

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

AND COTTAGE GROVE LEADER

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER WITH PLENTY OF BACKBONE

ALBERT BEDE, Publisher and Proprietor

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

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MEMBER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER WILLAMETTE VALLEY EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBER OREGON STATE EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

BEYOND.

Oh, ye lost ones, ye depart, who have passed that silent shore,
Though we call you through the sunset ye return to us no more.
Have ye found the blessed islands where earth's toils and sorrows cease?
Do ye wear the sacred lotus, have ye entered into peace?

Do ye hear us when we call you, do ye heed the tears we shed,—
Oh, beloved! oh, immortal! oh, ye dead who are not dead!
Speak to us across the darkness, wave to us a glimmering hand,
Tell us but that ye remember, dwellers in that silent land!

—ANONYMOUS.

We wish one and all a Happy New Year. May prosperity and plenty attend you.

The Portland Spectator got out a dandy annual issue that was a credit to even that regularly out-of-the-ordinary magazine.

The Oregon Labor Press and the Portland Telegram haven't had the courage to let a yip out of them in reply to The Sentinel's editorials.

"OREJONES."

A writer in The Oregonian suggested that the word "Oregon" may have been derived from the word "orejones" used by the Spaniards who settled in the mountainous regions of western South America in the sixteenth century. The writer explains that both "j" and "g" have the same sound in Spanish (that of "h") and for that reason the "g" may have been placed in place of the "j", giving the word "oregones." We believe the writer is mistaken in the sound of a "g" before an "o." Therefore the error spoken of could not have been made. "Orejones" refers in a general manner to long-eared animals. There may be a few people who are willing to be referred to in that manner, but not enough to populate the state.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH OREGON?

A. E. SPENCE, whom we take to be the same Spence who associated himself several times with the odorous U'Ren in the preparation of freak legislation, has the following to say in a recent issue of the Oregon City Enterprise:

THE OREGON State Press Association is giving the State a deal of publicity which undoubtedly does more to drive away capital than do the so-called experimental laws so strenuously condemned by that organization. The statements made seem to have come from one source and to be the official ritualistic program of some authority and all run about as follows: "Capital is afraid to come to a state that is the hotbed where experimental legislation is propagated and tried out; capital is afraid of a state that is every other year giving many thousand votes to experimental tax laws; capital can secure better protection and safer investment elsewhere;" etc., etc., etc.

"It may be possible that the world has come to the present stage of 'perfection' without agitation and experimentation and it may be true that the advertisement given the State by the publication of such statements as quoted above will have good effect and are made in good faith, but when they are harped upon by those who have in the past opposed all progressive legislation, they should not be permitted to go unchallenged lest, because of constant repetition, they be accepted as true.

"In order to clear the matter up, why not publish a list of all the laws enacted in the state that render the investment of capital more unsafe than in other states."

THE QUOTATION which Mr. Spence uses is from an address delivered at Oregon City two years ago by the editor of The Sentinel and was not referred to in any way in the resolution recently adopted by the Oregon State Editorial Association.

At the recent meeting of the editorial association the Governor of Oregon made the following remarks:

"I am absolutely opposed to prostrating ourselves in any way in inducing investors to come here, and I am and always shall be against anything even approaching the extension of special privileges, but on the other hand I do believe that today it is absolutely imperative that Oregon build up a reputation of offering real inducements and safety and square dealing to those investors who can be induced to place their money here. In California I met eastern men of large means. More than one said to me in effect that Oregon's reputation so far as its treatment of capital was concerned, was not considered very inviting."

It was this sentiment expressed by Governor Withycombe that the editors endorsed, and it was very emphatically stated that the object of the resolution was to combat the unpleasant reputation Oregon has gained as to its treatment of capital. Only one voice was raised against the resolution and that was only because of fear that the resolution might be misunderstood. None of the editors who voted for the resolution are offering any apologies. They as much as gave notice that the days of dangerous freak legislation are over and that those laws that are keeping capital out of the State are going to have their poison fangs removed and their teeth extracted.

Such notice on the part of the editors, the greatest force for good in the state, will surely prove encouraging to capital.

Mr. Spence asks the editors to specify the laws that are hurting the State. Not having the time to go through the three big volumes of Lord's Oregon laws, and not being willing to devote our entire paper to a discussion of this subject, we will name only a few. First and foremost comes the initiative, which, in the form in which it was adopted in Oregon, with its unlimited and unguarded power, is the most dangerous—not because of what it is within itself but because of what it leads to.

That may seem to Mr. Spence a courageous statement to make concerning a law adopted for the express purpose of putting the power of government into the hands of the people and to overcome graft and corruption, but we believe we are perfectly able to defend our position, and we will proceed to do so.

In Oregon the initiative and referendum were not adopted in their pure forms. Intended originally merely as clubs over the law-making bodies, in Oregon the initiative is a method of general legislation and the ease with which the referendum may be invoked put Oregon for several years in the position of being opposed to higher education.

Surely capital is not attracted to a state that poses as opposed to education. The stench of the university appropriation referendum is not out of our nostrils, but, thanks to the newspapers and others of high ideals, the State now ranks high in its support of education.

The initiative was to give rule by the majority. How does it work out? Only five per cent of the voters are required to sign the petitions to place a measure on the ballot. Under the petition-hawking method that this developed, probably about five per cent or less of those signing petitions knew what the effect of the measure would be that they were asking to have placed on the ballot. So about a quarter of one per cent of the voters knew what they were placing on the ballot. That's not getting popular government by very rapid strides.

With this small numbers of voters able to place measures on the ballot, the number and character of measures submitted has been appalling. Those asked to enact or reject those measures have not had the time to study them, and even if they had, would not have understood what their probable results would be. Voting became mere guess work—and guess work is dangerous when drastic laws affecting industry and capital are up for consideration.

We'll venture the prediction that we could pick five measures from the most recent initiative ballot and that not ten per cent of the electors who voted upon these measures could give an intelligible opinion of what their effect would be. Is that an inviting condition for capital?

Look at the recent ballot. Take the \$1500 tax exemption (concealed single tax), proportional, graduated or progressive taxation (whatever that may be), two tax amendments to allow taxation of incomes (particularly attractive to capital), sur-tax amendment (evidently women not included), a tax on all land not public property (would include churches, etc.), amendment for proportional representation (a freak of the freaks), amendment to revoke franchises of Portland Gas and Coke Co. (surely capital would like to come to a state where charters once granted may be revoked in this high-handed manner), universal eight-hour day amendment (would have created absolute chaos in all industry), special tax for employment of unemployed (surely capital is anxious to come to a state where industry is discouraged and a premium is paid upon shiftlessness), amendment to take over the channels of rivers (surely capital would appreciate investing in industries along river banks and be placed at the mercy of those who would confiscate property).

A free-for-all initiative made it possible for a fraction of one per cent of the voters of the State, with the aid of others who signed petitions merely because asked to do so, to put these drastic, dangerous, confiscating, freak, experimental measures on the ballot.

And then the largest proportion of the electors who voted upon them did so by guess and by gum.

And everyone of these measures, several of which might have created chaos, got many thousands of favorable votes. Capital is suspicious that, in a state where such measures can get upon the ballot and get thousands of votes, some day some of them may become law.

The editors of the state have served notice that such a thing can never happen.

They kept it from happening at the last election. They are going to keep it from happening at any other election.

Through the many thousand votes given every year to single tax and other freak tax laws, Oregon has got the reputation of being a strong single tax state.

That is another attractive invitation to capital!

The proposed laws we have mentioned have put capital and industry on the defensive. Capital prefers to go to states that offer legitimate protection and encouragement.

These are things which capital merely fears, but which haven't happened, and are not going to happen. Let's take something real.

Take the minimum wage law. A fine law theoretically and from a moral standpoint, but capital does not come to a state where wages are arbitrarily fixed by law, to compete with industries in the states where conditions of labor are theoretically less ideal but where the cost of production is so much cheaper that the outsider can undersell the Oregon manufacturer in his own territory. This would be an ideal law if applied to all states in the union, thus giving other states no advantage over Oregon.

Take the law that prohibits women from working after 6 p. m. A woman may be willing and anxious to earn a little overtime and would be in no way injured, the employer may need to have her work a little overtime, but the law prohibits. If a girl didn't start to work until 5 o'clock, the law would not allow her to work over one hour that day. She couldn't be employed to work after 6 o'clock under any circumstances. Certain exceptions are made but Cottage Grove business houses were up against it when it came to keeping stores open Christmas week. Capital must be just asking to come to a state where it has little to say about running its own business and where a commission has power to throw other barbed wire entanglements about it.

Let's not forget our mortgage tax law. Money owned outside the state and invested here doesn't pay this tax, so why should we expect it to come here.

This mortgage tax law has a still more baneful effect. The man who borrows the money pays the tax, which results in an interest rate so high that it discourages anyone from borrowing money to build up industry.

Taxing banks at 100 cents on the dollar (which does not include federal tax), is another paternal way we have of inviting capital here.

We might get more people into the state right at present if we didn't make these things so public, but the press of Oregon does not believe in this underhanded business. Those gotten here under false pretenses will

hurt us more than had we never gotten them. Besides, the only way to cure evils is through publicity that will create an irresistible demand for their repeal. The press of the state is giving that publicity.

The Sentinel wishes to make it emphatic that it believes many of these so-called freak laws would be of great benefit if national laws, and none would do great harm. It is only because they place industry in Oregon at such a disadvantage with the industries of other states that they have been made the object of such bitter attack by the editors of the state.

As Mr. Spence quoted from an address delivered by the editor of The Sentinel, we wish to quote further from the same address, in order to explain more fully our position:

"I am not afraid to try a thing merely because no one else has tried it. I am not afraid of experimental legislation merely because it is experimental—but I do try to learn by experience, and my experience teaches me that this experimental reform movement is getting much like the story of the little boy who wanted to know where eggs came from. 'Why, my boy,' his dad replied, 'eggs come from hens.' 'Well, then, where do hens come from?' 'Why, my boy, hens come from eggs.' 'Well, dad,' the boy asked, 'who started the game anyway?'"

"In this reform movement one thing has led so rapidly to another and back again that pretty soon no one will know where it started or be able to guess where it is going to end."

"Whatever may be your and my individual opinions regarding their underlying principles, however stubbornly we might oppose a return to former conditions, we are compelled to admit that everyone of these reforms has led to something we didn't anticipate; everyone has brought its own problems, some of the latter being more serious than the ills that were cured."

"These reforms have come about largely through the protest of the press against corrupt political conditions, and the press should have due credit therefore, but my point is this: If the press takes credit for bringing these reforms to pass, it must at the same time assume a responsibility for the new problems created by them and it is the duty of the press to see that mistakes are corrected and abuses overcome. I call upon the press of Oregon to assume that responsibility and to perform that duty."

"If the press had been quicker to act before, conditions would never have become as unbearable as there were. Let them not again become unbearable for a like reason."

"I believe that some of the measures that have become law since this experimental reform movement started may be necessary to our welfare and prosperity, but if study of the situation leads me to believe that because of certain of our laws our old State is lagging behind its neighbors in industrial, agricultural and business development, I would consider myself a hypocrite did I hesitate to attempt to correct the evil."

If Mr. Spence is not yet convinced that the editors are right in their position, The Sentinel is ready to name an industry, probably the largest of its kind in the state, one that has had a large part in the development of agricultural Oregon, that is ready to quit simply because of the fool and freakish laws with which it is hedged about—and this isn't the only one by any means.

Better get on the band wagon with

the Governor and the editors, Mr. Spence, and help spread the good news that, while we have absolutely no special privileges to offer to capital, yet we guarantee it full protection in legitimate enterprise.

It won't take long to give Oregon a different kind of reputation than the one it now disjoys.

Things We Think

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

Pretty soon it will be easier to keep track of auto owners by listing those who don't own any.

The unluckiest persons are those who imagine they are born that way and give up to their supposed hoodoo.

The man who put the pain in campaign must have been a candidate a few times.

Exercise is supposed to strengthen the different parts of the body but we really believe that the strongest-minded woman we ever saw didn't exercise it three minutes a day.

A Mormon apostle says he has received a divine command not to do any more work for a couple years. The divine command probably did not contain any instructions that would prevent him from letting his wives do the work.

Women want the ballot so that they can help their husbands win.

We hurray for the constitution until we find it does something we think it should not do, or doesn't do something we think it should do.

Some male devils desert angels of wives while other husbands live apparently contentedly with wives that would drive Satan out of purgatory. Quite often friendship ceases at the hymenal altar.

Any old girl is pretty when all dolled up—the test of her sweetness and beauty is how she looks in a gingham dress about the house—and don't forget that that's the way you have got to take her most of the time after the wedding.

Industry may not be its own reward but intelligent effort is always well rewarded.

Anyway, when a woman brags of making a fool of a man, it is acknowledgment that he wasn't one to start with.

A clever woman, who gets a mediocre husband, has the sympathy of all the gossips. Why is it that they overlook the clever man who marries a silly woman. Perhaps it is because the latter is so common as to attract little notice. The really successful boss is the one whose orders and instructions given in a quiet tone of voice are quickly obeyed.

The successful candidate is quite often a failure.

CRISIS DRAWS NEAR ON SOUTHERN FRONT

Central Powers Are Preparing Huge Army for Operations Against the Allies.

London.—Dispatches from the Balkan front say Greek observers believe the central powers are preparing a huge army for operations directed against the entente. Whether this will take the form of an actual attack on Saloniki, or merely an advance into Greece for the purpose of seizing strategic defensive points is a matter of keen speculation in Athens.

According to one correspondent the Greek government has definitely decided to permit the enemies of the entente to penetrate Greek territory unless the central powers satisfactorily guarantee that Greek territory will not be endangered.

According to dispatches from a Serbian source, the Germans have established a provisional government at Nish, withdrawing all the Bulgarian and Austrian troops and ending Bulgarian-Austrian interference in the administration of Serbian affairs. It is added that proclamations have been issued announcing that the Germans "will respect Serbian nationality."

The Montenegrin official communication states that the Austrians are entrenching on a front between Montenegro and Serbia, which British observers take to mean a pause in the active Austrian campaign against the little mountain country, presumably to enable the Austrian forces to be turned to more pressing matters on other fronts.

ILLNESS CAUSE OF FORD'S DEPARTURE

Stockholm, via London.—On account of his serious illness, Henry Ford has been compelled to abandon his trip. The remaining members of the expedition will continue on to Copenhagen and The Hague with the idea of carrying out Mr. Ford's original plan for a permanent arbitration board.

Mr. Ford's leaving the party on account of illness is regarded as a serious handicap.

Rev. Mr. Aker, Judge Lindsey and others have explained that it was imperative that the expedition should proceed to The Hague to carry out the original plan as far as possible.

Governor Hanna, of North Dakota, quit the expedition in a rage because he alleged that his informal calls on Norwegian officials were misrepresented as connected with peace propaganda, thus placing him in an embarrassing position.

QUICK ACTION IS WANTED

Wilson Wants Congress to Concentrate on Defense Program.

Hot Springs, Va.—Congress will be urged by President Wilson to concentrate its attention on the administration's national defense program immediately after the Christmas holidays. It was learned here that while the president has no desire to see the preparedness plans rushed through without full consideration and debate, he strongly desires to have the army and navy bills disposed of as promptly as possible.

He not only believes it essential to put the war and navy departments in a position to begin work on their new programs without delay, but wants the congressional calendars cleared for general legislation later in the winter.

The president celebrated his 59th birthday Tuesday.

ASSASSINATION IS MYSTERY

Chinese Banquet Victim's Views on Subject of Monarchy Not Clear.

San Francisco.—The assassination at a Christmas banquet of Wong Kuen Yung, former editor of the Asiatic News, a prominent monarchical publication of Shanghai, China, remained a mystery.

Wong, who was said to be a cousin of Yuan Shi Kai, head of the Chinese government, had kept his mission to the United States secret, and it was not known whether his sympathies were for or against the re-establishment of China as a monarchy.

It was learned that Wong, when questioned recently regarding his attitude, replied:

"I cannot say that I am in favor of all the actions of Yuan Shi Kai."

Pittsburg Millionaire Pays Losses.

Pittsburg.—Joy prevailed in the hearts of Pittsburg's school children as a result of the announcement by H. C. Frick, millionaire coal magnate, that he would pay in full as a Christmas gift all the accounts of the 41,000 children depositors in the Pittsburg Bank for savings which was closed here last week.

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