

OREGON'S OWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(C. C. Chapman in Oregon Voter.)

Instead of a Portland-owned, Portland-financed and Portland-manipulated organization of state name, Oregon now has a state-wide commercial body that is owned out in the great state itself, and whose officers, directors and committees live outside of Portland, with the exception of a small minority. The foundations for this organization were laid at a meeting in Portland, and it chose its own name, that of "Oregon State Chamber of Commerce."

Of fifteen elected directors, fourteen reside outside of the City of Portland, and only one of the fourteen is engaged in business within that city. Two directors only of the fifteen were chosen by Portland, and only one of the two resides within the city, the other living on a farm more than forty miles beyond the corporate limits of the city.

Ten of the fifteen directors were selected by delegates from the commercial bodies of Eastern and Western Oregon, five from each great geographical division of the state. The selection was made at large by members of state-wide associations represented in the meeting, and of these three, one is a resident of Eastern Oregon and two of Western Oregon.

There were five elective officers. Of these, the president, two vice presidents and treasurer were chosen from outside of Portland and one vice president from Portland.

Of 173 appointees on various committees, only 33 were from Portland, less than one-fifth the total membership.

At the annual meeting, and on referendums, was so arranged that every community commercial organization in the state is entitled to one vote, while even the great Portland Chamber of Commerce is entitled to only five votes. Eugene, with her commercial club membership of 475, is also entitled to five votes. Any commercial body having more than 100 members is entitled to an additional vote for each additional hundred members or major fraction thereof. Thus, the enterprising Baker Commercial Club with its 153 members is entitled to two votes, and if it raises its membership to 450 or 500 members, it will be entitled to the maximum number of five votes, the same as the Portland Chamber of Commerce. State-wide associations who affiliate with the State Chamber are entitled to two votes each.

Thus the voting power, the same as the directorship and the management, is firmly secured to the outside of the state. Should there be one hundred community organizations join the state chamber, each

would have its one vote plus the additional members, making a total of perhaps 115 to 125 votes as against only five votes of the Portland Chamber of Commerce. The possibility of Portland control is thus eliminated in the structure of the state organization.

Needless to say, the broad-minded businessmen of Portland are pleased with this arrangement, while those whose vision is not so broad are somewhat puzzled by it. The sentiment was strong at the outset of the meeting, so far as some members of the Portland delegation was concerned, that Portland having one-fifth of the population of the state was entitled to one third of the voting power in the state organization.

This suggestion met with no enthusiasm from the state delegates, and the Portland delegates were forced to accept its fairness. Others from Portland, however, felt that it was necessary to wipe out any possibility of Portland control, and advanced the proposal which won the enthusiasm of the outside and which ultimately was adopted, and which is outlined in its essentials above. All the Portland delegates are immeasurably pleased, now that the matter is adjusted, for the reason that the enthusiasm of the outside delegates is so genuine, and it is to this enthusiasm the organization will owe whatever success it attains.

It is evident that the "Outside" owns the State Chamber, body, boots and B. V. D.'s, tongue and running gear. Can the "Outside" make a success of its own organization, and what good will it do the state as a whole if it does make a success of it?

Of course the "Outside" can make a success of it. Has not this been demonstrated over and over again in the recent patriotic drives, that the outside committeemen and drive managers were able to put their counties "over the top" as a rule ahead of the metropolis itself?

Are not the business men of the different parts of the state as brainy as public-spirited, as loyal to the state, as devoted to its development as the business men of Portland?

Are not many of them as "Big" in the best sense of the word as the business men of Portland?

No one who knows the business men of the "outside" and of Portland will deny an affirmative answer to any part of these questions. The Portlanders who imagine that their city contains all of the big, brainy, broad-minded, successful business men of Oregon lacks acquaintance.

Such men are scattered throughout the state, confined to no one division or section thereof, and certainly not confined within the boundaries of its most populous municipality.

It is evident, too, that the possibilities of a genuine State chamber

have captured the imaginations of the big men of Oregon outside of as well as within Portland.

What can a State Chamber do?

It can crystallize the general sentiment of the business men of Oregon and give it united expression of any public question the decision of which affects Oregon or business in Oregon. At present, this sentiment is expressed only by individuals. In no way is it organized or mobilized. A unification of this sentiment is certain to have its effect when brought to bear on any controversy before the Legislature or the People of Oregon.

It can act as a clearing house for information on all subjects relating to the development of Oregon's natural resources, or for the improvement of every section of the state. This information, assembled as only it can be gathered by a state organization that ramifies into every part of Oregon, will be valuable to every move that is made for developing the state or any of its localities. When presented, it would have the backing of a body that was truly representative of the entire state and not of the possible selfish interest of the metropolis alone.

Without attempting to mention the possibilities of using this information in a way that will directly aid in the development of Oregon, and thereby help different parts of the state in a direct way, we merely suggest what can be done along the lines of securing funds for Reclamation of Arid and Swamp lands, of Logged-off Lands, Good Roads, Railway Extension, Establishment of Industries, Land Settlement and other projects the vastness of which preclude the possibility of an individual or an isolated community accomplishing much toward financing. A State Chamber, mobilizing the information that comes from its constituent membership as to local needs and local opportunities, and acting as a State Body in campaigning for recognition by Public and Private bodies, would be a power indeed which brought behind any move that had actual development as its objective.

To safeguard these expressions of the State Chamber as a whole, so they will not be regarded as adopted as so many resolutions are, without being truly representative, the celebrated "Referendum" of Oregon has been chosen for the method procedure. The plan as used so successfully by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America is that followed.

Propositions to which it is intended to commit the State Chamber as a whole are submitted to the constituent commercial bodies in written form, with arguments for and against. The local commercial body then acts upon each proposal in accordance with its own conception of what is right and wrong. The action is recorded at headquarters, and if two-thirds of the votes from all over the state are in favor of the proposal, it is adopted and the Chamber is bound to support it as its policy.

An expression of the State Chamber, therefore, will be in fact what it purports to be in name, an actual expression by at least two-thirds of its membership in written form. It will have all the weight that such action could have, because it will be truly representative in the most exact sense.

The State Chamber as committees, or its Board of Directors, may take action and make recommendations, but are not permitted to use the name of the Chamber itself in support of their recommendations. Such action must stand alone as the action of the body which took it, and not as the action of the State Chamber. This makes it possible for individual committees to act in emergencies without committing the State Chamber as a whole to action they may take. The State Chamber itself may be committed only by the formal consent of two-thirds of its voting membership, and its action is guarded in every way.

It will be difficult for the State Chamber to get into action on many questions before or during the next session of the State Legislature, but if its machinery can be started into operation in time and it does take action on any one question, its action is bound to have weight and prestige. No one will be able to say that its formal recommendation was adopted hastily, after a hearing of only one side, or that it represents merely the selfish interest of only a clique of members. It will be impressive because of the restrictions surrounding it, and could not be disregarded by any legislator.

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NORWEGIAN MOTIF FOR WINTER FROCK



It might be because this frock is the newest in winter creations that the designers went clear to Norway for the embroidery motif to relieve the severe lines. Then, too, a hint at the ribbons and frills which will be with us in the summer and spring is given in that elaborate satin girdle, which, in itself, embodies as much cloth as the average evening gown.

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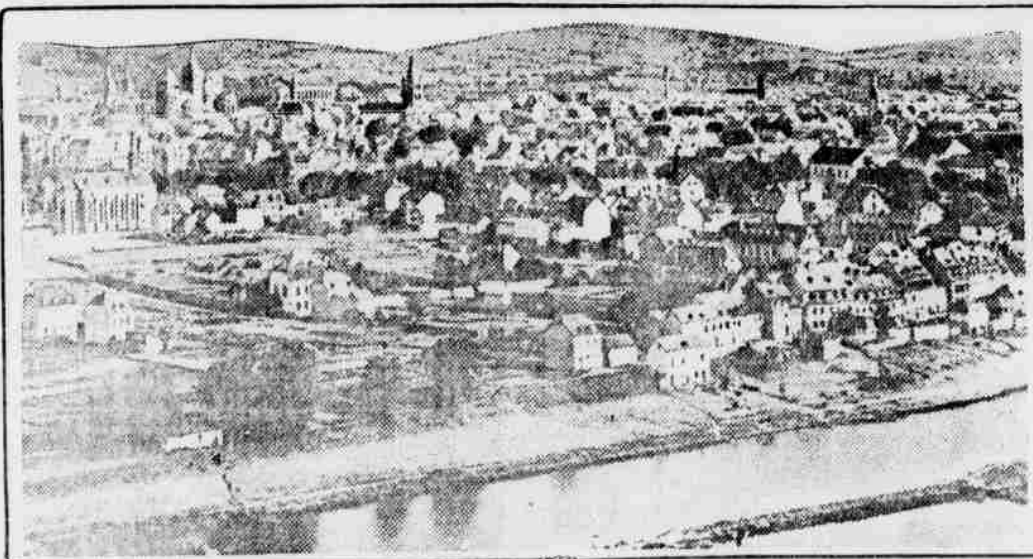
chew holds its good taste so long. I figure that this class of tobacco costs me nothing extra—maybe less than I'd have to spend for ordinary plug."

It goes further—that's why you can get the good taste of this class of tobacco without extra cost.

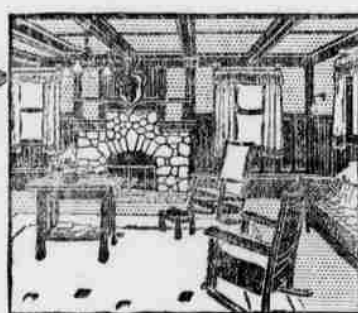
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Freedom's Victory in Wilson's Christmas Dinner



As the proud, arrogant and selfish William Hohenzollern, once Prussian Kaiser, ate a fugitive meal while interned in Holland, our victorious war president, Woodrow Wilson ate his Christmas dinner with Yank warriors on German soil, showing democracy's great stride in the year just closing. Here is Treves, one of the oldest German towns on the Moselle river, where the Wilson party partook of the joyful meal. The bridge here has survived since the days of Imperial Rome.



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Beaver Board never cracks; it resists

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