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OFFICIAL PAPER FOR MORROW COUNTY

ABOUT ANTS, ELEPHANTS AND US

By RICHARD LLOYD JONES

Zoologists, who, in simpler language, are the bug-ologists, after microscopically observing the habits and conduct of ants for years, bring us the interesting information that these busy little workers in the humbler world are by their own voluntary action the most moral of all living creatures.

The ant, they tell us, is so intelligent that we are justified in trying to describe its existence by a kind of allegorical comparison with human life.

Busy as are these minute little creatures, their females are scrupulously clean. Several times each day they better their appearance with combs and brushes. The mothers are the only ones that are allowed to eat all they want. All others, by their established law, must abstain from over eating and drinking.

Soldier ants protect both the young and those who care for the young. The mother ant is treated with all the deference of an empress.

The ants limit their sleep to just that which is their need of rest and they destroy the drone and all those who would attempt to over-indulge in leisure or luxury.

They have architects and engineers. They build houses and bridges to conform with definite plans. They have their agriculture and horticulture and have been observed to domesticate as many as 584 different kinds of creatures.

Wonderful is the story of the ant. Some of our scientists who are better zoologists than sociologists quote the old Hebrew saying of thousands of years ago, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her way," and suggest that there is much in the ant the man might well try to emulate.

Other scientists tell us to consider the elephant. The Hindoo tells us that he gets good work from that giant creature only so long as he is good to it. Should he abuse or offend it, he would lose the elephant's willingness to work and he might lose his life by incurring the elephant's ire. To appease the elephant, the Hindoo always feeds it before he himself partakes of food.

That gentleness and generosity do much to gain good work, is the moral lesson the scientist hands to us as a result of these observations.

But who wants to be either an elephant or an ant? Who would want to emulate their ways, interesting and perhaps intellectual as they appear to be?

The elephant has none of the generosity for which the scientific observer pleads. The elephant says, "Feed me first or I am likely to get mad and kick the daylight out of you." There is nothing in that sort of spirit worth emulating.

The ant is good to its own but it was on every other creature that it cannot subdue and use. There is nothing so very big and magnanimous about that. What is more, outside of the grotesque trick elephants in the circus ring, no scientist has ever called upon us to see or hear an animal symphony, nor have they shown us an animal-made picture or gracefully formed statue. Has any one ever yet seen an elephant pause in rapture before a gorgeous sunset?

What eye at the microscope has ever seen an ant lay down its work upon its hill to hark to the song of the lark?

Whatever are man's imperfections he is not only the research student, the truth seeker, but what is finer, he is the great appreciator. To be able to appreciate the wonders of the world—that in itself is living the higher life.

WALTER PIERCE AND TAXES

For Walter Pierce to pose before farmer audiences as a sincere champion of tax reduction presents so comic a spectacle that his hearers would hoot him from the fair grounds were they familiar with his tax record as State Senator.

Mr. Pierce voted for all the measures that contributed most to increasing state taxes and introduced more of those same measures than any other member of the legislature.

He also introduced many bills which failed to pass, but if they had been enacted, taxes would be far higher than they are today.

Many salary increases given by the legislature to state and county officers were voted for by Mr. Pierce, although he was absent when many such measures came to a vote and thus avoided going on record in numerous specific instances.

He voted for nearly every appropriation bill passed during all the time that he was in the legislature, thus by his vote helping sanction practically every necessary and unnecessary state expenditure. His negative votes on appropriation bills were few and far between; he was absent on roll calls for a few and thus avoided going on record on those.

He bitterly opposed legislation the result of which has been to relieve taxpayers from stupendous burdens which they would have had to carry if he had had his way. The most conspicuous instance of this has been his steady and determined opposition to paying for state highways out of bond issues financed entirely from proceeds of automobile license and gasoline taxes. His alternative was a direct tax and he introduced measure after measure for direct taxes to finance the state highway system. He finally succeeded in carrying one of his direct road tax bills, the market road bill, which not only imposed compulsory state tax of one mill on each county regardless of its desire to build market roads by direct taxation, but in effect forced each county to tax itself another mill as the only means of sharing any part of the proceeds from the levy of the first mill. This two-mill tax was entirely unnecessary as provision could have been made for financing the market roads from a part of the proceeds of the gasoline tax and automobile license fees.

He was the author of numerous bills to establish different varieties of costly regulation. If enacted those bills would have created unnecessary boards and commissions together with a steadily increasing expense for administration.

He voted against the two principal consolidation bills, for merging commissions, that were evolved by the 1919 legislature, and by his vote contributed towards their defeat.

Although his vote could have carried the measure repealing obsolete gasoline test law, repealed a year later, he voted against the measure, thus causing approximately \$500,000 extra and unnecessary expense from purchasers of gasoline in Oregon during that year. While this was not a tax measure, the vote was a wasteful and unnecessary tax upon

motor car owners, and in this regard was typical of the Pierce type of legislation.

He was one of the most virulent champions of legislation to involve the state in litigation against patents which had been uniformly sustained by the highest federal courts. Thus by his agitation and vote he helped fasten upon the state highway fund of Oregon an expense for litigation and royalty awards which probably will run far in excess of \$250,000.

The trouble with Mr. Pierce as a legislator was that his ideas were impractical. He introduced more bills than any other senator in every legislature of which he was a member. Some had merit and were enacted into law, but most of his measures were of that impractical type which if passed would have occasioned wasteful expense aggregating huge sums.

In spite of his steady and heavy contributions towards increasing taxes he constantly orated about the hardships of the overburdened taxpayer. His speeches were so frequent and eloquently tearful that in spite of his record he gradually won the reputation of being the taxpayers' friend. Had the devil one-half his skill in pathetic oratory he would convince the Christian world that he was the champion of religion. Unintentionally, but because of his wild and freakish ideas, he has proven to be one of the principal causes of increasing the tax burden upon farmers and other owners of property.

The Voter has twice published Mr. Pierce's legislative record. It will remind its readers again, going into more detail especially on matters which relate to taxation. If the farmers of Oregon really knew one-half of Mr. Pierce's legislative record on taxes his ardent claims to be the friend of the taxpayer would make him a laughing stock among them.—Oregon Voter.

On September 3 Walter M. Pierce declared himself in favor of the compulsory school bill, and stated that he would vote for it; on October 18, at Pendleton, he brother Charles informed the protestant ministers of that city that Walter does not support the measure. That he was forced into espousing it. Better "stay put" somewhere, Mr. Pierce, for the voter on Tuesday, Nov. 7, may conclude that you are lacking in conviction. In this case, the very best thing to do is to vote for Ben Olcott; there is no question as to where he stands.

ELOQUENT TALK AND SANE PERFORMANCE

The appearance on the stump of Governor Olcott has brought confusion and dismay to our journalistic Democratic friends who pose as nonpartisans. For a long time they have been joyfully whispering that Governor Olcott was "afraid to talk," "lacked the courage to meet the peerless Pierce in debate," and "wouldn't get out and meet the people and give them an account of his stewardship." And now the governor has stalked boldly into the arena; has shown that not only is he not afraid to get out and talk, but that he can speak to some purpose; that he has conclusive and convincing arguments to offer against the glittering generalities and unpersuasive platitudes of the bryanque Pierce; and that the account of his stewardship is highly creditable to him and has the full approval of the people. From what our journalistic Democratic friends who pose as nonpartisans have to say of the governor and his clear and forcible statement, *The Spectator* would have been better satisfied had he maintained the silence of which they whisperingly spoke as a sign of his weakness.

As *The Spectator* had something to do with the appearance of Governor Olcott on the stump, it naturally rejoices to note the good impression he has made on the people. We may appear heartless, but cannot refrain from remarking that this joy quite smothered any feeling of regret we might feel at the distress caused our journalistic Democratic friends who pose as nonpartisans by the speeches the governor has made and the enthusiastic welcome he has received. Governor Olcott has never sought, and probably could not achieve, reputation as a spellbinder. He is no orator, as the bryanque Pierce is; great orators are rarely good executives. If this were an ordinary campaign, the oratorical Mr. Pierce, who can make the welkin ring with the reverberations of his fiery eloquence, might be thought to have an advantage over Governor Olcott. The lofty flights of the rhetorical Mr. Pierce's spread-eagleism are borne on the sky-scraping pinions of an untrammelled imagination; the Democratic candidate permits no flinching facts to impede his eloquent volition, and the only statistics he carries on these excursions into the oratorical empyrean are the most volatile figures of speech.

But this is no ordinary campaign, as far as the governorship is concerned, and, therefore, the eloquent and promising Mr. Pierce has no advantage over business-like and performing Governor Olcott. What Mr. Pierce might do as governor, we do not know, save what we may guess from his record as a legislator. That proves him to have been as wasteful in expending the public money when, as legislator, it was in his power to do so as he, as candidate for governor, is reckless in his promises to reduce taxes over which, if elected, he would have no control whatever.

Governor Olcott, who has been too busy looking after the public's interests to study the arts and wiles of oratory, has administered the state's affairs in a wise, economical, and, as far as is possible, business-like way. In his speech at Ontario on Monday, the governor said some things that may be quoted here, as they form the platform on which he stands:

The people know that there never has been a time in history when the state's institutions were in better condition than now; that executive appointments have all been made within the four walls of the governor's office without listening to the clamor and cry of clique or factions; that these appointments were based entirely upon the qualifications of the appointees for the place and that practically every appointment that has been made to an elective office has been justified by the people re-electing my appointee.

I ask you to go back over the record of the administration and point, if you may, where a breath of scandal has been uttered against the governor's office. In all the extravagant and misleading statements made where there are any charges that the state's business is conducted on anything but solid, safe, and conservative business lines?

There is an epitome of the record on which Governor Olcott seeks re-election. It can't be refuted. Against that record of wise and economical performance we have a world of eloquent promises that are impossible of accomplishment. Why trade Governor Olcott for Mr. Pierce?—*The Spectator*.

Railroads Will Grant Special Reduced Rates

Railroads running to Portland will give a special rate of a fare and a half for the round trip from all points in Oregon for the Oregon Health Exhibit which is to be held at the Municipal Auditorium in Portland October 28 to November 4, inclusive. The exhibition has developed into one of wide scope, with a large number of exhibitors, and varied daily and nightly programs of direct appeal to the general public.

It will open with a grand pageant in which Hygieia, goddess of health, will be crowned and homage will be paid to her by the various medical and nursing societies, after which there will be a grand procession to all sections of the exhibition. Each day special program features will be given, and there will be clinics and free information on matters of health and hygiene. Many organizations are to take active part, and there will be unique displays and features setting forth the message of good health and cleanliness. The slogan of the exposition is "Live a little longer," and its general purpose is educational in lines of eliminating preventable diseases and safeguarding against accidents. It is under the auspices of the state board of health and the city health bureau of Portland supported by practically all the public, semi-public and private health agencies in Oregon.

The nine and seven-tenths miles of highway leading south and west from Pilot Rock up through Jack canyon, toward Heppner, is about completed. This is a unit of a highway penetrating a fine section of country to the south and west of Pilot Rock, connecting at Heppner with the highway leading to the coast.

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Gilliam & Bisbee

The need of repairs and grade reducing in places has long been felt by residents particularly, and the traveling public generally, who will be gratified to know of its completion. With the completion of this highway, much of the motor travel from the section between Pilot Rock and Heppner to the coast will be over it instead of via Pendleton. It will be the logical highway for them. It will also reduce time between here and Ukiah, to which place there is much travel the year round.—Pilot Rock Record.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I have bought out the business of Mr. Roy Whiteits and solicit the continued patronage of his customers, in return for which I guarantee first-class service.

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