government for nearly four months. Congress has been in session nearly three months, yet not a war tax has been repealed or modified. The time has arrived when at least some of the promises made during the campaign of last year should be fulfilled, but we are told that the government taxes are to be increased rather than reduced and that the expenses for the next year will be near the seven billion mark.

Bankers, more particularly than almost any other group of business men, see the menace of the growing tax evil. They realize that deposits and savings which must be drawn to pay the exorbitantly high taxes mean just that much less money for investment in productive enterprises in the community. A banker has of necessity been trained to business principles and ways of thrift, and he knows that increasing demands of taxation are dissipating the savings and discouraging investment in productive enterprises.

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