

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL

E. HOFER, Editor and Proprietor

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WHAT IS A SAFE, SANE AND INTELLIGENT POLICY FOR THE REPUBLICANS OF OREGON TO PURSUE?

Having lost two governors and the last United States senator, the question asked above is timely and all-important for those calling themselves Republicans to consider.

In the general state election to be held in November, 1910, a full set of state officers, including governor, will be chosen.

The announcement is made that a state assembly will be held to name Republican candidates and that an effort will be made to repeal certain reform measures.

This program is announced with considerable authority back of it, although it is not an official declaration of the Republican state committee.

It is also announced that county assemblies are to be held to nominate Republican county legislative candidates.

This program is outlined and will be pressed upon the Republican leadership of Oregon as a good business policy for the party to pursue.

Of course, as far as an assembly succeeds in making a Republican state, or county, ticket, it is an attempt to displace or subvert the direct primary law.

If that were all that is sought to be accomplished by the assembly program it would not be so serious a matter.

But it is understood and proposed to sweep away the whole direct legislation and direct election of United States senators system that has been enacted by the people of Oregon.

Is it wise or necessary to put the Republican party into that attitude of hostility to popular reforms?

When other states are adopting the Oregon plan of electing senators, and Oregon reforms, who is prepared to say that the people of Oregon are ready to adopt a reactionary policy?

Prominent leaders of the Republican party at Portland and a few throughout the state have declared for nominating a ticket and making a platform in opposition to progressive ideas.

Having made a brief trial of direct nominations and direct elections of senators and direct legislation, they want no more.

They want the Republican party to return to the convention system of nominations.

They want the people to abandon direct election of senators.

They want the citizen to surrender his right to a direct voice in the law-making business.

They want to take away from the people the power of control and direction in governmental affairs.

They want, in the name of the Republican party, to ask the people to surrender certain newly acquired political rights and prerogatives.

I ask Republicans this question: Is this a good, safe, sound, sane, intelligent political platform to go before the people upon?

You will have to decide this question for yourselves and for your party.

If opposition to popular reforms is not a wise policy, what is a safe and sane line to pursue?

I ask you to consider this fact: Twenty-seven states have adopted in various forms direct election of U. S. senators.

A majority of these states are Republican states.

Other Republican states are enacting the Oregon direct primary law and direct legislation.

I ask Republicans to consider this fact of political history: Nowhere in any country have the people ever gained political rights and afterwards voluntarily surrendered them.

They will not begin to take the backward track in Oregon.

In place of inviting the people to accept a reactionary, back-tracking program at the hands of the Republican party, what should we offer to the electorate of Oregon?

It is assumed that patriotic Republican leaders respect the popular will, desire to obey the laws, and want party success.

Republican leaders in state and county politics have no interest in antagonizing the grange, labor organizations, churches, or any body of people favorable to reform measures.

The writer would suggest to them to go slow about putting their party upon record as hostile to reform policies in which the whole body of the American people are interested.

Let us have, on the contrary, a state assembly of leading and influential Republicans to create enthusiasm for sound Republican principles, to enunciate a sound Republican platform, to hear good Republican speeches and to declare renewed expressions of allegiance to the sovereign will of the electorate.

That would accomplish much good for the party. Such an assembly could go a step farther and recommend obedience to, and enforcement of, the direct primary law, the Australian ballot law, the corrupt practices act, and the direct election of United States senators.

They could leave the recall and proportional representation to be worked out in the future.

Above all, such an assembly, representing Republicans of all shades of opinion and from all parts of the state, could recommend that all candidates from the highest to the lowest offices, submit their names to the direct primary with a simple pledge to support the party nominee.

Now, in all frankness and fairness, is not this a better program for Republicans than to go before the people to overthrow reform policies enacted by the people?

Would not some such a program as I have outlined above fit the situation because it is right and just?

Why should not the Republicans of Oregon bury the discords of the past and hold steadily to the newer and better policies?

It was McKinley who said "Keep close to the people."

Can we close our ears to the chaste voice of the people?

Have not Republicans had enough of policies that put their party on the defensive and lose them the control of public affairs?

Is the Republican party forever to apologize for having given the people modern implements and up-to-date weapons with which to battle against the trusts and the spoilers of the common people?

COLONIST RATES FOR ONE MONTH ONLY

Chicago, July 27.—One month instead of 60 days will be the period during which colonist fares to the Pacific coast will be in effect this year, according to a decision just reached here by members of the Trans-Continental Passenger Association, which is in session here.

No change, however, will be made in the rates, which will be the same as last year—\$33 from Chicago, \$32 from St. Louis, and \$25 from the Missouri river to the Pacific northwest and California. These fares will be good from September 15 to October 15, because it is known that the travel is heaviest during that time. Railroad men are confident that at least 20,000 persons will take advantage of the reduced rate.

ONE LITTLE FLY COST THREE FINGERS

[United Press Lined Wire.]
 San Francisco, July 27.—One small fly on the tip of Robin Rollin's nose cost him three fingers of his right hand.

Rollin was at work in a mill yesterday when the aggravating insect alighted. The man shook his head impatiently, but failed to dislodge the unwelcome visitor. Then he made a slap at the offender, and the next instant three of his fingers lay on the floor.

The blow directed at the fly had so much force that Rollin's hand went by the objective point and struck a rapidly whirling buzz-saw.

WANTS WASHINGTON TO ADOPT AMENDMENT

[United Press Lined Wire.]
 Washington, July 27.—Senator Jones has written to Governor Hay urging him to exert his influence towards having the present special session of the legislature ratify the proposed amendment to the constitution making possible the imposition of an income tax. The senator is much impressed with this sort of a tax and believes that it is held in high favor by a large part of the states. He thinks that if the legislature, at its present session, would ratify the measure Washington would probably have the honor of being the first state of the Union to take such action.

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