

HON. TIM DAVENPORT FOR STATEMENT NO. 1

Old Silverton Reformer Submits An Argument for the Two Democratic Candidates

Silverton, Oregon, May 24.—I observe in a late paper that Senator Fulton asserts that those Republicans who are still standing by Statement No. 1, and assisting to bring out candidates in opposition to the Antis, are not honest or honorable men. This declaration lets a whole flood of light in upon the senator, and enables us to judge of his moral and intellectual make-up. Of course those Republicans he denounces are, in partisan language, "Bolters." But even Mr. Fulton knows that there are at least two kinds of bolters; those who bolt for good reasons and those who bolt without reason.

A candidate selected by a majority is prima facie, in the saddle, but if he is there by fraud, Senator Fulton would help to unhorse him, for he has no valid claim to his party's support. So the bolter is vindicated. And again, if a nominee by a majority, declares himself in opposition to the principles of the party which nominated him, he has no claim upon the voters in that party, who are absolved from their obligations as partisans to vote such a ticket. And further, when a party machine becomes recreant to the party's principles, the minor obligations relating to mere party discipline are no longer of any validity, and bind no rational person.

It is the custom of machine politicians to ignore these just principles of political action, and substitute, "our party, right or wrong," which is really subversive of the objects for which any party was ever formed and which has in fact lead to almost everything rotten and destructive in these United States. A political party governed by such a spirit becomes a pliant tool of any malevolent power which chancies to get control. It was through this, that the Jeffersonian Democracy, though founded upon the declaration of independence and dedicated to the establishment of justice, was turned over to the slave power and became its chief instrument for the extension of slavery in America. And there is not a doubt that this diversion was at variance with the opinions of a majority of the rank and file of the party who, if they had not been blinded by partisan spirit, would have bolted the machine control and have saved not only their party but their country from seces-

sion and civil war. The Northern Whigs being more independent, drew off from their party when it became the servant of slavery, and, though they did not save their party, they thereby saved the nation.

Now, Senator Fulton would better think of a few things before he denounces Republicans as dishonorable and dishonest, because of their determination to consider the election of U. S. senators as more important than partisan methods. The fact is undeniable that the scheme of popular election of those senators, has been adopted by the Republican party of Oregon and as it has never been revoked by competent authority, Republican partisans are bound by it. A man who disputes this is outside of all party lines; he is merely an independent. Adhesion to principles is the true test of a citizen's politics. Voting a ticket may mean almost anything; it may mean craft and indirection. So, I maintain that those pretended Republicans who are objecting to Statement No. 1, which is the only available means of carrying into effect the aforesaid Republican doctrine, are reactionary stragglers outside of the ranks and not entitled to Republican support, though they may have registered with the party and by chance got on the ticket. This is an old established principle recognized by all parties. Standing in opposition to the principles of the party, they are evidently misplaced and should withdraw, for true Republicans cannot vote for them without stultifying themselves and violating correct principles of party action. If they are men of good sense and good breeding they cannot expect the support of voters opposed to them on principle.

It is said by some that they are in favor of the election of U. S. senators by the people but are not in favor of Statement No. 1, but this is the merest subterfuge; it is disgusting mockery. Honest men who are in favor of the accomplishment of a certain purpose, will not refuse the only proper and available means of obtaining their ends, and a person who does so refuse may well be set aside as either knave or fool.

Those antis on the Republican ticket, however, are neither knaves nor fools; they are of that class of citizens who have been so long in the



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service of the machine politicians, without comprehending the normal uses of political parties that they cannot rise to the real status of genuine citizenship. Look at their predicament! They are in favor of the election of U. S. senators by the people provided they elect a Republican, and to make sure work of it they want to go unpledged to the legislature to prevent the election of a Democrat though the people had elected him.

Poor blind partisans—incapable of seeing or feeling that just this sort of anarchy the rational Republicans and the people of Oregon are essaying to prevent by the popular vote and Statement No. 1.

They remind one of Milton's description of Mammon: "The least erected spirit that fell from Heaven, And even in Heaven his looks and thoughts

Were always downward bent, more admiring The riches of heaven's pavement, trodden gold, Than aught divine or holy; else enjoyed

In visions beastly." The problem is, how will we ever straighten up such shapes, the product of machine politics?

The only practicable plan will be to excuse them from public service, for which they are unfitted. The good work must go on; we cannot afford to humor the vagaries of the politicians by electing them to places where they can block the wheels of progress. The position of the Antis is a challenge to us for a decision by the people and it must be met, and let the people so understand it. There should be no uncertain or mixed verdict, which there would be if two kinds of Republicans voted the straight ticket.

And there is no need of any such thoughtless indiscriminate. Fortunately the Oregon Democrats are unanimously in favor of abandoning the old and anarchistic method to which the Antis hope to return.

The Marion county ticket for members of the legislature can be filled with Statement No. 1 men; three of them now on the Republican ticket, viz: Hal Patton, O. L. Hatteberg and Mr. Libbey; and two on the Democratic ticket, viz: Dr. W. S. Mott and John Ebner. Let this be done in this county, and the people in the other counties lining themselves up in the same way, will decide this vexing question for all time.

If Republicans are desirous of harmony, this is the way to obtain it, for there is no doubt that a large majority of the party are in favor of the method they have adopted and which worked so admirably in the election of Mr. Bourne. Not for the reason that Mr. Bourne is a Republican but because the legislative assembly, instead of being a den of corruption as formerly, was freed from those temptations which turned men away from the path of rectitude and legislation went on unhindered. Besides, the elimination of the old method has cleared away the incentives to corruption when choosing members of the legislature. Men can be chosen with reference to their ability as legislators, and not as before, perhaps wholly incompetent for such service, but bribed or standing for recompense by some aspirant for senatorial honors. Na-

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