

Oregon City Courier-Herald

By A. W. CHENEY

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OREGON CITY, MARCH 14, 1902.

ONE farmer in the Molalla neighborhood has just cause for kicking against high taxes. When he came here several years ago his taxes were about \$20, now \$70 on the same piece. Another man in comparing the taxes here with those of New York state says that land that pays \$25 taxes here pays but \$6 or \$7 there. What else can you expect when you have a county administration that spends \$94,000 a year? Of this amount nearly one-half goes for current expenses of administration, balance goes for roads and bridges.

The realization of a primary election law, for which Governor La Follette is fighting in Wisconsin against the wealthy republican machine of the state, is something that should receive the most serious consideration of the people of Oregon. It would be the deathblow to the method so dear to the heart of the boss, the "fixing" of delegates to county or state conventions. La Follette's bill provides that citizens indicate on secret ballot whom they prefer for mayor, legislator or congressman, and does away entirely with delegates and open nominating conventions.

The Courier-Herald last week in its local columns mentioned the discussion of the nickel-in-the-slot machines after the regular city council had adjourned Wednesday evening. This seemed to call the attention of the ministers to the matter and last Sunday Rev. Montgomery took this as a theme and in a sermon denounced gambling and gambling devices. As public sentiment seemed to be against closing the games, and it seemed almost impossible to suppress them, it was the opinion of many citizens that the offenses against the charter should be punished by monthly fines that would bring a revenue of \$150 to \$200 a month for the city.

MR. BURLESON, of Texas, concluded a speech in the lower house of congress with this prediction: "During this congress there will be no revision of the tariff, there will be no interference with the continued reign of the trusts. The trusts have so wiled it. Now, mark the prophecy: These issues will bring about your undoing. Already a storm is gathering in the West. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Dr. Baucus), who has been on the watch-tower for the republican party for eight years, as chairman of the republican congressional committee, has sounded a note of warning, which has been echoed in effect by the present governors of Iowa and Minnesota, both republicans, but it will avail naught. You are joined to your idols; you are true republicans; you know the power of trusts; they know your venality. This tells the whole story."

If the Oregon democracy will but adopt the proposal to allow the people to vote for their choice for United States senator next spring, it will be a distinct advantage. No logical argument can be offered to discount it. The majority party cannot point to it as aught but sound policy. Furthermore, the principle of popular election of United States senators is held by more than one-half of the people. The masses are indeed, strenuously insisting that senators shall be elected by popular vote, and only the tenacity of those who profit by the existing plan prevents the wishes of the people from being enacted into the organic law of the land. Although the constitutional changes may be delayed, the people have a remedy in their hands, and by voting for candidates of their choice in the primaries may accomplish their ends in spite of the obstructionary methods of those opposing the innovation. In Kentucky, the people vote for United States senators, and Oregon democrats may well inaugurate the plan here. Incidentally, it will embarrass the republican organization, for in their present condition of savage quarreling over Sloman for senator, they cannot be induced to adopt popular election as one of their campaign features.—East Oregonian.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The fight for the senatorial nomination on the citizens ticket has narrowed down to Elmer Dixon, Gilbert Hedges, G. W. Grace and J. J. Cooke. Either of these four will make a good run if nominated.

The socialist convention of over 100 delegates on Saturday put up a good clean ticket that will stand squarely on the principles of socialism and good government. The report that has been circulated that a few of the socialists were republican tools is no doubt true, but the rank and file and every candidate on the ticket, unless we misjudge them, are conscientious and will prove

Good (?) Financiering.

The County Commissioners on Feb. 13th made an order loaning the County rock crusher to the Mt. Angel Catholic School for 40 days at \$1.00 per day. Several days were spent in repairing the crusher at a cost of over \$8.00, and over \$32.00 were spent in loading it on the cars for shipment. The date set for return was March 20, and taking out time lost in repairing, leaves but 35 days or \$35.00 as income. Besides repairs and expenses amounting to over \$40.00 comes the expense of unloading, of say \$25.00, making a total expense of \$65.00 and an income of \$35.00; the County makes \$30.00—out of pocket. How's this for financiering?

true to their party and principles. Everybody seemed surprised at the large number present and the interest displayed at the convention. The Courier-Herald, wishing to be fair and impartial as usual, tendered the socialist the use of a column of its space from now until election.

The citizens convention would do well to endorse or nominate at least some of the socialist candidates on its county ticket, which would show sincerity in the demand for reform in the county affairs. Take, for instance, George Lazelle, candidate for commissioner. He can be endorsed by citizens and we think it will be satisfactory to all concerned.

There are some who are clamoring for a straight democratic ticket, but this will be finally settled when the democratic county convention meets. This faction has a right to be heard, but but many of these democrats though will support the citizens ticket when such is put up, submitting to the will of the majority. These democrats can not see the advantage to be derived from a coalition of forces, claiming that in event of the success of the democrats at the next national election they wouldn't be in it.

While at one time it appeared that the contest between Judge Ryan and Mayor Dimick for the republican nomination for county judge would be a close and interesting one, it is now evident that the feeling throughout the county that Judge Ryan has given the county an honest, straightforward administration of affairs, and under the unwritten law or rule of the party that such an officer is entitled a second term will bring him the nomination nearly unanimously, and that convention day but few precincts will register their votes against him; it is admitted that Mr. Dimick has made a good fight but his candidacy is now deemed premature and that it would have been wiser for him to have waited a few years before pressing his claims for more recognition than he has already received.

Men, Not Party.

Editor Courier-Herald: Since you have at various times courteously allowed me space in your columns to express my humble opinion, I feel a sure that I will be permitted to speak my sentiments once again by the same means, though perhaps differing from you on the various issues about which we are all concerned. The time is again here that is interesting to all in the political affairs of our county and state. Already distinguished citizens and men of ability are meeting with their fellow citizens throughout the county, and with high confidence in self, are discussing questions of the hour with a fervor that resembles sincerity, one portion of the number, with naught but words of praise and confidence in the stability of existing affairs, and the other, with naught but words of lamentation and sophisticated reasoning. The former see no wrong in taking from laboring men and women that which they produce. They see no wrong in one man or woman acting the part of master over another. They see no wrong in a condition that is permitting one portion of mankind to go naked for want of clothing, and starving for want of something to eat, and the other dressed in the finest apparel and fed with the best fruits of all lands and of all climes. No, no, they see no wrong in these things, but rather, they glory in the thought that they are the agents of those who have become masters and oppressors in the struggle for supremacy. The latter, although they, at least many of them, see the evils and wrong of such a course, are as a matter of fact, simply struggling for similar positions, while they consciously or unconsciously are pretending to work for the best interests of all. And here let us pause. How remarkable the situation!

With "Brownell," "Campbells" and "Dimicks" as leaders, imperialism is in able hands and is well represented. They have but one purpose in mind. That is, to retain the power they already have, and to keep in operation the same machinery that is keeping them supplied with "honor" galore, and with the elements that feed ruthless ambition. With "Millers" and "Hedges" as "leaders," confusion is in able and successful hands, and under their continued direction confusion will always remain confusion. Need we present history to prove it?

When the "common" people know what a "Brownell" is, when a man is plain about it and talks what his motives are, they know what to do in the case. But, when a "Miller" steps out and tries to lead his people forth, with "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," can the "common" people be accused of inconsistency for refusing to follow whither "he" leads? Let every citizen answer for himself. The time is now here when no man can look with safety to another for leadership; when every man must exert his own intelligence in his own behalf.

The great curse that is now so seriously afflicting this county is to be laid only to the door of every man who has not exercised his own mind, but has followed the dictates of some politician. And it makes no difference whether you follow the advice of a "Brownell" or a "Miller," the results will be the same. Why not, fellow citizens, knowing from experience, that it is unwise to listen to some ambitious politician for instruction, come together on a basis that knows only a common interest, and without any ill-feeling toward anyone, seek to formulate a policy for ourselves that shall ultimately redeem us from the unjust policies that are bringing no relief to oppressed men and women?

Respectfully,
 ROBERT GENTHER.
 Shubel, Or., March 2, 1902.

Bowling to Royalty.

To the Editor. At the present time the papers are full of glowing accounts of Prince Henry. He is followed from city to city and his every movement is noted. There appears to be no luxury or extravagance too great to lavish upon him, and he must be a man of pretty good sense or it would either spoil his digestion or make a fool of him. While it is well enough to treat a representative of the German nation with proper respect, yet there are many citizens of America who claim Germany as the land of their birth, who are asking themselves the question whether a thing cannot be overdone as well as underdone. Many of them left their native land to escape the burden of royalty; just as though it was something of great worth it is about as likely to incite the disgust as to elicit praise. I attribute to the German people a fair share of good sense, and I have no doubt but many of them are figuring very closely on the cost of the whole affair. Many of them feel the pinch of poverty, and at seeing the lavish hand with which everything is cast out for him to partake of at his pleasure, associated with the thought that the only party they take is to pay more for the small amount of luxury they do receive, they begin to ask themselves whether the two forms of government are not more alike in practice than in name.

While it is right to show a decent respect for Germany as a nation and people, yet we should distinctly make it plain that royalty on our soil is of no value at all. The man, Prince Henry, may be a very good man and worthy of respect, but the respect shown him should be alone for his manhood and not for his royal blood.

The American people yet have this one advantage: They have matters still within their own reach in a measure; they must one set of officers and put another set in, perhaps to do no better, yet it is very much their own fault that they do not make them any better. The trouble is that the great mass is very indifferent and partly blind, and let matters go, imagining that their party leaders will do about the best that can be done, and they don't put themselves to the trouble to make independent investigation, so they go on suffering the many impositions that are pressed upon them. When they do get in a complaint they never appear to associate any of their troubles to their own inaction or failure to do what is within their own province to do.

At our next June election there is a constitutional amendment to be voted on which, if carried, will place legislators and legislation subject to the will of the people direct. It is the duty of every citizen to vote for that amendment so that he can have a say, if he desires, directly upon any measures that can in any way affect him.

Should the people of Oregon allow that amendment to fail they will have no right to offer complaints at anything that may happen in the way of legislation.

There is one thing in its favor. It is not a product of any political party; and in honor to the republicans, they bring the party in power, they have brought it up by their endorsement so that the people can vote upon it. It is upon laying aside party and acting upon principles that reforms must come. Though I am not a republican, otherwise, I can vote with the republican party on that measure with perfect freedom. So long as the American citizen votes blindly for party he has no moral right to complain at what the party bosses deals out to him. He has no right to complain about the trusts owning the government when it is still within his reach to change it so that the government can own the trusts.

He has no right when his representatives fail to represent him to officer complaints about matters of legislation because he has it within his power to represent himself. As it is the American citizen is distrustful of everybody else, and everybody else is distrustful of him, and both parties are justified in their distrust.

This lack of confidence brings about the same results socially, morally and politically that it does financially. It is about time that we train ourselves so that it would be safe to trust us, and we will then learn that it will be reasonably safe to trust the rest of humanity.

THOMAS BECKMAN.
 Marshfield, Or., March 4th, 1902.

The Best Prescription for Malaria
 Chills and Fever is a bottle of Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic. It is simply iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price 50c.

The Direct Legislation Amendment.

The time is drawing nigh when voters of Oregon must decide for themselves, whether they desire self-government or not. Two years ago, owing to negligence or indifference on the part of our speakers and writers, or perhaps to apathy on their own part, a majority of the voters went to the polls without having given any study to the several constitutional amendments to be voted upon. The consequence was that several worthy measures were defeated. In the coming election the direct legislation amendment is, I believe, the only one to be voted on. This should simplify matters and, by the addition of a little "rustling" on the part of friends of the measure, should make its success certain.

Let every believer in pure democracy make an effort to swell the majority for this measure. There are several ways in which we who sincerely believe in majority rule may aid this movement, and, by the voting for the boss is not one of the ways, no matter what he or any of his "beaters" may say to the contrary. If the papers favoring the amendment would print it in full, in large type and carry it from now till election, or at least reprint it every few weeks, as the "Oregon Independent" has been doing, such action would contribute largely to the success of the movement. Editorial comment favorable to the measure will help to mould public opinion. But let us not leave it for the editors to carry on all the educational work. Most of us can do something to help. Have we a neighbor who does not understand direct legislation or is opposed to it? Don't quarrel with him about it; just loan him Sullivan's work on "Direct Legislation," or some other good literature on the subject, and nine times in ten he will be with you on election day. Circulating literature beats arguing, for your victim can't talk back to a book.

The special "Majority Rule" number (No. 1 1/2 January) of the "American Federalist," the official magazine of the American Federation of Labor, is one of the best things published for those who care to study the technical details of direct legislation. Then last, but by no means least, is the work on election day. I firmly believe that at least two of the amendments could have been carried two years ago, had there been any systematic work at the polls. There should be a committee—self-appointed or otherwise—or not less than three at each polling place who will make it their duty to solicit votes for the amendment, explaining its meaning and distributing marked sample ballots, so that the most ignorant or indifferent can have no excuse for making a mistake. If with these precautions it should fail to carry, it will go far to prove that the people neither desire nor deserve self-government, and will call to mind the observation of Buckle: "That no political improvement can produce real good unless it is desired by the people before being conferred on them, will be admitted by whoever has mastered the lessons which history contains."

GEORGE OGLE.
 Molalla, Or., March 11th, 1902.

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941—82 acres, 14 acres improved and 55 acres more nearly ready for the plow; a good 2-story frame house. Near Highland on plank road. Price \$1500.

999—160 acres of timber land near Corvallis, Oregon. Price \$600.

1017—63 acres, 3 miles from Canby. Good house and barn. 25 acres plowed; 1200 prune trees. Drying house. Price \$1700.

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