

Independence Enterprise

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WHAT IT WILL MEAN

There has been much railroad activity in this vicinity within the past few months—more perhaps, than the average citizen of Independence has paused long enough to consider. Railroad development has been so rapidly and quietly in progress that we have scarcely had time to consider its possibilities to this city and the tributary country. Nor is it possible to foretell them. That it will be far reaching in its benefits there can be no doubt. In its relief of Independence and Polk county from the mortifying imputation of being an out-of-the-way town and county, and thus bring them into favorable attention to the outside world is one of the least of its advantages. From this development our business must necessarily receive fresh impetus. Real estate must increase in value. Immigration will ensue. Houses are being, and will be built. Population will increase.

With its educational advantages, its agricultural resources, its paved streets, and its enterprising and cultured population, Independence possesses a basis of prosperity enjoyed by probably no other town of equal size in the state of Oregon. It ought in ten years to double its population, and it will.

Two competing lines of railroad, one on either side of the river, dependent upon it and operated largely for its benefit, will necessarily be worth more than one or two through lines independent of and indifferent to its interests. It will escape the evils and reap the benefits of railroad facilities. It will have none of the floating, shiftless population which usually follows railroads. Those who come here will, as a rule, be those who will be of material value to the community. Our schools will increase in patronage and our business in prosperity. Our accessibility will be well nigh perfect when every plan pertaining to this development has been consummated. Fifteen trains will arrive and fifteen will leave this city every day and we will be in ready and convenient access to all points of the compass.

Not among the least sources of satisfaction will be the consciousness of the fact that this development, as was our first railroad, has largely been the

result of the liberality and public spirit of our people, who are always on the alert for the betterment of civic conditions.

ABOLISH IT

The movement to abolish capital punishment in Oregon, which is to be settled by the electors of the state at the coming election, seems to be increasing in interest, and will be one of the live issues of the campaign. And it is a question that merits the most careful consideration on the part of voters. Capital punishment has been tried out in Oregon and may well be pronounced a failure in the matter of deterring crime. When we compare the crimes committed in Oregon under the capital punishment law with crimes committed in Wisconsin and other states where such barbaric practices are unknown and unthought of, the conclusion must be reached that capital punishment in Oregon is a failure. It surely is not diminishing murder in the states and nations where it prevails and is therefore a failure everywhere.

We have always believed that capital punishment is a sin in itself, and we hold that one wrong does not, in the least sense, make another right. And the states employing this manner of punishment are making murderers and criminals of their officials. Capital punishment furnishes an example and creates a spirit of murder.

But, laying aside all arguments as to the cause of crime and the possibility of reform and protection of society, let us abolish it as an experiment if for no other reason, since it has thus far proven to be a failure.

BUY AT HOME

The commercial spirit of a place is what makes and sustains a town. If farmers expect a good market for their products they must patronize their home merchants and not purchase their supplies of mail order houses in far away cities. The quickest way of depressing property, either real estate or personal, in fact of killing the town, is for farmers and city people to do their trading elsewhere.

A city must have the patronage of the surrounding country in order to maintain its prestige and position as a commercial place. The growth of mail order houses has been something remarkable in the past years and no one knows better than the country merchants how deeply they are cutting into the rural trade and depressing property values.

Instead of spending their money at home where it helps to build up their town, too many people send their money to Chicago or elsewhere under the delusion that they can buy the goods they need at wholesale prices, or as cheaply as their dealer can, and so save what they con-

sider the middle man's profit.

Granted that they do buy some things cheaper, we doubt if, upon the whole they do any better by buying their stuff in Chicago than they would if secured at home of the local merchant.

They expect the local merchant to take the butter, eggs, and other produce and pay them the highest price, but if they will hold their trade from the home merchant they cannot well expect the home merchant to be able to meet their requirements. Merchants and farmers should be of mutual benefit—they should patronize each other.

IN CALIFORNIA

In speaking of the state printing question which is coming up before the people of Oregon at the coming election, the Polk County Observer has the following good suggestion from the Newberg Enterprise: "The attention of the voters of Oregon is called to the annexed clipping from The Newberg Enterprise, whose editor has but recently come from California and knows something of the workings of the flat-salary printing law in that state. Salem interests and the attention of the men who are trying to fasten a flat-salary law upon the statute books of Oregon, is also called to this disinterested statement. The utterance of Editor Bell may be taken as absolutely unbiased and therefore reliable. It shows what might happen in Oregon under the same methods.

Read it carefully and as you read it, remember that a certain few men in Salem are the instigators and supporters of a measure which might place this state at the mercy of the same kind of people who brought the printing scandal upon California.

From The Newberg Enterprise:—Oregon newspapers are having much to say just now in regard to the establishment of a state printing board with the payment to the printer of a flat salary. Being a new comer to Oregon the editor of the Enterprise is not posted as to the details of the situation, but does know that in California a legislative investigation about a year ago disclosed flagrant violations of the law in conduct of the state printing business; the purchase of large quantities of stock at fancy prices from a favored paper house, with waste and extravagance to a startling degree, and so indefensible were the methods followed in every department of the establishment, that the state printer resigned in disgrace. California has had many scandals of a political character at Sacramento, but that of the state printing office lines up in the front rank.

The Observer has no interest in the fight on State Printer Dunaway. Personally it makes no difference to us whether the law sought to be placed on the statute books by initiative is successful, or not. But we honestly believe that the people of Oregon will make a mistake if they listen to the siren song of those who expect to be benefitted by the adoption of the measure. It has been unsuccessful in other states, why predict that Oregon will be one bright exception to the rule. The present state printer has already effected a great saving for taxpayers, why change and adopt methods that have many objectionable features?

Oregon voters should think twice before voting "yes" to proposition No. 329.

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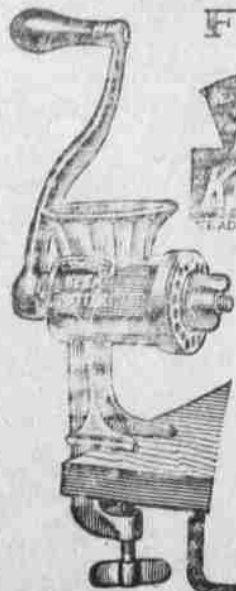
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