

THE OREGONIAN'S CONSISTENCY.

In a leader this week on Oregon Republican politics in Multnomah county Mr. Scott writes: "That while Mr. Simon himself is absent, his immediate adherents are forming a fusion ticket, whose object is the defeat of the Republican nominees for the legislature, and, incidentally of the Republican nominee for governor."

Will Mr. Scott plainly answer this question: Is not what you accuse Simon of doing exactly what the faction you are training with DID DO two years ago, and DID DEFEAT the Republican ticket in Multnomah county? Who has changed front and made a new alignment, Scott or Simon?

Again Mr. Scott says: "They (the Republican party) will not be inclined to favor the use of federal patronage to strengthen the hands of a man who is fighting the Republican ticket." Then why did the bolters of two years ago, and this year, have all the federal office-holders on their side, and now make Postmaster Crossman's deputy, Jack Matthews, their state chairman, with Collector Patterson and every federal office-holder in Oregon the main push, and the whole thing? It is very consistent to charge Mr. Simon with doing exactly what the Scott-Fulton faction are doing.

In place of his daily editorial eulogizing the faction he now runs with, a few years ago Mr. Scott was daily writing editorials denouncing the faction. Here are extracts from his editorials of June, 1898: "The Mitchell-Republican ticket stands only for Mitchell. It does not stand for the principles and purposes of the Republican party. * * * It is a desperate combination, without scruple or principle." All the leaders of that unscrupulous combination are today the leaders, and some of them nominees, of the faction, Mr. Scott eulogizes as the only sound Republicans.

In the same editorial of 1898 he says: "The chief strength of their machine lies in their common and joint ability to work up a great vote among the irresponsible, vicious, semi-criminal and criminal classes. The effort is to make majorities enough in the precincts of vile resort in the city to overcome the votes of reputable citizens in other parts." The man who was able to handle the above elements is now made Republican state chairman, and Scott, with his assistance, was able to dictate the nomination for governor.

In the same paper, a few years ago, is this item: "The chief spokesmen of the Mitchell party are W. T. Hume and Dan J. Malarkey. These men are that party's orators and oracles. They are its men of judgment and character. What must the party be whose leaders are Hume and Malarkey? What, asks Pope, must the priest be where the monkey is a god? What must the party be whose heads are Hume and Malarkey? It will be recalled that Hume was the nominee against Simon, and Malarkey is now on the ticket that Scott is supporting. Scott is not only making a monkey of himself in this campaign, but is trying to simulate and gorillaize the whole Republican party by making gods of men like Matthews and Malarkey?"

Mr. Scott's somersaults and inconsistencies have become the most laughable, and at the same time the most serious phase of Oregon politics. The faction he was with until a few months ago, as well as the rest of the Republican party, and all other parties, must hold such performances in supreme contempt. They must behold with horror what such an inversion of the very womb of Oregon Republicanism must lead to.

All he condemned and denounced as unsound and dangerous to the public welfare for many years, with great ability and perfect consistency, he now eulogizes as safe and sound Republicanism, and wants to put it into power in every department of our public affairs. He thus stands self-convicted as a false mentor, and seeks to make his readers swallow all that he himself has bolted to get in with what he conceives to be the popular political swim, and for his own self-aggrandizement tramples under foot the very men who have fought his battles and saved him from the pernicious purposes of those he has now got into bed with.

His character is best illustrated in his editorial utterance the day after Governor Geer vetoed the Portland charter, when he said that veto had saved the taxpayers of Multnomah county from the consequences of their own folly. Yet for that veto, endorsed by the Oregonian, Scott joins hands with a faction he has always denounced to freeze Governor Geer out of a Republican state convention. Consistency, thy name is (nit) Harvey Scott.

CITIZENS' MOVEMENT IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY.

With the highest county tax in the state, with a debt rapidly mounting up into the hundreds of thousands, with current expenses nearly double what it is in Marion county, the Citizens' ticket should win.

While Senator Porter, the Republican editor and pace-maker for Geo. C. Brownell, has dropped out of politics since he was defeated for state printer, Brownell is making the fight of his life to be returned.

While Brownell is not responsible for all the bad work done by the Clackamas politicians, and is the champion of some good laws, his whole influence is cast on the side of the grafters and works evil at wholesale. Brownell prefers the chairmanship of railroads to any office on earth.

The opposition parties have all laid down and put up a Citizens' ticket, and their convention was one of the largest ever held in Clackamas county. It was composed of Democrats, Populists and Republicans, and represented every recalcitrant element in the county. A full county ticket was nominated, and will be known as the Citizens' ticket. It is the outcome of a movement to fuse all elements dissatisfied with Republican rule and Senator Brownell.

The Democrats were the leaders in the fusion movement, and have the largest following, but they did not receive the majority of the offices. The head of the ticket, George W. Grace, is a business man of Oregon City, who was elected sheriff six years ago in the Populist landslide. He is a good man, and has a wide acquaintance all over the county, that almost ensures his election. He is a brother of ex-Representative Grace, of Baker county.

Elmer Dixon, who was nominated for county judge, was twice elected county clerk as a Populist, and is at present a deputy in the clerk's office. County Clerk E. H. Cooper was renominated. He is a Populist, as is also Treasurer A. Luelling, who received a renomination.

Representative Gilbert L. Hedges, who two years ago defeated Charles Toole for election to the state

legislature, was a candidate for the nomination of state senator against Mr. Grace. He received 108 votes and Grace got 167. Hedges was then given a place on the representative ticket, which was nominated by acclamation. The other two legislative candidates, O. W. Eastham and Charles F. Clark, are Republicans.

BENEFITS OF DIRECT LEGISLATION.

In Oregon the people will have an opportunity to vote on the direct legislation amendment to the constitution, allowing the people an opportunity to adopt or reject the initiative and referendum. This proposed innovation is very simple, giving the legislature power to refer any law to the people, to take effect only if it is approved by a majority vote. It also leaves with the legislature power to declare that a law for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall take effect the day it is passed. This would include the general appropriation bill, salaries of public officers, and similar fixed charges of government. Any other law, including practically all special appropriations, must be referred to the people, when it is demanded by five per cent. of the legal voters (which would be about 4500 signers in Oregon), if the petition is filed within ninety days after the last day of the legislature. A petition for the referendum cannot be for more than one law. A separate petition is necessary for each law on which a vote of the people is demanded.

Any proposed law must be submitted to the people independent of the legislature and the governor, if it is petitioned for by eight per cent. of the voters, which would require about 7000 signatures in Oregon. This petition must be filed with the secretary of state not less than four months before the general election at which it is to be voted on. This is the initiative.

Oregon is thus a long step in advance of many other states in the Union by having reached the stage when the people can vote on this important question, and there is good reason to believe that the amendment will carry. The Capital News favors the direct mode of legislation, because it brings the government down to the people, and takes it out of the hands of the tricksters and schemers. Big, useless appropriations by a corrupt legislature and vicious laws enacted contrary to the wishes of the people would be abolished by the supreme mandate of the ballot-box, under the provisions of the referendum, and we would have the purest of democracies after the fashion of the New England township plan more than anything else. The initiative we do not believe is so important in any respect as the referendum, but there are advantages to be derived from it that are well worthy of consideration. As one advocate says:

"The principal use of the initiative is to allow a hearing before the people to the agitators and advocates of new ideas in government, and thus do away with the excuse for new political parties. It is a cheap and convenient method for testing the popularity and growth of alleged reforms. The expense to the public treasury, if the amendment is adopted, will be but a trifle—only the cost of printing the questions on the official ballots. No special election can be had unless ordered by the legislature. The whole expense of getting up the petition falls on the signers, the public treasury pays none of it."

We sincerely hope that Idaho's next legislature will consider this matter of direct legislation and take the first step tending towards its submission to the people for approval or rejection. The worst act of the last session was that in which enough Democrats joined with the Republicans to defeat the pending bill looking to this consummation. In Oregon every political party before the people has endorsed the idea of submitting the question to a popular vote, and the opposition in Idaho's legislature was uncalled for and without a sensible excuse.—Boise, Idaho, Capital News.

WHICH IS SIMON'S GREATEST FAULT?

For the sake of getting at the matter in a manner that the people can understand, The Journal desires to ask the Oregonian to point out two things. First, where has Simon gone greatly wrong in his support of or opposition to public measures coming before the Senate since he has been a member of that body? That will have something to do with determining whether he is a safe public servant. Secondly, in what manner is he any worse as a political manipulator in local politics than the Oregonian has on a thousand different occasions asserted every member of the present "Federal Brigade" to be, including "Jack" Matthews and Ike Patterson. Old, and even comparatively new files of the Oregonian make "mighty interestin' readin'" as to the political corruption which has been said to be the daily subsistence of those with whom Harvey at present consorts with the greatest pleasure. There is probably not in the entire state a single old-time reader and admirer of the Oregonian who has not had his esteem for that paper greatly lowered by its abject flop, which has made it the intimate associate of the very men whom it has so unmercifully roasted for years as the rascals in local politics of the "criminal and semi-criminal classes" for corrupt and illegal purposes.

Great paper, the Oregonian, in these latter days.

WILLIAMSON FOR CONGRESS.

"Newt" Williamson, as he is called at his home in Eastern Oregon, is purely a man of the people. His residence is at Prineville, and he has for a number of years been engaged in the sheep business and in stock-raising. To see him in his home town or on his ranch one would never take the new congressional nominee for a political aspirant. In the town he mingles with the "boys," being often seen with groups of them on the street corners, and is the most common looking one of them all in dress. He generally wears a pair of overalls and a broad-brimmed hat of the sombrero pattern, and has a natural kind word for every one he meets. He is not of the stripe who go in this attire for effect, but it is natural. Mr. Williamson has spent his life that way, and he thinks nothing of meeting prominent men who visit Prineville in his overalls. On his ranch it is the same way. He can lasso a broncho or shear or butcher a sheep as quickly as any employee on his ranch, and he is not backward in taking hold when it comes to manual labor of any kind. Still, when one looks into the eyes of J. N. Williamson and sees the spark of intellect there, together with a classic, clean-shaven face and a voice naturally eloquent and pleasing, he sees in the man more than a politician. He is an American statesman.—Astorian.

REVOLUTION NEEDED IN THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE.

THE JOURNAL has printed facts from the records to show what a great graft the state printing office has become on the people of the state. These facts from the records, as published over and over, and scattered all over the state for the past six months, have never been called in question, as to the law or the facts as printed in detail.

There are thousands of people in the state who think the state owns the state printing plant, and that the people elect and own the state printer. But that is not the case. The state printing plant is owned by ex-State Printer F. C. Baker, who owns all the presses and the type, and leases the same to whoever is elected state printer on any terms they can agree upon. These rentals have paid as high as 25 per cent., and it is estimated by some in a position to know that out of the total appropriations for the state printing office for four years the owner of the plant has received \$30,000 to \$40,000. We do not state this as a fact, but it is stated by persons in a position to know.

As only whitewashing investigations have been conducted by the legislature for the past twenty years of the state printing and other departments of the state house, the real facts may never be known. The great fact is that the plant belongs not to the state nor to the state printer, but to a politician who is interested in swelling the graft. This graft should be broken and not continued for the four years.

Without saying a word against the Republican nominee, Mr. Whitney, of Albany, the question can fairly be asked what are the chances of breaking the state printing graft, if he is elected. Republicans and Democrats have introduced bills into the legislature for the past ten years to change the laws, but all efforts have failed. An attempt was made in the last legislature to pass a bill regulating the compensation of the printer, and reducing the enormous fees and profits of the office. But Republican candidates for printer interfered, killed the bill and got a constitutional amendment passed, knowing that such amendments are all rejected by the people. So all efforts have failed to retrench in this office, while a state printing lobby works openly in nearly every session to swell the volume of work done at state expense. Mr. Whitney, if elected, will not be able to put in a plant, and will be compelled to lease of Mr. Baker, and all influences will be set to work to swell the profits of the office to yet greater dimensions.

The way Whitney was nominated ought to convince anyone that a new graft will be started. On the first ballot there was no nomination made in the Republican state convention. Then Jack Matthews assembled his 67 delegates in the rear of the convention hall, and the word was passed, and at the next ballot, it is said by those who were in close touch with the contest that 67 ballots went into the hat from Jack's hands in a bunch, and Mr. Whitney, of the Albany Herald, was nominated. It is also stated that the deal to give it to Whitney was made by W. P. Keady and Jack Matthews, and they are to get \$5000 apiece out of the office, but for this we cannot vouch, except that it comes from a source in their councils.

So the office, if Mr. Whitney is elected, will be held up for all there is in it by Mr. Baker for the use of his plant and by Matthews and Keady for delivering the goods that nominated Mr. Whitney. And this is nothing especially against Mr. Whitney, because any other candidate before that convention would have stood up and mortgaged in the same way if possible. It cost a large sack of money to carry Multnomah county for the Matthews slates, and that money must be made back, and in no way can it come so quickly as through the state printer, as that office is now conducted. The proposition before the people of this state is simply will they put Mr. Whitney where he will be held up by Baker and Keady and Matthews? Is there any way to get the enormous burden of this extravagance thrown off the shoulders of the taxpayers? Not if you elect Mr. Whitney. If the people elect Mr. Whitney on June 24, let them do it with their eyes open, and knowing that there is no possibility of breaking up this graft, but that the state printing push will be installed for four years more, and will be increased. The push in that office will have license to increase their graft and pay their convention pledges out of the public treasury.

Without entering into the merits of the candidacy of Mr. Whitney or Mr. Godfrey, the Democratic nominee, from the standpoint of organized labor, what is the true interest of Union labor in the state printing office? Conceding that union labor is employed at present in the state printing office, the labor unions have no interest in the grafts of politicians, have no interest in a state printer making from \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year, have no interest in Mr. Baker making a rental sufficient to buy a new plant every two years, have no interest in a rake-off for Jack Matthews and W. P. Keady, if such be the fact. The only direct interest the labor unions have in this matter is that the labor actually entering into state printing and binding shall be done at the union scale of wages, and by union labor, which is not the case on all the work now done at the state printing office. It is well known that now the printing office at the state house cannot do all the work when there is a rush, and that every job office in Salem is employed to print bills and other work during the sessions of the legislature, and none of these offices have been under union scale. With the present plant the work can never all be done at union rates.

From the standpoint of the union labor of this state, there should be one of two things done with the state printing office; the state should own and operate the plant, or it should be put out of the state house and the work done by union labor in commercial printing offices, the same as any other large corporation has it done. The present system is a partnership between political hoodlums and the state treasury, in which the state and union labor get the worst of the bargain. The state furnishes room, fuel, light, heat and janitorship for a private plant that pays no taxes, and in return the state printing costs the state—*not for labor, but for the official graft*—from two to three times what it should cost. The type-setters and pressmen get only ordinary wages. The inordinate compensation goes to the politicians. If the private state printing office were thrown out of the state house, that building would be far more safe from fire, from explosions, from having the building shaken to pieces, and there would be several large commercial job printing

offices at Salem and Portland doing the state work. These commercial offices would pay rent, would pay taxes, would employ union labor at good wages, all the year round, and the state printer would do his work for a flat salary, and no grafts for the hoodlums.

Under all these circumstances the thing for the people to do, if they want reform, is to defeat the Republican candidate, Mr. Whitney. It is true he is running on a flat salary platform, but that platform is qualified, and the constitutional provision will be relied on to not have the law passed by the legislature apply to his office. In the case of that office the constitution says the legislature shall fix his compensation, but it shall not be raised or lowered during his term of office.

If voters of Oregon want to break the political graft on the state printing office they should vote for Jas. Godfrey, the Democratic nominee, who stands on a flat salary platform, without qualifications, who will take any fair salary the legislature will give him, and is not tied up with Mr. Baker or Jack Matthews or Mr. Keady, or any other Republican manager.

Mr. Godfrey will accept the office on these terms, and the legislature should pass a law at the same time it puts through a salary bill to require that all state printing should be done at union offices, and at union scale prices for labor. That would protect organized labor and break up the present corrupt system of managing the state printing. It is up to labor organizations to size up this matter, and do what is right by the taxpayers and by union labor.

What then is the reform needed in the state printing office?

1st. The defeat of Mr. Whitney, the Republican nominee, to break the political graft that got him the nomination.

2d. To elect Mr. Godfrey, who is a Union printer, and who was nominated free from any political pull that is opposed to reform.

3d. The removal of a private printing plant from the state house, and let all state work be done in the open market.

4th. Pass a law that all state work shall be done at union printing offices, at the union scale of wages.

5th. Put the state printer on a salary of \$2500 a year, and have his office in the state house, as the law requires.

If this program is carried into effect, and it can be done by framing and passing a single bill through the legislature, the state will pay about \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year for labor, as it does now, but it will not be paying that amount and twice that amount annually to politicians in excessive salaries and grafts.

OUT OF POLITICS.

The proprietor of this paper is now out of politics, and any man should not mix in politics if he is going to run a newspaper. As long as a newspaper man holds an office he is constrained to frequently take a stand against his judgment. So long as he is a member of the official family he is in honor bound to stand by their acts. If he is free from any political obligations he is also free to say and do those things that his political judgment dictates should be done. In other words, when he is out of politics there are no strings on him, and he can advocate those men and measures that will tend to the best advancement of the county and state, without any political obligations to hamper him.—Oregon City Enterprise.

Editor Porter, of the Enterprise was a candidate before the Republican convention for state printer. We congratulate him on the position he has taken. As we have said time and again, no man can make a success of the newspaper business who is continually in politics up to his eyes on his own account. The minute a journalist enters the political arena with the hope of preferment he sacrifices his independence as an editor. If things go wrong in the party he is not at liberty to criticize and help correct it. The fact is Oregon has too many political journalists in both parties for the good of either. If a newspaper publisher wants to maintain the highest degree of public confidence he must forego political aspirations. He is then in a position to make his paper a free lance and a power for good, not only in his own party, but amongst all classes of thinking people, irrespective of their political complexion.—Eugene Register.

SYSTEMATIC PLUNDER IN TRANSPORT SERVICE.

The official investigation of the transport service between San Francisco and the Philippines shows it has been the source of much plunder to patriotic imperialists. Every hoodlum who has fattened at the government cost on account of that service is, of course, an imperialist, and likewise patriotic.

Perhaps the worst of the numerous robberies of the treasury in this kind, was that involved in the purchase of the transport Meade for \$400,000. The craft at that time was old, and the enormous sum of \$580,000 has since been spent on her for repairs.

Compared with this colossal swindle the expenditure of \$9295 for disinfectants, during five trips of the transport Thomas, seems a mere bagatelle.

The preference given special firms in the purchase of supplies for the transports appears the more flagrant in view of the fact that these concerns fleeced the government by charging double the market price.

The excuses are made that the high prices and extravagant outlays were due to the need of haste at the outbreak of the war, lack of adequate supervision, lack of method, etc. But there seems to have been plenty of method in the prices charged by the contractors, and in the bargains driven by the shipowners, who sold old rotten hulks to the government at stand-and-deliver prices.

War is a great opportunity to hoodlums of all kinds, by which they are not slow to profit.

It is said the transport service is "better now," and certainly there has been room for improvement.

The Filipinos, who, according to Funston, are not fit for self-government, should be highly edified by studying these official reports of good government in this paternal country.

It may be pertinent to ask whether the disclosures above referred to have given a great shock to mercantile circles in San Francisco, or, on the other hand, have been greeted with a broad grin of self-satisfaction. The plunderers are likely to hold on to the swag.