

OREGON CITY COURIER

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

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS?

Let the state give everybody a job. That is the newest and latest U'Renism. It needs only to be stated to show how far in advance it is even of the most statesmanlike Brownell conception.—Oregonian.

And it needs only to be stated to show where the Oregonian is going to stand on the issue.

One of the greatest needs for the development of Oregon is good roads. Nothing holds back advancement as our present roads do. Every farmer, every business man, every real estate man, every speculator, every prospective locator will tell you the drawback to Oregon is the want of all-the-year-round good roads.

But the taxpayers say we can't bear the expense of such roads added to present high taxation—we can't afford to vote bonds and pay for the roads a second time in interest and contractor's profits.

W. S. U'Ren in his platform for governor says he will urge immediate action by the legislature, and through the initiative if necessary, for a system of hard surfaced state main roads and laterals and that he would have the fortunes of dead men pay for them.

Where is the man who will argue that bond issues, and contractor's profits are better systems than that of having the State of Oregon build its own roads at actual cost with the swollen fortunes left by dead men?

Where is the taxpayer who will oppose a state system of paved roads that will not cost him an added cent of taxation?

On a street car the other day the Courier editor heard a man say U'Ren would "rob the widows and orphans to stand in with the farmers and workmen."

The man who said it wore a diamond that cost more than the average Clackamas county farmer's dairy cost.

U'Ren would not rob a widow or deprive an orphan.

He would leave them \$50,000 of the inheritance intact, and would put a graduated tax on fortunes over this amount and not determine by the expense necessary for road work.

Is it robbing the widow or depriving the orphan to leave them \$50,000 a year, or \$250 per month interest?

Don't you imagine the ordinary family could squeeze through on this amount and not suffer for shoes or something to eat?

The plan of Mr. U'Ren would have the fortunes of dead men pay for the work and no man, woman or child would suffer because of the expense.

Money that could afford it would pay for the work rather than higher taxation.

And there's another side, and as vitally important as the road improvement feature.

He would have the state of Oregon compelled to give work to the resident men of Oregon who demanded it, and have a minimum wage fixed under which they should work.

Just as surely as you are a fox high the states have got to face this matter of giving its citizen the means on which to live.

It's confronting us and we must meet it. Nearly every state is up against it, and every year the problem grows bigger. Men have a right to live; they have a right to demand a market for their labor and at a price that will give their families the necessities of life. And when men are denied this right long—then look out.

A minimum wage scale on the public roads would guarantee every male resident of Oregon the right to a job and the right to live.

A man would not take such a job unless necessity compelled it, hence it would be no taken advantage of.

It would be a snappy weed out the vagrant element from the men who DO want work, and it would give the bum and the vagrant absolutely no excuse to stay out of jail or stay in Oregon.

It would give Oregon the finest system of hard surfaced roads in the United States, and the work would be done at actual cost by the state and paid for by dead men who left more money than the needs of their families require.

What do you men of Clackamas county think of this proposition?

Don't you think it is the biggest investment, both good and coming, that ever stared Oregon in the face?

Don't you think plenty of work and plenty of roads would make this old

state hump itself? And if the fellows who couldn't feel it paid for it, don't you believe you had better let them go to it? Think it over, use your heads and let the Courier hear from you—for or against.

Go into it a little deeper than the Oregonian has.

LET GEORGE PAY IT

When a wealthy man dies his money is usually a curse to his children. If he leaves much of it to charity the charities are as likely to be run by fakery as by humanitarians. To say that a man who leaves over \$50,000 should share it with the state and thus provide employment to the idle building good roads, is to make his wealth useful and to build lasting and beneficial charities and monuments to him.

Suppose that the genial H. L. Pittock leaves behind him some \$10,000,000 or more amassed from telling the truth (when, and only when, it served his purposes) in the Oregonian for 35 years. Would not a tenth of that sum, or even two-tenths, build a better monument to his memory in the shape of 100 to 200 miles of road than anything his one child, or her children, could do with it? It is said that a certain unmapped region is paved with good intentions. Here is a chance proposed by W. S. U'Ren to let Oregon win something more substantial from the estates of our best families, whose good intentions toward the people of Oregon have always been manifest about the time they wanted some special privilege with which to graft upon the future necessities of the community.

By all means let the wealthy "upper classes" furnish the means with which to pave Oregon, and their good intentions can pave the other region of unknown bounds and means.

Alfred D. Cridge.

A CHANGE OF MONUMENTS

In Portland these last few days Alfred D. Cridge, secretary of the Home-Tax Exemption League, has been having remarkable success securing signatures of taxpayers and registered voters to his petition. He stands just outside the courthouse and secures them. Many show their tax receipts and statements and are angry at the way the figures on them have mounted out of sight. Some of the widows and working women have tears in their eyes as they contemplate the impositions upon them for the artificial crime of having a home.

Among other instructive lessons he teaches is that of estimating what the taxes would be if the exemption measure was enacted. The rate there is 27 mills, and it is sure to go higher next year on every home in Multnomah county unless the exemption amendment passes. In that case it will lower the taxes on fully 90 per cent of them.

One lady came up with a tax receipt of \$49.95 on a home of which the lot was assessed at a valuation of \$250 and the improvements and personal property at \$1,600. She was afraid the exemption measure would not relieve her any as she had been told by the Oregonian that the taxes would be put on the land to make up for it. Cridge showed her that allowing a ten per cent increase on the taxes for the lot, which is as high an increase as reason and facts will allow, her taxes would be \$7.425. She signed that petition and took a blank book to circulate.

Another lady struggling to keep a little home was shown that her taxes would be reduced from \$446 to \$368. Not much of a reduction, you may think, but her little property is not much of a house and has a very well situated lot. If she puts up a house on it hereafter worth \$1,500 her taxes would be \$3.68 just the same if the exemption measure passes. Otherwise it will be over \$30. She works hard for every cent she gets.

A workman who has borrowed the money to build a neat home on an outlying lot on the edge of Portland showed \$1,100 assessment value on the house and \$200 on the lot. Cridge got him to figure it out on an estimate of 100 per cent off the improvement and ten per cent more on the land. Suppose some of our small home owners in city and country get their receipts and do some figuring, do it themselves. The poor man and small home owners and farmers of Oregon do not own it, and they are wretched to pay taxes on what they do not own in the shape of homes, buildings, tools and livestock when all they need to do is to vote it off their backs. Let the absentee timber, land and corporation speculators pay it. Just taxes

on water power alone in Oregon would take up every cent now paid for improvements on farms in Oregon.

An Arkansas isolated community, so it is asserted, once spent a winter debating the question, "Where is the best place to have a boiler?" In the spring a traveling purveyor of tooth powder assembled the populace together and got them to bury their feuds aroused over the momentous question by proposing to them the resolution, "Resolved, that the best place to have a boiler is on some other feller," which was unanimously endorsed. Since those who own the greater portion of Oregon do not reside here, and many never even visit here, why not unanimously resolve that the best place to levy taxes is on some other feller, and let these owners of Oregon pay their just share, which share they certainly do not pay now. At the same time it would greatly attract the small home owner and farmer to be assured that he was not going to be the other "feller" if he made use of the great opportunities Oregon offers. And it would not injure some of our non-resident land grabbers to sell off what they don't want, won't use and now cannot dispose of to home seekers willing to put stumps, raise crops and rear families.

U'Ren speaks out so plainly about things that it positively shocks the average politician.

Two candidates for governor in Oregon endorse the \$1,500 Home Tax Exemption measure. Next!

Rebelling against the booze administration and the bum element, Chicago will make a big effort to make the city dry in April.

It looks as if the saloon was not going to have any friends among the voters of Oregon unless they bring out a candidate of their own.

Why should not the millionaires dead, who will have been unable to take their wealth with them when the last summons come, pay for some good roads. Since the dead can neither vote nor kick it should be unanimous.

There may be, but we have not as yet unfathomed it. Can any learned man inform us what party issue there is in any State, county or municipal affairs in Oregon?—Woodburn Independent.

Will someone please jerk the editor out of his trance and "unfathom" for him. He wants to know if any state in Oregon has an issue.

The Prohibition state convention has been called for Portland for May 5 and 6 for the nomination of a state ticket. Each county has three delegates at large, each county has one delegate for every 25 votes cast for the Prohi. member of Congress in 1912 and each county will be entitled to one delegate for every 25 voters who sign the pledge card before April 30.

Coxey, the general who marched an army to Washington in 1894 says he is going to lead another army, this time to the army marches bring nearer the day when the federal government in co-operation with the states, will take away public works from fat contractors and provide work for every man who wants work and will work. Oregon is blazing the way.

If it had not been for the circulation of some petitions by hired circulators there would not have been so many candidates for governor.—Woodburn Independent.

Will be independent kindly file a bill of particulars with this statement. As we understand the system the candidates go before the primaries for nominations, and not before the people on initiative petitions.

March 1 the express companies are going to give Oregon some bargain rates and it is said there will be a reduction of from 30 to 50 per cent in small parcels—the kind that are now going to the postoffice. Ever think WHY the express companies are lowering rates? It is because they are up against a competitor they can't get into their combine—government competition. And if it works out so well on express transactions, why not give the railroads, wire corporations, coal mines and other monopolies a little of the same stuff?

Oklahoma, youngest of Union states is crowding Oregon for needed reforms. That state has a corporation commission that does something beside drawing pay, and that body has fixed the retail price of kerosene at eight cents per gallon—lowering the price from 15 to 30 cents defying the Standard Oil power. In that day all necessities will have retail prices fixed by law.

Here's the list up to Thursday noon, but there may be a half dozen more announced by the time the Courier reaches you: G. L. Domic, W. S. U'Ren, George C. Brownell, W. A. Carter, Gus Moser, R. L. Stevens, James Withycombe, T. T. Geer, H. Vonder Hellen, C. J. Smith, W. H. Hollis, R. A. Miller, H. G. Starkweather, John Manning, A. S. Benford, Tom Ford, Will Purdy, F. M. Gill, W. H. McMahon.

A couple of hundred deputies under the fish and game commission of this state ought to be called in and put to work on the state highway. They are of about as much benefit as the pneumonia.—Richmond, Cal., Herald.

Same in Oregon. The Courier gets it there are 172 men who are yanking a salary off the taxpayers in connection with the fish and game commission, and we would like to have someone point out the proportional benefits. It's a "commission for jobs" and a leech on Oregon.

A bill has passed the senate, and is going to pass the house, authorizing the president to build a thousand miles of railway in Alaska. This means a great deal for the Pacific west. It will mean cheaper coal for us and a big trade with the northern country. It will also try out the theory of a government owned railroad.—Richmond Herald.

Building a thousand miles of railroad, at public expense, by the government, to the government's own coal mines and then leasing the mines to coal barons, may mean cheaper coal to the Pacific west, but we'll be Guggenheims if we can see it.

The senate passed the exemption from tolls of American ships by a vote 47 to 15. It will be some contention act to see them vote against it now.

There are over 300,000 persons hunting for work in New York City, yet back east they would have you think the Pacific Coast was the only part of the country crowded with job hunters.

The house has passed a \$25,000 appropriation for good roads. If the senate doesn't kill it, President Wilson should. If carried, this will join onto the river and harbor and public buildings graft openings.

New York's State Grange has officially declared for a reform that will provide for uniform taxation. Every state in the Union is smarting under the present system that lets water powers, franchises, railroads, personal property and speculative holdings all through, and makes the farmer, business man and home owner pay taxes for them.

The Newberg Graphic says of George C. Brownell's candidacy for governor, that he has been "actively engaged in politics for several years and has always been a strong vote getter in his home county, Clackamas; is a forceful platform speaker and there will be something doing if he stumps the state.

Every month shows the people of Oregon City the vital need of a city manager and government. Sentiment is unquestionably for a change, and the movement only needs a leader. An initiative movement would force an election and would do away with the present very unsatisfactory councilmen side line administration. Let's go to it.

At a speech at Salem Tuesday night, Robert A. Booth, Republican candidate for United States senator, made this ringing declaration:

I hope for a day when the wealth of the country will be more evenly distributed, but I do not want to see this distribution brought about by laws, but by fair dealing between men.

Makes one think of the fellow who said he wanted to go to heaven, but he didn't want to get religion to go there. And that fellow will get to heaven just about the time Mr. Booth sees a more even distribution of wealth brought about without laws.

VALUE WANTED

There is little doubt that the people of this county will favor the pending proposition if they are assured the worth of their money. It is conceded that there are vast opportunities for extravagance and waste in the expenditure of such a sum of money, and there will be openings for "friends and relatives" on the payroll.

But with competent men in control the construction work with every dollar honestly expended, with the more important highways considered without any show of favoritism, we firmly believe the proposition will meet with the approval of a good majority. All the people want is the worth of their money.—Salem Messenger.

WHY IS A SENATE?

The following is an editorial from the Etscacada Progress, written by the editor, Nina B. Ecker, and from the outlook there are hundreds of women voters in Oregon who will look at it with the Progress' editor and manager does:

"It looks as though Oregon might lose its senate. Perhaps it is well advertised for its return. The senate was originally created for the purpose of being a check on the other branch when the latter got too gay. The senate got so dignified that the common herd couldn't touch it with a ten-foot pole and as a result naturally degenerated into the place that Big Business used as a playground. Then when the people went to governing themselves, their representatives along with several other places that had become filled with dirt and muck, and now these same people are thinking and debating among themselves, "Why is a senate?"

TO BE ACCURATE

A reporter of The Enterprise once upon a time wrote an article in which he used the phrase: "in a statement made to The Enterprise Mr. Smith said..."

Editor Brodie took him to task. "Never say 'made a statement to The Enterprise' or 'said to The Enterprise.' The mere fact that The Enterprise prints a statement or an article is proof that it is correct."

Sunday's Enterprise, commenting editorially upon the case of Blackie Hiles, says he fled to Texas "and several hundred dollars of the county's money was expended in an effort to bring him back to trial."

In spite of the fact that this was printed in The Enterprise it is not true. Expenses of extraditing a prisoner from another state are paid by the state of Oregon, for extradition is made on a governor's warrant, and not on a county warrant. The state of Oregon will pay for the return of Mr. Hiles to Oregon City, and Clackamas county taxpayers will bear no part of the cost.

FAVORITES

Lucius N. Littaur, millionaire and former congressman, and his brother millionaire, William, made millionaires by high duties on their manufactured product, gloves, were caught trying to evade tariff duties on something to evade tariff duties on something they did not make, diamonds, were caught with the goods on, pleaded guilty to smuggling, guilty of breaking laws they helped to make.

And the court FINED THEM, fined them against the protest of United States Marshal, who pointed out to the judge a money fine was no punishment.

Last week the tax collectors vainly tried to get to John Rockefeller in Cleveland to collect taxes. They tried for days to see him, altho' they knew where he was.

If you had smuggled some stuff across the big drink you would serve it out.

If you wouldn't pay your taxes the sheriff would confiscate your property and sell it.

There is ever a different measure of justice for the worker and the millionaire.

And we wonder at the growth of class prejudice.

THE CITY MANAGER

La Grande has been operating under the commission form of government with a city manager for but a short time, though already the system shows its advantages over the complicated and unsatisfactory mayor and council method. Geo. E. Good, a former mayor of Grants Pass, and a student of municipal government, now resident of LaGrande, says that the new form of city control gives promise of the greatest satisfaction. The city manager, he says, is the boss of the job, and is held responsible by the commission for the business management, of the town. He is unhampered by political considerations, and his only thought is to give LaGrande its money's worth in every department. If a policeman fails to give good service there is no squabble in the council over the matter, but the city manager walks up and tells the delinquent that he is "out of his job" and another man on the job. Of course it takes a pretty big man to be manager of a city like LaGrande or like Grants Pass, corporations capitalized at four or five millions of dollars. He has to be a bigger man, in fact, than the average patriot who warms the seat of the alderman's chair, and his salary is paid according to the demands of the job. LaGrande has a limit of \$3,600 to the salary, and is paying \$2,400 at the start. A city wastes many times the amount of this salary every year if public improvements and business management are attempted by business men and politicians. Few men who are competent to manage big affairs have the time to give to the duties of the management of a city free of charge. Municipal government is a science. The city manager plan is the first step toward reducing it to a science, and also the first step toward the elimination of graft in municipal government.—Rogue River Herald.

Monday night property holders on Main street met with the city council to discuss the proposed laying of an adequate sewer on the chief business thoroughfare of the county seat, and also to consider the repairing of that highway. Save for one or two those present condemned both proposals. Some few wanted to patch up the paving, but most of them thought it was good enough. One of the property owners present went back into history a score of years and told of the laying of the present inefficient sewer and after voluminous remarks said it was good enough for him. Enterprising citizens who thought Main street ought to be decently paved were voted down by the majority.

Which reminds us of something that happened in a little Oregon community—a pioneer town, like Oregon City, and inhabited by much the same sort of folks. In this other community the proposition before the city fathers was the appropriation of \$75 to lay two blocks of board sidewalk from the post office to the general store. At the time the proposition was discussed at some length, one of the city fathers rose in his place, held his whiskers to one side while he spat on the floor, and then unburdened himself of the following:

"Mr. Mayor, in regard to this sidewalk matter I want to say that in 1846 I arrived at this site of what is now this thriving community, and homesteaded a claim. I made my way over the plains in an ox-cart, endured the hardships of the Oregon trail, fought the lurking savages, and finally made my home here. And I had no sidewalks.

"The good folks prospered my wife and me, and we cleared our land, and in due time we had a baby boy in our family, and he grew up beside me in the wilderness and cut his home out of the forests, just as I had done. He grew to be a man, was elected to the board of selectmen, and took an interest in the affairs of the little town that grew up around our home—and he had no sidewalks.

"And now he has married, and has children of his own, and they attend the school that you and I and all of these children of mine have founded and support, and they have no sidewalks, and they are hearty, yet they have no sidewalks. Now I move that this motion to expend \$75 from the general fund for sidewalks be tabled."

And the motion carried.

FOR SHERIFF

To the voters of Clackamas County: I will be a candidate before the May primary for the Democratic nomination of sheriff of Clackamas county.

I am a farmer of Maple Lane, but I believe I am qualified by education and experience for the office of sheriff.

If nominated and elected I will manage the office as I would a business concern, wherein my job depended on my making good.

I am out and out against the liquor traffic. If sheriff I will vigorously prosecute liquor law violations, and either elected or not, I will work for a total prohibition.

If elected I will not pay political debts with office appointments, and I will use every retrenchment consistent with good service to keep down the expenses of the sheriff's department.

Democrats who can endorse this platform I would like to have support me at the primaries.

D. J. Thorne.

WHAT BOOTH SKIPS

Like his letter of acceptance, when pre-arranged disciples of the Oregonian swooped down on his home and demanded he become a martyr to his country, R. A. Booth's platform is full of words and oratory, but mightily on plain declarations.

He warbles of party, party loyalty, and he drags the dear old flag in to give his oratory a setting.

But he dodges the liquor traffic as a Texas kid does a rattler.

He waxes eloquent over "contented homes" and "patriotic, progressive citizenship."

But he shuns reproof as a Hawaiian does a leper.

He mildly mentions that farmers should be aided to head "profitable markets, but keeps fifty miles away from a state market proposition.

He asks for "consideration" by our representatives of some way to reclaim waste land.

But he doesn't say he would take the unemployed thousands, and put them to work on the state.

He says "the laborer self-respecting and well paid is essential to the country's growth and greatness."

But he doesn't give one lonesome plan or suggestion as to how the la-

borer is going to get these rights.

He says the middleman are "essential for the convenient distribution of articles of trade, but—

He doesn't explain why food importations to the value of millions under a reduced tariff, are held up to the extortion limit by the middlemen's combine.

He endorses woman suffrage, but did he ever take the stump and advocate giving the ballot to women? He advises that immigration be restricted, but,

He doesn't give a definite plan or suggestion under which he would restrict them or state what classes he would restrict.

What Mr. Booth DOESN'T mention is the material that Oregonian's want platforms built of.

Of all the wish-washy, spineless, mean-nothing platforms that a U. S. senator ever stood on, Booth's is the weakest, and has the least of positiveness.

The Oregonian is out against U'Ren, Brownell and their platforms. As for the logical result is that one of them will be elected governor.

Here's a prophecy that was fulfilled. "I am going to be governor of New York," said Sulzer. "Like hell you are," replied Murphy and like hell he was.

THE BEAUTIFUL SYSTEM

Clackamas Reader Points out Instances of Unjust Assessments Clackamas, Feb. 10, 1914.

Editor Courier:—As a reader of your valuable paper the only paper that stands for the rights of the oppressed taxpayer, allow me to state a few facts that have come to my knowledge in regard to the infamous, unjust, and unequal manner in which our county assessments are made.

On Page 831, Line 27 of our Tax Collector's books you find Joe and Barthe Bachman assessed with 89 acres; 25 acres of same cultivated, tax \$90.60; page 106, line 28, Property and Improvements, \$6.84; with a total tax of \$97.44.

A fair and impartial assessment should have been—

44 acres cultivated, at \$50.00 per acre \$2,200.00

45 acres un-improved at \$20 per acre 900.00

Personal improvements 2.88

A 24 mill tax would be \$81.24, which shows a difference or loss to the community of \$13.30.

Page 832, Line 11—Melville, Mael Mudge and Olive Byers:

80 acres in section 13 Tp 2, S. R. 2 East, valuation \$4,200; taxes to pay 100.80

Page 1111, line 31, personal property and improvement at \$330 7.92

Total taxes \$108.72

On those 80 acres is one of the best paying orchards of about 10 acres, in full bearing, of this county. The mowelling or residence is modern in every respect and could not be duplicated today for \$4,000. The barn is second to none in the county and could not be built today for less than \$1,800, besides there are, fruit dryer, cattle, hogs, horses, machinery, etc. Land is nearly all under cultivation.

A fair valuation according to the general custom would have been—

80 acres at \$52.50 per acre, \$4,200; improvements, house one-third value, \$1,333; barn one-third value, \$600; fruit dryer and personal property, \$350; total \$6,483. This at 24 mills would have been \$1,551.10, deduct \$108.72, the present tax and it leaves a loss to the county of \$446.39.

In order to make good some of the above losses Mr. Jack socks it onto Michael and Anna Henrich, next door neighbors to the above named parties, as follows:

Page 831, line 25, Michael Henrich, 1.37 acres at \$75 tax \$2.04

Page 831, line 24, Anna Henrich, 48.63 acres \$51.60

Page 1151, line 5, personal improvements \$6.84

Total \$60.48

A just and fair valuation would have been—

17 acres in cultivation at \$50, would be \$850.00

33 acres un-improved at \$20 \$660.00

Dryer and personal property \$355.00

Total \$1,865.00

24 mill \$44.28, deduct this from the above \$60.48, and there is an over-charge of \$16.20.

Mr. Taxpayer, compare those few assessments and note the injustice. Compare your own statements with those of your neighbors and see whether you have not been treated in the same manner. We also would suggest that all crooked cases be reported to M. J. Brown, editor of the Courier, who undoubtedly will give them proper attention.

I am informed that Herman Gerhardus of Damascus, found several such cases and that he took the matter before Governor West and Tax Commissioners Galloway, who promised to investigate, but having heard nothing further of it I suppose he was hushed up or forgotten. Reader.

Get your letterheads and envelopes printed with the name of your farm on them. The Courier will make them cheap for you.

Residence 612 Center St. Phones: Main 1101 M. 172

R. A. McDonald Veterinary Surgeon Office, Red Front Barn Phones: Main 116 B-9 OREGON CITY 20 Main St. Phone 2682

SHUBEL

The frogs have started their spring songs, which means that spring is near.

Several families have the measles, while a lumber have recovered. The chances are some more