

# OREGON CITY COURIER

Published Fridays from the Courier Building, Eighth and Main streets, and entered in the Postoffice at Oregon City, Ore., as second class mail matter.

OREGON CITY COURIER PUBLISHING COMPANY, PUBLISHER  
M. J. BROWN, A. E. FROST, OWNERS.

Subscription Price \$1.50. | Telephones, Main 5-1; Home A 5-1

Official Paper for the Farmers Society of Equity of Clackamas Co  
M. J. BROWN, EDITOR

The Courier will gladly give space for Clackamas County's three representatives in the house to justify their votes in passing the widows' pension bill, so called.

It is said that Oregon paid out over \$30,000,000 last year for automobiles. Every dollar of this was Oregon money sent back East. It helped to drain the state. It is the mail order proposition on a great scale. Why don't we make them here?

The legislature may go ahead with the naval militia and its appropriations; it may keep on with its general appropriation bills, its session extravagance and raising of judges' salaries, and when it has ended its forty days then the people will take a referendum on the thickest of them and do what they elected legislators to do.

### HOW LONG WILL WE STAND FOR THIS?

Before the ways and means committee in Washington this week, Joseph Holmes, a wool manufacturer, admitted that the average \$12 and \$18 suits actually cost the factory \$3 and \$4, and are sold abroad for \$8 and \$10, but he argued for a continuation of the tariff duties on the ground that these goods would not be a cent cheaper if the tariff was lowered or entirely removed.

Isn't this a statement to set you to thinking? This man admits the people are being robbed, but he says we will be robbed anyhow, and so long as we are to be, we might as well give the government the benefit of the tariff duties for expenses.

And here we have open defiance. We have a manufacturer telling us we MUST pay a certain price for clothing, regardless of cost, we MUST, BECAUSE NONE WILL SELL TO US LESS.

Time to stop, look and listen.

### THE SACRED GRAFT.

The air at Salem smells of reforms and economy, and every legislator is hunting for something that makes a noise like graft that he may use his ax on and get his name on the newspaper's front pages.

But have you seen any of these legislators (mostly lawyers) putting the probe into anything that would clip the graft corners of their business?

Have you noticed any bills, and lawyers fighting to pass them, that would do away with the loan shark departments that most of these lawyers operate at home.

I know legislators in the legislature at Salem today who are posing as the friend of the poor man, and fighting for economy that the poor man's taxes may be less, who when they make a loan to the poor man charge him seven per cent interest and then a discount of \$50 on a \$1,000 in addition, forcing the borrower to pay 12 per cent interest. And these same men are posing as reformers.

You don't see them fighting for a six per cent interest rate with a state prison penalty for usury, do you?

You don't see them working their heads off to reform our grafting court system, do you? You don't see them introducing bills that would keep petty cases out of the supreme court; reform bills that would stop the abstracting graft; bills that would block the hundred and one lawyers grafts.

Why don't some of these fellows begin at home?

There is a roar going up over the proposal to amend the election laws of the state to permit any candidate being placed in nomination by the payment of two hundred dollars to the secretary of state and filing his nomination. But I can't see where the place to protest comes in.

No doubt the purpose of the original nomination law was to make the office seek the man, make his friends get out with petitions and put him in nomination. But purposes do not always work out according to program. The office does not seek the man and the office won't chase him in Oregon for some time to come yet, and until we get to this stage of the game we might just as well deal with conditions as they are.

Today the petition business and nominations simply simmer right down to buying them—to paying five cents per name for men to get out and get the required number of signatures. On an average this means \$200 to put a man in nomination. It goes to the professional solicitor, the man who makes a business of nominating men at so much per nominate. And you might better hand over this \$200 and be nominated, let the state have the money, than to pay it to the circulator and be longer getting it, and then have a petition that the secretary of state may throw out.

The time will come when the weak spots in the Oregon system will be made strong, but only operation will show the remedy. The route for a candidate (for he will be nominated if he has \$200 and wants to be) and trust to the people to hunt the candidates' weak spots at the polls.

## Brighten Your Future!

You know your present earning capacity. You know that you can, if you will, save a part of your earnings every month. Your inability to do this, shows a lack of economy, thrift and determination—a mental condition that is a sure forerunner of an old age of want. Act upon your own initiative—open a SAVINGS ACCOUNT now—while you are regularly employed and can save a little every month.

**THE BANK OF OREGON CITY**  
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There are ninety men at Salem yelling economy and trying to find some printers bill they can cut out, and 89 of them have private stenographers (wives, relatives and sweethearts) drawing \$5, Sundays and all. In one day, Saturday last, this legislature, which is trying to find Economy, introduced appropriation bills, its session extravagance and raising of judges' salaries, total almost \$4,000,000.

There is a measure before the legislature at Salem providing that cold storage products shall be labeled with the date they are incarcerated and the time of liberation. It probably will not pass, but it would be interesting to watch the justification of the men who would vote against it—the excuses the packers will present for them. The man who has to eat the stuff has a right to know when it died and when it was embalmed, and it is his right to buy it or leave it, and it is not the right of any packing house to try to fool him by passing off on him something a long time dead for a strictly fresh ranch article. In justice to the consumer and the producer this bill is only justice, but there will be so much noise and bustle in the capitol city when it dies that it will not be noticed.

### YOU MAY EXPECT MOST ANYTHING NOW

I want to tell you there is a change in the wind when old Tom Platt New York state ratifies an amendment providing for the election of United States senators by the people, by a vote of 128 for and four against.

To one at all familiar with boss-ruled, stand pat old New York, this action is significant. It means that the old order is passing, and the Barnes, Wadsworths and their kind can no longer stand between the people and what they want. It means the passing of the Depews, the Roots and this class of men, and it means the coming of the majority into rule.

The election of senators by popular vote of the masses is but a few steps in the future. It has come slow, but change of opinion that is now sweeping the country has brought it finally, and from now on the people are going to rule far more than they ever have, and we are going to have a more representative government. After the election of senators has been secured then will come the recall to hold over their heads, and then will come legislation that the trusts can't stop so easily.

When the legislature of rock-ribbed old New York has but four assemblymen that dare stand out against the popular election of senators, you may expect most anything.

### ISN'T OREGON WELL REPRESENTED?

It was through the Oregon system, and through no other agency, that the Republican Legislature of 1909 elected a Democratic United States Senator and the Republican Legislature of 1913 elected another United States senator. Except for the Oregon system it is unquestionable that those Republican Legislatures would have chosen Republican senators.—Oregonian.

If we are to judge the legislatures of 1909 and 1913 by previous legislatures in Oregon and in other states, the Republican legislatures of 1909 and 1913 would if they could have sold the office of United States senator to the highest Republican bidder.

The Oregon system of popular rule stopped the auction sales, and the man who is not a seller or a buyer knows that it is far better for Oregon to have two Democratic senators elected by the people than two big business plutocrats who have bought and paid for the office.

And by the way, is there anything the matter with Senators Chamberlain or Lane? Hasn't Chamberlain made fully good and don't you believe Lane will? Is Oregon clamoring for a change?

The bills are coming so thick and fast that one simply cannot keep tab on them now. Over three hundred have already been introduced and the bills are just getting started. But among them, one will occasionally see one that interests and calls for special attention. Such a one is Speaker McArthur's bill provide for a longer legislative session, to sixty days instead of the present session of forty days, and a raise in pay for the legislators.

Let us suppose that it was a business deal that the people wanted some men to manage, what would they do? They would pick men fitted to handle that business and they would pay them *mighty well for the work*. They would get the best men that money could hire. They couldn't get good men without, and they know it.

But when it comes to the matter of hiring men to manage and direct the business of a big state, then we take everything that comes along that can get a nomination.

What Oregon should do is to pay wages that big men can afford to work for—to make going to Salem for a month or two an object for a man to leave his business. Today we see the sorry spectacle of a legislator's wife (who has been put over for a clerkship) getting more money than the representative she waits on.

If we had thirty days sessions and had them every year, and if we would pay the legislators about eight hundred dollars for the session, Oregon would make money.

Last week the Courier protested as strongly as it could against that discriminating mothers' pension bill, which the house at Salem passed as "a compliment to the women," and we are glad to note the following comments in Sunday's Portland Journal:

"The bill proposes to give \$10 a month for the first child and \$7.50 a month for each additional child to every mother whose husband is dead, incapacitated, or an inmate of some state institution, including the penitentiary.

"Did the house have authentic statistics on which to base a fairly accurate conclusion as to how much of a sum the operation of this law will require? Did it base its action on some knowledge of the number of persons to go on this pension roll, or did it vote more on a basis of political buncombe to the women?"

"How many of the members figured out the possibilities of the bill? One thousand pensioners with an average of five children each would require an expenditure every year of about \$500,000 of public money. A pension roll of 4,000 with an average of three children, which is not impossible, would mean an expenditure of \$1,200,000 a year. How many members are certain that the total expenditure will not exceed the latter figures.

The bill does not seem to include women who have been deserted by a loafer of a husband and left with half a dozen children on her hands as is not infrequently the case, any less entitled to a pension than the woman whose husband is in the penitentiary?

Is the poverty of a deserted woman any less grinding than the poverty of any woman named in the bill? Is it the fault of the child that the father ran away instead of getting into jail? If we are going into the pension enterprise, why hold the child responsible for what the father does, and pension one child while we deny a pension to another child equally deserving?"

### IF IRON WAS GOLD—WHAT?

If iron was money, we'd all have our woodsheds and basements full because it would be easy to get.

But if a fellow paid cash for a farm, he would have to make same in carload installments.

The only place I ever thought Mr. Bryan got in very wrong was when he advocated standing silver up with gold and making it a standard by propping it. Silver was plentiful and cheap, and the result was bound to be a cheap dollar, because of over-production, just the same as cheap potatoes when every state raises a big crop.

Up until a dozen or so years ago it has been said that the production of gold has kept pace with business and demand.

Men have had to work for it, dig for it, suffer hardships and privations to get it, and they say every dollar of gold up to 1895 was earned in days' works, hence its scarcity kept its value up.

But of late years the yellow stuff has been coming easier. Wonderful deposits have been found in Africa; Alaska has poured a golden stream into our country and wonderfully rich mines have been found in the southwest and in Mexico.

Now to illustrate what I am driving to, let us just suppose that out here in the Cascades a mountain of gold was found, enough to supply the world's demands, and that could simply be shoveled out.

What would the result be? That it would go down in value because of over-production; that it would take a lot of it to fill a purchase price—that IT WOULD BE CHEAP MONEY.

And this is just the condition we are coming into (or are already to) today, and it is one of the factors of the high cost of living.

Money is losing value and purchasing ability, hence higher prices are put on goods sold to make up the loss.

And if on the other end all wages must be advanced in proportion to the rise in products, then how much better are we off?

Everything will cost more and everybody will have more money to pay with, and if we will have to carry our gold in a sack when we make a grocery purchase.

This is the Courier-editor's way of looking at it. Some do not agree with this view.

O. W. Eastham, what do you think of it?

## Oregon Observations

By A. C. CHILDS

There are very few men who oppose the exemption of improvements and personal property to the limited extent of one thousand dollars. The few who do admit that such a proposition, if unconnected with any other, would pass by a large majority in Oregon. Why not get busy and draw up an initiative petition for such a provision?

What earthly use is a state senate when we have the referendum? It doubles the cost of a legislative session.

In Arizona they are talking of abolishing this costly imitation of the British House of Lords. Down in Arizona the people there do not talk very long before they do things.

We are laying up trouble for ourselves in Oregon in not taking away from the Legislature the power to pass "emergency" clauses to laws by a bare majority. The clause prevents the application of the referendum. In Arizona it requires a two-thirds vote to declare a law an emergency, and in California even that does not prevent the referendum, although the law is enforced until the people vote it down.

The Oregonian does not like the idea of W. S. U'Ren being called a lawyer. It seems to think that people have forgotten that last week a U. S. Senator was elected in Oregon with less fuss than a page used to be appointed by the Legislature. Same in Nebraska too. In each case the Legislature was compelled to elect a man of another party from the dominant majority because the people chose him. For four years after the people of Oregon adopted this plan the Oregonian abused U'Ren for it, and thereby gained him the title that it objects to others giving him now. True, some measures this citizen of Oregon City supported were rejected at the polls; but the recent vote on woman suffrage shows that there may be some painful experiences yet in store for the Oregonian. But in a circular sent out all over the state during October by the Peoples Power League, the people followed the suggestions of its secretary in 41 out of 46 state wide measures.

The organ of the plute daily in Portland says that the attitude of W. S. U'Ren was not known on equal suffrage before the election. It knows very well that in common with nearly all advocates of political and economic justice U'Ren was advocating equal suffrage when the Oregonian was slinging mud at even the sister of its then editor for her support.

Some statesman to make himself solid with the enemies of the initiative, has proposed to forbid the use of money from outside the state to help the campaign of any initiative proposition. Might just as well propose that all money coming into Oregon shall be painted green from Washington, red from California, yellow from Idaho and pink from Nevada.

Teaching young people—and old, how to farm is good, but getting them the farms would be good, too.

An effort is being made to put the mutual fire insurance companies out of business in Oregon. These organizers have compelled the big old liners to cut down the charges for insurance perhaps twenty per cent. The trust don't like 'em. The people do. It would be well for the lobbyists of the trust to bear in mind that Major-General Referendum is always on deck in Oregon.

The idle land held for speculation makes the high cost of living.

Water power is worth money; it sells for good money when the title to it is good. It should pay as much tax as the farmers' lands when of the same value. It does not do it now, and this makes taxes high on all of us. Water power can be held out of use and an artificial monopoly price exacted for its use just as can any other natural gift. The less it is taxed the easier it is so held for speculation. The holder performs no service to posterity in "holding" it, for it will be there without him just the same as it was there with him. It would not be confiscation to make the owners of water power pay a just tax on its just valuation. But this is precisely what some eminent attorneys at Salem deny. Why?

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Business Directory

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