

The Sentinel

A Weekly Newspaper With Plenty of Backbone

Elbert Bode and Elbert Smith Publishers
Elbert Bode Editor
A first-class publication entered at Cottage Grove, Ore., as second-class matter

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SOMEONE MUST ANSWER

No one expected that the trip to Europe to put the men out of business was going to be a Sunday school picnic, but those who went, those who gave boys who went and those who contributed their money did expect that the fighting boys would be given every attention that it would be possible to give them.

It was expected that many would be killed and that some would die in shell holes where it would be impossible to carry succor and that some might die in German prison camps, but it was not expected that men would be thrown into a place like Brest to contract disease and die a miserable death after having so bravely saved France from the advancing Hohenzollern hordes.

It was expected that hospital treatment and medical care at the front might be different from that which would be administered at home, but it was not expected that at home hospitals sick boys would have to live on beans and bread while officers and nurses had turkey and other tempting morsels.

It was not expected that the boys could go to the postoffice leisurely every day and get mail from mothers and sweethearts, but it was not expected that whole cars of mail would fail of distribution and that many boys would go for months without word from home.

The boys did not expect to be richly rewarded for their services, but they did expect to get their wages frequently enough so that they could buy a few of the things not supplied by the commissary.

It was not fair that the boys should be neglected in these particulars if it were possible to prevent them, yet now that the war is practically over, now that the boys are being discharged from the service and can speak, we are hearing of what seem like flagrant cases of neglect.

In a recent letter in a Portland newspaper a doughboy told of living on beans and bread at Christmas time while the officers and nurses had fine Christmas dinners. The doughboy said the turkeys were furnished by the Red Cross.

Our own boys back from France tell of the terrible mucky unsanitary conditions at Brest, the point of embarkation, and several boys from here were taken to the hospital from there after coming out of the campaign in a healthy condition.

Many of the boys tell of difficulty in getting their pay and being unable to buy any of the delicacies which were on sale, merely because they had no money to buy them with.

The doughboy writing in the Portland paper says: "If the base censor should read this I'd spend the rest of my army life in the guard house. When I write home I have to say I'm feeling fine. For Pete's sake start something."

The Washington Star tells of wounded soldier boys right in this country who had to either wash their own clothes, pay for their washing or let them go without washing, while many of them were unable to do the work and had no funds to pay for having it done.

A pitiful picture is given of men with one arm or one leg endeavoring to put their clothes through the cleansing process.

A Washington dispatch tells of the treatment at St. Elizabeth hospital for the insane and says that Secretary Baker refused to take any action.

And while some of our boys were suffering these things captured Germans in this country were living on the fat of the land, so to speak. They were given kind treatment and paid their salaries regularly, having privates to attend them at a salary of \$25 a month.

A London dispatch in the New York Times says that while the khaki-clad boys were sleeping, eating and having their being in the mud of Brest the president was living but a little distance away in royal splendor.

That was because preparation was made for the president while no preparation had been made for the soldier boys.

Some day someone has got to answer for all these things. If the folks who are left behind are apathetic the boys themselves who will soon be home several millions strong will not forget. We predict that the truth of some things will come out before another national election is held.

The Sentinel sometimes doubts the wisdom of teaching all the ins and outs of politics to civil government pupils who are just in their teens, but if it is to be taught at all, what is taught should be accurate. Some questions that have been asked by pupils of the grades of the Cottage Grove schools would indicate that the text books being used are quite a ways from being absolutely accurate. Possibly the publishers think that the pupils will forget long before

they have any use for the information and that there is no need for strict accuracy.

UNCLE SAM NEEDS ADVERTISING

If there were any doubt as to whether or not advertising pays, the example of the railroads should be sufficient to convince anyone.

As soon as the government took the railroads over the advertising was stopped in order to cut down expenses. Since then expenses have piled up faster than the income will take care of them. Rates have been advanced so as to increase the income, and as rates increase patronage of the railroads is curtailed. Now passenger rates have been placed so high that it will be almost impossible, for any except the well-to-do or wealthy to make pleasure trips between east and west and west and east except by automobile.

So traffic will fall off and rates will have to advance again.

Under private ownership the rates would be decreased, advertising would be put into all the papers and pretty soon the increased traffic would be sufficient to put the roads upon a paying basis.

The railroads are now about the only big business in the country that attempts to run without advertising—and even the railroad management appreciates the value of advertising, for the usual bunch of copy for free advertising continues to come to the newspapers regularly.

Government ownership always has and always will prove the most cumbersome, the most extravagant and the most unsatisfactory way of conducting business. Had we ever had our mails conducted through private business we would never be satisfied with the service we get at the price we pay. Government operation during these times of piping peace has taught the people that bad as private ownership may sometimes be government operation is a long ways from an improvement.

Eastern cities are reporting many cases of "sleeping flu." The patients take to their beds and want to sleep all the time. That kind of a disease wouldn't cause any alarm out this way.

RESTORE THE PENALTY

Sometimes even the sovereign people make a mistake.

The Sentinel has become convinced that such a mistake was made when the death penalty was done away with in Oregon.

Since that time there have been individual cases when none would have said the death penalty should not be imposed.

These murderers may or may not have thought of the fact that they could not be changed, but the chances are that they did.

The constitutional amendment which members of the legislature tried to have put up to the people would have proved highly satisfactory both to those sentimentally opposed to capital punishment and to those who believe that the possibility of hanging should stare in the face the man who would commit murder. The proposed amendment would have put the death penalty up to the jury. It is safe to say that it would have been inflicted in but few cases, yet the deterrent effect would have been there.

It may be that a coincidence, but murder seems to have increased everywhere where that the death penalty has been removed. We would like to see whether or not it would decrease were the penalty restored.

The Sentinel was one of those papers which favored the removal of the death penalty. It is willing to admit that it was mistaken and hopes that others will be as honest. The legislature would not be slow to put the restoration of the death penalty up to the people were there an apparent demand that such action be taken.

BOOST HIGHWAY AND HELP MARKET ROADS.

Cottage Grove, Ore., March 26.—(To the Editor.)—The era of good roads for which many of us long have waited is almost at hand.

I understand that the state highway commission has stated that they are ready to pave Pacific highway for the entire length of Lane county as soon as the sub-grade is put in readiness. This means as soon as this is done that much mileage in road maintenance will be at once taken off the county and the county can then divert the large sum now used in maintaining Pacific highway for the construction or maintenance of feeder or market roads.

These feeder roads are the ones which really develop the county, yet the main trunk roads must be constructed first. Does it not behove us to concentrate our efforts towards getting Pacific highway paved at the earliest possible moment and stop the expenditure of thousands of dollars every year patching the present macadam road?

Good road construction is being accomplished, not because of the farmer, but in spite of some of them. Only the other day I met a farmer who owns a patch of ground just south of Eugene. He had watched the engineers getting their data for paving the road in front of his house. There was no change in the location of the road, yet the farmer told me it was a mistake to pave this section, and this notwithstanding the fact that the road is to be paved with funds secured through the auto license and this farmer didn't own even a Ford. The increase in the value of his property would pay for a dozen Fords.

A good example of the far and near sightedness of some farmers was given me last week by the county road viewers. It seems that just a little ways north of this city there are two adjoining farms through which the new highway will pass. About the same amount

of right-of-way is required from each and about the same amount of land of the same classification will be taken from each of the farmers. Damage or benefit to each would be about the same. One man asked for damages at the rate of \$100 an acre and the rebuilding of his fence. The other said he did not consider he was damaged at all and merely wanted the road fenced.

Just recently I was talking to a man who thought logged off land over on the coast would be a good investment. He had heard something about the proposed Roosevelt military highway. "Why?" he said. "I could get enough damages out of the government to pay for taking the stump off the place."

The time is rapidly approaching when the method of securing right-of-way for roads will be to match the damage against the increased valuation of the property affected, and the chances are few that a paved highway will detract from the value of a piece of property.

Let's rush Pacific highway while we have a man from our own country on the highway commission who will see that we get our share of the appropriations.

GOOD ROADS BUG.

ANOTHER GUESS COMING.

The peasant politicians who edits the Cottage Grove Sentinel says:

"W. C. Conner, perpetrator editor of Willamette Valley newspapers, and recently of the Harrisburg Bulletin, has perpetrated to Salem where he will edit the Northwest Poultry Journal. This should give Conner the chance to lay by a nest egg, but we don't think he will like the job. The chances are that the owners of the poultry journal will not let the editor do his crowing in the editorial columns, and Conner will be entirely lost under such circumstances."

Cottage Grove was, years ago, known as the "Petroleum of Oregon" owing to the large number of fine fowls raised in that community, but as soon as Elbert Bode arrived on the scene and set up his perpetual crow the poultry yards gradually became silent and today about the only old "Shanghai" left in the community is the editor of the Sentinel.

The above is from The Harrisburg Bulletin, which is as adverse to crowing that it is anonymously edited and anonymously published, all of which is contrary to the postal laws, but, nevertheless, the deductions made by the anonymously edited and anonymously published paper are about correct. No more fine-feathered fowls are raised here any longer merely for their feathers. Cottage Grove farmers are becoming good business men and the fowl that crows has been succeeded by the hen that lays. The crowing has ceased and the egg production has doubled, tripled, quadrupled and the end is not yet.

Poison Digger Squirrels Now

The poisoning of digger squirrels is now proceeding over Lane county, according to the county agricultural agent. The work is being carried on entirely by committees this year, says Mr. Robb, as this is the only effective way. On account of difficulties encountered this year, it will be impossible for the county court to take up the rodent law, but they desire that where poison is mixed in a community everyone cooperates.

Committees desiring to carry on the poisoning of rodents should make arrangements with the county agent for meetings.

NOW PLANT SEEDS

You will want the best seeds. You will find the best, both bulk and package, at DesLarzes Bros. Here will be found full assortments of Ferry's, L. L. L. Moore & Co.'s, Northrop, King & Co.'s and Portland Seed Co.'s best seeds. Get your supply of peas and onion sets before prices advance.

SOME UNUSUAL BARGAINS

Next week we expect to have a new line of brooms that we can sell for only 75¢ each. Don't invest your whole fortune in a broom until you have seen these.

Special: 4 boxes of matches only 25¢.

We pay spot cash for dairy butter and fresh eggs. Bring us what you have.

Special: rolled oats per lb. only 2c.

If you pay cash you are entitled to a cash discount. Trade where your cash is appreciated.

Special: bulk macaroni per lb. only 10c.

Although the cheapest coffee on the market should now retail at 40¢, we still have coffee at only 30¢ a pound. Try it.

Special: corn sugar per lb. only 5c.

FLOUR has advanced 10¢ per sack. We have Drifted Snow, White Mountain, Royal, White Loaf and Pride of Oregon. Get a sack now at the old price.

Special: Ivory soap flakes, pkg. 10c.

You have never tasted whale meat! Well, we have it, and it's mighty good. Try it—only 15¢.

Special: white corn flour per lb. only 5c.

TRY some buckwheat cakes for a change. We have genuine New York buckwheat flour at a bargain price.

Special: 20 cans ripe olives only 15c.

You can save many a dollar by taking advantage of our cash discount plan. Get a cash habit—it pays.

Don't forget us when needing chick food, grit, charcoal or other poultry supplies.

DesLarzes Bros.

GARDEN SEEDS AND VOTES

While the world waited in breathless anxiety for the conclusion of the peace conference so that business might return to normal, congressmen had more important matters on hand. There was the annual contest over the garden seed appropriation for instance. The appropriation this year called for \$250,000 to be invested in garden seeds so that each representative might send a few seeds to his constituents and encourage them to vote right. Mr. McLaughlin, of Michigan, who must be one of those penniless Scotts, wanted the appropriation cut down to \$200,000, which was the same as last year's appropriation. The majority of the house stood up in case no bill was passed before the sacred right to campaign at government expense were thus invaded.

Mr. Heflin, of Alabama, was horrified. Just recently I was talking to a man who thought logged off land over on the coast would be a good investment. He had heard something about the proposed Roosevelt military highway. "Why?" he said. "I could get enough damages out of the government to pay for taking the stump off the place."

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Mr. Stearns said he had \$800 in

seeds in his district and they all thought a lot of the garden seeds. What they did with them he didn't say, but probably each square has a canary bird and they use them for bird seed.

Mr. Baer, of North Dakota, said he had run on a platform of no garden seeds, which, as the Non-partisan platform contained nearly everything, we presume is correct. But after he had received a few requests for seeds, he got cold feet. So he referred his district, at government expense. He sent out 30,000 letters, he said, asking his constituents if they wanted garden seeds. Out of this number he got 120 replies—less than one-half of one per cent. BUT—there were a lot of schools in his district that were planting gardens now, and he thought he would like to send seeds to these poor helpless children. They would grow up and vote some day and should the Non-partisan cruse not bankrupt the state entirely, he might be a candidate for something when those children get old enough to vote.

Mr. Langley, of Kentucky, was most eloquently in favor of the appropriation.

The vote in his district is very close and garden seeds are a vital essential. Mr. Langley rose to such oratorical height in the defense of the seed graft that there was fear he would not be able to land in safety. With tears in his eyes he said: "I have always been enthusiastic and overwhelmingly in favor of these seed appropriations." He probably expected to miss his speech by his constituents. What he meant by "overwhelmingly" we cannot figure out, but he probably meant he was for an overwhelming majority for Mr. Langley for congress. He said the defeat of the appropriation would do an incalculable harm to the country." We think he was right about that. The harm would be so small it couldn't be calculated. He said he was enthusiastic for the seed business—an enthusiasm for it that every year he went around begging seeds from members living in cities in order that no one in his district might suffer for lack of garden seeds. That will make fine reading back home.

Mr. Candler, of Mississippi, came down from the speaker's chair to defend the congressional right to distribute seeds. He didn't quite say that the defeat of the bill would be unconstitutional, but he pretty nearly did. When it came to a vote there were only 37 so hot to affection for the plain people that they voted against the appropriation.

To My Friends and Customers.

Having sold my business, I wish to thank all my old friends and customers for their liberal patronage and will consequently recommend my successors in the business and hope they will enjoy the same liberal patronage you have accorded me. I will retain my books. All owing can settle with me personally.

I will also pay all obligations. My reason for selling out is that I am going into the chicken business on a large scale, so I will be with you.

J. F. SPRAT.

AMONG THE CHURCHES

Methodist Church—Rev. Joseph Knots, pastor. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Regular preaching services in 11 a. m. p. m. Mid-week prayer meeting Thursday evenings at 7:30 o'clock.

Sunday morning subject, "The Watchman." At 8 a. m. the Minute men will have charge of the regular church service. Interesting addresses will be given.

Baptist Church—E. G. Grant, pastor emeritus. Sunday school at 10:30 a. m. Preaching at 11:00 a. m. Prayer meeting Thursday evenings, 7:30 o'clock.

Christian Science Church—Services in chapel at 242 Second street each Sunday at 11:00 a. m. Regular testimonial meeting Wednesday evenings at 7:30 o'clock. All are cordially invited to the services as well as to make use of the library and literature.

The Church of Christ—Meets in the old post office building on South Fifth street. Bible study at 10 a. m.; services at 11. All are cordially invited.