

Have You Noticed What Outsiders Say About The Sentinel?

The Value of a Paper to a Community Can Be Accurately Measured By What Outsiders Think of It. The Sentinel Is Willing to Be Thus Measured

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

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Is It Worth While?

JOAQUIN MILLER

Is it worth while that we jostle a brother,
Bearing his load on the rough road of life?
Is it worth while that we jeer at each other,
In blackness of heart—that we war to the knife?
God pity us all in our pitiful strife!
God pity us all as we jostle each other;
God pardon us all for the triumphs we feel,
When a fellow goes down; poor heart broken brother,
Pierced to the heart—words are keener than steel,
And mightier far for woe or for weal.
Were it not well in this brief little journey,
On over the isthmus, down into the tide,
We give him a fish instead of a serpent,
Ere folding the hands to be and abide,
For ever and aye in dust at his side?
Look at the roses saluting each other;
Look at the herds all at peace on the plain;
Man, and man only, makes war on his brother,
And dotes in his heart on his peril and pain,
Shamed by the brutes that go down on the plain.
Is it worth while that we battle to humble
Some poor fellow-traveler down into the dust?
God pity us all! Time too soon will us tumble,
All men together, like leaves in a gust;
All of us humbled down into the dust.

THE LEGISLATURE

IT IS a popular fad to criticize the Legislature. No one is strictly in fashion who has not done so more or less caustically. To be one of the smart set a person must be able to produce witnesses to prove that he has in no uncertain terms castigated the state law-making body for dilly-dallying methods.

It is to be presumed that these carping critics would not make the criticisms which they do unless they thought themselves able to do better. What reason is there to believe that they would do better? Very little, but there is much reason to believe that they would not greatly change things. Many of the present members are those who formerly criticized. Their influence has not caused any great upheaval.

The great mistake made by those who criticize is that they do not place themselves in the position of those being criticized. Let those who would turn things upside down and inside out if they were members, think of times when they were members of an organized commercial body of 30 to 75 people. How much did they do then to reduce to three minutes the consideration of some unimportant thing that consumed thirty minutes or an hour? Here was ample opportunity to show how a large amount of business can be hustled through a large body of men. But these critics fell down.

The Legislature is not essentially different from a meeting of a commercial body, except that there are many difficulties with which to contend that do not appear in the other kind of a meeting.

A legislator endeavors to act as the people of his district wish and he can seldom know on the spur of the moment what they wish. In a commercial meeting a man speaks for himself and usually knows what he wants without asking someone else.

Members of a legislature represent greatly diversified interests from widely separated districts. One interest may want just what another part of the state does not want it to have. In a commercial body the interests of all are common and their interests largely one.

In a legislature the members are to a certain degree strangers to one another. In a local organization the members are usually more or less familiar.

In a legislature outside influences that do not hinder local organizations, delay action.

Other like comparisons might be made.

Many critics advocate that all legislating be done by the people direct, but direct legislation, although ideal in theory, is more bunglesome than legislative legislation. Why it is so has already been discussed in The Sentinel. Besides, the people do not want to legislate. A majority has already said so.

In recent years there has not been an election that seemed more destined to bring out a full vote than the one of 1912. Yet less than half of the electorate went to the polls. A majority spoke against even having the right of ballot. We haven't the figures at hand, but of those who did vote, it is probable that about half voted on all of measures on the ballot, which leaves less than one-eighth of the electors who try to legislate when the opportunity presents itself. This is a poor argument to advance for the abolishment of the law-making body.

Improvements could undoubtedly be made at the Legislature. A revision of rules might do considerable in expediting business. But the greatest need is to put the body on a plane that will make the position of a legislator attractive to the best business men of the state.

The first step in making such a change should be to make the position one that will pay its own legitimate expenses. Many good men are kept away because they can not afford to take a job at \$3.00 a day when the expenses are \$10. No one would ask a man to work for him 40 days at a third of his expenses. Why should the State of Oregon be in such business?

STERILIZATION

The sterilization bill is the most advanced piece of legislation that has passed the Oregon Legislature. There is no greater problem in the country today than that of reducing the number of criminals and degenerates. The sterilization bill is a big stride in the direction of prevention. If the Legislature passed no other measure of importance its efforts would not be in vain.

Oregon is not, as many supposed, the first to adopt such legislation. Six other states already had similar laws on their statute books.

The authority given by the sterilization measure is thought to be so curbed that no injustice may be done.

RETRIBUTION

The Eugene Guard says: The newspapers of the state are with the university with one or two exceptions, because most of the publishers have personally investigated its needs and the work it is doing. One or two are opposing its appropriations because of lack of information on the subject. If they will come to the university and get their information from personal observation, they will no doubt be fair enough to accord the school impartial treatment, and advocate the support at the hands of the people that is its just due. No friend of the university asks more from any editor or any voter.

If the papers of the state do accord the University the fair treatment The Guard asks for, they will not be following the example of The Guard. The Guard has hurt the University more than all the other papers of the state, Parkison and forged petitions put together.

He who would govern others should first learn to govern himself. Governor West's recent attack of a reporter was not in keeping with the dignity of his position and is only excusable because of the high tension under which the chief executive had been working during the session of the Legislature.

The people of Cottage Grove should have a warm spot in their hearts for the loyal support recently given by every member of the Lane County delegation in the Legislature.

Whether or not Cottage Grove ever becomes the capital of Nesmith County, it is destined for bigger things than being a mere county seat.

By a coincidence those who opposed the University millage bill also opposed the county division bill.

There is a heaven on earth for those fortunate enough to live in the famous, fertile, fruitful Willamette Valley.

A woman tells the neighbors that her husband does twice as many thoughtful things as he really does and at home accuses him of about three times as many mean things as he really does.

It isn't as easy to get acquainted with the girl that stays at home and helps her mother as it is with the other kind—but you will be well repaid for the extra effort required in finding her.

A woman will make almost as many excuses for her husband as he will for himself.

A man 98 years of age dropped his pipe on his bed clothing and was burned to death. Some folks never do get old enough to learn.

Wouldn't it be awful if women's clothes were as bad as the men make out they are.

A dramatist says grand opera in English would be a joke. Well, we might be able to see through it anyway.

It is possible to get too optimistic, but anyway it won't bore your friends.

Things We Think

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

Troubles never come singly, whines the father of triplets.

Some folks get a move on when the landlord demands the rent.

The hen is like a human. She is worthless if she persists in staying on the roost too late in the mornings.

A position on the bench isn't considered much of an honor by a base ball player.

There's nothing quite as flat as a woman trying to tell a salacious story.

Tobacco using must be a sinful habit, for a certain habitation of the after world is said to be filled with smokers.

The small boy has a hard time deciding between whether he will be the villain who entrapped the maiden or a graphophone agent.

Every aspirant for office wants to be like Lincoln. Why is it none have a desire to be like Alton B. Parker, William Alon Randolph Hearst or a score of other notables.

Down in Mexico they say: "Good morning, Mr. President, what's your name?"

A Minnesota woman in a damage suit places the loss of her husband's affections at \$60. She doesn't seem to have valued his love very highly.

Take a piece of tin foil worth a quarter of a cent, put it around a package and the package is worth 10c more.

When we get to that warmer clime where his satanic majesty reigns there may be so many who will want to be engineers that none will be left to shovel coal.

The greatest obstacle to deep waterways is a bunch of shallow-minded statesmen.

Everyone wants an office of some kind—and that's one of the reasons for the high cost of living.

A United States Senator sometimes costs the people more than he does the folks he works for.

This is the time of year when Christmas turkey is cheap.

Reforestation is taking quite a hold of late with many of the old time politicians. Probably figure that they may have to go to the woods some day and want them handy.

A Chicago man having a million dollars started a law suit ten years ago, in which a final decision was reached the other day. The poor man.

Luther Burbank has been accused of nature faking—but the facts probably are that he merely fools nature.

Man deserves no credit for the good nature that is the result of indolence.

James J. Hill says it is the cost of high living that is tightening things up. Not with us.

The report that the bottom was going to drop out of prices of food stuff seems to have been somewhat exaggerated.

An eastern university is going to institute a course in poetry writing. There are a lot of people who need to be shown.

The man who expects to be a successful aviator has got to have the moral stamina to say "I will"—and follow those two words with a list of his property and the names of his beneficiaries.

The bridegroom doesn't count for much in the marriage ceremony—he just sort of takes a hand.

If our forests were all plum trees there would be no trouble in getting conservation legislation through congress.

Meat is said to be necessary to sustain a person who studies. The price of education is getting prohibitive.

An Atlanta man wants to exchange a cemetery lot for an automobile. His executors will probably soon be trying to trade back.

If you have the dough you never need be shy on bread and butter.

Latin and other dead languages would have a better show if people weren't so busy living.

If others could only see us as we see ourselves.

There is a lot of difference between the ideal and the real. Did you ever notice your empty flower seed papers at the end of the rows and compare the real flower with the one in the picture.

The reason you don't kick the man who is up is because he insists on looking you in the face.

Kissing is said to convey and develop deadly germs—but we can easily imagine that a man who tried to commit suicide that way would soon find life worth living.

To give a soft answer is awful hard sometimes.

The sun never sets for the person whose face always bears a smile.



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