

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

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RECORDS OF SHARP AND RONEY ATTACKED BY COL. MERCER

Would Dethrone Princes of Inefficiency and Extravagance Now in the County Court.

RONEY IS MORE DANGEROUS

Nothing Is Bought Here That Can Be Bought in Portland, Speaker Declares.

Like a father denying his own flesh and blood, Colonel W. G. D. Mercer Thursday night attacked the public records of County Commissioner Roney, of whose platform he declared himself the author, and of County Commissioner Emmett Sharp, to whom he declared he had given his support when he was a candidate for the position. These men had betrayed him, he declared. Both had broken every pledge of economy and efficiency they had made.

A death-like stillness greeted the speaker as he stepped forward to start his address. Many had anticipated that some attack might be made upon the personal character of the two men. A scathing denunciation was anticipated by others. Expectation was heightened when the speaker removed his coat and rolled up his sleeves. Colonel Mercer confined himself, however, almost entirely to an expose of the alleged inefficiency and extravagance that had been expensive to the county. He endeavored to show that an alleged studied policy upon the part of the commissioners to buy nothing at home that could be bought in Portland had proved expensive; that to every item thus purchased a hundred or two or three hundred dollars had been added to the Lane county price—and this by commissioners pledged to economy.

He endeavored to show that commissioners who had given their pledge that expensive foremen and superintendents would be done away with, with a saving to the county, had paid more for superintendents than any preceding administration and had shipped in the labor to which these high wages were paid, so that the county had not a chance to get back its own money through the channels of trade.

The auditorium of the high school was filled, a number of those present being opponents of the recall who wished to learn what the other side had to say. Because of circumstances which occurred at the last moment, Colonel Mercer had to revise his prepared address as he proceeded, which put him at something of a disadvantage.

"I come here, not for revenge, not for the hope of reward, but to appeal for purity in public and private life, to appeal to the taxpayers to dethrone the princes of extravagance now seated in the county court. Roney is the more dangerous man of the two, for he has the better brain, the higher mentality and consequently can do the more serious injury. In addition he has the longer term to serve."

"A member of the county court can not legally sell his own property to the county. Upon the 13th day of January following the day that Roney took office, his bridge tools were sold to the county. That he knew this could not be legally done was shown by the fact that they reached the county through a third party who had been drawn in through subterfuge and had no intention of being a party to a transaction of that kind.

"Roney promised in no uncertain terms that he would superintend the bridge work of the county, with a great saving to the county treasury. What is the record he has made in only a year's time?"

"Take the repairs on the North Fork bridge, requiring the services of only three laborers for a few days. All bids were rejected and a contract entered into with the Union Bridge company. A foreman and three men were shipped in from Portland and Washington. Not only was the foreman paid a salary of \$10 a day for superintending three men, upon which the county paid a bonus of \$1, but the 10 per cent wage was added to the fares of the men from Portland and Washington. Laborers were paid \$7 and \$8 a day, and this was during the time that the county had two competent bridge foremen upon its payroll at a wage not greater than that paid the laborers shipped in from elsewhere. The county was mulcted to the tune of \$447.99 on this one deal alone, all because Roney did not keep his platform pledges.

"Take the repairs on the Springfield bridge. Again for some mysterious reason all bids were rejected and a contract at cost plus 10 per cent was let to the Union Bridge company. The county paid \$35 for lumber that had been offered at \$27.50 and paid the 10 per cent profit on the higher figure. Under the cost plus 10 per cent system, it is good business for the contractor to get his costs as high as possible. The greater the cost the greater his profits. Again foreign labor was imported at a wage greater than that commanded by Lane county labor. The county was mulcted on this deal to the tune of \$2000 or

TAXES IN LANE \$83,000 LESS THAN LAST YEAR

Every Item on Roll, Except One, Shows Decrease From Last Year's Amount.

Lane county property owners will pay \$83,408.76 less taxes this year than they did last year. The total amount to be collected this year is \$1,473,359.95 as compared to \$1,556,763.71 last year.

The state and county taxes are \$35,046.58 less this year than last and every item on the roll is less except that of the port of Siuslaw, which is \$678.59 greater this year than last.

A comparison of the items in the summary this year with those of last year, as furnished by Assessor Knoey, follows:

State and county taxes—1922 roll, \$899,795.39; 1923 roll, \$864,748.81; decrease, \$35,046.58.
Special school taxes—1922 roll, \$339,284.51; 1923 roll, \$333,197.51; decrease, \$6,087.
Special union high school taxes—1922 roll, \$20,123.81; 1923 roll, \$18,126.03; decrease, \$1,997.78.
Special county high school tuition fund—1922 roll, \$30,129.19; 1923 roll, nothing; decrease, \$30,129.19.
Special road taxes—1922 roll, \$45,932.54; 1923 roll, \$40,104.22; decrease, \$5,828.32.
Special city taxes—1922 roll, \$193,617.32; 1923 roll, \$189,316.82; decrease, \$4,300.50.
Special port of Siuslaw taxes—1922 roll, \$23,403.29; 1923 roll, \$24,081.88; increase, \$678.59.
Forest fire patrol taxes—1922 roll, \$4452.71; 1923 roll, \$3779.68; decrease, \$673.03.
Squirrel claims—1922 roll, \$23.95; 1923 roll, nothing; decrease, \$23.95.
Total—1922 roll, \$1,556,764.71; 1923 roll, \$1,473,359.95; decrease, \$83,404.76.

better—all because Roney forgot his platform pledges.

"The county commissioners decided that they wished an electric compressor and bids were received. Roney told the Eugene dealer making the low bid that the order would be given him, but a few days later Roney went to Portland and bought identically the same machine at \$83 more than the bid of the Eugene dealer.

"I am not accusing Roney of graft, but I would like to know who gets the difference between the Lane county price and the price paid to outside dealers."

"Why can't Lane county dealers sell tires to the county? Eugene has the largest tire dealer in Oregon and this dealer has always made prices lower than those made by Portland dealers, whom the county commissioners insist upon patronizing. Upon one order of tires alone Sharp and Roney paid the Cascade Tire company, of Portland, \$158.20 more than the price of identically the same article from the Eugene dealer. The Cascade Tire company is a subsidiary of the Warren Construction company. One must wonder why the Warren Construction company is the recipient of so many favors from the present commissioners. I am accusing no one of theft, but the results to the county are the same as though outright theft had been committed. Who will give me an explanation of all these purchases at higher prices than those of Lane county merchants?"

"Just north of your city is a Buffalo-Pitt road roller standing out in the weather. From my investigation I find that this roller was given in exchange for another road roller owned by the county, which was in every way as good as the roller that was received in exchange, and yet the records show that there is yet due on this roller the amount of \$2400. At least, upon the invoice appears the statement, signed by Mr. Sharp alone, 'Balance due April, 1924, \$2400.' This is all the record there is of this nefarious deal that will cost the county \$2400. Why were the number plates torn from this dilapidated old road roller? Someone must have wished to prevent identification, but I found numbers that had been overlooked. This road roller deal is so rotten that the man in the moon must hold his nose when he passes over the roller."

The speaker exhibited a sign which he had had painted to place near the old roller where all who passed might read. The sign read as follows: "Lane county's Teapot Dome. Notice this old roller. Balance due April 1, 1924, \$2400. E. Sharp."

"Lane county business men," the speaker continued, "are entitled to the business of Lane county upon equal or better terms than those offered others. Why then was \$1364.35 worth of oil bought from the Indian Refining company without so much as the formality of calling for bids, as required by law?"

The speaker listed a total of \$19,108.47 of illegal overdrfts and remarked that no wonder the county couldn't pay the \$2400 due on the old road roller that was never worth more than the one given in exchange.

"I didn't come to disclose all of the pitiful story," the speaker continued. "I have worked 38 days and nights in gathering the information and it would take me a week's time to give all the information I have which is supported by the records or by affidavits."

Salesbooks for merchants—The Sentinel.

SENTINEL HAS PRAISE FOR SHARP

In a letter published in these columns a week ago, J. H. Hawley questioned whether The Sentinel had ever said a good word for Emmett Sharp. Since that time others have expressed the opinion that The Sentinel has ever been a Sharp knocker. The Sentinel has taken pains to make a hasty examination of some of its files and it is with pleasure that it gives a number of quotations from its own columns which indicate that it was ready to give Emmett Sharp every opportunity to make good.

In addition to publishing the complimentary things which The Sentinel has said about Mr. Sharp it will make this proposition: IF ANYONE WILL SHOW WHERE THE SENTINEL SAID ONE WORD AT ANY TIME DEROGATORY TO THE CANDIDACY OF MR. SHARP, IT WILL RETRACT EVERY WORD WHICH IT HAS SAID ABOUT MR. SHARP. Any who wish to take advantage of this offer will be given free access to the files of The Sentinel for that purpose. Any who doubt the genuineness of any of the quotations given herewith may examine the files in The Sentinel office and read the originals with their own eyes.

Cottage Grove Sentinel, May 10, 1916: "J. B. Foster (of Detroit, Mich.) spoke highly of the concrete roads in California but said the roads of Oregon are much better than the roads in northern California. He especially spoke of the splendid road into the city from the south in the district in which Emmett Sharp is supervisor. He said this is a perfect road and could not be improved upon. He made 50 miles the hour coming in over this."

Cottage Grove Sentinel, June 7, 1916: "Emmett Sharp's district is an example of what road patrol will do even on a small scale, and there are many examples near at hand of good roads going to pieces in one or two years without patrol."

Cottage Grove Sentinel, June 29, 1916: "The same committee also reported that from its investigation of the patrol road in Emmett Sharp's district, compared with other roads in other districts that are not patrolled, they believed that road patrol should be given a thorough trial at once. As near as the committee could learn, the expense of patrol and repairs was about \$50 the mile."

Cottage Grove Sentinel, March 12, 1920: "Mr. Sharp will be a candidate upon his record as a road builder and a constructive program for reducing the cost of county government. At one time Mr. Sharp maintained the Latham road, which he built, so that for two years it re-

COTTAGE GROVE TIMBER IS DESIGNATED FOR CRUISE

Commissioners Start Nease to Work on Contract Which Caused Much Contention.

The county commissioners, despite all contention over the Nease timber cruising contract, have designated the 16,000 acres of timber land to be cruised this year and an order directing M. G. Nease to go ahead with the cruise has been signed. Commissioners L. N. Roney and Emmett Sharp signed the order but Judge C. P. Barnard declined. He has voted against the Nease contract from the outset.

The lands to be cruised this year are located in three distinct sections of the county. One block is situated on the headwaters of the Mohawk river and north of the McKenzie river, another southwest of Eugene on the upper Siuslaw river and the third southeast of Cottage Grove on Mosby creek and tributaries.

The tracts of timber designated by the county court to be cruised this year are described as to township and range as follows:

- In township 19 south of range 7 west, 10,960 acres; township 20 south of range 6 west, 7680 acres; township 20 south of range 7 west, 1600 acres, all in the vicinity of Mound, on the upper Siuslaw.

- In township 21 south of range 1 west, sections 1 to 4 inclusive, sections 9 to 16 inclusive and sections 21 to 24 inclusive, 10,940 acres; township 22 south of range 1 west, 16,000 acres, southeast of Cottage Grove.

- In township 15 south of range 1 west, 7231 acres, in the vicinity of Mabel.

- In township 15 south of range 1 east, 12,480 acres; township 15 south of range 2 east, 5540 acres; township 15 south of range 3 east, 2335 acres, north of the McKenzie river and east of Wendling.

- In township 16 south of range 1 west, 3200 acres, in the vicinity of Wendling.

- In township 16 south of range 1 east, 3920 acres, north of Vida.

- In township 16 south of range 2 east, 12,440 acres; township 16 south of range 3 east, 6574 acres, north of Blue River.

NEAR RIOT RESULT WHEN RECALL PETITIONS ARE RECEIVED AT LOWELL

"There was a regular riot when the recall petitions arrived at Lowell," stated Frank Blair, of that place, who was here Thursday on business. "It was almost necessary to have them stand in line to get a chance to sign. Practically every person in that section will have his name signed to the petitions."

Mr. Blair accompanied Mr. Blair and they remained to hear Colonel Mercer give his talk that evening on "The Truth About Sharp and Roney." Before leaving, Mr. Blair arranged to have Colonel Mercer appear at Lowell and promised that there would be an even larger audience there than there was here, where the high school auditorium was completely filled.

NELSON DOESN'T LIKE TO HAVE CIPHER ADDED TO MILEAGE OF USED CAR

N. J. Nelson Jr. objects because The Sentinel can't tell the difference between 2400 and 24,000. The trouble is that N. J. writes too much like an editor. He wrote an ad for a Gray car for sale. He said it had been run only 2400 miles. The printer made it 24,000. The printer has explained that he thought a Gray car run only 2400 miles would be sold as brand new and that to say that a Gray car had only run 24,000 miles was the same as saying it had hardly been used at all. This is not an admittedly an explanation.

SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD WITH MAY PRIMARY

The question has been asked many times as to when the special recall election will be held in case sufficient names are secured to the recall petitions. While it is understood that the law requires that such an election shall be held coincident with a regular or primary election to be held within 90 days, those in charge of the recall move are arranging to file their petitions at such time that the special election will be held at the same time as the primary, the same election officials serving for both.

American Legion Buys Building

The American Legion post has bought the Bender bakery building near the bridge. The purchase was made in anticipation of erecting a community house upon the property but the building will be rented until the Legion raises sufficient funds to start its building.

GRANGE AND UNION ARE NOT BACKING RECALL

Members of These Organizations Are, However, as Citizens Ready to Oust Commissioners.

Creswell grange, at a meeting held Saturday, adopted resolutions in opposition to the proposed recall of Commissioners Sharp and Roney on the ground that the commissioners are not guilty of either malfeasance or inefficiency in office. It was said that not more than half of those present voted upon the resolution.

The county farmers' union has adopted a resolution stating that it is an organization is not behind the recall.

The Sentinel has not at any time stated that either the grange or farmers' union organization was backing the recall, nor has it seen such a statement made in print.

The Sentinel and other newspapers have stated that the recall candidates were selected by men who are members of the grange and farmers' union. This statement is not disputed.

A prominent member of the grange has stated to The Sentinel that, while the grange as an organization can not endorse the recall move, he believes that more than half of the members of the grange will vote for the recall.

HAND TAKES BRITISH CHAMP INTO CAMP THIS TIME

Second Go Between Bone Crushers Is Thriller; Clapham Is Bear for Punishment.

Ralph Hand, local middleweight, won his match here Tuesday night with Sam Clapham, British light heavyweight wrestling champion, when the latter forfeited the match after each had secured a fall. The Britisher had about 25 the better if it is weight.

Clapham remembered Hand's susceptibility to the headlock and won the first fall with this hold in 20 minutes, when Hand slapped the mat rather than take further punishment. In their match three weeks ago Hand fought his headlock until he went to the mat down and out, but this time he gave in early, came back strong, kept his head out of the Britisher's terrible biceps and slapped headlocks, hammerlocks and toeholds onto his larger antagonist until he had him groggy. Clapham is a bear for taking punishment and writhed in pain for several minutes in a grueling head scissors and hammerlock before telling the referee that he would give the fall. His arms were so firmly locked that he could not reach the mat to slap it. This fall went 39 minutes. After being granted an additional five minutes and being advised by a physician that the arm to which the hammerlock had been applied was in such condition that it would be foolish for him to again go on the mat, he asked to be excused from continuing the match.

Clapham's superior weight and muscular development, coupled with his ability to take punishment, saved him from several holds that seemed certain falls.

The arm which was injured in this match is the same one injured in Clapham's match with Ted Tye. In the preliminaries, Kenneth and Harvey Williams, midget brothers, wrestled to a draw, Robert Vench won a wrestling match from Carl McCollum, and Bud Riley and Fred Riley boxed four two-minute rounds to a draw.

William Patton refereed the preliminaries and Mike Mosby was the third man in the ring for the main event.

Legion Picture Draws Big Houses.

"The Man Without a Country," given Thursday and Friday at the Arende under the auspices of the American Legion, drew crowded houses for both exhibitions and the legion netted \$70 for its community house fund.

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RECALL PETITIONS ARE BEING FREELY SIGNED HERE

It is Estimated That Total of 800 Signatures Will Be Obtained in South Lane.

The Sharp and Roney recall petitions, which have been in circulation here during the past few days, are being quite generally signed. So far they have been circulated largely in the county outside the city—along Mosby creek, Row river and Coast fork and in the Divide neighborhood. Petitions bearing 40 names have been returned from the road district south of the city in which Sharp made a reputation as a road builder years before he thought of becoming a candidate for county commissioner.

A report has reached here that every employe in one sawmill, which has about 40 men on its payroll, has signed.

It is planned to organize a local committee here and to employ some one to circulate petitions over the city. It is thought that at least 500 names can be secured by this method. It is estimated that 50 per cent of the voters are willing to sign and that a total of 800 names will be signed in this end of the county.

A report has been brought that 90 per cent of the voters in the Lorane country will get their names onto the petitions. Feeling there is high against the commissioners because of the unsatisfactory work done on the Cottage Grove-Lorane road.

SILK UNDERWEAR CANNOT BE BOUGHT AT \$5 SUIT, SAY THOSE WHO KNOW

The Sentinel has been informed that it must have been mistaken when it said the county commissioners bought silk underwear at \$5 the suit for a woman resident of Eugene who is a charge upon the county.

Those who take exception to the statement say that silk underwear can't be bought at that price. Possibly it can't. The Sentinel has never bought any and doesn't know. Very few of those who help pay \$5 a suit for underwear for a woman charge of the county know whether or no silk underwear can be bought at that price.

The Sentinel will give Sharp and Roney sufficient space to tell whether or not the underwear was silk. There is no dispute about the cost of the underwear purchased at \$5 the suit. The commissioners will also be given space to explain how the county can afford to buy turkey feeds for its charges, when many of those who pay for such feeds are unable to buy such feeds for themselves.

PAVING COMPANY PRESENTED \$5000 BY LANE COUNTY

Struggling Taxpayers Ask Why Such Charity Towards Wealthy Corporation.

Many are wondering why the Warren Construction company should be the recipient of so many favors from County Commissioners Sharp and Roney.

It was bad enough, many think, for the commissioners to refuse to buy automobile and truck tires at home and purchase them from a subsidiary of the Warren Construction company, but the act of the commissioners in making the company a present of about \$5000 in connection with the construction of the Lorane road has caused many uncomplimentary questions to be asked.

It is certain beyond any question of doubt that the Warren company would have insisted upon the fulfillment of any part of their contract that meant money in their pockets. They would have made no division of profits with the county under any circumstances.

When the construction company stood ready to insist that the county fill its part of the agreement to the letter, many want to know what pressure could have been brought to bear to induce the commissioners to relieve the construction company of the \$25-a-day penalty which it was to have paid beginning September 1 of last year. The total penalty from that time to the time that the company could complete the road would amount to not less than \$5000.

Why were the county commissioners so thoughtful of this great corporation, which is making millions annually, and so thoughtless of the taxpayers of Lane county, many of whom are struggling to pay their tax bills? Why should this bloated corporation be made a present of \$5000?

That is the question that is being asked. The Sentinel will give Sharp and Roney sufficient space to make an explanation. The taxpayers believe they are entitled to one.

C. G. H. S. IS REPRESENTED AT EXPOSITION AT O. A. C.

The Cottage Grove high school was well represented at the educational exposition held Friday and Saturday at Corvallis by the Oregon Agricultural college. Five delegates, Homer Dickson, student body president; Lewis Strobeck, Elmer Young, Bernice Brainard and Virginia Bosley, with two teachers, Miss Myrtle Lay and Miss Maude Lamson, went to represent the school. Other high school students who attended were Ray Godard, Ethel Lambert, Mary Cornutt and Lloyd Armes. The purpose of the exposition was to give high school students a direct insight into the courses offered by the institution, thus making it easier for them to select the college course they may wish to pursue. Nearly every high school in the state was represented.

DOUBLE HEADER BASKET BALL GAME ON TOMORROW

A double header basket ball game between the C. G. H. S. boys' team and the Eugene high school hoopers, and the local girls' basketball squad and the Corvallis girls' team will be played here tomorrow evening in the armory.

The line-up for the local boys' team is to be as follows: John Hewitt (F), Cletus Swanson (F), Dana McCargar (C), Dale Miller (G), William Skilling (G), Delmas Richmond (S), Gordon Wright (S), Clarence Adams (8), and Ross Glass (8).

The regular girls' squad, which is made up of Dolly Pitzer, Crystal Robinson, Mabel Martin, Frances Cameron, Frances Newlin, Bernadine Schneider, Alverda Finch, Hilda Favor and Daisy Bennett, will represent the high school in the girls' game.

SENTINEL OFFERS FULL OPPORTUNITY FOR REPLY TO SHARP AND RONEY

In following out its policy of endeavoring to give a square deal to all sides of a controversy, The Sentinel has notified Commissioners Sharp and Roney that they will be permitted to answer any charges made against them by The Sentinel. If they fail to do so, The Sentinel will take it for granted that the charges are admitted to be true.

The letter to the commissioners read as follows:

Cottage Grove, Ore., Feb. 22, 1924. —Messrs. Sharp and Roney, County Commissioners, Eugene, Ore.—Gentlemen: This is notice that The Sentinel will give you a fair chance to answer any charge which has been, or may be, made against you by The Sentinel during the recall campaign. If you hold a meeting here, you will receive the same publicity as that given meetings opposing you. In taking advantage of this offer of ours, kindly furnish your copy early enough in the week so as to inconvenience us as little as possible. We must reserve the right to use our own judgment as to how far we can permit you to go in attempting to refute charges not made by The Sentinel, but shall endeavor to give you every reasonable opportunity to defend yourselves.

This offer is not made to cover this particular case. It is our established policy to give a square deal to all sides in any public controversy.

Yours truly,
COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL.