

Intermountain Tribune

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T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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DR. WITHYCOMBE FOR GOVERNOR

Press reports state that Dr. James Withycombe, head of the experiment station, of the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis, is an active aspirant for the nomination as the candidate of his party for the office of governor of Oregon. The Tribune regrets to learn of this fact for several reasons. In his present position as director of experimental work at the college, Dr. Withycombe is rendering the state a most valuable service. It is doubtful if there is another man in the state who could step into his shoes and do the work as well as he. Being an honorable, high-minded gentleman and of a genial nature, he has made himself exceedingly popular with every agricultural community in Oregon. He is stimulating and demonstrating through his experimental work just the things farmers wish to know. In other words, he is showing the farmer how to make two blades of grass grow instead of one under the former conditions. But when the Doctor steps aside from the position he so ably fills and proposes to become governor of the great state of Oregon, then a different angle of matters is presented for the people to consider.

There are hundreds of members of his party who can fill this important office as capably if not better than he. Dr. Withycombe has twice been the candidate of his party for governor of Oregon and as often has gone down to defeat. It is unnecessary to cite the causes for his defeat in each instance of his past candidacies. He probably now thinks he made mistakes in his past efforts to secure the gubernatorial chair. The Tribune thinks he will make his third mistake, should he win out at the primaries.

We understand that Dr. Withycombe owns a valuable farm in Washington county, thus bringing him in intimate relations with Oregon farmers. But farming is not his principle occupation in life, by any means. He has drawn a salary almost continuously, from the state or nation ever since he became a citizen in order to be appointed state veterinarian by Gov. Penneyer many years ago. Therefore, in his leading occupation Dr. Withycombe is a taxpayer and a taxpayer as a side issue.

The governor of Oregon can and does have a great deal to do in holding down tax levies for state purposes. He should, therefore, be immediately related to the side of the taxpayer and should, always, be taken from the ranks of tax payers; because his involvement in business life will cause him to look at public expenditures from the taxpayers viewpoint. A man who has, during a larger portion of his life, drawn a salary from the public treasury must, necessarily, come in sympathy with the side of the taxpayer. If, in the position of governor he will, unconsciously it may be, look upon the appropriations of public money,

increase of salaries, etc., in a most friendly spirit.

Dr. Withycombe fills the measure of the above admirably. Furthermore, his intimate association for many years with the welfare of the Oregon Agricultural college would cause him, should he become governor, to look upon any appropriation asked for by that institution in a most friendly manner. Possibly his candidacy for the place is a scheme originated in the fertile brain of President Kerr for this very purpose. Who knows?

As before stated, the Tribune regrets that Dr. Withycombe has been persuaded by his friends (?) to make the race. We all know that he is a most valuable man in his present position, but no one knows what quality of governor he would make. For the reasons above cited, the Tribune believes he would make a very expensive one to Oregon taxpayers. To take a man from a position in which he is a pronounced success and place him in one in which his abilities are wholly unknown, the Tribune believes would be foolish.

The wisest course for the voter to pursue in this matter, we believe, is to vote for some other man at the primary election. We think it would be to the interests of both Dr. Withycombe and the taxpayers. Personally we have a profound respect for Dr. Withycombe's ability to fill his present position. But as for governor, please excuse us.

HARMONY OF ACTION

No community can prosper as it should, without there is a harmony of effort on the part of the people. Especially is this true whenever a public enterprise is undertaken. Of course, it is right and proper for everyone to advance his or her ideas as to the method in which a public enterprise should be executed or carried out but, after a plan of action has been agreed upon by a majority of the people then, whether right or wrong, the plan should have the hearty support of all the people. There should be no kickers.

As a matter of course, it is pleasing to anyone to have his or her plan adopted for the prosecution of a public enterprise. But, suppose the plan of your neighbor is adopted instead of your own? Are you acting the part of a good citizen if you exert all the power you possess to defeat the project?

Now, as a matter of fact, Sweet Home will have to undertake street improvement during the coming summer. Possibly there will be as many plans as to how the work should be done as we have citizens. Some one of the plans and some one man must be selected to do this work. Possibly his plans may not be selected to do this work. Possibly his plans may not agree with your own; or he may not employ just the people whom you would employ, to do the work. If you use your utmost endeavor to make the improvement a failure, do you think you are manifesting the spirit of a citizen who desires and works for the welfare of our town?

Within the next year or so, Sweet Home must cast off the clothes of her village days and put on those of a prosperous town. With these village clothes, let us drop all petty jealousies, bickering, faultfinding, etc. and all work for the one central purpose—the welfare of our town.

The Tribune is well aware that habit weilds a strong influence over one's action. Let a person form the habit of faultfinding and it seems almost impossible to break away from it. We suggest that you read a certain verse of the Bible carefully which says something about taking the beam from your own eye before you attempt to ex-

tract the mote from your neighbor's eye.

Now Sweet Home stands in the attitude of inviting business to come to our town. We want the railroad, a big sawmill, a bank and any other enterprise which will add wealth and inhabitants to our town. An inharmonious feeling among our people, petty jealousies, etc. are not encouraging to anyone who would come among us to live. On the other hand, if the stranger should see a disposition on the part of our people to pull together for any public enterprise, that, in itself will be an inducement to him to come among us.

By all means, stop knocking. Have the best possible opinion of your neighbor. If he does wrong, advise him in a friendly spirit to do or act differently. Both your neighbor and yourself will feel the better for it.

The Tribune offers the above in the most friendly spirit. It has no other purpose than to work for the best interests of Sweet Home. Of course, we have ideas as to how public enterprises should be carried out. But if some other plan is adopted, the Tribune will give the best support it can to make whatever plan is adopted, a success. Our purpose is to help build up along every line—never to tear down.

THE LAST LAP

Now that President Wilson has raised the embargo against the taking of arms and munitions of war across the Mexican international boundary, the reign of Assassin Huerta is, probably, on its last lap. With a half-armed, poorly provisioned army, the Mexican rebels have secured control of more than one-half of the Mexican territory. With ability to fully arm and equip his troops and with power to largely increase the size of his army and arm them, General Villa, the rebel commander, should be able to make short work in the matter of securing entire control.

But it is quite likely, before the now rebel forces, when successful, can pacify matters throughout that unhappy nation, a new revolution will break out. A people as ignorant as the masses of the Mexicans seem to be, are easily duped and made victims of misrepresentations. With the Peon classes, revolution has become a trade and the idea of having to get down to real productive work in order to earn a livelihood, instead of roaming over the country and taking it at will, will not suit a people which are naturally lazy.

In the end, the Tribune predicts, armed intervention by the United States is the only solution of the problem. The Mexican people are so turbulent and treacherous that they never will give an established government time enough to establish its policies. People of this class never submit to anything they think they do not like, unless compelled to do so by a superior power.

The Huerta dynasty will hardly last more than a few weeks at most. But with his downfall, Mexico's troubles will not be over. A government which is feeble and incapable of protecting itself from its citizens, is a poor affair indeed. Until the Mexican Peon can be educated to the importance of maintaining a stable government—one capable of protecting itself and be willing to submit to the rule of the majority, there can be no permanent peace, until the factions are completely exhausted and starved out.

For this reason, some more powerful government, for the sake of humanity, must step in and protect these turbulent factions from each other.

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