

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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THEY SHOULD BE FAIR.

IT IS REMARKABLY strange that the partisan feeling of some newspapers will not allow the statements and political positions of public men to be treated with common honesty. Most newspapers that pose as reputable journals, admit that Mr. Bryan is an honorable upright gentleman, and who is actuated by right motives. But let Mr. Bryan make a statement, upon any subject whatever, and they are ready to distort it and oftentimes change it so that a meaning, probably, exactly opposite to what was intended, results. They care not of course if they are called down because of their misrepresentation. They hope that their distorted words may, in a measure, counteract the words and meaning of what Mr. Bryan really did say and mean. Nor is this method of procedure limited to Mr. Bryan. Other public men are made to suffer in their public statements as well.

Now we believe it is the duty of a newspaper to criticize public men and what they say on matters pertaining to public questions. But we believe, to distort or misconstrue what a public man really does say, so that a meaning foreign to what was intended is conveyed, is wrong. It is unworthy of any respectable newspaper to do so. It tends to lessen the influence of any and all newspapers upon the minds of honorable men.

Men and newspapers should be honest enough to admit a fact, even if stated by a personal or political enemy. It does not destroy one atom of personal dignity to do so. On the contrary, for a man or newspaper to refuse to be thus courteous, and honest with his political opponent, simply shows him to be small and contemptible.

No man nor newspaper should assume to be the source of all wisdom; for even the most proud are sometimes mistaken. The Oregonian even has been known to be mistaken on matters of fact. Any newspaper will sometimes array itself upon the wrong side of a public question. But, if it is honest enough with the public, to acknowledge its error when it ascertains the truth, then does that newspaper become worthy of the confidence of the people and, in the end, is sure to get their financial support. But, the newspaper which habitually distorts facts concerning public men for partisan purposes, is sure to lose the confidence of the people. And it ought to do so.

Mr. Bryan's opinions on all public questions, have been expressed openly and boldly. His tariff views are sure to receive the approval of all men irrespective of political party, who really wish the tariff schedules reduced. If revenue is the prime object of a tariff, then the schedule should be so adjusted that it will produce the largest possible revenue. There was a time in the history of our manufacturing industries, when protection to manufacturers may have been advisable or excusable. If so that time has long since passed. Our infant industries have grown to be lusty giants which dominates, not only our own country, but the entire world to a considerable extent. Mr. Bryan thinks that "protection" should be a minor factor at most, in the proposed revision. He thinks the American people have paid tribute to the tariff barons long enough. He thinks the American workingman or farmer should buy American made goods as cheaply as the European or South American working man or farmer. No honest minded man, except he be a manufacturer, will find fault with this opinion. Then why not be honest and fair enough to say so? Why let partisanship so blindfold you that you cannot or will not see what is for our best interests.

Mr. Bryan is very much in favor of bankers as a whole insuring bank depositors. This opinion is objected to by some people, principally bankers, probably. They say the honest banker should not be responsible for the dishonest acts of the shyster banker. Neither should the honest depositor be responsible. It would be far better for all bankers to be honest and lawabiding. But they are not

and Mr. Bryan believes that bankers, as a class should bear the loss occasioned by the dishonesty of their fellows, rather than for the trusting depositors to do so. Oklahoma has a law of this kind to which the state banks must comply. It is working so satisfactory that many of her national banks are surrendering their charters and are taking out state charters instead. Business reasons force them to do so. Adjoining states will be compelled to enact similar laws, to prevent their people from depositing their money in the Oklahoma banks. Absolute safety is provided for the Oklahoma depositor. Hence there will never be a financial panic in that state. Mr. Bryan would make the national banks as safe for the depositor as are the Oklahoma state banks. Should his views, in this regard, be so distorted that he be made to appear as fighting capital? Yet many republican newspapers are endeavoring to give his words that meaning. Of course he is fighting capital when it is used to oppress and rob the people. But he is trying to protect capital in the hands of honest people. It is the misuse of capital upon which he makes war.

Mr. Bryan stands for the people's interests upon all public questions in the same way as with the tariff and bank deposits questions. He states his position upon them openly and fearlessly. And the man or newspaper who attempts to distort or befog his meaning upon them, is a subject of suspicion. He is allied in some way with the interests which are oppressing the people and upon which Mr. Bryan is waging an uncompromising war. Nothing less than an unconditional surrender of the hold these interests have upon the government, is what Mr. Bryan is striving for. He wants the question "Shall the people rule?" answered with "YES" in bold-faced capital letters. The man or newspaper who endeavors to prevent the accomplishment of this result, whether advocated by Mr. Bryan, or anybody else, is an enemy of the people and of the government as well. He or it is unworthy of the confidence or patronage of the people.

ONE BOARD OF REGENTS.

THE QUESTION OF placing all of our state colleges under the control of one board of regents, is being agitated throughout the state to some considerable extent. It has been a subject for discussion before the various granges and, no doubt, an effort will be made to secure the necessary legislation, by the legislature, next winter, to accomplish that end.

The News thinks favorably of the movement. It would be a vast improvement over the present plan of several different boards. There is no reason why one board of regents could not plan the college work to a better advantage and at a less cost, than several boards. One of the principle causes of extravagance, and rivalry, would be effectually removed. There would not be the desire, on the part of the regents to enable the college buildings in one city or town to excel those of another college town, whether they are needed or not. The plan might be carried even further. One president of all the colleges might secure better results, than a president for each college.

One fact is quite evident. No man should be appointed regent, who is a resident of a town or county wherein a college is located; nor should a regent have relatives employed in any capacity in either of the colleges. A regent should be absolutely unbiased or unprejudiced in all matters pertaining to college management. This is not nor cannot be the case if the regent is a resident of a college county; or if he has a relative employed by either college. Human nature is such that, no matter how honest a man's intentions may be he is sure to be biased in some degree wherein he has a personal interest.

There are six college counties. Surely the rest of the state could furnish a board of capable men or women, who would manage the colleges as intelligently and care for their welfare with as much care, as if they lived in the college counties. A board so selected would entirely remove the educational lobby which biennially throng our legislative halls.

One of the leading bones of contention as between the O. A. C. and the O. U. would be removed if both colleges were managed by one board of regents. We have reference to the duplication of college work. Manifestly the state should not be required to pay for work at Eugene, which it is paying for at Corvallis, and vice versa. Then one board of regents would, at once, put an end to doing high school work in the college. There is an effort being made, all over the state, to organize high schools. Portland's high schools now carry the student to within one year of what he may obtain at Corvallis. There is no reason why all of our large towns, such as Astoria, The Dalles, Oregon City, Salem, Albany, Corvallis, Eugene and other like cities, may not have high schools equally as good as those of Portland or Baker City. And if the college doors should be closed to students including and below the twelfth grade, these cities would soon bring their high school up to that standard. Smaller towns and country districts can reach the same end by forming an union high school district, such as that now proposed for Scio and the adjoining country districts. It can, at once, be seen that if our state colleges are permitted to include high school work in their courses of study, the college at once becomes the enemy of the high school.

Most of our boys and girls must be content with the education the public school can supply. But five per cent. of them can afford or do afford to attend the college. Then how necessary to the welfare of the state are the public schools. How important that the public school should be made as complete as possible. How wrong it is for the state to permit her half dozen colleges to become competitors with the high school in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade work.

In a previous editorial article, we stated that Corvallis had no high school. Why? The Oregon Agricultural college is the answer. Close the doors of O. A. C. to students below and including the twelfth grade and a high school would be organized in twelve months. Of course raising the standard of O. A. C. would reduce the number of her students greatly. She would not need so many teachers and the buildings now erected there would do for years to come. But the News fails to see wherein O. A. C. or the state would be injured. On the contrary both would be benefitted.

The News believes in the public schools. The progress of the state and the intelligence of the people depends, in a far greater degree upon the character of our public schools, than upon our colleges. Indeed, the intelligence of any state can be measured by the excellence of her public schools. Why is there so much less illiteracy in the states which were known prior to 1860 as free states than in the then slave states? The South has ever had excellent colleges; but she neglected her public schools. The North had her colleges as well but better still, she nurtured her public schools.

Oregon can build up her schools, if she but commences at the bottom. She can never do so, if her efforts are directed towards the top. If either is to be neglected let it be the colleges. The state could get along if there was not a college within her borders. She could not get on without her public schools. Then her first duty is to the public schools. Let high schools be encouraged in every locality. Let us not permit any discouragement to them on the part of our colleges. Let the work of our colleges be to carry the student forward after the high school has done all it can for him. Abraham Lincoln is credited with saying "The Lord must love the common people, for he made so many of them." The public school should be the first care of the state, for within the walls of the public schools, the common people—the hope of our country—is educated.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed Administrator of the estate of Maria Schaefer, deceased, late of Linn County Oregon. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to the undersigned duly verified as by law required within six months from this date. Dated this 22nd day of August, 1908.
CHARLES SCHAEFER
Administrator.
Weatherford & Wyatt, Attorneys for Administrator.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Administrator of the estate of George Christie Johnston, deceased has filed his final account with the Clerk of the County Court, for Linn County, Oregon, and the Judge of the above entitled Court has fixed the 14th day of September, 1908, at the hour of 1 o'clock p. m. for the hearing of objections to said account and the settlement of said estate.
Dated this 14th day of August, 1908.
RILEY SHELTON,
Administrator.



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