

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

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

A first-class publication entered at Cottage Grove as second-class mail matter.

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Wednesday, September 30, 1914

BUSINESS OFFICE: :: :: :: 26 SOUTH FIFTH STREET

Be Sure to Get Stop Over
at Cottage Grove.



Be Sure to Get Stop Over
at Cottage Grove.

CUT IT OUT.

THE PHYSICIAN WHO WOULD endeavor to cure a cancer by merely taking precautions to keep it from spreading would be considered, to say the least, a very impractical practitioner. His patience might be worthy of commendation but he would hardly be commended by his patients.

Oregon's system of government is afflicted with several insidious cancers.

One of these cancers is an impractical primary election law that gives us twice as many elections as formerly, that doubles our election expenses, that doubles the expenses of candidates without any commensurate return, that permits the members of one party to help nominate candidates of the other party, that permits parties not making use of the primary to nominate by the system against which the primary was a protest (even the author of the direct primary law received two nominations for governor this year without his name appearing on the primary election ballot); a primary that invites every shyster lawyer, brain stormer and wind jammer to become a candidate for office.

Another of these cancers is an initiative that permits anyone, whether a citizen of Oregon or the Zulu Islands, to submit any manner of freak, drastic, experimental legislation to the voters of Oregon with very little expense to himself but at considerable expense to the state and with the probability of terrible expense if it becomes law; an initiative that permits the supporters or opponents of any measure submitted to the people to submit to the electors, largely at state expense, any manner of misleading arguments for or against such measure; an initiative that allows a measure, no matter how abusive, to be put upon the ballot without any explanation of its probable effect; an initiative that permits agitators, anarchists and propagandists, from our own or any other country, to saddle the expense of considering their experiments upon the state at every election.

Another cancer is a referendum that permits citizens of this or any other sphere, whether idiots, jail birds or what not, to use it for purposes of revenge, to injure our beloved institutions and bring disrepute upon our fair state; all this at great expense to the state.

As a result of the operations of the direct primary, the initiative and referendum, ably abetted by the State Legislature, County Courts and other bodies and persons empowered to spend our money and incur debts for us, we find that our taxes are getting heavier than good business warrants, considering the returns therefrom.

ELECTION AFTER ELECTION the newspapers carry editorial after editorial advising voters to discourage the promiscuous use of the initiative by voting "no."

Industries that would be greatly injured by certain forms of legislation spent hundreds and thousands of dollars in pleading with the voters.

Only a strong appeal to the patriotism and sense of fairness of the voter kept our state university from being crippled.

A campaign of considerable magnitude is being carried on against freak legislation.

An attempt has been made to get better legislators by way of the primary by having communities select candidates that they wish nominated.

We are endeavoring to keep our taxes from crippling us by an attempt to prevent them from going higher.

These methods are much similar to that of the physician who would cure cancer by keeping it from spreading.

The root of the evil still remains.

The way to cure a cancer is to cut it out.

The way to cure cancer in the Oregon system is to get rid of the cause of the evil.

Our Oregon system, in the underlying principles of which a majority of the voters probably believe, is not so sacred that it can not be changed.

While we are in the experimenting business we might as well cut our election expenses in two by combining both primary and general elections. Let the candidates put their own names on the ballot in a manner similar to the present one and then have a free-for-all on one ballot and let the high men win. Second and third choice might be adopted. For once we would be following the experiments of other states and might profit by their experience.

This method would not be perfect but would do away with several of the evils of the present system.

With only half as many elections voters might take more interest in those that remained than they do now in such a large number.

Instead of inveighing against the abuse of the initiative, the thing to do is to amend it so that it can't be so easily abused.

Amend it so that a measure can't be put upon the ballot until after the Legislature has been given an opportunity to act upon it.

Amend it so that a measure can't appear upon the ballot but once in every six or some other number of years unless referred by the Legislature or unless the total expense of submitting the measure to the voters is advanced by those interested; amend it so that only citizens of Oregon can use it and make it compulsory for the initiators (or pretended initiators) of a measure to submit a sworn statement containing the names of all those connected with the initiation of the measure, together with an itemized account of receipts for defraying the expense of putting the measure on the ballot and working up interest in it. Make the penalty for a false statement nothing less than a penitentiary offense.

Amend it so that a concise, unprejudiced opinion of what the effect of a measure probably would be, written by some disinterested authority upon constitutional law, shall be given to the voters; amend it so that ballot titles shall be given by other than interested parties; amend it so that all malicious misstatements in the voters' pamphlet shall constitute a felony.

Instead of inveighing against the referendum, amend it so that it can't be abused.

The way to cut down taxes is not to try to prevent their increase but to do away with improvident expenditures. Proper amendment of the direct primary, the initiative and referendum would help a whole lot. The abolishment of a number of useless commissions and a few useless public officials would help some more. The selection of public officials who would give a dollar's worth of value for every dollar spent would help more than anything else, even if higher salaries had to be paid.

If we're going to attempt to cure these cancers, let's start right by using the knife at the root of the trouble.

THE \$1500-EXEMPTION MEASURE may look good to a few who are so unpatriotic that if they could they would like to escape bearing their share of the burden of government, but as a matter of fact they would be the first to feel the extra tax put on the property that couldn't escape taxation. The person who could escape direct taxation under the \$1500-exemption would of necessity live in a rented house. The owner of the house could not escape taxation and his rate would be raised. He would merely pass the increase along to the renter and would without question raise the amount of rent in advance of his paying the increased tax. Those from whom the person who could escape direct taxation must buy his merchandise would have to increase their prices at once in order to get the money to pay their advanced taxes when they became due. There is no use in attempting to escape taxation unless you are supported by someone else. "It can't be did."

Judging from the way we kick about our measly little war tax, what must the feeling be in the countries that are at war and where the tax to pay for the royal game of chess with human pawns is going to be a real burden to be carried indefinitely.

Against this mass of wild and long-haired legislation the voters have only one defense. They must get out to the polls in November and vote no. If they stay at home in such large numbers that only a fifty or sixty per cent vote is registered they may regret it most sincerely.—Eugene Register.

The Eugene Guard isn't a consistent non-partisan newspaper. It isn't supporting Chamberlain.

Striking at Industry.

(Editorial in Eugene Register.)

Oregon industry and thrift, it seems, are the particular marks against which the schemers and the tinkers are directing their shafts this fall. The man who is trying to make a living for himself and his family and to put a little money by in the bank for a rainy day is threatened with a universal eight-hour law that will not permit even his children to work more than eight hours out of the twenty-four. If he is a farmer this law, if it is approved by the people in November, will mean that he will either have to quit business or reduce his operations to the point where he can do everything himself.

As if this were not enough, we are asked to vote on a law to provide work at state expense for all the unemployed of every state and of every clime. If it should be enacted, the brake-beams and the bumpers and the car tops of every train coming into the state would be jammed with flounders rushing in to get a nice, soft job at the state's expense. The word would go out far and wide that all that was necessary to tide over the winter was to get to Oregon, where the state furnished a job for everybody. The problem of the unemployed in all the other states would be solved, and Oregon would be the goat.

The Worker's View.

(Editorial in Eugene Guard.)

Opposition to the proposed universal eight-hour law is developing from an unexpected source. The men who are responsible for the submission of the measure to the voters of the state of Oregon had expected to herd the working men and women into the polling places as a unit in favor of the bill. Shorter hours have been held out as an alluring bait, but employees as well as employers in this state are too intelligent to grab at legislation which would injure both.

The law as proposed provides eight hours' work a day for six days a week in factory, mine, office, home, or upon the ranch. There are no exceptions in case of "accident, break-down, fire, flood or storm."

The man who now works nine hours a day and receives nine hours' pay would under the new order of things work eight hours a day and receive eight hours' pay, because the law would not establish a wage scale and his employer would be compelled to compete with the manufacturer in other states where employees work nine hours. There would be no overtime. He would receive proportionately the same wage for the same amount of production as he does today and the only difference would be that the amount of his production would be limited in an effort to pro-

vide employment for as many people as possible.

In the event that labor was not available a contractor or manufacturer operating under the eight-hour rule could not accept a contract expecting to permit his men, if necessary, to work a little overtime. Whether skilled or unskilled labor was demanded this situation would not present an exception within the meaning of the law.

Oregon wage earners are awakening to the fact that it is important that they defeat this bill which threatens the industrial life of the state and which, if enacted into law, will vitally affect themselves.

Things We Think

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

The coming young man has to go some these days.

The key to success won't let you in to the house at 3 a. m.

The high cost of living is due to the fact that so many want it.

According to an exchange there is a couple in Minneapolis claiming to be Moses and the Savior. If they receive the same treatment as those two distinguished characters of the bible they won't find the role a very popular one.

A Pennsylvania minister refuses to marry any more men who can't show an income of \$2,000 a year. He's on the wrong track. A fellow with \$2,000 a year is likely to wed a \$5,000-a-year girl while a 1,000-a-year man may get a girl who can live on it.

Things We thought

It's about time to get our reforms into some kind of form.

To do something worth while is often the cheapest kind of pleasure.

It is well to set your ambitions high but don't set them so high that there seems no possibility of realizing them. Your best efforts will be put forth in attaining a goal that is near enough to give you hope of reaching it.

Advertisement No. 2.

THIS AD. IS FOR THE ATTENTION ONLY OF THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN A BIGGER, BETTER, BUSSIER COTTAGE GROVE.

Perhaps you were born in Cottage Grove or have spent most of your life here.

Perhaps you have been a resident here only a short time.

But it makes no difference.

You are proud of the city that is your home.

You want to see the city progress. You want to see it develop more and more into a live wire community. You want to see it recognized all over the state as a city that does things. You are deeply interested in its civic welfare. You have given and are continuing to give public improvements your earnest and hearty support.

You will probably acknowledge that nothing will aid you in your efforts for a bigger, better and bussier Cottage Grove as much as a live, up-to-date newspaper in sympathy with such a movement. Without such a paper such a city is nearly impossible.

The Sentinel has worked week in and week out for real, practical progress. Every proposed civic improvement has had not only its approval but its support and all this time it has been getting out a paper that has advertised Cottage Grove to the world as a live wire community.

We are going to continue to do things, but the greater the moral and material support The Sentinel receives the greater will be its power to work for these things which every citizen wants. The greater the support given it the better the advertisement it will be for the community.

Some folks don't think of the proposition in this way and it is for them particularly that this ad. is written.

We want your support—and it is necessary that we have it to carry out the many plans we have in mind for the up-building of the Head of the Famous, Fertile, Fruitful Willamette Valley.

A live wire paper is only possible through live wire support

Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Live Wire Newspaper

It is well to keep your shoulders back and your head erect—but don't carry it so high in the air that you can't see your neighbors—just carry it high enough to overlook their faults.

good to eat. Limburger is to have serious competition.

There are about 70,000 more people in the employ of the government than there were last year. That's where some of the increased number of optimists come from.

The professor of an Illinois college says that the much maligned skunk is

LURCH'S

Ladies', Misses' and Children's
COATS
for Fall and Winter have arrived
Call and see them
A large assortment of all
the newest styles

LURCH'S

Everything you can mention is in The Sentinel.

Are You 65 or Over?

If you are, THE SENTINEL wants your picture for its gallery of pioneers and elderly residents of the Cottage Grove country.

This invitation does not apply to those whose pictures are already in our gallery, but to those who have not thus favored us, we make the following proposition. Go to Armstrong's Studio and have your picture taken at our expense. We will give you one picture free for your trouble. This offer will only be open for a short time.

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The Live Wire Newspaper

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