

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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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1917

UNDER THE BIG DOME AT SALEM

By ELBERT BEDE.
State Capitol, Salem, Ore., Jan. 16.—(Special to The Sentinel.)—For one who has an inclination to study human nature, to enjoy the humorous, philosophize upon the frailties and foibles of mankind, and who cannot view the tragedies of life without emotion, a few days at the opening of a session of the legislature are full of interest.

It is needless to say that the farmer in high boots, with cornstarch whiskers outside and cornjuice whiskey inside and who was sped Salemward with many misgivings on the part of friend wife at home, gets no further than the cartoons of the daily papers. He is a myth pure and simple.

The members of the two houses are as a whole intelligent and capable. A large number are making serious sacrifices of time in order to serve the people but most of these find some irresistible attraction about the game that seems to satisfy.

One of the most amusing things I have noticed was the visit of some upstate constituent who entered one of the chambers with a certain awe-inspired trembling. Evidently he was expecting to find that by some subtle and inexplicable influence Honorable Bill Jones has been transformed into a great statesman, that his voice was the one to whom all others looked for guidance. Evidently he expected to find the Roman Antony put to shame and expected to be the cynosure of all eyes when the Honorable Bill descended from his pedestal of fame and glory to grasp the hand of his constituent. Evidently the surprise of said constituent was great to find that the Honorable Bill had not yet ascended any pedestals of fame and glory, that his voice had not yet been raised for any other purpose than to answer the roll, that the reputation of Mark Antony was not endangered. Probably the greatest surprise was when the Honorable Bill grasped his hand as if it was an unexpected pleasure to find someone who was not lacking in appreciation of said Honorable Bill's superior qualifications as a tribune of the people.

In my capacity as an editor I have often been put to it to find some excuse why I could not give my support to candidates for this or that honor. I have often regretted that there were not offices enough for all those who desired them. It has been painful sometimes to inform a candidate for the legislature, or for governor, or for county office, or for the supreme court, or for constable, that my support had already been promised. I often regretted that I had to disappoint many friends.

But the newspaperman who thinks he has been pestered by candidates for public office should be at the capitol at the opening of a session of the legislature. Stenographers, typewriters and clerks, male and female, good and bad, competent and incompetent, good looking and otherwise, descend upon Salem in an army, swarm through the capitol and into the legislative halls. Contests for speakerships and chairmanships of important committees pale into insignificance. The preliminary campaign for several of the positions is as keen as that for the speakership or presidency and quite frequently support for one of these offices is traded for support for some clerkship.

The pleas for positions, made with both voice and eyes, are many of them ingenious, and many of the candidates are worthy and competent, but regrettable as it may seem, a large proportion of the applicants have little regard for the service they may render the state. They merely wish to be attached to the pay roll. Often the incompetents have the stronger pull and get placed while more competent ones must go home downhearted.

But the work of the clerks and stenographers must be done and when the pay roll is loaded with incompetents, others must be employed to do the work and that is why the charge has been so frequently made that committees have been overloaded with clerks and stenographers. One committee is this year working with half the clerks and typewriters of last session. It developed that three or four on this commit-

tee two years ago did not do a day's work during the entire session.

But what is the poor legislator to do? Perhaps he is a new man on the job. He knows nothing about the number of clerks required. He finds that a certain number were on that committee two years before. He presumes that many will be needed this year. The applicants know that all the legislator has to do is to say yes, and \$5.00 a day is theirs. Sweet voices and soft eyes plead, the legislator is but human, the applicant has many friends who vote—the job is hers.

The cut in clerks this year was only made because old members happen to be chairmen of the committees which employ the larger number of clerks and they also happen to be members who honestly believe in economy which does not impair efficiency.

Speaking of clerks, one pretty demure little maiden asked for the position of private clerk to Representative Walter B. Jones, of Lane county.

"Can't do it," said Walter B. "I'm married."

"Usually those are the kind who show the greatest discernment in picking out the prettiest one," answered the undaunted one.

But she didn't get the job. At that Representative Jones is one of the most fortunate men on the job. An old-time Montana friend who trotted Walter B. on his knee some 30 years ago and who even at that time had misgivings as to the future of the present Lane county solon, heard of Walter B.'s election, looked up the salary list, found that Oregon legislators receive but \$3 a day and forthwith sent a check of \$500 for expense money.

Senator Bingham has been the subject of considerable criticism because of his failure to either return from New York or resign his position. The Lane county senator was prominent and active in the session two years ago and many of his friends believe he stands ready to rush home if his vote becomes necessary on any important subject of progress or economy. Senator Bingham's place is now being filled by Walter Griffin, of Eugene, who has a voice, but no vote.

The first man on the job in the morning and one of the last to leave at night, is the reputation that has been maintained by Representative D. C. Lewis, of Multnomah county. Mr. Lewis has never been considered an original prohibitionist, but there is "dry" humor in his bill to limit the amount of booze in patent medicines sold without license, let or hindrance. As a matter of fact, so long as the people wish it, he is for keeping booze out of the state entirely.

Senators Garland and Von der Hellen are recognized as the two most courteous members of the legislature. Senator Garland's is that pleasing southern chivalry which is a part of the life of the men of the south. The senator comes from Tennessee. Senator Von der Hellen's courtesy is that you would expect to find in those of royal lineage among the courtiers around some old-world throne.

This courtesy came near becoming embarrassing at the time the senators marched over to the house for the joint session. As it happened these two senators were paired. When it became necessary to change to single file, each stepped back to courtesy the other ahead. But courtesy also consists in performing a favor for another, one quickly fell in behind the other, the procession proceeded and the break in the line was scarcely noticed.

A member of the legislature who at any time becomes over-imbed with his own importance and thinks that some peculiar dignity is attached to his person, must be rudely shocked when an outsider steps up to one of the minor clerks and asks if he is a member.

Many knives have been sheathed and everything is harmony—and now's not the time to reason why.

Senator Moser makes "some" presiding officer. He never becomes flustered, is familiar with the rules, wastes no time, and friend or foe must get recognition "according to Hoyle" before having anything to say.

Col. Mercer, the veteran sergeant-at-arms, who is familiar with both the written and unwritten rules of proceed-

ure, and who endeavors to see that both are carried out, pulled the coattails of a minister of the gospel who was apparently just getting a good start on his prayer for the saving of the universe and the Oregon senate. Colonel Mercer was on the praying staff of the last session and made a reputation for beauty and brevity.

The Sentinel is pleased to congratulate W. C. Conner upon his first issue of the consolidated Harrisburg papers. Mr. Conner is an experienced country newspaperman, much of that experience having been gained through several newspaper ventures in Cottage Grove. Mr. Conner was a good editor when in business here, but to us he appears to be a much better one where he is. May good luck attend him and may his years there be many.

THINGS WE THINK

What a difference there is between the sweet, cute little year our own baby cries and the horrible uproar of your neighbor's children.

"Used her hustle as bank and \$3000 roll disappeared," says a daily. It never was wise to bank much on a woman's hustle.

A dispatch from Deatur, Illinois, tells of a man who swallowed his own brains and died. If that was the only way of dying, a lot of people would be immortal.

A Chicago dentist broke a patient's neck by reason of the force he put into the pulling of a tooth. It is presumed that he thought he had hold of the patient's leg.

A daily tells us that a scientist across the ocean has discovered how to write by the light of a sausage. Writers in this country have always made light of the sausage.

It is well to bear in mind that the thoughtless husband who lets his wife shovel the coal in this world is liable to get more than his share in the next.

Dr. Theo. Nicholas Gill, the American scientist, says man laid eggs before he was an ape. Then the habit some men have of laying around is probably hereditary.

A daily tells us that tests of marksmanship in the German army have proved that men who drink shoot best. And these are the kind that get "half shot" themselves the oftener.

If the people who rave against the Standard Oil company should stop buying its products, they would put the company out of business quicker than the government ever could.

A good way to insure taxation on money would be to make it unnecessary for a person to pay interest on borrowed money unless it can be shown that it has been taxed during the time the borrower has had the use of it.

Making our girls and boys what they should be, like charity, begins at home.

Silver-tongued orators are probably so called because their fortune is their tongue.

Your ability to do things in the future depends upon what you are making of yourself now.

Every good and charitable deed you do a fellow being is a jewel in the crown to be worn in the great hereafter.

A ladies' furnishing store advertises "another fourth off of gowns." Pretty soon there won't be anything but the belt left.

Money will do most anything. A Pennsylvania man who had disappeared and been legally declared dead suddenly came to life when he found \$18,000 had been left him.

The man who thinks pure thoughts will be pure in body and mind.

Many men who claim to be self-made should give their mothers and wives the credit.

In the co-partnership of life the wife is always the junior member of the firm, but never the silent partner.

Quarles says that "a full belly makes a dull brain." Is that why there are so many bright country editors.

The wonder is how there is always such a large crop of grass widows in this country when so few of them ever go to seed.

Talking machines are not a modern invention. God gave Adam one to keep him from getting lonesome in the Garden of Eden.

There has been considerable agitation aroused over the removal of the words "In God We Trust" from the new gold pieces recently coined. Why not just trust that we get our share of them and let it go at that.

Mrs. Albert Edward Tower, formerly Miss Mary Gogardus, the telephone girl, has found that her millionaire husband has gotten his lines crossed, resulting in the short circuiting of his love. She wants to be disconnected by the divorce court.

GERMANS CAPTURE FIVE MORE TOWNS

Russians Expelled From Dobrudja and New Operations Are Begun.

Berlin, by wireless to Sayville.—In addition to Braila, five more towns in Roumania have been taken by the Teutonic troops, which have reached the Sereth river at two points. New operations have been inaugurated in Dobrudja, following the expulsion of the last of the Russians and Roumanians.

Field Marshal Von Mackensen's drive against the Sereth line in southern Moldavia continues to gain ground and the Teutonic thrust against the Moldavian frontier mountains in the flanking operations now under way likewise is showing progress.

Pushing northward from Fokshani, the fortress position captured south west of the Sereth and near the center of the line, Von Mackensen's troops have driven the Russians across the Putna and are now hammering at a new position they have taken up there.

Further southeast, toward the Danube, the Russians are now beginning to yield again, according to Berlin, losing another town which the Austro-German forces held against counter attacks.

MEANING OF SPEECH AT BERLIN IS ASKED

Washington.—The report that Ambassador Gerard at a public welcome back to Germany had said that "never since the beginning of the war have the relations between the United States and Germany been so cordial as now," were officially inquired into by the state department through a cable to the ambassador personally.

It was indicated that the report as quoted did not convey a true view of German-American relations, which have commonly been described as strained through the recent submarine activities.

The dinner at which Ambassador Gerard is reported to have uttered his ill advised sentiments was given in Berlin by the American Association of Commerce and Trade, of Berlin, in honor of Mr. Gerard.

WASHINGTON SOLONS MEET

Members Are Said to Favor More Stringent Liquor Laws.

Olympia, Wash.—The 15th Washington legislature met at noon Monday for a 60-day session. There was no contest over the organization of either house, the republican senators having agreed upon Senator Ralph Nichols, of Seattle, as president pro tem, and the republicans of the house having accepted Representative Guy E. Kelley, of Tacoma, as speaker. Liquor legislation probably will be taken up at once.

Many of the members favor a bone dry law, similar to that adopted recently in Oregon, which will prohibit all importations of liquor for drinking. There is some opposition to such a bill, and in any event the measure would be required to pass the referendum test. The legislators are said to be unanimously in favor of laws to make the sale of liquor more difficult.

A joint memorial to congress in support of a national prohibition amendment to the federal constitution was passed the opening day. The senate gave the movement unanimous support and only two votes were recorded against it in the house.

RUSSIANS ACTIVE AT RIGA

In First Assault in North They Occupy Teutonic Positions.

London.—The Russians are preparing to launch a great new offensive in the Riga sector, according to a Copenhagen dispatch.

The Russians attempted a surprise attack near the Riga bridgehead. Great masses of the attackers, with white shirts over their uniforms, succeeded during a violent snowstorm in entering the German trenches on a front of 1000 meters.

The Germans, seeing the danger, sent all available reserves into the battle, which reached a pitch of tremendous fury.

Mrs. Axtell on Federal Commission. Washington.—President Wilson has nominated the following members of the Working Men's Compensation Commission to administer the federal employees' liability law, at salaries of \$4000 a year:

Dr. Riley McMillan Little, of Swarthmore, Pa., republican, for six years.

Mrs. Frances C. Axtell, of Bellingham, Wash., progressive, for four years.

John J. Keegan, of Indianapolis, democrat, for two years.

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