

# The Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

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THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1912

## The School Ma'am

BY ELBERT BEDE

The school ma'am is probably enough "talked about" without anything more being said on the subject, but in view of the recent demand for betterment in the quality of our teachers it may not be out of place to say a few words. The school ma'am is a good subject, anyway, and does not receive as much consideration as she deserves.

School ma'ams are born, not made—and they are usually born about twenty-five years earlier than their given age.

There are two classes of school ma'ams—those who have sufficient funds to enable them to secure the education necessary to at once commence teaching in the better schools, and those who start at the foot of the ladder and work up.

The foot of the ladder is the country school—which, by the way, has turned out some of our best and greatest citizens, due in part, at least, to the instruction of the country school teacher, God bless her.

The rural school ma'am is a person of considerable importance within her sphere of action and a new teacher is sufficient warrant for a special meeting of the Ladies' Aid in any rural community.

She is usually a sweet and demure little bunch of dimples and sunshine of eighteen summers—and no winters—who has acquired sufficient knowledge of mathematics to be able to divide the attention of the older boys of the community and add to the admiration of the others, and has passed a graded school examination in the balance of the studies.

For pupils she has from ten to fifty assorted youngsters of all ages and sizes, many of whom their parents and the Sunday school have been unable to discipline—and the little school ma'am is expected to do for them what their parents and God cannot do—and she usually does.

In addition to teaching the young idea how to shoot, while herself dodging Cupid's arrows, she must treat each pupil so as to retain the good will of the parents of each, must act as a social pivot for the community at large, be a moral guide and rule to faith, sometimes act as janitor of the school and perform various other and manifold duties, for all of which she receives the munificent salary of \$30 to \$50 a month, payable to suit the board of directors and contingent upon the condition of the district treasury.

If she studies hard she may in a few years take her place in a graded school along side of those who were fortunate enough to receive a normal training before commencing their teaching. Here she will receive a salary of from \$40 to \$75 a month. By and by she may get into a city school alongside those who received a university and normal education, with a slight advance in salary. By this time she will be an old maid, but will have the satisfaction of knowing that she has raised more children than Roosevelt ever dreamed of raising.

There's nothing more important in our great social system than the school ma'am—the proxy-parent of our children, the molder of character, the bulwark of American liberties, the guiding star of the republic.

Of course we want to raise the quality—of her teaching, but that is pretty hard to do on salaries ranging from \$30 up, and not so very far up either.

No matter how high a teacher may rise, it will take many years of labor to enable her to save what the education necessary to the fulfilling of her position has cost her.

A business career offers much larger returns for the same amount of education and efficiency. The day laborer, who doesn't know the difference between an equation and the full dinner pail, receives as much for his labor as the majority of teachers. The schools are getting all they are paying for.

If we must have better teachers, the scale of wages must be made an inducement sufficient to warrant the paying for necessary education.

Another reason that there are not more efficient school ma'ams is because about the time a school ma'am gets pretty well up in her work along comes a real live male man and inveigles her into doing his cooking for him. School ma'ams make an excellent quality of wives—especially the country variety, which is usually more tender and edible than the brand grown in the cities.

## DEFENDS RECALL

In another column appears a defense of the judicial recall, written by G. F. King in reply to an editorial in The Sentinel.

Mr. King evidently misunderstood several of our statements. He says:

"You say the masses always grab at anything like this. Well, we are from Missouri. Please indicate to us where the people of Oregon have ever 'grabbed at' a judge."

The Sentinel said that the masses grab at anything like the recall—the getting of such a law on the statute books. However, attempts have been made at various times to invoke the recall in Oregon—so far as we know without success.

At least two of these instances have been in Lane county and another in this judicial district. The Sentinel has good reason to believe that each of these attempts was inspired for political revenge and that the right or wrong was never once considered. Nevertheless they leave a stigma on the names and reputations of those attacked.

The Sentinel did not for a

moment contemplate anything so silly as the invocation of the recall by each individual that received an adverse decision, although the recall would permit of such an abuse and it is not improbable to think that it might be so abused. Does Mr. King infer that because the masses have never 'grabbed' at a judge, the judges of Oregon are all right?

Mr. King says: "The recall is an ax, to be used only when great wrong has been done the 'masses,' and an intelligent electorate, such as we have in Oregon, will use it only when absolutely necessary."

We must disagree with Mr. King that an intelligent electorate is all that is necessary to make the recall a panacea for all existing and contemplated political ills and woes. The worst crooks are the most intelligent. Intelligence is necessary, certainly, but honesty is more necessary and no voter could cast an honest vote on a recall without taking the same time to study the proposition as did the judge who rendered the decision which resulted in the recall being invoked

against him. Even if the voters should do this, which they would not, and granting that they had the same judicial training, which they would not have, the judge might honestly disagree with them. Honest men and honest judges often do disagree. We can not impugn a man's motives merely because he does not agree with us.

Referring to the masses, Mr. King says:

"They will ask for the recall of a judge when the conditions warrant them in doing so, and I will venture a guess that nine of every ten who read this will agree with me. Then, I ask again, what is your fear of the recall?"

How are the masses to know when conditions warrant them in invoking the recall? For example, what does Mr. King or the editor of The Sentinel know about the merits or demerits of the Standard Oil case, the Sugar Trust case or the Tobacco Trust case that would enable them to say whether or not the recall should be invoked. Yet the late Justice Harlan's famous minority report might have easily incited the masses to invoking the recall. Roosevelt would have no doubt been glad to have headed the movement and millions might have followed him without further thought than that they believed themselves to have been wronged.

Why do we fear the recall? Let us suppose and propose a case close at home. Let us suppose that the McNamaras had never confessed, had been found guilty and had gone to the gallows with protestations of innocence on their lips. Millions of the masses—of the intelligent electorate of the nation would have eagerly signed a recall petition. Will Mr. King say he would not have been one? Millions more there were who would not have felt certain of the guilt of the McNamaras and might have voted for the recall.

We're from Missouri, too, and Mr. King will have to show us wherein we are ten times better off under the initiative than under legislative enactment of laws. Such a statement is preposterous. It might be hard to show that we are even as well off.

Mr. King's simile between private and public business is beside the question entirely. To attempt to run the business of the United States on the same plan as a small private business is run, is too cumbersome, too absurd for consideration.

Mr. King endorses The Sentinel when he says:

"Just so long as judges render their decisions in the interest of the majority they need not fear the recall"

He infers that when the majority does not feel that a decision is in their interest the recall would be invoked. That's one great danger of the recall. Decisions must suit the majority, regardless of right or wrong. The Savior was judged once by a judge who feared the majority. He decided the only way he could and hold his job. He favored the majority.

Here's Mr. King's clincher. "Right here, in our opinion, is the nub of the whole business. There are times when a judge's decision rendered in favor of big business is not to the interest of the large majority, and right at this point is where the recall hurts some people. Right here is where the masses want the recall."

Mr. King's deductions here are absolutely wrong and biased. Because a decision is in favor of big business, it is not for that reason a wrong one; nor because it favors a large majority is it for that reason a right one. His deduction better illustrates the point we have been trying to make that the right or wrong of a decision would be entirely lost sight of in case the majority was against such a decision.

It is not the principle of the recall that is wrong. It is the way that it would work wherein is its danger. It is a beautiful theory, and would work perfectly under the right conditions, but when those conditions come there will be no need of the recall.

Indeed the people need to do more thinking.

The disgraceful actions of the miscreants who entered the East Side school house Monday night is

evidence that there are some parents who do not know what their boys and girls are doing nights. If parents do not look after their children, it is time for the city to perform that function for them. A few cases taken before the juvenile court might have a very salutary effect.

The students at the University of Oregon are learning something. They are thinking anyway. They have voted against the judicial recall by a large majority.

## DEFENDS THE RECALL

Cottage Grove, Ore., March 15.—Ed. Sentinel: We have just finished reading your editorial under the caption "More Thinking Necessary" and duly noted the injunction, "But stop and consider a few moments."

We are glad you flagged us right here.

Now, let us see, we have the recall in Oregon, and it includes the judiciary of the state.

You say "The masses always grab at anything like this." Please indicate to us where the masses have ever "grabbed at" a judge.

Indicate to us, please, we want to be shown. The recall of judges does not imply that every person who may have an adverse decision rendered against him will invoke the recall. Such contention is silly in the extreme, and you cannot find one of the "masses" in a thousand who so contemplates, or thinks of such a thing. Then how will the recall be abused?

The recall is an ax, to be used only when great wrong has been done the "masses," and an intelligent electorate, such as we have in Oregon, will use it only when absolutely necessary.

You cannot, for an instant, make me believe the people will be carried away by a proposition like this. They will ask for the recall of a judge when the conditions warrant them in doing so, and I will venture a guess that nine of every ten who read this will agree with me. Then, I ask again, what is your fear of the recall? Again you say, "probably not one person in a hundred knows the purport of the laws upon which he voted under the initiative. We will venture another assertion that not one voter in a thousand knows the purport of the laws which were passed by our legislature. Therefore take your probable hundred and

## Calendars

The Sentinel has them to suit every taste and at prices more reasonable than they can be purchased from outside dealers.

my asserted thousand who don't know, and we are ten times better off under the initiative than we are under the legislative enactment of laws.

The recall is used in every business at the present time, outside of law-makers and judges.

For instance, if a man is working for you, and doesn't do your will, you have no hesitancy in recalling him, and you understand the law of your business sufficiently to know whether he is carrying out the law or not.

So in every business, if the powers that place a man in a certain position do not get a correct rendering of the law of their business, they hook the recall to him without delay. You can find no one who will dispute the correctness of their position.

An appointed judge, or one elected by the people, should render his decisions in accordance with the intent of the law. The law, if it be just, and The Sentinel will not defend an unjust law, is always in favor of the large majority of the people, and just so long as judges render their decisions in the interest of the majority, they need not fear the recall.

Right here, in our opinion, is the nub of the whole business.

There are times when a judge's decision rendered in favor of big business is not to the interest of the large majority, and right at this point is where the recall hurts some people. Right here is where some people don't want the recall, but right here is where the "masses" do want it.

Right here is where "business" is afraid of being disturbed.

No judge would have to lie to hold his job if he rendered decisions according to the law and evidence, if the laws are just, and no judge would have to sanction an unjust law, even if he had to uphold it. He would be left free to condemn the law even if he had to render a decision adverse to his idea of right and wrong, and he could call our attention to it so that it might be remedied. Yes, the people need to do more thinking.

Have you got something kicking around in your way that you want to get rid of? A reader in the Sentinel may sell it for you.

No. 1 white seed oats at the Sterling Feed Co.'s store.

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WE still have a few rose bushes left after the rush of the past week. What! You haven't heard about it? Well, here goes: We are, for a limited time, giving away, free, with every \$2.50 purchase of anything in our store, a 50c rose bush. There is a good variety to choose from and every one is of guaranteed stock and sells regularly at 50c.

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