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Organization for Civic Improvement; All Should Be Interested in Welfare of the Town

A Talk by C. N. Laughrige to the Men's Club Last Monday Night

A town's condition reflects not so much upon its officials as upon its citizens. That officials alone cannot create ideal conditions goes without saying. It cannot lift itself above the plane upon which the people choose to keep it. Whether it shall be clean or dirty, attractive or ugly, a safe or unsafe place in which to live, will depend upon the ideals of its citizens—men, women and children. Each is in some degree responsible, and each has a part to play and the purpose of the Civic Improvement Association is the mobilization of these forces. It may have for its object the abolition of some public nuisance or some public improvement, and in its efforts to secure these needs its appeal is made to the individuals making up the community. Its primary object is to inspire and to educate, to educate the people to that point where they will charge the officials they elect with the duty of getting the best results—physical and moral—for funds expended; to inspire them to such a degree of local pride as to prompt them to put forth their best efforts toward the accomplishment of these ends. The creation of a strong public sentiment is what is wanted, and probably this can best be attained here in Condon through the work of the Commercial Club, whose slogan should be "Co-operation." The work of the Commercial Club is no longer purely economic, but extends to the social, the educational and the spiritual, and in the small town, there are certain advantages over the larger cities, for the reason that they are not hampered by so many details, and it often happens that the genius of one man in the small town in working toward some public improvement will stir the people to do other things for community advancement. But prosperity can reach its highest point only when there is actual co-operation among all, and this involves a considerable amount of unselfishness and a large vision.

It should be the purpose of this commercial organization to promote the

social, educational, commercial and moral well-being of the community. Prosperous times have been followed by reverses, and the people as a consequence have become skeptical of new things. Condon is unlike many other small communities which depend largely upon the surrounding farming population for support. It is made up mostly of busy people, who have very little time for self development, and it should be the purpose of the Commercial Club to develop better individual conditions from every standpoint, and to promote the general welfare. It should become a clearing house for ideas, and while it should not consolidate other organizations, or dictate their policies, it is my idea that wherever the social or educational, moral or commercial movement finds expression it should be of aid.

The presence of a commercial, or community club if you like, is an invitation to the people in the community to get together and do something for their town, and indirectly for themselves. The town's success means their success. Men as an organized unit form the connecting switch for bringing power into community life and action. To do this we must meet and get acquainted and discuss the matters pertaining to the needs of the community. We should have as our motto the following which is used by a small town in Pennsylvania: "Acquaintance begets friendship, friendship begets confidence, confidence means co-operation, which is the life of a community." There is not a doubt that Condon could be improved, but just how far the Commercial Club should go, and what should be done and what best to do, requires careful consideration. It would be my idea to plan a systematic program, and work toward that end. The leaders of this organization should be able to harmonize conflicting opinions, on the work in hand, and make united action possible. When some one plans to help the town, plan to help the plan, whether fostered by our organization or some other. No one should launch a movement without expecting to encounter obstacles. All progress is a struggle. It is extreme-

ly human to see things differently, and perhaps the other man is right. Right or wrong, the Commercial Club should be a filter through which things are passed along polished and better. The impractical parts will stop at the right place if intelligence is a part of the filter. To do the most good the club must be progressive and fully alive, and the members must meet—get acquainted—and think and plan, and every member should be made to count in worth-while movements, and every business man should be a member of the organization, and they will either be helped or help the organization.

Various committees should be appointed and I have prepared a form of an application, which is used by a town in the East, and which I believe could be worked over to suit the needs of our commercial association:

CIVIC VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

To the President of the Condon Commercial Club:

I hereby express my desire for civic service in the work of the Commercial Club. My special interests are indicated below.

Representative.

(The function of this representative of the Commercial Club, will be to confer with Councilmen, School Directors, County Officers, State Senators and Representatives, and other public officials, such as health officers, etc., on important legislation pertaining to the needs of the community, and to make reports to the directors of the club at frequent intervals. He should be in close touch with other organizations of the state.)

CIVIC COMMITTEES:

- First and second choice—Abatement of nuisances. City charter. City beautification. City planning. Civic Education (Public understanding of public problems, naturalization of aliens, etc.) County institutions, roads, etc. Crime and its preventions. Moving pictures. Municipal and county finance. Public Education (public and high school.)

Public Health. Public recreations (playgrounds etc.) Public works (street work, sewer, water works, garbage collections, street cleaning, etc., also street lighting.) Social problems (in regard to presenting facts and conditions of poverty, unemployment, etc., and to suggest remedies.) City publicity. Welcome. Membership.

Signed ()

These committees are self explanatory, but I want to say that I consider as very important the membership and publicity committees. It is a mistake to interest only the so-called best people in a movement of this kind. We should invite particularly those persons whose premises are obnoxious, and who seem to be indifferent as to how things go on in the town. Co-operation with these will do more toward bringing about improved conditions than any amount of effort on the part of the elite of the town. Work with them, not for them.

The publicity committee constitutes the strongest medium for the education of the people of the town. I realize that the local papers now and have been for a long time doing perhaps all they could along this line, but to my mind they need the help of an authorized committee of public-spirited men or women to encourage them, and I believe that the people generally would feel more interest if they felt that they had something to do with it, and too the papers would feel more enthusiastic and encouraged. This committee should have some works on Civic Improvement, pamphlets from the State Board of Health, and Government Bulletins relating to community work, of which there are many, and by preserving these folders and bulletins, and other clippings from newspapers, a small library could be built up in a short time. This committee should not stop with filing it away, but preserve it, and take it up with the proper committee to which the folder applies and have them get busy. Among these publications are suggestions for "Clean

Up Campaigns," "Clean Up Work," "The Fly Question," "Garbage Collection," "How the High School May Assist in Civic Development," "Teaching Civics by Giving Pupils Civic Work to Do," and many others.

The committee on law enforcement should concern itself with a serious study of the local ordinances with a view not so much to the creation of new legislation, as to the enforcement or the elimination or the amendment of existing laws.

The Social Service Committee should encourage and work for playgrounds, social centers, the creation of opportunities for education, and for the protection from vicious influences, for rest rooms, etc. Every new family moving into town should receive a welcome and an invitation to join the movement to make the city ideal for home and business.

The children of the town should be encouraged to become intelligent, useful citizens thru service. It seems to me that training in practical citizenship should be given in our public schools, as a part of the regular school work, from the first grade up. In the child's own town, with its problems as an object lesson, and with public-spirited, well-trained teachers to point the way, there is no need of any child leaving school, even from the grades, without a pretty fair knowledge of his community, and without an inspiration for service in the community. The future of our town will take care of itself without the aid of a commercial club, or civic organization, when the children are given practical training in citizenship, when they learn to do for the community by doing for the community. Until that time comes, however, the children should be organized into a working body. All the children of the community, with or without ideals, will have a large voice in the future affairs of the town, and the time to create high ideals for civic good, is not after they have grown up, but now.

Let me tell you about the Thrift Idea which was started in Springfield, Ill., and is now used in many of the progressive towns in the United States.

In Portland recently they held Thrift Day, and while here in Condon it would of course, be on a much smaller scale, I believe it would accomplish the purpose for which it is intended.

With the object of stimulating a tendency for saving and thrift among the pupils of the public schools, in Springfield, the Savings Bank System was introduced into the schools, and has proved very satisfactory from the standpoint of the schools and patrons, as well as of the co-operating banks. It has been found that the pupils after saving a considerable amount have invested their savings in building lots, loan stock and other substantial securities, and the savings for the year amounted to something over \$70,000, eighteen schools being represented. Briefly the plan is this. Assuming the board of directors has approved the idea, and the local banks have taken the necessary steps to co-operate, an effort is made to interest the children in saving by the few minutes talk on thrift given by the teacher at least once a week. When the pupils interest is so aroused that they really are anxious to save, the teacher explains the idea of the systematic bank plan and urges them to talk the matter over with their parents. At this time the teacher gives each a card of introduction, which in due time is presented to the bank which the child advised by the parent may select. The child's earnestness will receive the encouragement of the parent who goes with him to the bank. There the card of introduction is presented with ten cents or whatever the child has to save, and the teller gives the child an envelope bank, and explains that when the child returns the bank with one dollar in it, he will be given a regular depositor's bank book, then returns the card bank to the teacher to have the report copied on the school record. The children are thus encouraged to save their pennies, nickels and dimes, and instead of spending for useless things, or perhaps going too often to the picture show, and since an incentive to earn is naturally associated with the desire to save, determined efforts are put forth by

Continued on next page

WOOL CAR HERE NEXT MONDAY

The Demonstration Wool Car will arrive in Condon Sunday evening and will be here all day Monday for the benefit of the woolgrowers. Sheep of different types to display good and bad fleeces will be shown and the car will also contain a textile exhibit showing the various steps toward the manufacture of wool; the American market grades under a magnifying glass; a case of Australian and New Zealand wool; samples showing the bad effect of tight tying of wool upon cloth; and various other features which will be interesting and instructive to the sheepmen.

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN; DEBATE NEXT FRIDAY

School reopened Monday after being closed a few days on account of the scarlet fever. As yet no cases have been reported from the high school.

Several Seniors went to Heppner for the Elk dance.

The boys' basketball teams played a game in the Armory Thursday evening.

There will be a program at the High School Friday afternoon, March 2. The Sophomores will debate the question: "Resolved, That interscholastic contests in oratory should receive more attention than interscholastic athletics. Affirmative: Edward Finlay, Roy Carnine, Alex Hardie; negative, Vivian Austin, Hortense Farr, May Campbell. All interested are invited to attend.

Dr. Wilhelm reports a son born on Saturday, February 17, to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Stevens of Buckhorn.

LOCAL FARMER SELLS MUCH BLOODED STOCK

Since the seventh of last June I. A. Hoskin, one of the county's most progressive farmers, has sold fifteen pure bred and registered Poland Chinas to farmers of Gilliam county. Following is the list of sales:

- Two males and one female to J. A. Simmons, Condon. One male to W. E. Smith, Trail Fork. Six females to J. W. Hire, Condon. One male to C. W. Plummer, Olex. One male to Emmett Cooney, Condon. One male to George Whyte, Condon. One male to A. H. Porter, Mayville. One male to G. W. Stevenson, Mayville.

Mr. Hoskin says: "I give the credit for most of these sales to the Condon Globe. All of my stock has originated from the very best strain bred in the east, my last purchase being a registered Big Type Poland China male from Pfander & Sons at Clarinda, Iowa. I have no more of this stock for sale at present."

Mr. Hoskin is known all over the county as a raiser of Poland China hogs and Rhode Island Red chickens and he has added another line to his list. Friday he received a trio of Mammoth Bronze turkeys from Hampton, Iowa, and he has a trio of Rhode Island Reds and a trio of guineas coming from the same place. These are all valuable birds.

F. E. Smith of Mayville is interested in the idea of the one-man harvester which was demonstrated in this county last fall and may buy two to use on his farm.

ARE YOU PATRIOTIC? YOU'LL ENJOY THIS

Everybody is cordially invited to attend the patriotic service which is to be given by the Men's Club at the Congregational church Sunday night instead of the regular Sunday evening service. Following is the program: The Star Spangled Banner and other patriotic songs in which all present will be requested to join.

"Our National Songs, Our Flag and Patriotism."

D. W. HAMMACK. Selection, MALE QUARTETTE "Patriots of the Past."

W. A. GOODWIN. Selection, CHOIR "Some Present Day Incentives to Patriotism or Why We Should Be a Patriotic People."

D. N. MACKAY. America. Everybody sing.

N. D. Caven will take charge of his restaurant again next Monday. He is making several improvements to insure good service to his patrons.

L. E. Shelley received a carload of Hudson Super Sixes week before last and they are all sold. He will get another car about March 1st.

A covering of white paint and tile paper helps the appearance of the interior of Bock's meat market. The work was done the first of the week.

Messrs. Jones and Pryor, who recently purchased the Grider farm south of Condon, have taken possession. They expect to have this year at least 250 acres in wheat and 200 in barley and are thinking some of buying a one-man harvester. They are good farmers and will make a success on their new farm.

FARMERS MEET AND PLAN FOR EXPANSION

A meeting of the Farmers' Elevator Company will be held this (Friday) afternoon in this city for the purpose of levying an assessment on the stock already issued to provide means for enlarging the present elevator to one of 150,000 bushels capacity. No more stock will be issued. The farmers are enthusiastically in favor of the elevator and it has been shown that the present capacity is much too small.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Jones of Mayville returned last week from a trip to Walla Walla and Portland. While in Portland Mr. Jones bought a new Aultman-Taylor tractor and separator. He also purchased a six bottom plow and will use the tractor in plowing on his farms in the Mayville country.

James Murtha, one of the big sheepmen of eastern Oregon, will do his traveling in a Hudson Super Six. He bought one yesterday from L. E. Shelley.

Al Collins renewed his subscription to the Globe Saturday.

VISITORS ARE TO BE ENTERTAINED

Condon business men will entertain the woolgrowers who come to this city next Monday for the sheep and wool demonstration. This was decided at a meeting of the Commercial Club held in the county clerk's office Wednesday night. O. B. Robertson, George B. Dukek and A. B. Robertson were selected as an entertainment committee and this committee, in addition to other things, has arranged for a lunch at one o'clock at the Summit Hotel for the visiting sheepmen and the business men of the town. Several short talks will be heard. The Club endorsed September 27, 28 and 29 as dates for Gilliam county's fair and appointed A. B. Robertson and Chas. H. Horner as a committee to revise the premium list, giving these members authority to select some lady to revise the fancy-work department of the list.

By an unanimous vote the Club decided to recommend Jas. S. Stewart of Fossil as highway commissioner from this district and this recommendation has been forwarded to Governor Withycombe. It is expected that the counties of Wheeler and Grant will unite with this county in asking that the governor consider Mr. Stewart for this position.

Shoemaker Bros. of Mitchell shipped a car of cattle to North Portland Sunday.

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LADIES

Mrs. Summers wishes to announce that she will present an entirely new selection of Spring Millinery commencing

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1917.

Main Street, Condon, Oregon.

Your attendance is earnestly requested.