

OREGON CITY COURIER

OREGON CITY, ORE., THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1913.

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

31st YEAR

No. 4

CHARGES THAT ARE NEVER ANSWERED

WEEK AFTER WEEK ARE IGNORED BY THE COURT

TAXPAYERS DEMAND ANSWER

And they Have a Right to a Full Explanation of these Charges

The Aurora Observer, a newspaper published in Marion county and which can have no personal or political bias, recently stated in an editorial that if one-tenth of the charges were true, there was sufficient ground to recall the county court.

There were many matters found by the investigating committee that looked as if the business of the county was not run for the interests of the taxpayers. They were set forth, one after another and they were printed in the newspapers.

Now we want to ask the readers of this paper, in all fairness, WHAT DEFENSE has been made to these charges?

And we want to ask you what is a natural conclusion when no defense is made to charges?

The only defense that has ever been made is that O. D. Ely's report to the Live Wires, which ignored the real charges; George C. Brownell's declaration that it had not been shown that Judge Beattie was a thief, and the Enterprise defense that the charges were a "frame up."

The charges are that the county court has been extravagant in its management of the county business, and that taxes are unnecessarily high as a result of mismanagement.

That the court let numerous contracts for bridges without advertising for bids without having competition.

That \$163,000 has not been accounted for or explained in connection with the county courts claim that the county is out of debt.

That the county court, after receiving bids for remodeling the court house, rejected them all; had the work done according to architect's plans, and it cost from \$7,000 to \$9,000 more than the architect's say it should have cost.

That a contract was let to cruise the timber of this county to a personal friend of the judge, to a man at the head of a timber company in Portland; let without knowledge or consent of the taxpayers, and let for a price far in excess of what it could and should have been let for, had the matter been let under competition.

That a franchise was given to a Portland gas company for Clackamas county; given without any compensation or value received to the county; a peremptory franchise, with out any guarantee on the part of the gas company when it should commence the work; given without any knowledge of the taxpayers and given without any demand for such a franchise.

That time was bought for ten cents per barrel more than the price given to Judge Beattie himself by Portland concern, and that court house material was bought through a commission house in Oregon City in which Judge Beattie is financially interested, and that it was bought in the name of a clerk to hide the transactions.

Then, there are any number of other matters shown up of bridge building matters which looked as if the county was defrauded.

There was the matter of road implements that looked as if the county was up against the three-shell game; the matter of paying \$350 for inspection of the suspension bridge in this city, and numerous smaller matters of county supplies, etc.

What has been the defense to these charges?

George Brownell says it has not been shown that Beattie ever stole a dollar, asks why they hadn't recalled former county judges and the Enterprise says the Courier editor, having lived here only two and a half years has no business to ask explanations from a judge who has always lived here. These, and Mr. Ely's famous Live Wire report, are all the defense that has ever been made.

Now men who pay taxes and do their own thinking; men who are not in the "county court ring" and don't get any county court money, these are asking why these charges are not defended.

They ask why the proposition to have the findings of the investigating committee and Mr. Ely's report submitted to a non-partisan committee was not answered.

They ask why these charges are not taken up, one at a time, taken up by Messrs. Beattie, Blair and Mattson and defended, denied and explained.

Week after week these charges have been poked at them and explanations asked.

If they could have satisfactorily explained them, there would have been few recall petitions signed.

The taxpayers have a right to ask for a recall of public officials who cannot and do not explain these charges—not only a right but a duty.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH PORTLAND

Rebating Their Own Taxes

In last month's county court expenses we find three interesting items under tax rebates:

W. T. Mattson \$20.20
N. Blair 14.30
R. B. Beattie 4.00

The above rebates are to the three members of the county court, audited by themselves.

Many Going to Aurora

Quite a number from this city will attend the annual barbecue at Aurora Saturday of this week. The trains run very convenient, leaving here at about nine and returning about 4.

It is expected there will be 4,000 or 5,000 people at this picnic, as it is an annual affair, with a fine program, and people come from far and wide.

W. S. U'Ren of this city will deliver the address.

RECALL NOTICE

The executive committee wants every small petition in the county sent in by Monday next, no matter whether they are filled or partially filled.

Be sure that every page on which there are signatures be sworn to on the back. If there are three or four pages with names on, swear to each page on the printed form on the back.

Don't send them in without a notary's signature and seal, for they will have to be sent back.

Let each circulator give this matter prompt and careful attention and have all petitions in by Monday.

Executive Committee

ELLIOTT BROS. BUSY

Take Over Ely Business and Will Conduct Big Department Store

Elliott Bros. of Portland, have purchased of D. C. Ely his stock of goods store and home on Seventh street, and are now in active charge of the business.

The Elliott Bros. know the mercantile business from the ground up and they propose to conduct a strictly modern department store.

For three years they have been looking for an opening in this city, and their purchase gives them the business and location they have been looking for. They are making many changes in the store and stock and will become permanent residents here. They will buy all kinds of produce.

Mr. Ely carried a large stock of goods. This stock has been arranged in a free back to Realization.

Then they go up against high priced land, no demand for labor, hit the chutes and join the I. W. W's.

The quicker the Pacific Coast blows up a few air castles, gets land values down where a man can make six per cent, and cuts out this five and ten acre tract bunco, the sooner will we see the thousands and thousands who are needed here come here, stay here and get on the job.

The soil here will produce anything, that isn't exaggerated, and the climate is about the best in this big country, but looking at soil won't pay the rent, and climate can't be eaten.

There is no use telling a man what wonderful spuds, apples, berries, cabbages, etc can be raised on a 10-acre tract, unless you tell that man what he can sell them for. Soaking a ten acre tract on him that can't make a living from it is the worst form of bunco and bad boosting.

We want less 10-acre tracts and 1,000 acre tracts in Oregon. We want to break up big idle, speculative holdings and put 40 acre tracts where a man can afford to buy them. We want more factories, more pay rolls, more sound demand and more business.

And until we work along these lines and get results we had better send out tons of literature to the east advising easterners to stay east.

We're boomed to the limit. Now it is time to face it.

Ten Indicted, One Released

Ten of the men arrested in connection with the telephone strike riot at Oswego several weeks ago, at which time Fred Ream of Willamette was shot, have been indicted by the grand jury on a charge of rioting, and will have to stand trial.

J. C. Mansberry, the man who did the shooting, was not indicted and has been released for bail.

To Go, or Not to Go

At the time the Courier goes to press the elevator matter is being considered by the city council.

Last week a bid for its construction was accepted, but no contract made, and since the Fourth street proposition has come up and various other matters, there seems to be a general opinion that the matter will be delayed again.

CHOKING METHODS

Strangle Hold is not Barred, and Foul Tactics are Allowed

The Courier was informed Tuesday that certain men and interest in this city had been looking up the records to determine the Courier's financial condition, in the hope of finding a place where they could put on the squeeze.

Several little circumstances have attracted our notice of late that bears out this tip.

We would state for these persons and interests that they could have had all the information they got at the Courier office, and had it a whole lot easier. The Courier published this not long ago. It will publish it again, if it would please or convenience anybody.

And that isn't all it will do. Here's the rest:

We know the people and interests behind this blackmail scheme, and if they try to carry it out; if they try

WHAT IS WRONG WITH PORTLAND

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE WILAMETTE VALLEY?

Speculative Prices so High One Cannot Make 6 Per Cent Interest

Fifty real estate firms in Portland have gone out of business during the past six months.

The reason they have quit is because they could not sell enough real estate to stay in the game.

The reason they couldn't is because real estate has reached a price limit where people won't buy.

It's the same condition in Clackamas county and the whole Willamette Valley today.

A manufacturer wants to locate in Portland, an industry that would give employment and help to make steady and staple values, the location necessarily is boosted to such a price the promoters won't take the chances.

There are thousands of empty houses in Portland today. "For rent" signs are thick on all the residential streets. The population of Portland is thousands less than it was a year ago.

One might just as well plainly state these conditions as to know them. Portland speculators will call it "knocking," but it isn't knocking.

Portland wants more wheels turning round, more men employed and cheaper rents, and Portland won't get these until the money mad let the gas out of inflated values and create demand.

The same condition is true of any city or town in the whole Willamette Valley, except two or three manufacturing towns where business and values are made by manufacturing.

This condition has got to be changed or there will be a heap of trouble out here on Balboa's Pacific coast.

We send out literature by tons asking easterners to come to the Land of Promise. They come and can't live on promise land and more business.

Our climate and our "Golden West" booklets entice thousands here. They are largely a class of poor people, who want to better conditions. They come expecting Opportunity will meet them at the station and drive them in a free back to Realization.

Then they go up against high priced land, no demand for labor, hit the chutes and join the I. W. W's.

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We're boomed to the limit. Now it is time to face it.

During his campaign for election the judge repeatedly affirmed his intention of giving the strictest attention to the county business and that he would be found in his office at all times from 9 o'clock until 5 o'clock, and he had numerous business calls to make at the judges office but with the exception of one or two isolated instances has never found him in his office.

Mr. Henric insists on his right to sign a recall petition without any advice from the county judge. It certainly appears to a disinterested person that he has that right without subjecting all the users of the Highland road to punishment.

So far as the work of the present supervisor in this district is concerned he has accomplished about double as much with the money as some of the suckers did who were forced onto the taxpayers in the past.

The judge is hereby compelled to disprove this.

The Enterprise gloats facetiously over what it claims a fact, namely that a recall petition fell into a grave. It is the prediction of the writer that the Enterprise will welcome its own grave after the recall is over and its present subscriptions run out.

Hayseed

FACTS ABOUT THE ESTACADA BRIDGE

IS AS SOUND AND SAFE AS THE DAY IT WAS ERECTED.

PRINTED CHARGES ARE LABEL

Mr. Olds Says he will Submit Same to any Fair Bridge Expert

Editor Courier:— June 6 there was printed in the Oregon City Enterprise (and afterwards in the Portland papers) a vicious, lying article, written for the sole purpose of injuring me as a bridge builder and to take attention from the recall movement under way to remove the county court.

The article stated that the bridge was seriously weakened owing to structural faults, carried the impression that it was unsafe and was falling down, and that experts would be employed by the county to have same repaired, etc.

I have built many bridges in Oregon during the past 17 years, and I think I know something about the bridge business. It is my trade, my livelihood, and when a newspaper openly states that my work is unsafe "owing to structural faults," that is a charge I cannot allow to stand, if untrue and a charge that the newspapers which published it may have an opportunity to prove, as it is of damage to my business and my reputation as a bridge man.

I wish to state that the charges as published in the Enterprise and sent from that office to the Portland dailies, are absolute lies. Olds had been talking too much about the County Court and its film-flam bridge contracts—THAT was the reason. He must be discredited. People were asking why my charges were not denied by the county court. They could NOT deny them, so something else must be done. The Enterprise was the ready and handy medium for this Dagwood work, so this damaging story was printed, printed without a name to substantiate it—a sneaking, lying underhand trick.

Since this libel was printed, I have examined this bridge from end to end, top to bottom, not alone but with competent proof, and the bridge is as good as the day it was built, and seven years ago. The reports of its faulty construction is a frame up—conspired to discredit me and my work, and this can be absolutely proven by any man who is an authority on bridge building. The only matter with the bridge is absolute neglect by the county court in not going over it and having the shrinkage tightened up—a work that must be done to any and every Howe truss bridge.

As a little circumstantial evidence that should convince any reasoning man that this article is false and was printed for no other purpose than to injure me for the part I have taken in the recall, I would state (and these statements can be backed up by official records in the clerk's office) that the plans and specifications for this bridge were furnished by the county court, were drawn by J. B. Tilliston, now of Portland; the bridge was built just as the plans and specifications required, and THE BRIDGE WAS ACCEPTED AND PAID FOR by the county court as fulfilling the contract.

Do you think it would have been accepted if it was not according to contract?

When it was accepted, was it not proof of a contract fulfilled? Was not the county court satisfied that it was according to their orders?

Further, I would state that I am willing to submit this bridge as it stands today to J. B. Tilliston, the man who drew the plans, for his decision as to whether or not it was built as his plans, approved by the county court, required it to be built.

Further, I am willing to submit this bridge today, after seven years' wear and tear, to any competent bridge man in Oregon, and let him decide whether it is in a dangerous condition as charged, whether or not it is faulty from workmanship, and whether or not Olds and Reed are responsible?

I challenge the county court to make this test. I challenge them to submit the plans and specifications laid out by the Estacada bridge and let a competent bridge man decide whether those vicious charges are true, or whether the whole matter is not a damaging, criminal libel.

Who examined this bridge and found it faulty in workmanship? Do they tell you who the "expert" was? Do they tell you it was a road supervisor or county court pet who was sent out there to obey orders and to drive wedges in to make the bridge look bad?

W. T. Mattson, with a husk in his eyes, met me one day and told me the bridge was falling down, he lied and knew he lied when he said it. Aside from rank negligence in not looking after this bridge in the way of keeping the truss rods tightened, it is as good as the day it was built, wear excepted.

I defy any bridge builder, any competent man with a reputation (outside of Bob Beattie's pet) to find this bridge faulty in construction.

This is the county court's idea of defense against recall charges.

It was told me months ago, when the recall movement was first being agitated, that they would "get me."

If they will do it in the open and do it with truth, then I will take it and the cowards who will stick a knife in a man from behind, who would ruin a man's reputation and injure his business by publishing broadcast that his work is faulty and will not stand—this class of assassins I will fight to the last ditch.

E. D. Olds

Fall Breaks Both Arms

A serious and painful accident happened to Wallace Johnson Friday last, when shingling on Tom Kellogg's new barn at Twilight, he fell with a sliding bunch of shingles, down the steep half-pitch roof over the staging to the ground. He fell head first, throwing out his arms for protection, breaking both arms at the wrist, and bruising and cutting his face. The left wrist was a clean break, but the right wrist was broken in two places.

No danger of forest fires just now.

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E. D. Olds

Our Good Old Summer Time

And while they are drying up and blowing away back east, the Oregon thermometer does steady work between 70 and 75. Only once this summer has it got up past the 80 mark.

You Must Register

Every man and woman in Oregon should get it thoroughly into their heads that they must register before they can vote again. Under the new law every voter must register, but after registering it will not be necessary again unless he or she moves from a precinct. But you must register this year.

Wonder What Next?

Last week the Enterprise had a sensational story about an attempt to burn the woolen mills in this city and Sunday followed with a steady "dark laid plot" to recall the entire city council. Wonder what next?

For P. M. at Jennings Lodge. There will be a civil service examination held in this city Saturday, July 26 to fill a contemplated vacancy as postmaster at Jennings Lodge. Blanks and full information can be secured from the postmaster at Jennings Lodge and the local secretary in this city.

LADIES GET TO JUDGE BEATIE

He Accepts Their Invitation to Defend Recall Charges July 1

Tuesday afternoon, July 1, a committee of ladies, representing the Civic Improvement League of Oak Grove, came before Judge Beattie with copies of the charges made by E. D. Olds, the farmers' mass meeting committee and others, and asked him if he would come before the organization and defend and explain the charges.

Judge Beattie received the ladies courteously and pleasantly, thanked them for the invitation, and expressed his willingness to attend the meeting and make public explanation and defense of the charges.

The meeting will be held in the school building at Oak Grove Tuesday night of next week, July 1. The meeting will be public and all are invited to attend and hear Judge Beattie's defense. He also stated he would speak in every precinct in the county during the recall campaign.

BEAT STATE TO IT

County Court Didn't Wait for New Law to Change Things

We are informed that Mr. Hackett and his assistant, who have been experting the county books for months, have about completed their work, and that their report will be used to defend the recall charges.

We are also informed that weeks and weeks have been spent by these experts in going over tax books that the county court has probably never seen, tax books that have not the least to do with the county court on the charges made, but which cover the work of Sheriff Mass, the assessor and deputies.

The charges have nothing to do with book experting, and this big expense to be borne by the taxpayers, looks like another useless, needless expense from a law that the last legislature passed, and it is now in force, providing a state Corporation Commission to go over the accounts of every county, revise the system of account keeping and put every court house on a practical, business-like system, and publish a report of the condition of every county.

But the county court didn't mean to wait for the state, so they appointed men to expert their own accounts.

But what the people want to know is WHY, NOT WHAT. It isn't figures they want, but explanations.

The Reason Why

I see the Enterprise is wondering why my bid on the Kellogg bridge was higher than others. I am glad to explain. The reason is that the plans and specifications furnished by the county court (either through incompetently or a loop hole) vary so that a bidder must take a lot of chances on what they mean and must make his bid high enough to be safe especially when he does not "stand in" with the county court.

To illustrate: The plans furnished by the County Court call for 10 x 10 posts and caps, while the specifications furnished by them call for 10 x 12 posts and caps.

It is such matters as these that make a bidder on the outside play safe, for he wonders which they will hand him.

The Enterprise might also have noted that W. F. Haldeman's bid was next to mine in price. Mr. Haldeman is the man who signed his name to a letter which I published, and who afterward went before the county court and apologized for doing it.

E. D. Olds

Millsburg Mass Meeting

The residents of the proposed new city on the West Side will hold a meeting in Willamette Hall, Main St., Oregon City, Friday evening, June 27th. The meeting will be called at 8 o'clock, and it is expected that all legal voters, both men and women, will be present.

A petition has been received by the committee in charge of incorporation, signed by 129 residents of the proposed city asking that the name be changed. A two-thirds vote of those present will be necessary to reconsider the matter, and only legal resident voters will be allowed to vote on reconsideration.

At the last session of the Legislature a law was passed making it necessary for people to reside ninety days in the district proposed to be incorporated before they have the right of franchise therein