

# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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## KEEPING US ALL STRAIGHT

The Corvallis Gazette-Times expresses the wish for a legislature with nerve enough to pass a fair income tax bill and not refer it.

The Eugene Register informs the Gazette-Times that this cannot be done because the constitution requires that all measures which concern taxation shall be referred to the people.

The Cottage Grove Sentinel challenges the Register's statement and points out that the constitution only prohibits the declaring of an emergency as to tax laws, thereby merely insuring the people an opportunity to apply the referendum if they wish to do so. At least one income tax measure, the first one ever passed in Oregon, was not referred to the people by the legislature," says The Sentinel.

We cannot resist joining the corrective campaign. The Sentinel's wish, is not quite exact. An income tax law which proposed to increase state tax revenues would require submission to the people inasmuch as the state now raises the maximum amount of taxes the constitution permits it to raise without a vote of the people—The Oregonian.

The Oregonian believes that The Sentinel is not quite exact in its statement that income tax need not be submitted to the people. The exact condition is that The Sentinel is either exact or wholly wrong. There can be no part way exactness.

The question is, "Can an income tax be adopted by the legislature and become law without being referred to the people?" The answer is that it can.

The condition is not different now from what it was when the first income tax bill was enacted by the legislature without reference to the people. The six per cent limitation was in effect then, just as it is now, and the effect of an income tax law at that time was exactly the same as would be the effect of the same kind of income tax law at this time. The first income tax law resulted in a reduction of the property tax, and that would be the result if a straight income tax bill should one become law at this time. The fact that the first income tax law (the only one ever to become effective) was referred to the people through the referendum, and was approved by them, in no way affected results or the conditions under which those results were obtained.

A proposal to increase the tax levy for the year 1928 was

hitched onto the recent income tax bill, but was not necessary to the act and was in reality no part of the proposed income tax law, as the bill itself showed. Section 43 of the bill, referring to the proposed income tax law, said: "This entire act shall be and is hereby referred," etc.

Then followed section 44, which would have increased the tax levy, and this section recognized the fact that the proposal contained therein was not in reality a part of the proposed income tax law, as the following wording taken therefrom indicates: "The question (a new question) is hereby submitted for or against this act shall ALSO constitute and be considered votes upon said question (increase of tax levy)."

This is the only time that any such provision has ever been tacked onto an income tax proposal in Oregon, and we doubt whether such a proposal has ever been thought of in the other less enlightened states of the union.

If The Oregonian had read the proposed law, as The Sentinel advised it and all other readers of The Sentinel to do before casting their votes, it would have known that the proposal to increase the tax levy for one year was merely a tail to a kite, and had it used the analytical judgment that it usually uses in the production of its entertaining and informative editorial page, it would have known that the proposal to permit an increase of \$2,000,000 in the tax levy for 1928 was put there by those who realized the dire financial condition of the state in the hope that the popularity of income tax with the rural element might be sufficient to overcome their expected opposition to an unadulterated proposal to increase the tax levy, and because income tax would have been of little advantage unless it resulted in increasing the amount of money which might become available for the use of the state.

The esteemed Corvallis Gazette-Times spoke merely of an income tax law, and the Register was commenting upon the kind of income tax bill the Gazette-Times was talking about. The Sentinel, therefore, holds that its statement was exactly exact.

We are pleased to have a part in keeping the leading daily of the northwest from going astray.

Bob Sawyer, Bend editor, has been appointed a member of the state highway commission. We are certainly living in a new age when an editor can afford to take a non-salaried job that will require a large amount of time, and any one who can make enough money out of a newspaper to be able to afford such a job certainly should be eminently qualified to efficiently administer the state's highway fund. Bob is.

## UNINTELLIGENT VOTING.

The Gresham Outlook questions the intelligence of a large part of the voters of the state, and calls the returns of the recent special election as chief witness. And the Outlook makes a good case.

It finds that a quarter of the voters in the three Gresham precincts voted against the repeal of the obsolete section of the state constitution which denied suffrage to negroes and Chinamen. The section was obsolete, being contrary to the United States constitution, was merely deadwood in our constitution and no intelligent argument of any kind could be made for its retention. Therefore, reasons the Outlook, all those who voted against the repeal voted without intelligence. Of 240 votes cast in the Gresham precincts, 63 were against the repeal.

The Outlook is too harsh, altogether too harsh upon the voters of its city. They were at least comparatively intelligent, for in five Cottage Grove precincts the vote was 187 to 108. More than a third of the voters in Cottage Grove opposed repeal of deadwood in the constitution, a number of such voters probably being among those who criticize the legislature for cluttering the statute books with unnecessary laws.

The Outlook is harsh, far too harsh, with its home voters. In at least two state elections more than a majority of those voting refused to repeal the obsolete portion of the constitution.

It is easy, therefore, to argue that the voter is more intelligent than he was when he refused to repeal the negro-Chinaman constitutional deadwood and that there is yet hope that popular legislation may become safe and sane legislation.

The Outlook argues that if a quarter of the people voted without information and without intelligence on something that was so easy to understand, there must have been an equal or greater lack of information and intelligence in the vote on other proposed amendments and measures.

In this the Outlook is unquestionably correct, but The Sentinel holds that those who went to the polls and voted unintelligently, or without knowing what they were voting for or against, were better citizens than the 50 per cent who stayed away from the polls and

did not vote, either with or without information and intelligence.

The people resent any suggestion of change in Oregon's popular form of government, yet Cottage Grove has just held a special city election in which not over 20 per cent of the vote was cast, and this despite the fact that the city was covered with posters calling attention to the election and the issues, despite the fact that a Lions club committee spent all day election day urging voters to the polls.

And the issues were important ones. Whether or not the city should have ornamental lights, with expenditure of city funds, and the cost of installation against property, was one of the issues. The other was a proposal to give the council power to acquire an athletic field.

Every resident should have had an opinion upon subjects of such vital interest to the taxpayer of the city and to the youth of the city.

Yet only 20 per cent went to the polls to cast any kind of a vote, intelligent or otherwise.

We are wondering whether the greater fault of the voter is lack of intelligence or lack of interest.

Over in England the women refuse to marry men who didn't go to war. Evidently the women over there want men who are thoroughly seasoned for a matrimonial career.

The great trouble with the truth is that it can be stretched so much and yet compel belief. The worst fooled people have been those fooled by the twisted truth.

Silk fiber from cornstalks is the latest. Stockings made from the new fiber should look well on the cornstalk legs that are the vogue but not much for beauty.

Talk about a married woman being the boss. Nine cases out of ten she isn't half as much a boss after marriage as she was before.

We believe the income tax should reach those with incomes just a notch higher than ours.

## Robert Parker Miles Gives Famous Lecture at Chautauqua.

"Tallow Dips" the platform classic which will be given at the coming Chautauqua by Dr. Robert Parker Miles is one of the most famous, if not the most famous lecture being given by any living man. Probably the late Russell H. Conwell's "Acres of Diamonds" was better known, but it is doubtful if any



other speaker of modern times has had a wider audience than Dr. Miles with his famous "Tallow Dips."

Twenty years ago, Arthur Brisbane, New York Journalist, said to Robert Parker Miles, then pastor of the Ravenswood Presbyterian Church: "Give up your pastorate. Become religious editor for the New York Journal. Here's a real field for you, a ministry—with action!"

Later James Whitcomb Riley wrote a poem in which he made the following statement: "So we hazard the conjecture, That the test of a good lecture May best be made if measured of by 'Miles'."

Mr. Miles' title as special editor-in-chief and investigator for the New York Journal was not an empty one, for he was given absolute freedom in his battle for righteousness.

He whipped the American Tobacco Company to a standstill in a vigorous campaign against the sale of cigarettes to minors—and President Jas. A. Duke of Duke's Mixture fame, lost a cool million as a result. He solved the famous Guiseppe murder case when all other clues had failed—by a simple sermon at Queen's County Jail, which so impressed a suspect, that a complete confession followed. He cleaned up notorious dance halls, such as "The Pit of Blood," and "Suicide Hall." He fought the opium traffic, checked white slavery, morally renovated the notoriously indecent theatres of the day, and waged a relentless warfare against gambling. He investigated personally and his powerful exposures, made even more forceful by the cartoons of the late Homer Davenport, with whom he worked, will ever be a monument to the life and works of Robert Parker Miles.

His ministry, however, did not stop with his New York newspaper work. So great was his success in reaching men's hearts that he was sent on two tours around the world, and on these trips he gained admittance to, and had long talks with Gladstone, Balfour, Bismarck, Leo XIII, President Carnot, King Edward, Kaiser Wilhelm, and others, most of whom are now gathered to the grey shadows.

Ring Books. The Sentinel.

## Hard to Stop Legend Once Started on Way

It is rather interesting to watch a legend in the course of growth, remarks the Manchester Guardian and cites the case of the ancient chalice which was recently found and which after a hectic newspaper career is now so far advanced that it is honored by some as the cup that served the Lord at the Last Supper. It was a similar jumping at conclusions which involved medieval legend makers in some hopeless tangle, Pierre Van Pasen comments, in the Atlanta Constitution. The classical case is that of the Eleven Thousand Virgins of Cologne. Digging in the twelfth century brought to light a big collection of human bones. An ecstatic woman proclaimed them at once to be the remains of the Eleven Thousand virgins. Further search showed the bones of men were among the piles. The ecstatic lady was not put out. She declared at once that certain ecclesiastics had been put to death with the virgins. Worse followed. The bones of children were found. Were the seers defeated? By no means. Entire families had been put to death with the 11,000, they said. Modern research made an end to the whole farce by establishing the fact that the bones were those of the first Roman colonists in Cologne and that they had been buried in a catacomb cemetery.

## Mental State Depends Much on Environment

In order permanently to cure a child of nervousness it is necessary to remove the underlying cause, not merely to alleviate the distressing symptoms, declares Dr. Frank Howard Richardson in Hygeia Magazine. This will probably involve some change in the environment, for it is recognized that environmental influences affect a child so much that they will greatly modify any mental condition, no matter how bad.

While this is encouraging, there will be plenty of difficulty in many cases. If a companion, a teacher, a brother or a sister is at the bottom of the nervous condition, the change may easily be made. However, in many cases the child's nervousness is really due to a jealous or tyrannical father or a weak, pampered mother. It is almost hopeless to alter the environment resulting from such parental disturbances.

In all cases it is up to the parents to provide the proper atmosphere and environment for their children's development. Otherwise no amount of treatment by physician or psychiatrist will be of any avail.

## Feminine Philosophy

It is Mme. de Staël who loves to quote that inimitable definition of Schelling, "architecture is frozen music." It is she the most famous woman of her century, who finds that "for women glory is only a brilliant mourning worn for happiness," and that "everything which does not touch one's heart leaves one's life free."

On a profounder subject she says: "The mystery of existence is the connection between our sins and our sorrows. I have never done a wrong which has not been the cause of a misfortune," and, "One must take care, if one can, that the decline of life be the youth of the next. To forget self without ceasing to be interested in others gives the soul something of the divine."—From "The Women of the Salons," by S. G. Tallantyre.

## Her Version

A child, who is in the first grade at school, returned home one evening and, at the dinner table, repeated a riddle that she had heard at school that day.

"If a man were locked up in a house for two weeks, and there was no food in the house, what would he eat?" After a few minutes of unsuccessful attempts to guess the answer, the members of the family "gave up" and requested the solution.

"Why, he would eat the raisins on the calendar and drink the milk from the bed," replied the child. The answer had been: "The dates on the calendar and water from the springs in the bed."

## Whale Peculiar Feeder

Whales are the mortal enemy of herring and baby mackerel, for a big whale will eat several tons of these toothsome though bony little fry in a day. They don't bother about the bones. They go about it like a steam shovel, says a writer in the Pathfinder Magazine. They simply gulp in a great mass of fish and water, and screen the fish out with their peculiar "baleen" strainers, or they swallow the fish and blow out the water through a handsome fountain in the top of their head, according to the model on which their works are constructed.

## Not the Curate's Fault

A clergyman, called away suddenly and unable to officiate at the services in his church, entrusted his new curate with the duty. On his return he asked his wife what she thought of the curate's sermon. "The poorest I ever heard," she declared; "nothing in it at all."

Later in the day the clergyman, meeting his curate, asked him how he had got on. "Splendid, sir," replied the curate. "I didn't have time to prepare anything myself, so I preached one of your sermons."—London Answers.

## Wedding Ring Usage

A widow continues to wear the wedding ring during her lifetime unless she becomes engaged to marry a second time. Following the announcement of her engagement she ceases to wear her first wedding ring.

## C. G. to Be on the Air Again.

A program for which business men of this city are sponsors will be broadcast Wednesday, July 20, over KGEH of Eugene. A similar program was given last month. KGEH has extended an invitation to radio fans to visit the studio in the Miner building whenever they are in Eugene. The wave length of the station has been

changed and the best reception is obtained between 9 and 10.

## Pledges Are Subject of Suit.

Briefs in the case of the attempt to collect two pledges made by Grace E. Blackwell, deceased, have been submitted to the county court and County Judge C. P. Barnard has taken the matter under advisement and will announce

his decision next Tuesday. The pledges total \$56 and were made presumably to the Oregon conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. Miss Blackwell was a resident of Cottage Grove.

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