

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER WITH PLENTY OF BACKBONE
BEDE & GRANT, Publishers :: :: :: ELBERT BEDE, Editor

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THE INJUSTICE OF JUSTICE

What to do with ex-convicts is one question that might well take the place of some of the other problems that are taking up much time and will be of little worth when solved.

The problem of the government taking care of criminals after their release is vital to the well being of the government itself, as well as being important from a humanitarian standpoint. It is especially important in the case of convicts released because of being found not guilty of the crimes for which they were convicted.

In the case of the man who has received only his just deserts for some injustice to his fellowman, it would be the part of wisdom for the government to so prepare him for his new battle with the world that he will not again become a charge of and expense to the state.

From an humanitarian standpoint we owe a convict, after the expiation of his crime, an opportunity to better himself and provide for his needs—and from a social standpoint we owe it to ourselves to make him a useful citizen. How much more do we owe one who has been unguilty of the crime for which he has unjustly suffered?

Circumstantial evidence can send a man to jail for stealing a copper penny, but if later found unguilty he has no recourse. The law cannot be put in jail for having robbed him of time, money and reputation.

However, far distant as it may seem, it is not improbable that a time will come that the hand that punishes will also provide the means of starting on the right road those who have paid the penalty of their misdeeds. At any rate it is a good subject for those looking for great problems to solve. A little agitation along these lines can do no harm and may result in much good.

A GREAT FORCE.

One of the greatest forces for good in the country today is the agricultural school, and no state can longer boast of higher education which does not have one. They are one of the greatest, if not the greatest, single affirmative force in the back-to-the soil movement.

They are making farming as much a business as keeping a store, or running a newspaper. They are teaching men and women how to make as good a living, or a better one, than can be made in a city.

They are teaching men and women how to make the farm a pleasant place to live—teaching them how to get along with as few hours work as their city relatives, by training them to do more work and better work in a given space of time.

And their teachings are not confined to young folks. The older folks, who once thought agricultural schools were a snare and a delusion, have had their eyes opened and are going there themselves to study. Take the short course of the Oregon Agricultural college. Its membership is made up largely of those who have long ago taken up their life work, who are earning a living for themselves and families. And the officers state that the membership was increased something like 55 per cent. this year. It is ably demonstrating that folks are never too old to learn.

A living may be easy to make in Oregon, but Oregon doesn't want the people who are looking for an easy living. It wants and needs workers, developers, producers—men with wealth and the brains to use it—men with muscles, and a willingness to use them. To these Old Oregon bids a hearty welcome and offers more than any other state can offer in this great land of opportunity.

The railroads have again granted the colonist rates for the coming spring and are predicting a greater influx of settlers than ever before. It is reasonable to expect that just following the great land show and exhibits in the east that the movement westward will be large. The magnificent exhibit made by the Willamette at Omaha ought to insure its receiving its proportion of the new comers.

In these days when it is the fad to criticize public officials, and when many of them deserve such criticism, it is a pleasure to be able to praise one justly. Congressman Hawley is demonstrating every once in a while that he believes that the proper way to develop Oregon is to open the land to the actual settler, whether that land be in the forest reserve or not, and many a homesteader has had occasion to thank Mr. Hawley in the obtaining of patents to government land. In a county like Lane having more timber, it is said, than any other county in the United States, it is pleasant, indeed, to have at Washington a public official who is willing to bend every effort to open the land to actual settlement.

If there is one thing about which western newspapers should be careful it is about overstating things or stating as facts things that are the merest possibility. Such statements only react to the detriment of the country. Some papers sometimes remind one of the old statement about Dakota "where every tree is a waving forest, every rivulet a mighty river, every hamlet a populated city, and every man a blasted liar." The truth about this country is hard enough to believe, so don't exaggerate.

The Eugene Guard and the Portland Oregonian are having a little fuss between themselves and seem to be getting quite a little amusement out of it, if nothing else. The Sentinel is of the opinion that neither paper portrays anywhere near correctly the sentiments that exist in their respective fields of endeavor, and perhaps their little tiff between themselves may keep them from hammering away at something else where they might hurt something.

The editorial and letter published in last week's Sentinel advocating the paying for street improvements out of the general fund of the city, or a special fund provided for that purpose, has stirred up considerable agitation. Friends of the present system of taxation, whereby only abutting property pays for the improvements, claim to be able to puncture holes in the arguments of those who favor the new system. The Sentinel's columns are open for arguments. Go to it.

Orrin Bennett, of Eugene, has signified his intention of running for county commissioner in this district and his platform is published elsewhere in this issue. He enunciates certain "planks" that ought to make a favorable impression with voters.

If all land was like that in the famous, fertile, fruitful Willamette, the back-to-the-soil movement would have easy sailing.

In the category with "Who hit Billy Patterson?" should come "Where do all the trusts go to after they are dissolved?"

When President Taft gets "set" on doing a certain thing, it seems pretty hard to move him from his position. Naturally!

Henri Watterson and Col. Bryan oppose Woodrow Wilson. Woodrow may get there yet.

An European poet won \$10,000 in the lottery and says he will write no more. We wish we had enough ten thousands to go around.

Dr. Osler's chloroforming idea doesn't seem to be as popular as it ought to be.

We are again informed that the end of the world is near at hand. Well, let 'er come; we don't intend to risk our life in trying to stop it.

Some burglars got into a stock promoter's office in Chicago the other night—and got away without losing anything.

Lorimer and Stephenson still hold their seats, but otherwise than that there does not seem to be much indication that congress is in session.

An eastern professor says Esperanto can never be used for the expression of high and soul-stirring thought. Why teach it in the schools, then, if it is of no use to valetudinarians and salutaricians?

Roosevelt shows a verbosity bordering on garrulosity upon every other subject but that of whether or not he will be a candidate for the presidential nomination.

Sometimes a fellow takes a tumble to himself and discovers where he has "fallen down."

It cost a New Year girl \$20,000 to find out what kind of a man she had married. If she really found out it was probably worth the money.

The plumbing trust has been dissolved at Los Angeles, but the members will probably charge the people so much per hour while they are figuring out a gentleman's agreement.

FOR SALE

Span of horses, mare, two Studebaker wagons, new buggy. Cheap if taken at once. J. T. Davis, Cottage Grove. Phone 112-J.

A man is never too busy to stop and tell you how much work he has to do.

It is said that Poet Laureate Austin has made the statement that he does not like America. There's one Englishman who believes in reciprocity.

A Chicago bachelor is trying to figure out what would happen if he owned heaven and had a wife. The chances are that if his wife was a Chicago girl he would get the other place too.

An eastern man got three years for stealing 15 cents. The east doesn't like a man who only starts a job.

So far as we have been able to learn Bellamy Storer has not offered to nominate Roosevelt.

The fact that the second generation usually squanders the fortune of the previous generation is probably the creator's socialistic way of dividing things up.

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A woman feels that she has kept a secret if she succeeds in keeping her informant from knowing that she told it.

We are glad some people change their minds once in awhile. We would dislike to have them stay in the same state of mind all the time.

A fire always burns best on a hot day.

The less brains a man has the more he likes to make a show of them.

The next best thing to seeing a woman devoted to her husband is to see a man who is worthy of that devotion.

The man who does things is never fully appreciated.

Things We Think

Things others think, and what we think of the things others think.

People will soon have to go to New York to see the European art galleries.

Peace has been declared in nearly all the South America republics to allow them to recuperate for the spring elections.

There were 70 volcanoes in the world before Roosevelt or Bryan were born.

The person with plenty of good, red blood coursing through his veins seldom gets the blues.

A few more wars ought to bring about peace.

The quick-change vaudeville artist sometimes gets a good salary, but the quick-change man in the box office gets the dough.

Men may not live longer than women, but they get old quicker.

More law suits are won before the case comes to trial than afterwards.

You can hardly be a non-believer and be a Christian Scientist.

To reform the world quickly, take away the need of money.

If everyone believed what the newspapers say, what a misled old world this would be.

Pretty compliments are the only kind you should pay a woman.

In Tennessee Mr. Beech has married Miss Willow. We suppose there will always be a dispute as to which side of the house the family tree originated from.

Many a successful man is a complete failure.

Pretty soon the necessities of life will cost more than the luxuries.

There's one nice thing about being poor. No one is likely to ask where you got it.

Failure often stimulates to success.

Some men tell more fairy stories to their wives than they do to their children.

The man in the moon gets half full on two quarters.

Sometimes the unexpected also fails to happen.

The things we do are not mistakes until someone else does them.

A book agent has a hard time talking to a woman who is playing with her first baby.

A gossip is a woman who repeats the things that her husband hears from men who would be scandalized if called gossips.

Sometimes the expected unexpectedly happens.

When you think other people are selfish, just try to think of how many unselfish things you have done yourself during the week past.

Some of the greatest truths have been spoken by folks who didn't know what they were saying.

No matter how young a woman may look it is a mistake to tell her she is well preserved.

The wife of a self-made man is always busy keeping him from making a fool of himself.

When you hear something dreadful about a friend, just take it for granted—that it isn't so until the proofs are forthcoming, and don't hunt around for the proofs.

When a man gets into a mess of trouble he always seems to have a bunch of friends—who just knew it couldn't help but happen.

It's easier to run up a bill than it is to pay it up.

A wise chaperone never lets the young folks know that she knows that she is being fooled.

The man who pats you on the back may be just picking out the most vulnerable spot to stick a knife into you.

Half of the people don't deserve the praise that they get and the other half don't get half what they deserve.

The worst trouble about marrying a widow is the taking the children along on the wedding trip.

The Woodrow Wilson letter about Bryan seems destined to take its place in the archives of the nation alongside of those in the Controller bay incident, the Bellamy Storer incident and those to Rogers, of Standard Oil fame.

A father wouldn't be nearly so proud of his son if he didn't get into some of the deviltry that the old man did when a kid.

The divorce courts wouldn't be so bad if they didn't make it possible for people to go and do the same things over again.

A woman smiles at the way she works the men with her tears.

Too many people believe too many things that they know aren't so.

A pessimist is often an optimist who has backed because the things he predicted didn't come true.

The man who makes every move with the idea of meeting popular approval seldom completely achieves his ambition.

We ourselves are the only people who have real trouble—our neighbors imagine or enlarge theirs.

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