

HERE'S THE GAME--BACK FULTON-- THEN KNIFE HIM,--GET ANTI-STATE- MENT NO. 1 LEGISLATURE AND SELL THE SENATORSHIP TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. THAT'S THE PLOT!

(From the Portland People's Press edited by Dana Sleeth, a live newspaper man who exposed grafts in the last legislature.)

Here's the Game.
First of all a legislature must be elected which is either opposed to Statement No. 1 or pledged to vote only for the "Republican choice." This is the principal part of the program to be carried out. Next, the machine will get behind Fulton solidly and make every effort to give him the Republican nomination. With Fulton as the Republican nominee and Chamberlain the choice of his party, the machine plans to let the Democratic candidate get the popular vote at the general election in June. The man who is already picked for the senatorship which should go to Chamberlain will be elected on the first ballot after the legislature has met and organized.

Sometime ago, before the campaign started, the Peoples Press fired the opening gun by exposing the plot against Statement No. 1, and the direct primary system. Since that time the fight has waged from one end of the state to the other and despite every effort the machine has made, the results have been by no means encouraging for the fellows who make politics a business for what there is in it.

But since the Peoples Press outlined the first plot, the machine has been busy and only within the last few days has the full force of the conspiracy dawned upon the schemers. But now, as before, the Peoples Press knows what is going on behind the scenes, and to the people of the state it this week gives the outline of the new plot, an outline that few, very, very few outside the machine ranks, know the details of.

Men who have followed the workings of Marion, Yamhill and other counties need not be told that the machine with headquarters in Portland has been active, sending its agents to other counties in hope that better results may follow the machine efforts abroad than at home. And in Marion and Yamhill an alleged organization has been formed and tagged with the Republican label, denoted Anti-Statement No. 1, and started to do business for the interests and grafters behind the scenes. And in Marion and Yamhill, as in Multnomah, the rank and file of the party pay no attention to this hybrid machine-made half fake, half graft campaign, and defeat is as certain for the men who dare stand openly in support of such a campaign as it is in Multnomah.

Meanwhile, they have not been idle in Portland. No indeed, when it comes to the busy political bee, the politician after the loot is the original humming hive of industry. When the Peoples Press first opened fire and informed the people what the plot was against Statement No. 1, and when the papers throughout the country and over the state became busy in denunciation, the machine politicians saw it would never do to adhere to the original program. These chaps were going to get the money but they were not going to get it just as they first planned, for the game was too risky. So while the Oregonian kept up its fight against the entire primary system and while the voters were still but half aroused, the politicians launched a new scheme that is clever, very, very clever.

The new scheme is for a modified

Statement No. 1. The compromise measure, bear that in mind, instead of agreeing to vote for the people's choice for United States senator, the machine candidates will vote for the people's Republican choice. That sounds better; it gives the voters half a loaf and quiets some of the antagonists.

And then so far as possible the machine will endeavor to drag the Republican vote before the primaries to Fulton, Charlie will be the boy, he will be the Republican choice and will be given the nomination on the Republican ticket. Very well, and then after the primaries these same politicians will knife Fulton as thoroughly as they supported him before the primaries and will endeavor to give Chamberlain the majority vote for the senatorship. This is queer, isn't it? Wait a minute and you will see why.

With Chamberlain as the man with the majority of popular votes and a legislature pledged to vote only for the Republican who receives the highest number of votes, the legislature is free to do as it pleases, is it not? Then the machine politicians behind the guns can auction off to the highest bidder the senatorial job as in '03 and the years before.

The man who knows something of politics can see the scheme at a glance, a great white light will break in on him and show him why the machine is willing to accept the modified pledge and to apparently acquiesce to the popular clamor.

But if you are not a practical politician you may need a diagram of the plan. The campaign lies this way: The machine, instead of trying to overthrow Statement No. 1, will bend its energies to the election of legislative candidates pledged to vote only for the "Republican choice." Then the machine will endeavor to secure the nomination of Fulton on the Republican ticket, knowing that he is probably the least popular candidate in the field, and one that Chamberlain will have the least trouble in defeating. Then with a legislature pledged only to a Republican candidate, and with no allegiance to the man given the majority vote by the people, the machine politicians can sell the United States senatorship to the highest bidder, as has been done in Oregon many times before, and then from the big plotters to the little tools the plums will be awarded, and the gang will be happy and prosperous. But how about the people?

One machine politician in this town who is actively engaged in boosting this plot figures his possible profits at this sort of a game as \$30,000, and if his plans come true probably that will be a moderate estimate.

THERE ARE MEN IN OREGON TODAY WILLING TO PAY \$100,000 FOR THE SENATORSHIP. WHY SHOULDN'T THE VENIAL POLITICIANS GET BUSY?

Weeks ago the Peoples Press asserted that the corporations of Oregon were behind this fight on Statement No. 1 and the direct primary. Today no politician doubts this who knows enough to deserve the name politician. It would mean a million dollars in the next five years to half a dozen public service corporations in Oregon to defeat the direct primary and initiative system and tax reform measures bound to result therefrom. There are states in the union that derive their entire revenue from corporations. Oregon is going to get in that class soon unless something desperate is done. It is business with those gentlemen of the corporations. It is business with the machine politician, too. The politician merely looks to the little loot he can get by selling a purchasable legislature unbound by definite pledges and by his graft for senatorial aspirants; the corporations look to the success of this campaign against Statement No. 1 as the entering wedge against the entire direct primary system. It is easy to see all this by the most casual observation of the Oregonian editorials and cartoons. The Oregonian lumps the direct primary, the initiative, the recall and Statement No. 1 all to-

gether as one target at which to shoot its little arrows of abuse, ridicule and contempt, and when the Oregonian does this it shows that its specious reasoning about Statement No. 1 as against the welfare of the party is hot air. What did the Oregonian ever care about the welfare of the Republican or any other party in this state? Its management never had but two ideas, personal gain or personal fame. A pot of gold or a senatorship, either will serve the Oregonian; nothing else will.

Looking at this from any point of view it would seem that this is the most important subject before the voters of Oregon today regardless of party and regardless of private opinions about candidates. Long before another year has passed, especially if the machine by some fluke should win, will the prediction of the Peoples Press be proven right regarding this plot and its backers, just as every political prediction and expose the paper ever printed about the former campaign has been proven true. The Peoples Press for its part deals not at all in buncombs when it comes to politics. The wisest politicians in this town and state will tell you that, though they may mumble all sorts of curses on the paper's head because it interferes so seriously with their game. The Peoples Press has been in this game only a few months, but years before it was started the men behind it had first hand knowledge of policies, grafts and politicians. That is a newspaper man's business and that is what he is paid for.

A shining example of the machine method was the recent county "convention." A convention for the most part called by the machine, a convention in which the voters of a precinct never heard of the precinct convention until it was over. From personal experience we know of at least eight East Side precincts, and these eight were all we had time to investigate, in which from four to seven ward workers picked out the three delegates, though there from 120 to 125 voters in the precinct, the majority of whom would have attended had they known of the place and time of meeting. Meeting after meeting was called in these East Side precincts in rooms that would not hold more than seven persons and we personally know that men not in the precinct at all elected dele-



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gates and that some "workers" took part in two precinct elections, and it is doubtful if they were qualified to vote in either. And then with this sort of a job and with all this plotting and planning, enough men did gain a hearing and enough men were on the watch to almost evenly divide the county convention and to force the plans of the machine to the wall and a compromise on Statement No. 1. It was a dirty little bit of machine politics, conceived in a machine council room and executed in dirty back offices all over a big district.

Understand, the Peoples Press is not charging that the majority of the men who attended the county convention were dishonest or knowing tools of the machine, but it does charge that the entire plan was a plot of the machine, was defeated only in part by some energetic and honest workers in a few precincts, and that in such success as the machine met it was most ably aided by a few Republicans of the old school who are honest but mighty short-sighted.

But don't let the Oregonian tell you that this county convention meant anything. For it did not. It was conceived in guile and executed in iniquity for the most part and the Republican voters of Multnomah county will no more abide by the action of that relic of what Statement No. 1 came to kill than it will abide by the action of the Marion county little gang or the Yamhill little bunch.

The voters of Multnomah county for the most part are honest; for the most part they are informed and only the most short-sighted machine politicians can fail to see the fate ahead for his little plot. Not but that the politicians are cute. Give them due credit for their latest cleverness in twisting over to a support of a modified pledge for legislators. Don't worry but what every trick known to graft and deceit and guile will be used in the coming campaign.

And no doubt but what the Peoples Press will find out these schemes and these plots and these little bush-whacking campaigns. That's what it is here for, and that is why it is growing faster than any other weekly in the northwest.

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FRANK MEREDITH,
City Treasurer,
Salem, Oregon, March 4, 1908.
3-4-104

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For Representative.
I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Republican nomination for representative at the primaries, April 17.

IF NOMINATED AND ELECTED I SHALL ALWAYS VOTE FOR THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE FOR U.S. SENATOR.

HAL D. PATTON
I hereby announce myself a candidate for nomination at the public primaries for county superintendent of schools.

WALTER M. ...

I hereby announce myself a candidate for nomination at the public primaries for commissioner.

B. E. ROBERTSON
Turner,
I desire to place my name for the Republican primaries for nomination for County recorder.

D. G. DRAPER
I wish to announce to my fellow citizens that I am a candidate for treasurer, subject to the Republican primaries.

JOSEPH G. ...

I hereby announce myself a candidate for county commissioner, Republican ticket.

G. B. HOOPER
Jefferson
I am a candidate for county judge, subject to the Republican primaries, on the platform of a square deal to all.

W. W. ...

At the request of many citizens I have decided to become a candidate for the nomination for county judge, subject to the Republican primary election.

WILLIAM BURNETT
For Assessor.
I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Republican primaries for assessor of Marion county; just and equal taxation.

F. J. ...

For County Judge of Marion County, M. L. Jones. His platform a square deal and fair treatment every one; good roads, no public money, etc.

For County Superintendent.
I hereby announce myself a candidate for County Superintendent of Schools for Marion county, Republican primaries, April 17.

A. C. ...

For Representative.
The undersigned is a candidate for representative at the primaries, April 17. If elected will favor business administration for the people's choice for U.S. senator.

HENRY J. ...

For Treasurer.
I hereby announce to the Marion county that I am a candidate for county treasurer at the primaries; pledging hard work and impartial handling of county funds.

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