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OREGON CITY COURIER

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31st YEAR

OREGON CITY, ORE., THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 1914.

No. 33

THE WORKINGMAN AND THE X MARK

WHAT HE HAS DONE AND CAN DO WITH IT

GRIDGE GIVES HIM A SERMON

He Can Stand Taxation Gaff, or he Can Throw it Off

Editor Courier:— I have recently been over the State making a campaign here and there when opportunity offered for the Home-Tax Exemption measure.

Found the "common nut" reasonably in favor of it. Got his signature easily. Found the lawyer and the real estate agents and the money lenders almost a unit against it. Out of over 2,000 signatures obtained, less than a dozen lawyers signed it, and most of them were personal friends. All admit that it will be constitutional; that it will probably carry.

Found very few dollars to help out the necessary expenses. People who are in favor of it—the great majority—very hard up.

The corporation-controlled local newspapers do not enthrone over it. Ye average country editor is afraid to discuss the tax issue, or to help the little fellow secure justice in taxation to the slightest degree.

In Medford secured 300 signatures on the streets in two days. In the little town of Gold Hill 40 signed it in an afternoon. Many took petitions and promised to send in names for their localities.

In Grants Pass, the mayor, a lawyer, took a petition, and the city auditor another. A preacher with a large congregation agreed to secure some signatures.

In Roseburg over 300 signed up, and there are men and women at work there for more.

In Albany over 150 signed, and several are circulating petitions.

A total of 12,000 signatures must be secured.

The only argument against the measure so far is that it will raise taxes.

This is true. It will raise taxes on the other fellow—the fellow who can stand it, and the fellow who now dodges it.

Which one are you, gentle reader?

The average millionaire dodges taxes on 97 1/2 per cent. Some on a great deal more. Carnegie admits he beats his taxes on three hundred millions in New York. Don't you suppose some of our Oregon millionaires do as well as they can in proportion?

This measure will enable any 3,000 farmers in Oregon to play even with the bunch of millionaires who are dodging taxes here equal to Carnegie in New York.

That is the only way to play even. Except the home, the tools, the implements. Let the man now assessed for \$10,000 and over, and the fellow with a lot of speculative, idle land make it up.

We do not need to exempt the skyscraper, and the railroad train, the bank building or the palatial hotels. They always take care of themselves.

The average workingman and small farmer has walked the floor too many million miles worrying over how the rich would pay their taxes if the poor men did not pay.

Here is a chance to quit that practice.

What is needed is a few dollars more to finish putting this measure on the ballot. Then a few more hustlers to get some more signatures. We are about half way over the hill at this writing. The sum of \$300 will do it.

A few years ago the workingman paid poll taxes in Oregon.

He made a few X marks on the ballot and quit it.

In California the poll tax collectors are hot after the workingman for \$6 poll tax. He will make a few X marks next November on his ballot there and stop the habit.

In Oregon we can lead off by an investment of X marks that will net every working man and woman in the State from \$50 to \$500.

Unjust taxation makes countless millions mourn.

Unless the "common nut" exempts himself he will be taxed more than ever next year. One-sixth more? Well, and then some.

If you want to get out from under high taxes on your home take hold with the Home-Tax Exemption League and help.

Wanted, 150 men and women to pledge themselves to get 40 signatures each.

There are men donating more than the \$300 needed for this measure—donating to the heathens, to take charities, to cat hospitals, to all sorts of things except the matter of getting the tax dodger off the backs of the working people.

The workingman has the power to do good taxes. Has he the sense?

Any woman will know that the U. S. on her home is taken from the backs and mouths of her children.

What could a working farmer's wife do with the taxes now paid on the cows, the barn, the orchard, the clearing?

Would she not beautify and sanctify the home more?

Women of the homes of Oregon, help use your ballot and your power of the initiative to free the home from taxation.

Alfred D. Gridge.

Local Option Case Next Tuesday

Next Tuesday, January 13, the matter of whether Oregon City shall or shall not remain dry will be argued before the supreme court at Salem.

C. Scheubel, B. N. Hicks and C. H. Dye will present the arguments for the "drys" and C. D. Latourette will represent the liquor men.

A Bit of Old History

Fred Lockley in the Portland Journal says the first newspaper to be published on the Pacific coast was issued from the press of the Oregon Printing Association at Oregon City on February 5, 1846. The officers of the Oregon Printing Association were W. G. T. Vault, president; J. W. Nesmith, vice president; John P. Brooks secretary; George Abernathy treasurer; and the directors were John H. Couch, John E. Long and Robert Newell. Most of these men with W. H. Gray and a few others, were the same ones who had been instrumental in the formation of the provisional government and in starting the Multnomah circulating library.

Where Winter is Spring

The warm Chinook rains, with the thermometer at about 55, have been melting the snows in the mountains and the old Willamette has been tearing down with a big volume of water. With spring only about three weeks away winter has not yet commenced in the Willamette valley. Not a flake of snow has fallen in Oregon City; there has been but one white frost; roses are in bloom, grass is green and growing, rose bushes are putting out their leaves. Vegetables are green in the gardens and the lowest thermometer has gone this winter has been 34 above zero—just down to frost level.

Winter is always spring in this part of Oregon.

A Strange Hobo

In the round up of hobos Sunday night a rather unusual fish was found in the net—an Esquimaux. He was gathered in by the night force, and when they were turned loose in the morning Chief Shaw noted that the man acted peculiarly and he held him for investigation.

The man was a big fellow and had No. 11 feet. He couldn't talk English, and a Jap was hunted up. The Jap quickly stated he was not his countryman, and then a Chinaman and Dago were tried, with the same result. The Chief thought he might be an Esquimaux, and phoned Portland, when it developed the man was Om Kom, an insane Esquimaux, who had escaped from the sanitarium at Montavilla.

MacDonald Will Make Good

Many readers of the Pacific Patriot know of MacDonald of Oregon City, and still others know of him. He is the man who led the dry forces of Oregon City on to victory in the recent campaign and he was called from field duties in order to give him freedom to enter the local fight in his home city. He made good.

WILL STAND BY REPORT

B. T. McBain Says he will Argue Matter with Mr. Hedges

Last week's Enterprise had a letter from Joseph E. Hedges, a member of the water board, criticizing B. T. McBain's report to the Mountain Water League, to which Mr. McBain makes the following reply:

"I have received no letter from Mr. Hedges and have said nothing to anyone which I am not prepared to stand by. My report was to the Mountain Water League but was copied by the Press. If Mr. Hedges, or anyone else, wishes to argue the matter before the League, or any meeting of individuals called by him for the purpose, I am ready and willing to explain why I feel that my figures are correct and his conclusions drawn from some other source, as there was nothing in my report about an income of \$27,000 per annum or 1293 consumers.

"I was not talking for West Linn, but for the interests of the people at large; for those who can not afford to have sickness in their homes; for those who have lost those dear to them through disease said to come from the present water supply; for the interests of the Commercial Body of Oregon City and Clackamas County. I am a member of West Linn's committee on pure water and can not speak for the people there, except to state that West Linn does not want water from the Willamette River."

CHIEF SHAW'S ANNUAL REPORT

Outline of Year's Work, Arrests, Fines and Hobo Record

Following is a condensed report as made by Chief of Police Shaw to the city council:

229 arrests were made during year 1913; 215 prosecutions were made during year 1913; 1 boy arrested and sent to his home at Ashton, Maryland; 2 boys were returned to their homes at Portland, Oregon; 3 Indian boys were returned to the Chemawa Training School; 1 boy was returned to Boys & Girls Aid Society, Portland; 1313 hobos were provided with beds during year in jail; 6 arrests were turned over to Justice of Peace Court; 2 arrests were turned over to U. S. Authorities; \$243.10 paid for meals served inmates of city jail; \$1200.00 was taken in by Police Department and paid to City.

The report of dog licenses, sales, etc., show 18 dogs were sold, 2 redeemed and the receipts for same were \$36.50. There were 87 dogs disposed of during the year and 182 licenses issued.

For the month of November the police record shows: 48 number of hobos taken in and kept over night; 14 arrests made during the month; 8 tried before the Recorder; 3 tried before the Mayor; 3 forfeited bail and did not stand trial. \$120.00 taken in for fines during the month and turned over to the Recorder.

From Dec. 11 to Dec. 31 the number of hobos taken in and fed were: coffee and buns, 258 at 8c per, \$15.48. Number of meals served to inmates of jail, 28, at 25c per meal, \$7.00.

MOUNTAIN WATER OR SEWER WATER

A QUESTION OREGON CITY MUST SOON ANSWER

SOME POINTS TO CONSIDER

Can We Offer Pure Water, or Can We Afford to Refuse it?

Almost every man you talk to about it will admit that Oregon City made a mistake when it installed a water system and attempted to filter sewage for its people to drink.

We are not going to enlarge on mistakes. We all make 'em and all will.

The point we are after is, if we are in bad, let's get right, and get there just as quick as possible.

The Willamette river is a great sewer for the Willamette valley, and is officially known and designated as such.

As the valley becomes more thickly settled, and it is becoming more so every month, the river will become more and more filthy and dangerous.

As a permanent future supply for drinking water, none will advocate it. I doubt if there is a resident of this city who will take the stand that the present source can be considered as a drinking water supply in the years to come.

And if it is but a question of time, why not call the time now, and remove from this city the biggest drawback it has ever had or probably ever will have?

Why not meet it, remedy it and give this city a chance to grow?

You can't make people believe that foul water can be made palatable and safe by filtering, even if it were true. We have a modern filtering plant, and we have added to it a hypochlorite injection of disinfectant, used and recommended in cases of emergency, and yet there are many of our people who would not drink it from a faucet any sooner than they would drink some poison.

Month after month, day after day, many a mother boils every drop of drinking water before she will allow her children to have it.

There are stores and offices on Main street where IMPORTED water is used, brought from Portland and other places.

A situation is before us that positively must be remedied if this city is to go ahead.

It is not a question of "can we afford to?" but rather "can we afford not to?"

There is no price too high for pure and safe drinking water.

Pure water is the greatest asset any city can have, and all over this country cities are being forced to get it—and in some cases, Los Angeles for instance, it comes at a price that almost staggers.

But Los Angeles knows she must get it or suffer.

In Oregon City a proposition will soon be presented to bring mountain water from the Clackamas river, far up in the unpolluted forest reserve.

It is going to cost about \$280,000 to bring it here.

It is going to raise the price per month to consumers about 50c per month for the first few years, then it will gradually lessen, as the bonds and interest decreases.

This paper believes this is the cheapest typhoid insurance any family in this city can take out.

It believes that outside of typhoid entirely, it is far more than worth the price, the satisfaction that the water is pure; is from the mountain snows and springs, and free from dead carcass juice, and the offal of every city and town up the entire length of the Willamette.

Centralia is now getting the advertising this city has had, and all over the United States the press dispatches are telling the people it is a good town to stay away from. There have been hundreds of cases and twelve deaths. The authorities have agreed that the cause is polluted water.

Invariably this is the cause, and the first question easterners ask is "Where do you get your water?"

We have got to get away from the Willamette sewer. At times it is not safe to bathe in (doctors will tell you so) and yet we DRINK IT—dope it and swallow it.

And if we make it to make a change let us make it now, not five years from now, after we have been an aid society to build up surrounding towns at our expense.

We want public opinion on this matter from our citizens—short, snappy direct-to-the-point expressions.

We want helpers, boosters, men and women who love the old city and want to see it go ahead.

This is a matter too important for persons and factions to differ on. It is a matter for the safety of homes and fireplaces and the future welfare of the city.

And if you are with it, boost.

THE AWFUL PRICE OF POOR ROADS

\$847,744.17 EXPENDED IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS

AND WHAT ARE THE RESULTS

It is Time Clackamas County Changed its Wasting System

This year there will be expended on the public roads of this county \$318,560, a sum sufficient to build fifty miles of hard surfaced roads.

The amount expended by Clackamas county on its county roads during the years 1910-11-12-13, was \$847,744.17.

If we were getting these miles of lasting highways, or if we were getting one half of them, this article would not be written.

Annually we have been expending upwards of \$200,000 a year on roads and bridges in this county, and we are pointed out as having the worst roads of the 33 counties of the state.

Public highways, well-built, lasting roads, are of just as much importance to the development of a county or state as railroads, and all Oregon is waking up to this fact.

You can't get quick settlement of any locality until there are inducements offered, and good roads are the biggest possible inducements for county settlement.

It isn't so much what will the market raise, as how it can be gotten to market after it is raised.

Clatsop, Jackson, Marion and Multnomah counties are getting into line and will build hard surfaced roads.

And this county has simply got to get in line or this will be a good county to skip when easterners come here looking for farms.

The drawback in this county is want of concerted action—a lack of pulling together. The farmer more than anyone else realizes the awful cost of taxation in backing up the big road taxes, but the heavier indirect cost of wear, wheelbarrow loads, bogging up, and the cost of having to sell his stuff when the roads are right so that he can deliver—not when the markets are right.

And it would seem that under these conditions that a system might be worked out for the good of the county, whereby we could start, and keep lengthening, lasting stone or hard surfaced roads, over which teams could haul the heaviest loads every week in the year.

The last legislature passed a bill under which counties may bond for improved roads up to two per cent of their assessed valuation. This county is assessed at \$30,000,000 and may bond for \$600,000. This amount will build one hundred miles of lasting hard surfaced main roads in this county.

Once let the system be started and its value practically demonstrated, and section after section, precinct after precinct, will be added to the main roads with feeders. They will have to suffer, and they will want to, and one half of the great sums we spend on poor roads will be expended on good roads and the system will rapidly extend.

Let us understand a movement will be started to put in 100 miles of hard surfaced roads, and submitted to the people, and that the 100 miles will be mapped out by state engineers to the best advantage of the county, with eighty per cent of the mileage given to the country roads, back from and leading to the railroads and market places.

If this proposition is presented in this way, and we are informed it will be so presented and tied up before being given to the voters, it is a proposition that every farmer and every business man should think over pretty thoroughly, for you can't get away from the fact that our present system is a sad and wasting failure, and too mighty expensive to continue.

If we must expend upwards of \$200,000 a year on roads and bridges in this county, let us put at least half of it where it will LAST.

Once start the system and it will spread. The expense of keeping these permanent roads in repair will be as nothing compared with our present system, for we are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars almost entirely on repairs and they are but temporary repairs after they are made, and must be made over and over again.

Let us arrange for meetings to get the cities, towns and farmers together and see if we cannot devise a means that will benefit all and do away with the present expensive load this county is carrying on its back every year.

When 28 precincts of this county vote special taxes on top of the \$200,000 county appropriations, it is a dead sure indication the farmers are alive to the road matter.

It's a question of get together. We can do it.

Damages of \$1,800 Given

A verdict of \$1,800 was awarded by a jury in Judge Campbell's department of the circuit court Wednesday to Olive May Ball against the Aurora Electric Company for the death of her husband, Charles Ball, who was killed by sitting on a live wire, said to have become charged through the negligence of the defendant concern Judge Campbell allowed five days for the filing of a bill of exceptions in the case.

Barlow Falls in Line

H. T. Melvin, secretary of the Barlow commercial club, states that organization has passed resolutions favoring the improvement of the Pacific Highway, its location on the east side of the river and asking that the county court take action to these ends.

Wanted! WOMEN and Girl (over 18 years of age) To operate SEWING Machines in garment factory Oregon City Woolen Mills

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FROST AFTER LOAFERS

Constable Starts Campaign to Protect Girls from Young Scamps

"I believe that there is an organized effort being made in all the Northwest Coast States to procure young girls for immoral purposes in San Francisco in anticipation of the crowds that will visit California during the year of the Panama fair, and I think that agents of this scheme have been active in Oregon City. Even if this should not be so, I do know that there is a gang of worthless, cigarette-smoking young loafers who hang around the corners in Oregon City and insult and ogle every girl that passes down the street; and both as an officer of the law and as a man I intend to do what I can to break this gang up, and force them to go to work or to be put in jail as vagrants till they are willing to work."

This was the declaration of Constable Jack Frost this week on his return from Astoria, whither he went to arrest Jack Davis, an Oregon City boy, and three young Oregon City girls, all of whom are said to have gone to the seaport town together. Tuesday the Davis boy, who is just over 21, was bound over without bail to await the action of the grand jury on a statutory charge. Warrants are out for two other Oregon City youths but under age, who are believed to have been implicated with Davis in the flight of the three girls; and according to the authorities, warrants for other local young men will issue shortly. All the warrants are in connection, it is said, with a series of delinquency cases that have been brought to the attention of County Attorney Gilbert Hedges.

Alleged irregularities of behavior closely bordering on the criminal, are said by the authorities to have taken place in Oregon City, Marion county town, and in Portland lodging houses. In all these instances, it is said, a certain clique of Oregon City youths have been implicated. It is the purpose of the authorities not only to issue warrants for some of the alleged leaders of this clique; but also to present evidence of a sensational nature in regard to these gatherings, to the grand jury. Determination to "clean up" conditions is expressed, and it is rumored that the action of the authorities will bring out startling disclosures, and that a number of youths of excellent family will be implicated.

Police Make Money

The report of Chief Ed Shaw, of the police department, showed that his branch of the city had been a money maker. But \$243.10 was spent for feeding city guests, while \$1,299 was taken in through fines. By a curious coincidence the report shows that there was an average of one hobo a day given shelter, there having been 1913 hobos given lodgings during the year 1913.

Three pool and billiard halls applied for licenses for the first quarter of 1914, and their applications were granted after Chief Shaw assured the council that no charges were pending against any of the places.

Applications for several saloon licenses were received, and on motion of Councilman Hackett were laid on the table. Councilman Meyer endeavored to have Mr. Hackett amend his motion to have consideration of these applications until "such time as the supreme court should rule on the recent local option election," but Mr. Hackett said he preferred to have his motion stand.

Early in the session Mayor Jones named the committees for the coming year. They are as follows: Committee-men are named.

Financial—Meyer, Toose, Hackett. Streets and public property—Templeton, Albright and VanAuker. Fire and Water—Long, Metzner and Andrews.

Health and Police—Albright, Long and Hackett. Cemeteries—Metzner, Andrews and Meyer. Parks—Toose, Templeton and VanAuker.

Councilman Beard of the third ward tendered his resignation and the council elected E. D. VanAuker to fill the vacancy. Mr. VanAuker was nominated by Councilmen Meyer and Andrews.

Appointments for the coming year were made by the mayor. Charles Scheubel was named city attorney, Charles Noble was reappointed city engineer, Charles Babeck was re-named street superintendent, and Ed Shaw was continued in office as chief of police. At a later session the health and police committee will name the members of the night police relief, and probably will make no change in the present force.

Loder is Recorder.

On motion of Mr. Toose the council then nominated by ballot for the office of city recorder, and a unanimous vote was cast for John W. Loder, and a few minutes later he was sworn in and took his chair beside the mayor, former Recorder Stupp stepping down from office.