

Oregon City Courier

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M. J. BROWN, - Editor.

FOOLS WANTED.

The McNamara trial in Los Angeles again puts it up to us that the qualifications of an impartial jurymen are to be a fool. He must be ill-informed, hence unintelligent, or he must perjure himself, swear to untruths, to get on the jury - and either case makes him an unsafe man to pass judgment on human life.

Any man fit to sit as a juror on the McNamara trial is a man who reads, who forms opinions, who knows as much about the case as he can know. Any man who has followed this case has formed an opinion - or he is a fool - and any man who hasn't formed one is again a fool.

What our murder cases need is men of brains, of judgment, men who are thoroughly informed. And if such men will swear they are prejudiced and will give a verdict according to the evidence, it doesn't matter if they have opinions a rod long.

The qualifications of a juror today is an oath that he is practically ignorant of the case to be tried, and where the case is of such nation-wide importance as the McNamara trial, such a juror can only be found among the illiterate, ignorant class - and a man who isn't qualified to try better, let alone a murder case.

IS MURDOCK A PROPHET?

Victor Murdock, congressman from Kansas, and one of our country's deep thinkers (if he is an insurgent) said in Portland last week that the strongest man in the Republican party is Theodore Roosevelt and the strongest man in the Democratic party is William J. Bryan. And he said Roosevelt would get more applause in the Republican national convention than the nominee, and Bryan would get more in the Democratic convention than the nominee.

I am betting odds that Murdock has guessed right.

If Roosevelt came to Oregon don't you believe he would have dared to talk of local issues? Don't you know he would have opened up the Alaska matter, that he would have dared to face the recall, and the Oregon reforms, and that he would never have hid behind an arbitration speech?

The candidates who will be elected president next year is either the man who will take you off your feet with enthusiasm, or the man who will get you going and coming with calm, plain confidence.

You will either throw your hat in the air for a man like Roosevelt, and stamped with the bunch to a man who draws you, or you will sit down, think out things under your hair and decide that William J. Bryan had things figured out about right fifteen years ago, but that he was fifteen years ahead of the race.

And I don't believe that the middle-of-the-road candidate - the man who tries to stand in all around, and who says and does only that which he is compelled to by force of sentiment, will ever be elected in 1912.

OREGON NEXT?

Another state, California, has given woman the ballot.

Not so far in the future every state will give her this right, because it is already her right and we will look back and wonder why we were ever such barbarians as to deprive her, by right of birth.

The result in California will be that women will have the balance of power, and when issues arise that demand, they will come to the front and help the right and the clean to win.

The day for corruption has passed in California. A man who isn't clean, and who does not stand for clean things will have no more show for power than would a hoboe in getting a pastor's assignment at a Methodist conference.

And following California, Oregon will give this right to women. It is but a question of time. It will come.

Italy and Turkey are killing, Spain has a rebellion on, Mexico is at it again, China has a great uprising on hand, and Germany, France and Austria are ready to spring. These are uneasy days for the men who rate nations.

China, great empire of sleeping power, has caught the fever and has a rebellion on, and all things point to the overthrow of the government and that a republic will be established.

BY WHAT RIGHT?

Last week the Portland board of health (that body which doesn't recognize personal rights or the country's constitution) called on the general manager of the Portland Railway, Light and Power Company with an order that all street carmen must be vaccinated.

Talk about boycotts, this is about the limit - telling a man he must submit to the risk of blood poisoning or lose his job.

No board of health has any right to issue such an order, and no railway company has any right to enforce it. This vaccination is an individual theory. There are many who do not believe in it, and the Courier editor is one.

It is up to the individual to determine whether or no a doctor with a hobby shall open his veins and inject a quantity of cow pox to cure him from smallpox. It is up to the individual, and no one else, to say what kind of medicine he shall take.

They say law is founded on reason, but the saying should be changed that law SHOULD BE founded on reason. If it is lawful and necessary to have conductors and motormen vaccinated, why not the passengers? Why doesn't the board of health, while it is taking the supreme court's place, compel every passenger to show a vaccination scar before being allowed to enter a car?

I have seen too many instances of the terrible effects of vaccination to care to take chances with having this blood-poisoning vaccine mixed with my blood. The effects are more dangerous than the disease, and there is no good law that will make a man submit to it.

A GRADUATED LAND TAX

Oregon City, Route 2, Oct. 16, 1911.

To the Editor of the Courier: In your reply to my article in the Courier of the 6th inst., under the head of "Single Tax Differences," you appear to think that I advocate the single tax in connection with what I would term the graduated land tax. Under the single tax law, these rich land holders could sell their land to poor home-seekers and go right ahead doing business in our own county and state, and on the proceeds of their land sales and not have a cent of taxes to pay on it; but by doing away with the single tax entirely and adopting the graduated land tax system, if these rich land holders sold a part or all their holdings to poor home-seekers and continued to do business in the county or state on the proceeds of the sales their entire wealth would be subject to taxation, just as it is now, and in place of the poor land holders who was trying to make a home for himself and family, having to pay his taxes and the rich man's too, he could be given new "years" time to get a start before he had any taxes to pay.

This single tax law puts me in mind of a man that has a team of horses for sale. One of the horses is a fine animal that everybody wants, and the other is an old, heavy horse that nobody wants, and the only way he can get rid of the old heavy horse is to sell the two together, make the good one sell the bad one. And it is just the same way with this single tax law. Almost everybody would be in favor of a law that would break up these large holdings and put the lands in the hands of home makers who would make use of it. But these men who are promoting this single land tax want to incorporate this unjust and unreasonable exemption clause in along with the rest of it, unquestionably for nothing but selfish purposes, to favor the rich and oppress the poor. They thought this exemption would be impossible under any other conditions and they might make it work in connection with the single tax measure.

Yours respectfully, GEORGE HICINBOTHAM.

WHAT THE GRANGE WANTS. Following is the Clackamas county Grange's position on improved roads. It is along the lines the Courier has been advocating - that improved roads should be paid for by those who use them and those whose property is benefited. And you can't get away from the justice of it.

"We favor good roads, but we wish these roads constructed from the market places to the farmers' homes. Be it remembered that we are opposed to the program of Governor West's road commission in recommending bonded indebtedness of \$20,000,000 and recommending a 1.1 mill tax levy to establish state aid.

"We are opposed to the construction of the Pacific highway - other trunk highways with public funds at this time, excepting such funds as may belong to road districts through which these roads run, or special taxes voted in these districts for use upon the roads."

Now that Oregon is sandwiched between two equal suffrage states we are up against it and might as well surrender now as later. This is one issue where the Oregon women have the best of it. It is more than likely that Oregon women will land the right of ballot in the next state election. Eugene Register.

WHERE MEN DIFFER.

Oregon City, Oct. 9, 1911. Editor Courier: I have with great interest followed the discussions on the single tax question through the Courier and have long remarked the temptation to make a few remarks upon the different arguments, which from time to time graced the columns of your paper, and wouldn't have even at this time contributed my views upon the matter, were it not for the fact that there occurs a pointer in the reply of the Courier to Mr. George Hicinbotham which proves the inconsistency between the theory and practice of the single tax.

Mr. Hicinbotham asks the Courier how we are going to get any more taxes out of the rich man after the single tax has forced him to sell his holdings and he has settled his taxes upon it. To this the Courier replies that "we aren't going to get any more of his taxes, as we don't need them. The land he held as dead land has been sold for farm land, made to produce and the man who pays the taxes can afford to pay them, as the worthless land now produces and the owner has no taxes on improvements, buildings, stock or anything else except land, his taxes are yet lower than the taxes on improved farms today."

From this we may safely assume it to be evidence that the worthy editor and his lawyer champion of the cause never cleared an acre of ground in their lives. All they think is necessary to clear up a farm is to buy 100 acres of unimproved land, quickly erect buildings and clear the whole thing in probably one year or two. I will leave it to the farmers of Clackamas county if it is not so that in the majority of cases it takes nearly half a lifetime to clear off a farm of average size and make it produce. In most cases a farmer clears his land just as he is able to, say from one or two, to five acres each year. The life of a man who is strong and willing to work takes a necessary period of land far back from town or market, rivals the strong will of our old pioneers, and he will be old and feeble when he has his farm in such a condition that he can take the ordinary life of his day's work and leave a home for his heirs and relatives. Now this is the man who is the foundation of the prosperity and welfare of society. In most cases he is an honest man and loyal citizen, for if he were not he could not have the patience and industry to clear the wilderness, but would hunt means of making a living easier than that. I will not at all infer that all easier employment is dishonest, but simply show that if you go out upon farms away back where a man and his family are making a home, and well hood you will invariably find him to be an honest man.

Now this is the man that the single taxers love and want to help by removing all the personal property taxes on all the big manufacturing and big mercantile concerns, and throwing it on this man's improved property, and thus squeezing the very life out of his existence.

Now I do not wish to dwell any longer in this man's behalf, lest our dear editor's generosity in opening his columns to my article, and his scribbles might be lessened somewhat, and will express my views of the single tax theory as regards the welfare of the already existing farmers in general.

From all indications of the arguments offered by single taxers, it is evident that the aim of this law is to get at the large land speculators. Now I am not a land speculator and do not wish to be understood to be such for the reason that I can not get into my head how the poor man can be benefited by this law. I have read and searched all available literature in favor of single tax, among which was a pamphlet issued by the single taxers at the last election. I have mislaid this pamphlet, and hence am unable to quote the figures laid down in it. But anyway, it gives figures of how much taxes the paper mills at Oregon City pay at present and then gives figures of what they would pay under the single tax, which is over one-half less. It also shows how much the woolen mills pay, how much a number of stores of Oregon City pay, also numerous factories and big department stores such as Meier & Frank Co., Olds, Wortman & King, etc. And in every instance there is a most remarkable decrease in taxes that would be under the single tax system.

Now it takes just a certain amount of money to run the government, and if all these above mentioned concerns, which are only quoted out of the thousands of others, like them, have so much taxes to pay, then tell me who has to pay so much more to make up for this decrease if not the farmers principally? It is acknowledged that the rich land speculator will also have to shoulder quite a share of this burden, and reference is made by the single taxers to the Southern Pacific. I am quite positive however, that the little land the Southern Pacific still holds in Clackamas county and the increase in taxes on it would not more than balance the decrease of taxes on its personal property. And let us suppose it did. What of it? Would that alleviate the suffering of the farmers any to see that some individual concern has to slightly suffer with them? If the champions of single tax take the bother to determine the percentage of land held in Clackamas county by mortgaged interests they will find that they hold not over ten per cent of the total land in this county and that of the 90 per cent of land held by farmers not more than five per cent are under cultivation. Then who pays the taxes, if not the farmer who has over one-half of it still in an uncultivated condition? And can he afford it?

It is claimed by the single taxers that to cut out taxes on the improvements of the farm would be an injustice for him to clear more land, as then he would not be required to pay more taxes than before.

Who will believe such trash? What fool farmer would refrain from clearing an acre of ground, if he has the time and means at hand to do it, just to prevent the assessor from increasing his taxes upon it? If editors and lawyers judge the standard of the farmer's business intelligence to such a low point as this, I will pardon their effort to improve conditions on the ground that they don't know any better.

The reasons for the vast amount of uncultivated land in Clackamas county is principally, first on account of physical condition of some lands, making it impossible to ever clear them, regardless of any system of taxation; second, it takes time and money to improve land and it must necessarily be undertaken only as time permits, and no kind of taxation would give a man more time to clear more than he can do, and especially in this true if we had the single tax system, as in that case the increased taxes of his greater part of unim-

IS THERE NOTHING TO SAY?

Editor Courier: -Concerning the McNamara trial, it occurs to me that there is this to say: that the very first move, the hasty and irregular extradition of the accused men savors too much of the Colorado-Idaho kidnapping methods employed in the Moyer-Haywood-Pittbone case not to arouse suspicion that it is another attempt to railroad workmen to the gallows. The good old principle of English law which holds that a man is considered innocent until proven guilty is still upheld (in theory). All men are said to be "endowed with certain inalienable rights" (on the fourth of July) but it seems that natural rights can be abrogated, legal processes waved and red tape cut if the accused happens to be a member of a labor union.

Allow me to use a somewhat illustration: If Smith and Jones sit down to a game of chess, for instance, and in the very initial moves Jones is detected in fraud - "caught cheating" - Smith would be justified in rewording the rules with suspicion all through the game, in fact Jones would be discredited. Now I contend that in these two great cases wherein the reputation, the very life, of labor organizations were and are at stake, that the prosecution, by their first move, discredited themselves. Of course we are too far away from the scene of the Los Angeles tragedy to write understandingly of local conditions, but we are not too far away to form an opinion as to the irregularity of methods pursued, and when so staid and conservative a body as the United States senate takes up the question of the alleged "kidnaping" of the McNamaras and Boral of Idaho - himself too closely connected with the Moyer-Haywood-Pittbone kidnaping - would volunteer that "Whatever might be said of the moral states of the Colorado-Idaho affair; we were within the law, while this case (McNamara) is clearly illegal," it certainly leaves an impression that there is an abnormally developed Ethiopian in the Otis woodpile. A just cause does not need to be upheld by trickery. Now, mind you, these alleged irregularities were not excused by any resistance to legal authority nor danger of labor uprising, nor were they the mistakes of naive or ignorant officers, who through excitement exceeded their authority, but, on the contrary, were the carefully matured plans of experienced officers and in one case (Moyer-Haywood) the participation of two state executive administrations of officials.

The down-and-out men who have come to try everything else and failed, the drunkards who can't stand alone, the despondent and the soldier of fortune. Every day they desert, very few ever re-enlist, and the time is not far off when it will take something more than thirteen per cent to get them inside a recruiting office.

But don't worry. We don't need a standing army any more than we need a United States senate.

Only two necessities, so far noted, have taken a jump this week - 25 cent coffee has gone up five cents and eggs have jumped to 40 cents.

There never was a brighter opening than now for a bright, young Progressive to jump in as a candidate for congress in opposition to C. W. Hawley. Mr. Hawley, his record in congress, and his old guard, stand-pat connections, don't look good to progressive Oregon.

Attorney Hedges' statement to the Live Wires that in his judgment if the canal locks are not built on the east side they will not be built at all, is an opinion shared generally with the people. If it could be definitely shown that work could and would be started on the west side as soon as the east side route was abandoned, the people would not care as to route.

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

No. 2. (Watch for No. 3) OCCASIONAL STORE TALKS By Holmes.

We have been receiving new goods in various departments during the past weeks and we wish to call your attention to the continuous bargains that exist here, in every department. Having concluded to remain in our present location for a few months longer we have sought out hundreds of the very best buys that could be found and we are giving you the benefit of them.

This week we are setting out necessities in each department and putting a price on them that will make a great saving to you. This is merely a continuation of the Holmes' Bargain Store plan, as you well know, and we are confident that our efforts in giving genuine "Square Deals," have been appreciated.

It will pay you in dollars and cents, to inspect the real savings here.

The Holmes Bargain Store

The justice of the single tax system in its proposition to levy taxes on land is a most just and equitable one, and that is yearly increasing in value, because demand makes it more valuable, pay taxes in proportion to its actual worth, whether it grows firs or apples, underbrush or hops.

Here's a little illustration, a news item taken from the Oregon City Enterprise this week. This illustration, in a small way, shows what the trouble with Oregon is:

An illustration of how land values have increased in Clackamas county by the sale by the state of Harding of forty acres of timber land near Highland, which he paid \$30 for forty years ago, for \$1,800. The purchase price was \$1.25 an acre and the selling price \$45 an acre. The land was bought by Eugene C. Curtis. The taxes and other expenses on the land have been small, and although Mr. Harding had his money tied up for a long time the investment was a fine one.

The Courier may not, always be right, but it will be honest.

HAVE YOU AN OPINION?

The Courier is glad to see its columns used by subscribers, for through such exchange of ideas men think and enlarge. We invite any man who has ideas on any topic to express them in the Courier. It doesn't matter if an every comma just where it should be. The ideas are what we want, and the arguments. The operator will dot the "i's" and cross the "t's." And if you are modest, sign an X. Y. Z., and let it go at that.

There are many problems facing Oregon and there are many men to help solve them. These matters are of great interest to readers, and no matter what the subject, or how you may look at it, the Courier will be glad to get your views.

Wonder if President Taft converted anybody on the coast?

THE SPENDER. Indianapolis - Arthur Long of Pittsburg stood in the Hotel English bar drying his face with a fifty dollar bill. He threw the bill to the floor and then produced from a bundle under his arm a handful of dimes and nickels. Throwing them on the bar, he said, "Bartender, give me a drink, quick, or I will buy this hotel and have you fired."

What a picture in a few lines! Visualize it. The spender, leaning on the bar of the high toned saloon, the subservient tender, whose eyes glisten at the sight of the currency; the crowd - some agape, some applauding and all more or less attracted - these are the settings of the stage as the brief curtain goes down on the drama of "A Fool and His Money."

"Well," you say - "The money belonged to the man. If he chose to 'blow it,' whose business but his own?" But was the money his? Legally, yes. Some mysterious dispensation of providence gave over into his temporary keeping more money than he needed or could use to advantage and allowed him, for some wise purpose of his own, to show how easily a fool and his money are parted.

But - In rightful view Long did not own that bundle of bills! That money was part of the accumulated assets of a world of labor. It cost somebody's sweat and ache and blood. It represented deprivation and slow savings and short dinners. Ethically a man has no right to that which he cannot properly use. Long was squandering what was not his.

And did you note where the money came from? Pittsburg - Pittsburg - where naked bodies toll in front of the fires of molten bells, where men sell their shortened lives behind iron closed doors, where half the slaves toll to feed the leaping flames, while the other half groan in sweaty sleep. It was in Pittsburg this man got his bills.

Think of the hungry children that bundle of fives and fifties would feed, of the cheer it would bring, of the homes it would furnish! And the man behind the bills? Him? Why, the bills he flung away will, soon or late, come into decent hands and fill their purpose in the world, some five, some fifty fold. But as for him - Him!

REX DYSPESIA TABLETS Relieves gas in stomach, distress after eating, stomach nervousness, dizziness, headache, heartburn, heart palpitation and other ailments caused by faulty digestion. Price 25c. Prepared by United Drug Company, Boston, Mass. Sold in Oregon City only by Huntley Bros. Co., the Rexall store.

The best plaster. A piece of flannel damped with Chamberlain's Lintiment and bound over the affected parts is superior to a plaster and costs only one tenth as much. For sale by all good dealers.