

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1912

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

VALENTINE, whose memory St. Valentine's Day commemorates, was a Roman, beheaded sometime about 300 B. C. If the original associations of the day are in keeping with the character of the saint, he must have been a very gentle and lovable old man.

The Romans themselves first observed the day, celebrating it by sending messages of love, affection and greeting to those of the opposite sex. Later on it was customary to choose a sweetheart on that day and make him or her his or her valentine. By some it was believed that the birds began to mate at that time.

Thus we see the day comes down to us as one set aside for the expression of love—a day of pretty sentiments—a day for the expression of admiration and affection, quite commonly done by the giving of a delicately constructed valentine, embellished with verses of simple poetry expressing tender thoughts, possibly conveying words of good cheer to some lonely heart.

The origin and associations of the day are beautiful. The pernicious and vindictive practice of sending comic (?) valentines with tawdry designed caricatures of outlandish and impossible people and expressing ribald sentiments in vulgar and incoherent rhyme is so entirely out of keeping with the day that it is almost impossible to understand how the two ever became associated. They are a travesty upon the day and their coarseness merely cuts and wounds tender hearts and causes many hours of unnecessary sadness.

There will be hours enough of gloom without our adding to them. The world has need of more deeds of kindness. Let's return entirely to the delicate, sweet-scented love tokens that express only feelings of adoration and regard that can be cherished and held dear. Why be brutal and cruel when it is just as easy to leave a trail of sunshine along your way?

A REACTIONARY! WHAT?

President Taft has gone on record in a message to congress as in favor of a leasing system for the development of the great natural resources of Alaska.

He advises an investigation by the commission of the plan of retaining a reserve of coal lands to be mined by the government for naval purposes.

In speaking of the message, the democratic Oregon Journal says: "His recommendations, in fact, are in line with the policies announced some weeks ago in Chicago by Secretary Fisher.

"They are also in perfect harmony with the plans that Gifford Pinchot has constantly urged. They are the policies for which Mr. Pinchot has been assailed and traduced. They are an exact reversal of the Ballinger policy of unlimited privileges in Alaska for private monopoly.

It is a basis of procedure that if carried out in good faith will open and develop Alaska on a plan of four-dollar coal for \$4. It is one movement that, if pushed to fruition, will help reduce the high cost of living to people on the Pacific coast."

Allow The Sentinel to remark that this William Howard Taft who wrote this message to congress is the same Billy Taft that The Journal, Roosevelt third termers, LaFollette, Cummins, Pinchot and others of their ilk decry as a reactionary, a standpatter and a plaything of the trusts and land grabbers.

Read that message again. It is a gem of reactionarism and standpattism that Taft's enemies will not care or attempt to make use of.

FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

What would happen to Cottage Grove if such a cry were to be heard?

Would a well-organized fire department, every man knowing his position or ready to, and capable of, filling a position assigned him by the chief, get out the fire apparatus, get it to the scene of the conflagration and get it to working in as short a time as possible and in a systematic manner?

No! Such a thing is hardly possible during the present disrupted and disorganized condition of the department, and those who have

started a movement for its reorganization and rejuvenation are worthy of, and should have, the hearty and aggressive support of every property owner of the city.

Cottage Grove has been fortunate about fires, but it may not be ever thus. A disastrous fire might wipe out the all of many business men; surely it would be a serious blow to all affected. It does not behoove the citizens to carelessly allow themselves to go unprotected in the face of such probabilities.

Some business men remark that in case of fire everyone will be a volunteer. True, but many a disastrous fire is the result of delay in fighting the smaller blaze. Disorganization inevitably means delay, procrastination. Delay means giving a small blaze a chance to gain headway.

Another important point is that an organized department is trained as to the best methods of fighting fires without injury to merchandise, which is an important thing.

Also, members of a fire department are responsible men. Under an everyone-a-volunteer system there would be no restrictions as to whom might enter a burning building, and a fire is always accepted as a propitious and safe occasion to appropriate any property the looters can lay their hands on.

So let everyone heartily support those with patriotism enough to start the reorganization movement. After the reorganization let everyone show due appreciation of the work done and sacrifices made by the fire laddies. Lack of appreciation is said to be the cause of the late disruption of the department. Let's not let it happen again.

In line with, although not the result of, a recent editorial in The Sentinel, the men's class of the Methodist church has started a library. The library will probably never be an extensive one, although there is no limit to its possibilities for help to those having cards. By the plan whereby each member loans one or more books to the library, exchanging them for others as soon as all who wish have read them, there is practically no limit to the amount of reading the library will furnish. Similar moves by other organizations would result in much good to members of the community.

California has an everywhere much-needed and exceedingly just statute in what is known as the "lazy father" law. The law provides that a husband or father who fails to provide for his family shall, upon conviction, be made to work for the county for a wage of \$1.50 a day, the money to be used for the maintenance of his family. This is as it should be. It is high time that civilized communities took cognizance of irresponsible parentage as an economic evil of pernicious growth and far-reaching magnitude. It is the part of prudence to place a check upon it by putting "lazy fathers" to work and applying their earnings to the care of their families.—Oregonian.

The man who fights and runs away may live to see his wife another day.

One kind of a coward is a man who vents on his family the grouch he has acquired by being worsted by some man.

A nonentity is what a man feels like when, after telling a friend confidentially how easily he runs his wife, he turns around to find that she has heard the whole story.

Be careful what you tell a man who tells all he knows, if you don't wish it repeated.

There seems to be a suspicion that Roosevelt is about to give Taft a Teddy bear hug.

You never can tell how far a candidate can jump until after he is elected.

Every shovelful of dirt taken out of the Panama canal is about that amount of the receipts of the transcontinental railways after 1913.

There will be some things accomplished during 1912. A president will be elected, and congress may adjourn.

The hardest kind of work is that which we have to do ourselves.

Any old kind of a government would be all right if we could get the men we want into office—and if they would do what they promised they would be for the ballots were counted.

Too much attention is paid to athletics in school and too little outside.

A grown-up sister gets very little flattery from her kid brothers.

Compliments, even when you don't mean them, are better than knocks any day in the week.

Things We Think

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

A negro has refused to run for congress—and still some folks will say the negroes are not progressing.

A man who predicts success for himself is often fooled by false profits.

All women like flattery—and most of them deserve it—for being able to get along with the men.

There are said to be 200,000 automobiles in the country—and all of them want to cross the same crossing at the same time as you do.

If you can't do a thing, the next best thing is to see that someone else does.

A great many reforms are given a trial on the ground that they can't be worse than what has gone before.

A popular soprano is said to have a voice of fine timbre, a willowy figure, cherry lips, chestnut hair and hazel eyes. Wonder what her family tree is like?

Put off until tomorrow the meaning you intended doing today.

It is your "duty" to understand the tariff question.

The man who always knows how a thing should be done is seldom the man who has learned from experience.

Anticipation is the stock-in-trade of the optimist.

If there never was any rain there would be no rainbows.

Today will be yesterday tomorrow. Have you accomplished anything yet? In the battle of life all must die.

Some people pull backwards so far that they get clear around in front after awhile.

Women can't expect to get ahead very fast while they wear hobble skirts.

An Omaha taxicab company says that it lost money last year. No one ever found any of it.

The first street cars to town are always more crowded on the day that the home team loses.

It is not so much the men we put in office as those we keep out.

The man without backbone is good bait for the fellows fishing for suckers.

There's luck, they say, in odd numbers—that's probably the reason women never get over 25.

When a young man gets his name on the college roster he acts like a rooster.

The wife who objects to a man staying away from home nights doesn't want him hanging around the house in the daytime.

Let the knockers strike—no one wants them on the job anyway.

There ought to be some statutory provisions about admission to the Hall of Fame.

Peace seems to be worth fighting for.

It is a great advantage to be a linguist. Every doctor appreciates this and can read any tongue.

One of the southern states has passed a law making it grand larceny to steal a watermelon. This must be a scheme to get all the colored population in jail until after the election.

A man who gets acquainted with his future wife at a card party shouldn't be surprised if he draws a full house.

A man buried in thought is dead to his surroundings.

Selah sounds like a feminine word, but it isn't. It means quiet.

The state of matrimony would be a more peaceable place in which to live if someone wasn't always trying to extend the boundary lines.

A person isn't a Christian who merely refrains from doing wrong.

There's no place on earth nor in heaven for the man who licks his wife. There's only one place left.

English suffragettes are going to go to cooking and raising babies to stop male ridicule. The men over there need not worry about the suffragette movement for awhile.

Once in awhile an irrigation company lets too much of its water into the stock and neglects to provide an outlet for the surplus.

Here is some Esperanto: "Pol-voplenaj senhomaj la turireaj chean-anjoj senherboj vojoj malpuraj la arenjoj senherboj montaj gastejoj estaj malpuraj." For an easy-flowing language, lucidity and simplicity it is something wonderful. Translated into ambiguous English, the above quotation reads: "There's a sucker born every minute." You don't dispute the translation, do you?

There are some compensations for the little man. For one thing he doesn't look so funny when he falls down on a slippery sidewalk.

Lives there a boy with ambition so dead that unto himself hath never said that he is some time going to be a great orator and startle the nation.

Lots of people do not get credit for all they do—which is fortunate for some.

A woman who knows how to run her husband never lets him know it.

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