

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

AND COTTAGE GROVE LEADER

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER WITH PLENTY OF BACKBONE

ELBERT BEDE AND ELBERT SMITH. PUBLISHERS
ELBERT BEDE. EDITOR

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MEMBER WILLAMETTE VALLEY EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
MEMBER OREGON STATE EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1916

Spencer should have at least 90 per cent of the vote of the Cottage Grove country for county commissioner—and he may need it.

Cottage Grove people will vote for Burton, a Cottage Grove man, for assessor, besides he promises a reduction of \$10,000 in four years in the expenses of the office.

WHOSE OX IS GORED?

ALTHOUGH our sympathies are with Eugene, it is somewhat amusing to see the fuss the county seat is making because Portland wishes to remove some of the departments of the University to the metropolis.

Eugene people and papers talk of the Portland "hog" with a zest and gusto that reminds Cottage Grove people of the times it has been treated by the Eugene "hog" in just the same manner that the Portland "hog" is now treating Eugene.

Of course, when Eugene put up just as plausible reasons for its conduct as Portland is now putting up for its conduct, Eugene did not consider itself a hog. The county seat considered its actions as those of an altruist sacrificing its own interests for the good of those who thought they wanted something which it would be unwise for them to have.

The relation of Eugene to the county is the same as the relation of Portland to the state. Eugene treats the county in the same paternalistic and patronizing manner that Portland treats the state. It hogs things in the county as Portland does in the state. If the positions of Eugene and Portland were reversed, Eugene would then treat Portland as Portland is now treating Eugene.

It is amusing to see how Eugene hollers when it is treated by a larger city as it has treated the smaller communities of the county.

But if Cottage Grove should become the largest city in the county you may pretty near bet Eugene would get her come-uppings.

It makes a whole lot of difference whose ox is gored.

The tax eaters who have been squandering the people's money should be all cleaned out on May 19.

Vote for Jennings (rep.) for county clerk as a protest against gross extravagance and inefficiency.

ANOTHER WAY TO CUT TAXES.

IN THE attempt to reduce taxes, it is just as important to increase the taxable property as it is to reduce the levy on the property we already have.

There would not be no much kicking about taxes if everyone had plenty of money, so the development of pay rolls is highly desirable in order to give people money with which to pay the taxes, be they high or low.

The principal industry of a large part of Oregon is lumbering. The greatest pay rolls of the state are in the lumbering industry.

Therefore, to increase taxable property and to increase pay rolls, Oregon

500 ACRE TRACT

nine miles from Cottage Grove, farm land and timber; ten million feet of timber; well watered and on good road; \$20 per acre; will furnish buyer for timber at \$5,000. Veatch & Spencer. jn22jl12

Good Thing for Speculation

Thirty-four acres of fine land on good improved road, within one-third mile of city limits of Cottage Grove. Terms can be had. Call at this office. wis-jly27tfc

NEW 7 ROOM BUNGALOW

Two large lots, close to school and pavement, at a bargain if taken soon. Terms if desired. A. I. Woodard, owner. jly27tfc.

THINGS WE THINK

Things Others Think and What We Think of the Things Others Think

all have just as much curiosity as we have.

The person who can hear his name mentioned by two persons talking in low tones and still have no curiosity as to what the conversation is about, is too everlastingly complacent to be worth a whoop.

It's funny that the bar associations haven't attracted suspicion in the dry states.

It may have been the high cost of living that drove the prodigal son home.

An invitation to come again may sometimes be a hint not to make the present visit an endless one.

There is more real pleasure in getting \$2.00 that you do not expect than in getting many times that amount that you have labored faithfully for.

The man who knows himself must smile over the way he has fooled those who compliment him, but the pleasure may be marred by wondering whether the compliment was a deliberate lie.

What puzzles a woman whose experience with a bank account has been brief is why they show her balance in red figures oftener than in black.

Poker is really not a game of chance. There's no chance to be a winner if you stick to it.

Some of the base ball players must envy Celebra cut its wonderful slides.

What puzzles us is how a king with a harem full of wives can be called a potentate.

If The Hague peace palace had the power of speech, it would probably say that it feels almost like a buttinsky.

Mexico doesn't like American music—probably because it sounds as if it was meant to march to.

It is said that a stingless honey bee has been developed. We hope this is one time we're not stung.

There are a lot of people who auto to do things but the self starter isn't working.

Your relatives don't show so much interest in you if they are richer than you are.

A lot of folks who expect to wear white wings in the hereafter will find them made of asbestos.

If civil service could only be applied to the servant problem.

We will probably all have automobiles when we ascend to heaven on high. The underground route in becoming a popular way to get away from trouble. Anyone can run an experiment farm with a paternal government paying the expenses, but it takes a real farmer to work off a mortgage.

All wives know their husbands are not as mean and ornery as they think they are.

You never realize how many things a wife will forgive a hubby who loves her until you try it awhile.

The ways to make money are unlimited and there are exactly three times as many ways of getting rid of it.

An heiress and a hairless title sometimes go together.

A census of the financial condition of the newspapers of the country shows no change.

The block system, when applied to legislature, is sometimes a dangerous one.

Now a heartless government threatens to use the reports to Dun's and Bradstreet's as a basis for levying the income tax.

Sermons in stones are the only kind that make any impression on some thick-skulled people.

The editor who is serving his sixth term for libel is a man of convictions. Women become politicians and grafters.

The man with lots of brass seems to get hold of much of the silver and gold also.

Many would rather be right than president, but there are few who will stand out for the right very long when the wife has the other end of the argument.

The republicans are glad enough to welcome the progressives back into the party but they don't want to kill the fatted calf.

MOST IMPORTANT BILL NOW BEFORE CONGRESS

How Water Power Legislation Will Build Up the West.

By HENRY L. MYERS,

United States Senator From Montana.

In my opinion the bill now before congress for leasing power sites on the public lands is more important and fraught with more possibilities of good, more benefit to our country, than any other piece of legislation which will be considered at this session of congress. This bill proposes to make available for development and use the cheapest source of electricity—water power. It offers a new hope of wonderful development and marvelous possibilities for new industries to the great west.

The water powers of that part of the country are among its greatest resources, and to the present time they have been almost wholly neglected. We have stopped developing water powers because the laws have not been adapted to their development. The proposed legislation will encourage water power development, offering reasonable terms and conditions to investors, while it fully protects the public rights in this national asset. It opens the door to development on fair terms to investor and consumer alike and puts up the bars against speculation in or exploitation of the public need for individual or corporate greed.

A few of the uses to which electrical power has been put successfully in recent years and will be applied more successfully in the next few years to come are:

Cheap electricity for fuel and power, light and heat in the cities and on the farms.

Reclamation by irrigation of vast areas of land now idle and useless.

Establishment of new industries, around which will grow new towns and cities, creating employment for hundreds of thousands of people and new markets for agricultural products. New steel and iron industries in new sections.

Cheapened production of metal from low grade ores.

Cheaper agricultural fertilizers and consequent larger agricultural crops.

One of the greatest benefits which will arise in the west from this legislation is the irrigation of arid lands which are not now susceptible to irrigation by the gravity system. It is estimated that there are at least 10,000,000 acres of arid lands located in the far western states lying above the reach of gravity water that can only be reclaimed through water raised by pumps operated by cheap hydroelectric power now latent and wasting in the various streams from which the water would be pumped. In other words, we can make the water pump itself on to the land. Given water, these lands will produce every fruit, vegetable and grain that is native to the temperate zone and are capable of supporting a population of 2,000,000 people.

With a bill of this kind enacted into law and in successful operation I believe capital will become interested to such a degree in water power development and power will be produced so cheaply that there will be no excuse for a single quarter section of land in the western states remaining arid and unproductive. Statesmen, economists and theorists have long sought a way for reducing high cost of living. In this legislation I believe lies a direct road to this end.

I am assured that capital is waiting only for fair legislation of the kind contained in this bill to invest in great water power development that will accomplish all the benefits to which I have referred. The establishment of electrochemical plants for the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen located in these western states, where there are mountains of lime, phosphates and other minerals and ores awaiting cheap power for their manufacture into useful products, means among other things cheaper fertilizer for the whole country.

Here is the opportunity for the farmers of the United States to have put into their hands the greatest possible agency of restoring the fertility of their lands, increasing their crops and making this country the storehouse of the world for agricultural products.

Legislation of this character will enable both the government and individuals to engage in the business of the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen. This will not only aid in the production of fertilizers, but it may be utilized by the government in the manufacture of munitions of war. Now we are dependent for our nitric acid, an essential in explosives, upon the nitrate of soda we get from Chile. If by war or any other cause we should be cut off from this source of supply the United States would have no way of obtaining at short notice the materials of which to make gunpowder. Imagine the near-sightedness of such a situation brought about by our neglect of our water powers and our failure to encourage the great electrochemical industries which other nations have created to furnish them with this highly necessary munition of defense.

This message is not only a development measure and a conservation measure in the true sense of these words, but it is a highly important part of the preparedness program which should be adopted by congress for the purpose of putting this country in a position to defend itself against possible invasion by a foreign foe.

COUNTY CLERK IS CHOLERIC

(Continued from page 2)

himself absolutely incompetent, shifted all responsibility onto the head deputy of each department and himself attempted to transact none of the business of the office. Mr. Russell couldn't wait on one customer in one room without calling a deputy.]

"Since the comparative statement given above shows that Mr. Bede has either through misinformation or malicious intent unjustly attacked my administration of this office, perhaps the truthful details and a consideration of his first attack will make plain the motive which actuated him.

"The county court, as is usual, in January of this year, proceeded to name the official papers of the county and Mr. Bede's paper, The Sentinel, was chosen as one of them—not from the fact that it had the second largest circulation in the county, but for the reason that the county court refused to consider, on account of the technical omission of one of the law requirements, the evidence of circulation as presented by The Guard Publishing Company, which really had the second largest circulation in the county.

[Editorial Note.—The "technical omission" on the part of the Guard was to omit to submit any proof of its circulation.]

"At the time these publications, The Register and The Sentinel, were chosen as official papers, the county court fixed a rate of 30 cents per inch as the price it would pay for the publication of what has always been published, the delinquent taxes and the list of claims allowed by the court monthly. Until July, 1911, the rate paid for this same was 25 cents per inch, but for some reason unknown to me, this price was raised to 40 cents per inch, and has remained at that rate until lowered to 30 cents by the present county court in an effort to lower the cost of publishing these claims and lists to a sum equal to that paid by other counties.

[Editorial Note.—Lane county is not now paying 30 cents an inch for the official printing and has never paid either 40 cents or 25 cents an inch for official printing, which again shows that Mr. Russell knows almost nothing about the duties of his office. The rate paid Lane county's official papers is lower by 40 per cent than that paid in several other counties. Why not tell the whole truth? The newspapers have accepted a cut of 25 per cent in the price of county printing and yet the first price was not nearly as much out of proportion as paying \$2000 a year for a clerk that does nothing. The cost of county printing was not nearly as much out of proportion as the other expenses of the county. When is the clerk willing to cut his exorbitant salary and his exorbitant expenses 25 per cent? Speak up, Mr. Russell.]

"This so incensed the official papers that they immediately demanded of me, as county clerk, a full copy of the proceedings of the commissioners' court as entered of record. Acting on the advice of the district attorney, and in an effort to co-operate with the county court in this saving, I refused to comply with the demand. Mr. Bede then brought mandamus proceedings against me to compel me to furnish this copy and the decision in the case has not, at this date, been made. Mr. Bede, not being satisfied to await the decision of the court on this matter, then made his attack on the conduct of this office and myself, under the guise of being solicitous of the expenditure of the public funds.

"How very consistent is his argument when you consider that he is trying, under a law passed 25 years ago, to compel the county court to pay his own and the other official paper, hundreds of dollars per year for a more than useless expenditure.

[Editorial Note.—If Mr. Russell wishes to be treated fairly, he should confine himself to the truth. Mr. Russell's action in refusing the copy asked for has not been made the subject of our attacks and Mr. Russell knows that such action did not lead to such attacks. It was his absolute refusal to let but two print shops bid on the county ballots, and the fact that these were told to "get together" that opened our eyes to the bold extravagance in county office. If all other business is handled in a like manner how many thousands of dollars must be wasted annually. Lawyers were put to work on this case a month before the attack on extravagance began, and Mr. Russell knows it. He further knows that the writer personally notified Mr. Russell, even before The Sentinel was named an official paper, that a demand would be made for the publication of the commissioners' proceedings, as is done in other counties. Why not tell the truth? The proceedings which the official papers of Lane county want to print are those in which the taxpayers have a vital interest, and which will show some of the jobs put up on the county. Why is Mr. Russell so anxious that they shall not be printed? The publication of the proceedings which the official papers ask for would put the spotlight on the manner in which county business is conducted and would probably result in much greater savings to the county than the small cost of publication. Why does Mr. Russell object to putting the spotlight on county affairs? Since Mr. Russell's letter was written the court has decided for Mr. Russell. The court is not certain as to what the law contemplates, yet the proceedings which Lane county's official papers ask for are published in many other counties under this same law.]

"Regarding the letting of the contract for the printing of the election ballots, I will say that I accepted the recommendation of the taxpayers' com-

mittee and allowed the county court to let the contract for this job but being responsible for the accuracy of the ballot, I informed the court that if they let the contract to others than those I knew could handle the work in the short time allowed by law, I would request that they require a bond from these firms, so that if they fell down on the job, and it would be necessary to have other shops help finish the work, the county would be protected financially and also that they pay the expense of a representative of this office to check the accuracy of the work. The court evidently did not think it feasible to allow the work to go elsewhere and let the contract on bids submitted to them several days later and of which I knew nothing until so informed.

[Editorial Note.—W. A. Dill, of the Springfield News, tells an entirely different story. He said that Mr. Russell's deputy told the court that none but two Eugene shops could be considered. The Sentinel offered to put up a sufficient bond to protect the county, but the clerk refused to consider The Sentinel. Does the clerk mean to infer that the taxpayers' idea of getting bids is to tell two shops to "get together?" A print shop that can't get out a job of county ballots without a deputy to supervise the work isn't qualified to do the job at all. However, the saving The Sentinel would have made would have paid a deputy's expenses to come here and his salary for two months.]

"Regarding the price to be paid, I do not know, but doubt Mr. Bede's statement that he would have done the work at a less price when I learn that he charged the county assessor \$15.34 for a small job that was done by the Springfield News for \$11.00—one job being a duplicate of the other and the bill rendered three days later.

"Possibly this partially explains Mr. Bede's claim of a 370 per cent increase of expenses during the past eight years.

[Editorial Note.—If the county paid The Sentinel \$4.34 more than it could get the same job done for elsewhere, and the job wasn't worth more than the lower price, it's time we put some business men into the court house. If \$15.34 was \$4.34 more than the job was worth, Mr. Russell, if an efficient officer, would have demanded that the bill be cut down. At any rate the price made by The Sentinel was the same that it regularly charges private individuals. But why does the county clerk refer to this one job? Why not refer to other jobs where The Sentinel's price has been lower than that paid other shops? And why in the name of common sense does the county habitually pay Eugene printers from 25 to 100 per cent more than the Springfield News or some other newspaper would charge for the same job? Why is it that no print shop in the county outside of Eugene has had a chance to bid on any job printing this year? Are all those who bid on printing of any kind for the county told to "get together?" Why not refer to the statement of the tax league which shows that the county clerk pays from 15 to 100 per cent too much for all his printing. In this list of overcharges there appears one job which seems to be smaller than the one done by The Sentinel for \$15.34, and the price paid for this to a Eugene printer was \$27.50. There are a lot of other such discrepancies which cause taxpayers to think things that it would not be pleasant to mention.

"Yours respectfully,
STACY M. RUSSELL,
County Clerk."

[Mr. Russell is hurt because other offices aren't given as much attention as his. If he'll quit writing letters, we'll give more attention to the other offices.]

PHOTO PLAY NOTES

Cast of "The Plunderer" in Support of William Farnum Is Powerful One.

The cast engaged to support William Farnum in the William Fox production of "The Plunderer," a screen version of Roy Norton's best known and most successful novel, is an unusually powerful one even for a William Fox photo play. Harry Spingler, the most popular juvenile man in America, plays opposite to Mr. Farnum in the striking and sympathetic part of Dick Townsend. Mr. Spingler brings to this role all the skill and finesse that have made him such a warm favorite in other Fox presentations. As Bully Presby, William Riley Hatch, formerly William Gillette's leading man, has a part which brings out all this well-known actor's great talent. He gives a splendid portrayal of Presby, the best feared and hated man in Goldpan. The dainty and charming leading woman, Claire Whitney, who appeared with Mr. Farnum in "The New Governor," based on "The Nigger," gives a delightful sketch of the captivating Joan Presby, the Bully's daughter, and Elizabeth Eyre is an impressive and beautiful picture as Lady Meredith, "The Lily" of the rough mining camp. W. J. Gross succeeds in making the old engineer of the Golden Cross mine a tremendously sympathetic and moving character. It is a splendid bit of acting by one of Broadway's best known character stars.

Geo. De Carlton, another William Fox favorite, formerly leading man with Henry Miller and other famous dramatic luminaries, distinguishes himself by the fine way in which he has caught the spirit of the part of the important role of Dave Thompson. Henry Armetta, a distinguished Spanish actor, does a telling bit of characterization as Pedro, a "greaser" of villainous traits. This great play will be at the Aronde Saturday only.