

THE DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

BY HOPPER BROS.
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EDITORIAL TRUTHS TERSELY TOLD

The celebrations in Salem and Portland and other places of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln are made the occasion of political gatherings in honor of the founder of the Republican party. That party was cradled in liberty and arrived at maturity and manhood amid the bugle blasts of freedom. The shackles fallen from four millions of slaves attested its service to humanity, and there is within the Republican party today the seed of deliverance from every oppression if it is allowed to germinate, and sprout in the sunshine of friendly soil and favorable conditions. These aspirations for greater equality and better social environment, planted in the organization by the genius of the Emancipator, can never be eradicated.

The demand for social justice in its many forms are as strident a note in public affairs as was sounded by the abolitionists, and slavery, in lesser forms, but not less obnoxious to principle, exists today as much as preceding the days of Lincoln and Douglas. High taxation, tax dodging, trusts and combines in violation of common law and decency, are as grasping and avaricious now as when the slave breeder cracked his lash and drove his protected product to the auction block. If the celebration of the Emancipator's natal day can arouse the sleeping powers of resistance against encroachments on the rights of the masses to exist untaxed by plutocracy, and untrammelled by institutions as unwholesome as ever was African slavery, then the Lincoln celebrations have accomplished much good.

Political factions have always existed and will always exist. They are nothing more than groups of men working politics more or less intelligently or selfishly, more or less fairly or unfairly, more or less successfully or unsuccessfully. The Journal does not regard that there is anything dishonorable about belonging to a faction, and factions are all a means to secure good government. Relatively, government is all good or bad—all more or less good, and eventually growing better. There is not a man connected with any political faction in Oregon that the Journal cannot accept and support for any office he is fit for if he is not morally disqualified, dishonest, or a grifter. Belonging to a faction does not render any man the less a Republican or a Democrat. The three Republican camps of this city all represent more or less factions. But they are all Republicans and all are needed for the success of the ticket. These separate organizations are all needed to give the party its full strength at the polls, and the Journal will be found

working with all of them in any way that a Republican newspaper can legitimately give support to party principles. The politician who wants power for entirely selfish ends is to be shunned in all parties, and his interests should not be promoted knowingly by any public newspaper that looks upon party as a means and not an end.

The efforts of the hop growers to organize in Oregon for their mutual protection is a very commendable enterprise. There are many points at which they could protect their interests by co-operation, but in these days of highly skilled direction of special interests the old way of voluntary organization and inexpensive management of such organizations is nearly past. The brains required to master the details of any such group of industrial producers, the ability to perfect a strong and elastic organization, and the genius to direct it along the line of the least resistance to accomplish practical results, are found in men whose time is too valuable to be donated to any cause. The hop growers produce raw material and semi-finished product amounting to millions, and there is no reason why, with able direction, they should not be able to secure the advantage of their situation as producers. The difference between what they receive for their hops and what the hops finally cost the manufacturers amounts to millions. Can any of this be saved to the grower? That is the problem, and to the solution of that problem the grower must have ability of no mean order to hold his own with the keenest brains in the country already employed by the hop man's natural enemy—the trust operator.

Some one has recently published the statement that hops can be made in the bale for five cents a pound. One hundred pounds of green hops will dry about 24 pounds, and cost easily five cents a pound for picking alone. At 50 cents a box, the dried hops cost 1.16 cents, allowing a box to dry 12 pounds, and more will go less than that than over. On top of this net cost for picking, of over four cents, must be added yard help, box binders, check man, etc. So that hops cost over five cents a pound year in and year out, considering all kinds for picking. Then there is drying and baling, storage, insurance, interest on crop cost, etc. This fact goes to show the danger to this industry, when the large trust holdings that have contracted at high prices for future delivery, are bringing all the ingenuity of commercial greed to bear to keep prices down. It is gratifying to know that the growers will not accept the Horst & Armour proposal to send one-third of their holdings abroad without recourse, but that is probably what the trust people expected, and purposedly made the growers a proposal they knew in advance would not be accepted. With out organization and brainy management the smaller grower will do well if he keeps possession of his land and home.

The expression of government of the people, by the people, and for the people, receives greater emphasis by the celebration of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. For if ever there was a man who trusted in the people implicitly, it was Lincoln. The expression had been used by Webster, and farther back by Wickliffe, the first translator of the Bible into English for the common people. But no man made it a living principle, a fundamental truth of government, as did the greatest of all American commoners. In Oregon, where the people have taken several advance steps in the direction of popular government, the fact stands out that the so-called political advisers and rulers of parties have resisted each of these steps placing power in the hands of the people, and do still resist them. The Australian ballot law has several times been sought to be amended to restore the straight ticket style of voting. The Direct Primary law is resisted because it has not been fully demonstrated that it will produce good results. But the proposed plan of direct choice of United States senators is most resisted of all—the very reform that all people know should be brought about—taking out of the

hands of the legislature the corrupting influence of indirect elections to offices having tremendous powers of political patronage. With all that we have suffered in Oregon in the past in the way of deadlocks, failures to elect, suspended action and actually going without representation a great part of the time, we are still told we should retain the old raffle-and-purchase system of making United States senators by the grace of the corrupt machine. The common people are good enough to elect governors, congressmen, state officials and county officials, but they are not good enough to elect United States senators. Some gracious majority doth hedge about the members of the upper house of the national congress, that we must not let them come in contact with the contaminating touch of the common people. The men who pretend this nonsense should stop and think what it means to say government by, of, and for the people in one breath and then turn around and pretend here is one office that must be kept out of their reach, or the country is going to be ruined.

What Republican or patriotic citizen of any party is prepared to say he believes in Abraham Lincoln and founds his political faith with the man who above all men exemplified the truth that our government is founded in confidence in the common citizenship of our country, and who will then turn around and say he draws the line at the people's choice for United States senator? Who will claim he is a Republican, and for the paltry chance of gain, or the slim possibility of getting an office more readily by opposing this fundamental principle of our party, say the people are fit to nominate and elect all other officials, but unfit to choose their senators? Let such an one have more faith in the common intelligence of the people. On this day when we pretend to bow at the shrine of Lincoln, and repeat the catechism of our party faith, let us include the prayer of that man who bared his head on the bloodstained battlefield of Gettysburg expressed the hope that government of the people, by the people and for the people might not perish off the face of the earth forever.

It is the common people who are battling for reforms in Oregon, and it is the politicians who are resisting them. It is the people who are taking the referendum on the appropriation bill of the last legislature, because it contained items that should have been vetted by the common sense of the lawmakers or executive. It is the common people who are initiating indirect taxation laws that are to relieve the ever increasing burdens of taxation. It is the common people who are making amendments to the constitution that have been asked for long and in vain at the hands of the political leaders. It is the business men who are fighting the battle of development of our state when those in official positions have long allowed other commonwealths to pass Oregon by leaps and bounds. Intelligence and progress lies with the people, not with the greedy, self-seeking place hunters who want power only for their own gain and advantage and enrichment, and for the oppression and impoverishment of the masses. Yet there are those who pretend the people are not fit to be trusted with greater governmental power. Let all such study the life of Lincoln and revise their perverted views of government and gain that intelligence

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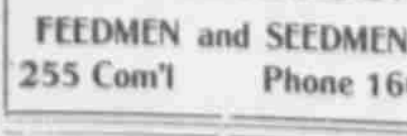
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