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COTTAGE GROVE LEADER.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1909.

COMMERCIAL CLUB AROUSED.

An enthusiastic meeting of the Commercial Club was held Monday evening and was largely attended by business and professional men of this city.

The principal topics under discussion were the paving of Main street and an increased water supply. Every speaker declared in favor of both propositions in no uncertain tones among whom were, O. H. Kem, Attorney J. S. Medley, C. C. Hazleton, H. O. Thompson, John Woodard, F. B. Phillips, John Spray and others.

Mr. Spray said he had examined four of Eugene's paving ordinances and that our "illegal" ordinance which was recently vetoed by Mayor Job was almost identical to them and just as legal. He said the mayor's trickery and insincerity was evident in his action in appointing as a committee to purchase a rock crusher and road roller, after this ordinance had been passed over his veto, the only two councilmen who had voted against the proposition and naturally enough this committee has

taken no definite steps toward the purchase of this road machinery.

Mr. Kem stated that men were elected to office to carry out the will of the people, not to set themselves up as dictators to the people, and if they refused to abide by their oath of office and carry out the will of the people, they were deemed recreant to the trust reposed in them and subject to removal from office. Mr. Kem particularly favored increasing the city's water supply, but rights-of-way and riparian rights should be secured first before any other expense except surveys were incurred.

It was stated by another member that a prominent opponent to street paving admitted and offered to wager that main street would be paved before this time next year. Attorney J. S. Medley called attention to the fact that the citizens of the town were under no obligation to submit to the domineering and dictatorial one man rule, and policy of the city administration to thwart every wish of the business men and tax payers in the way of public improvements. He declared "we have the initiative to resort to and can pass a street paving ordinance by an initiative vote in a special election if necessary." Observing a map of Oregon and a proposed new railroad map on the table on which Cottage Grove was not indicated and for which the club had protested to the S. P. railroad company, Mr. Medley exclaimed, "If Cottage Grove is going to be controlled and its policies dictated by one or two men it does not deserve to be on the map." He greatly depre-

ciated the tendency on the part of the present city administration to disregard and override the will of the people by subterfuge and insincere pretensions.

H. O. Thompson, president of the club, spoke in no less emphatic manner and favored the appointment of a committee to ascertain if any definite favorable action was going to be taken by the city council looking toward the paving of main street and securing of Lang Creek water. Upon motion of F. H. Rosenberg with an amendment by C. C. Hazleton such a motion prevailed, the committee being F. B. Phillips, C. C. Hazleton, J. F. Spray and H. O. Thompson.

Mr. Medley said undue stress had been laid on the purchase of a rock crusher and road roller. "What is the city going to do with the expensive outfit when purchased?" he inquired. Adding, "the best it can do is to rent it to contractors or supply them with rock at a given price, which would be anything but a profitable investment for the city."

H. O. Thompson in conclusion stated that the commercial club was composed of business and professional men who were the city's heaviest tax payers and should have a voice in the city's affairs and should exert its rights and influence for the betterment and upbuilding of the town.

ENFORCE OR REPEAL THIS LAW.

The complaint is heard on the streets regarding the tendency to open violation of the local option law in this city and the apparent total indifference to such offenses on the part of the city marshal and the head of this municipality. The Leader is not advised as to the location of any blind pigs or other places where liquor is unlawfully dispensed in this city, but if such information is supplied and verified, we will gladly devote space to its exposure. There is but three government revenue licenses held in this city at the present time, so there is a chance for someone to get in the toils of the federal court if violations are as stated, which seem probable from the fact that two or three drunks were in evidence late last week and a dray load of empty beer kegs were shipped out from this place Monday. The people voted dry by a big majority in this precinct at the two last general elections and their demands should be respected and the law upheld and enforced. If a law is meritorious enough to be kept on the statutes of the state, it is deserving of respect and should be enforced, and if men elected to office, pledged by oath to uphold the law, are found recreant to the trust reposed in them, the people have, fortunately, recourse under our recall law to rebuke such unworthy officials, by removing them from office, and replacing them with men who will serve the public faithfully and well, and earn their salary.

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CHARLES NAPPER COMMITS SUICIDE

Charles Napper, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Napper, aged 20 years, took his own life on Friday morning near their home three miles and a half west of Creswell by sending a bullet from his 22 calibre rifle into his forehead. It was at first reported here Saturday morning that a man had been shot by a companion while hunting in that neighborhood and Coroner W. T. Gordon was summoned to hold an inquest and from him and R. D. Hawley who was down from Creswell yesterday we got the following facts, says the Register.

The young man has lived with his parents at their farm at the head of the swale for about three years. He has been afflicted with a spinal trouble and no doubt suffered greatly but was ambitious and anxious to do something for himself, but although he tried to work at several places, he always found his strength insufficient and he had to give it up. Only a few days before his last rash act he had returned from Coburg where he attempted to work at the Booth-Kelly mills and had to give it up. He returned home from that place Thursday and on Friday morning taking a new 22 calibre rifle which he had recently bought, left the house "to see how it would shoot."

He did not return at noon and his mother went to look for him. Not having found him when Mr. Napper returned from his work in the evening, he too, joined in the search, but darkness coming on, they hunted as best they could but could not find him. Early Saturday morning Mr. Napper resumed the search and soon found the body of the boy in a clump of bushes about a quarter of a mile from the house, with a bullet wound in the center of his forehead. From the position of the body and the gun and other incidents it is evident the boy had taken his own life.

Coroner Gordon was summoned by telephone, who immediately impelled a jury consisting of A. W. Schierring, G. E. O'Neal, Adam Schmitt, J. W. Cue, J. Wulschlager and Lucas Cowgill, which investigated the case fully and returned a verdict in accordance with the facts.

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