

People's Power in Oregon

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act, as compared with the legislative inefficiency of legislatures.

State Supplies Information

It is said that the people cannot possibly act intelligently upon thirty or forty measures at one election. Before taking that position one should remember two things: First, some two months before the election every registered voter in Oregon receives from the Secretary of State a pamphlet containing the full text of every measure to be voted on, with arguments for and against the measures, prepared by the proponents and opponents of the measures. Second, during each forty-day session the Oregon legislature acts upon 700 to 800 bills and resolutions. Nominally, the legislature is in session forty days; actually it is in session not more than thirty days. The average voter, then, has some sixty days for the study of, say, 40 measures, while the legislator has forty days for the study of 700 measures. Can it be said that a legislator has a better opportunity to inform himself and vote intelligently than has the average voter?

In almost exact proportion as questions before the people are simple or complex, the percentage of votes cast upon measures ranges from about 90 down to about 63—the average being about 71 per cent. of the votes on candidates. Not only are Oregon voters giving more attention to public questions since the adoption of Direct Legislation, but the teachers and pupils in the public schools are giving far more attention to the science of government. Moreover, with the abolition of the old system of control of legislation and government by party machines and private interests, each campaign shows less partisan feeling than the preceding campaign.

By no means the least merit of Direct Legislation is the fact that it tends to shield the legislator from temptation. The evil forces that act upon legislators and tempt them to do wrong are less likely to offer the temptations if the people have power to nullify the acts of legislators and to act for themselves when their chosen representatives fail to act. Therefore, so far from opposing Direct Legislation, the man of honor who seeks or holds a position in a legislative body should welcome and strongly advocate Direct Legislation.

Can Trust the People

Can the people be trusted, and can business interests trust the people? The Hon. William M. Ladd, Oregon's greatest banker and a former member of the Oregon legislature, says he would "rather trust the people to legislate than trust any legislature."

It is not because representative government has failed that the people are turning for relief to Direct Legislation. Representative government has not failed; it has not been tried. When it is tried it will not fail, for it is democratic. The demand for Direct Legislation is a phase of the world-wide growth towards democracy. Whether or not a pure democracy is possible or desirable is not the question. No people are compelled to choose between unrepresentative government and a pure democracy. What the "fathers" wanted us to have, or what they supposed they were giving us, is of less importance than what we want. Nations, states and communities of living men and women have a natural, moral right not to be governed by dead men. They have an equal right not to be misgoverned by living men.

HON. DR. ROCHE AND SOUTH AFRICAN SCRIP

The following is the speech of Dr. Roche, M.P., on a bill to extend the time for the location of South African scrip, taken from the official report of the debates of the House of Commons, April 5, 1910, and referred to on the editorial page of this issue under the heading "Another Gift to Speculators":

Mr. Roche:—Few of us, especially from the West, have not received letters and petitions from public bodies and individuals opposing this bill. Grain

Growers' associations all through Manitoba have passed resolutions condemnatory of such an extension of time. The Grain Growers' Guide, the official organ of the grain growers of Manitoba, contains the following strong article condemning the extension of time, as a crowd of speculators will be the beneficiaries. The article is as follows:

"Hon. Frank Oliver has introduced a bill into the House of Commons, to extend the time for settlement duties to begin on South African Scrip until the end of 1911. This action is taken by Mr. Oliver despite the vigorous protests made by Western Farmers' associations. He knows that the scrip is now held by speculators and that his bill will simply be a means of robbing western farmers still further. It is hard to understand how Mr. Oliver, with his eyes wide open, can take the part of the land grabbers against the bona fide farmers of the West. It begins to look as though the interests of the people were regarded very lightly at Ottawa. At the rate things are going a farmer will have to contribute more largely than ever to the support of the wealthy and privileged classes. Mr. Oliver is Minister of the Interior and is supposed to be looking after the interests of the settlers in the West. Instead of that he seems to be promoting legislation in the interests of the land grabbers."

This is a pointed and strong expression, no doubt elicited by the fact that these protests must have been sent to the Minister of the Interior, and his department, and apparently no attention has been paid to them. The principal reason advanced by the minister is that a precedent has been established in other land grants. I am not conversant with the conditions of other land grants, but present day conditions cannot be compared with conditions when the other grants were made. Immigrants are coming in by thousands; in a few years

we will have little good land left for free homesteading purposes, and the speculators will utilize the scrip for their own aggrandisement, and to the disadvantage of the bona fide settler. It has been argued that if an extension of time is refused, all the grants will be placed on the market at the same time, causing a fall in price. If you discriminate and allow the extension only to the veterans who hold their land this will be obviated, whereas, if there is an extension to include all grants, the prices will be enhanced and the speculators will be the beneficiaries. I have seen it stated in a Winnipeg paper that since the bill was introduced there has been a rise in the value of these land grants, and if the bill passes there will be a further rise. At a meeting of the Grain Growers' association at Shoal Lake the other day a resolution was about to be put against the granting of an extension of time, but a prominent friend of gentlemen opposite asked the meeting not to pass the resolution, saying it would not be necessary, because they had the assurance of the Prime Minister that no extension would be granted. By reason of that statement the resolution was not passed. I will not say such a promise was made, but that information, wherever obtained, was the means of heading off that resolution. We object to the speculator being the chief beneficiary, as he would be if the bill passed in its present form.

Mr. Nesbitt:—In what way would it rob the farmers of the West, if this extension were made?

Mr. Roche:—Some of the farmers are themselves desirous of getting the scrip as bona fide settlers, and if this bill passes the price will be so enhanced that it will be beyond their reach. The speculator will not settle on the land, but many farmers would like to get the lands, and this will put them beyond their reach.

Mr. Nesbitt:—Would they not be speculators if they did?

Mr. Roche:—No, they would settle on the lands or purchase them for their sons.

WHAT ONE ACRE COSTS

The cost of raising an acre of wheat was shown to the International Dry Farming Congress by E. A. Wiggins of Nebraska, as follows:

Culture—Plowing, \$1.50; harrowing and levelling, 35c.; seed, \$1.15; seeding, 15c.; discing, \$1.15; irrigating, \$1.25; total, \$5.55.

Harvesting—Cutting with binder, 30c.; twine for binding, 50c.; shocking, 50c.; hauling, \$1.25; threshing, \$2.25; incidentals, 30c.; total, \$5.10. Hauling to market 70c.

Interest and taxes—Water tax, 50c.; tax on land, 40c.; interest on equipment, 30c.; interest on \$100 at 8 per cent., \$8; total, \$9.20.

Total cost, \$20.55.

These black-and-white stories may awaken in the farmers of this country a desire to know the exact cost of many things on the farm of more importance than that of an acre of wheat. How about the profit or loss you make per annum on each of your cows? It may surprise you!—Toronto Weekly Globe, Dec. 11, 1912.

History maketh a young man to be old, without either wrinkles or grey hairs, privileging him with the experience of age, without either the infirmities or inconveniences thereof.—T. Fuller.

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A better and more complete service for dairymen and cow owners in the Northwest

ON January 1st, 1913, the Western Canadian business of The De Laval Separator Co. was taken over by the De Laval Dairy Supply Co., Limited, a distinctly Canadian corporation operating under a Canadian Charter which, in addition to being the sole Canadian distributors of De Laval Cream Separators and Ideal Green Feed Silos, will handle a complete line of dairy, creamery, milk plant and cheese factory supplies of all kinds.

There has been no change of ownership, management or business policy. The change was made solely with the object of enlarging the scope of the De Laval organization in Canada and to facilitate a better equipment service for cow-owners and others in Western Canada interested in the various phases of dairying.

To this end the De Laval Dairy Supply Co., Ltd., has now under construction at Peterboro, Ontario, a large up-to-date manufacturing plant which, when completed, will be the largest and best equipped factory in Canada for the manufacture of dairy supplies, and in many respects the best in the world. The present De Laval Cream Separator manufacturing plant in Montreal will be maintained in addition to the factory for the manufacture of creamery and dairy machinery and silos at Peterboro.

To adequately care for the greater interests of the new Company the Western Canadian Branch of the De Laval Dairy Supply Co., Ltd., has recently erected a fine new building at 128 James Street, Winnipeg, where they are now located, and are in a position to serve their patrons better than ever before.

The same high plane of superior quality and efficiency in the manufacture of cream separators for which the De Laval Canadian organization has already achieved a well-deserved reputation will be maintained in its full new line of creamery, cheese factory, milk plant and dairy machinery, silos and other equipment and supplies for cow-owners and dairymen.

Complete catalogues have been issued covering the various lines which the Company is handling and these will be gladly mailed free of cost to everyone asking for them. In writing please state what machines or lines of dairying you are most interested in.

De Laval Dairy Supply Co. LIMITED

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