

OREGON CITY COURIER

Clackamas County Fair
September 24, 25, 26, 27
Canby, Oregon

30th YEAR.

OREGON CITY, ORE., FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1913.

No. 51

HOW THIS COUNTY IS RUN BY COURT

TRANSACTIONS THAT SHOULD AWAKEN TAXPAYERS

GIFTS TO CITY CORPORATIONS

Perpetual Franchise of County Made a Present of

The Enterprise has taken the public into the county court's confidence and explains the why and the wherefore of the deals that look so peculiar to the people. Here is the timber cruising "explanation."

In seeking a competent cruiser to discover how much standing timber there was in Clackamas county, so that the taxes could be levied with greater fairness to all, the members of the county court were forced to procure a gentleman from beyond the county limits. There may have been good cruisers living within the county but they were not available at the time; and as competency was the chief factor to be taken into consideration, the county court employed an outside man. For this they have been harshly taken to task in a certain quarter.

"Forced to procure a gentleman from beyond the county limits." Well, that is rich. "Cruisers within the county were not available." It is to smile. How did the court know whether they were available or not? How did anybody in the county know there was to be a cruiser? Who ordered it? Who was consulted? Who knew there was to be a cruiser or who knew one had been ordered until weeks after the contract had been signed and the matter tied up?

There are any number of men in this county that would have been mighty glad to have bid on this contract, and there is no doubt but the work could have been done and well done, for thousands of dollars less, for at least one-fourth of the present price, and probably one-eighth. And no wonder "for this they have been harshly taken to task in certain quarters," for the taxpayers of this county are getting very tired of the load.

And here's more "explanation" that makes everything so very clear and satisfactory to the "dear people."

In making alterations and repairs upon the county court house, the members of the county court let the work to residents of this county, after deciding not to accept the bids made by firms and persons who were not residents. For this they were harshly taken to task in a certain quarter.

Are not White Bros. residents of this county? Is not Clarence Simmons? Are not La Salle & Son? Did not all these contractors put in bids for far less money than the white house cost? Did not Architect White of this city—a man whose judgement, ability and honesty are never questioned—say the estimates of himself and Architect J. Wilson of Portland on the court house building as called for on the adopted plans should not have exceeded \$20,000 at the very most and that they thought \$18,000 should complete the work?

And the work cost \$26,211.75. Do you wonder, as the Enterprise truly states "they were harshly taken to task?"

And here's one more "argument." It would be interesting to know what would please the Road Builder from Cuba, who pays less taxes and makes more noise than any other member of the disgruntled trio.

Yes, it would be interesting to the Enterprise and county court to side track these matters of county expenditures and go into personalities, but I have an idea the people are more interested in knowing where the \$163,000 went to than whether the Courier editor is a Cuban. But to humor the "argument" I would state the Courier pays \$80 per year taxes and its proprietors are residents of Clackamas county.

The Enterprise editor can't say as much. He and his family live in Portland.

Here's another little matter (too insignificant to let the people know about) where a county's franchise was let months ago.

A franchise was let to the Portland Gas & Coke Co. Go look it up on the county court records. It APPEARS that it is a simple little permit to lay pipes and mains from Portland out to Golf Park, but there are six little words there that give away Clackamas county to this company. The words are:

AND TO POINTS AND PLACES BEYOND.

This is a perpetual franchise, there are no penalties, no revoking clause. It is a gift, there is no compensation. It does not obligate the company to commence its work at any time. It is an egg in the nest of the future. Some

day when the Willamette valley is a

hive of industry this franchise will be worth big money, and other companies who will get like franchises will pay big money. But this company got in early. The county court was kind to them. Beatie, Mattoon and Blair gave them a free franchise to a county bigger than some states in the Union. Did the county court let the owners of Clackamas county know anything about this present? Were any of you taxpayers consulted? Did you know that forever to your county was given away forever to this company, then handed down to their heirs and assigns?

Did you know there is no provision in the franchise that compels the company to do anything? They may start work now or wait 20 years. They may use this great franchise to gamble on, or they may wait until it is valuable.

What would the voters of Oregon City have done to the city council had it given such a franchise to the P. R. L. & P. Co? They would have recalled them in less than a week.

And then we look up the franchise of some little concerns, and see WHAT a difference in the provisions. A franchise was granted for a little farmers' telephone line between Scotts Mills and Marquam, and the right has teeth in it. The county reserves the right to remove the poles and wires at any time for neglect. This isn't a PERPETUAL franchise.

And the franchise to the Willamette Valley Telephone Co. It provides that work must commence within 60 days, and the county court may cancel it at any time.

Now these matters are for you voters to think over. They are for you to determine if it is justice to hold a club over a little telephone concern, tie it up with an enacting and revoking clause and let a big public service corporation have a free gift of one of Oregon's greatest counties for all time to come without a cent's compensation. Think it over.

Blue Bells vs. White Socks

Friday afternoon of this week (Memorial Day) the White Socks ball team of the Commercial Club will play the Blue Bells, the Pacific Telephone Co's fast bunch of Portland. This should be an interesting game and draw a good crowd.

Some Day

Some day the public will be able to get needed real estate without paying from five to ten times its assessed valuation.—Portland Journal.

Years ago Mother Shipton prophesied some day the world would come to an end.

Must Take Out License

By the provisions of an act passed at the last session of the legislature providing for the licensing and regulation of the commission business, all commission firms must first obtain licenses from the state railroad commission and give bonds for the protection of patrons. The law becomes operative June 3.

The People, not the Law

There seems to be quite a general opinion in this county that the recall law provides for the payment of the expenses of a recall movement. This is entirely wrong. The law does so: provide for a cent of the expenses further than the election. This is also true of the initiative and referendum.

If a recall is desired the voters must themselves take up the entire matter and pay every cent of the expenses of the signatures and the campaign after the petitions have been filed.

Spread around this expense is small, but when a half dozen men, who are working for the good of the many, have to go down in their pockets for the whole, it is a load, and one the taxpayers of this county should not put on them.

TIME TO THINK

Under the above head the Portland Journal puts some warm ones up to the men who are paying the freight of excessive expenditures in county, city and state. Following is the Journal's conclusion, and it should come home to roost to every taxpayer in Clackamas county:

Is it not time for the citizens to wonder what is going on at city halls, state houses and national capitols to cause this appalling increase in what it costs us to be governed? Is it not time for the business and professional man, the banker, the manufacturer and the other units in the social body to begin to think as much about the election of public officials as they think about hiring a man to mow their lawns or spade their gardens?

NOTICE

The recall executive committee wants every solicitor of petitions to send them in promptly as soon as they are filled. Be sure they are sworn to, or bring them in and have them acknowledged here. June 10 the committee wants each solicitor to make a report of the number of signatures he has, whether petitions are filled or not.

GIVE CREDIT WHEN CREDIT IS DUE

DON'T CONDEMN ALL FOR FAULTS OF FEW

STAND BY LAWFUL DEALERS

They Are Entitled to As Much Credit As Any Men in the City

The Courier received a letter this week which has gone to the waste basket.

It was a signed article, and this is an open paper, but this letter is so unfair and unjust to the city council and to men who are doing a lawful business in this city, that we have no room or time for it.

Once more: When the voters of this county or city say they want licenses granted in this county or city, this paper is going to give the license holder who observes the laws just as much credit as it does the man who sells us ice cream.

A dealer has the right given him by law to sell cigarettes and tobacco, but that law tells him that he must not sell to kids. So long as he observes the law he is just where the law-observing saloon man is. When he violates it, he is where the saloon man is who violates his license.

There are saloon men in Oregon City who stand as high as any and much higher than many as citizens and property owners. There are saloon men here whose places are conducted strictly according to law, who are never complained of and who are never before the courts or in any trouble—men who are liberal, public spirited model citizens. And this paper holds that when a man attacks them through the press, and attacks the city council for giving them licenses, that man is unjust and unfair. And this paper will not print the groundless charges.

The liquor license penalties in Oregon, and in Oregon City are drastic. Commencing with June 1, under the new law, they are far more drastic. No other business in the city or state carries with it the risks and the penalties.

To ensure, the man who goes into the business does it with full knowledge of these risks and he knows what he will get for violation of his contract. But, when a man has been in business here for years; when he has so conducted a saloon that there has never been an arrest or even complaint, why this record of itself should be a splendid compliment. Let one half the provisions and restraint under which a saloon in this city is run be put onto the mills or business places in this city, then literally enforce them and we'd have half our business men arrested in the next thirty days.

And we say give full credit to the man who does credit to the business you voters have given to the man who you voters have given him a license to run.

And we say cut off the licenses and close the places of men who will not obey the provisions under which you have given them licenses.

Since January 1 five licenses have been revoked in this city. The most of them have been second and third violations. Some of them have been technical, some of them open violations. The same excuse has been offered in nearly every case, that the dealer was innocent of intentional law violation. Nevertheless the council did just what it should have done when it revoked their licenses, for on the other hand are places which have no trouble to observe the laws; saloon men who do not take any chances with boys, drunkards and city hours—men who never give the city any trouble or keep the council continually busy with their troubles.

The Courier wants to give this class of men full credit—and they are entitled to it. They are not undesirable citizens. Considering the risks under which they do business they are a mighty sight more law abiding than the most of us. Legally they are just as much entitled to respect as the man who sells Bibles.

If you are going to have saloons, then stand by the men who conduct the right kind of saloons, and give the axe to them that don't.

If you want saloons, have fewer of them and respectable places.

If you have got to have the money, then raise the license on the law-abiding places every time you revoke a law breaker.

This means will close the sour holes and put the business in the hands of men who will observe the regulations and run clean places.

The city council when it grants a license does just what the voters directed, and it is rank nonsense for a writer to charge they are moral cowards because, having the power, do not revoke all licenses.

They are wading out violators. That is their duty, and it is equally their duty and every citizen's duty to stand by the saloon man who stands right.

And this paper will.

ROSE FESTIVAL TO BE GREATEST EVER

PORTLAND MOTOR BOAT CLUB COMING, 300 STRONG

WITH FLEET AND BIG DISPLAY

Human Rosebud Float, Big Parades, and Rose Show

The Oregon City Rose Society is rounding out the finishing touches for the annual rose show of June 7. All committees are at work and the rose show will be one of the biggest days Oregon City has ever witnessed.

The Portland Motor Boat Club will be here 275 to 300 strong with their full fleet of boats, Admirals and Captains in gaudy array. Races will take place on the river. The fastest motor boat in the world will show you just how fast she can go.

Some good races will be pulled off. This feature is in charge of F. A. Olmstead, Chas. Spencer and B. Roake committee. A dance will be given under the management of Milton Price in the armory in the evening for the public and the motor boat people.

One of the grand features of the parade will be a float representing human rose buds, by 24 little girls, drawn by the big black horses of Moffatt & Parker. Mrs. Don E. Madrum is in charge of this work with many co-workers.

The prospect was never more promising for an excellent crop of roses for June 7th, than now appears. The public is responding well with finances and the whole thing will be a gala day for Oregon City.

Rules and regulations for the government and management of the Rose Show will be ready for the public not later than Friday, May 30th.

Given fair weather, this festival will certainly be a splendid show this year, will far exceed former years, and will draw hundreds of people to the city.

Every worker is on the move and every detail is being given close attention that only women give, and the rose show will no doubt be a pleasing surprise and a splendid entertainment.

Don't miss it. Pass up Fourth of July or anything else and come to Oregon City next Saturday July 7.

COMMERCIAL CLUB OUTING

Free Steamer Trips to Portland Rose Show Monday June 9.

Members of the Commercial Club and their families will enjoy a special treat Monday, June 9, when the steamer Ruth and Lang will carry 200 people to see the marine pageant when Rex Oregonus will arrive and open the annual rose festival in Portland.

The tickets will be free to the Commercial Club members. The boats leave at 8 o'clock and return at 2. Lunch will be served on the boats.

Why Not Aid Direct?

Editor Courier:—Last evening I received a sample copy of Gen. Coxey's "Highway" published at Massillon, Ohio, and to say it is a hummer in mild, I will surely become a subscriber and all who wish to get their money's worth in good reading, call on me, and leave the price of subscription. I will do the rest.

Among the good things I see is a resolution by the Ohio Socialists for a government loan to the flood sufferers and in the same paper I see that Secretary McAdoo has ordered \$400,000 deposited in banks to be loaned exclusively to sufferers. But why the intervention of banks? Why not direct at 2 or 3 per cent and save the profit made by the banks? But the fact remains that the resolution had some effect.

Mr. McAdoo could not cut loose entirely from the graft or profit system. Equity members will please take notice. I have failed as yet to see where the Live Wires, Commercial Clubs, Democrats, Republicans or Prohs have passed any resolutions to take graft off of the poor sufferers. W. W. MYERS

WANTED!

Girls and Women

To operate Sewing Machines in garment factory. Oregon City Woolen Mills

WILL THIS KIND OF GAME WIN OUT

WILL FALSE STATEMENTS PASS FOR RECALL DEFENSE

PLAYING THE SAME OLD GAME

Of Abuse and Ridicule to Detract From the Real Issues.

"The executive committee of the recall movement should extend a vote of thanks to the Enterprise for its effective work in aiding the recall. It is helping to beat Judge Beatie all it can."

This was the suggestion of a citizen to the Courier Wednesday, after reading the utterly false statements regarding the meeting at Needy, where O. D. Olds addressed a meeting of farmers on the recall.

The meeting was held Wednesday night, May 28. The Enterprise's report was just one week later, Wednesday May 28.

You see it took some time for the doctors of The Exaggerator to hold a council and frame up the right kind of a diagnosis.

Here are the statements of the Enterprise or rather "it is alleged," "it was stated" and "it is reported." We condense them.

Olds became rattled at the questions fired at him; after the meeting men who had signed the recall petitions fr wld frv lyl i frf dwyl yl yl i audience asked him if he did not go back to Canby bridge six weeks after he had built it and tighten up bolts and charge county \$70 and Olds refused to answer; Olds lost his head and broke into a torrent of words and said people were not trying him but the county court; that agitators for recall had promised to use their efforts to get political jobs for all who circulate recall petitions; that J. W. Smith, who was industriously circulating recall petitions, was going to be the next road supervisor; "following the meeting the sentiment was strong against the recall and many wanted their names taken from the recall." "If you've once signed you can't get your names off," screamed Olds; that ramblers of Needy say "if Olds holds out a few more meetings he will kill the recall," etc., etc.

Oak Grove, May 28.

Replying to the Enterprise report of the Needy meeting May 23, would state that it is absolutely untrue in every detail concerning me. There was never an interruption, never a question asked me during my Needy talk of one hour and forty minutes at Needy; never a person asked me to have their names taken from the recall petition; the Canby bridge was never mentioned; there was no confusion and quiet attention was given during the entire talk; J. W. Smith's name was never mentioned in the meeting.

It should not be necessary for me to make this denial—the Enterprise's false report of the recent mass meeting in Oregon City should brand that paper as untruthful and kill what little influence it ever had.

It seems to me the Enterprise might better be defending the charges that have been made against the County Court by the taxpayers of this county, and the charges I have made in public and in the newspapers. Those are the things the taxpayers want to know about. But as to proof of my denial of the Enterprise report, I simply ask the people to talk with the farmers at that meeting and find out whether Olds or the Enterprise is the liar.

E. D. OLDS

And here is another letter, another denial of the Enterprise's deliberate misstatements, and from a man who stands as high in his community. It was written direct to the Enterprise:

Macksburg, May 28

Editor Enterprise:—

I read in Thursday's Enterprise an article on the recall meeting at Needy in which my name is connected, that I wish to state is unqualifiedly false in every particular so far as I am concerned or connected, and I ask you to publish this denial.

I would state that I do not live in Needy precinct, have not been there in many months, had not signed or circulated a recall petition, and could not be a road supervisor in that precinct if appointed; would not take the appointment in my own district if it was handed to me in a frame, and I was not even present at the meeting.

I would further ask that the Enterprise confine itself to the truth so far as I am personally concerned here after, and not drag me in with a string of utterly false, and absurd statements.

The people are more interested in the recall charges than in false statements about me. Let the Enterprise defend the charges made by Mr. Olds and others, and if it cannot then I would suggest that it would confine itself to a few truths, so that the statements might be given a little credit.

If the Enterprise knows anything

about me that is deserving of criticism, then it may put me on the rooster.

If I have ever done anything in political or business affairs to be ashamed of, I have forgotten it, and would like the public to do likewise. J. W. SMITH

This report of the Enterprise following its utterly false statements and report of the recall meeting held in this city, will hurt rather than help the county court.

The Courier editor knows that 80 percent of the taxpayers of the Maxberg and Needy country have signed the recall on Judge Beatie and Commissioner Blair.

These SIGNATURES tell the story of the sentiment of this locality better than the Enterprise untruthful reports. You can't get away from them. Lies don't go against signatures.

All this business is petty and shows the defense is hard pressed. As Mr. Olds says, WHY don't they defend the charges on which the recall is being revoked and why do they ignore the county court exposures that are being made in the Courier week after week.

THESE are the things the taxpayers want to know about—where the money goes and why it goes.

Help to Put County at Head

Justice Sievers has held W. S. Smith under \$500 bail, for the grand jury which will convene next week. The warrant was sworn out by Constable Jack Frost, and the charge was that of committing an unlawful crime. A 17-year-old boy was also arrested at the same time and was sent to the reform school by Judge Beatie. Smith is an employee of the O. C. T. Co's dock.

Want Mattoon, Too

There are many protests from voters in different parts of the county because Commissioner Mattoon is not included in the recall petition. They argue that if there is mismanagement of county funds and extravagance on the part of the county court Mr. Mattoon should be included in the recall.

This point has been many times explained, but if the voters want him also, there is a way. The state law provides that an official must have held office six months before he can be recalled or recall petitions circulated. Mr. Mattoon was re-elected at the last election and commenced his term January 1. He is not subject to a recall until July 1.

If the taxpayers want Mr. Mattoon recalled bad enough to hold off the present petitions, and will organize and do quick work for the necessary signatures after July 1, then it is up to them. The whole matter is up to the taxpayers—the executive committee is only doing their bidding.

But if this matter is to be taken up, the committee wants to know it and know it will be vigorously attended to.

Rose Show. June Seventh, At Oregon City.

Remember Graduation Day

Look back to the day when you were stirred with the pleasure and enthusiasm of Graduation Day. Think of what it meant to you. Remember how you treasured and cherished Mother's Graduation Gift. Then think what it means or might mean to your son or daughter. The graduation gift should be something distinctly "personal." It may be serviceable, if you like. But above everything else it should be of really lasting quality. We shall be glad to help you in the selection of a worthy and appropriate gift for Graduation Day.

Burmeister & Andresen

Oregon City Jewelers

Suspension, Bridge Corner

LOOK LIKE WASTE OF COUNTY FUNDS

LEGISLATURE HAS ALREADY PROVIDED FOR WORK

THEN WHY EXPEND \$50,000

H. W. Hagemann Gives Taxpayers Something to Think About

Editor Courier:—

In the Enterprise of May 23 Mr. J. E. Jack, our county Assessor, takes great pleasure to publish a letter from the Assessor of Tillamook County wherein it says that the cruising of timber in that county is a success. In the same issue Mr. G. J. Taylor, who edits a paper at Molalla, has found that there is one section of timber owned by Mr. Collins that would pay more taxes under the new cruise than the whole Molalla county combined and that this cruise is the correct thing.

Now gentlemen, in the way you bring this matter before the people, you are making a fine showing but there are always two sides to a question and I am very sorry that I have to differ with you. Let us get at the facts:

The timber cruise costs the county to Mr. Nease \$51.20 per section; Mr. Boyles for cruising this same section again \$5.00 per diem and expenses of \$2.00, \$7.00 making the total cost per section \$58.20, or in round figures 6c per acre. Taking for granted that Mr. Boyles will cruise a section per day. (That this is all left to his discretion.)

I have a statement at hand that was used during the campaign of 1912, evidently coming from our Assessor's office, wherein it shows that unimproved lands (timbered I suppose) were owned in Clackamas county as follows:

Collins T. D. & S. E. 29249 acres. Molalla Land Co. 4265 acres. Ore. and Cal. Land grant 89,450 acres.

Ore. Iron and Steel Co. 5119 acres. Weyerhaeuser Land Co. 19852 acres. Now we all know or at least should know, that our Federal Government has been for years after the Oregon and California Land Grant of 89,383 acres and have it revert to the public domain. Lately the Hon. Judge Wolverton has decided in the Government's favor.

The cruise of this tract will cost Clackamas county about \$8,044.47, which sum will be a total loss, then the land will be exempt from all taxation.

Now are you going to get this money back Mr. Jack and Mr. Taylor? From the farmers I suppose.

In regard to the 58486 acres owned by other parties I will say that our worthy state tax commission intends to take a hand, at least it so stated in an article in a Portland paper recently, that there had been enough money appropriated by our last legislature, so all the former transfers during the past year could be checked and compared in order to get at the real (selling) value of all farms; and then make the apportionment of taxes accordingly. The reason given for this was that corporations had complained that they were compelled to pay more than their just share of the taxes.

How does this strike you, Mr. Farmer? Here your legislature provides the money to investigate yourself.

Mr. O. D. Eby, and Mr. Loder in their report to the Live Wires in an O. C. paper, recently stated that I had referred to a certain bridge across Matlock Creek, and in reply I will say that I never knew that Mr. Chas. F. Clark had been favored with the chance on the public text, in fact I did not know that the taxpayers' money had been used to satisfy personal friends. My reference was to a similar bridge in Section 17 Twp 2 S. R. 3 E. W. M. near Damascus and about 4 miles from the Matlock Creek bridge. I stated to Mr. Eby the location distinctly.

As far as the letter of Chas. F. Clark is concerned, I may state that the people of Clackamas County have heard some bragging and seen some kicking over the traces before this. The facts are they cannot be denied, that a contract was let by our county court to a certain gentleman without asking for bids—to build a bridge across Matlock Creek for the sum of \$800 and that the specifications were to be furnished afterwards by somebody. Really a fine way to do business. Therefore I have refrained to do anything to get Mr. Mattoon, one of our commissioners, mixed up in our recall and because I always believed and do so today, that Mr. Mattoon intended to do right, and that he was led into some of the shady transactions of the county court by his associates. But last Saturday at the Harding Grange picnic I was credibly informed that Mr. Mattoon intends to resign as soon as Beatie and Blair are recalled. Would it not be a good scheme to save him the trouble and include him also too?

What do you think of it, Farmers? Let us hear from you.

N. W. HAGGEMANN