

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One year in advance	\$1 25
One year, at end of year	1 50
One year, at end of 2 years	1 75
One year, at end of 3 years	2 00
Six months in advance	75
Three months in advance	50
Single copy in wrapper	05

ADVERTISING RATES:

Car of thanks	50
Special obituary notices, per line	03
Extended wedding comments, per line	03
Display ads, to be changed weekly if desired, one column wide each insertion, per inch	15
Business locals per line first insertion	10
Each subsequent insertion per line	05
Long time standing ads. contracts made on application.	

COMPETENCY BEFORE AVAILABILITY

THE VOTERS OF LINN COUNTY will, next year, be required to select a new board of county officials. As we would select employees in private life should these public officials be selected. That is to say, we should place character and qualification, above availability and political preferment. Many voters are apt to allow political or personal favoritism to have absolute control in making choice. This method often places men wholly unfit to perform the duties required, in public office.

Political sentiment should have the least influence of any of those required in the county official, in his selection. It makes but little difference whether the public officer is a republican, democrat, socialist or prohibitionist; but it is a matter of great moment whether he is honest and capable and will execute the law without fear or favor. Therefore, the conscientious voter, who has the public good at heart, should subject the candidate for public office to the following requirements:

First—Is his character for honesty unquestioned?

Second—Does he possess suitable qualifications for the duties required in the office to which he aspires?

Third—Is he of such a disposition that he will be approachable and obliging to the poorest and most obscure citizen as well as the rich and prominent?

These questions being answered affirmatively on the behalf of the candidate, the minor considerations of his availability and political sentiment may be taken up.

Undoubtedly the chief characteristic of the public official should be, absolute honesty and integrity. Without this quality, all other features fade into insignificance. His qualification or fitness should then be considered. Then would come his affability. Then his availability and finally and last of all, his political sentiments or the political party with which he affiliates.

There is a disposition on the part of many voters to consider public office a sort of public charity—something that should be passed around. The NEWS considers this idea a grave mistake, and one which no sensible man makes in selecting private employees.

Experience is considered a valuable asset in the private employee. Should one think of building a house or barn he would be deemed very foolish, indeed, if he intrusted its construction to a man wholly inexperienced in carpentry. If a man is required to operate a saw mill, a sash and door factory, a blacksmith shop or a mercantile establishment, experience is deemed a vital qualification; otherwise failure in either proposition, would be regarded as more probable than success.

Why should we not take a pointer from these experiences in private, in selecting public officials? Can we expect efficiency in the official when we place men wholly inexperienced and without the requisite qualifications in the public position? Nevertheless he may be an all around good fellow, and a successful vote getter, he may be a most indifferent official. Unless he possesses the necessary qualification, he is sure to make a bungle of the work required of him. Nor can we reasonably expect more from the inexperienced

or incompetent public official, nevertheless he may be an admirable man in all other respects.

Therefore, if we would have an honest efficient public service, it behooves us to be careful whom we elect as public servants. We should select men who have proven themselves efficient and who have had experience whenever possible, regardless as to his political sentiments. In this way and in this way only, may we expect our public service to be what we desire of it.

In times past men have been elected to office in Linn County, who have proven flat failures, and, in one or two instances, criminal prosecutions and punishment have resulted. In one of these cases, in particular, an official served time in the penitentiary for defalcation. His crime was not due to willful intent to do wrong; but to his incapability to do what was required of him. In another instance wherein the official served for three or four terms, his books were in such a jumble, that no expert was able to straighten them out. In both these instances the county was the loser, because of the incapableness of the officials selected. In both cases the characters before election were above reproach. Undoubtedly they would have continued to sustain stainless reputations, had they not been called upon to do work they were incapable of performing. The people of Linn county did them an unkindness in electing them to office.

Nor should we reject a man who is a candidate for public office and who possesses the requisite qualifications, simply because we may be at outs with him personally. We should consider the public good of more importance than the satisfying of personal spite. If we know a man will make a good officer, no matter whether we may like him or not, as patriotic citizens, it is our duty to elect him.

FREE COPY NUISANCE

THE NEWS IS BEING FLOODED, weekly, with so-called "free copy" to be released at a specified date. Presumably, other newspapers are being likewise favored (?). If we should use one-half of this "free copy," this paper would be compelled to increase its capacity and buy a modern type setting machine. And some people, who desire their matter published, even go further than sending "free copy," they send "free" plates so that the newspaper is saved the expense of typesetting.

Of course these people would like to have their matter given publicity. They may imagine that they are doing a country editor a favor in thus providing him with copy. But, as all of this "copy" is of an advertising nature, puffing this or that place or man or men, this paper usually dumps such news (?) letters into the waste box, to be used to kindle fires with, when the weather is cooler than now.

The NEWS does not need this "free" copy. Whether its columns are filled with the latest news or not. Most of this stuff is not interesting, neither to the editor nor his readers.

If our friends (?) at these various places, wish to advertise themselves, their places, schools, etc., we have a regular rate for the same, and they can save postage by keeping their self adulatory effusions at home, especially when written as news items.

It may appear strange that a newspaper man must eat and wear clothes, the same as other people. Yet such is the case. Also, the men who work at the case have appetites and, likewise need clothing, especially when the weather takes on a wintry stunt. Therefore, it is necessary for people who endeavor to work in free advertising as news matter, to remember the newspaper man, his printer and the devil, as well, must live and that his space is worth so much per.

Authority on the manufacture of furniture assert that Grand Rapids alone sends \$5,000,000.00 worth of furniture to the Pacific Coast every year, and yet we have in Oregon a number of factories which are manufacturing furniture of the highest grade at prices that are as low, or lower, than those demanded by Grand Rapids manufacturers. Oregon has many hardwoods capable of being made into good furniture and Portland has a hardwood mill which is dressing Siberian oak, Fiji mahogany, and other woods which are being manufactured by Oregon furniture factories into furniture of the highest grade. If the people of this state would insist on having "Made in Oregon" furniture this one industry alone would keep hundreds of thousands of dollars within the state which now goes to Eastern furniture manufacturers every year. This is just one example of what the "Made in Oregon" movement will do for this state, and there are many others.

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