

OREGON CITY COURIER

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ON TRADING AT HOME

Within the last two weeks the Courier has been favored with several communications dealing with the general subject of "buying at home." Some of the communications have been inspired by the effort of the Live Wires of the Oregon City Commercial club to inaugurate and carry through a campaign to persuade Oregon City people to patronize Oregon City merchants, instead of going to Portland or sending orders to the eastern catalogue houses. In so far as the campaign of the Live Wires deals specifically with Oregon City, the Courier approves of it.

There appears to be, however, a misapprehension of what the Live Wires are trying to do. Many people seem to think that they want everybody in Clackamas county to trade in Oregon City. Perhaps they do desire this—but if they do, the Courier does not support them.

The Courier has always believed that it was the duty of every community to support its own merchants; and that it was the duty of the local merchant to give the best and most economical service to his patrons that he could. The Courier thinks that Oregon City people should do their shopping in Oregon City stores—PROVIDED THAT OREGON CITY STORES WILL SHOW THAT THEY APPRECIATE THIS PATRONAGE, and provided that they will charge approximately the same for standard articles that other stores charge. Oregon City stores have now agreed to do this, so they should receive every support from the citizens of the county seat.

Territory directly tributary to Oregon City should also do its shopping in the county seat, all other things being equal. But outside of this limited territory, the Courier sees no reason why Clackamas county as a whole should rush to Oregon City when it needs supplies. There are excellent stores in Canby, Molalla, Estacada and other county towns, and they deserve the patronage of their communities. The Courier does not believe that the Live Wires want to drive these outside merchants from business, and thinks any such interpretation of their campaign is wrong.

The letters sent to the Courier, however, have complained that in the past adequate service was not given out-of-town people by the county seat merchants. And from what the Courier has been able to find out, most of these reports have been perfectly true. Probably the letters written the Courier and the campaign of the Live Wires—taken together—will do much to bring a change for the better in this matter. Oregon City merchants should cater to all kinds of trade, and should not segregate the rural customer from their city buyer. If they do neglect the farmer, they have only themselves to blame for the feeling of antipathy which has in the past developed against the county seat.

Merchants have united now, however, in "turning over a new leaf," and the Courier hopes that an era of better feeling will be forthcoming, and that both the county seat merchants and the rural customers will be benefited. And believing that the local merchants are going to make special efforts to win back the regard of the farmers hereabouts, the Courier desires to ask those people who can conveniently shop here to give the county seat another trial. We believe that mutual benefit will result.

The Courier wants Clackamas county to be loyal to Clackamas county. We want to see new industries, and new stores developed here. And the best way to bring this development about is for all concerned to pull together. Encourage your local dealer by buying from him. If you live in the country, try stores in your nearest large town. If they have not got it come to Oregon City and see if the large stocks carried here will not meet your needs—if you fail in Oregon City—go to Portland or send away.

But if you find that you are forced to this last action, do this also—write a letter to the Courier, telling what it was you wanted to get and why you could not get it in Clackamas county. If the trouble can be remedied, the Courier will try to remedy it; it will call the attention of Clackamas coun-

ty merchants to the failure of service that has resulted. And the Courier believes that when this is done the merchant or merchants concerned will do their utmost to make it unnecessary, next time, for the customer to send away for the material required. Let us all pull together and help home development. You do your share, and the Courier will do its share; and when there is complaint, the Courier will try and find out from the merchant why there was dissatisfaction.

POOR OLD ELEPHANT

For an organization that is so sure of victory in 1916, the republican party seems to be in pretty dire straits. Its press agents, of the Bourne variety, tell us that there is not the slightest doubt of a republican landslide at the next presidential election; but on the same page republican papers grope about in the dark for a candidate to head the ticket. Elihu Root and Justice Hughes (His Whiskers) are spoken of with the most frequency, though there is also some talk of "picking a Western man to unite the Mountain and Coastal states."

After telling us what a fine man Mr. Root is, republican papers say that they hardly think he is personally popular enough with the masses to be a good figurehead for the campaign. And when Justice Hughes is mentioned there bobs up disturbingly that gentleman's oft-repeated refusal to consider being a candidate. It appears that Hughes, having landed a nice, well-paying job for life, does not desire to jeopardize his income for the privilege of being the stalking horse of the grand old party.

It is unfortunate for the republicans that such a condition exists—or perhaps it is more unfortunate that republican papers will talk about the condition. It seems that the republican bosses want a "conservative" man to head their ticket; and it appears that all real conservatives know full well that the people at large are sick of "republican conservatism" and want something a bit more lively. And as the republican party consists strictly of the bosses, it begins to look as if the republicans would defeat themselves, if left alone. This, of course, does not take into consideration the action that the democrats will take.

From a disinterested view, it appears to the Courier that here is only one living republican about whom any great popular enthusiasm may be built up at the present time. And this republican, it seems, is perfectly willing to heed the call of his party and lead it in its charge against democratic breastworks. But the bosses seem not to want this man. The bosses, for some mysterious reason, appear to have forgotten all the nice things they formerly said about William Howard Taft; and not to have noticed the very extensive "hit" this same William Howard Taft has made with the people of the nation since he retired to college life.

It is too bad—from the republican point of view—that the elephant shies at the smiling bulk of its former master. Were conditions normal in this country, and in the world at large Mr. Taft would stand a very good chance of duplicating the performance of the late Ex-President Grover Cleveland. Under normal times, Mr. Taft probably could "come back;" and as it is he could probably poll a larger popular republican vote than any other candidate. But the republican bosses do not like Mr. Taft's breadth of view and worldly tolerance, which he learned in his White House and subsequent experience. They want a man who is so conservative that he bends over backwards, and in their demand for such a leader they are killing their own cause.

Of course, things being as they are, it is very much to be doubted if anybody could defeat President Wilson for a second term. Not only have conditions brought on by the war made it very inadvisable to swap horses; but President Wilson has proved himself to be a man of such infinite resource and wonderful wisdom, that it is folly to talk of replacing him. However, since we must have an election, the people ought to be allowed to enjoy a real battle; and

no man could put up a better popular fight for the elephant than his former mahout. Why don't the republicans nominate Taft—are they afraid the bosses would be forever ousted from the grand old party?

And incidentally, speaking of the affairs in the elephant's stable—have you noticed the beautiful and profound silence, even in "progressive republican" ranks, about that swash-buckling gentleman who killed the bull moose in Canada recently? Apparently even hyphenated republicans think the Colonel overdid it, and that having slaughtered the bull moose in the United States, he ought to have let it go at that. The American people don't seem to approve of the extinction of all moose, two-footed and fur-footed.

ABOUT BEER AND BOOZE

Cleverly tangling the "buy it at home" agitation with prohibition, a correspondent wrote the Courier last week, asking for an expression of opinion as to the reasonableness and justice of forcing Oregonians to send out of the state for beer, wines and booze after the first of the year. On the face of things, it would appear that the prohibition law, soon to be effective, was driving trade from Oregon to California and other places. And this certainly is not helping along the "buy it at home" idea.

However, a majority of the people of Oregon voted for the prohibition amendment that forbids the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in Oregon after the first of the year. Through the medium of Chairman Wheeler, of the Committee of One Hundred, and through the outbursts of Mr. Orton Goodwin, his British press-agent, the intent of the law was fully explained before it was vot-

will be willing to pay a million dollars a year for the privilege of seeing John Barleycorn and his allies defeated.

MORE ABOUT PORTLAND

While Portland papers continue to wrangle about the reason for the lack of ocean-going commerce in the Willamette, it is interesting to read some unprejudiced news about the matter. And in a way, Clackamas county is interested in this fight, too; for any timber or other products of this county that are designed for ocean shipment must find an outlet at some seaport—San Francisco or Puget Sound.

A recent copy of the Daily Consular Record and Commerce Reports, an uncolored, brief and truthful publication issued by our Uncle Samuel at Washington, D. C., tells of the efforts to establish a direct line of steamers between the Pacific Coast and France. France, it appears, needs a great deal of American timber, a great deal of American grain, and a great deal of American canned goods. And all these are to be found in cargo-paying quantities on the Pacific slope.

The Bureau of Domestic and Foreign Commerce has taken up this matter, and in order to encourage a line with direct sailings to France, has been gathering information. Speaking of this the Commerce Report says: "Reports received by the Bureau from Seattle indicate that there are interest and enthusiasm throughout that district in favor of a great shipping boom. Men who are acting for responsible transportation companies have been in consultation with the Bureau's branch office, several going from Portland to Seattle for the purpose, and business men have been holding meetings with the object of advancing the interests of the port."

—but when it came to putting the papers together the "dressings" got lost and the letter slipped in "headless" and unannounced.

And because "it never rains but it pours," it also happened that on page three an important story dealing with crop statistics got lost on the end of a government report on roads. There may have been a few other things that got twisted in last week's paper, too. As we remarked at the beginning, there are times when everything goes wrong—and last press-day was one of those times. The Courier will try not to let it happen again.

Next week the turkey will eye you with suspicion; and some chickens will be deceived, too.

The "unpleasantness" in Europe seems to be still continuing, judging from the headlines in the papers.

One thing about the increased price of saccharine is this: maybe they will put sugar in our candy henceforth.

Cause for Thanksgiving—that you have stores in your home town where you can do your Christmas shopping early.

"But the nights are always cool," we hear people say when they boast the Oregon climate. You bet they are—right now.

Bryan's views on India have been excluded from the outgoing mails. It's too bad there isn't a general embargo on William's utterances.

That was some "junk" that the road supervisors took over the Columbia highway. And what do you suppose will be the result?

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ed upon by the people. George C. Brownell and other "wets" to the contrary, there should have been no confusion in the public mind as to what the prohibition amendment would mean to Oregon. It was advertised all over the state—in inch for inch, there was more "dry" advertising published during the campaign of last year than there was "wet." And the "drys" paid more for their advertising, too.

So the majority of the people voted to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in Oregon. They voted to "drive the business out of the state." When they did this, they evidently believed that the revenue from the liquor business was not a benefit to the state; and that greater good to the state would come from the abolishment of the local liquor trade. During the campaign the "wets" proclaimed that prohibition would cost Oregon \$900,000 annually—but in spite of that the people voted for it. Before they voted they considered the "buy it at home" aspect of the matter; and they decided to put a stop to "buying it at home." The majority having so spoken, and this being a land where the majority rules, it appears that there is at this time no use arguing on the economics of the matter.

And when you get down to cases, \$900,000 will be a cheap enough price to pay for freedom from the many evils of booze—if the prohibition law works. If it will work most of us

Portland business men went to Seattle to advance the interests of Seattle as a port for this new service. Is it any wonder the Portland papers cannot agree on what is best to make Portland an ocean port, when Portland men go to Seattle and boost for the Sound? And why, do you suppose, these Portland men did that? Because they know the futility of trying to get ocean commerce to Portland until river improvements are made so that a vessel of average draft can get to Portland.

One of these days Portland papers are going to stop dreaming about the bar of the Columbia, and are going to demand that the Willamette river be made navigable. Then maybe Portland will get her share of trade.

WE REGRET TO STATE

Newspapers are no exceptions to the general rule that provides that all things shall "go wrong" at times. And for this reason the Courier wants to beg to be excused for some of the features with which it is decorated last week. Owing to the perversion of inanimate things, and type in particular, the very able letter from P. W. Meredith, which was found "headless" on page five, got where it was not intended. The Courier thought so highly of Mr. Meredith's communication that we dressed it up nicely for the front page.

State Labor Commissioner Hoff has been asked to test the Oregon City elevator. We'll bet a copper cent that he sends a deputy to make the first ride in the thing.

Stagehands at a Portland theatre went on a strike just before the curtain rose and there was no performance. Maybe they'd seen the show rehearse and wanted to spare the public.

And now they blame prohibition in Oregon and Washington for the defeat of woman suffrage in the East. This is a good deal to charge to the kind of "prohibition" we are going to have out here.

Wilhelm Hohenzollern, boss of Germany, says "artists" need not risk their lives in the trenches, but may stay at home and preserve "kultur." We wonder if they call a barber a "tonsorial artist" over there?

Four thousand dollars collected from the sale of Red Cross stamps in Portland two years ago is still unspent. And they told us at the time that the money was desperately needed to help fight tuberculosis.

An automobile was burned up on the road near New Era, and the sheriff's office didn't know anything about it. How should it know—nobody tele-

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 3.)