

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING GAME

BAD PLAY FOR MERCHANT AND CUSTOMER.

WANT LAWS TO ABOLISH IT.

Trading Stamp and Premium Schemes are Played Out.

Wednesday and Thursday of this week the Oregon Retail Merchants' Association held its annual convention in Albany, and now a committee will go to Salem and ask that a bill be introduced abolishing the trading stamps in Oregon.

Tacoma, Wash., now imposes a fine of \$100 annually on all merchants who give trading stamps, and the federal courts have sustained the ordinance.

You may talk about the family sending to Sears, Roebuck & Co. for merchandise, but this trading stamp business is just as bad.

The east long ago cut it out because the dealers themselves realized that it was working dead wrong, that only the few were being benefitted (or thought they were being) and that it was simply driving the rest to the mail order houses—where they did not have to pay for the others' trading stamps and premiums.

This system of stamps, prizes, contests and premiums is all dead wrong, and the consumers are getting wise to it.

Customers have the idea (they may be right or wrong) that they have to pay for those premiums just the same if they do not get them given to them in exchange for a book of stamps, and the customer who does not save them for himself, or herself, but who gives them to her neighbor, thinks he or she is having to help pay for the premium twice—and then does not get a look at it.

And the contest—that is worse than the stamps. Only one can win, but the customers line up and take sides with the contestants, and when the weeks and months of campaigning are over, one person wins out and the rest are disappointed, then they are sick of the whole job and just ripe for the catalogue house to do business with.

Where is the newspaper that ever had anything to hold subscribers on that ever found a contest or prize scheme profitable?

The whole system of prizes, trading stamps, contests, and guessing schemes are for the purpose of getting trade that is unnatural, of hiring people to patronize them—and such a trade is not worth the getting and it will not stick.

Here is the way Colliers, that national newspaper, sizes up the matter:

We know few institutions better deserving attention from such machinery of suppression as public opinion possesses than those newspaper contests which purport to discover the ten most popular school teachers or the ten most beautiful stenographers. Do the relatives and friends of these young women realize that they are being daubed with vulgarities to make money for newspaper publishers who need have become extreme by the time they adopt this device?

There is nothing to this something-for-nothing business and the people know it.

The big trading stamp syndicates have a soft snap on the premiums, but the merchants must go down on the expense list for about five per cent of his sales or he must raise the price of certain goods the people are not too familiar with to get this back—and the people have an idea this is just about what he does, and that they are indirectly paying for the printing of the stamps and the premiums that come from way back east—that place where YOU must not buy your goods from, but the place where the MERCHANT gets his from.

If the merchants would get together on this matter and cut out the stamps, and give the people sale dates and the price of these stamps and premiums in special prices, how much better the people would feel and how much better the trade would be for the merchants.

You can't find a trading stamp, a premium or a contest in the east. They all tried it, and they all quit it—quit it before it finished them.

The manager of one of the biggest mercantile concerns in western New York told the Courier editor the trading stamp and contest business injured their business to an extent that it took four years to get back after the schemes had been stopped. He said it simply drove customers to the catalogue houses, but they never realized it until they discontinued the contests—then they found that the better class of trade, those who knew there was nothing in the something-for-nothing game, had gone to trade with the mail order houses.

The merchants of this city should form an association, cut out the hiring trade schemes, and put on a series of sales that would reach out and bring in a class of trade this city does not get.

They could take the same money they put into stamps and premiums put it into reduced prices give all the people the benefit of the bargains (instead of the few)

OREGON CITY COURIER

30th YEAR.

OREGON CITY, ORE., FRIDAY, JAN. 24, 1913.

No. 37

RAISE LESS TRUCK AND MORE STOCK

DAIRYING AND SWINE RAISING ARE MONEY MAKERS.

WIRES TAKE UP THESE TOPICS

Get Blooded Foundation Stock and Get Rich.

The only objection one can have with the Live Wires these days is that there is not time enough, and the fellows have to jump to get a chance to say anything. But this is far better than to have to prod members to get them started. It shows an interest in matters and a healthy condition of the club.

Dairying and live stock raising came in for a part of the talking time of Tuesday's meeting and every man was anxious and ready to get on his feet and help to push the project along. The Live Wires realize that this will mean to the county, and they are going to get in the game and do all they can in every way assist the farmers in making this industry the main line instead of the side line.

W. A. Shewman, editor of the Western Stock Journal, was the text speaker, and then the others joined in. Shewman gave a most interesting and practical talk on what dairying and swine raising, when gone into right, will do for any community, and he showed how it would particularly advance this county for the reason that it is especially adapted to this pursuit. He stated that \$12,000,000 of dairy products, \$6,000,000 of pork and \$25,000,000 in a total were brought into this state for consumption, while we might and could easily produce this import, and ship to other states as well. He showed how we had the soil, the crops and everything particularly adapted to dairying, livestock and swine raising, and he cited how other places in the east and in Washington state had made of their localities the richest of communities by stock raising and dairying and had changed the tide of trade to a large balance in their favor. He said the idea was to start right, get the blooded foundation stock and then raise the crops this valley was especially adapted to for feed. He said the banks in many places were greatly aiding the farmers to get the right sires for their stock and that the banks here stood ready to help. He also advised that there be a live stock exhibit in connection with the coming booster day celebration in May, and the suggestion met with hearty support.

T. W. Sullivan, hydraulic engineer of the P. R. L. & P. Co., warmly endorsed Shewman's talk. He said the welfare of any city depended on the welfare of the farming country and the manufacturing; that the manufacturing was able to take care of itself (if they were not tied down with injurious laws) but that the manufacturers were ready and anxious to help any cause that would help to help the country more prosperous; that this country was close to a ready market, that it had the soil and climate for anything and that live stock and dairying would make it a rich country quicker than any other proposition.

O. E. A. Freytag stated how he learned while in Chicago that the state of Montana was shipping hundreds of carloads of swine into Portland, and he could not understand why the people right in the front yard of the big city and with everything that any country could ask for, permitted this condition.

M. D. Laforetette suggested that there be a live stock and swine show in connection with the May booster celebration.

Speaker Cross related how these things started in a small way grow into substantial industries later on, and he illustrated it by stating that he drew the original organization for the Clear Creek Creamery for \$10,000 which had now grown to upwards of \$100,000. He also cited how he bought two pigs for \$5 a piece, let them run on the ranch, never paid out a cent on them and sold them for \$35 each.

B. T. McBain spoke briefly on the need of a pure water source for the city. He said the city of Salem, which takes its water from the Willamette river, boiled the water and had ever since that city had the typhoid epidemic and that the state capital had but in a water boiling plant. He said at the opening of the legislature half of the members were taken sick because of drinking the river water and it was necessary for the state to boil it.

Dr. Picking brought up the matter of an armory for the city and Mr. McBain stated that the appropriation for the state had been exhausted and that unless the legislature made further appropriations there would be no more of state aid.

Mr. Olmstead of the Willamette Paper company, stated that he had analyzed the sample of water that M. J. Brown brought before the Wires last week, and

that he had had the same analyzed in Portland; that there was considerable sediment and organic matter, but no typhoid germs.

G. B. Dye heartily endorsed the proposition of encouraging live stock breeding and agricultural stock breeding and dairying; that we had a better soil than any county in the valley and that we could make these pursuits a great success in this county.

G. L. Hedges related how one man was getting 10 per cent per month interest from one cow nine years old and that was valued at \$75.

On the various subjects that came before the members at a recent meeting, President Cross appointed committees for each and he says he expects these committees to dig in and report on every one of them, and if they are what we need and are within our reach, he proposes to go after them.

ALL BUT FINISHING.

Locks Canal has Only Few Thousand Miles More of Red Tape.

The Courier stated two weeks ago, and it wasn't a guess but a statement, that it was expected the transfer of the falls locks to the government would be completed by the 18th of the month.

It was a bum steer and a long way from facts. The date will come nearer the 18th of next August for the final title business for here is the spool of red tape that tired old deed has to be wound from yet.

To the U. S. district attorney for him to run his legal eye over and see if the "be the same more or less" is in proper order; then to General Bixby, who doesn't know any more about deeds than the Courier editor does about astronomy; then the attorney general of the U. S. will have a look and see there are chains and links enough to make it hold; then Bixby will have another look to see if the attorney general observed all the periods and comas, and then it will go to the Secretary of War Stimson, and if he finds it's all dotted and it's all crossed and the document in "due and ancient form," then will he put his O. K. on it and—biff, we will be ready to commence to prepare to dig a government ditch around the falls of the Willamette.

Laws to Enforce Laws.

The Salem Messenger, commenting on the bill of Representative Chris Schuebel of this county, providing for the assessment of appropriated water power, says:

This doesn't seem a bad move, but we had all along supposed that this very thing was one of the duties of the state tax commission—the assessment of appropriated water power and public service corporation franchises.

But in Oregon it seems to be often necessary to make a law to enforce a law. We see it in this instance and in Governor West's bill permitting him to appoint temporary sheriffs, district attorneys and other officials, when the regular officers will not do their duties.

BEATING US TO IT.

West Side After Water System, While We Fuss and Talk.

The people of the west side are not going to wait until the dry months of next summer to investigate a water supply for that side of the river.

As the southerner would say they have "done investigated" and have let the contract for drilling six wells 100 feet deep if necessary, for a water supply to supply the newly platted addition the Willamette Paper Company will build and also supply water for all the west side and its projects, down the river to Bolton.

Last week the Courier predicted that this would be the outcome of Oregon City's waiting game, that the west side would beat us to it, and that men who value life more than loyalty would be going over there to live.

The Willamette people are going to build up their own little city over there. This is not conjecture but a certainty. They all ready have the project all worked out and ready to commence on the coming summer. The addition will have all the city conveniences including a sewer system, electric lights, paved streets and an artesian water supply. North of this other projects are in view, and the Southern Pacific or its interests expect to build up a residence locality and manufacturing plants.

And the longer this city delays getting a pure water supply the more will it induce its citizens who do not own homes, to go over there and live, and the minute the west side beats us to pure water, and can offer a man a home to rent or buy, that man is going to move across the river.

And it seems so strange our city does not wake up to this matter. It is easy enough to stop the exodus, but it will be the devil to bring them back when once they cross the big bridge.

The first well will be drilled near the West Side School house, where there are several springs and it is hoped to find water that will raise itself. If not other wells will be sunk in different localities.

A BILL TO KILL, HELP TO KILL IT

A MOTHERS' PENSION BILL WITH BIG JOKER

Class Legislation and the Widest Discrimination.

There has been or will be introduced at Salem, a Mothers' pension bill. On the face of it this looks good, and any fellow with a heart in the right spot will just read the title and say—"good thing, let's have it."

And there is the trouble with too many of us—we only read the titles and let them slip in jokers enough to block a highway.

This mothers' pension bill, as we understand it, should never pass, for the reason it is rank class legislation, open discrimination and drawn for a certain class of mothers and children.

As we understand the proposed bill its purpose is to pension mothers (certain mothers) who have children under 16 years old.

If the mother has no income she will be given a pension of \$10 a month for the first child and \$7.50 for the others, until they are 16 years old, PROVIDING the father is dead or is an inmate of one of the Oregon institutions.

There's the joker, the injustice, and so big you can't jump over it.

It will provide a pension for the children of a man who is in prison, but it will not provide for the children of the man who has deserted his children.

It will take care of the man who has debauched himself into insanity, but it will not provide for the little tots of the man who has secured a divorce from their mother and married another woman.

It will take care of one little child and let the next one suffer or accept charity.

It will provide for home and comforts for the child of a criminal but force the wife, and the deserted, to go to a charity institution.

It will provide for the children of the dead father, but will not aid the children of the divorced mother.

The rank injustice of this proposition, the utter unfairness, is that it visits on the children the sins or follies of the father in one family and pensions the sins and follies in another.

The Courier is for a mothers' pension seven days in the week, but it is for a pension that will help ANY child. The little tot is not to blame for his father's acts, and the child of a father who abandoned it suffers just as keenly as the child of a man who is dead or insane.

To the everlasting credit of the Woman's Club of this city, it refused to endorse this measure, its members saw the injustice and unfairness and turned it down, but we are sorry too many of the women's organizations in this state took the lobbyists' view of the bill and swallowed it.

Every man and woman in Oregon should protest against the passage of this infamous bill, which is not only the worst class of injustice, but which would place a stigma on hundreds of little children in Oregon.

GENUINE WINTER WEATHER.

Willamette Valley Gets Tail of California's Bad Storm

Oregon has been having some winter, the real winter—the tail end of California's big blizzard—and the greatest fall of snow that has been recorded in this valley (so the oldest residents say) for twenty years.

Last week Friday the clouds simply opened and let down those great soft, heavy flakes just as thick as they could wedge in and Saturday morning there was a foot of the white stuff, and every conceivable arrangement that would slide and could be called a sleigh was hatched onto and our people certainly made the most of it. And it lasted for five days.

The mercury held around the freezing point and it melted slowly, and to trees and shrubbery. All over the city the broken wires were hanging down, and the trees were badly damaged by the weight they are not trained to bear.

The snowfall has been general over the Pacific coast, and California and Washington had a much heavier fall and sustained more damage than Oregon.

School Districts are Busy.

The taxpayers in the rural districts are unquestionably firmly and strongly against the present supervisor law, and if the legislature heads public sentiment it will stand by Senator Dimick's bill and abolish the law.

The school districts do not believe they get value received for what the supervisors cost them, and all over the county they are holding district meetings and protesting against the law.

COUNCIL TAKES READY ACTION

UNANIMOUS VERDICT FOR PURE WATER SUPPLY.

\$500 TO START THE WORK

Sources of Supply Will be at Once Investigated.

Oregon City will have a pure supply of water, if it can be found in this vicinity, and we all know it can.

The city council took decisive action at its meeting Wednesday night, and steps to have a competent engineer investigate our reported water sources will be taken at once, and when a supply is located the city will take active measures to get it.

The council rooms were crowded. The people understood the water matter was to be brought up, and the people are interested.

Mr. Tooze opened the discussion, which became general, with the statement that parties had reported to him that we have a supply within easy reach of the city that would provide two million gallons a day, that could be brought here at no more cost to the consumers than now; should have engineer investigate this and other sources, and he moved \$225 be appropriated as initial expenditure to this end.

Mr. Beard said he favored appropriating from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for work on definite lines; that the state or national geological departments should be called in to tell us at what depth we could get water here; that he believed it would be wise to secure 10 acres around the present reservoir and make well tests, that there were artesian wells on the hill the same as the west side.

Mr. Long thought \$500 would be small enough to make investigations with, and Mr. Myers took the same view. He said the Southern Pacific had men locating wells all the time, that they paid them well and they got the water. He said the city council was not the water board, but that the most of the people seemed to think so; that council got the bill and the water board the smiles.

Mr. Horton said if we could get the 2,000,000 gallons supplied to us, as Mr. Tooze reported, that should be investigated first.

B. T. McBain said council could start with small appropriation and continue it if necessary; that we should get busy at once on this work; that he believed we could get water from wells at small expense; that he thought the present and past water system and supply should be investigated as well as the future; that he did not believe the present supply could be made pure; that he might be wrong, but he would find out for the benefit of people and council and that the city employ a chemical engineer independent of the investigations of the water board.

Mr. Sullivan said we must have pure water; not necessary to investigate present plant as water board was doing this; should go slow and sure; that present water was in good condition, but people are afraid and should continue to boil it; should appropriate at least \$500; that the supply Mr. Tooze spoke of would furnish much more than 2,000,000 gallons daily; that cost would be big to go to forest reserve; that the city should advertise that it is open for a water supply for the present and 25 years in the future.

Mayor Jones said the council stood ready to take any necessary action for a pure supply of water.

Mr. Randall said we must have pure water but there was no evidence the present source was not pure; should give present system a test; wanted to know why water was impure one time and pure at another.

Mr. McBain replied that one engineer might find contamination in present water plant conditions and another not; that if the chemical system would make water 98 per cent pure, we did not want to drink 2 per cent poison; that there were 100,000 people up the river and we took their sewage; we have had fever before and will have it again if we drink it; that a person may drink germs today and have fever six months hence, and he advised that we have two reports on present water works system.

Mr. Tooze agreed that we should have independent investigation from that of the water board.

Mr. Holman thought that a big well could be dug on second hill and sufficient supply could be secured.

Mr. Tooze increased the appropriation to \$500 for investigation, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Beard said he thought the matter of who pays for or stands behind the saloon licenses should be looked into; that when a saloon got into trouble they transferred the license, and that he believed such dodges were against public policy. A committee was appointed to investigate.

The committee reported Mountain View fire house worthless and that it should be torn down.

Mr. Myers said conditions were unfit for cattle and that a new building should be erected. Mr. Holman took the same view. Mr. Tooze said we had five fire houses and that the system was antiquated; that we should look into

R. S. McLaughlin.

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