

The Rogue River Courier

Published every Friday by
A. E. VOORHIES, Proprietor.
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Entered at the Post Office at Grants
Pass, Oregon as second-class matter.

Subscription Rates
One Year, in advance.....\$1.50
Six Months......75
Three Months......40
Single Copies......05

Advertising Rates
Furnished on application at the
office, or by mail.

Obituaries and resolutions of con-
dolence will be charged for at 5c
per line; card of thanks, 50c.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1909.

THE TROUBLE IN PORTO RICO.

A delegation has come to Wash-
ington all the way from Porto Rico,
representing the House of Delegates,
to protest against the present meth-
od of government. It is what they
are pleased to call an "insurrection
against American rule." The fact
that it is against American rule is
only incidental. The same element
would rebel against any rule were it
possible to do so with safety. The
freedom which they enjoy under our
flag has made them insolent. Were
it Spanish rule these obstreperous
leaders would be in the darkest dun-
geons of the Morro, if not stood
against the wall in the moat. Threats
of "cleaning out" the representa-
tives of the governing power could
not be made openly by demagogues
under any other flag. This has been
advocated openly in the restaurants
recently.

The leader of the anti-American
movement is Luis Munoz Rivera, a
typical Spanish-American dema-
gogue and agitator. He has dictated
the policy of the party that holds
every seat in the lower house, and
his grievance is that he cannot in
a like manner control the upper
house, or Executive Council. This is
composed of five Porto Ricans and
six Americans, all appointed by the
President. Because this Council
can, as in our upper house of Con-
gress, prevent the passage of what
may seem objectionable measures,
the claim is made that this majority
of one virtually dictates the policy
of the government. This presupposes
the dishonesty of every American in
the Council, for were there one hon-
est man to vote with the Porto
Ricans any just measure would car-
ry.

The demand is made by Munoz
Rivera and his followers that this
council shall no longer be appointed
by the President, but that it shall be
elective. As fully 80 per cent of the
voting population can neither read
nor write, it is easy to see that in
the elections the one man who now
controls the lower house would be
absolute dictator were this power
given. A surplus of two or three
millions in the treasury seems to be
the objective point, and the "pa-
triot" will not be satisfied until they
finger it.

That the commerce of the island
has more than quadrupled under the
American flag is nothing to the
chronic insurrectionist. What is
the good of an increase if he cannot
handle the money, dictate the gov-
ernmental policy, reward his friends
and punish his enemies?

That educational institutions have
sprung up all over the island gives
this class no joy. An educated con-
stituency is not to the taste of the
Munoz Riveras. With the thousands
of youth crowding the schools, keep-
ing pace in preparation for citizen-
ship with our own American youth,
these men see the hope of power
slipping from them with each pass-
ing day; hence this spasm of patriot-
ism.

Under the direction of Munoz
Rivera the House of Delegates re-
fused to pass the budget unless the
Executive Council would consent to
pass what was known as "The Mun-
icipal Judge Bill," a measure that
would provide a nice lot of plums for
Rivera to distribute among his
friends. The Council was firm, and
the House adjourned without making
appropriations for the government.
The Governor immediately called an
extra session; but this too failed to
pass the budget.

**LEVI STRAUSS
& CO'S
OVERALLS**



strong, durable, comfortable
garments for workingmen

Failing to coërcé the Governor and
Council the House named a commis-
sion headed by Rivera to proceed to
Washington to lay their grievances
before the President and Congress.
As the President had been in Porto
Rico and had kept tab on these gen-
tlemen, he was not taken unawares,
and Rivera and his commission re-
ceived a pretty severe snub. The
President pointedly told them that
the islanders had not shown them-
selves very capable of self-govern-
ment when for pique they would
paralyze the administration by refus-
ing appropriations. This statement
was in answer to the demand of
Rivera for absolute independence—
under American protection, of
course.

Those who demand independence
for Porto Rico and the Philippines
know little of the character of the
Spanish demagogue. No greater
calamity could come to the people
than to turn them loose to be the
prey of these men of depraved am-
bition.

It is a significant fact, one of
which our statesmen will do well to
take notice, that the laboring men of
Porto Rico are beginning to realize
the benefits of being under the
American government. They are or-
ganized and are making a study of
the labor conditions in the United
States. They have seen that it is
educated labor that counts, and the
decree has gone forth that the mem-
bers of the Federation must educate.
They are today receiving more than
double for their labor what they did
seven years ago. The standard of
living among them has advanced ac-
cordingly.

No sooner had the Rivera commis-
sion started for Washington than the
American Confederation of Labor,
composed wholly of Porto Ricans,
sent the following cable to the Presi-
dent:

"Taft, Washington.—American
Confederation of Labor assembled
resolved to oppose commission of
House of Delegates now in Wash-
ington seeking more political powers,
that represent anti-Americanism.
Unionist defeated legislation bene-
fitting welfare of people. Change
in form of government would create
tyranny and mean hardships for
labor masses, destroying American
institutions. (Signed) Santiago
Iglesias, President."

Advocates of independence will do
well to ponder this. The laboring
classes are five hundred per cent
better off than ever before, and in-
finitely better off than in any Span-
ish Republic.

UNCLE SAM, MISSIONARY.

Uncle Sam does not appear on the
register of any church as either a
home or foreign missionary, but he
is doing some of the finest mission-
ary work the world has ever seen
all the same. He is at present en-
gaged in giving to a race that is
capable of great things the new
ideals that will completely trans-
form every land where the Spanish
language is spoken. Great men were
those Conquistadores, but their
greatness was that of their age and
not of the 20th century. The idea of
greatness and glory of that age is
repugnant to the higher civilization
of his age; but Spain and all Spanish
speaking peoples are still held in its
grip. Greatness is reached only
through blood, and glory consists
in fuss and feathers.

Education, sanitation, agriculture,
all was paralyzed in a great measure
by the ghosts of the old rascals who
disgraced humanity and the earth in
the dark ages.

We once asked a lady, a refugee
from Venezuela, what was the mat-
ter with that country; and she re-
plied, "The trouble is that every
man there wants to be president." And
that is just the trouble in all
Central South America, the trouble
in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philip-
pines. The military man is always
a politician, and the Spanish polit-
ician must, almost of necessity, be
a military man. The people are poor
and it is easy to make them believe
that a change of administration will
cure all public ills and give them an
abundance. Cheated today they will
rise to the same bait tomorrow.

The chronic revolutionist is re-
sponsible for the unsettled condition
of the islands and mostly for all ap-
athy towards Americans. The
clamor of independence is simply the
cry of the demagogue who sees the
writing on the wall. The men who
are causing the disturbance and un-
rest in Porto Rico are men whose oc-
cupation is politics, miniature Cas-
tros, and to grant to either that is-
land or the Philippines independence
would be to roll them back a cen-
tury.

No greater wrong could be done a
race than to thus abandon them in
their weakness and ignorance to
these unscrupulous demagogues.

If ever a man deserved summary

justice it is the man who has re-
cently come to Washington from
Porto Rico to demand "the rights"
of the island. A chronic disturber
of the peace, he will only give the
island rest when he is held down
by the strong hand of law.

Uncle Sam must continue his work
of missionary until the spirit of
liberty takes deeper root and the
new generation, now in the schools,
has come into full power. When
that day comes the fine possibilities
of the blood of the Conquistadores
will be seen.

HE DOES NOT USE ANY OF THE STUFF

A pastor of one of the Grants Pass
churches received a letter from a
wholesale liquor house in Portland
a short time ago soliciting
his trade. The reverend gentleman
promptly answered the communica-
tion as follows:

Grants Pass, Ore., April 15, 1909.
Gentlemen: Your favor of the
13th inst. offering to ship me by ex-
press four bottles of Bourbon or
Corn whiskey for \$3 is received.
Many thanks for this favor in a dry
and thirsty land where no whiskey
is, and should the time ever come
when I feel like going back on the
principles of a lifetime I will surely
send in my order.

Just at present conditions are
such that there seems little pros-
pect of a change in my views. I
have known this place since its be-
ginning as a town, and I have seen
many of the patrons of your busi-
ness drink their bodies into the
grave and their souls into hell, and
a fair proportion of the dealers of
the article have gone to keep them
company. The dealers who remain
bear the trademark in their faces,
and they are, by their persistent vi-
olations of the local option law, fit-
ting themselves for a sojourn behind
the bars with board at the public ex-
pense.

I have labored for the greater
part of my life to put the liquor
dealers out of business, and I am
still at it. I hope to live to see the
work accomplished; and we trust
that the day is not far distant when
we will have a law that will enable
us to apply within the state the law
that governs the shipping of liquors
from other states into those places
where the people by their votes have
decreed the abolition of the traffic.
I trust that we may be able to catch
up and destroy your stock as fast
as it may be shipped in.

It does seem a pity that men who
have brains enough to carry on such
large enterprises as yours should
not put that brain power to some
good account. It is not a pleasant
thing to think of that a man should
so live that the world will feel that
his departure from the world has
been a distinct gain to humanity.

A man is not treating his family
fairly when he leaves them the in-
heritance of a stained name, a name
that will always bar them from the
best society and make them ashamed
of the father.

Gentlemen, the tide is setting
strongly against you. Cut out the
business and help make humanity
better, and leave your family a name
of which they will be proud.

Sincerely yours,

Legal Blanks at the Courier.



YOUNG Men's Clothes are so fanciful this
Spring that there's the danger of over-
stepping good taste. There's a sure way
of keeping on the safe side--find this label--

BISHOP'S READY TAILORED CLOTHES

It warrants much more than good
making and good fabrics--it's an
earmark of good judgment.

Prices \$10 up to \$35

C. P. Bishop & Co.

Temporary Store on Sixth St. oppo. Western Hotel

Notice.

To whom it may concern:

All persons knowing themselves
indebted to the Grants Pass Breed-
ers' Association will please call at
the office of C. E. Harmon and set-
tle the same at as early a date as
possible for we must settle up all
of our accounts. Thanking our na-
tions for past patronage we are,
very respectfully,

The Grants Pass Breeders' Ass'n.
4-30-2t By C. E. Harmon, Secy.

Private Sale R. D. Hume Estate.
Thoroughbreds. The racing stock
of the late R. D. Hume is now for
private sale at Wedderburn, Ore.
Particulars on application. R. D.
Hume Estate, Wedderburn, Ore.
4-30-4t

Legal Blanks at the Courier.

County Treasurer's Call for Warrants

There are funds in the treasury
to pay all warrants registered on or
before April 15, 1906. Interest will
cease from this date, April 23, 1909.

J. T. TAYLOR, County Treas.
4-23-5t

Good Fruit Prospects.

The outlook for apples, pears and
cherries is very promising this year,
notwithstanding the fact some of
the orchards have been slightly
visited by frosts. So far no great
damage has been done, which may
be accounted for by the fact that
the continued cold weather held the
orchard bloom back enough to give
the required protection. A good
fruit crop is in order for Josephine
county this year and if it is realized
it will be of timely benefit to many
growers.

Elks Will Go to Roseburg.

May 15th will be "Elks' Day" in
Roseburg, and from indications the
event will prove most interesting.
In response to an invitation extended
by the local lodge, the members of
the Ashland herd will visit Roseburg
on the above date, 250 strong, mak-
ing the trip by special train. They
will be accompanied by a musical or-
ganization from the southern city.
Among the features of the day will
be a grand street parade, in which
it is expected that several hundred
Elks will take part. In the evening
the visitors will be entertained by the
members of the local lodge.

The city council is doing good
work and plenty of it. The mayor
has a way of keeping the ball roll-
ing and the decks cleared for busi-
ness.

If It's Right,
We Have It

"IF MEN WEAR IT, WE HAVE IT"

We Have It,
If It's Right

Announcement:

We wish to announce to the people of Grants Pass and vicinity
that our complete line of Clothing, Shoes and Furnishings is now
ready for inspection. A complete stock of Alfred Benjamin Clothes

Nobody wants to wear the common run of
clothes when there's style and quality, as
well as distinction, easily obtainable.

You never saw a Spring and Summer showing
to compare with what we are offering you.

There's an exclusiveness about the patterns
that is not the least of their attractiveness.
They are style leaders

**Clothes
Made By
Alfred
Benjamin
of
New York**

Clothes that fit, and the tailoring and
finish leave nothing to be asked

THE PRICES ARE AS RIGHT AS THE CLOTHES

PEERLESS CLOTHING CO.

LOW PRICES

"IF MEN WEAR IT, WE HAVE IT"

HIGH QUALITY



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