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COTTAGE GROVE LEADER
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IMPROVEMENTS IN QUEEN CITY

Paved Streets, Trolley Line, Divinity School.

MANY NEW HOMES BUILDING

An Air of Progress, Prosperity and Enterprise in Evidence on Every Hand.

A representative of the Leader visited Eugene this week, the first time in more than a year, and was surprised to note the great improvements and advancement being made in the "Queen City" of the Upper Willamette. Two of the finest improvements and greatest evidences of enterprise on the part of the citizens of the county seat town, is the pavement on Willamette street and the new electric street car lines. It was stated that many who first opposed the pavement of Eugene's main street are now active advocates of like improvements, after noting the many advantages derived from such permanent improvements and the jump that they invariably make in property values.

The new street car line seemed to be doing a good business and the writer enjoyed a ride with Conductor L. R. Baker, formerly of Cottage Grove, out to the end of the line in the vicinity of Hendrick's park, a distance of nearly two and one half miles from the depot. This ride takes one through a beautiful residence district, modern homes and nicely kept lawns being in evidence on every hand. The site of the new Divinity school, the foundation and stone walls for which are well under way, is also passed on this line. At the southeast corner of the state university campus the electric line forks, one branch continuing east through Fairmount, the other extending south by the Masonic cemetery and out to Hendrick's park. From the cemetery hill a grand view of Eugene is afforded as well as of the new hospital, which is now being furnished and will be ready for patients within a few days. A good road is being built from the foot of the hill to the building so there will be no trouble reaching the hospital with teams.

Excavation for the Hulin two-

story brick building on East Ninth street was begun this week and at the same time the work of delivering material for the construction of Mrs. Patterson's one-story brick across the street was begun. New cottages and palatial homes are springing up in various parts of the city and nearly every lot along the new car line beyond the Masonic cemetery has been purchased.

Ties were being delivered and surveyors were at work on the extension of the electric car line from Eugene to Springfield. A Welch, general manager of the Portland, Eugene and Eastern railway was in the city looking after the affairs of the company and said he had nothing more to say other than that the company expected to get started to building on their line by the first of the month. The building will be continued right on to Springfield and will not stop at the railroad crossing. Mr. Welch went on to say:

"I have not seen Mr. Roney about the building of the bridge at Springfield. I understand he is sick, but he is under contract to have our bridge built by a certain time next summer and he is represented to me as a contractor who usually gets his work done on contract time. We expect to get our line built to the bridge by the time that structure is completed so that we will not be delayed in running over trains to the city of mills. In the meantime we hope to be building our line up the McKenzie and get the work started on the power plant on the McKenzie and get the power as soon as we can."

"We are distributing ties at Albany and Salem and expect to do much work at these places this summer. The connecting lines between Eugene and on to Salem will be taken up as soon as we can get to it."

COTTAGE GROVE BLUES DEFEAT JUNCTION CITY

That was a lively, but decidedly one-sided game of basket ball played at the armory Saturday evening between the Junction City high school team and the Cottage Grove Blues, the visiting team being entirely outclassed. At the close of the game the score stood 22 to 4 in favor of the home team, the visitors making practically all their points on fouls while the home team made most of its points from the field.

The visiting team was made up of a very gentlemanly company of boys as follows: Ralph, Leon and Bert Jackson, Willie Perman and Vern Whiting. The members of the home team were Elmer Hastings, Fay Allison, Ernest Lincoln, Robt. Sherwood, Allen Baker and Chester Baker.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

High School Privileges for Country Pupils.

COURT TO PAY TUITION

Only One Mill Levy Required for This Purpose. Plan to be Submitted to Voters.

There has been some discussion in the newspapers during the last few months in regard to the establishment of a county high school. The subject was brought up at a special meeting of the voters of district No. 4 at Eugene, and a committee was appointed to investigate the matter and take such action as they thought best. After carefully considering all phases of the question, they have decided to report adversely to the establishment of a county high school and also to the erection of a county high school building. However, the law provides that the county court may pay the tuition of all high school pupils in any school in the county and it is thought by the committee that such a plan would be the most just plan for providing high school privileges for all pupils in the county, that can be secured under the law.

The matter can be brought to a vote at the coming election by a petition signed by one hundred legal voters and if the majority of the votes cast at the June election are in favor of it then the court must pay the tuition of all pupils that attend high schools in the county. By this plan any student in the county can attend high schools in any district in the county that maintains or hereafter may maintain, a high school, and the tuition will be paid by the county.

Districts will provide a building, equipment, teachers, etc., for their high schools and it is estimated that a one mill levy upon the valuation of the county will bring sufficient revenue to pay the tuition of all students attending high schools throughout the county.

As the general levy for school purposes is increased, the less will be the amount required from special levies and a good deal more money can be raised by one mill general levy than could be raised if every district in the county would make a special levy of one mill as there is in Lane county about one million dollars worth of property that is not in any school district and can not be reached by special levies.

The problem of collecting tuition from outside pupils is a very troublesome one, but by this plan all difficulties of tuition will be overcome and the desire of parents to have their children enumerated where they do not reside, so as to escape paying tuition will be eliminated.

The valuation of the property of the Cottage Grove school district is \$583,175 and a conservative estimate of the cost of maintaining a high school in this district for next year would be \$1,800. This requires a three mill levy while under the proposed plan a one mill levy would be sufficient; thus saving this district a two mill levy or nearly \$1,200. The Cottage Grove school board on Monday took this matter up and discussed it thoroughly, finally deciding in favor of the plan which decision was reported to the special committee at Eugene composed of the following well known gentlemen: E. O. Potter, Darwin Bristow, D. E. Yoran, W. G. Gilstrap and C. H. Fisher. If the above mentioned plan has not been made plain any further information will be gladly furnished by the committee named.

COUNCILMAN PORTER TALKS

Substantially Refutes Charges Against Him.

HE INTRODUCES AFFIDAVITS

Brands Charges of a Local Paper as a "Pipe Dream." Evidence Conclusive.

The Leader has been taking no part in the controversy involving councilman Jas. Porter, nor any of the other numerous street agitations or local controversies common to all growing communities, but since some of these questions have become more than curb-stone gossip and have found their way into print, we feel that it is imperative that the Leader be heard on some of these questions, at least, since most of them are discussed in such a decidedly one-sided manner.

A local paper and a few of our citizens seem to be taking a delight in "shying bricks," as it were, at Councilman Jas. Porter, and the manner in which he is being held up for public censure and ridicule, could only be justified by some serious offense or inexcusable delinquency on his part.

Upon investigation we find one of the most "serious" charges preferred against Mr. Porter to be the allegation that he refused to subscribe to the usual oath of office when he was installed as councilman from the first ward. Mr. Porter declares this to be false, that he did subscribe to the oath of office in the same manner required of his colleagues in the council chamber and if this oath or affidavit is missing from the Recorder's office, as it is alleged, it is no fault of his. The minutes of the meeting recording the proceedings of the newly installed council, bear Mr. Porter out in his statement and several responsible citizens, who were present at the meeting in question, also bear Mr. Porter out in his claim.

We have personally attended many council meetings and while Mr. Porter may be rather cautious and conservative, is no reason why he should be held up to ridicule and condemnation, for he invariably displays an honesty of purpose and the same personal interest in city affairs that he manifests in his private business transactions. He has demonstrated beyond question, that he is a good citizen, an enterprising and public spirited gentleman and that within that grizzly covered old cranium of his, is a whole lot of good, sound horse sense.

MR. PORTER'S STATEMENT
Editor Leader:

Since the Western Oregon has seen fit to announce through its columns that I have never been qualified as an officer of the city of Cottage Grove, I beg to hand you herewith several affidavits which I hope you will publish in refutation of such a charge so that the public can discover who is entitled to its confidence. Now, I sincerely hope that this will end the Western Oregon's "pipe dream."

Very truly,
J. C. PORTER.
EX-RECORDER'S AFFIDAVIT
State of Oregon)
County of Lane) SS
I, J. E. Young, being first duly sworn, say that I was Recorder of the city of Cottage Grove, April 2d,

1906; that on the evening of April 2d, 1906, the common council met and canvassed the vote for city officers, that J. C. Porter was declared elected councilman in the first ward of said city and that on said evening he was duly sworn by R. M. Veatch, mayor of said city and duly signed and subscribed to the oath of office before said City Recorder on said evening.

J. E. YOUNG,
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23d day of January, 1908.
FINGAL HINDS,
Notary Public.

{ SEAL }

EX-MAJORS' AND COUNCILMEN'S
AFFIDAVIT.

State of Oregon)
County of Lane) SS

We, R. M. Veatch, H. Venske, Geo. W. McQueen and B. R. Job being first duly sworn, each for himself says, that on the evening of the election, 1906, after the common council of the city of Cottage Grove had canvassed the election returns, and after J. C. Porter had been declared elected to the office of councilman for the first ward in said city of Cottage Grove, said James C. Porter, was present and among other officers of the city was duly sworn and took the oath of office as councilman before R. M. Veatch retiring Mayor of said city. That said J. C. Porter at said meeting or after the adjournment thereof, subscribed to said oath of office in writing and swore to the same before J. E. Young, Recorder of said city.

R. M. VEATCH,
BENJAH R. JOB,
GEO. W. MCQUEEN,
H. VENSKE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of January, 1908.
J. E. YOUNG, Notary Public.

{ SEAL }

A KICK AGAINST LANE COUNTY COYOTE HUNTERS

Monroe, Or., Jan. 20.—There are several sore spots in this vicinity on account of the way the coyote hunters of Lane county are operating.

The varmints are started in that county, chased across Houek mountain into Benton county, and frequently the trail is lost on this side of the hill, so that the sheep killer is left to ply his trade among the bands owned here. Since there are no dogs to chase these animals, it works a hardship on the Benton ranchers. Hence steps are being taken for a donation of a fund sufficient to secure the destruction of coyotes in this part of the country.

NEWSPAPER MEN ORGANIZE

The Lane County Press Association.

AUXILIARY TO STATE PRESS

Elect Officers and a Legislative Com- mittee. County Press Well Represented.

There has been effected throughout the county the organization of almost every class of business as well as local industries for the mutual benefit of the operators or managers of these enterprises, yet the newspaper men have continued to plod along in the same old way, every man for himself and every one of them a target for all kinds of ruinous business impositions that can be devised and fostered upon an unorganized business body. However, the state association at its late meeting in Portland, aroused the fraternity to the necessity of local organization in the interests of both the press and the public, and acting upon the recommendation of the state organization, seven of the eight Lane county editors met in the commercial club rooms at Eugene Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of forming a local newspaper association. The meeting was in response to a call by W. G. Gilstrap, named by the State Press association as press committeeman for Lane.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p. m. and after thorough discussion it was unanimously agreed to organize the Lane County Press association and organization was perfected by election of the following officers:

President, W. G. Gilstrap, Morning Register, vice-president, D. M. C. Gault, Western Oregon, of Cottage Grove; secretary, L. M. Beebe, News, Springfield; treasurer, C. H. Fisher, Eugene Evening Guard.

A legislative committee was appointed consisting of S. L. Moorehead, Times, Junction; W. C. Conner, Leader, Cottage Grove; W. H. Weatherston, West, Florence.

The association then adjourned to meet at the same place on Saturday, February 11, at 3 p. m., to complete plans for effective work along newspaper lines.

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and get the same value in
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elsewhere.
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to burn.
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