

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

AND COTTAGE GROVE LEADER

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER WITH PLENTY OF BACKBONE

ELBERT BEDE AND ELBERT SMITH PUBLISHERS
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1917

UNDER THE BIG DOME AT SALEM

By ELBERT BEDE.

State Capitol Salem, Ore., Jan. 20.—(Special to The Sentinel.)—To one on the side lines it appears that there is little log rolling being indulged in so far. Every fellow seems to be sawing his own wood, which means that each measure must stand on its own merits. One reason for this is that none of the big measures are yet before either house. When dry measures, road laws, consolidation bills and the like are the order of the day (and night) things may be different. Then some of those who attempt lumberjack gymnastics may fall in and come out "wet."

As far as introduction of bills is concerned, W. B. Jones is leading the other members of the Lane county delegation by several laps.

Allen Eaton has introduced no bills and hopes to introduce none. Things are running along a little too smooth to interest him and he has not as yet got onto the floor. When some of the more important measures are up for consideration, however, the clarion voice of the dean of the house will no longer remain muffled.

Bills so far introduced by Representative Jones are as follows:

H. B. 17.—Requiring the county court of Lane county to purchase grounds and buildings for fair purposes and providing a method therefor.
H. B. 18.—To amend Section 4088 as amended by Section 56, Laws 1915, regarding power of district meetings to levy a tax on real and personal property.
H. B. 19.—Repealing Chapter 79, Laws 1911, and all of Chapter 80, Laws 1915, repealing law providing for county school supervisors.
H. B. 20.—Amending Section 4069, Lord's Oregon Laws, providing for school census to be made first week in November.
H. B. 21.—Amending Section 3971, Lord's Oregon Laws, regulating the distribution of school fund.
H. B. 22.—Making it a misdemeanor to become the father of a child born out of wedlock and providing for care and maintenance of illegitimate children.

H. B. 45.—Amending Section 3183, Lord's Oregon Laws, permitting county court to make temporary appointment to fill vacancy in office of justice of the peace.

H. B. 26, by Mr. Jones, has already passed the house, there being no opposition. It merely changes the date for the distribution of school monies from the first Monday in October to the first Monday in November.

H. B. 17, if it becomes law, would probably bring considerable criticism upon the head of its author. It requires the county court of Lane county to levy a tax to create a fund of \$20,000 for the purchase of fair grounds. Mr. Jones is secretary of the Lane county fair, and the recent budget committee of the county authorized him to introduce such a bill. It will not be popular, however, in some of the outlying parts of the county. The bill is quietly sleeping in committee and may be amended so as to only authorize the court to levy such a tax.

H. B. 19, abolishing county school supervisors, is the result of dissatisfaction with the system in Lane county, and this bill will probably meet the approval of a large proportion of the residents of the county.

Mr. Bean, who is so far probably the most active member of the Lane county delegation, is busy enlisting support for his proposed bill to raise a road fund by levying a tax of one cent a gallon on gasoline. Oregon now requires gasoline to be of a certain standard. It is said that the process necessary to bring it to this standard does not increase its combustible qualities but that the manufacturers charge one cent a gallon for putting it through the process. Mr. Bean would repeal the law requiring this standard, which would reduce the price to retailers one cent, and he would then add a one cent tax, which would again place the price where it is now. Gasoline purchasers would pay no more than now for their "gas," but a neat road fund would be created. Mr. Bean is making certain of the constitutional-

ity of such a tax before introducing his bill.

Mr. Bean already has two bills before the assembly. They are:

H. B. 21.—Empowering the state government to issue such bonds as may be needed to meet federal road fund for period of five years.
H. B. 47.—Providing for approval of loans from school fund on lands under certificate of sale from the state.

H. B. 21 has already passed the house. Mr. Bean will take an active part in the proposed consolidation of officers and is preparing a bill that he will introduce in case the committee of house and senate does not act soon.

Representative Goode, of Multnomah county, is a chiropractic physician. Whether or not he will attempt to put the vertebrae in place for any of the other members he has not stated, but he stands ready to demonstrate that his own spinal column has no joints askew.

In a recent debate Representative Brownell, the Checkamas orator, referred to himself as a farmer. Vernon Forbes who, although probably the most diminutive member, represents the largest district in the state, and has a voice that covers the entire district, referred to "us farmers," meaning Brownell and himself. There is a faint suspicion that both are taking credit for gardens at home which are cared for and cultivated by their wives.

Mrs. Thompson, the only woman member, is making a good legislator and is reserving the woman's prerogative to speak when she pleases—and to the point when she does speak. Most of the members, being married, show proper deference.

Mr. Tichenor, one of the studious members, has introduced H. B. No. 77, providing free text books for all school children of the state, including those in parochial and denominational schools. The latter provision may draw opposition, as there is considerable antipathy toward support to any but public institutions. Thank goodness, however, there is no provision in this bill for printing text books by the state. None of the proposed legislation along this line has yet been introduced. The six per cent limitation amendment has probably put an everlasting quietus on any such expensive experiment.

There are vague hints that good roads legislation is going to encounter a lot of chuckholes.

Senator Cusick of Linn and Lane has introduced a bill to abolish the office of county recorder in Linn county. The bill may be amended to take effect after the expiration of the term of office of the present incumbent, although Mr. Cusick served notice before election that he would introduce such a bill.

The fact that two clerks have been sworn in to look after the affairs of the absent Senator Bingham has stirred up a pretty kettle of fish which The Oregon Journal is industriously keeping boiling. The truth of the matter is, however, that The Oregon Journal does not know what it is talking about, or else is maliciously misstating the facts, of either of which it is capable.

The facts are as follows:
Ben Bingham was sworn in by the secretary of state's office at the request of Senator Bingham. G. Walter Griffin was later sworn in as Mr. Bingham's clerk at the request of Lane county and upon resolution by Senator Cusick. The secretary of state's office merely performed a clerical duty and neither man is necessarily on the pay roll. The Oregon Journal's vociferations to the contrary notwithstanding.

Whether or not either one is attached to a salary is for the senate itself to decide when it makes up its pay roll. That will be placed in the hands of the proper committee.

Mr. Griffin is taking an active interest in affairs and could well fill the place of Senator Bingham if permitted to do so.

That The Journal does not know what it is talking about is evidenced by the fact that it states that both are drawing \$5.00 a day. Mr. Griffin was only sworn in as a clerk and can draw but \$3.00 a day.
That The Journal does not wish to publish the facts is evidenced by the fact that it has repeatedly stated that President Moser requested the appointment of son Ben. President Moser's letter can be seen by anyone and it asks

for the appointment of no particular person.

Senator Cusick, who has been criticized for introducing the resolution for Mr. Griffin's appointment, did so with the understanding that only Mr. Griffin would be on the pay roll. If The Journal had any desire to be fair it might call attention to the fact that Mr. Cusick was one of the moving parties in saving the state \$1200 in clerk hire.

A thing that all seem to have overlooked in this controversy is that Senator Bingham himself, who was sworn in two years ago, can, if he desires, draw his \$3.00 a day as a member from Lane county. In view of the criticism already directed against him it is not considered likely that he will do so.

LOSING MONEY BY SAVING IT.

THE SENTINEL has always opposed Oregon's over-burdened commission form of government and is heartily in favor of the propaganda of consolidation and abolishment now before the legislature.

But there is a worse extravagance than too many commissions. That worse extravagance is to create a non-salaried commission to direct the expenditure of large sums of money.

We understand that a non-salaried commission is proposed to have charge of the expenditure of a \$7,000,000 road fund. It may be possible to find men so patriotic that they will give the time necessary to direct such a work. It is equally as likely that men patriotic enough to make such a sacrifice will be men with a proper knowledge of that kind of work.

But to expect to find such men is as unbusinesslike as it is unlikely. Even were they found they would hardly be held accountable for their time. They could not be blamed for attending to their own business first. It would be unlikely that each would have business to attend to when some other could attend meetings and that very infrequently would the whole commission get together at one time. They would necessarily perform their work in a hit and miss manner. More money would be wasted than would pay proper salaries for the members of such a commission.

Let's not ask men to make such a sacrifice for the state. Let's pay them what they are worth—and insist that they earn their money.

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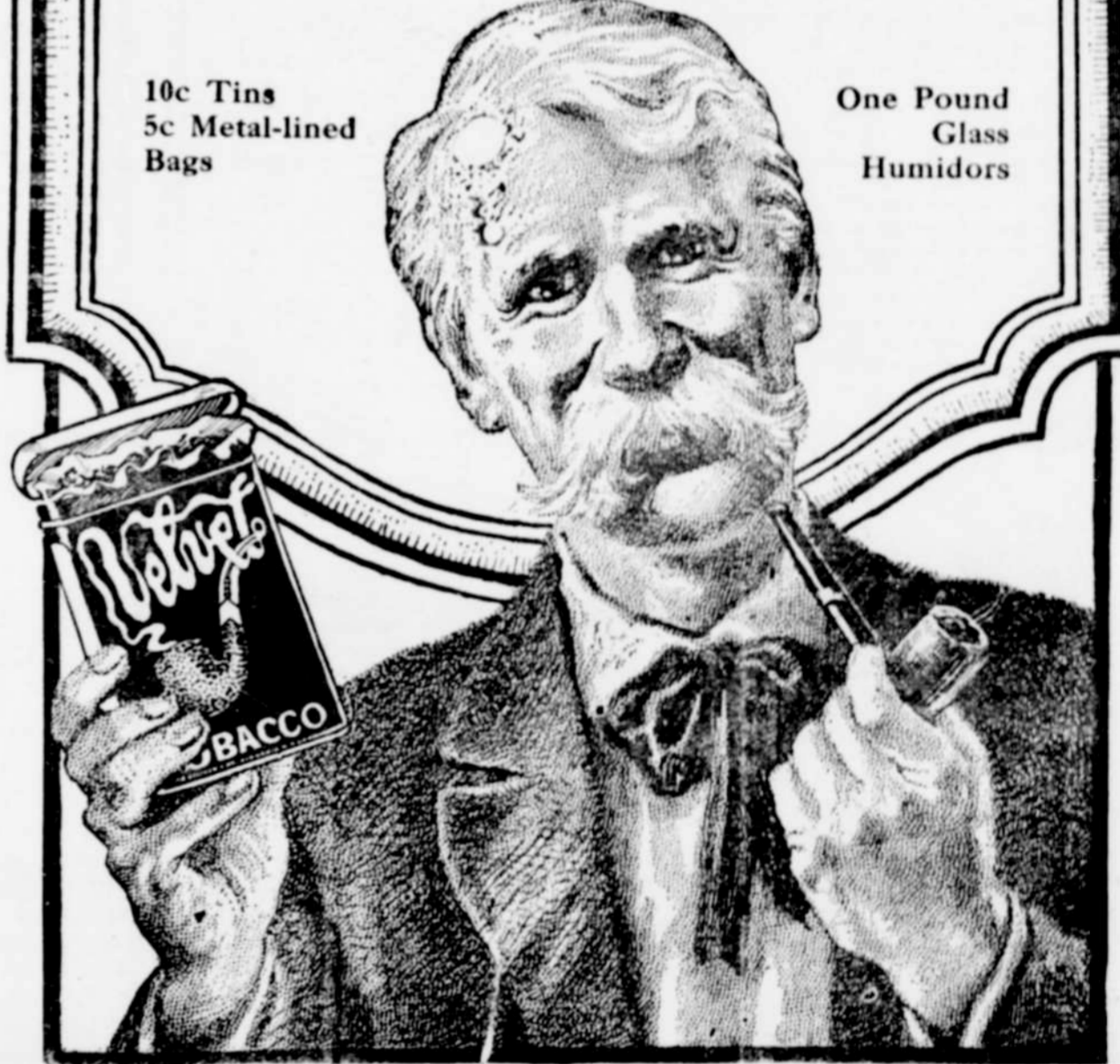
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