

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

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URGE PROMPT ACTION

Interesting Gathering of Men
Imbued With Civic Pride.

STREETS AND WATER THE THEMES

Committee Appointed to Visit
the Aldermanic Body
Monday Next Night.

A decidedly enthusiastic meeting of the Commercial Club was held on Monday evening, the special object of which was the discussion of two contemplated municipal improvements, which have been, according to the sense of the gathering, unreasonably delayed by the aldermanic body. The attendance upon the meeting was unusually large, the importance of the question for consideration being vital to the community. It was a representative assemblage of the trusting element of Cottage Grove, and the manifestation of aroused interest in the promotion of the city's material betterment can not fail to augur for good.

President Thompson, upon calling the members to order, stated the object of the meeting, i. e.: to discuss the proposed water system and street paving and the best methods of handling the questions.

Mr. Spray said he had been assured that if a majority of property owners abutting the street favored paving the mayor and council would act in accordance with their wishes. Over 80 per cent of the owners, he said, signed the petition, yet the ordinance providing for the improvement has been vetoed. He said the mayor claims to favor paving, but that the ordinance was defective.

Mr. Kem, in speaking on the subject, expressed surprise over existing conditions. He said the people as a whole favor paving, as does also the council, and why the delay was beyond his understanding. A committee had been appointed to buy a rock crusher and street roller, he said, but no action had been taken to that end. It seemed to the speaker as though the council did not want it. Mr. Kem urged the club to push the question diligently, as the municipality is sorely in need of better streets and water.

Attorney Medley did not consider himself in a position to intelligently discuss the question, inasmuch as he had given the matters little study, but before the close of the session his knowledge of the situation was quite satisfactory to his listeners. He heartily favored public improvements, and censured the people for permitting the councilmen, the servants of the people, to act against their wishes. If the paving ordinance was defective whose fault is it, he enquired. Not the fault of the people. If the people elected the municipal body to do the people's will and it failed in the premises, it should be recalled.

President Thompson said it had been the aim of the Club to keep out of politics, but public improvements were not a matter of politics. All classes—the landowner, the merchant, and the non-taxpayer—was represented in its membership, and, he thought, the Club had a perfect right to express itself and go on record. The Club's duty was to revive the matter of public improvements. He favored action, and suggested that the Commercial Club frame a set of resolutions, defining its position, adopt them and have them published.

Mr. Frank Rosenberg moved that a committee of three be appointed to draft resolutions; that the committee retire, frame the document and report at this meeting. Messrs. Kem and Van Winkle thought that more time should be given the committee; that the resolutions should be prepared and presented at a future session, when, perhaps, there would be an increased attendance of citizens interested. Mr. Wheeler said the invitation to convene had been confined to members of the Club, and there being a goodly representation he favored immediate action.

Mr. Medley admonished the gathering against too hasty action; he couldn't see what weight resolutions would have; if there is a design not to pave on the part of the authorities resolving would fall upon deaf ears.

Mr. F. B. Phillips favored the appointment of a committee to wait up-

on the council and ascertain that organization's position. This proposition met with the approval of Mr. Hazelton. Messrs. Woodard, Spray, Medley, Westbrook, Thompson and others further considered the question on the floor, resulting in the appointment of the following committee for the purpose indicated, President Thompson being an ex-officio member: Messrs. J. S. Spray, F. B. Phillips and Chris Hazelton.

The opinion prevailed that the work could not be accomplished this year, the season being far advanced, but all were enthusiastically in favor of completing the necessary preliminaries that the undertaking might have an early beginning in the spring.

THE WATER QUESTION.

The proposed water system was discussed more briefly than the paving proposition, yet none the less enthusiastically. The subject was introduced by President Thompson, who wanted a report on the work as contemplated, the probable cost of the system, together with plans, etc., without which he could not, and would not, favor its construction. The thought the whole proposed improvement should be made plain to the electors before they were asked to vote for the bond issue of \$150,000.

Mr. Medley said it would be necessary to secure the right-of-way through the property along the proposed route—some of it might have to be condemned—and this should be done before the question of bonds was taken up. Some people might have water rights that cannot be impaired, and all these points must be carefully considered.

After some further discussion, the committee heretofore named was instructed to include the furtherance of the water system as one of its duties.

This committee will wait upon the mayor and council at its regular session next Monday night, and inasmuch as many members of the Commercial Club will act as "backers" there is likely to be a large attendance of spectators.

Ladies to Convene.

The annual state convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union will be entertained at Hood River October 5 to 8. Mrs. Eva C. Wheeler, State Y. Secretary, and Mrs. Roy Woods will attend from this city, the latter as representative of the local union. They will leave for Hood River on Monday. The local organization has a membership of about 30, and meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

The public schools re-opened Thursday morning, having been closed since Monday in order to give the corps of teachers an opportunity to attend the Teachers Institute, held at the county seat. It was, unquestionably, the most interesting, instructive and profitable meeting of its kind ever held in Lane county. The addresses and talks were of a high character, while the attendance was much larger than usual. Superintendent Barnes and the Cottage Grove teachers derived no little benefit from the meeting.

May Form Club.

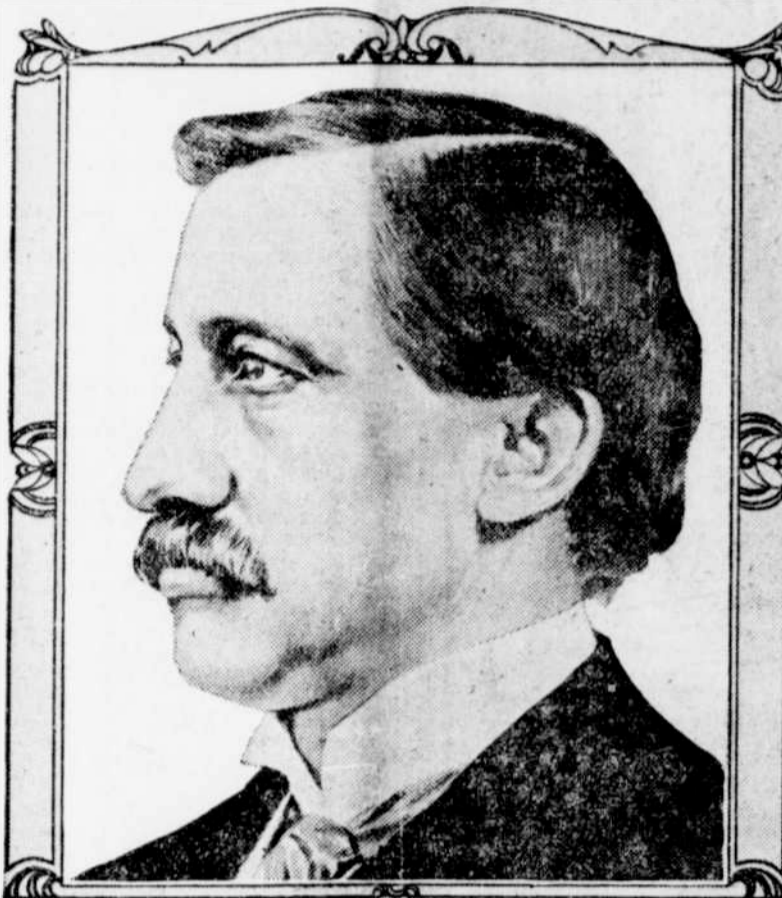
The Elks of Cottage Grove of which there are nearly half a hundred, held a meeting this week to take initiatory steps toward the organization of a club here. The uninitiated may not understand that a lodge cannot be instituted in any town of less than 5,000 population, and for this reason the lodges of the local Elks are in the different cities where they hold their membership. It is proposed to organize a club from this membership and furnish suitable rooms, that those who wear the antlers may assemble in fraternal brotherhood. A committee composed of James Hemenway, Wm. Landess and L. R. Long, now has the matter in charge, and will report at another meeting to be held in the near future.

Buy Fine Lands.

Messrs. Davidson and Bailey, of St. Johns, Oregon, have returned from Indian creek, where they purchased 320 acres of fine land. They left for their home on Wednesday morning to prepare to move to their new home. These gentlemen favor Indian creek for dairy purposes. The grass is now knee high and stock is in first class condition.

Many Licenses Issued.

More than a thousand hunters' licenses have been issued this year by County Clerk Lee. Of those issued, about 20 have been to Warm Spring Indians who came across the mountains into the valley to pick hops and who spend a good deal of time hunting.



DR. FREDERICK A. COOK.

Dr. Frederick A. Cook, Peary's rival in polar explorations, is forty-four years of age and a native of Sullivan county, N. Y. He got his first arctic experience with Peary's expedition of 1891-2, at which time he formed a definite plan as to the best means of reaching the pole. His idea was to cross the polar sea in midwinter and with as small a party as possible. He went with the Belgian expedition to the antarctic and climbed to the summit of Mount McKinley, in Alaska. He has written books about both of these trips.

FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Mayor Job and the Municipal Legislature Favor Consumption of Betterments Planned for Cottage Grove. Interviewed on Questions of Importance.

Mayor Job had just returned from his gold mine near Glendale and seated himself comfortably at his desk there, to take an occasional break in upon the municipal matters when P. S. Thompson, concerning the proposed water system and street paving, was favored expressed himself favorably toward both propositions, and said preliminary arrangements for both the contemplated improvements were making. "This is the way I feel about these improvements," said Mayor Job, "yet I am only one individual. Get the water in first and then pave. The sewers are in the alleys and the water mains will have to go through the streets. Neither myself, or any member of the council so far as I know, want to obstruct paving. But paving contracts can't be entered into without a good deal of careful consideration, for contractors are sharp people. The ordinance that was submitted and passed left out some of the largest paving contractors on the coast, which barred them from bidding. Then, too, the squares or street intersections, were left to the property owners to pave, whereas the city must bear this burden.

"The first thing to do towards paving," continued the mayor, "will be to get a copy of ordinances from Portland, showing the plans of bed construction, curbing, gutters, etc. Then a survey will be necessary to establish a grade, after which an ordinance, or ordinances if necessary, will be prepared from this information for bituminous, asphalt, vitrified brick, Belgium blocks, crushed rock and oil, and Hassell pavements. Bids will be advertised for and when the relative prices and merits are considered a contract will be awarded. The recorder will be instructed at next Monday night's session to secure copies of the Portland ordinances and I am confident that the paving question will be in shape so that work may be commenced in the early spring."

Continuing Mayor Job said: "Perhaps it may be considered that the matter of buying a crusher and roller has been unnecessarily delayed, but if so it has been to the city's interest, I believe. We now have floating obligations aggregating approximately \$9,000. By April 1 the taxes will have been collected, and this indebtedness reduced fully two thirds, which will put us, practically speaking, on a cash basis, and consequently in good shape. We have accomplished considerable in the way of improvements this year. We have graded eight streets at an expense of \$5,200, and contracted for the construction of sewers, now under way, costing \$1,000. This sewer system will cover one and a half miles."

THE WATER SYSTEM.

When interrogated regarding the municipality's governing body's position on the proposed water works system, the mayor, with a display of enthusiasm, said the question was a "hot" one. "So far as I know the people favor the construction of a water system, and anything the people want, myself and the council stand ready to give them. We are simply agents for the people." The mayor has much correspondence and a vast array of figures on the subject, from which The Sentinel gleaned some interesting and valuable information.

Mr. W. J. Roberts, consulting engineer employed by Medford for the construction of its water system, was in Cottage Grove recently, and in company with Aldermen Atkinson and Lawson went over the grounds to Layng Creek, the proposed source of the supply. The creek was measured and it was estimated that there is a flow of 8,000,000 gallons of water every twenty-four hours at its lowest ebb. Mr. Venske, experienced in work of this character, had submitted an estimate of cost to the mayor as a sort of guide to the work, and these figures were carefully gone over by Mr. Roberts and pronounced a fair estimate. However, the estimate on 12-inch wooden pipe at 55 cents would be very materially reduced, and the city would get "corporation rates" on freight, which would lessen the cost more than \$10,000. The estimate is also based on twenty miles, whereas the length of the line will not, in all probability, exceed eighteen.

For the entire distance 105,000 feet of 12-inch pipe is called for by the estimate, which at 55 cents totals \$57,750. There are seven miles of gravel and boulder formations figured at 25 cents per foot, or a total of \$9,240; 12 miles of dirt 3 feet deep and two feet wide at 15 cents per running foot, or \$9,504; 5,280 feet of rock work at 75 cents per foot, or \$3,960; distributing and laying pipe \$5,280; dam and intake \$800, a grand total of \$85,554. The engineering would cost one per cent, and two relief stations about \$200 each would be in addition to the above.

The cost, according to the estimate, is about \$1,300 per mile. The mayor, however, has had correspondence regarding material since the estimate was made, and says "the work complete in every detail can be done for less than \$70,000, provided there is no combine among the bidders, as is frequently the case."

The Club's Exhibit.

Felix Currin, one of the pioneer farmers on Row river, came to town on Monday bringing with him for display in the Commercial Club rooms several ears of White Dent corn which grew on his ranch, four miles east of town. Mr. Currin recently installed an exhibit in the Modern Pharmacy that has attracted

considerable attention, and has proven the wonderful productiveness of the hill lands on the Row river valley. The exhibit has as yet not been surpassed, and there is little likelihood of its being outclassed by any rancher from this section of the Willamette valley. Mr. Currin takes great delight in his farm, but he says he has too much land to look after and cannot cultivate it as it should be.

Mr. Felix Currin this week brought to Mr. Conley some very beautiful pine, royal fir and hemlock cones, from the Bohemia district. He also obtained a magnificent cluster of Noble fir cones which grew at the very top of the tree. It is a most beautiful sight to gaze upon the glossy products of nature, from a distance as the sun begins to set. Many beautiful sights are to be seen by those who visit the district at this season of the year.

Assembly Day Tomorrow.

The Woman's Club will observe Assembly Day at the parlors of the Commercial Club tomorrow afternoon, and in all probability there will be a goodly attendance. It will be the first meeting of the season, and, according to custom, will be spent in social intercourse. Refreshments will be a feature of the occasion, and Mesdames H. O. Thompson, D. J. DuBrille, H. H. Veatch and Lillian Goodman will serve. The club has an active membership of twenty-five. The regular work for the year will begin a fortnight hence.

Mrs. S. E. Blair, formerly a resident of Cottage Grove, met with quite a serious accident in Portland last Friday from the effects of which she is under the care of a physician. She was returning from the fair and in stepping from a street car was thrown to the ground by a sudden jerk of the vehicle, injuring her left side and shoulder. Mr. Blair is now in Cottage Grove giving attention to his orchard, but will go to Portland soon for the winter.

To Change System.

Mr. L. A. Newton, special agent for the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company has been in Cottage Grove this week on business. From him The Sentinel learns that the company has concluded arrangements to change its system here sometime after the first of the new year, probably in February. The common battery system, which gives one central by simply removing the receiver from the hook, will be installed. This will necessitate the placing of a common battery multiple switch-board in the central station.

The Cottage Grove exchange at present has 603 telephones, more than Medford, Ashland or Grants Pass, all towns of larger population. Five operators are employed at the switch-boards.

A farmers' telephone line from this city to London, a distance of twelve miles, has just been completed. It has twelve subscribers.

Terse Town Topics.

A meeting of the Merchants' Protective Association will be held next Tuesday evening. There is business of importance to be transacted, and President Rees urges a full attendance.

G. B. Standish is closing out his stock of merchandise at auction and will move from his present location to a more commodious building near the bridge.

The Promotion Department of the Commercial Club is making good progress in publicity. Manager Conley says he will soon be caught up with his letter-writing so that he will have more time to devote to looking after conditions locally. He got behind on correspondence owing to the fact that it was necessary to re-write the Community Booklet, which will be received in a short time.

J. A. Nash, an Eugene stone mason, will sue Roseburg for damages on account of injuries received by falling through a broken sidewalk there a few days ago.

Rumor Is Unfounded.

A rumor has been afloat in this city to the effect that the train between here and Portland known as the Cottage Grove local would soon be discontinued. Manager Conley this week took the matter up with the proper officials of the Southern Pacific, receiving a reply on Tuesday that the company had no such intention.

Move to New Quarters.

Simeral & Vandenburg have this week moved their furniture stock from the McFarland building to the handsome new Stewart building on Main street. The store room was designed especially for them, the display windows being particularly adapted to the purpose.

OPPOSE EXTRA TAX

Merchants' League Rebels
Against Proposed Law.

PETITIONS COUNCIL TO KILL BILL

Committee to Appear Before
City Fathers at the Next
Regular Session.

The Merchants' Protective Association convened at the Commercial Club parlors Tuesday evening, the primal object being to discuss and protest as a body against the adoption by the municipal council of an ordinance providing for the levying of what is known as an occupation tax. The attendance was large, and every individual present attached his cognomen to a petition urging the council to kill the bill, which has had its second reading.

Mr. Burkholder, who first took the floor after President Rees had stated the question, made a lengthy and logical argument against the proposed tax, explaining his understanding of an agreement entered into with the council last spring, and characterizing the present move as a breach of trust on the part of the city. The merchants, he said, are paying their just proportion of the tax, while their donations and subscriptions to public and private undertakings exceed by far those of any other class.

Mr. H. H. Veatch said his knowledge of the ordinance was limited, but that he understood the tax was not justly proportioned among merchants. As an illustration, a dealer in general merchandise was forced to pay a tax on each line of goods carried, while a dealer in but one line paid for that particular line only. He had no doubt that if the ordinance passed it would cause no end of trouble. He opposed the measure also on the ground that it would mean double taxation. A look at the merchant's expense account, he said, to see what he annually contributes to roads, churches, libraries, etc., would be surprising. He advocated the appointment of a committee to wait upon the council and urge it to vote down the bill.

Mr. Reed, late in business at Drain where the occupation tax is in force, explained how it affected the business interests there, and hoped it would not become effective here.

Mr. Westbrook, of the Oregon Hotel, related the experience of Roseburg business men in connection with this tax. He said it was unfair in many respects. For instance, while there he paid the same tax on a 36-room hotel as did a competitor who had a 75-room hotel.

Mr. Woodard, speaking on the subject, considered the tax unfair, as did also Mr. Griggs, who urged the appointment of a committee in accordance with Mr. Veatch's suggestion.

Mr. H. O. Thompson expressed the opinion that there was not a dissenting voice against the protest, which proved correct, for later when a petition to the council was framed, every person present attached his signature thereto. Mr. Thompson said there was question about collecting the tax should it be levied. He took the aldermanic body to task for its position in city matters, saying it ignored the wishes of the business men. He did not know of the ordinance until after its second reading, and thought the council should publish its proceedings in the newspapers for the information of citizens.

Mr. Burkholder moved that a committee of five be appointed to draft a remonstrance against the ordinance and that it be signed at the meeting. President Rees, after the motion had been carried unanimously, appointed H. O. Thompson, D. Griggs, W. C. Johnson, C. H. Burkholder and H. H. Veatch as such committee. The following was presented, adopted and signed:

"To the Honorable Mayor and Common Council: We, the business men and citizens of Cottage Grove hereby protest against the levy of an occupation tax in this city, and request your honorable body to give this petition due consideration."

The petition has been in circulation during the week and has many signatures.

Charles Hedrick, who resides nine miles south of town, is here for medical treatment for rheumatism. His wife accompanies him.