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OREGON CITY COURIER

The Courier is AGAINST injustice--against the privileged classes, and FOR the Weak Citizen and the Common People.

29th YEAR.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 15 1912.

No. 445

LET'S HUNT ELKS.

THERE ARE THOUSANDS COMING TO PORTLAND SOON

DRIVE A HERD DOWN HERE.

A Matter Our Commercial Club Should Not Pass Up.

That there should be something done to acquaint eastern people with Oregon City, during the Elks' carnival at Portland in July, is very patent, and the following communication from one of our citizens is timely and should cause the Live Wires to sit up and see that some one gets a move on.

Editor Oregon City Courier:

I have noticed in the columns of the Courier many communications that are of general interest, and I believe the subject of which I am writing is one which should have the attention of the Commercial club, the Live Wires, Publicity committee, and in fact everyone that wants to see this most picturesque spot in the west come into her own in the way of drawing the crowds.

Portland will soon be overflowing with people from the east, Elks mostly and they are great hands to see things day or night, and see them right, and many of the visitors, at that time, see Oregon City, and see it right, not in a mealy, half-hearted manner, as though some one owned the most of the town and did not care to see it advance, not with the belief of that some one was standing just around the corner with the knife open ready to give them the stick, if they ventured to offer a helping hand, but we wish them to make us, their arms must be open, there must be the smile, the full hearted welcome, the true spirit of "Come," come to a good town to live, to the grandest and most beautiful picturesque spot in the whole west, where nature worked overtime and Sundays, with all her expert landscape gardeners, and seemed to have taken centuries to study plans to set in to eternal darkness even the grandeur of noted Switzerland.

What we want is action.

The publicity committee could use "Our" funds to no better advantage, than to transport free all adults, from Portland to Oregon City and return, via electric line, and while here have gentlemen to show them about, and hand them literature, give them a few gentle pats on the back, you all know that feels awfully good, especially when a fellow's away from home. When these people return east, they will carry with them such pleasant recollections of the city here, and

its people, many who will sooner or later pull up stakes and follow Horace Greeley's advice, will seek out the picturesque Switzerland of the west, and there, you have it.

Portland will be the attraction, to be sure, but there will be a few hours now and then, that all would have, to take a little side jaunt, and when it pictured out, and from--well, we'd have a few. In the last four years there has been a great awakening in Oregon City, the result of a few sticking to the scheme of doing things, instead of always leaving it for Portland to do. We have added attractions here now, new improved streets in the beautiful residence district, with building lots at "manufacturer's prices," and many other attractions, built by man, all overshadowed by the handiwork of nature.

LOOKS GOOD, BUT LEAKS.

A Clever Organization Under Which to Fight Single Tax

This week an organization under the title of the Clackamas County Taxpayers' League was organized here, and it is given out that it is organized "wholly for the benefit of the property interests of the county and for the protection of taxpayers."

"To aid in the reduction of taxes and join in demanding a strict accountability of all officials for public money expended by them.

To abolish all offices and commissions which are not beneficial to the people.

"To oppose the Single Tax which would burden the farmer and small home owner and add wealth to the coffers of the corporations."

If the league had adopted the first two declarations and quit, the people would have gone to this league like a cat to a milk shelf, but the third declaration gives it away that the first two declarations were simply shoved in at the head, that the people might not so quickly take notice that it was an anti-single tax organization, with a taxpayers' bluff over it.

A man has a right to favor or oppose single tax, and I admire any man who takes a stand and isn't afraid to let anybody know what his number is.

But when three men gather together, under the names of the president, vice-president and treasurer, and give it out that this league is against a system which "would oppress small home owners and add wealth to the corporations,"—seuse my smile.

The president is G. E. Hayes, vice-president, William Sheehan, and treasurer, James M. Tracy.

Miss Clara Etcheson visited with friends in Sellwood Monday and Tuesday.

WHERE MEN DIFFER

U'REN AND DIMICK DEBATE ON SINGLE TAX

OUTLINE OF THE ARGUMENTS

Campaign of Education Opens at Beaver Creek

The Beaver Creek Hall debate between Grant B. Dimick and W. S. U'Ren on the Clackamas County Single Tax bill last Friday night was a very interesting affair. The hall was filled and there must have been about 200 people present. Many of whom were ladies. The talk lasted from about eight o'clock until after half past ten and the crowd stayed.

Mr. U'Ren urged that the measure would be for the advantage of farmers and all other working men whether they dig ditches, sell dry goods, or manufacture paper and woodens. He cited examples from the farmers in the neighborhood whose taxes would be materially reduced by this bill. He also called attention to the South-ern Pacific with its 90,000 acres of vacant land, the tax on which would be increased more than one third under this bill. Mr. U'Ren showed that the exemption of personal property and improvements in the county would amount to nearly \$8,500,000, being over one-third of the total assessed value of the county. Of this exemption the farmers would have more than \$6,000,000 for their clearings, buildings, live stock and other personal property. He stated that the records show that the farmers pay almost three-fourths of all the tax that is paid in the county on personal property and improvements on land.

The single taxers have caused to be made a tax assessment and tax roll for Clackamas county for the year 1910. This work was done under the supervision of Hon. Fred Johnson, Deputy assessor for Clackamas county. Mr. U'Ren's citations of actual results to the farmers and others were taken from this roll. This single tax roll is now in the hands of the printer and will be published in pamphlet form and a copy delivered to every taxpayer in Clackamas county.

Mr. U'Ren stated that Mr. Dimick had never been actively in the field for any of the progressive measures that are commonly known as the Oregon system of People's Power, and that the campaign of 1898 and afterwards Mr. Dimick had ridiculed Brownell and others who advocated the initiative and referendum, saying that they had wheels in their head. Mr. Dimick did not deny this but said he was now in sympathy with these measures though he believed that not more than six bills and constitutional

amendments should ever be allowed on the ballot at one election, because he thought more than six confused the voters' minds.

Mayor Dimick contended that if this bill should pass it would only be a few years until the tax on vacant land would be so high that no speculator could hold land and when the tax was made so high on vacant land that no one could afford to hold land he did not want to use, Mr. Dimick thought the farmers who use land would be no better off than the speculators. He read long extracts from Henry George's writings and quoted from the report of the Fels commission conference and the talk given by Mr. U'Ren at that time.

Both speakers were applauded several times but for the most part the audience seemed to be out to learn the facts and not as partisans of either side.

A Question or Two

Editor Courier:

Will you allow a guess or two? You may have noticed that the press reports T. R. and Taft at swords' points, fighting each other as leaders of two factions of the G. O. P. Now I am from Missouri, it looks to me more like a line stroke of politics to mislead the party. Teddy says he will support the nominee of the convention. Taft can do no less. The principles seem not to be thought of, so I am just guessing that it is just a line stroke of politics to mislead the powers who make presidents. These will lead them all into one camp.

Eight years ago Bryan severely denounced Parker, but took the stump in his support. This is not necessarily a parallel, but I am just guessing that things are not what they seem.

A GUESSEER.

High Taxes.

The increased taxes are the cause of a great deal of grumbling this year, and we are all striving to build up the county and get new settlers here. We have one of the best counties in the state of Oregon and there is no reason why we can see that it should be in debt. Taxes have been increasing and the debt growing, and there must be a remedy found.

A man told me on the street the other day that he rented his ranch for \$2500. He has a tax of \$2500 on his land, have bought better land for less money. Now what is the cause? Is it the high value placed on the land, or is it the graft going on from a road supervisor up to the highest officer in the state?

They should all take their hands out of the people's pockets and be economical in their offices. One of the needless expenses is the second or third needless school supervisory. If the county school superintendent cannot attend to the office, we must try and get some one who can, and we must have every one of our officers pledged to economy, both in state and county, and if they disagree, recall them, or tar and feather them.

H. C. CLYDE

YOU ARE IN WRONG.

Postal Ruling Does Not Pay Your Back Subscriptions

Here's a little matter that subscribers have entirely the wrong end of, and one we want to make plain to them.

There seems to be a general impression that there is a law which forbids the publisher to send his paper to any person unless paid in advance, and that payment cannot be enforced if he so sends it.

A postal regulation provides that weekly papers shall not send papers after a subscriber owes for over one year, and a daily for over three months unless the publisher pays extra postage on those papers.

But this ruling has no bearing whatever on the liability of a subscriber and it has been repeatedly upheld by the courts that the subscriber who continues to take a paper from the postoffice or carrier is liable for payment of same as long as he takes the paper. The Courier editor has made test cases of this and knows what he is talking about.

So if you have an idea that by subscribing and paying for a paper in advance, then allowing it to come two years, thinking you are not compelled to pay for it, you are wrong—both wrong and dishonest.

Notify your postmaster or carrier if you don't want the paper; then pay it up to the time.

That is business, decency and honesty.

We are trying hard to put the Courier on the one-year basis, and we have only a few on the outside today.

Help us out. Don't try to short skate on a year's subscription. It's too small for any man in Oregon, too petty, too insignificant.

Mail Boys are Active

At the meeting of the rural mail carriers of Clackamas and Marion counties at Canby Sunday, the boys went on record for two propositions as follows:

"Resolved, that we favor the election of all road supervisors by popular vote of the people at a given date at the end of the year to be designated as "road day", at which time all road taxes could be levied, and also resolutions favoring the use of the split log drag on all dirt roads.

"Resolved, that we favor a law being enacted by our state legislature preventing extreme heavy hauling over our country roads during the winter season."

OUR CITY WONDERS

AS SEEN BY VISITOR FROM NEW YORK.

WE DO NOT HALF APPRECIATE

Offers Suggestions as to What we Could do to Attract.

An eastern business man has been in the city this week, visiting friends and looking over Oregon City, and nothing would more please an optimist than to have had an hour's talk with this man.

He raved over the natural picture-ness of the city, its scenic walks, beautiful views, the bluffs, Mount Hood—and then he raved over the climate and the soil.

This gentleman said it did not appear to him that our people half appreciated what they had here. He said that if Oregon City was in the old east states, and was as near a city as we were near to Portland, that this place would be made a summer resort of wide repute, and that we would be filled with tourists.

He said the bluffs could be made most picturesque with but little expense, and that he should think our commercial bodies would take this up with other matters for the advancement of the city; that a newspaper would take the rock bluffs and make of them stairways that tourists would rave over, and that would advertise the city as no other means could; that nature had put these great walls here for us to make beautiful attractions of, and that it seemed that we did not know it, and allowed them to remain unimproved.

Another matter that he said that to an easterner presented a man of both scenic and commercial value, and that was an elevator or revolving stairway up the bluffs. With the power we have here, he said that we could put in the revolving stairways, similar to those used in the department stores in New York and Chicago, one going up while the other came down, and one had but to step on the walk to be carried up. He stated that such a proposition was not as large as it looked, and like the matter of beautifying the bluffs, would pay big in advertising returns.

This gentleman stated that outside of the great commercial value of the falls, we could make Oregon City a big city, a western Switzerland; that familiarity had blinded us to the value of what we have, and that we should come to a realizing sense and have the big end of the tourist travel coming to our city every year, and staying six months of the year.

COUNCIL'S SPECIAL MEETING.

Molalla Avenue, Armory and Other Matters Considered.

The drainage of Molalla avenue was taken up at length before the special meeting of the city council Tuesday night, and it will come up again for this much traveled street. Certain sections will be surface-drained at an early date, and permanent improvements will no doubt follow. Mayor Dimick has appointed Messrs. Burke, Tooze and Beard to take the matter up with property owners along the thoroughfare and see if they were disposed to pay a part of the expenses of permanent improvements, and also to see if the county court will help out on the expense.

The Oregon Engineering and Construction Co. was awarded the contract to improve the Madison street bridge.

It was ordered that an ordinance be drawn to establish the grade of Monroe street between Sixth and Seventh.

The street committee has under consideration for the petition of the Oregon Commission Co. to place public hitching posts on Eleventh street.

Dr. L. L. Pickens, representing the Live Wires, and J. W. Moffit, asked the council to take an interest in the armory proposition by looking into the matter of a site for the building, after which the project could be taken up with the county and state. Messrs. Burke, Tooze and Myer were appointed a committee to look over the city's holdings, and see if a suitable location could be procured.

Elks' Home Started.

Work on the Elks' handsome home will be started today and a large force of workmen will rush the structure. It will be built on their lot on Water street and the contract has been let to the Clarence Simmons Co. The building will be a modern Elks' structure and one of the state's prettiest.

Much About Nothing.

If the "hombre" on the OREGON CITY COURIER who conducts the Spanish (Mexican) department, will drop into Aurora, I Vetter will willingly teach him that "hombre" and "dinerio" is not exactly pure Castilian. Better write it hombre and dinerio.—Ashland Tidings.

If the big chief who conducts the literary criticizing department of the Tidings, will drop into Oregon City, M. J. Brown will willingly teach him that the wording of the above criticism is not exactly pure grammar. Better put "are" in the place of "is."

But isn't this much about nothing? A man's a man just the

same, whether spelled in a-n or h-o-m-b-r-e, and a dollar will buy just as big a sack of frijoles whether it reads "cartwheel," or is called "dinerio."

Last week's Courier had several misspelled words. One of Foley's patent medicine locals looked very much like Spanish or Chinese, but we haven't heard any protests.

Wonder if the Tidings man ever heard that mouse and elephant story?

MAIN STREET PAVING TALK.

Live Wires Looking Up Expense From Eleventh to Abernethy.

The matter of paving Main street from Eleventh street to the Abernethy was the big talk subject before the Live Wires Tuesday noon, and it will come up for more talk at next week's meeting. A committee, with M. D. Latourette at the head, is investigating the matter, talking with property owners, and it will report next week.

It is certain that Main street, from where the paving ends, on toward Gladstone, is about as bad a street as you can find in any city, and it seems as if some action should be taken to remedy it. As to whether bituminous pavement is the right action or not, of course, depends on the expense, and how the taxpayers feel. The report of the committee will give information on these points. There is also discussion as to the best means of putting Seventh street into permanent shape.

GET JOHN DOE.

Wake Him up and Put him On to The Hill Murder Case.

The Courier editor is in receipt of a personal letter from a prominent attorney, a part of which is as follows:

"Why in the devil don't you get a John Doe proceeding started in that Hill case? Look up the law on it. For the purpose of maintaining peace or investigating crimes, a common justice of the peace of any town in his county has ALL OF THE POWER and JURISDICTION of any grand jury, other magistrate or executive officer, NOT EXCEPTING A GOVERNOR OR EVEN PRESIDENT. Don't you know that it is only since about 1870 that district attorneys began to rid district attorneys and usurp their functions?"

One or Two on the Sid e.

The correspondent from Redland, in this issue of the Courier, has something to say about the matter of hitching posts in this city, and we must admit that he states a whole lot of sound common sense. One who observes knows that it is not the rigs of those doing trading that stand hitched to the Seventh street posts day after day, but rather the rigs of those doing nothing.

And, too, there is some horse sense in the statement that if Oregon City gives the right prices, the trade will come, hitching or no hitching. And on our own account we would add that it might not be a bad idea for the Live Wires to suggest to some of the merchants who are making a lot of noise over the hitching post matter to try making a little noise in the way of advertising, and see how that panned out.

Sheriff Mass is Candidate

So far as the democrats are concerned they will give Sheriff Mass a clear field for re-election, but the republicans are not going to be so generous, and Mass' old antagonist, E. C. Hackett, will go down the line with him for an election.

Sheriff Mass will be a very hard man for any one to beat this year, he is republican or democrat, for the reason that he has made good and been one of the hardest workers that ever filled the job. His persistent hard work for many months on the Hill murder case is alone an issue that should elect him.

Notice to Taxpayers.

Of all taxes not paid on or before the first day of April, there will be a penalty of ten per cent and interest at the rate of twelve per cent from the day upon which they become delinquent until the date of payment. On all taxes paid in full on or before the 15th day of March, there will be allowed a rebate of three per cent. Half of the entire tax upon any piece of real estate, or upon the personal property of any individual, may be paid on or before the first Monday in April, and the remainder need not then be paid until the first Monday in October, but must be paid by that date or the last half will become delinquent.

FISH! FISH!

FRESH DAILY

Salmon, Halibut Etc.

Mexicans have the ordinary hotel waiters skinned forty ways in pan-handling for tips. They will press their services on you, and then openly hold out their hands for change. Give it to them and you are a "gringo" and they will follow and obey you like dogs, refuse and you are a "gringo" and they would stick a knife in you if they dared.

In the mountains of New Mexico I saw a little animal called a kangaroo rat, looking about the feet and long hind legs like a kangaroo, and running with that peculiar jump of the big animals. I have never read or heard of these little animals, and they were of much interest to me.

CRABS, cooked on the premises; OYSTERS, direct from the shell; CHICKEN, to order; No Cold Storage Stock in fish or fowl. Headquarters for OLYMPIA OYSTERS, the BEST on the Coast.

MACDONALD'S MARKET

Next Wells Fargo

ODDS AND ENDS.

CURIOUS LITTLE STORIES OF THE ODD CORNERS.

STRANGE PLACES AND THINGS

Stub Ends of a Newspaper Editor's Note Book.

In a curio shop in San Antonio, Texas I saw a remarkable example of Mexican patience and handicraft, a flea—just an ordinary, tiny sand insect—dressed in a full suit of clothes, pants, sweater and hat, and so delicate and small that I had to see it through a magnifying glass to appreciate it. This is literally an honest fact, without any exaggeration. The patience of some of the Mexicans is more than wonderful. Give one of them a silver coin and he will make of it some rare curio, will spend hours on it and then sell it to you for a few cents. From horse hair and human hair they will plait watch chains and neck chains of exquisite workmanship and beauty. Time has no value—and a Mexican has more patience than anything else on earth.

At a ranch in west Texas I witnessed some cow boys at play—big, husky sons of the range having their sport. A cow would be turned loose from a corral, and the fellows would wage their skill and money seeing which could rope, throw and tie the cow in the shortest time. One of the cow boys did the trick in 38 seconds. The record time I believe is 29 1/2 seconds. The cow is chased around the corral until she is thoroughly frightened, and when she is released she hits the fastest gate she has. The cow boy, on his horse, outside the pen, starts when the cow starts, runs her down, throws the rope, throws the cow, dismounts and ties her legs and throws up his hands for time. Think of all this being done in a little more than half a minute, and you picture a pretty speedy cow-puncher. A half a minute should be given to a cow pony. The minute the throw is made and the cow boy sees it is good for the horns, he dismounts, and the instant the rope settles over the horns the well-trained pony rears back with curious, it would be almost as soon as she falls, the cow boy is on her, tying her feet. These men will wager a month's pay on these half minute contests.

The gambling spirit is the leading spirit in a mining town—barren, possibly, the barrenest of spirits. These men will gamble on anything and everything that offers a chance, and when chances run out, they make them. I saw as much as \$500 bet one night, in a mining town, ten or six on Nelson's cow, a dozen men take bets on both ends of a two to one shot that the next morning's fast train from California to New Mexico, on the Santa Fe, would be on time.

In front of a curio store in Santa Fe, crumbling to ruin, I saw a Mexican cart of the old Spanish days, a cart of the time of Christ, and I could not but think that were this relic anywhere else in the world but in this corner so rich with curios, it would be almost priceless. A friend told me I could buy it for \$25. I went out and counted my money and when I came back the shop was closed. That night I left town. The wheels were solid, and at the time fully a lot thicker. There was not an ounce of iron or metal on the cart—not a nail even. Every bit of the material and parts of construction were wood, and the crude wooden spikes told of the almost toolless days when it was made.


I saw a girl at Silver City who earned a thousand dollars in a few minutes by riding across a canyon in an ore bucket, suspended on a wire. The bucket went from peak to peak of a mountain and was kept looking at a mining town below. No person had at that time made the trip across, although they say it is often made now. I asked her where she got courage enough to make the trip and she replied: "I sat down in the bucket, kept looking at the bottom of it, and just naturally went across." A Denver newspaper gave the thousand, and the girl has now a reputation which has won for her the position as head of a boarding house. She was pretty enough to make a man a steady boarder—but I was married.

In a wager a miner took a full pint bottle of what the mountaineers call "snake whiskey" and the neck far down his throat and he never closed the faucet until every dram of the spirits had run out. He pocketed the money, sat down in a chair a few minutes and then pitched forward on his face in the sawdust.

In the mountains of New Mexico I saw a little animal called a kangaroo rat, looking about the feet and long hind legs like a kangaroo, and running with that peculiar jump of the big animals. I have never read or heard of these little animals, and they were of much interest to me.

(Continued on page two.)

The Pleasure of Dining At Home



IS ENHANCED when the home is brightened like sunlight by the brilliant rays of the Mazda Lamp. Its restful rays impart the effect of a flood of sunlight--the only light for which the eye has a natural affinity. Not only does the Mazda Lamp give this Superior Quality of light, but it gives nearly Three Times as much light as the common carbon incandescent--and Costs No More to operate.

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