

The Sentinel.

BY LEW. A. CATES.

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FATHER OF NESMITH.

As strange as it may seem, the Honorable Ike Bingham is the father of proposed Nesmith county. Since the project had its inception in the fertile brain of the now Senator Bingham, however, that political giant has taken up his permanent residence in Eugene, from which point he assails not only the proposition for the creation of a county but also his old Cottage Grove friends and neighbors who put a shoulder to his bandwagon and rode him into what popularity he is accredited with possessing. When Bingham was a candidate for the legislature, originally and foremostly, he registered from Cottage Grove, and in fact resided here with his estimable family the greater portion of the time. He was interested in the future of Cottage Grove, from all outward appearances, and when he aspired to political honors within the gift of the people, we took stock in him at par. It was during his first campaign that the wily, policy-serving individual who, from time-honored custom, is entitled to prefix the meaningless "Hon." to his cognomen, conceived the idea that the people of Southern Lane were entitled to recognition and self-government, and he proposed to promote the undertaking, and pledged himself to labor diligently and untiringly to that end should his aspirations prove successful, and he be admitted to the legislative halls.

We took like to be in earnest, and pulled off our coats and went out into the highways and byways and elected him, and felt proud of ourselves for "the performance of the act." But that ended the county proposition—until the next campaign, when the politician again took Baby Nesmith in his arms and again cooed and cooed until he lulled it into a quiet and peaceful slumber, while his constituency looked on wonderingly at his false professions, for Ike never was a very persistent nurse when there was nothing in it.

Once we loved him as a brother; but, alas, he betrayed our confidences, gave us the icy grip, shook the dust of our balliwick from his home-made sandals, silently folded his tent, stole away to the county seat and became imbued with "the Eugene spirit"—which, properly interpreted, means "to hell with everybody and everything that is not branded Eugene"—since when we have loved him not. But Bingham first suggested the division of Lane county, and inasmuch as Nesmith is practically certain of being created at the polls next November, notwithstanding the strenuous opposition of the honorable originator, we feel that we are under some obligations to him and should forgive the misrepresentations he has knowingly heaped upon us, and license him to continue to cuss us for Eugene's sake.

SHOULD HAVE MANY DAYS.

Dr. Cressy L. Wilbur of the United States Bureau of Vital Statistics, does not take much stock in the reports which one reads occasionally as to the extreme age reached by a few people. According to an Eastern exchange, he does not believe that any man, ancient or modern, ever lived more than 110 years, and he doubts if any have lived that long. He says that he has investigated a number of reports of persons having attained the age of 120 years, and one report where it alleged the person had reached the limit of 120 years, but he has not been able to verify any such allegation.

Dr. Wilbur would fix the limit of man's life on this sphere at something like 106. He states that there are unquestionable cases where persons have reached such a limit, but beyond that limit there is no positive proof of existence. There is really no advantage in "dagging out" a few years at the end of the course, so that it would make no difference, so far as the last ten years of a man's life is concerned, whether he lived to be 100 or 110. But, inasmuch as the man who lived to be 110 ought to be expected to retain all of his faculties for a greater period of time than the man who dies at 100, it makes a whole lot of difference how long a man lives.

There is something more than idle curiosity connected with the study of longevity. It is very important to know how long the oldest man has lived. When a man lives to a great age, there is, of course, a reason for it, just as there is a reason why every man does not live to a great age. If we determine, as we ought to be able

to determine, why one man lives to be 100, we would know how almost any other man could live to be the same age. For, despite the ancient maxim to the effect that "one man's meat is another man's poison," the fact remains that all men are constituted so nearly alike that that which will prolong life in one instance will prolong it in another.

THE DAILY AND WEEKLY.

Back in the early days when Horace Greeley published the New York Tribune, the American daily had far greater influence in moulding public sentiment than it has today. This is partially due to the fact that fifty years ago the editorials contained in a paper were the personal opinions of its owner, and the proprietor of a newspaper was looked upon as one of the big men of the community. Thus every paper came to have a personality of its own so to speak and men regarded its editorials much the same way as they now regard special articles written by prominent men.

Today all is changed. People subscribe to the dailies as much to get the news as anything else. Very little attention is paid to editorials of a serious nature. No one can tell by whom they are written, for each paper has its staff of poorly paid editorial writers who are under instructions to take this or that side of a particular question and patch some sort of an article up that will be sure to offend no advertiser. The editorials seem to be written for "policy sake" alone, and instead of moulding public thought, the newspaper is inclined to follow sentiments already held by the people. Even as a news agency the big daily is losing ground. The people do not believe what they read in the newspaper until has been verified several times or until the arrival of their favorite weekly with comments thereon. In fact it is not true that the weekly publications today, both great and small, are filling that position, which the dailies of fifty years ago used to occupy. All over the country there is a growing demand for the weekly periodical. The people believe what they say. The special articles are signed by those who write them, while the editorials are the voice of a well known owner. The local, weekly, too, is gaining in strength. It is wielding an influence commensurate with the character and power of its owner. Its editorials are the result of a fair-minded investigation, and the paper assumes the character of its owner.

At present there seems to be a movement on foot among the larger newspaper men to check this tendency. They do not watch their influence wane without some feeling or regret and they begin to fear the power of an increasing number of "weeklies." Whether they will succeed in stemming the tide by breaking away from their commercial habits cannot now be determined, yet just at present the person who is serious minded is subscribing for some periodical and his opinions are being sharpened by the comments of that particular publication.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Century Magazine calls attention to the uprising of laymen in the United States in the interest of foreign missions. In a large number of the principal cities of the land, we are told, great assemblies of business men and professional men have been gathered for the consideration of the work of the churches in foreign lands, and the enthusiasm of these meetings has been phenomenal. In New York and Boston and Buffalo, in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Chicago and St. Louis, in Minneapolis and Kansas City, in San Francisco and Seattle, and in many other inland cities, conventions lasting two or three days have been crowded by "the strong men of the nation."

The spectacle of busy men of affairs turning out in such throngs to listen to reports from the foreign mission fields and to lend their energies to the prosecution of this enterprise is, the Century goes on to say, one that will arrest the attention of our social philosophers. It would indicate that religion is not yet ready to be put into the category of spent forces. The interest here appealed to is purely religious; political and economical considerations are quite in the background. It is believed that the contribution of the American churches to foreign missions will be doubled within the present year.

HOMEWARD BOUND.

The emigration of homeseekers to Canada which has been the subject of great concern to the administrators of the public domain, has turned, in the opinion of officials of the reclamation service. Thousands have returned and a great many are expected back soon. The Americans who have tried the "Canadian experiment" are reported selling out as fast as they can and returning to this country. The American settlers are dissatisfied with the character of the land, the crops from which they allege is principally alfalfa and such hardy grains as winter wheat, and even these are not sure. Railroad rates are exorbitant and the form of government did not appeal to them. The climate causes dissatisfaction, ice and snow in August and September last year adding to the discontent. It is estimated 15,000 have returned to the United States in the last nine months.

NAME THE FARMS.

It would be an excellent law that would make it possible to register farms by a farm name, to take out a "copyright" for any certain name that struck the farmer's fancy, and make it the only farm in Oregon bearing that name. Mr. Messenger, who recently purchased a ranch on the Row river, has named his farm, and intends to display a huge sign carrying the name in a conspicuous place on the highway. Several others in the Cottage Grove territory have already named their rural homes, but as yet few have displayed those names. Naming of farms gives one a large sense of place, a feudal sense of possession. No citizen of Cottage Grove hears the name of this city without a thrill of "difference" when the name is pronounced, which he does not feel over any other name—that is, if he really lives here. The place where one resides is still the center of the world, no matter if one is a "wanderer." The name of a man's own farm has even a greater significance to him, and with a law as suggested he could know that north and south, east and west, throughout the boundaries of this great and growing state, not another farm in Oregon could be like this, could have its call-name. The owner would seek for the name that would be most characteristic, and then he could rest in his castle, lord of the manor, even though an assemblyite.

West of Cottage Grove, on the Logane road, the traveler reads in front of a ranch, "Pleasant Heights." This name is not borrowed from classic or Shakespearean mythology, or from gentle sentimentality, but comes because of the location of the farm. It means pleasant home to those who named it, and to them the end of the road. And, after all, is not home the end of the road every man takes, whether he tramps the long, white highways of the world, a vagabond and a stranger, or whether he travels only the scamped way between market place and dwelling? This is the end of all roads; all roads lead home. The city is fascinating, though the majority of men fail to make good, but the country for serenity, contentment and genuine happiness, and the homes there should be given an individuality by naming.

WHY NOT BOND?

The proposition presented by Mayor Kime at a recent session of the city council, that the municipality issue bonds in the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of liquidating outstanding warrants, and giving a cash balance for the transaction of business, as explained in The Sentinel last week, appears to meet with the approval of a large number of citizen taxpayers, who believe it to be good business. Under existing conditions the municipality is practically without funds, the only cash on hand being in the water fund. It is therefore impossible for the council to economically administer the affairs of the city, because for all necessary work there is an overcharge by the contractors, who are forced to take into consideration the carrying of warrants for an indefinite period. And the council is at their mercy, for these improvements must be done. With cash in the treasury the city would be independent, and instead of practically begging for bids on necessary work it would have more and better bids. As previously stated in these columns, the bonds would run for a term of years, bearing the same rate of interest now being paid on several thousand dollars' worth of warrants, and these bonds would be liquidated when population had increased and there were more of us to pay them. It appears to The Sentinel that the charter should be amended, and bonds issued.

SHOWS ARE COSTLY.

When an economist begins discussing popular extravagances, when he points out how much money could be saved if it wasn't spent for one purpose, how many millions are paid out for some other purpose, you're reminded now and again that paying your debts is what really keeps you poor. You must bear this in mind, perhaps, while you read what the Wall Street Journal has to say of the money that Americans expend in patronage of moving-picture theatres.

"One of these men of finance," the Journal tells, "said that another form of extravagance which prevails all over the United States is represented by the vast investment in moving-picture shows. Another of these men said that recently Thomas Edison told him he was receiving new royalties upon each one of 6,000 moving-picture exhibitions. And a rough estimate showed that the American people are paying approximately \$100,000,000 a year for this kind of entertainment."

Now, it is pointed out that a majority of those who frequent these entertainments come from families of wage-earners; and, from several computations which have recently been made, it is shown that the average payment by each of the families for admission is about \$25 a year.

Public works of various kinds, a number of sawmills, irrigation ditches, etc., make work plentiful around Cottage Grove. This town is one of the liveliest in central Oregon and proposes to be a county seat by the grace of the people of Oregon. That this will still

further increase the price of lots, the same as has the bettered streets, water system and other public improvements, is fully realized by the owners.—Portland Labor Press.

Seven-hundred and fifty tons of white paper are used daily in New York city alone. That means some 35,000 acres of forest are cut down each day to print the newspapers, magazines and periodicals that are sent broadcast every hour during the twenty-four. And this is but a small percentage of the total consumption in the United States. Certainly the white paper question is an important one, not only important to the consumer, but of vast importance to the public in general.

The assembly movement appears to have encountered hard sledding in Jackson county, for, though the county is strongly republican, two efforts failed completely to even assemble the county central committee to consider the proposition of holding a county assembly for nominating local candidates and for sending delegates to the state assembly to get out a state ticket.

The Douglas county assembly postponed the naming of county candidates.

If you haven't registered, do it now.

Professor E. D. Ressler, head of the department of Industrial Pedagogy and director of the O. A. C. Summer school, has announced his candidacy for the position of state superintendent of public instruction.

BE A BOOSTER

Crow and boost for all you're worth,
Cause they ain't no use on earth;
Do you know, there's lot of people,
Sittin' round in every town,
Growlin' like a broody chicken,
Knocking every good thing down?
Don't you be that kind of cattle,
Cause they ain't no use on earth;
You just be a booster rooster—
Crow and boost for all you're worth.
If your town needs boostin', boost'er;
Don't hold back and wait to see
If some other fellers willin'—
Sail right in, this country's free;
No one's got a mortgage on it,
It's yours just as much as his;
If your town is shy on boosters,
You get in the boostin' biz.
If things don't seem to suit you,
And the world seems kinder wrong,
What's the matter with a boostin',
Just to help the things along?
'Cause if things should stop a goin'
We'd be in a sorry plight—
You just keep that horn blowin',
Boost'er up with all your might.
If you see some feller tryin'
For to make some project go,
You can boost it up a trifle;
That's your cue to let him know
That you're not a goin' t' knock it
Just because it ain't your "shout,"
But you're goin' to boost a little,
'Cause he's got "the best thing out."
If you know some feller's failin',
Just forget 'em cause you know,
That feller's got some good points—
Them's the ones you want to know.
Cast your leaves out on the waters,
They'll come back's a saying true,
Mebbe they will come back buttered,
When some fellow boosts for you.

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