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AN EASY VICTORY

Grant B. Dimick Re-elected Mayor of Oregon City.

HIS MAJORITY OVER 150 VOTES

Not a Great Deal of Talking, But the Result of the Ballot Surprised Some People.

The battle is over and the victory is won, and many people are surprised and some are disappointed. Others are pleased and some are indifferent. The contest lacked spirit throughout, except during the last day or two of the campaign, when there did seem to be some element of life injected into the contest for the mayorality, however, even then, it was a case of think and not much talk. The result showed that very little influence was exerted for or against any candidate.

Mayor Dimick had an easy victory for some reason, perhaps better known to the average voter than we are able to express here. His opponent, Ex-Sheriff Cooke, was generally conceded to have been a most popular man, having been heretofore a potent factor in county politics, and it was considered most likely that his power and popularity would cut considerable of a figure when it was announced he would be a candidate for that high office.

The victor in this contest has already served two terms, or is just completing his second term, and it is not altogether clear why he should be again chosen to preside over the deliberations of the city council, other than that his conduct of city matters has been universally commended. Ordinarily no man owns an office of that kind, but it begins to look as though the people of Oregon City are not only willing but anxious that Mayor Dimick should stay where he is. His past record is good and when his third term is completed there is no doubt that we can say "well done, thou good and faithful servant."

There was no contest for city treasurer. Only one candidate in the field left but one thing to do, vote for Fred J. Meyer, the gentleman who has served so acceptably in that capacity during the past year. Out of a total vote of 593 Mr. Meyer received 529.

In the first ward for councilman the contest waxed pretty close. Councilman Koerner was a candidate for re-election, his opponent being Walter L. Little, who proved to be an adversary of considerable pretentions. However, Mr. Koerner was elected by the small margin of 14 votes. Mr. Koerner has made a splendid record while in the council, and it would have taken an exceptionally strong opponent to overcome his popularity.

In the second ward Candidate Pheister came out the victor in the contest, defeating Charles Albright for re-election by 20 votes. Mr. Albright, too, had made a good record while in the council, but that seemed to avail him nothing. Samuel Pheister, the victor, had strong support by the labor union people, and while an untried neophite, there is no element of doubt that confidence reposed in him will prove not misplaced.

The contest in the third ward for councilman was too close for comfort. Both the candites were members of the federal labor union, being J. H. Howard and C. N. Mason, the latter besting his opponent by a very narrow margin. The vote by wards was as follows:

First Ward — Mayor — Dimick, 147, Cooke, 87; Councilmen—Koerner, 125, Little, 111; Treasurer, Meyer 217.

Second Ward—Dimick 121, Cooke 85; Councilmen—Pheister 129, Albright 109; Treasurer—Meyer 202.

Third Ward—Dimick 76, Cooke 45; Councilmen—Mason 62, Howard 56; Treasurer—Meyer—110

The newly elected officers will assume the duties of their respective places on the first of January.

A SMOOTH SWINDLER.

He Chooses Clackamas County for His Base of Operations.

With a United States land office and a dozen or more lawyers, whose specialty is land office business, within a few hours' ride of their homes, and against the advice of some of the latter, no fewer than thirty Clackamas county farmers have been skinned out of cash amounting to between $3,000 and $4,000 by one the smoothest grafters that ever caught a bunch of suckers. Even though the well-worn, get-rich-quick plan did pan out, the government would have to be settled with, for the scheme is one of the rankest land frauds imaginable. As the matter stands now, the farmers connected with the swindle will probably have a few sleepless nights before the matter is ended. Piece by piece the story has been gathered from unwilling mouths, and is as follows:

About three weeks ago a young man, with agreeable manners and a smooth tongue, appeared at Molalla and made himself at home in the house of one of the farmers. Just because he liked the host, and to show that he was a good fellow, he very generously explained to the farmer that he had struck a good thing by which he was going to clean up $700 in 10 weeks. Of course the farmer wanted in on the ground position, as did his best friends, until the whole village was at fever heat with excitement. It was necessary to have ready cash. A few had it, but the majority borrowed and even mortgaged their farms or their homes to procure it, as every one wanted in on the head set. After going to Westport, a station fifty miles below Roseburg, the first lot of farmers who went were met by a locator who agreed to put each of them on a first-class timber claim, provided they gave him $100 cash. As between thirty and forty people left their homes for the south, he must have cleared at least $3,000. Most of the timber is of the third class and can be used for cord wood only.

This is where a local land company comes into the deal. This concern was to advance the money and when the title was clear was to give each and every man $1,200 for his timber land.

Another batch of Molalla farmers was to have gone last week, but they were too shrewd. They wished to take along a surveyor, who is also something of a timber expert, but the camper objected, giving for his reason that a surveyor would attract attention and then every one would rush to take up the long-looked-for chance of getting something for nothing. That excuse did not set well with the suspicious men and they stayed at home. Now those who did bite are wondering.

What or who this company is cannot be ascertained, but they probably know the law on such swindles, as no documents are handled in the deal.—Portland Journal.

Strayed From Borings.

A cow and calf, cow three years old in spring, mostly white, with red on neck and head and some spots on body, ear marked, two splits in right ear. Cow has long, straight horns, wide apart; calf, red spotted; steer, with ear marks the same as cow. Anyone giving the owner any information will receive $5.00. Cow had small bell tied on with a rope when last seen.

C. F. KESTERSON, Barton, Oregon.

COVER THE STATES

Rural Delivery to Extend Throughout the Nation.

WILL COST $24,000,000 TO DO IT

When the Service Is Extended There Will Be an Estimated Annual Deficit of $10,000,000.

The officials of the postoffice department look forward now to the extension of rural free delivery throughout the entire United States. They have made their estimates as to what it will cost to deliver letters on every American farm or plantation in the sparsely settled and thickly settled parts of the country. The cost will not be trifling. To deliver to every rural American his mail will take about $24,000,000 a year. Should the present service be extended at the rate of 12,000 routes a year until the 700,000 square miles of territory yet to be covered have been taken care of, there will be for several years an annual deficit in postal revenues of from $8,000,000 to $10,000,000. The deficit will, it is asserted, disappear gradually as the revenues increase by reason of the improved postal facilities.

Not many years ago rural free delivery was a questionable sort of experiment. The farmers, for whose benefit it was intended, did not in in all quarters take kindly to it. They are not eager seekers after novelties, and the idea of abandoning the customary trip to the village postoffice for mail, a trip which gave them a welcome opportunity to gossip with neighbors and discuss crops and elections, was not altogether attractive to them. But they appreciate fully now the advantages of the new departure. There is an increasing pressure for the establishment of rural routes, and the representative of a country district who cannot secure something in this line for his constituents runs the risk of losing his popularity.

So strong is the pressure for free delivery that the postoffice department officials are not dealing with a remote question when they prepare estimates of the gross cost of a complete rural service. But while the cost will be large, it will not frighten Americans. Indeed, they are in the habit of looking unmoved on much larger appropriations for far less useful purposes.

It may well be that when the letter-carrier makes his trips to every farmer's gate the farmers will make a more extensive use of the mails than they do now, and that the revenues of the department will expand as they have in the past whenever better facilities have been provided. Even if this were not to be the case, the "general welfare" will be promoted by an expenditure which brings the farmers of the United States into closer touch with the busy world, from which most of them are so far removed.

GRANGE DECLARED ITSELF.

Goes on Record Favoring Woman's Equality and Temperence.

The national grange in session at Lansing, Michigan, last week, renewed its recognition of woman's equality by adopting the report of its committee on good of the order, which declared that every possible thing should be done "to put woman in possession of all those political rights and property interests that the spirit of modern civilization demands."

The report further says that the vice of intemperance should be checked and the crime of easy divorces, which has made America too conspicuous in the eyes of the world, made impossible.

The duty of the grange was declared to be to impress upon the farmer that he is an American citizen, with political duties to perform, and that the man who neglects them "because politics are too dirty for him" is just as much a criminal as the man who neglects to drain a cesspool that threatens his family because it is ill smelling.

A resolution indorsing the initiative and referendum was defeated by the committee on resolutions by a vote of 8 to 6.

For Sale.

Three registered short horned heifers, sired by Oak Hill Lad, 130660, bred to Minmore 171119, also 8 spring calves, 2 bulls and 6 heifers, sired by Lord Guymnne, also three colts 2¾ bred Perchon, 1 fine 6-year-old mare broke to work. All this stock will be guaranteed as represented.

OAK GROVE STOCK FARM, Currinsville, Oregon.

The Enterprise $1.50 per year.