

The Sentinel.

BY LEW. A. CATES.

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LET US REASON TOGETHER.

Not infrequently has The Sentinel urged the people of Cottage Grove to "build a fence around the home dollar," presenting as comprehensively as possible the innumerable benefits to be derived from such procedure, but whether or not its sermonizing on this theme has been productive of good, only those who traffic in commodities can definitely determine. The facts in the case are incontrovertible. Every dollar spent in Cottage Grove comes back to him who lets go of it either directly or indirectly. The town grows, it supports better stores, more churches, better schools to which he can send his children, furnishes better near-at-hand markets for his products, and finally increases the very value of his land. As a good illustration, let us say that Cottage Grove has a population of 2,500, and that the town's life depends largely upon its retail trade. If it secures the entire purchasing business it must of necessity grow rapidly. The enormous mail order houses sent out their great four or five-pound catalogues describing everything under the sun. Suppose that instead of spending, say \$600 a year in Cottage Grove for living expenses each person in the community diverts 50 per cent of his trade from his home town and sends \$300 a year to the catalogue houses, it means that half of the business of the town is gone. It may be conservatively estimated that there are 750 families in Cottage Grove. Three hundred dollars a year in trade from each means that \$225,000 annually is taken from the home town. In the course of ten years this means \$2,250,000. Averaging the profit on this vast amount at 20 per cent, it means that in a decade's time \$450,000 profits are sent to concerns who have no interest whatever in us or our town. Now, on the other hand, should the 750 persons used as an illustration, instead of sending their money to foreign places for goods, give all his trade to Cottage Grove its business would be immediately doubled, and with twice the employment for people in the commercial field. Year after year, the profits made by the merchants would be retained in the town, would seek investment in starting new industries, and at the end of the ten-year period there would be a remarkable change for the better and all lands would be materially enhanced in value.

Calculating on the same basis, it can be plainly figured out that the individual farmer who would divert his trade to some other foreign city, in the course of ten years would send away \$3,000. If it were possible that he could save 10 per cent on this amount, in ten years' time he would save \$300. His only compensation would be a poor home market and no increase in the value of his real estate holdings. On the other hand, by giving his patronage to the home town, even though he must pay the merchant 10 per cent more than the foreign house, the result would be like this: On account of increase in farm values, 160 acres of land worth \$10 more per acre, \$1,600; or, \$1,300 better off in ten years than if he gave half his patronage to the foreign concern. His home town is a lively one, all public improvements, all modern conveniences, high schools, to which he could send his children cheaply, good churches and everything that can add to the comfort and happiness of its residents, and those who reside near it. Notwithstanding, that the farmer's land is enhanced in value, his taxation will be but little greater, as the business interests of the town will pay the burden of taxation, and the amount of each taxpayer will be less in proportion to carry on government.

While the country household, in looking over one of the big catalogues and sending an order for \$50 worth of goods, may be able to figure out an immediate saving of \$5 or \$6, even after they have paid the freight, there is no question as to the final outcome, if the practice is persisted in by all the people of any particular locality. The home town will suffer, the home market will fail to increase, if it does not decrease, as will also the value of the farm lands. Undoubtedly the catalogue houses can sell goods cheaper than the average country store, for they do a cash business—you send on your cash with your order. There is no risk in the catalogue or mail order house business. Possibly if you arrange to do business on the same basis with your country merchant—cash down with your purchase—you could get as favorable prices. Every community which is im-

bued with the spirit of building up its own industries and of supporting its home town with local pride, is sure to be the "most" prosperous; there can be no gainsaying this fact.

OUR CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR.

Although comparatively early for the municipal campaign to open, several names, including the present incumbent, are being mentioned in connection with the mayoralty. Cottage Grove is rapidly assuming pretentious proportions; its permanent population is constantly increasing, and the immediate future must produce some important improvements. There should be progress along all municipal lines, and the next mayor of Cottage Grove must declare himself in favor of this forward movement. And behind this declaration must be the character of man in whom the people have confidence that he means to keep pledges made; he must be a man offering no quarter and no apology, but open and above board, at war with the spirit of cobwebism and the policy of standstillism; one who knows naught but honesty in the public service; one who recognizes no cause but that of his constituency—the people—and who pledges himself with a character of courage and intelligence to back it.

Cottage Grove has outgrown the ways of the crossroads village, and it demands a chief executive who will unsheath his sword in the cause of municipal betterments and the upbuilding of the city industrially and otherwise, throw the scabbard away and know no cessation until we are possessed of those things which are rightfully ours. This city is entering upon an era of progress, and the head of the municipal government must be a progressive, prudent, conservative, sagacious man; one who has demonstrated by his past record that he is capable and willing.

Let the public-spirited citizens of Cottage Grove—business and professional men, merchants and miners, capitalists and laborer—regardless of party affiliations, clique or creed, get together as a unite and name such a candidate, and "the man who beats him will be mayor."

ABOUT PRIVATE DIVORCES.

In suits for divorce, as in other unpleasant cases, judges have the right by law to hear testimony in private in the interest of public morality. We do not know how far this wholesome law differs in different states. It must grant everywhere wide discretion to the judge and this may include power everywhere to suppress the decree as well as the evidence and to seal the whole record file so that it never can be examined by the public. That practice has prevailed in New York city for a long time, though it was not brought to general public notice until census officials sent by President Roosevelt to obtain statistics of divorce found themselves confronted in New York with sealed records in locked safes. These cases are invariably those of rich and prominent families, or persons possessing an equal influence with the courts.

This is a shameful abuse for protection of privileged classes of a law strained from the original purpose of protecting public morals. It is one thing to prevent demoralizing recital in open court and another to cover up evil whose example would be wholesome to society. The cause of public morals is not aided but injured by allowing persons of wealth and station concealment of vices which are ruthlessly exposed when practiced by humbler persons. There can be no reason for this discrimination but some form of bribe, whether paid in larger fees for secret hearings, as direct honorarium to court officers or a tribute to the political organization by which they are controlled. Why should the Astor family be broken up in secret, while the frailties of John Smith and his wife are exposed to the public and spread upon the record unless it is because they pay for the privilege? These secret records are kept with peculiar care, and like the secret archives of government, will make interesting reading for posterity.

THE AMERICAN INDIAN.

The race of American Indians has disappeared from history without vanishing from the earth. We are told that it is probably still as numerous as when its tribes ranged the American forests and contended for mastery in wars as heroic as those of Greeks or Germans. If there is any veracity in historical analogy, only the occupation of their country by a race not individually superior, but more numerous and better armed, prevented the American Indians from slowly working out a social civilization and political empire like those finally obtained by the descendants of Latin shepherds and German woodsmen. Causes were already in operation when the whites came to America that promised a center of crystallization for Indian power and civilization in the dominant confederacy of the Six Nations.

Sometimes the history of this abortive civilization and government will be written sympathetically from abundant material. So far we have little but biographies of eminent men, statesmen and warriors both like Pontiac and Tuscumseh, generals like Red Cloud and Chief Joseph, dreamers like Sitting Bull and the nameless ghost dancer,

desperate partisans like Geronimo and wise politicians like Spotted Tail. The biographies will weave into history far more stirring and pathetic than that of the abortive nation swallowed up in the British Empire in South Africa.

The death of Red Cloud almost closes the volume of three centuries of brilliant and moving history by removing nearly the last Indian chief who developed in his own tribe and with his white neighbors. Red Cloud was more warrior than statesman. He won eminence by personal prowess and kept it by sound strategy. For ten years he led the Dakota nation he had amalgamated out of tribes in war more glorious to him than the government. For twenty-five years he has lived in retirement he preferred to the surrender his wiser nation made to the overpowering strength of the whites.

THE WORLD IS WEAK.

It is a mean thing to take advantage of the weakness of human nature, whether it be in making men drunk or in scattering printed stuff for morbid or vicious appetite. There is little that is worse than putting out poison for the mind, for the source of all good is with the mind. There are those weak who are easily led astray. There are those doubting themselves who are easily made receptacles for the deposit of prejudice and the anger and bitter retaliation of it. The betterment of the world is through the good of it. To magnify evil is to give expansion to wrong; to subordinate strength to weakness; to tear down, and not to build up. It is altogether unwholesome to engage in constant appeal to the passions of men; to teach them unceasingly that there is no place where they may lodge confidence in the honorable intentions of their fellows. If the more dependent are taught the lesson of retaliation, instructed in the old doctrine of revenge, and to do evil for evil, with prejudice and fear serving as arbiters, all the agencies of charity are crippled and the powerful are challenged to self-defences. Such teaching and the example add immeasurable to the poverty of the world. To put man against man, numbers against numbers, misstatements against fact, falsehood against truth, in whatever name it may be done, is to work at cross purpose with every moral influence for the betterment of mankind. The pretense of service in thus doing is hollow in its mockery. Talk of reform under such debasement is addressed to the cheapest and most perverted qualities of social beings. Poison is put into the heart and against its contamination the strongest as well as the weakest are challenged to make such resistance as the instincts of life make mandatory. Men whose lives refute the isidious insinuations made against them are given rankle under conscious sense of injustice. Every measure of injustice carelessly given to the wind adds to the corruption of the atmosphere in which all men must live and from which they must draw the inspiration of their being. The world at best is weak and society at best is buffeted by many conflicting doubts. But if the time shall come when neighbor may not trust neighbor, and when there shall be no power of cohesion save that which has its thong in the hatred of sordid passion, then the time will be at hand when anarchy shall be ripe and priceless heritage out of the years shall be made cheap for sacrifice. There need be no worry about the power of reception; the need is for the larger power of resistance. To deliberately wrong or blight the name of a good man is the acme of moral offense for which the cause alleged can bring no adequate excuse. If there is anything worth thinking about this is worth thinking about.

A MODERN JUDAS.

The late George Preston Sheldon was for years president of the great Phoenix Insurance Co. and was rated as one of the captains of industry in the east. A few months ago it was discovered that he had systematically plundered the company, which had honored and trusted him, of several hundred thousand dollars. He not only embezzled funds but bribed public officials charged with the investigation of insurance companies in order that false reports might be made that would cover up his tracks. It is almost beyond comprehension how susceptible men are to the wiles of the devil when once he approaches them with filthy lucre. We marvel at the audacity of Judas but the present day can furnish on short notice a whole lot of such fellows. This man Sheldon divided his swag with the insurance inspectors just as the sugar trust contributed to the salaries of men trusted by the government to weigh the sugar that was shipped in. But, after all, there is much encouragement in the fact that where one man entrusted with great responsibility goes wrong there are thousands of them who do not. It will not do to lose faith in humanity because of these evidences of dishonesty that crop out ever and anon.

"Nothing expect the mint can make money without advertising," is a good motto to be inscribed on the walls of every business house.

MORE STRINGENT LAWS.

There seems to be a disposition on the part of the municipal authorities to make more stringent laws and to more rigidly enforce the laws which we already have, and in this determination they should not only have the commendation of the community, but its hearty co-operation and support. The adoption of an ordinance Monday night prohibiting loafing an loitering on public thoroughfares is a move in the proper direction.

The Sentinel believes that all righteous laws should be enforced at what ever cost. Our laws are the highest standard in matters involved. They are the commandments of the sovereign will of the people given out of the best light and under the clearest convictions of right. They are absolutely supreme until changed, and should be enforced.

No executive or administrative officer may choose to neglect or partially enforce our laws. He has no choice. He is sworn to execute laws, not to make them; not to arbitrate cases of infraction, but to apply the law. The law is the accepted order of things by which we all agree to act, and any departure therefrom causes confusion—confusion first in business relations of life, and next in the mind and heart as of principles of action. When law is enforced no man is at a loss to know what his fellowmen will be compelled to do, and likewise as to what men ought to do. A law, national, state or municipal, not enforced, destroys teachings. The teacher says it is wholesome and must be rigidly observed, but practice breaks it and the mind is confused until no conviction can be fixed.

To execute and obey law is the path of human progress. The authorities of Cottage Grove are of the many marshals of the day stationed through the land to assist the procession of human affairs by insuring the compliance with that law, and we would be unworthy subjects did we not lend them our aid and support. An executed law put a rebel outside of Eden and maintained peace and virtue within; an executed law excluded Satan from heaven and insured the angels in their rights and preserved a home of purity and delight for the souls of men. Nature's laws have no escaped criminals and no department of arbitration or mercy. The great first cause applies the laws of science with jealous care. The least atom of matter, the lowest form of life, the mightiest force and most ponderous system must give strictest account. And shall man be the only outlaw on earth. Take away law, and disorder, and wreck, and ruin prevails in any community. Uphold and execute good laws and the people are happy, prosperous and content.

The Sentinel commends the ferreting out of crime, whether it be in high or low places, and hopes a more energetic crusade against violators of the laws will be made. But let the municipal legislators make plain what they would have us do, for no man is conversant with local laws promulgated nearly two decades ago and hidden away from the public gaze. Cottage Grove has no ordinance, accessible to the public, and while ignorance of the law is no excuse for offenses it is well that the people know what is expected of them in any instance. There should be no absence of a knowledge of what Cottage Grove ordinances prohibit, as is the condition which obtains today.

The seventh annual meeting of the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association will be held in Portland, February 14 to February 16 inclusive.

It is gratifying to learn that the depot park at Eugene is finished. Now we'll probably get some real news from the county seat.

The new year begins in Oregon with approximately 500 miles of new railroad actually under construction.

Unallotted lands in the Klamath Indian reservation are to be opened for settlement in 1910, if the plans of the commercial organizations of Klamath Falls do not go wrong.

The state board of equalization caught the boosting spirit so prevalent in Oregon. It boosted Lane county's assessed valuation from \$22,006,920 to \$23,205,960. A bunch of other counties also got the hooks.

There may be some delay in the water works program, but it will be pulled off in good time.

Vote for Nesmith county 1910.

With its 75,000 farms Oregon products amounted to \$114,000,000 in 1909.

War has been declared by President Taft against the insurgents in Congress, and a pretty fight is in prospect.

Card of Thanks.

We desire to return our heartfelt thanks to the many kind friends who rendered such able assistance, and contributed flowers, after the death of our beloved husband and father, the late John C. Long. Especially do we wish to thank the Masons who conducted the last sad rites.

Mrs. Margaret J. Long.
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