

BEAVER STATE HERALD

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

IT IS INDEED a surprise to see the Telegram break into such a caustic strain as it does in relation to the resignation of Tom Richardson. Mr. Richardson has served the city of Portland and the state well. So far as we have been able to ascertain he has done just what the people of Portland and the adjoining country wanted him to do. He has been especially successful and now he gets an indirect roast for being himself and accomplishing those things that were wanted. Has Mr. Richardson has ever given any cause for the remark that "we now need a man of character and poise at the head of the publicity department, who has business qualifications, dignity, and a proper appreciation of what is due the city. . . . Better conditions and better conceptions demand bigger and better balanced men." What we have to say of this sort of abuse is that if all this is true it is a bad reflection on the Portland Commercial Club that it has been blind to these imperfections until the man is ready to drop the job on his own account.

THE GOVERNMENT expert on road building, Mr. M. E. Eldridge, has been spending a number of days in our county looking over our highways and showing a large number of fine views of road construction and road influence. We speak advisedly of road influence. A community's intellectual and financial development can be measured by its public roads. Let every Oregonian welcome everyone who comes into our community to "talk up" road improvement. They deserve a hearing and consideration whether they approach the subject from our viewpoint or not. The effort to accomplish good must be in our favor even if we doubt the methods suggested. In this instance the methods are good and the argument conclusive. The question seems to be as to the means of securing the capital. This county can do that by taxation. In other counties of less valuation that will be impossible. Some other plan must be tried and it is now time to consider plans.

The northeastern states will enjoy one of the finest fruit crops in their history this year, according to early reports. From the Yakima valley comes the report that 1500 men are needed to handle the crop, the supply of peaches being especially abundant. The market will be good as in the middle western states the fruit has been damaged by frost.

An event of interest to the entire state is the quarter centennial jubilee of the Oregon agricultural college, to be held on the college campus June 10-14. Special rates have been made by the railroads and there will be a great gathering of graduates and friends of that institution.

Bumper crops throughout the Willamette valley in hay, grains, and fruits are reported. Vegetables of all kinds never looked better and the celebrated farming district where crops never fail will bear out this year its established reputation. With its rich soil its diversified crops, and intelligent, industrious population, it is becoming a vast garden, rich in possibilities.

After ten days campaigning for good roads in Eastern Oregon L. R. Webster and M. E. Eldridge, in charge of the work in this part of the state, have returned to Portland, encouraged at the interest shown in better highways. They visited ten counties and found local organizations busy in improving existing conditions.

KEYSTONE GRANGE.

State Master Talks on Good Roads. Law Changes Demanded. The Pennsylvania state grange held its thirty-seventh annual session in the state college. There were over 2,000 delegates and visiting members present. The sessions were held in the auditorium of the college. The public session program included an address by State Master Creasy, J. L. Holmes, representing the college; Secretary J. T. Allman, Dr. Edward Sparks of the college and J. H. McSparran of the legislative committee of the grange. The tour through the institution, made the next day, was full of interest and benefit to the visitors. The sixth degree was conferred on a class of 400 candidates. The executive committee in its report vigorously denounced the highway department as being incompetent and demanded a reorganization of it. The grange also asked for an equitable revision of the tax laws of the state and an amendment to the banking law to permit the encouragement of national banks to loan capital on real estate and mortgages. The grange denounced the Aldrich tariff bill, the central banking scheme and ship subsidy. The grange demanded proportional representation in the national grange. It favors a representative vote for ordinary questions, the state vote to be used only when demanded. The keynote of the session was that through legislation the farmers of Pennsylvania will come into their own. State Master Creasy in his annual address urged Patrons to make an effort to have men nominated for governor and for other public offices that would give them a "square deal." He urged all to attend the primaries. Commenting on good roads and road legislation, Mr. Creasy said:

"I believe that the workings of this township road law, with the full amount of \$20 or \$25 per mile appropriation, will make more good roads in ten years than the department can build in thirty years. We are anxious to have the state build as many roads as possible, but we believe some additional knowledge is necessary before good roads can be built with any lasting qualities. The cost of these state roads makes it impossible for many sections to receive any benefit from them. Then, again, the annual cost of repairing these state roads is anywhere from \$400 to \$1,500 per mile. Some townships cannot afford this because their roads must be kept in a passable condition. Dirt roads cost on an average at least \$40 per mile per year. It is impossible to use all taxes collected for building a piece of good road and neglect the balance.

"The grange position on the road question is that since all use the roads all interests should contribute toward their maintenance and repair. A tax of 1 mill on corporate and personal property would make a good road fund that is fair, and we should stand by this grange plan."

Peter Tumbledown gave each of his boys a runt pig and when the pigs grow up sold them and put the money in his pocket. The boys are leaving the farm now.

A SECOND MEETING.

The Earl of Stanhope and the Trusting Highwayman.

One night when the Earl of Stanhope was walking alone in the Kentish lanes a man jumped out of the hedge, leveled a pistol and demanded his purse.

"My good man, I have no money with me," said Lord Stanhope in his remarkably slow tones. The robber laid hands on his watch.

"No," Lord Stanhope went on; "that watch you must not have. It was given to me by one I love. It is worth £100. If you will trust me, I will go back to Chevening and bring a £100 note and place it in the hollow of that tree I cannot lose my watch."

The man did trust him. The earl did bring the note. Years after Lord Stanhope was at a city dinner, and next to him sat a London alderman of great wealth, a man widely respected. He and the earl talked of many things and found each other mutually entertaining.

Next day Lord Stanhope received a letter, out of which dropped a £100 note. "It was your lordship's kind loan of this sum," said the letter, "that started me in life and enabled me to have the honor of sitting next to your lordship at dinner."

A strange story, but the Stanhopes are a strange race, and things happen to them that never did or could occur to other people.—London Spectator.

A TURKISH LEGEND.

The Red Rose Sprang From a Drop of Mohammed's Blood.

"A truly religious Turk looks upon the rose with great reverence," said a florist. "The rose is beyond question the prettiest flower that blooms, and it was so considered by the Turks many years before the conquest of Granada. There is a religious legend generally believed in throughout Turkey that the red rose sprang from a drop of the great prophet Mohammed's blood. Everything beautiful in nature is ascribed to him. The Turks, therefore, have great reverence for the flower and allow it to bloom and die untouched, except on state occasions and for the purpose of making rose-water.

"After the conquest by the Turks they would not worship in any church until the walls were cleaned and washed with rosewater and thus purified by the blood of the prophet. It is used on the body for the same purpose. A Turk whose conscience is stung by some act or deed he has committed will caress and pay reverence to the rose to appease the wrath of the prophet and Allah.

"With these ideas inculcated in him from youth it would shock him severely to see the pretty flower strewn in the path of a bridal couple, thrown on the public stage or banked up in hundreds at a swell reception or party to be crushed and spotted in an evening."

Notes on Speed.

The maximum speed acquired by the average person in swimming comfortably is thirty-nine inches a second, while oarsmen in an eight oared boat acquire a speed of 197 inches in a second. Skaters average from nine to ten yards a second. The horse can gallop six miles in an hour for a considerable length of time. The swiftest dog in the world, the borzoi, or Russian wolfhound, has made record runs at the rate of seventy-five feet in a second, while the gazelle has shown measured speed of more than eighty feet a second, which would give it a speed of 4,800 feet in a minute if it could keep it up. The whale struck by a harpoon has been known to dive at the rate of 300 yards a minute. A species of falcon known as the wandering falcon flies from north Africa to northern Germany in one unbroken flight, making the distance in eleven hours.

Rules of Sleep.

Those who think most, who do most brain work, require most sleep, and time "saved" from necessary sleep is infallibly destructive to mind, body and estate. Give yourself, your children, your servants—give all that are under you—the fullest amount of sleep they will take by compelling them to go to bed at some regular early hour and to rise in the morning the moment they awake, and within a fortnight nature, with almost the regularity of the rising sun, will unloose the bonds of sleep the moment enough repose has been secured for the wants of the system. That is the only safe and sufficient rule, and, as to the question how much sleep any one requires, each must be a rule for himself. Great nature will never fail to write it out to the observer under the regulations just given.—London Globe.

Bunched His Blunders.

"John," said Mrs. Billus after the caller had gone away, "I wish you wouldn't bunch your blunders so." "What do you mean, Maria?" asked Mr. Billus. "I didn't mind your telling her that you were ten years older than I, but you followed it up a minute later by letting it slip out that you were fifty-two."—Chicago Tribune.

Listen.

"Well, Henry, how do you like your neighbors?" "Not at all; they're so quiet that I don't move or mamma can't hear what they're saying."—Bon Vivant

A Question of Time.

"How much does it cost to get married?" asked the eager youth. "That depends entirely on how long you live," replied the sad looking man.—Philadelphia Record.

ONE TOWN'S TRIUMPH

With a Population of Only 1,500 It Has City Ownership.

EVERY CITIZEN A BOOSTER.

All Assisted in Aiding Pond Creek, Okla., to Publicly Conduct Water and Lighting Plants, Making It the Best Kept Town in the State.

Sixteen years ago the first street lights of Pond Creek, 300 miles southwest of Kansas City, in Grant county, Okla., were the campfires of the settlers, says the Kansas City Star. That was the night of the opening, when thousands of home seekers rushed madly across the prairie. The 4,000 or more persons, mostly men, who stopped on the town site of Pond Creek were not disposed to give the street lighting question even as much as a thought. They were interested in finding homes, establishing a business and supplying the immediate necessities of life.

Sixteen years after the opening a visitor stopped in Pond Creek several days. His first night there was a revelation. Here was a town of 1,500 inhabitants enjoying everything that he enjoyed in the city. There was an electric light at every corner, and on his way downtown he passed comfortable homes, surrounded by groves of trees and large lawns, kept green by the city water. On reaching Main street the visitor noticed several groups of men talking in front of the postoffice and the two drug stores. They were quiet enough. No bands were marching down the street, but why was the street so brilliantly lighted?

"Is there anything going on here tonight?" "There would be a wild west show in town tomorrow, the Pond Creeker told him.

"But you don't put up lights like those for a show?"

"Not unless the show comes to stay, and then maybe it might claim them."

The city man had just one more question:

"How do you do it with only 1,500 population to pay the bill?" he asked.

"Municipal ownership."

The city man stood in the middle of the street. In front of him were six great electric arches, reaching from one sidewalk to the other. Each arch contained twenty-five high power incandescent lights, while from the store windows others lighted the sidewalks. Merchants down the street were washing off the cement walks with hose sprays.

The next day a business man explained how Pond Creek could afford these things—electric lights and waterworks—that much older and larger places feared to dream of, much less enjoy.

About six years ago the question of fire protection and water supply was agitated by a few of the progressive business men. The town council called a special election, and the people authorized a bond issue for \$25,000. A pumping station was built, wells were sunk, mains laid, and a steel pressure tank was placed in a corner of the public park on Main street. Three years ago a second bond issue of \$15,000 was voted, but only \$3,000 of it was used, to extend the water mains. The entire water system is controlled by a committee appointed by the council, and the service is both adequate and excellent.

A promoter obtained a franchise for an electric light plant. He planted a few poles and strung wires on them, but the old gasoline lamps on Main street continued to illuminate the electric arc lights. The promoter had failed, and the city was forced to assume the control of its second public utility. With the remainder of the \$15,000 bond issue the council purchased the promoter's poles and with them his franchise, that still had some twenty years to run. An electric light plant was built. It has been in operation for several months, and the entire town is lighted. Now the business men and the council are discussing a plan to unite the water and electric light plants that both may be operated from one power unit.

"Who is responsible for the municipal ownership idea? Surely some citizen took the lead in advocating these things."

The business men who were asked this question didn't know that any one man in Pond Creek could be given credit without detracting from the credit that others should receive. Every man was a booster, they explained, and, while the mayors and councilmen really did the work, the people encouraged them, with the result that Pond Creek became the best lighted town in northern Oklahoma. Municipal ownership was the agency and united energy the cause.

Attractiveness of Kansas City. Kansas City, Mo., has set an example which every American city may emulate—an example of what can be done after a city becomes great and an illustration of what should be done early in the history of a city that expects to become great. At a cost of many millions of dollars she has established an elaborate system of parks and parked boulevards which constitute perhaps the most attractive municipal improvement in the United States, and as a consequence Kansas City is the most desirable place of residence in this respect upon the continent.



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