

POST-INTELLIGENCER.
TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS—Cor. Fourth
and Columbia streets.

SEATTLE, SATURDAY, JULY 20.

A DANGEROUS POWER.

The constitutional convention has amended the article reported from the committee on judiciary in a manner which is not altogether to be approved. The amendment adds to the clause fixing the number of judges of the supreme court the sentence, "The legislature may increase the number of judges of the supreme court from time to time."

This is apparently harmless, the intention evidently being that the legislature may increase the number of judges as the growth of business and the consequent increase of business renders such increase necessary. A moment's reflection, however, will convince one that to grant this power to the legislature is both unnecessary and dangerous. It is unnecessary because a supreme court of five judges is as large a one as the state will require for generations. There are few states in the Union whose supreme courts consist of more than five judges, and the supreme courts of many of the states consist of only three. If five judges are sufficient for the supreme courts of states whose inhabitants are numbered by the million, there is certainly no sufficient reason for providing for the increase above that number of the judges of the supreme court of Washington.

But the grant of this power to the legislature is not merely useless. It is unaccompanied by restrictions; it is extremely dangerous. It places the supreme court completely at the mercy of the legislature and gives a party majority in the legislature the power to pack the court at its will and to overturn any decision that may not be in accordance with its views.

Let us suppose a case. The Democrats have a majority in the legislature and desire to enact legislation which they have reason to believe the supreme court will be bound to uphold. If they believe that they can count on the support of two of the judges, they can easily raise the number of judges composing the court to seven. Providing for an early election to fill these places, they can force the election of two judges whom they will be able to control, and by the time the questionable laws reach the supreme court there will be a carefully packed bench to affirm their constitutionality or to do anything else that the party leaders may dictate.

It may be urged that the case supposed is a very improbable one and that the danger of a misuse of the power thus granted is to the legislature a slight. The case is not improbable. Such things have been done, and such things will be done again. It may as well be understood that any power granted to the legislature will be used for partisan purposes sooner or later, and this power is less liable to be so used than any other. It would be a simple matter to increase the number of judges composing the court and to elect to the new judges men who would go on the bench for a specific purpose. A party with a working majority in the legislature and in the state could carry out the programme outlined without serious difficulty.

It is a dangerous thing to place it within the power of any party to override the constitution, and that the constitution can be overridden when the legislature has power to increase the number of the judges of the supreme court at will, is too plain to be disputed. The supreme court should be absolutely independent and should be as free from party politics as it is possible for any judicial body to be. The number of judges should be fixed by the constitution, and the legislature should have no power either to increase or to diminish it.

It is to be hoped that the members of the convention will not consider that they have gone so far in this matter for them to retreat their steps. It would certainly be a dangerous thing to give the legislature the power which is proposed.

MINORITY REPRESENTATION.

The effort of the Democratic members of the constitutional convention to secure minority representation upon the supreme bench of the state will doubtless be followed by a similar effort in the direction of the legislature. An appeal will be made for minority representation to be secured in the same manner as it was secured in the convention; that is to say, where three members of the legislature are to be elected, each elector will be permitted to vote for only two, and one of the three elected will necessarily come from the minority party.

This plan is a shabby device invented by Democratic politicians to secure representation which the people do not desire to give them. It is to be used only where there are presumably Republican majorities, and never where the Democrats have a reasonably sure prospect of electing their candidates. In short, it is a device for use in a Republican, but not in Democratic states.

There is neither wisdom nor justice in thus thwarting the will of the people and restricting them in the expression of their desires. There is no reason why a strong Republican county should be represented by a Democrat, or why a strong Democratic county should be represented by a Republican. There should be a square right in every legislative district, and the representative chosen from that district should be in political accord with the majority of its voters. This, and this alone, is the true American plan, and any departure from it is a departure from the American idea of government.

As for the minority, it will always be able to take care of itself. Every legislator in this and every other state will have a sufficiently large and sufficiently aggressive minority to keep the majority straight. There need be no corkscrew laws passed for the benefit of American minorities, whether they be Republican or Democratic.

Councilman Niess wishes it stated that he was not in favor of leaving the cable roads to fight for Madison street without interference from the city government, as might be inferred from an interview with him published last week. On the contrary, he favored the precise course which has been taken and from the first urged that the city authorities should take the matter into their own hands and repair the damage which had been done to the street by the Queen City Company.

ADVERTISEMENTS UNDER THE HEADS OF LOST AND FOUND. For sale, lost, found, and situations. Will be inserted at the rate of 2 cents a word for first insertion; 1 cent a word for each insertion thereafter.

NOTICE.—The business office of the Post-In intelligencer will hereafter be open until 5 p.m. Classified advertisements will be received up to this hour.

The following letters are awaiting answerers at this office:

R. M.
G. S.
Com.

HELP WANTED.

WANTED—GIRL TO DO GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING.—Schroeder, office northern corner Second and University, or Miss Haines' residence, 11th and Queen Anne town.

WANTED—GIRL TO LOAN MADISON STREET.—F. W. D. Howkens.

WANTED—FIRST-CLASS PAINTER.—On custom coal and apparatus, steady work, good pay. Apply, 219 Columbia street, immediately.

WANTED—THREE NEAT AND ACCURATE ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS.—To scale, good paper. Address Clark & Capen, furniture warehouse, Pike and Union.

WANTED—TWO ENERGETIC COMPTONENTS.—Men as insurance salesmen. Call or address Mr. J. Compton.

WANTED—A RELIABLE GIRL TO DO GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING.—Mrs. Grace, corner Front and Pine.

WANTED—AN AMBITIOUS YOUNG MAN FOR BUSINESS SITUATION.—Address Com. Post-In intelligencer office.

WANTED—A WOMAN TO DO GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING IN SMALL FAMILY.—Good service. Address Mrs. James, corner Front and Pine.

WANTED—A COMPETENT SECOND GUITAR.—Good wages to one experienced. Mrs. C. Haines, 11th and Second street.

WANTED—A NUMBER OF GOOD USED LACES.—For Mrs. Huntington and Little, corner Ninth and Railroad streets, Tacoma.

WANTED—FANCY DRY GOODS.—Salesmen; also bakers. Chester Cleary.

WANTED—SALESLADIES.—MUST HAVE experience in dry goods. Chester Cleary.

WANTED—LIVE, ENERGETIC MEN.—Good experience, wide position. Addressee.

WANTED—AN INTELLIGENT, RESPONSIBLE MAN TO PRESENT A LARGE EXPENSE.—A remunerative salary to right party. References exchanged. Superintendent Manufacturing House, Lock Land, Los Angeles.

EMPLOYMENT WANTED.

WANTED—POSITION AS CLERK OR SECRETARY.—To a Welshman well educated; can invest \$1000; excellent references. O. Post-In intelligencer office.

WANTED—GOOD BAKER.—Has 14 years experience; good bread. Address F. W. Post-In intelligencer office.

WANTED—A POSITION AS HOUSEKEEPER.—Apply to No. 8, Post-In intelligencer office.

WANTED—A BAKER WISHES EMPLOYMENT.—A. V. A., Post-In intelligencer office.

WANTED—A POSITION AS CARPET SALESMAN.—Good references. Call or address F. W. Post-In intelligencer office.

WANTED—TO LOAN R. W. WESTON.—Diamond, Watson, etc., good rates in the city; call and see us Seattle Loan Co., room 14, Burke block.

MONEY TO LOAN.—R. W. WESTON.

\$10 TO \$1000 LOANED ON SECURITY.—Diamond, Watson, etc., good rates in the city; call and see us Seattle Loan Co., room 14, Burke block.

\$10 TO \$1000 LOAN ON CITY OF SEATTLE PROPERTY.—Long term, low rates; apply to Frank Trouton & Patten, brokers, Burke block, corner Third and Union streets.

MONEY TO LOAN ON FARMS, LOTS, ETC.—Diamond, Watson, etc., good rates in the city; call and see us Seattle Loan Co., room 14, Burke block.

\$100 TO \$1000 LOAN ON SEATTLE PROPERTY.—Long term, low rates; apply to Frank Trouton & Patten, brokers, Burke block, corner Third and Union streets.

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MONEY TO LOAN ON FARM AND LAND.—Diamond, Watson, etc., good rates in the city; call and see us Seattle Loan Co., room 14, Burke block.

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MONEY TO LEASE.—Diamond, Watson, etc., good rates in the city; call and see us Seattle Loan Co., room 14, Burke block.

WANTED—ONE OR TWO UNFURNISHED ROOMS.—For light housekeeping. Address F. W. Post-In intelligencer office.

WANTED—HOUSES TO RENT, RENTALS.—To collect real estate to sell. Trained broker, room 14, Burke block, corner Third and Union streets.

WANTED—TO RENT.—First-class office reference.

WANTED—THE MANUFACTURER.—To lease front on James Union, or L. B. Andrews, Boston block, room 202, Second street between Columbia and Marion.

WANTED—HOUSES TO RENT, RENTALS.—To rent to building, or person having a large family, room 14, Burke block, corner Third and Union streets.

WANTED—TO LEASE.—To lease front on James Union, or L. B. Andrews, Boston block, room 202, Second street between Columbia and Marion.

WANTED—TO RENT.—One or two unfurnished rooms, good housekeeping. Address F. W. Post-In intelligencer office.

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