

## Oregon City Courier

First Independent Paper in Oregon.

W. A. SHEWMAN, Publisher.

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M. J. BROWN, - Editor.

## NO NE'ER-DO-WELLS.

The question of the commission form of government for Oregon City may well occupy the attention of the public interested, as there can be brought a saving, undoubtedly of many thousands of dollars to the taxpayers. True as all this is, and it has the right sort of ring to it, yet with there should be the greatest caution observed that we fall into no kind of danger nor be entrapped by unscrupulous, job hunting, grafting parasites, who may be found roaming the world over in every town, sucking the life blood from the vitals of the advancing public. As ruthless as the above may sound, it is nevertheless very true, and right here in Oregon City the greatest care can well be taken to guard against any attempt to foist upon the people something they might someday wish they had never adopted.

Experience has taught the major portion of such advancing cities as have moved to amend their charters to accommodate the new government, that caution is the everlasting watchword, and can not be too boldly emphasized on every mile post of advancing municipalities. One step in the right direction towards a government by the people, that is forcibly brought to the attention of the people who desire first the best interests of a city, is the manner of the early work of preparing the charter provisions, upon which hinges the entire network of government, and governors.

In nearly every instance where haste has been sought as a means of quick adoption of what eventually appears to be individual schemes, there has been great regret and remorse, together with political, political debt paying, the employment of incompetent and undesirable persons and with a nearly complete ruin of the most to be desired.

Our neighboring city of Eugene will vote upon the new form in November, and in that city different commissions have been at work for over a year drafting a suitable charter, the commissions having been selected at mass meetings at which time the citizens were given a voice in the work of how their city should be governed and by whom. It is up to the people to decide if they desire this form of government and it is prominently up to them to take a hand in the game early in the season and make such selections among their trust worthy citizens of reasonable knowledge and reputation, who will give the matter a business-like attention, making such provisions as will work for the greatest good to the greatest number.

Let us have a mass meeting, through our commercial club, or some other equally good public organization, at which all may come AND BE HEARD, at which time a commission may be selected by the people, and the matter not be left to dangle in a bearded condition by adroit self-seekers, with no further desire than the payment of political debts or the flitting of "left overs," with the ultimate ridicule of failure to govern ourselves.

The Courier believes in a commission form of government conducted along strict business lines, and that many thousands of dollars might have been saved the taxpayers had the system been in vogue the past few years, but it as well believe that to leave the early adjustment of the same to a few human leeches, we might as well look with the same eyes to see our municipal life blood waste in the drying heat and sapping bot.

## NOT FOR MORGAN.

Morgan doesn't propose to take Wickersham's immunity bath. He can't see why the great steel trust has got to connive at a felony and make confession to an attorney general of past illegal transactions. His trust is greater than our little "ol" government and he doesn't propose to have a little matter like a supreme court decision tell his trust where to head in at.

If a private were to stand out and defy a supreme court decision, he would be a plain anarchist and he wouldn't stand out long.

But J. P. Morgan is some financier. He knows and the government knows that this man and his family group of big squeezers can make good or bad times in this country, and having this power, J. P. doesn't propose to shy at so little a matter as a country's supreme court.

## AS WE CATCH IT.

The good roads matter in Oregon is one that has a lot of different roads to it and from it, and it is going to tax wise heads to frame up legislation that will be justice and give any where near general satisfaction.

Some of the city fellows and auto owners do not think the Courier's highway enthusiasm for the capital highway or the Pacific highway is boiling over, and that it needs a little more fuel under it to get it up to the proper heat.

Perhaps this is true. It depends entirely on who is to pay the freight. Now it looks mighty nice on the map to see a couple of stretches of boulevard on both sides of the river from Portland to Salem, and it looks mighty nice to tourists, auto owners and Portland hotels to see it in reality.

It looks fine on the map to see a great trunk road highway commencing at some place up in the Canadian woods and ending somewhere down in Madero's realm of troubles.

But WHAT will those roads, either or both of them, just touching a corner of Clackamas county, do to settling up the thousands of acres of Clackamas county land?

How will they help the farmer to get any nearer a market for his products?

How will they encourage the settling up of the land east of us?

How will they do the farmers of this county one dollar's worth of good, except the few in this corner of the county?

The Courier wants to see good roads in Oregon, and there is no undertaking that will bring the state to the front as well improved roads, but it wants to see them built through the producing country, rather than along the railroads.

If the automobile owners and the business interests of Portland, Salem and the towns along the routes want to build boulevards, well and good, but these interests have no right to ask for a county bonding act, or a general county levy to build them. Those favored should pay for such roads.

What Clackamas county needs is east and west roads—not scenic routes along the river banks.

What this county needs is roads where a farmer can get his potatoes to market when the market wants them, and not picturesque windings and beautiful sunset views.

It's all right to have auto roads, but let those who use them pay for them. Very few indeed will be the loads of farm produce that will be driven over the capital highway from Portland to Salem.

Build improved roads back east into the county and you do something for the county, you will double the farms, double the population and provide outlets and make markets.

This is how the Courier looks at good roads doing, and why its enthusiasm doesn't boil over on county bonding acts until we know what roads are going to be built with the bond money.

## HOW MUCH LONGER?

A subscriber sends this office a clipping from some newspaper, showing how the farmer loses out by the commission men. The clip does not indicate its source, only that it has a Portland date line. But it tells the story only too well, and again points out what the paper earnestly advocates, that the farmers organize and cut out these sharks.

"A neighbor sent 12 boxes of fine peas to a country house in Portland and received a statement to the effect that his peas arrived when they were a drug on the market, that the house was unable to sell them and that he was a debtor to the house in the sum of 30 cents. Putting some of the same peas in his pocket he came to the commission dealers and asked what they would pay for such peas. He was told they were worth, say \$1.00 a box. He then asked if the price the week before (when his consignment was made) was the same and he was told that they were then paying a quarter of a dollar more than the present price. He produced the statement he had received and wanted to know how it was that he got nothing for his shipment. Of course it was explained that a mistake had been made by a clerk, and he was given a check for the proper amount.

"Last week prunes were selling at retail at 5 cents a pound. I know of a shipment of the same quality of prunes to a Front street house for which only a cent a pound was paid."

This is one of the ways they skin 'em, and at the same time the price to the consumer is held up. When it will not stay up, because of supply, the supply is increased.

How long are you farmers going to let those commission men throw the hook into you?

Why don't you organize and put them off the job?

The senate investigating committee has taken a new hold of Lorimer and the chances are they will pull him over the coals for a month yet. The only difference between him and Stephens is that Lorimer's senatorial election smells stronger, and he seems to have bought more in bunches.

## WHAT IS THERE TO SAY?

A personal letter to the editor from an Oregon subscriber asks why the Courier has had nothing to say about the McNamara case in Los Angeles, while it has been so free to comment on other matters.

The reason is that there is absolutely nothing to say until the trial has been finished and the verdict rendered.

What right has this paper to state that the McNamara should have been lynched long ago, as murderers and that their trial will be but an expensive farce?

What right has the Courier to state that the whole business is a conspiracy against organized labor, and that a gas explosion in the Times building served as the cause?

The jury trial will tell the people the story of the McNamara, the Burns detective agency and the Times explosion, and this paper has no business trying to beat them to it.

This trial is of national interest, and there is no doubt but justice will be the verdict, and it is up to the newspapers to let the jury give the verdict.

## SKINNING BOTH WAYS.

Eastern newspapers are showing up a pretty tight little trust at Elgin, Ill. The next day after the reciprocity treaty was defeated this bunch of butter price-makers, known as the butter board of trade, jumped the price of butter two cents a pound, and it has stayed there since.

Now the question arises what part did the cows have in this reciprocity campaign? Were they disappointed at the outcome, and did they immediately proceed to "dry up," or did this handful of men, who make the butter price for the country, take advantage of the wall Clackamas put up and boost the price?

It is such go-between as this butter board, the middle men and the produce dealers that keep prices up in this country, and the prices go up after the produce leaves the farmers' hands.

It is such pirates as these that put the market quotations way up, to bring products into market, and then refuse to pay that price when the stuff is brought in.

The middlemen trust is a robber of both the producer and the consumer, and the producer and consumer should organize against him, boycott him and drive him out of the high-way business.

## THIS 'AWFUL' WAR.

That Italian-Turkish war isn't making us throw up our hands in horror as yet. It isn't a very bloodthirsty affair to date, and there is more on paper than on battle fields.

An old Oregonian writes said the other day that in the war of the rebellion the boys used to go out before breakfast and kill more men than will be killed on both sides of this war.

Americans refuse to get excited over this little land-grabbing affair across the pond.

Italy is going to clean up for the "sick man" and nobody cares how good a job she does.

Like Japan, Italy wanted to put one over on the terrible Turks, and there weren't any convenient Port Arthur hands, she cut loose on Tripoli, and captured it before the Turk awoke. This "important city" has about the same population as Oregon City, and is worth about half as much as one of our side streets.

The result of this "great European war" will be that the world will give some more scarce speeches in Congress. Italy will have a little more trouble on hand to take care of and then there will be a shaking up of harems.

## BULLDOGS.

The railroad officials give it out that they are getting along finely, thank you, that non-union men are filling the strikers' places, and conditions will soon be normal again.

Both sides are putting up a political bluff.

Union labor dreads the coming winter with no steady jobs, and the railroads are living in daily fear of not having enough live engines to keep up its front.

Union labor is cheered up, when the men lose their grip, with the report that if it is necessary to win the switchmen will join them later, and the railroads give it out there are thousands of idle men who can't take a machinist's job who can and will fill the switchmen's places should they strike.

And after a while, when the strike has cost both labor and the railroads millions of dollars, then both sides will give and take, both will come down from high horses and concede, and the trouble will be settled.

And somehow a fellow wonders why it couldn't have all been settled at the start.

It could.

And some day there will be a means through which such differences will have to be settled.

President Taft has taken occasion in several of his recent speeches to score the recall of judges law in Oregon, and its proposed enactment in other states, and at the same time admits that the courts are responsible for the temper of the people. In the next breath the president says that the judges should have more power.

Then to whitewash the whole thing our chief executive says bad judges ought to be impeached in some way. It appears to us that if there are bad judges more power for judiciary would be a bad thing. The president has undertaken the stupendous task of fooling the people in this issue.—Roseburg News.

Isn't it about time that some one else be "sought out" by his friends and "sought to run for mayor?" The more the merrier.—Enterprise.

In view of the fact that the petition has the signatures of over three hundred of the business men and prominent citizens of Oregon City asking Mr. Anderson to be a candidate for mayor, the above sneer is a little out of proportion. Wonder who suggested it.

Harry Lake, a circulator of fraudulent registration petitions in Seattle, was sentenced to from three to five years in the penitentiary last week. If Oregon would apply this dose to the men who forged names to the university petition, it could mightily discourage the practice.

Banks in Portland are not loaning money on land held for speculation by speculators. They have begun to count something in the north wind. It is the Vancouver land tax no doubt.—Lents Herald.

## FOOL LAWS.

There is a law which provides that a man may not testify against himself in a criminal charge; that his wife may not testify against him; that his confession of guilt to murder may not be received and that his plea of guilty to murder shall not be accepted.

And if this isn't furnishing loopholes for a murderer to slip out, and furnishing an opening for attorneys to get jobs, what does it furnish?

Wilson, the man on trial at Rainier, Wash., for the murder of the Cobles, confessed that he killed the man and wife, but the court says he may be mistaken, and it will not allow the confession to be put in evidence.

Mrs. Wilson told neighbors that her husband committed the horrible crime, but the judge rules that even the neighbors cannot testify to what the wife said against her husband.

Common sense and justice sense tells a man that the way to convict a murderer is to convict him by any and all evidence that will do it, and these red tape evasion provisions are the rankest nonsense.

If a murderer wants to plead guilty, and the evidence sustains the plea, is there any good reason in God's world why he shouldn't be permitted to confess?

And if a wife knows her husband is a murderer and a degenerate, and knows the people would be safer if he were hanged or imprisoned for life, is there any good reason in a law book that will not allow her to help put him in a safe place?

There are many old cobweb rules and regulations in our criminal laws that need dragging out and dusting.

## INVITING DEATH.

Last week the writer saw a girl not over sixteen the sole occupant of a big touring car she was driving through the city.

The girl had no more business to be running this car than she would have a license to drive a steam locomotive.

No auto driver ever ran a car for three months that he did not face some situation when it required quick thought and judgment to avoid danger and damage, and a school girl simply has not this judgment.

If you saw a girl driving a threshing machine outfit through the city, you would hustle to the "phone and make a newspaper special of it.

But the girl and the threshing engine would be a hundred times safer than the girl and a big auto.

The daily accidents you read of in the papers tell anyone that this state needs a law that only those who have passed an examination and secured a license should be permitted to run an auto, and when we hear of a four or five hundred perhaps the school girls will not be handed over this great machine and its responsibility.

## THERE'S A REMEDY

Make forging names to a referendum petition just as much a crime as forging names to checks, and we won't have such expensive litigation as we are now having over the university matter.

Any friend of popular government only wants an even break. Any man who is honest only wants genuine signatures to a petition.

A provision that would give any man a long term at Salem for putting another man's name to a petition would stop forging, stop it quickly, and effectively, and any man who would oppose legislation that would impose this penalty would bear a lot of watching.

Fraudulent signatures put both sides of a question in a hole, and they should be stopped, effectively stopped, and stopped now.

They are scrapping in Mexico again, not because the people have a grievance against the government, but because they just naturally like it. In both northern and southern Mexico little revolutions have jumped up, and recent history tells us we can't tell how fast they may grow.

There are two ways to keep Mexico steady down, a Diaz who will rule with a rod of iron, or education of the masses.

The first is the best means at present, for the second is a slow process. There is yet another means, but perhaps Secretary Knox wouldn't care to have me mention it just now.

These assimilation processes have to go slow and be handled like eggs.

John R. Walsh, the Chicago banker, who was convicted on 54 counts of bank wrecking, has been paroled from the prison at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., and released.

Walsh has served a little over three years. One is bound to have pity for a man who has passed the 70 mark, and who is imprisoned, but one must also remember the crime.

If Walsh had been just a plain, common, every-day fellow and had forged a check for as many dollars as the number of counts Walsh was convicted on, I'll bet you he would serve his term out.

President Taft refused to pardon this man a few months ago, and President Taft was right.

It is not at all strange that big timber owners, who secured very large and valuable tracts of timber lands at small cost, and in many cases fraudulently, are unanimously in favor of a high protective tariff, and fear tariff reduction will injure "business."

And it is not at all strange to see these same interests throw a fit at the bare mention of the two words "single tax," a proposition which would force them to clear up or clear out the thousands of acres of locked land.

I never could get the constitutionality of the law forbidding women to vote driven into my thinker. The equal of man in every political endowment except chewing tobacco, drinking booze and swearing, yet she has no voice in framing the government under which she must live.

And the only reason in the world she is deprived of voting is that the politicians are afraid of her—leary that there would be a general cleaning of the stables.

Added to the fuel of a big political contest next year comes the announcement that the prohibition party of the state will make a hard campaign for state wide prohibition, 1912 will have enough doing to keep us all awake.

## TURN THE OTHER CHEEK?

We are a nice bunch of boneheads to sit down and bite our hangers on and let the Pacific States Telephone Co. try to tear down our initiative and referendum, because they don't want to pay taxes.

When a telephone company fights Oregon, the people should fight back. The homes and business places of Oregon pour a golden stream into the treasury of the Pacific company every month in the year, and this money is turned again to us, used to hire the brightest trust lawyers in the country to knock out our reform laws.

Are we going to be lambs and take it?

It's time to shove out the "made in Oregon" slogan and let this Bell Telephone auxiliary know that we don't turn the other side of the face when we get slapped, but we hit back.

We ought to call a very respectable meeting here in Oregon City, and every man agree not to use the telephone of a company that fights Oregon.

## THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.

Advocates of the referendum take the position that every signature of the referendum petitions in the University case should be considered and counted as genuine unless it is proved fraudulent.—Portland Journal.

This is an absurd position to take, as it would be almost impossible to secure the attendance in court of 8000 alleged signers to a petition of this kind, entailing time and expense that no litigant could be able to bear. On the other hand it is a very reasonable position to take that after large numbers of names of petitioners are shown to be spurious, the burden of proof should be shifted to the defendants, and they should be compelled to show the satisfaction of the court that they have the requisite number of legal signatures.—Eugene Guard.

The position is absurd and almost impossible, so the Guard says, on the part of the university people, yet it says the state should be compelled to get these 8000 men in line and have them prove signatures.

And what's it all about, anyway? The university people do not want the people to pass a vote on this matter of the legislature giving it a half million dollars.

That's what they are fighting against.

The people have a right to vote on this matter. The taxpayers who will have to pay it have a right to pass on it, and a state legislature has no moral right to plug through such great appropriations until the matter has been submitted to the voters.

Governor West rightly criticizes the management of the Portland baby home because it expends more money on investments and improvements than on baby care. The state has given this home \$27,000 in the past five years, and their report shows that of total receipts of over \$30,000, 14,000 went for expenses of the home and \$18,000 for real estate, bond investments, etc. The governor wants more money spent on baby care and less on investments. As the investments go to a private corporation, the taxpayers will no doubt take Governor West's view of the matter.

The Courier proposes to lend every effort to see that the people of Oregon City get a square deal on the mayor question or commission government, if in the attempt it finds it necessary to further enlighten the people, very fully, of the past history of those who may attempt to saddle onto the taxpayers any undesirable.

One of the amusing and significant bits that was brought out of the senatorial investigation of Senator Stephenson of Wisconsin, was when Senator Foraker exclaimed "One hundred and fifty thousand to \$300,000 to get a salary of \$7500," and the reply was: "It is not supposed a man goes to the senate for \$7500 alone."

The farmer enjoys paying taxes in Oregon. For every dollar he pays fifty cents goes to help out the land speculator and tax dodger in city and country.—Lents Herald.

## A NOISY FUNERAL.

Some big state paper—was it the Oregonian—recently gave out an exclusive news story that Insurgency was dying.

Well, they certainly had a noisy funeral in California Tuesday.

With a noise that has made the whole nation take notice the golden state pried off the "political leeches" and took the lead of all progressive states in popular reforms.

California took all that Oregon has added on a lot and the people ratified them by a three to one vote and wanted more.

Railroad domination, boss rule and the stand patters were given the spear to the hilt.

The people rose up in California and demanded changes, they demanded popular government, and they have not every last thing they asked for.

Insurgency has come to stay, and it is but a question of gaining a means, when the voters of every state will do what Oregon and Washington have done.

President Taft has come and gone, and Portland gave him a hearty welcome, an enthusiastic, western welcome. The parade, the banquet and the speech all went off as smooth as the clock ticks and everything was lovely.

A great crowd heard the president's speech but many were disappointed, disappointed over the issues he ignored.

Didn't the president dare to take up the recall in a state that has the recall? Hadn't he as much sand in Portland as in Kansas?

Hadn't the president read of that election in California where by three to one the people turned the state over to the insurgents, the referendum, the initiative, the recall and other reforms?

These matters, and the Alaskan matters, are what our people wanted to have taken up. His regular speech we have read many times.

Why this silence?

The Commercial Club will give their first smoker of the season Wednesday evening, Oct. 18, in their parlors in the Masonic building. A fine program has been arranged. The invitations will be issued this week.

## Newsy Oregon Items.

A herd of elk from Yellowstone Park may be brought to Oregon and liberated in the forest reserves of Walla Walla county. Arrangements are now being made by State Game Warden Finley with the government authorities. Steps will be taken to protect the animals in their new home.

It has been decided by the secretary of state that the next year's auto license tags will be green in color. The figures will be black, and the background will show them up better and make it possible to read them from a distance. Six thousand of these green ones have been ordered. They will have to be purchased January 1, according to the auto law.

The question of whether or not Woodburn will license the sale of intoxicating liquors during the coming year, will again be voted on at the next city election to be held on November 6. A petition signed by 75 freeholders, asking that the issue be submitted to the voters, was presented to the city council at its last meeting. The recorder was instructed to prepare the necessary ballots.

Agricultural possibilities of Oregon are shown by an interesting comparison just made by President Howard Elliott of the Northern Pacific Railway of the area of this state with that of Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Alsace-Lorraine, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the state of Maine. Combined, they have 55,029 square miles, while Oregon has 36,080. On the other hand, the combined population of these countries is 21,594,659, while Oregon has but 672,765. The conclusion is that this state has as great agricultural resources as the above groups and by a very interesting equal it in population when its lands are properly tilled.

Coast Rate Cases Set.

Washington.—The commerce court issued an order fixing Oct. 16 as the date for hearing the application of the trans continental railways for an injunction against the orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission on what are known as the Pacific Coast cases.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Des Larzes, Music Teachers, violin and voice, Studio 410 High St. Telephone Main 3171.

No. 1. (Watch for No. 2)

## OCCASIONAL STORE TALKS

By Holmes.

HAVING been unable during the past two months to make satisfactory disposition of my lease I find that I am compelled to remain in my present location for the next few months and I have therefore decided to make the best of the situation by continuing to offer during the balance of October all the many sacrifice prices that have prevailed the past seasons. They are money savers, as many patrons will vouch who in many instances doubled their purchases realizing the value of the goods and the extremely low prices, bargains in various departments that could not be duplicated any place in Clackamas County; we will continue this giving of a "Genuine Square Deal" and invite your inspection.

The Holmes Bargain Store

## Send a Check

- ❑ Don't run around paying your bills in currency when you can just as well send a check.
- ❑ No trouble about making change when you pay by check.
- ❑ No dispute can ever arise about a payment made by check. The bank, after cashing it, hands it back to you, making an indisputable receipt.
- ❑ No danger of losing money, or being robbed of it when you put it in the bank and pay by check.
- ❑ Less temptation to spend it if it's in the bank instead of in your pocket.
- ❑ You're money ahead and leave worry behind when you have a checking account at the

The Bank of Oregon City

THE OLDEST BANK IN THE COUNTY