

JOHN STARK'S COMMENT COLUMN

THE POLITICS OF TODAY—A SOCIALIST'S VIEW.

Caucic Comments on Matters of Public Welfare.

You know the Republicans are very much opposed to the Democrats because the Democrats are free traders and a few other things which make them very undesirable in politics.

In California a movement has set in to pension poor mothers where the fathers have died, are disabled, or have disappeared.

I see Governor Foss has been renominated by the Democrats of Mass., as against Joseph C. Pelletier. Foss is the duck who sent out the militia against the striking mill workers.

Come to think the matter over more fully it is not right to ask some candidates under which flag? If I have been correctly informed the law never forces anyone to incriminate himself and a candidate should have some rights the people are bound to respect.

I have been told that in some some school districts public meetings are not permitted in the school house. If that is true, I would like to know if anyone can inform me why the public builds public houses that the public cannot use.

Do you know what your vote is worth? You seem to put a low estimate on it or a lot of jays would not be able to beg it from you.

The men of great affairs know what it means for that reason they put so much money into the campaign. Not that none of the investigators show the Socialist party to get any.

The captains of industry love you so that they finance the old parties so that Socialism may not harm you.

Some journals sneer at Gen. Nogi committing suicide, but really I see nothing wrong about it; in fact I would like to see the innovation in this country. I could name quite a list of noted men who would make handsome funerals if they could be induced to try the fashion. There is Knox for a starter.

A big fuss is being kicked up owing to the disclosures that the big corporations furnished the sinews of war for the Republicans. Well didn't Theodore say they were corrupt? And he knows. Now what is there to kick about anyway, didn't he deliver the goods, or is there still some left which he hopes to deliver after next fourth of March?

Cardinal Gibbons in a recent Kansas City speech declared the law to recall judges an insult to pride. It has been said "pride goeth before vanity and vanity before the fall." It is not difficult to see why the Cardinal should regard a judge as above the common level of mankind. Early training and a life habit give him the view point. One thing these dignitaries overlook is the fact that law is not stationary in our time of age; if law is the collective will of the people then courts must also be subject to the will of the people; besides that it seems the learned prelate never takes account of the fact that the people are expected to furnish the fodder for both the judges of courts and the sleek well fed clergy. Did he ever hear of a poor carpenter who said "let him who would be greatest among you be your servant?"

All this spectacular humbug in the court room at Lawrence, Mass., gives me a creepy feeling. I wonder what the outcome will be and if another sensation like the Los Angeles affair is to be pulled off about election time. Capitalism is not at the end of its rope by a few inches it has the courts and hires the worst rascals and employs the best lawyers—which is saying the same thing twice. No one is in duty bound to believe anything pulled off in a court room. Once I believed in the integrity of the courts

but that was before I had a peep into the "green room." After that I withdrew from the ancient order of suckers and have been unfit for jury duty since.

THE DIMICK KIND.

Writer Hands Nice One to Senator Dimick of This City.

Editor Courier:— I notice in the last Courier your short editorial on the duties of the voters on the many bills that are to be voted on in Nov., election.

It is surprising to me to think that the ballot should contain so many useless bills. It tends to confuse the voters. As I look them over there are three fourths of that should be voted no—Oregon has laws enough. Now I think your suggestions to vote NO on most of the bills is timely.

I have been in Oregon 66 years and, since I have been a voter I have always, to the best of my knowledge, voted for what I considered only good laws and good men to make them. But of course I have been mistaken some times I am a firm believer in the law making men.

Primary Law and Statement No. 7. I have long ago broken from party obligation and I vote for the man that I think will be honest and taken when I voted for Walter Dimick. Oh, that we could elect more such men! I am for Wilson first and last.

B. F. BONNEY.

LOGAN.

The strenuous work of the fair committee is over and the honors and emoluments are gratefully received, the hard earned. It is quite an undertaking to prepare an exhibit so far from home. At the Grange meeting last Sat. the committee was instructed to make arrangements to dispose of the play.

At the Grange meeting there was an interesting discussion of the measures to be voted on at the coming election. The speakers discovered several that needed killing and they proposed to use capital punishment on them. The so-called majority rule amendment was one that all condemned. A Mr. H. F. Cutting was present and made an eloquent plea for the organization of a local branch of the Farmer's Equity Association and we hear that he succeeded in organizing in the evening. The aim of the organization is to control the distribution and sale of farm products.

Several Logan people went to the Gresham fair last Saturday and report a success, tho not ahead of the Canby fair.

Mrs. Lulu Ward is convalescing. Grandma Smith was at Samuel Guerber's last week and is going for a year's visit with a daughter in Kansas.

B. C. Hawley is down from Corvallis and attended the grange meeting. He reports that Claude Sprague is married and still holds his position at Pullman, Wash.

Logan and Redland did well at Canby. The first grange premium and the first and second on bread at the juvenile dept. was won by Eitel Funk and Edith Bullard proves a pretty good showing.

Mr. Hart and family are preparing to leave us this fall. An uncle of E. Spire, who lives at Vancouver, Wash. visited him recently. S. G. Kirchem lost a valuable horse last week. J. A. Randolph was around last week in the interest of his safe proposition and says its a safe investment.

Saved By His Wife. She's a wise woman who knows just what to do when her husband's life is in danger, but Mrs. R. J. Flint, Braintree, Vt., is on of that kind. "She insisted on me using Dr. King's New Discovery," writes Mr. F. "for a dreadful cough, when I was so weak all my friends thought I had only a short time to live, and it completely cured me." A quick cure for coughs and colds, it's the most safe and reliable medicine for many throat and lung troubles—grip, bronchitis, croup, whooping cough, quinsy, tonsillitis, hemorrhages. A trial will convince you. 50 cents and a \$1. Guaranteed by Huntley Bros. Co., Oregon City, Ore.

Carl C. Kratzstein, Mgr. J. G. Tanner Drug Store, Santa Cruz, Calif., writes: "We have sold Foley and Company's medicines have yet to hear our first complaint, or of a dissatisfied customer. Their remedies are pure, made as represented, and contain no injurious substances. On the contrary, our experience shows us that the Company's aim has always been to make health giving and health maintaining remedies.

For sale by Huntley Bros. Co., Oregon City, Ore.

A. S. Jones, Prop. Lee Pharmacy, Chico, Calif., says: "I have been selling Foley and Company's medicines for years. Foley's Honey and Tar Compound, I consider has no equal and is the one cough medicine I can recommend to my friends and containing no narcotics or other harmful properties.

For sale by Huntley Bros. Co., Oregon City, Ore.

GET DOWN TO THE REAL ISSUES

NOT VOTING ON SPENCER OR HENRY GEORGE

Quit Ghost Business and Talk Sense to The People

Editor Courier:— If Mr. Hicinbotham will look up his letters in back issues of the Courier he will find that he has conceded that I am right in saying that raising the assessment on raw land values would make no difference under single tax provided the raise is uniform. Now why should I care whether my land is placed at the present assessed basis of unimproved land here of \$20 or at the approximate selling value of \$100, when the speculator's assessment would be the same in either case.

Assess my land at \$20 and the 600 acres of unimproved land of the Stroubridge estate at \$20 or assess us both at \$100 per acre.

Now mine is assessed at \$20 and the labor of improving the acre at \$40, so I pay three times the tax on an acre that the Stroubridge estate does. None are so blind as those that do not wish to see and Mr. H. seems to be in that class.

There is another and I hope a more numerous class, that can grasp fundamental truths and are not to be turned aside by unimportant details. They do not spend all their time in studying how a system might affect some individual cases but wish to know the effect on society in general.

I should like to ask Mr. Shields, and those who take their cue from him, what difference it should make whether Henry George was in favor of government ownership of land or not. Can we not accept his ideas so far as we like them and let the rest go? Very few single taxers believe in government of improved land or homes. I should oppose that with all the force that there is within me.

Mr. Shields says that Herbert Spencer, in the latter part of his life, renounced government ownership but he is not honest enough to say that George did the same.

Read "The Labor Question" by Henry George. He discovered that public ownership is not consistent with his claim that labor should own all it creates. How could labor own all it creates and not own the land to which the labor has been adopted? How could a man own the wells, the ditches, the trees he has planted, the buildings, the fences, the clearings and not own the land? Who would make these permanent improvements if the land could be taken from him or his family by official whim? That is just a scarecrow got up by speculators to keep people from demanding their rights.

O. D. ROBBINS.

THE NEWS OF CANBY.

A Column of Live Locals from a Live Town

City Council met Monday night as usual, but as there was not a quorum, adjournment was taken until next Monday, Oct. 12.

Sabbath was a day of special services at Canby; for on the afternoon the Mason Lodge No. 134 laid the corner stone of the fine building on Front St., in process of erection. A large crowd was present to witness the event, some Masons having come from a distance to assist in the ceremonies. Dr. H. A. Dedman, L. D. Walker and others took a prominent part in the ceremonies. The work is now moving on rapidly, and it will not be long before the building will be ready for occupancy.

The Huntley Bros. Drug Store will occupy one of the store rooms, while Doc. Sailor, we understand, will occupy the other store room on the first floor. In addition to the laying of the corner stone, there were special Sabbath School exercises in the M. E. Church in the forenoon. These exercises were due to the efficient efforts of Mrs. John Vinacke, Supt. of Primary Dept., Mrs. C. F. Romig, whose class completed the primary work and was promoted into the advanced department of the school and Miss Hazel Phillips, who assisted as pianist. The children performed well the duties assigned them showing that there was no lack of preparation.

English services are carried on regularly in the German Evangelical Church of this place both morning and evening. Rev. Plummer, the pastor, is doing good work and under him the attendance is constantly increasing.

The capacity of the present school rooms at Canby are taxed to the utmost. There are now over two hundred enrolled, of which over forty are in the high school department. Every one is anxiously awaiting the time when we shall move into the new school building. This building is almost ready for the roof.

The I. O. O. F. Lodge of Canby is now actively excavating for the new concrete hall to be created on their lots made vacant last spring when the City Hotel was destroyed by fire. This building will be the fifth large concrete structure in Canby, four of which are now under process of construction.

Mrs. J. R. Newton and children are spending the winter in Salem, while Mr. Newton is staying home and caring for the stuff.

The voting booth manufacturing plant, which recently located a branch manufacturing shop here is busily turning out the finished product. The work of this part of the factory is devoted entirely to the making of the boxes. Orders are coming in so rapidly that it is thought that more help will be necessary. Mr. Douglas of Wisconsin, is the manager here.

C. F. Romig attended the political rally held at Barlow last Saturday evening. He was called upon to speak in behalf of the High School Fund Law.

THE REAL FACTS FROM CANADA.

A LETTER DIRECT FROM THE MUNICIPAL ASSESSOR

Direct Evidence of How Taxation Exemption Works Out

Editor Courier:— In the municipality of Surrey, British Columbia, they do not tax personal property and improvements and they do tax wild land at 25 mills and improved land at 9 mills, besides a school tax of 2 and a fourth mills.

The following is a copy of some questions asked by Dr. Eggleston of Mr. A. P. Currie, Clerk and Assessor of the Municipality of Surrey:

What is the area of Surrey? 123 square miles. Estimated population? About 4,000. Estimated number of land-owners? 2000.

About what proportion of land owners are farmers? One-third. When was the municipality formed? 1879.

Are improvements taxed? Improvements were never taxed since the municipality was formed.

Are people generally satisfied with exemption of improvements from tax? Yes, they are well satisfied; so well satisfied that they would not consider a proposal to tax improvements.

Why are improvements taxed? Merely for statistical purposes and to show the general condition of the municipality in case it may be necessary to issue bonds.

What is the bonded debt of the municipality? None.

Are the farmers as well satisfied with exemption of improvements as other residents? Yes, there is no complaint from them.

It is asserted in the states that taxation of land values alone is injurious to farmers and small land owners. Is that true or untrue? It is untrue. On the contrary, there is every reason to believe that it is beneficial to farmers and small home owners. It is harmful to no one except the man who holds his land unimproved, and he can escape injury by improving his property.

Do you consider it fair to the community to permit valuable improvements to be exempt? It is fair to the community as well as to the individual. Improvements benefit the whole community, and harm no one. We take pride in having and showing well improved farms and home sites, so why should we tax the things in which we take pride? Improvements mean healthy growth.

It is asserted in the states that an assessor cannot make the proper separation between improvement values and taxable land values. Do you find any difficulty in doing that? There is no difficulty whatever in making that separation.

What is the total assessed value of improvements in Surrey? \$495,330.00. Total value of assessed land? \$5,454,930.00.

What is the tax rate for 1912? 9 mills for municipal or improved land rate; 25 mills for wild land, a discount of one sixth for payment on or before Nov. 15th and 2 and one-fourth for school purposes on which there is no rebate.

Do you have many complaints of and protests against land value assessments and taxes? No. There were only about 25 appeals from the assessment of 1912.

Will you give me the improvement assessments and land value assessments of Mr. John Tarves? 9.29 acres, 5 acres in cultivation all assessed at \$600 for land and \$500 for improvements; his total tax was \$6.75.

A. H. Dodd had 9.29 acres of wild land assessed for \$600 and his total tax was \$6.75.

B. R. Whitley had 20 acres of which ten are cultivated and his land is assessed at \$1,000 and improvements at \$3,000; improvements are not taxed and his total tax was \$14.25 on the land value.

W. G. Williams owned a small home assessed for \$100; his lot is 50 by 120 ft., with a house assessed for \$800. His total tax was \$1.42. If this was the only property he had he would have had to pay \$2, as that is the minimum tax; but he had other property and therefore he paid only the regular rate on this.

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