

The Sentinel.

BY LEW. A. CATES.

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INTRODUCTORY.

Having acquired, through purchase, the newspaper property of The Western Oregon, it devolves upon us, through custom, to outline the aims and objects of that publication's successor, and the policies it purports to pursue. To the editor of The Cottage Grove Sentinel this is not a difficult undertaking. Very naturally, the primal object is to become possessed of additional coin of the realm. Not that we expect to amass a great fortune, for it is a rare exception that a so-called country newspaperman attains financial independence through his efforts in this direction. But we do expect, through fair compensation for our labors, to more than keep the wolf from the door.

There has recently developed a strong sentiment for the improvement and upbuilding of the city of Cottage Grove, and to the further development of the immediately surrounding territory, and to making an augmented community, so far as possible, dependent upon its own resources, and independent of those other localities that are constantly diverting a considerable portion of the local wealth from its legitimate channel. This commendable movement for our material advancement and self-sufficiency is being fostered by an individual and co-operative determination to bring the locality up to its highest plane, agriculturally, horticulturally, industrially, commercially and beautifully. It may be described as a movement for civic improvement, and to this praiseworthy endeavor may be attributed the existence of The Cottage Grove Sentinel, for without a manifestation of progressiveness on the part of the community the writer's attention would not have been directed to the county seat of the future Nesmith county.

It is, therefore, only reasonable to expect that this publication will exert itself to become an important factor in the upbuilding of Cottage Grove and the country tributary thereto. One acquainted with its geographical position, its natural advantages and the almost unlimited resources of the adjacent territory cannot fail to be favorably impressed with the future prospects of Cottage Grove. The greatest Architect of all, He who never drew a false line, so planned that the bounteous stores of nature fall into its lap, and here-in lies the source of its prospective greatness. Nature has richly endowed the Willamette valley, and now, speaking in the popular vernacular, it's up to man to take advantage of the opportunities thus offered.

The Sentinel aims to be a factor contributing to this necessary betterment of conditions. Every undertaking for development along all legitimate lines will be loyally championed without the vainglorious blowing of horns or beating of symbols. It is the firm conviction of the writer that Cottage Grove has entered upon a new era, an era of progress and municipal development. New forces and old forces have united upon a common ground to give us those things we need, and which we so richly deserve. Easterners already have an eye on us through the efforts of a local organization perfected and maintained for general good, and we may reasonably expect something handsome from this direction. Civic pride is alive and an adequate foundation for an imposing superstructure is being laid. In brief, a spirited campaign for a Greater Cottage Grove is on, and The Sentinel will

at all times be found in the thick of the fight.

A careful investigation of existing conditions imbues us with unbounded faith in the future of this locality. Could some power draw back the veil and disclose it fully developed we would undoubtedly see in Cottage Grove a magnificent city, surrounded by a populous country, as productive as e'er the sun shown on—a realization of fond dreams and prophecies.

We shall strive to fulfill the requirements demanded of a modern newspaper, and it is with no inconsiderable pride that we assert that we have earned the right, by special study and effort, to speak with confidence as to what these requirements are. It is absolutely necessary for the newspaper of today to be progressive, for, indeed, this is a progressive age. The methods of tilling the soil have undergone a marked change during the last quarter century, and the man who quit the old homestead even a decade ago to engage in other pursuits would now find himself wanting as an agriculturist. Mother earth would disown his old-fashioned ways, having learned to respond to quicker motions and more modern methods.

Mercantile life has passed into new phases, answering to the modern spirit imposed upon it, and the successful merchant of 1909 is unlike his brother of by-gone days. His business is more complex, and to gain desired results requires far greater thought and greater vigilance.

A revolution has taken place in manufacturing and labor realms, not alone in the United States, but throughout the world. New enterprises have sprung into existence, placing upon the market contrivances thought not of a comparatively few years ago. The unprecedented demands of this prosperous and contented people could not be supplied with the antiquated machinery operated twenty or thirty years ago, and the methods then employed in producing the staples would utterly fail.

Marvelous changes have been wrought along educational and theological lines. The mind is the primal and dominant human force, and will not neglect itself, hence in an age when new things are the order it has demanded for itself the consummate result of all these ripper forces that entered into the modern development of the world. The modern newspaper is the exponent of these things—and many more. It is in keen touch with every species of activity, and is itself an impersonal force tending to the advancement of the community in which it is published. It chronicles faithfully and intelligently, the happenings of the day, no matter how seemingly trivial they may be, distinguishing between news and gossip, and, so far as possible, closing its ears to details of disgusting and revolting crimes, leaving what would unquestionably be unfit for youthful readers in the outer darkness.

The newspaper that is entitled to the esteem and respect of the people is one that stands for all that is orderly, lawful and decent in the social life of its community, and to this end The Sentinel will always use its best endeavors.

Politically The Sentinel will be affiliated with the republican party, but emphasizes the fact that it reserves the right to be independent of party lash, to the interest of the public good. Never will it knowingly give aid or support to any unworthy man or measure simply because of its belief in the fundamental principles of republicanism. It believes in the institutions of the country, and stands ready to defend them, hence it may be said to be patriotic. It does not subscribe to all things that are done; to all laws enacted, because many laws are ephemeral, but in these organic things, framed to preserve the liberties of the people, and to establish a government solid and enduring as the eternal rock, it is true to the core.

In conclusion: The Sentinel will be conducted along the lines indicated, and in the limitations of its field it will aim to maintain a high standard of excellence and be reckoned a factor for good in the social,

political and business field. We have made mistakes in the past; we will make mistakes in the future, but whatever they may be one thing is certain: they cannot be attributed to dishonesty of purpose.

We shall faithfully and conscientiously strive to fulfill our mission, strictly adhering to the motto, Home first, the world afterward. With the earnest hope that the public-spirited people of Cottage Grove, and the rural realm adjacent thereto will accord The Sentinel support according to its merits, we most energetically enter upon our duties.

LEW. A. CATES.

Let's Form a Union.

Nehemiah, in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, commanded his workers to begin the gigantic undertaking nearest their own homes. Andrew, after he had found the Messiah, first went and found his brother Peter and led him to the Christ. Therefore, it would appear, that our first interest is toward those with whom we naturally have to do. We must first strengthen our position before we are ready to reach out to strengthen our brothers elsewhere. We visit the neighbors' homes to ascertain what interest they are manifesting in the advancement and upbuilding of the community. We discover without research catalogues from foreign business concerns, as an inducement to neglect home interests and spend the money which should find its way into the legitimate channels of Cottage Grove commerce in the larger cities.

What is gained by this social and moral neglect in one way is lost in another. It is our duty to deal with those with whom we daily have to do. Our mercantile, agricultural, and mechanical interests stand contiguous, and thus supported cannot fail. We must trade at home and home must trade with us. By patronizing home people we are aiding in the general advancement of the municipality, the upbuilding of its schools and every public institution, for in support of these the business man contributes according to his possessions.

During the late financial panic a prominent Eastern banker said to the writer in a newspaper interview: "Why, this institution is in a union of banks, and this compact fortifies it against a possibility of injury." So it should be with the people of Cottage Grove. The merchant, the manufacturer, the agriculturist, the mechanic, the miner, the butcher, the baker and the candlestick-maker should form a compact to patronize each other, and thus keep the money from the foreign marts.

Cottage Grove is growing rapidly, and that it has a bright future no one can successfully refute, but its general prosperity may be very materially enhanced by building a fence around the home dollar. Here begins the diffusion of greating power.

"A Constant Reader" asks The Sentinel for a cure for rheumatism, and while we have not made a study of the Western variety, we shall forthwith instigate a thorough investigation and report fully when the returns are in.

Boost the coming Poultry Show; make it the grand success that it deserves to be. The name and fame of Cottage Grove as a producer of fine poultry is abroad in the land. Let its reputation as such be fully maintained on this occasion.

Every business man, every professional man, every property owner, and every man who wins his bread by the sweat of his brow, should contribute according to his means in promoting the material interests of Cottage Grove.

It is only when a man begins to get baldheaded and dyspeptic that he fully appreciates how happy he was when a boy with a fighting dog with an impeachable aroma.

The Portland Journal says: "Cottage Grove is coming up." Yes, indeed, coming up, going down and broadening out on the sides. Watch us grow.

That Oregon is prosperous is evidenced by the fact that since January first last 808 new corporations have filed articles with the state.

The Occupation Tax.

The question of imposing an occupation tax upon the business interests of Cottage Grove should be thoroughly and carefully considered by the municipal legislature before the measure is finally brought up for action. The city may need the money to be derived from this source to further contemplated improvements, or to liquidate obligations already incurred, but the question naturally arises: Why should the man who happens to have elected to follow the calling of a business or profession be separated from his brethren and forced to submit to double taxation? The average business man of today is no more able financially to thus contribute than is he of other namable occupations in the community, and The Sentinel can see no good and sufficient reason why, if his business is legitimate, he should be selected to carry a burden not imposed upon his fellowman.

While such a law may be constitutional it certainly is not fashionable; and besides it is an injustice to the men who come under its meaning, because it is clearly and purely a discrimination against certain individuals who are entitled to the same rights, the same liberties and the same privileges as any other owner of real or personal property in his balliwick. The landlord from whom the business man may rent is not compelled to contribute additionally for the privilege of leasing his premises, and neither should his tenant have to pay more than a just and equitable tax upon his personal stock in trade.

As was contended in the remarks of Mr. H. H. Veatch before a meeting of the Merchants' Protective Association Tuesday night, the business people of a community are the first sought when popular subscriptions for financial assistance for any cause, good or bad are circulated; the prosperity of the town depends largely upon the frequency with which they loosen their purse strings; they contribute according to their means to public and private enterprises; they relieve distress among widows and orphans; they are the acknowledged victims of dead beats and beggars, and in addition to these and other sources of unostentatious gifts they annually meet their just proportion of the tax levy for state, county and municipal purposes without a murmur. Is it any wonder that the merchants of Cottage Grove protest against the bill now before the council?

The Aldermanic body, The Sentinel believes, is composed of thoughtful and fair-minded citizens, who would not knowingly perpetrate an injustice upon any class of their fellowmen, and with this view of the situation it most respectfully urges each councilman to consider the provisions of the ordinance in question well before he casts his vote. The editor of this publication has seen the questionable method of raising municipal funds in operation, and it is his sincere and honest conviction that it is detrimental to the advancement and progress of the community. It is a step backward, and the law that gives municipalities authority to impose the tax should be wiped off the statutes of the state.

In opposing the passage of this ordinance it is in no spirit of antagonism to the council, or any member thereof. The Sentinel has no friends to reward or enemies to punish. It believes that there is absolutely no justice in such a procedure and hopes and trusts that the members of the council on Monday next will heed the petition of their constituency and kill the bill.

Now that the qualified electors of Cottage Grove have signified an eagerness for an adequate water supply, let no stone be left unturned until this crying need is satisfied. There are numerous salient points, to be considered in connection with the proposition, but Mayor Job has assured The Sentinel that each will be given thoughtful consideration and the undertaking launched as speedily as possible, and we may therefore expect that the system is a sure thing.

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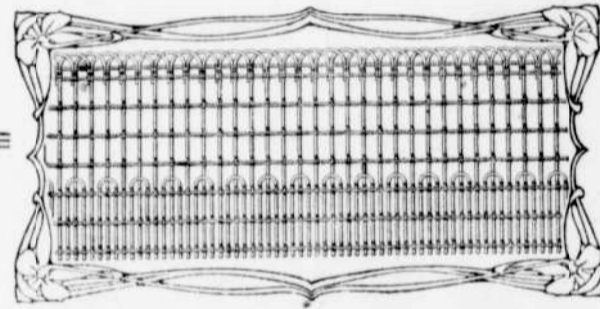
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