

The Vinita Chieftain.

Weekly Edition

The Vinita Chieftain is published every Thursday morning at Vinita, Indian Territory. It is the oldest and most extensively read newspaper in the Northern District. It is in its twenty-fourth year and has a general circulation throughout the north half of the Indian Territory. The subscription price of the paper is \$1.00 a year, always in advance. A postal card will get a sample copy anywhere in the United States.

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BE DONE WITH FACTIONALISM

Messrs Victor and Hamon, answering a demand of the Republicans of the new state, have finally taken some action towards the reorganization of the party. A meeting of their two committees has been called to meet in McAlester Saturday, at which the resignations of the two chairmen will be presented.

It is sincerely to be hoped, however, that the amalgamated committees will adopt a less cumbersome plan for reorganization than the one proposed by Mr. Hamon. What is the use of holding a convention to decide what to do, and then another convention to nominate candidates for state officers? Everybody knows what ought to be done now, and the committee can easily perform all the necessary preliminary work without referring matters to a delegate convention.

All in the world the committee need do Saturday is to name a date for the holding of primaries in the different townships for the election of township committeemen. These committeemen, then, would choose a chairman, the township chairmen of the county would select a county chairman, the county chairmen a congressional chairman, and the congressional chairman a state chairman. The state committee, composed of congressional chairmen, could make all arrangements for the state convention for the nomination of candidates.

Could any plan be simpler than this? If the thing to do is to refer this matter of reorganization to the people, and everybody admits that this is what must be done, then why not do it at once, without the intervention of Mr. Hamon's advisory convention? It looks as if his plan would merely delay reorganization a little longer, and give the McGuire and the Soper-Flynn factions a little longer time for their fratricidal wars. Put it up to the people at once, and be done with this factionalism.

AMATEURS VS. EXPERTS

It pleased the Democrats vastly to shout "gerrymander" at the division of the territories into voting districts by the districting and canvassing board. Since the Haskell county map has been made public, however, this Democratic cry of "gerrymander" has been discreetly silenced. In comparison with the artistic performance of the Haskell-Murray machine the work of the districting board appears that of the merest amateurs.

THEY FEAR THE PEOPLE

It seems that the people of Oklahoma are not so competent to govern themselves as the people of Oregon. At least this is supposition if certain dispatches now being sent out from Guthrie are to be credited, which state that powerful opposition to the adoption of the Oregon initiative and referendum in the Oklahoma constitution is being developed. These dispatches name Delegates Kornegay and Hughes as the leading opponents of popular rule.

These gentlemen argue that the proposed law would greatly cripple the power of the people, and would deliver them over into the hands of the corporations. In support of their argument they have a lot of fine-drawn theories, the chief of which is that under the provisions of the law the corporations would be able to hold up all legislation for the space of almost two years.

The theories of the gentlemen are, to their own minds, at least, very plausible, but if they will but cast their eyes to Oregon, forgetting for a moment their legal instructions, the frightful picture of what might possibly happen, they will discover that in four years' actual practice the law has not once worked in favor of the corporations, but always in favor of the people. It is the corporations, not the people, who are laboring mightily to secure the repeal of the Oregon law.

It is quite possible that the initiative and referendum provision as introduced into the Oklahoma constitutional convention is not perfect. Possibly it can be strengthened by certain honest amendments. If, in its essentials, it is not adopted, however, the failure to do so will convict the Democratic party of hypocrisy. It has always claimed to stand for the rule of the people. That, in its simplest terms, is what the Oregon initiative and referen-

endum accomplishes—the rule of the people. The question now is, are the Democrats afraid to let the people rule? It would seem that this fear of popular sovereignty is the basis of the opposition of Messrs Kornegay and Hughes.

A DANGEROUS DEMAGOGUE

Senator Joseph Benson Foraker will have the fight of his life before he succeeds in having the action of President Roosevelt in regard to the discharge of the twenty-fifth infantry negroes revoked by congress. Possibly in Ohio public opinion may be so ill-informed as to sustain the Honorable Joseph Benson in his effort to stir up racial trouble over the discharge of the negro troops, but Ohio is not the entire United States, as the aforesaid Honorable will discover ere long.

It is the cheapest possible and most dangerous demagoguery that Senator Foraker is now indulging in. Merely in order that he may control the votes of the south in the next Republican national convention, he is willing to engage in a movement that he knows is almost certain to result in an increased bitterness of feeling between whites and blacks, if not in bloodshed.

And his argument against Mr. Roosevelt's order is so weak as to drive him to the absurd length of declaring that the citizens of Brownville deliberately went out and shot one another in order that they might throw the odium of their murder on the negroes and thus secure removal from Fort Brown.

Senator Foraker cut a sorry figure in the last session of congress when, at the behest of the railroads, he opposed the enactment of the rate law, but that was nothing to his present predicament. That he should for one moment think that the people of the United States would even as a last desperate resort descend to the consideration of his name as the successor of President Roosevelt shows the length to which the man's ludicrous self-esteem has led him.

MAKES HIM MAD

The Chieftain's modest and reasonable suggestion that the organization of the Republican party in the new state be left directly in the hands of the rank and file of the party, rather than turned over to Messrs Soper and Flynn in trust for the Frisco railroad, has aroused to great wrath Editor Tom Latta of the Bartlesville Enterprise. Just why Editor Latta wants to see the Frisco placed in control of the party The Chieftain does not know; however, it is reasonable to suppose that there must be something good in it for him, as there usually is for all who support railroad rule.

Editor Latta opines that the Chieftain's railroad opposition is inspired by some federal officeholder here, whose name is not given. We are unable to imagine who is thus meant as our inspiration by our friend Latta. The Chieftain hasn't the reputation of taking orders from anybody. However, granting that our opposition to Frisco domination is inspired by someone outside this office, does that affect in any way the principle involved?

What we insist on is this, that the organization of the Republican party be left entirely to the people. Unless this is done, the Republican party will be defeated. And The Chieftain intends to do everything in its power to see that the people are permitted to choose their own leaders. If the Republican voters, after a fair vote and an honest count, decides to turn the party over to the railroads, but then, the Republican party won't do any such thing.

Does Editor Latta have any objection to letting the people vote on this proposition, at the earliest possible moment?

THE TORRENS SYSTEM

The abstractors and the lawyers of the new state are all good fellows, and it is not by any means a pleasure to champion a course that will work a hardship on them, yet neither is it right to tax all the people to support these relatively few citizens, and The Chieftain is therefore emphatically in favor of the adoption of the Torrens system of land transfers for the new state. The only possible objection to the system is that it would throw the abstractors out of work, but the greatest good to the greatest number is the rule that should prevail, and those who would be benefited by the system are far more numerous than those who would be injured by it.

MAY BE FRUSTRATED

Prominent attorneys of Oklahoma who have been examining decisions of the supreme court have announced that the constitutional convention has no power to change the boundaries of Oklahoma counties, which were established by congress and can only be changed by the people thru their state legislature. Wouldn't it be too, too bad if the Haskell divisionists should after all lose the fruits of their arduous work in slicing up Oklahoma's counties against the will of the people?

It will be in order to send out a train for that Coffeyville railroad committee if some word is not received from it in a day or so.

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