

Oregon City Courier

First Independent Paper in Oregon.
W. A. SHEWMAN, Publisher.
Published every Friday from the
Courier Building, Eighth and Main
Streets, by the

Oregon City Courier Pub. Co.
Incorporated

Telephones, Main 51; - Home, A-51.

Subscription Price \$1.50 per Year.
Entered in the Postoffice in Oregon City, Ore.
for transmission through the mails as second
class matter.

M. J. BROWN, - Editor.

WHAT WE'LL DO SOME DAY.

The price of beef is up to stay up, so the newspapers and market reports tell us. The range doesn't supply the cattle. We eat more than we raise, so there is nothing more to it than high prices.

This is the excuse the meat packers, the cold storage outfits and the beef trust are giving out daily. But I saw another reason in the press dispatches the other day, a reason that cropped out at a meeting of producers and consumers at Fort Worth, Tex., a meeting of labor unions, farmers' organizations, boards of trade and the Cattlemen's Association of Texas.

And the president of this association showed figures to prove that the cost of raising cattle this year has been the same as last year, while the packing houses took the cattle off the market this year at from \$1.50 to \$2.00 a hundred less than last year.

And beef goes up. There is a shortage and it costs the packers more—so they give it out to us saphed. Beef goes up, pork goes up, nutron goes up, because the packers who have the supply cornered make them go up, because they have the cold storage morgues to lay it away until the people get hungry enough to pay the price.

Some day we will buck these trusts with their own methods—some day when we get sense enough to act when we protest.

Some day the cattle raisers and meat eaters will form a trust to break a trust; they will have their own selling agencies and their own slaughter houses and their own packing plants.

A RIGHT TO KILL.

If you were at death's door, waiting and counting the hours of agony until merciful death stopped your clock—waiting until consumption, Bright's disease or cancer slowly ate out your vitals—and a friend handed you an ounce of laudanum, and you rushed the finish with it, would you have that friend made an assistant at a suicide, made a criminal before the law?

The papers have been having much to say about the Shakers at Klamath, Fla., arraigned on a charge of murder, because they administered chloroform to a woman who was in the last hours of consumption, because they relieved her of the horror of choking to death, and let her pass away in painless sleep.

When the good book laid down that command, "Thou shalt not kill!" I don't believe there was a great white plague, nor did I believe it was supposed to cover such cases as at Klamath, Fla.

I had a friend die in New York state, die after weeks and months of awful agony, die after a cancer had at last eaten through and found his vitals.

There was no help on earth for this man. The great tumor spread, are away the covering of his stomach and exposed his vitals. Day after day it consumed him until finally death gave relief.

This man begged and implored the family and nurses to end his agony—to give him some means to end life. It would have been more than humanity to have granted his request—it would have been mercy.

This may seem a harsh means to those who have never observed incurable disease, but there should be a national law that would permit a physician to shorten the agony and hasten the death of a patient, when there is no earthly help.

What do you think?

President Taft used his head right in the Dr. Wiley matter—when he gave it out that the doctor should stay on the job. And the president could do another popular stunt if he would now apply to Attorney General Wickensham the suggestion he applied to Wiley—that he be permitted to resign.

George H. Primrose, the famous minstrel man of Primrose & West, who commenced divorce proceedings against his wife in this city some weeks ago, has had another think. So has Mrs. Primrose. They have kissed, made up, forgotten the past, and announce they will hereafter live in Oregon. And this announcement will forgive them both.

THE GREAT UNKNOWN FIVE.

Here are the names of five men, and I wish I knew how few of you could tell who they are, and what they are, without going down this article any farther:

Henry C. Crosby, Thomas W. Page, James B. Reynolds, William M. Howard, Alvin H. Saunders.

Here's another bunch of names, and I'll bet a year's subscription against a pound of beef that every male reader above ten years can tell you who they are and what job they're on: Ty Cobb, Hans Wagner, Nap Lajoie, Chris Mathewson, and others.

Without keeping you guessing any longer, the five men above that you never heard of are the men who hold the nation's trusts in the hollows of their hands—they are the men on whose say-so the president of our country laid aside deliberations and findings of a nation's congress, men whose findings will be greater than that of congress and senate—the tariff board.

Didn't even know their names, did you? Didn't have anything to do with giving them these jobs or making them censors of a nation's tariff laws? You don't even know what states they are from, what their politics is, or anything about them.

But they're some people, this big five. On their say congress is supposed to make laws according to order, to tax or untax, make or unmake trusts and to determine whether or no the wool schedule is indefensible, and if so how much.

But will congress take orders from this Big Five?

We'll see next winter.

THE ELEPHANT AND THE FLY.

I note that the moral element of New York state has put on its fighting togs and is raising an awful howl because a bill has slipped through the legislature permitting glove contests in limited rounds before clubs.

And while this moral element was digging up statistics to show that a half dozen men had been killed in the past ten years in boxing contests, nine men were killed outright and fourteen others badly injured in an automobile racing contest at the state fair at Syracuse in two minutes.

If the moral people of New York would go after these death-dealing auto races, instead of glove contests and horse races, they would get better action on their endeavors.

There should be a national law making voting compulsory, with a penalty of disfranchisement. A man who can vote and won't vote, should never open his face about conditions or how this country should be run.

If every man who was able to vote was compelled to vote, it would do much to stop the looting of both parties.

You argue that it's a man's own business whether he votes or not, and that no one has a right to dictate? How about the compulsory education law? You may as well argue that it's a father's own business whether his child goes to school or not, but a wise law says the child shall, just the same.

When you ask your grocer for a dollar's worth of sugar you pay 25 cents as a tax to help out the sugar trust and receive 75 cents' worth of sugar. Golly! How you would howl if you had to pay that tax in a stamp bought of the government and pasted on your sugar! The party that framed that sort of a stamp tax would not last long enough to put another stamp tax on necessities; but there are a thousand such stamps on necessities, only we don't see them.—Portland Labor Press.

THE HALTER METHODS.

They are out after Secretary of State Olcott now, and the Republicans want to hang his skin on the fence because he does not assay high enough in Republicanism, because, posing as a Republican he worked hard to bring about Governor West's election.

Rather slim grounds to ask a man's defeat on, after thousands of Republican voters of the state did the very same.

And haven't we a United States senator who hasn't always been in close communion with the Republican party, in fact so far away from it at times that his party identity is really in doubt.

And what of it, anyway? It's the man people want these days. It doesn't make any difference what his spots are so long as he knows how to run the office of secretary of state.

The "organization" will have to go a little deeper than party regularity to incite voters against Mr. Olcott.

Last year we Americans paid one hundred and thirty-nine millions of dollars tax on sugar—a tax against ourselves on a necessity we can't get along without.

And sugar goes up, up, up. They say the object is to protect the few beet sugar growers, but of course it is to protect the sugar trust.

But we are used to it and seem to like it.

ONE POINT OF VIEW.

What the Courier editor doesn't know about single tax would make a volume. But six months in the state and but a few months a student of the subject, he isn't trying to put over any sensational stunts on you.

But like the Irishman at the Donnybrook fair scrap, he has just simply got to get in and mix it, and if he can't scrap much he can make a world of noise.

This article isn't going to take you down moral roads, into technicalities or statistics. We already have too much of these mixed up with the issue now—too much for about half of us to get an understanding of.

I am going to present the strictly selfish side, the viewpoint from the fireside. And when you get right down to brass tacks, our politics, morals and religion are pretty strongly against the "fireside" regardless of how much we flourish and play hypocrite.

So let us look at the claims of single tax entirely from the viewpoint of the hog—the hog who is willing his neighbor should have what he himself can't eat, and the rest of the hogs what the neighbor has.

In smoother terms, the man first, his neighbor next, and then the state. Now the single tax proposition will tax only land values—the unproductive value of acres. It will abolish taxes on notes, mortgages, mills, factories and personal property of all kinds.

Now let us start with the farmer and then take us all down the line. Oregon is a whole of a state in size but a minnow in population and development. There's a big area of land in sight, but only a little of it to hitch taxes onto. There's a streak down the west coast that has rich and valuable improved land, so in order to keep the rest of the state from taking the bankrupt act, everything that is movable or immovable is taxed, and the result is that the average farmer thinks about the best show he has for his alley is get along with the least stuff the assessors are looking for—to cut out improvements and get away with visible personal property.

Now single tax tells this farmer every dollar of tax on improvements, on cattle, hogs, houses, barns, orchards, etc., will be abolished, and that his taxes will not be a cent more on his farm than on the non-producing, logged-off farm of his neighbor across the road.

Now it would seem from a purely selfish point of view that the farmer ought to fall for this bait and swallow wit, hook, sinkers and line.

But here's some more: If taxation in Oregon is put on its broad acres with justice—if the man who has copped out a big tract and is waiting for his neighbors' industry to make it valuable to him some sweet day—if this man has to pay taxes on what his dead land is really worth, why he's got to make it produce or he can't afford to pay those taxes.

And the result? There can't be but one. This land has simply GOT to bring in an income. So the speculator must sell it not at what he asks for it but at what he can get for it, and the great private and corporation holdings in Oregon will be broken up, bought up, settled up.

And what follows this? Villages, railroads, good roads, schools, churches, and a settled community, good to live in.

And then again—all the while keeping in view the selfish motive: Supposing Oregon should vote for single tax, and Washington and California kept on with their present system of hold up.

What would be the result? Do you recall when Oklahoma passed the bank guarantee of deposits law? Do you recall when Kansas and Texas had to get into the same bandwagon to keep its money from going over the lines to Oklahoma banks?

The result would be the same here. Thousands and thousands of home-seekers are flocking out to this coast, but how many of them does Oregon catch?

There are thousands and thousands of acres of land in this state, utterly worthless so far as production goes, yet you can't rent it or buy it. It is held by rich men and big companies to make a clean up on some day in the future.

If this land was, for sale at reasonable prices, and everybody would tell land-seekers that this state would not tax them a cent on any improvements they would make, do you think settlers would go to Washington and California?

I don't know. Now I either just what you are going to argue, and I am going to beat you to it.

You will say this single tax is the rich man's law, and that it will exempt from taxation the notes and accounts of the rich men. And I will ask you to turn back to last week's Courier, to O. D. Robbins' statement, that the tax levied on this line of personal property in Clackamas County last year was on a valuation of \$104,000, while ONE of our banks had over \$500,000 on deposit.

And now about the mills and industries that would be let off with only a tax on their power, franchise or ground values.

When we get industry-hunting what inducements do we hand out? First, we exempt from taxation the plant for so many years that our grandchildren will do the collecting; then we add to it usually free water, lights, a donated site and often a cash subscription.

We do this as an investment, we are glad to, because it is a good trade away from labor prosperity, development, and business in exchange.

Now, supposing we could advertise to the United States that Oregon would not tax any industry a dollar if it would locate here.

Do you imagine the eastern factories that are hunting coast locations would pass up Oregon and go to Washington and California, as they are now doing?

And once more—a tight and selfish one: If Multnomah County should vote for single tax (and it will as surely as the voters are given the chance) and Clackamas County should not, don't you know that county would stop every factory and farm hunter, and that we would be weary waiters for settlers and factories? Can't get away from this money that Texas could from Oklahoma's bank deposit guarantee.

From an aeroplane view of this single tax question it would seem that it would benefit the farmers, the country districts, the villages and the industries, because of more development, more work, more demand, more people, and that the only ones whose interests the system would cut would be the men and corporations who have

WILL BEAR WATCHING.

Whether or not the people of Oregon want a special session of the legislature for good roads legislation depends.

It is given out that the governor will call an extra session under certain conditions, that not one of the vetoed bills or former bills of the legislature shall be resurrected or considered, that every member of the legislature shall pay his own expenses, and that the session shall not cost the state one cent.

Good for the governor. This is the kind of a program Clackamas County property owners want, but—

The expense of good roads legislation isn't entirely in the railroad fare and hotel bills of the legislators. A special session may be called off at Salem that will not cost a taxpayer of Oregon one copper penny, yet it may be the most expensive legislation that was ever saddled on a state.

It isn't the details the taxpayers should keep their eyes on. It's the main show they want to watch. While they are watching to see that some senator or assemblyman does not put a meal ticket over on them, some of them may saddle enough expensive roadbuilding, political fat jobs on the state to more than offset the cost of fitting out a war vessel with grub for a year's cruise.

What the taxpayers of Oregon are interested in is not so much whether a senator gets his car fare paid to Salem, but how much of a political road machine is going to be organized, and how much of the money is going into good state roads and how much into good state jobs.

The bills as framed up at Portland last week start out with a \$5000 salary and an appropriation out of the state treasury \$50,000 to pay salaries.

This is a dead wrong way to make Oregonians think special good roads legislation is necessary. Under our present laws this great sum would not have to be paid out in yearly salaries, and this sum put into county after county every year would do SOME road building.

If legislators want to go down to Salem and keep their hand on the lid, and not plug through any old fixed-up bill, made in Portland last week and ready to be passed off as state deliberation.

The Woodburn Tribune has it figured out that President Taft's train will go through that place at five o'clock in the morning of October 12, and suggests that the commercial club make arrangements for a reception and an automobile trip. There is just a suggestion of a doubt that the president's party might not fall for this early morning doings and that the engineer might not hold the train for them to look over the city. But there's a heap of fun in anticipation.

The resignation of Judge Peter S. Grosscup, of Chicago, from the United States supreme court, won't be a matter for the people to go into mourning over. This friend to the corporations would long ago have been pulled down if the people had had the recall. This is the man who set aside the Standard Oil fine of \$25,000,000 on the ground that the Standard had been found more guilty on trial than on indictment.

The recall will never make a man honest, any more than the penitentiary prevents crime, or the hangman's noose a murderer. A man must be honest and straightforward by nature. You can't legislate honesty into his heart.—Dallas Observer.

But if by chance a rascal should get into public office such instances have been known) would you let him die on the job on the theory that the recall couldn't change him? Or would you recall him and try to get another man, as you do in the Observer office?

If you have a cow, horse, wagon or bunch of hay, or in fact any old thing you don't want, that you believe some one else would like, it will pay you to say so in a few words in the Courier's want columns—They bring results.

Itching, bleeding, protruding or blind piles yield to Doan's Ointment. Chronic cases soon relieved, finally cured. Druggists all sell it.

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FOOD RIOTS NEXT.

Sugar has jumped four cents per pound in as many weeks, and there is no reason for it than that the Arabuckles and the sugar refiners have cornered sugar.

If the convicted sugar thieves had been sent to prison two years ago, we would not now be paying their fines, nor would sugar be cornered.

And sugar is but one of the necessities that is going up. And they will continue to go up, so long as a government holds open opportunities to make millions on a "corner," they will continue to go up until there will be food riots in this country.

And when the people break loose here there will be something doing. They won't stand for this downright robbery by the trusts.

The New York World says President Taft will be under suspicion until some of the trust magnates of this country are imprisoned after conviction.

Using a Supreme "PULL." Here follows a press dispatch that I want the opposers of the recall of Judge Sargent to read a few, and let the significance sink in:

New York, Sept. 16.—Railroads here today are uniting to urge the United States supreme court to uphold the decision of Federal Judge Sargent nullifying Minnesota state 2-cent fare law.

The above dispatch doesn't state much until you get to thinking it over—and then it states a lot.

Railroads uniting to urge the United States supreme court to decide against Minnesota's state laws.

Railroads going after the greatest court in our nation in the same way a lot of ward heelers would go after a mayor.

Railroads going after the foundations of our government in the same way the patronage-hunters and favor-seekers go after a congressman.

Urging our greatest court, by the show of strength to stand by a lower judge's decision and upset a state's legislative act.

And I tell you when a country's railroads bunch up and tell a supreme court what they want, the people of a country want to bunch up and have a recall handy.

I am not criticising the supreme court for this action of the railroads, nor am I defending a two-cent rate in Minnesota. On the other hand I do not believe a two-cent fare, a compulsory rate that makes the little cross roads compete with the trunk line, is justice. But I am kicking on a condition in this country that makes the railroads have a chance to make a demonstration influence on supreme court decision.

If we had the recall of supreme court judges you wouldn't see such press items as above.

WHO'LL CARRY OREGON? Senator Chamberlain says Wilson is going to cop out the Democratic nomination, and that he will have three-fourths of the votes of Oregon when election comes.

Senator Chamberlain is a Democrat and of course we want to add a pinch of salt to his prediction. Harmon has yet to be figured on in the race, and he is a man who is a hard fighter. Then there comes the stand-pat element in the party, the Democrats who would much rather see Taft elected than a progressive Democrat. Mr. Wilson isn't nominated yet, altho' he is running in pole position.

As to Mr. Chamberlain's statement that Wilson would get three-fourths of Oregon's vote, we might as well look at conditions as they are in this state and acknowledge he is some guesser. There is no getting away from the fact that President Taft has made a bad hit in progressive Oregon with his tariff acts and opposition to the recall. He is in bad odour here where the demand is for the free list to go with reciprocity, for the recall to position smells too much of trust plugging and campaign contributions to make him a vote getter.

If a tug time between now and election, time for changes in sentiment, and time to make or break presidential candidates. But if the elections were this fall, it would take more sand than Lloyd's to bet even money on Taft.

You may be jumping sideways to keep out of sight of your grocer who you owe \$10 and can't pay, but you are a whole lot better off than Copper King Costello, of Los Angeles, who was buried Sunday. Costello had \$5,000,000 a year in turnover and no health. He would gladly have given you four millions for your health, but money can't buy that. So he put the gun to his head and left the fortune for the children to spend. Do you fall over the moral?

Wanted to rent, a farm of about 40 acres near Oregon City. Ask at the Courier office.

THEORY—PRACTICE

"We can get along without competition; we can get along without monopoly, and the business men of this country must square themselves with that necessity. Either that or we must proceed to state socialism and invest the government with power to run every business."—President Taft, at Detroit Monday.

Yes, we CAN get along without competition, and we are, so far as big business is concerned. And we CAN get along without monopoly, but how?

Telling business men that they must realize conditions or that socialism and government ownership will follow, won't turn the trick. You can't scare the trusts into honesty. Filing the sugar trusts thousands of dollars and letting them take it back through public assessments, won't prevent their cornering the market.

There are two ways to stop the trust plundering. Put the big thieves in jail for combining in restraint of trade. That will do it fast enough. Or hand over the necessities to the government to control.

Either remedy will do it and one of them will certainly be applied before long.

THE 68 CENT LEAK.

Mrs. George T. Carley, writing from Oregon City to the Portland Journal about unprofitable farming in Clackamas county, makes the statement that from 62 to 68 cents out of every dollar paid by the consumer of food stuffs in cities goes to the middle man and transportation.

What do you farmers think of the rate-off?

The Courier has had something to say along this line before, and we expect to stay with it until we can get the farmers of this country to come out of it, and take action to change places with the middleman and get at least 62 cents of their dollar's worth.

There's an awful difference between farm prices and Portland retail prices. Fruits often rot under the farmers' trees while the retail price is soaring in the cities.

With the commission men out of the deal, and the farmers selling direct to Portland, consumers would get stuff cheaper and farmers would get higher prices—a combination that would make a few produce dealers sorry and a lot of farmers and consumers happy.

The Portland News Tuesday said that last week five tons of string beans, several tons of melons and two tons of fish were burned by dealers to keep the price up to eaters in Portland, and get the big rake-off.

It's the same methods as the sugar trust employ only that the trust hides out instead of destroying.

If farmers of Clackamas county would organize, cut out the middleman, and sell direct, they would benefit themselves and the eaters. And if Portland would open its city to the farmers for an open free market the News could not publish such items as above.

NEWS OF OREGON.

Little Items that Tell the News of a Big State.

Work on the construction of the Dallas armory, for Company H, Fourth infantry, O. N. G., has been commenced.

Spraying for fruit pests will be done in Lake county the coming year for the first time. Some of the trees that were brought in from the outside nurseries are the reason.

When the clouds clear away it will be found that damage to prunes and hops in Marion County has been insignificant, according to the leading growers of these two staple Marion County products.

Charles O'Malley, superintendent of government fish hatcheries, is in Klamath Falls to look over the station there with a view to recommending the establishment of a big government hatchery.

The record peaches for the Hood River Valley were raised by B. E. Helfer, whose ranch is on the west side of the Belmont district. Four of the peaches, Elbertas, weighed each more than a pound.

With the completion of the Central Oregon railroads in sight and the approach of the fall coldest rates on the transcontinental lines, development again seems to be in the air in the interior portion of the state.

Railroad chiefs and development experts who will congregate next month at Burns, Harney county, say that the convention of the Oregon Development League, to be held there October 23, is to be the most important development congress held in Oregon history.

The Oregon Agricultural College is to be represented on the committee on awards for the big international barley and hop exhibits at Chicago, October 12 to 23, connected with the American Exposition of brewing machinery, materials and products, by Professor H. V. Tartar, of the chemistry department.

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Confidence

The man who keeps his money in the bank where he has plenty creates a friend in that bank to whom he can turn when he has little.

Having confidence in this bank begets its confidence in you, and we can't, any of us, get very far on the road to success without giving and receiving confidence.

This bank has fairly earned your confidence through thirty years of square dealing and helpful service.

It will appreciate your account.

The Bank of Oregon City

The Oldest Bank in the County

FOR SALE BY JONES DRUG CO (INCORPORATED)

We're in business for your health.