

The Oregon Mist

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George H. Flagg
Editor and Manager

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County Official Paper

ANNOUNCEMENT

E. H. Flagg has disposed of his interests in the MIST and with this week's issue George H. Flagg takes charge of the paper. We hope that the change will hardly be noticeable. The politics and general policy of the paper will remain the same and as ever the MIST will at all times stand for the best interests of St. Helens and Columbia County. This is a particularly well favored section of Oregon and is bound to make wonderful advancement in the next few years and every effort will be made by the MIST to keep pace with the times.

We ask the aid of the MIST's friends throughout the county in securing local news of their localities for publication. The MIST is in every sense a county paper and will be a paper for the whole of the county and of interest to every resident and more particularly to the taxpayers. Without the good will and assistance of our readers it will be hard to make the paper all that it should be, so we ask your hearty co-operation and aid.

FORGET IT.

Were you a little warm over the city election? Forget it; or if you cannot do that, do not let it interfere with that spirit of unity which is so essential to community success and prosperity. We will always differ on many points. Live men cannot be expected to see all things alike, for the view-point. It is just possible that you may be wrong and the other fellow right, and it is very probable that his motives were just as pure and unselfish as yours. But be that as it may, if you had a grouch against him, forget it. There are some results all good citizens desire. We want to see St. Helens grow and its citizens prosper. During the recent municipal campaign the editor was accused of standing in with a certain corporation. He pleaded guilty and trusts that the MIST will always be found "standing in" with every corporation in St. Helens or in Columbia County whenever the corporation is in the right, and not otherwise. Members of corporations have the same rights as other individuals, neither more nor less, and the editor has not hesitated to oppose the corporations whenever it believed them to be in the wrong. For years the MIST hammered away on the question of the assessment of timber lands and railroads, and finally a reform was effected. It has also insisted that the logging companies should be compelled to better safeguard the lives and limbs of their employes, and that the coroner should strictly investigate all accidents. Yet it has no sympathy with the "get em, then pinch em" policy. The success of our corporations is essential to our city's growth, and that is what we all desire. Therefore we repeat, if you felt a little sore at your neighbor prior to the election, forget it. Give him the glad hand and help him boost the old burg along.

THE PROPER SYSTEM.

The MIST notes with pleasure that judges in different parts of the country are awakening to the

realization of the impotency of a fine as a preventative of the repetition of certain forms of crime. A judge in San Francisco sentenced Johnson, the pugilist to twenty-five days in the county jail for exceeding the speed law, and a Portland judge prescribed the same medicine for a speed maniac in that city. Moreover, these judges have announced that this is to be their policy for the future. Johnson's case is not so bad as that of many others. The negro is simply an ignorant brute who is swelled up with a sense of his own importance. But the rich men who violate the law do so deliberately, and are willing to take the chance of being arrested pleading guilty and paying a fine. Fifty dollars to them is nothing while to the poor who break the law it is often a heavy punishment. But the rich man is shocked when an upright judge refuses him when he begs and places to permit him to buy immunity. In most instances fines are bribes paid to the State. It is one of the good signs of the times when judges realize this fact and insist that wealth shall not be permitted to protect wilful and impudent violators of the law.

IT MEANS A LOT

Under the heading "Does It Mean Nothing?" last Tuesday's Oregonian contains the following:

"Is it worth while to warn the irrepressible and unextinguishable agitators for new and strange legislation through the initiative and for no legislation through the referendum, that the temper of the people is to resent their activity, and to defeat every manner and species of bill about which they have doubt or for which there is no active or recognizable public demand? Cannot these busy fellows take a hint? Are they utterly unable to read the signs of the times? Don't they understand that the public has had about enough of agitation experimentation and innovation?"

In the Oregon state elections of 1902, 1904, 1906 and 1908 a total of 32 measures was submitted to the people through the initiative and referendum. For some of those measures, like the direct primary, the corrupt practices act and the like, there was a widespread public demand, and the public attitude was favorable. Of the 32, therefore, 24 were passed, and only eight rejected. In the list of defeated measures female suffrage appears twice.

In 1910 32 measures were again before the public for action. Nine were adopted; 23 were beaten.

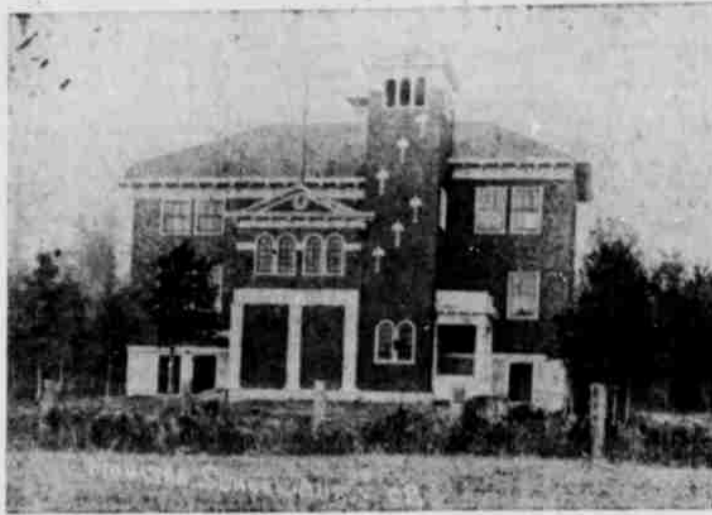
Does this remarkable change in the attitude toward the initiative and referendum, or, rather, toward the legislative proposals under the initiative and referendum, mean anything or nothing?"

It is hardly to be expected that any real good arguments in favor of the initiative would ever come from the Oregonian, but the above is one of the best we have heard. The fact that 24 of the first 32 measures proposed were passed is accounted for by the fact that the measures really needed by the people of the state were the first to be considered. Then came the measures which the Oregonian rightly describes as the measures of the agitators. But the fact that they received the scant consideration which they were entitled to shows that the initiative way is the right way to make laws. Only the measures that are meritorious have gone through and in this the people's way seems to be far ahead of the Legislature's.

Number 1 Volume 1 of the Turlock Tribune, printed at Turlock, Stanislaus County, California, has reached the Mist office and it is an issue to be proud of. Eight pages, well printed, containing a number of local views and lots of local advertising, would make a paper to boast of anywhere.

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