

ONTARIO ARGUS

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M. E. BAIN, Publisher.

A widespread feeling against the direct primary election is rapidly gaining ground, especially in the east where a number of leading newspapers are discussing the subject. The ground is taken that the primary is becoming too burdensome to the public as well as to the individual candidate, and that the system can be manipulated by the politician and the wealthy against the poor man who aspires to office. The following editorial is from the Boston Herald of May 21:

No panacea for political ills ever enjoyed a more sweeping triumph than the direct primaries. These started so far as the northern states are concerned, with LaFollette in Wisconsin about 15 years ago. And from there they have spread all over the country, until now the actual nomination of presidential candidates by that method is under studious consideration, if indeed we are not already accomplishing nearly that by our already operating machinery. That the new device is improving the quality of the candidates selected, few observers would today have the temerity to argue. But even if it were doing that, the prodigious cost of the system, and its apparent limiting the honors of office to rich men might well give us pause. The states are all telling the same story. Iowa is now getting ready for state wide primaries, in which no fewer than 5000 men have announced their candidates for various county offices. Of these the salaries average little more than a \$1000. Yet the campaign expenses under the direct primary are estimated by the Des Moines Capital at not less than \$500 for each candidate. If successful, he must, as a rule spend as much more to get elected. This means one year's salary to get into office. To show that this system is unwholesome in the last degree needs no argument. What are we to do about it? Are we going back to the convention system, and have some

strategy in selecting candidates besides making it possible for the poor man to be considered, or are we to continue indefinitely the direct primary farce?

If the recent primary election has demonstrated nothing else it has at least convinced the great majority of sober thinking people of the state that the corrupt practices act should be radically amended. It not only requires a Philadelphia lawyer to comprehend the meaning of the various sections but puts a premium on dishonesty. The author first assumed that every candidate for an elective office is a crook and then proceeded to provide by legislative enactment to protect the public against every conceivable kind of fraud. It is a public invitation for decent men to stay out of politics. Many of the provisions are idiotic and some of them are positively vicious. The section which requires candidates for the humble office of precinct committeeman to file a sworn statement of his campaign expenses is a fair sample of the many humorous sections of the law. The entire statute is loosely drawn and contains so many glaring defects and so many silly provisions that it would require several columns of space to enumerate them. The number of laws passed in Oregon appears to be only limited by the capacity of the state printing plant. From the standpoint of quantity we beat the world on the output of legislation. When it comes to quality we take off our hats, even to the much libeled state of Kansas.—Albany Herald.

The Argus hears a great many complaints about farmers who are careless and permit surplus water to flood roads in their sections, making the road nearly impassable. There is a law against this practice and hardly any excuse for the farmer who is guilty of the crime. Under the present law it is hard to get a complaint filed and it is probable that a change of the law will be made at the next term of the legislature making it the duty of the road supervisor to report all such cases and prosecute them, placing the fine high enough to more than pay all costs.

It is also true that at present the farmer gets fined to a great extent by the ruin he inflicts on his land by over watering, but the public gets the

worst of it by having to wade through the pools of water and mud.

The water hog is a hard animal to deal with and can only be held in check by a good stiff fine.

OFFICIALS ARE GOING TO PROTECT ROADS FROM STOCK

Following is a section of the Oregon statutes that has been frequently violated with impunity, but the authorities are going to have it enforced hereafter:

Any person or persons driving or herding, or causing to be driven or herded, cattle, horses, sheep, or any kind of livestock along or near a public highway, and causing such highway to be obstructed thereby with stones, earth, or other debris, and leaving the same to remain more than twenty-four hours, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not exceeding \$200; such fine to be enforced as other fines in criminal cases, and justices of the peace of the county shall have original jurisdiction of all violations thereof.—Burns News.

A new industry in Oregon is the eastern demand for husbands.

The Oregon grain crops are estimated at 69,024,000 bushels by the department of agriculture.

The adoption of British and European standards for public utilities in this state will make further investments very difficult to secure.

The publication of the proposed eight hour law for this state is being hastened that the people may know just how drastic the measure is and how it will affect the farmers.

H. C. Simpson of the North Pacific Fruit Distributors association says the Panama canal will bring large shipments of German beer and the vessels will take fruit tonnage back with them.

Fewer game laws, fewer boards and commissions, and less interference with industries, and more capital invested in manufacturing enterprises, is the line of development now advocated by the people of Oregon.

Dr. W. G. Howe
DENTIST
Telephone No. 732 First National Bank Bldg.

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Office in New Wilson Block.

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Preaching Service—11 A M
Junior League—3 P M
Epworth League 6:30 P M
Preaching Service—7:30 P M
Thomas Johns, PASTOR.

Congregational Church Notice
Sunday Services,
Sunday School 10 a m
Preaching Services 11 a m
Q E Meeting 7 p m
Preaching Services 8 p m
Midweek Lectures every Wednesday evening 8 o'clock
Philip Koenig, Pastor.

CATHOLIC CHURCH
Mass at 8 A M on 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. On all other Sundays at 10 A M.
H. A. Campo, Rector

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Rob't J. Davidson D D Pastor. Services at 11:00 a m and 7:30 p m Sablat school at 10:00 a m

ADVENTIST.
Eve. Saturday Sabbath school—10:30 a m Bible Study—11:30 a m Young people's meeting 1:30 pm

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Note These Prices
For cutting, fitting and basting, perfect fit guaranteed, Dresses, only \$2.00
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We are installing one of the finest Soda Fountains in the Inter-mountain country and will spare no pains to give the very best service obtainable anywhere. We want you to be with us at our opening.
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