

# COOS BAY TIMES

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## PRESIDENT ELIOT ON "MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT"

**T**HE TIMES is an ardent believer in publicity. Particularly is this true of all matters pertaining to local city government. It is pleased to know that so eminent an authority as President Charles William Eliot of Harvard university, is an earnest advocate of the same principle. President Eliot visited Dayton, Ohio, recently and delivered an interesting talk to the people of that city.

"Municipal Government" was the theme of President Eliot's address, and for nearly two hours he held the close attention of his audience. He took up the subject of municipal reform and dwelt upon the progress made in that direction in recent years.

The new charter of Galveston was taken up and its workings explained at some length. The radical reform features of that charter were strongly commended.

Dr. Eliot insists that entire publicity is the greatest guarantee of official honesty. He believes that the smallest acts of the public official should be open to examination by every citizen.

The initiative and referendum features of the new Iowa code were heartily commended. He took up the case of St. Louis and dwelt upon the great reforms that had been accomplished in the school system. On this subject Dr. Eliot said:

"I had known that the school board of that city was an extraordinarily incompetent body. Suddenly, while the city government of St. Louis was abominably corrupt, as subsequent investigation proved, a new act was adopted by the Missouri legislature, at the request of a few citizens of St. Louis, which established a new school board for the city. It has a peculiar constitution; the whole board was elected at large—no ward election about it.

"The members were elected in groups of four to serve through three elections, three periods; each period being two years, the term of membership was six years for each member—a long tenure—and they went out in groups of four. The committee, therefore, numbered twelve. This was a peculiar constitution, at that time, of a school board. It was created in a very adverse condition of school management in St. Louis.

"Moreover, the legislature gave the school board an independent income, namely, six mills on the dollar of valuation, and this it expended without any dependence on any other municipal authority—so much was its to use.

"No sooner had this new act constituting this new and novel committee been passed than a total revolution occurred in the composition of this committee. The whole body of voters immediately elected twelve excellent men to constitute that committee. The members, having a long tenure and being thus composed, proceeded to give the city a first-rate school administration.

"They had foresight, good judgment; they elected a body of experts to do the executive business of the schools; they had an expert to superintend the schools; they had another for the erection of school buildings, etc.

"They did no executive work themselves, neither in the whole committee nor in sub-committee—none. The result? During the last eleven years the result has been unquestionably and unremittably good. The administration has been sound, successful, economical; never has St. Louis had such buildings erected for school purposes. Never have the schools themselves been so efficient and so promptly ready to receive the children in the growing districts of the city.

President Eliot commends the small school board, elected at large. The experience of Boston in this matter was cited as an example as follows:

"Now, this was the observation which led me to consider further other departments of municipal government.

"I should add that this sort of small school committee, elected at large, has been repeatedly imitated, with variations in other American cities, notably in Indianapolis, where the committee only numbered five and was elected at large, and in Rochester, N. Y., where a similar committee has been in session, not, finally, and most interesting for me, the city of Boston, by a special act of the legislature, obtained a school committee of five, elected at large.

"Now Boston is a Democratic city whenever its vote is fully got out; it is also a Roman Catholic city, beyond a question—strange to say this of Puritan Boston, but it is a simple fact; we have three Roman Catholic parishes there in large numbers, the Irish, the French-Canadian and the Italian; so Boston is a Roman Catholic city. We have now had three elections at which members of the new school committee of five have been chosen. How was that committee made up at the start? In the first place, independently of party management; secondly, it was composed of two Catholics, two Protestants and one Jew—and the Jew held the balance of power. Now, is not that an encouraging composition under such circumstances, of a school committee in a Catholic and Democratic city? We have had five good men in that board ever since the board was constituted, and the distribution among religious discriminations has been that which I have described. Now this is the best school committee that Boston has ever had.

"We had before a school committee of 24, which immediately divided itself into sub-committees with executive functions.

"Those functions were very imperfectly discharged, as they must always be; whenever you see anybody supposed to determine policies, resolve itself into committees with executive powers, you may be very sure that mischief will be brewed, that that form of government will prove itself incompetent, and it will be fortunate if it does not also prove itself, on occasion, positively dishonest.

"Now, I have alluded to these school committee reorganizations at this length because they seemed to me to contain the key to the whole subject. They are small boards; they are elected at large; they exercise no executive functions, they appoint experts for those functions.

"As we look abroad among the city charters of our country, do we find any such bodies or boards as these school committees?

Dr. Eliot does not believe in petty home rule, but in the larger sway of municipalities. On this subject he says:

"Our local interests have become positively insignificant compared with these great, broad, continental, ocean-wide interests. These are the reasons why we ought always to distrust local representation, particularly in bodies that have executive functions.

"These are the reasons why we should distrust completely ward elections of any sort, anywhere. They stand for a petty, small interest which is utterly insignificant compared with the real interests of the total population. Moreover, in many of our cities it is fair and right that the state should exercise an active supervision over the cities within its borders.

"We have been in the habit of thinking that is is an intrusion on the part of the state if it did anything directly about the powers which sixty years ago or one hundred years ago were exercised by a single city or a single town; but has a commonwealth no rights over the mode of life and the governing of three-quarters of its population, as in Massachusetts? In that state three-quarters of the entire mass are living in cities. Has a commonwealth like Ohio no right to say how the great cities within its borders should be governed? Has it no right to say that they shall have a pure, honorable, just, efficient administration?

"I believe we all of us need to revise our conception of the duty and the powers of the state in reference to the cities within its borders; moreover, in our country, always the state has created the city charter."

## With the Toast and Tea

GOOD EVENING.

DON'T LOOK BACK.

**G**UARD well the days that hurry by. Nor backward look with heavy sigh. All wasted are the tears that fall. No ill spent hour can they recall. March onward with a steady tread. Keep watch upon the road ahead. Let Lyones lie where they have dropped. Your steady swing must not be stopped. March onward with a fearless mind. And leave the shadows far behind. —Anonymous.

DOESN'T PAN OUT.

We keep forgetting all the while About this leap year game. Since not one strange, suspicious thing Reminds us of the same. For all the ladies that we know Pursue on down the line The even they could not way And never make a sign.

We didn't think the girls would come And grab us by the mitt. The very first day of the year. And say, "Old man, you're it." But after waiting several weeks We hoped perhaps they might Make bold to get their courage up To seize their pens and write.

We'd heard so much about the time When girls would take the lead And give the world a chance to see How well they could succeed. How, when the gentlemen held back The question, they would press Or gently mention with their eyes. Some things words can't express.

We used to think so, but no more For us are dreams like that. And on our chances from that source We wouldn't bet a hat. At least they haven't come around Till we have cried "Enough!" And it is our opinion now That leap year is a bluff.

HEARD AT THE MILLICOMA.

It is a good thing both to be able to work and to be able to keep from being worked.

Even truth itself becomes intolerable when it is promulgated tyrannically and pressed home dogmatically.

It takes a two faced individual to be two things at the same time.

There is nothing that keeps lent like an umbrella.

The only way a man ever discovers the truth is to first suffer from the lack of it.

The evil that men do gets after them and often chases them so far that they never again make connection with their good deeds.

A man may not be very polished himself and still be able to polish off another to a fine finish.

Some of us are not wanting in the experience of serving our friends with all our hearts and then of seeing them serve others with all their pocketbooks.

It is safe to presume that those people who are always talking of the joy of giving are well established with the slaves of the lamp or some other genius who joyously furnishes the wherewithal.

One Place.

"I am not in the least bit superstitious." "You don't dread to meet a black cat?" "No, except in the form of a sausage."

Pulse Beats.

The opal tinted water lies Beneath the blue of sapphire skies. The sea gull in the azure flies And, dropping, as 'twere, water-wise, Salutes the limpid lake.

The little crinkling wavelets play Beneath the glowing God of day. They never stop. They never stay. They go and yet are here always. The sun god's thirst to slake.

As move the waves upon the lake, So do the tides of feeling make My full heart swell and all but break. So much have love and life at stake, So strong the throb and ache.

Superfluos.

"He wants to have a plank demanding old age pensions for men in the platform this year." "But why this discrimination? Would not the women need it as badly?" "Yes, they might need it, but they would never grow old enough to be entitled to it, so what's the use?"

Explained.

Though he dipped into business, All he could do was fail. He only was an honest man. That tells the simple tale.

Sure Sign.

"Do you think she will marry Jack?" "Sure to." "How can you tell?" "She is beginning to explain his family."

ROY LAWHORNES JOKE.



"What are you laughing at so uproariously?" "I heard a joke yesterday and I just now saw the point of it." "For goodness' sake don't tell it to me. I have to go to a funeral tomorrow."

The Head Citizen.

A small community in New York has just re-elected the village blacksmith mayor. It tried him once and liked the brand well enough to use him again.

Persons who have created the role of merry villain in real life will not be a bit surprised. If there is one Sir Oracle in the village it is the blacksmith. What he doesn't know about politics, literature and curing sick hens isn't worth knowing.

His intellect usually towers above the thinking machinery of the village lawyer as much as his arm outmeasures the biceps of the legal limb. When he isn't mayor he usually tells the mayor what to do as a side line, his time in a quiet community not being all taken up in shoeing horses. Doubtless the sagacious members of the community had noticed these things and thought he might as well be drawing the salary.



Their Main Duty.

"We ought to elect some good old farmer to congress from this district."

"You bet. We have had lawyers enough."

"Sure we have. What does a lawyer know about garden seeds anyway?"

But She Wasn't Pretty.

"She is very modest." "Has to be." "Why?" "Anybody would to carry that face around."

Wanted to Be Right.

"You began this letter 'Dear,' though it is to one unknown." "Yes. Should I begin it 'Goat'?"

Merely because o-u-s spells "us" and r-y-e spells "I" and q-u-e-u-e spells "eu" is no reason why q-u-e-u-e-r-y-o-u-s should spell "curious," is it?—Astoria Leader. Curious, isn't it?

## Baby Contest

At the Orpheum Theater

Handsome Gold Chain and Locket Grand Prize now on display at Tower's jewelry store. All babies up to 2 years of age residing in this city or North Bend may enter.

Contest closes Saturday, May 23d. Each ticket purchased at the box-office entitles holder to one vote. Following is the Standing of the Contestants:

Ruth Bowman	3
Margaret Camero	2
Carlin Campbell	16
Baby Dean	1
Emory Dwire	24
Jack Gabbert	27
Baby Heatmang	1
Alice Kolan	10
Hazel Masales	11
Sible McGann	11
R. R. Montgomery, Jr.	12
Curtis Nagle	12
Katherine Toye	8
Taylor Wright	6
Katherine Yoakum	13

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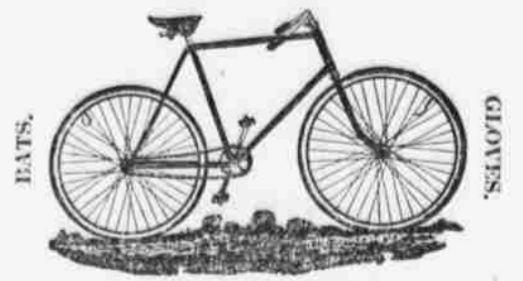
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(FROM THE OREGONIAN APRIL 23, 1908)

Preaches Against Hop-picking.

OREGON CITY, April 28.—(Special)—Rev. John M. Linden, pastor of the First Baptist church, has instituted a vigorous crusade against the members of his church picking hops, stating that it is encouraging the liquor interests. In a sermon Sunday night, before a crowded church, he said, "It requires a quickened conscience to crystallize action against hop-picking, which is part of the process of beer-making."

## A Sermon and a Suggestion

What do you think of the prohibition side of the question? It's in the sermon.

In 1907 Oregon hop growers raised and marketed FOUR MILLION DOLLARS worth of hops.

If Oregon is voted "dry" no market in the world will take Oregon hops.

If Oregon votes for prohibition, Oregon brewers will have no use for barley or hops.

Do Oregon hop growers want to pay FOUR MILLION DOLLARS a year for the experiment?

Let us stop closing business up and try opening it up instead.