

Cottage Grove Sentinel
A Weekly Newspaper With Plenty of Backbone

Bede & Smith, Publishers
Eibert Bede, Editor

A first-class publication entered at Cottage Grove as second-class matter
Business Office.....55 North Sixth

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One year.....\$2.25
Three months 65c
Six months.....1.15
Single copy.....5c

Member of
National Editorial Association
Oregon State Editorial Association
Oregon Newspaper Conference
Lane County Publishers' Association

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1924.

TELLS WHAT LORANE THINKS OF ROAD.

Lorane, Ore., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—The story which Commissioners Sharp and Roney have given to the newspapers concerning the report of a committee of the Cottage Grove commercial club upon the condition of the Cottage Grove-Lorane road is too ridiculous to pass up, as the commissioners gave the impression that the residents of this section of the county have recanted and are now satisfied with this road.

Apparently it seems that, to many at least, records, substantiated facts and figures are of little consequence. It is with considerable reluctance that I enter this protest and quote some facts as follows:

The commissioners promised a committee of some thirty from Cottage Grove and Lorane that they would build a waterbound macadam—such a road as was contemplated in the measure in which the road bond money was provided. They did not keep their promise.

Late in October, after fall rains had set in and rocking had almost ceased, with nearly half of the road rocked, both base and top, two Lorane men and one Cottage Grove

man expressed their disgust to the county engineer and agreed with him that it was folly to attempt to make a waterbound macadam of such an outlay by placing a roller on at that late date.

The commissioners—after the road was this far along, mind you—used this conversation to absolve themselves from their promise to the committee of thirty. Now they attempt to play a smooth political game and would put Cottage Grove on record as telling the commissioners to go ahead and finish the road in the manner in which the commissioners—contrary to their promise—have so far constructed the road.

The chairman of this committee from the Cottage Grove commercial club made a motion that the commissioners be instructed to go ahead with such a program. The club refused to make any such recommendation, being almost unanimous for the commissioners to now be responsible for the road and take the credit or blame for its future condition.

The chairman of this committee, who is an appointed county official, said that so far as he was concerned Lorane could go to hell. That expression goes well with an expression of approval of the way this road has been built. Lorane will be safer, however, from any such consequences during next winter if the only way to get there is over this road.

Lorane is very much of the same opinion regarding this sort of road construction as always, only more so.

We are now thoroughly convinced that no rock should be put on a grade until the grade is well rolled, the low places filled in and rolled so that your rock lays on a smooth, solid foundation; then roll your rock, each course—road men know how much to roll it or they should be taken off the roller. Leave out your infernal mud or dirt filler. Leastwise don't put on gobs of mud with a Fresno as on the Cottage Grove-Lorane road.

Don't let the "dera" contractors wear the road out hauling over it with their big trucks. You wouldn't allow it if you were building it yourself, also paying for it.

Closer rock pits are also advisable and last but not least, guard the interests of the taxpaying and general public whose servant you should be rather than the interests of the big contractor.

No, we are not satisfied with the Cottage Grove-Lorane road. What a wonderful chance there was to make a dandy good all-year road of it.

You may call this politics or whatever you like, call the Lorane people all the names you wish, even tell them to go to hell, but you can never harmonize economy and good business with this said Cottage Grove-Lorane road.

O. E. CROWE.

BOYD PLAYS JOHNSTON.

Cottage Grove, March 22.—(To the Editor.)—I attended District Attorney Johnston's recall meeting. It was what I call a cold reception. It reminded me of a southern party meeting with just enough there to say amen. I would ask for space for the word "piffle" to describe my conception of the meeting.

Ye gods. Smelled to high heaven. Friends, did you read between the lines and look behind the scenes? Johnston told us at taxpayers' meeting that the Nease timber cruise contract smelled to high heaven, but I am telling you that one doesn't need to get within a block of the district attorney's office to smell the timber interests. Of course he denies it, but, for example, if you had been out stealing chickens, would you deny it? Of course.

Johnston told us that our commissioners are a pair of crooks. Johnston, you seem to know so well how to plan just what a crook might do. You are so ready to represent every contractor, with whom our court has dealt, as a crook, and so ready to have us believe it is a disgrace for an official to be seen in the company of a contractor that I confess, Johnston, I believe you must have a past and

a darned black one at that.

Briefly, for example, Johnston told us that, because the commissioners changed the preliminary estimate of the county engineer (which is never anything but approximate, hence subject to change) and allowed for more intermediate excavation and less common excavation, they must have received their share of this additional amount paid to the contractors on account of the change in classification and were therefore crooks. I know of just such an instance near Cottage Grove where contractors, working under the state engineers, found when they got into the work, much more intermediate excavation and much less common excavation than was shown by the engineer's preliminary estimate and were paid accordingly by the state. This brought the contractors much greater pay for the job and the state highway department was not accused of getting their share of the "spread."

Johnston emphasized the fact that the different funds were withdrawn and money transferred from one fund to another to meet emergencies just like it was something very new and scandalous. In the Guard, of March 20, was the report of H. P. Markusen which should be read. He states that about February 1, 1923, when he was appointed, he knew that there was a bill of \$50 against the district money and that nearly all, if not all, of the special tax money had been expended in advance by the former patrolman under the supervision of the former county court. Understand the former county court had already spent this money. Is it not reasonable to suppose the same thing occurred in other districts? Then it would seem reasonable to believe that the present court might have to overdraw and transfer funds at times to meet emergencies. In my knowledge of other county road funds, handled by former county courts, this has been a general practice—nothing to cause alarm.

Is there not a rule that says that like can not be compared with unlike? Yet that is just what Johnston did when he compared past labor conditions with present. That is just what Johnston did when he compared the cost of various county road projects—projects dissimilar in local soil conditions, dissimilar in construction—with one state project, the Goshen-Lowell road, which already had been macadamized and had a splendid foundation. For instance we have near Cottage Grove, a dissimilar local project that was compared—the Lorane road where the right of way had to be cleared, a very expensive job, stumps had to be blasted out and an entirely new roadbed made.

Johnston also took the opportunity to explain away any credit due our county court for helping to lower our taxes. Evidently he thought our brains were rusty. Never mind who gets the credit, Johnston, the taxes have started down this year and we taxpayers want them to keep the downward trend.

Evidently Johnston forgot to give his little piece, as given in Eugene, that reads to the effect that Sharp was going to run the wheels off the old bus to get near into the country and make asses out of the farmers. That done was for people away from Sharp's home town that might more easily believe. Think it over. He didn't spring it here where Emmett Sharp was reared and where people could readily detect lingo absolutely foreign to his nature. A small thing in itself but it expands my meaning in "piffle."

At the meeting held here Johnston alleged that certain things were true, he had the figures to prove it, but he lacked the evidence to convict. If he has the records for evidence and then is not able to prosecute for the want of evidence, I believe that they have the wrong covet up for recall. It seems that the one we should have like chickens to.

I say "piffle." Investigate and think for yourselves. Only sign a recall petition after you have investigated both sides of the question.

Now that our Lorane road is not so bad as the editor of The Sentinel thought it, perhaps Nels Roney and Emmett Sharp are not so bad as they are painted.

Johnston says there are men in the penitentiary that are better men than either Nels Roney or Emmett Sharp and that he would like to send them there.

There may be better men in hell than District Attorney Johnston and I'd like to tell him to go there. S. W. BOYD.

The Sentinel is taking it for granted, in view of the fact that his name is signed to it, that Mr. Boyd wrote the foregoing communication. It has, however, become rather common practice during the recall campaign for communications to appear over the names of those who did not see what they were signing until it was presented for their signatures. The Sentinel's comment will be of the character due one of Mr. Boyd's years and standing in the community.

Mr. Boyd's word "piffle" is a good one to use in connection with the charge that the timber interests started the recall. A timber cruise (possibly not the Nease timber cruise) is going ahead regardless of the result of the recall.

Mr. Boyd has been financially successful in life, but he never let a contract for any large amount of money in the schoolboy fashion that Lane county let a timber cruise contract.

excavation work had been done. That is quite a different matter. We stand in no fear of contradiction when we say that County Engineer Morse knows more about the grades of excavation than do either Sharp or Roney. After the excavation work had been done, after the engineer had submitted his figures stating that there was so much common and so much intermediate, after he as an engineer had prepared his estimate of work done—the estimate upon which the contractors were to be paid—the commissioners went out and looked at the work that had been done and arbitrarily changed the report of their own county engineer. That is what Mr. Johnston said, not what Mr. Boyd would have him say.

Mr. Boyd quite wisely refrains from mentioning some other things Mr. Johnston said about this particular piece of work.

Mr. Boyd misunderstood what Mr. Johnston said about overdrafts on road funds. He did not say that it was wrong to transfer from one fund to another in emergencies. What he said was that it was contrary to law to issue warrants on one fund to pay accounts due from another fund, which is quite a different thing.

By drawing road district warrants on the emergency fund, the commissioners were able to cover up a large part of the cost of certain roads, which is contrary to law. That is what Mr. Johnston called attention to.

The law says that when money is borrowed from any fund other than the emergency fund, the money must later be returned to the fund from which it is borrowed. This the commissioners have not been doing, with the result that a large amount of extravagant expenditures from some funds has been covered up.

What Mr. Johnston really said is quite different from what Mr. Boyd misunderstood him to say. Former county courts made their transfers legally and returned money when borrowed. They had nothing to cover up.

Were the present road building program being paid for by a direct tax (instead of with bond money), we would hear some howl about taxation. When the bond money is gone, when we have to start paying off the bonds with a direct tax and have to, at the same time, raise road maintenance money with a direct tax, we will hear something about taxation, and the extravagance of the present county court.

The Sentinel would like to invite Mr. Boyd to take a trip over the Lorane road and judge for himself the condition, but we understand that on account of the recent wet weather it has been again closed. That road has already cost nearly \$16,000 the mile. Back was offered the county at \$2.32 the yard laid on the road. The Warren Construction company was paid \$2.80 for 10,000 yards. That one item alone adds \$1000 the mile to the road. The road will have to be rebuilt from the bottom up before it has been used two years. That will add probably \$5000 the mile, but so long as Mr. Boyd and others enjoy paying for something about taxation, and the extravagance of the present county court.

JOHNSTON FURNISHES LAUGH FOR TURNER.

Cottage Grove, March 27.—(To the Editor.)—As busy as I am, I try to find time for my daily laugh and District Attorney Johnston has furnished me a good one.

To show his fairness and sincerity and to show how he could not possibly be out making speeches because he wants the office of district attorney, he offers, if the people would bring in the resignations of Commissioners Sharp and Roney and Assessor Keeney, to place his own resignation alongside of them. Such innocence! And Johnston can look about as innocent as the old cat did after he had swallowed the canary.

Now wouldn't that be a fine trade—sacrifice three good men to get rid of one—when there is a way that beats that if we only have the patience to wait until May?

I understand that Colonel Mercer, too, is now "paying his respects" to Ben F. Keeney, county assessor. Let's think a minute—what does this mean—Johnston and the rest, including the county assessor with the commissioners? It seems to me that it is pretty raw, a sort of sure shot for the timber interests. If one shot doesn't kill the timber cruise, the other is supposed to at least mortally wound it. In other words, should they fail in their attempt to get rid of the commissioners and their timber cruise, they would still have the assessor's office to fall back on. Naturally the next best thing for the big timber interests would be to oust Assessor Keeney, who has already made his stand admirably clear on the timber cruise question, and put in his place an assessor of their own choosing, for instance a recall promoter, who would be in a position to use the assessor's office to at least block the effectiveness of the timber cruise.

As much as we would appreciate seeing your resignation on the table, Johnston, I believe we will decline your offer—the price is too high.

FRANK TURNER.

Again The Sentinel is inclined to remark that many letters appearing in the press under various signatures have the earmarks of having been written by others.

Mr. Turner's defense of the commissioners loses some of its force because of the fact that it will be remembered that soon after Mr. Sharp became a county commissioner he appeared as a witness in a case wherein Mr. Turner had brought suit against the county. Despite the fact that Mr. Sharp was a county officer and was presumed to be looking after the county's interests, he testified that \$4000 of tax money ought to be paid Mr. Turner, when the view-

Spring Fashions

Every garment in our spring collection has been deftly tailored from the finest of fabrics in the models and colors representing the styles and favorites of the season. Spring fashion apparel of charming individuality can be secured from the new dresses and coats we are now showing. Each coat and dress bears the well known label



which is authority for style and quality. We invite you to have a look and try-on today of the new coats and dresses.

SPRING COATS OF CHARMING ORIGINALITY

For fickle spring days and evenings a coat of this type assures personal comfort and satisfaction. The well known dependable quality of "Palmer" fabrics, the cheerful spring colors and attractiveness of the styles harmonize and bring to these coats a very particular distinction. The price range is most reasonable, too.....\$16.50 to \$37.50

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The knitted sweaters and sweater suits have become an important item in a woman's spring and summer wardrobe. We are showing some most attractive styles including heavy knit sport sweaters, sleeveless sweaters, and knitted two-piece overblouse and skirt to match. The prices range.....\$3.95 to \$12.50

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ers and all other witnesses testified that the damage was a small part of that amount. The amount allowed by the viewers was allowed by the court.

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Purest Glycerin and Rosewater to protect their skin and soothe chapped hands and face.

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One of 200 Purest preparations for health and hygiene. Every item the best that skill and care can produce.

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Correct for all Dress Occasions

New beauty of design and new beauty of line distinguish the new shoes for spring and summer.

An inspection of our stock is the safest guide to a successful selection of correct footwear—the authentic trend of fashion is accurately portrayed in the new styles just received from Utz & Dunn Co., makers of "Style Shoes of Quality."

To see our stock is to know what is correct in foot dress for spring and summer.

POWELL & BURKHOLDER