

The Sentinel.

BY LEW. A. CATES.

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INITIATIVE AND NEW COUNTIES.

A great deal of fuss is being kicked up by some of the good people who would like to do away with the initiative because six new county propositions are before the whole people of the state. Some of these new counties will conflict and overlap. Therefore, reason these backward-looking pilgrims, the initiative should be done away with. A much more reasonable proposal would be to do away with the legislature, for if any muddle results over any new counties overlapping it will be the legislature that will be to blame and not the initiative. The initiative has been in operation since 1902 and all this time the legislature had it in its power to propose to the people an amendment placing the settlement of such legal matters solely with the people interested. The big counties, each with its ring of politicians, objected. Hood River county broke through the combine that would not permit counties to be created, and now, of course, others follow the path to liberty. The last legislature should have taken warning then and made proper provision. It did nothing. The opponents of the initiative know very well that there is a remedy, and that a simple one, through the initiative itself, to cure any defects that may be discovered. They do not try to do away with difficulties, but to create and magnify them.

Should there be several overlapping and conflicting counties created by vote of the whole people, the courts will settle the scrap with very little trouble.

The People's Power League has proposed to the people of Oregon an amendment to Article IV of the constitution, which, among other things, provides for this very exigency. In the paragraph marked Section 1d it says:

"In case of laws chiefly of local interest, as the creation of new counties, or of new or additional judges or other officers or offices, referendum by petition shall be for approval or rejection by the people of the district interested."

There will be twenty new counties within the next decade if left to the localities interested; and if these counties can be protected from logrolling unnecessary officials upon them and permitted to transact their own business without interference from the legislature, they will be a saving to the taxpayer and a convenience to all concerned. If the legislature does not propose or devise remedies for difficulties as they appear, the people through the initiative can. Trust the people.—Portland Labor Press.

MUCKRAKING.

Former Vice-President Fairbanks, in his eminently respectable fashion, declares:

"Men who will wantonly and maliciously assail our public servants are traitors to the state. Public officials should not be subjected to much of the abuse that is heaped upon them by the muckrakers and sensationalists. This applies with like force to the indiscriminate, reckless assaults upon congress."

Every reasonable man will subscribe to the Fairbanks statement. It is a fine and a becoming sentiment. Provided the attacks are wanton and malicious and that the object is sensationalism, and the abuse indiscriminate, they are surely to be decrified.

"But," says Mr. Fairbanks, "if measures are devised in special in-

terests, turn the light upon them and their authors with unsparing severity. Smite without mercy those who betray their public trust."

What! Mr. Fairbanks a muckraker, also! Does he mean to allege any such offenses? Has he turned traducer? No, no. Mr. Fairbanks is merely ambling on in a loose, noncommittal and delightfully irresponsible manner. It is fashionable, you see, not only to deplore muckraking and criticism, but also to round out the protest with a safe and sane reaffirmation of honesty and virtue. The old copybook text, "Speak not ill of thy fellows," was also confronted on the opposite page with the equally felicitous maxim, "Spare not evil." And having intoned both texts in a reverential manner, the dilettante goes his way. Meanwhile masculine men struggle, labor, construct and reconstruct, all the while achieving what the effeminate idly preaches. Many of those who betrayed their public trust have indeed been "smitten down without mercy," as Mr. Fairbanks suggests, but what part did he take in the rebuke? The press has had some notable allies in the rugged work of reconstruction, but the name of Fairbanks is missing from the list.

NEW CLASSIFICATION.

In Great Britain as well as in the United States the railroads are considering a new classification of passengers. While we are talking about making universal distinction of first and second class by charging extra fare to all who ride in Pullmans, they have about decided to reduce their classification to the same basis by abolishing second class cars.

In point of fact there is little need for second class accommodation in Great Britain. The second class cars are no better than the third and there is no visible difference in the people who use them. The peasant and working class in England, for which third class cars were established, is not at all objectionable to the tradesmen and professional class supposed to use second class cars. Most of them travel comfortably together in third class, leaving the first class, at nearly double the price, to the aristocracy of birth and money.

There is no more basis in Great Britain than in the United States for the triple division of traveling accommodations for the peasantry and working class, the professional and trading middle class and the aristocracy. The first two travel together in perfect contentment unless they can afford first class. In this country we are approaching the same two class division as Great Britain with probably greater advantages for smaller relative cost in the first. English first class cars offer no material advantage except privacy. Our Pullmans and fast trains offer greater comfort and speed.

THE MAN WHO KNOWS.

The Sentinel not infrequently comes in contact with the man who knows it cannot be done; who shrinks before he thinks, quits before he hits, succumbs to fright before he makes his fight; the man whose hand is always on the reverse lever. His imagination digs ditches along the road and builds barriers at every stage of the way. You have met him. He belongs to no particular class; the world has known him at every evolution. His ancestors pitted Archimedes and derided his promise to detect the adulteration in the king's crown. His grandfather would have condemned Fulton to a padded cell; five years ago he would have wagered that no man could sail the air, and he's the same who smiled knowingly when Bell proposed to send his words a hundred miles.

Don't let him worry you. If he cannot be kept in the line of progress shove him to the rear; the path of do-something cannot be obstructed by him who cries failure before the start is made.

The opposition to the creation of Nesmith county—meaning Eugene and Roseburg—filed no negative argument with the secretary of

state. Why? Simply because it has no logical argument that it dares to put before the voters of the state officially. It prefers to go about bushwhacking.

STATEMENT IS WANTED.

There have been so many conflicting stories regarding the municipality's financial condition, and the several purposes for which expenditures have been made during the past, that an accurate public statement from the council might allay further speculations on the subject. At this particular time, when taxpayers are called upon to vote bonds for the liquidation of the city's indebtedness, this information should be voluntarily forthcoming that all may possess a perfect knowledge of the financial status. It is generally conceded, we believe, that there is necessity for issuing bonds in some sum not exceeding \$30,000, and The Sentinel feels confident that the people will concur in the opinion of the council and vote them, but they should not be asked to do so without first having the official statement mentioned for their guidance in the matter. It has been a long time since such a statement was made public, and the people have a right to know these things. If The Sentinel is not misinformed the charter provides for a detailed annual statement of this character, but none has been made for two years, except the incomplete and incomprehensible one of last spring. The condition of the city demands that some action be taken to give confidence in its ability to pay its obligations, but then the people should be given an opportunity to vote intelligently upon the question.

THE MALE NIGHTSHIRT.

It is a relief from the strenuousness of politics to have the editor of an exchange lay aside "the assembly" long enough to find fault with the male nightshirt. The scribe sees no affinity between elegance and the nightshirt. He enters complaint that it makes an exhibit of a man's pedal extremities and flaps when he walks. But suppose it does. If there is any place on this globular wad where a man has a perfect right to expose his legs, it is in the sanctity of his own bedroom. So long as one does not use the nightgown for society purposes what if it does hist up a bit when a man sits on his downy couch, or flaps when he hops across the room in an endeavor to disengage his off hind leg from his trousers? Of course if a man is given to incubus, nightmare or somnambulism, and is not content to promenade under his own vine and fig tree, then we say, for the peace of the community, he should don pajamas. It is a mighty mean sleepwalker that will break the rest of his neighbors by promiscuously strolling the thoroughfares in an abbreviated robe de chambre that hunches indelicately above hirsute legs and flutters in the breeze like a kite fastened to a telegraph pole. In cases of this character The Sentinel agrees with mind-wanderings of the esthetic editor, but otherwise, no.

SCREW LOSE SOMEWHERE.

After a careful perusal of the figures presented by Collector of Internal Revenue David M. Dunne, it would appear to The Sentinel that prohibition does not prohibit, in Oregon at least. There are now only thirteen wet counties in the state, twenty-one having adopted prohibition, yet the revenue derived from government distilled liquor license in Oregon for the past fiscal year aggregates \$37,937 more than for the fiscal year 1909. The total receipts for distilled liquor licenses for the past year were \$307,208. In the same period the receipts from beer licenses were \$224,721, which was the largest in the history of the state, exceeding the previous banner year, 1907, by \$18,965.

The totals published by the collector of internal revenues for the past few years show a rapid increase in license revenue for both spirituous and fermented liquors. In 1907 the tax on distilled was but \$76,871, in 1908 it leaped to \$258,100, raised to \$269,270 in 1909,

and last year made another big gain, going up to \$307,208. Fermented liquors, which mean principally beer, yielded \$205,766 in 1907, \$196,905 in 1908, \$197,230 in 1909, and last year went up to \$224,721.

ROASTS COMMITTEE.

The Drain Nonpareil favors the creation of every proposed county in the state with the single exception of Nesmith, whose territory proposed Williams county, which was promoted after the Nesmith proposition had been endorsed by the people of the state, would pilfer by overlapping its boundaries in both Lane and Douglas counties. The Nonpareil, very naturally, would not favor this proposed county because of the fact that its ambition is to become the county seat of Williams, a scheme inaugurated to defeat the formation of Nesmith. It is practically admitted that Williams county would not have come into the arena at this time had it not been thought that its promotion would serve to defeat the legitimate Nesmith proposition. It is even intimated that Lane and Douglas knockers had something to do with bringing it out, believing that while it could not win on its merits it would confuse matters, defeat Nesmith and keep this section paying tribute to the respective county seats indefinitely.

The Nonpareil, in its last issue, takes the Lane and Douglas anti-division committee to task for endeavoring to defeat all county division measures simply because it would have the scalp of Nesmith, and says editorially: "We cannot do an injury to other people in the hope of making gain for ourselves! . . . We very much fear that in asking the state to vote against the 'division schemes fostered by little villages and ambitious politicians' it is seeking to promote the schemes of big cities and big politicians." While the Nonpareil is strenuously opposed to the creation of Nesmith county for selfish reasons only, it is in favor of every other new county proposed, and calls upon the joint committee to stop "whipping the devil around the stump."

On August 22 a special election will be held for the purpose of making amendments to the city charter that will permit the municipal council to proceed with a number of contemplated improvements in streets and sewers, and also to issue bonds for the liquidation of all outstanding warrants, amounting to approximately \$21,000. It is proposed by the aldermanic body, and considered wise by a considerable number of citizens, to issue bonds in the sum of \$30,000 in order to afford working capital with which to conduct the city's business. The outstanding warrants are now drawing 6 per cent interest, and the bonds would bear the same rate. The proposition looks good to The Sentinel. There is no good and sufficient reason why the holders of warrants should not have their money under these conditions, and there is reason for putting the city in a position where it can pay its way as it goes.

There is considerable sentiment throughout the state in favor of the movement to give each locality and incorporated city a voice in saying how its affairs as regards the sale of liquor shall be conducted, and yet some of the supporters of the measure that has this end in view refuse to admit that those people who are seeking self-government through the creation of new counties should have the right to administer their own affairs. But it makes a difference whose ox is gored.

Large tracts of land which have been held in this locality by individuals are constantly being divided into small tracts, and sold to home-seekers from other states.

According to reports from throughout the state few voters are registering, and to date a small percentage has been recorded. It behooves every voter, no matter where he resides, to register at once, and thus avoid the rush that will naturally result in the event

such action is delayed until the eleventh hour. Those who fail to register will not be allowed to vote unless they pass through the undesirable formality of "swearing in their votes," which at the best is very inconvenient.

Albany Citizen: The Lane and Douglas opponents to the formation of Nesmith county, which they term a "nefarious scheme," are leaving no stone unturned to defeat the measure. One of the ingenious arguments they advance is that all propositions for county division should be left to the districts affected for settlement by vote. This would give any particular section of a district in which the inhabitants desired to carve out a new county a fat chance for success, perhaps once in a century or so, with the preponderant voting power located in the older settled part of the county. The argument of the anti-divisionists will not appeal very strongly to any one who gives the matter a second thought.

No man who produces a newspaper that is at least twenty-five years behind the times from a mechanical standpoint should be elected state printer. The office should have a practical, up-to-date member of the "art preservative," one who would be a credit to the "profesh," and not one whose productions have the appearance of having been "set" with shoe-pegs and printed on a hay press.

The Seventh ward in Portland will be divided. Why? Because of increased population and its large area, the same ground on which county division is sought. And The Oregonian is not opposing the measure, either.

The Roseburg Review is entitled to the cup for being the champion liar of the state. It endeavors to make capital against county division by stating that the city of Cottage Grove has an indebtedness of \$200,000. This, like most of its statements regarding this city, is untrue. Cottage Grove has an indebtedness of \$148,000, and is abundantly able to pay every dollar of it, and more too.

Cottage Grove needs an opera house. Under present conditions the city is handicapped in securing attractions of any character.

The growth and prosperity of a town is always indicated by the newspapers it supports.

Registration closes September 14. Do it now.

In the death of Harvey W. Scott Oregon loses one of its brightest minds. The state is in mourning.

Now is the time for Cottage Grove to request the Southern Pacific company to keep its promise and erect a modern passenger station in this city. The street paving is going forward.

After all, Bryan's experience is not new. It has always been a trait of human kind to follow men only so long as they promise to lead the way to victory. "Applause waits on success," said Franklin; "the fickle multitude, like the straw that floats along the stream, glide with the current still and follow fortune."

Drinking water will be supplied at the Oregon state fair grounds this year from several driven wells forced to fountains by a compressed air system.

The building record for 1910 will be surprising. While the business district has had no important additions, new residences have been reared in all parts of the city, showing a substantial growth.

The stage line between this city and Bohemia, inaugurated a fortnight since, is doing a thriving business. It should have the encouragement of the business people of Cottage Grove.

The present municipal administration said it would pave Main street. And it is keeping faith with the people.

United States Senator Elihu Root, of New York, may be appointed a member of the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague to succeed the late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Melville W. Fuller.



The Man Who

Signs the Checks

wants to know that the money to pay them will be ready when they are presented. Our methods are safe and conservative. The lure of large profits does not induce us to loan on or invest in doubtful securities. If you want to feel that your money is safe, we solicit your account.

Bank of Cottage Grove

SHOES

There's been a lot of talk in this man's town

about footwear, but in getting down to tacks, it devolves upon us to shoe the shoeless public with the best for the "fewest" simoleons. Listen, ye!

Our men's, women's and children's shoes are made to wear, not to wear-out. They are the product of shoemakers who have a reputation to sustain, and not by novices who are here to-day and there tomorrow.

Every shoe we show has style, fit, wearing qualities and solid comfort. What more could you ask? They're not only low in cut but in price, too. We have, also, high ones cut low. Shoe satisfaction is our guarantee, absolutely....

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