

OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE

Published Every Friday. E. E. BRODIE, Editor and Publisher.

Entered at Oregon City, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class matter.

Subscription Rates: One year \$1.50, Six Months .75, Trial Subscription, Two Months .25

HOW TO BRING THE PRODUCER CLOSER to the consumer with less expense and less time is a problem of paramount importance to the people of the entire nation.

Ezra Tuttle, a farmer of Eastport, N. Y., sold beans at 40 cents a bushel and paid the freight himself. The commission men got 10 cents out of the 40.

Such conditions affect two general classes, the farmer and the consumer. In fact, it might be said that these conditions affect all classes, except the middlemen and the railroads.

It is taken for granted by those who are versed in the subject that conditions are growing worse. Their opinion is based, not on mere pessimism, but on actual reliable statistics.

In hunting for the solution to the problem, it is first advisable to study other countries and learn what steps they have taken. If there has been one country which has secured prosperity, providing that that country is under the same general conditions as this, their plan should be studied and if possible adapted to the United States.

In the northern part of Europe, in a latitude further north than that of this country, there is a nation called Denmark. Its soil is far inferior to that of the average in this country, if an average could be taken; the total number of persons in the nation is 2,775,000, less than in several of our states; the climate in the winter is severe, and although the population is small, Denmark is prosperous and the products from its farms are sold in all the countries of Europe, competing successfully with the home produced crops.

The secret of the prosperity of Denmark is co-operation. Co-operation is that which brought wealth to the Dane farmer, has enabled him to compete with foreign producers in their own markets, and has solved the problem of the waste between the producer and the consumer, in the same problem which confronts the people of the United States.

Ten or twelve years ago, the farmers of Denmark formed a co-operative association. In the beginning it was small, few farmers joined, and but little produce passed through its hands but as success met those first humble efforts, others seeing the profits of the members of the new organization, joined until every part of the country was represented.

The association collects the produce from the farmer at his farm, sends it to the city, places it on sale at its market or ships it to the foreign country, and sells it. For this work only enough profit is added to pay the meager expenses and the expenses are meager, for the thrifty Dane has reduced the workings of the association to an exact science with a rule for every move.

Every deal is part of a system, every action reduced to an exact science. For example, every farmer is numbered and every product which leaves his farm must bear that number. If Jones, while eating his breakfast of toast and egg in a fashionable London restaurant, discovers that the egg is not all that is to be desired in freshness, refers the matter to the waiter. The waiter locates the number on the shell and within the next few days the farmer, whose hen produced that egg, is informed by the local manager of the association that the best time to sell eggs is when they are fresh.

But co-operation extends further in Denmark than merely the gathering and sale of crops. There the association plays the part of big brother and instructor to the farmer as well as marketing agent. Bulletins are sent out, prepared by experts, which tell the secrets which make the difference between successful and unsuccessful farming; lecturers travel over the country, and every thing possible is done to make the working and living conditions of the farmer better.

There is no doubt as to the success of the Denmark system for co-operation there has made a poor country a rich and prosperous one. The question for the farmer of the United States is: Can this system be applied here with success? What changes would be necessary in the Danish system to make up

for the difference between the two countries in size, in population, in living conditions, and generally make-up? An answer to this question would be one answer to the problem of how to eliminate the middleman. An answer to this would have the possibility of greater prosperity in the United States.

ONE OF THE FEW FAULTS of the Initiative and Referendum is the opportunity it gives for rich and selfish interests to place measures on the ballot through paid circulators of petitions. By drafting a proposed law with an obnoxious feature hidden as a joker and by giving the measure much paid publicity through newspapers and lecturers, there is always a chance that the voters will pass a law which is detrimental to the welfare of the state.

Such opportunities force the voter to be careful of every vote he casts and compels citizens to organize clubs to combat these proposed laws by expensive campaigns. The effect on the voter is that he is made cautious and often votes down a good measure merely because he fears that somewhere in it, hidden under complicated legal phrasing, there is a clause which would make the bill the tool of a special interest.

Without paid circulators, these interests could never secure one measure placed on the ballot. The entire secret of their power is through their money. It is by the use of their bank book that their campaign is begun, carried on, and finished. If forced to rely on friendship they would be discouraged before they began.

It is this evil that is to be cured there is one way to do it and that is to prohibit the circulating of petitions by paid solicitors. A measure that possesses true merit would not be affected by such a restriction for it would have friends enough who would go to the petition rather than forcing the paid circulators to bring it to them.

Such a measure is to be brought before the voters of the state if the plans of ex-Senator Jonathan Bourne, Jr. are carried out. This bill will provide that paying the circulators of a petition shall be unlawful and the names so secured shall not be counted. Merely to show the merits of the plan, the petition proposing this change will be circulated without the aid of paid petition circulators. Copies of the measure will be sent to various persons throughout the state who are in favor of the plan and they will secure the necessary names without pay.

LOWER TAXES and fewer state boards and commissions—that is the bait which almost every candidate is extending to the voter in an effort to land his vote; that is the trick by which the candidate, confident in his own wiles, believes that he can be elected to the desired position.

No candidate so far discovered has hid this feature of his platform behind complicated expressions or at the end of his statement. It stands at the head of the list, tempting and enticing, printed in the boldest type in the shop and expressed with all the clearness that short terse English words will permit. There is no doubt as to the meaning; it is forceful and to the point.

But the question is, why is this issue so popular with the office seeker? It is popular with the office seeker because he believes that by its use he can get the greatest number of votes and because the question is an important one before the people of the state. The politician takes this stand because he believes that it will entice votes to him and the statesman because he believes that he can remedy the conditions.

High taxes are a sure sign of an unbusinesslike or inefficient government. Where there are high taxes there is waste or corruption. It is the prevailing belief that high taxes in Oregon are due to the great number of paid boards and commissions which encumber the state government.

There is no doubt but that the state taxes can and should be reduced and there is no trouble in finding a candidate who is pledged to do it. The problem for the voter is picking a candidate who will carry out his promise. Platforms are of no avail when they are not backed up by earnest intentions. It is an easy thing for a candidate to promise to reduce taxes but it will take a firm official with a wide strip of first class quality of backbone to get out and cut them down.

THE GOVERNMENT is not dealing fairly with the star route mail carriers. When the existing contracts were entered into the government was engaged in merely transporting mails which in most cases amounted to nothing more than a few bags of letters and papers. But with the advent of the parcel post all this is changed. The government is accepting packages for rates far below that charged by express companies and the result is that the amount of mail is greatly increased. Star route contractors find themselves overwhelmed with a kind and volume of business which was not contemplated when the contracts were signed. They are forced to take great loads for a price which not even pays the expenses of their teams or automobiles. Routes which were served by one team have so increased that additional horses must be secured and more equipment bought. Before the present low rates routes which could be taken in a few hours now require twice as long.

All the contractors are losing heavily but to protect their bonds, they must continue to fulfill every term of their contracts. The bondsmen are liable in case the person bonded fails to carry out the provisions of the contract. To all practical purposes the government is perpetrating an injustice in that it is forcing the contractors to fulfill an obligation which was not taken into consideration when the contract was made.

The natural result is that the postal officials are experiencing great trouble in securing new contractors for routes on which the contracts have expired. Men who were formerly interested and who would under other conditions have bid for the work refuse to even consider the proposition.

What steps the postoffice department will be forced to take has not been announced but it is thought probable that an increase is the only measure which will remedy the situation. With the limits of parcel post placed at 100 pounds and the greatly increased amount of common mail matter one thing is certain and that is, there must and will be a change.

THAT THE GREATEST ENEMIES of the good roads movement are politics and politicians is the statement of a certain well known Pacific Coast newspaper. It believes that men who take a stand for or against good roads merely because they believe that such is the popular side and will draw the greatest number of votes will do more to harm the good roads movement than any other. There is no doubt but that there is much truth in the statement that politics has had its bad effect on every worthy and progressive movement but it merely illustrates the deceit to which persons will stoop to gain a desired end.

ALL LOOKS BRIGHT FOR SPELLING BEES

But 16 schools in Clackamas county have failed to respond to the invitation of Superintendent Calavan to enter the scheduled spelling bees and the greater number of these turned down the offer because their school year will close early this spring. The schedule was completed Saturday. There will be 11 contests during the month of April. At the end of that time the county will be represented by a team of the 17 best spellers in all of Clackamas. There has been some doubt in the minds of the school authorities whether challenges could be sent to other counties as at first planned on account of the lateness of the season but Superintendent Calavan said Saturday that in case no contest could be held this school year the work would be renewed next fall.

INVENTION FAILURE, MAN KILLS SELF

SANTA MONICA, Cal., March 24.—Fuller investigation by Coroner Hartwell proves today that the body found yesterday in a canyon north of here is that of a suicide, not a murdered man, as at first supposed. A crude gun, with an amateurish silencer connect, found near the body, was the weapon used. A note found in one shoe explained that the man was the inventor of the gun, the failure of which caused him to end his life. No clue to the man's identity has been discovered. Agree to Dissolve. WASHINGTON, March 21.—After several weeks of negotiations, the department of justice and the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad tonight announced that they had reached an agreement for a dissolution of the New Haven.

COMMITTEE MAKES STATEMENT PUBLIC

BUSINESS MEN INDORSE PLAN OF PURE MOUNTAIN WATER LEAGUE

FIGURES WANTED FROM OPPOSITION

Arguments of Both Sides Should be in the Hands of Every Citizen. Say Members of the Committee

After carefully checking over the figures of the Pure Mountain league and investigating the assertion that by an increase of water rates of 60 per cent the bond issue could be paid, the statement of the committee of 14 business men has been given to the public.

The committee met Wednesday evening in the parlors of the commercial club. Every detail of the plan of the water league was examined. The members of the committee were chosen to represent men who had taken no decisive stand either for or against the project so that a fair and impartial verdict could be obtained.

The statement follows: Oregon City, Ore., March 19, 1914. To our Fellow Citizens and Water Consumers of Oregon City:

We believe it is just and right that all matters and arguments for and against the present water supply, as well as for and against the proposed plan of obtaining pure mountain water by a pipe line from the south fork of the Clackamas river, should be printed and delivered to every citizen.

We have carefully examined the following estimates of the cost, expense and management and maintenance, and the provision for the payment of bonds and interest for the proposed new water supply for Oregon City. We believe the statements and estimates are reasonable and sufficient to cover all such expenses and payments.

Believe \$2.00 Rate Would Pay.

We are fully convinced that the household who now pays \$1.25 per month for Willamette river water will not have to pay more than \$2.00 per month for the same quantity of good water by the proposed pipe line from the south fork of the Clackamas river. For the future health and well being of all the people, as well as the future business prosperity of Oregon City, we respectfully recommend the proposed new pipe water supply for your favorable consideration and hope you will vote for the necessary charter amendments at the special election to be held on Wednesday, the 8th day of April, 1914.

Want Figures From Opposition.

As to those of our fellow citizens who claim that the new supply of good water would cost them \$2.00 per month for those who are now paying \$1.25, we urge them to make their detailed estimates public, that the same may be fairly investigated, considered and criticized by all the citizens.

We base our opinion upon the following estimate of receipts and expenses from the proposed water system: The land now owned in Oregon City by the water department with the buildings, pumping and filtering machinery, but excluding the water rights and water wheels, we believe will be sufficient to provide for the outstanding warrants for the water department amounting to about \$50,000.

Estimate Income.

There is no reason to believe that the yearly water collections can ever be less than they were for 1913. The amount for that year was \$18,338.00. Ad to 50 percent, which amounts to \$11,002.50. This increase of 50 percent would raise the price to the household from \$1.25 up to \$2.00 per month. We are advised by men who should know, and we believe they do, that the present water power and water wheels owned by the water department will rent per year for \$5,000.00.

Table with columns for Total Income, Expenditure, Yearly interest at 5 per cent, and Balance of income allowed for operating expenses.

Total income \$34,340.80. Expenditure \$34,340.80. Yearly interest at 5 per cent on \$325,000 of bonds and yearly charge of 3 per cent for the sinking fund to pay principal of bonds, \$324,000.00.

There has been almost no expense for repairs on the Corvallis pipe line during the past eight years. We have allowed nothing at all for the sale of water to other towns nor for increase of consumption of Oregon City. This is an important item, but we have left it wholly out of account, because it might be said that such estimate would be only guess work. Nevertheless, we believe there will be a very considerable increase of the income by the sale of water to adjoining towns, as well as by increase in the number of customers in Oregon City.

WM. SHEAHAN, JOHN WALKER, W. S. UREN, CLYDE G. HUNTLEY, J. E. JACK, JOHN W. LODER, E. D. VAN ALKEN, A. C. HOWLAND, ERNEST P. RANDS, DON E. MELDRUM, HUGH MOUNT, FRED SIMMONS, L. STIPP, C. SCHUEBEL, F. J. MEYER, GEO. A. HARDING.

Find Antidote. SAN FRANCISCO, March 24.—An antidote, or "cure" for bichloride of mercury poisoning has been found, according to Dr. Veitlin C. Thomas, of San Francisco. Such an antidote has been sought by the scientists of the world for a long time.

The Fact Remains. No amount of misrepresentation by the peddlers of alum baking powders, no juggling with chemicals, or pretended analysis, or cooked-up certificates, or falsehoods of any kind, can change the fact that Royal Baking Powder has been found by the official examinations to be of the highest leavening efficiency, free from alum, and of absolute purity and wholesomeness.

WEEKLY INDUSTRIAL REVIEW. Oregon Development News in Line of Industries, Payrolls and Products of Labor and Enterprise. Tillamook county cheese factories produced 4,101,962 lbs. in 1913, as against 3,996,250 lbs. in 1912.

Chickens Journey From Lakeview by Parcel Post Despite Laws. A rooster and his family of 11 hens arrived in Gladstone Monday after a journey from Lakeview by parcel post despite the ruling of the postoffice department against such shipments.

A HISTORY OF CLACKAMAS ROADS. (Continued from Page 1.) Expenditures since 1909 are as follows: 1909 \$1,197.30, 1910 1,187.55, 1911 1,993.42, 1912 1,538.80, 1913 7,564.77, 7,716.50.

FORUM OF THE PEOPLE. Oppose Improvement. MILWAUKIE, Ore., Mar. 24.—(To the Editor of the Enterprise)—It is the sense of Milwaukie Grange No. 263, that we are opposed to the bonding of Clackamas county for road building.

THE WOMAN BEAUTIFUL. MOST EXQUISITE ART PORTRAITS EVER SHOWN. 12 Beautiful Hand Colored Art Pictures. This latest edition of our celebrated Art Panels far exceeds any we have ever published and when we describe them as rare and fascinating art beauty studies we are expressing it mildly.

A SINGLE DOLLAR by itself seems a trifle, yet it is the collective effect of many single dollars spent that holds so many men down to the dead level of mediocrity, and the collective power of many single dollars saved that lifts others to success. The man who despises a single dollar seldom commands a thousand. Have you a savings account here earning 3 per cent interest. The Bank of Oregon City OLDEST BANK IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY