# Medford Mall Tribune loov geope is many resule Oill this week 




THE COURIER'S LIBEL SUIT
County Judge Stephen Jewell of Josephine county whose picture appears in the Grants Pass pamphlet as one
of the resources of the country to attract homeseekers to the Rogue River valley, must be as thin-skinmed as he is prominent, for he has had the editor and publishe Rogue River Courier arrested for criminal libel,

The alleged libelous article reads as follows:
The county judge has men at work filling up the deepest holes in the road south of the bridge. They have been
taking gravel from private property for the purpose and Wednesday the owner chanced to run across the men when they were going after a load and there was an explanation demanded, claiming that they were entering upon his property and taking away gravel, without his knowledge or consent. The men said that they were working for the county and had been directed by Judge Jewell to get the gravel and assured the indignant taxpayer that they had nothing to do with the theft except as above stated. There was some more talk and it ended by the owner of the gravel saying that the judge would be made to settle and intimated that entering upon a man's property and stealing gravel was a very small business for a county."

In commenting upon the arrest, the Courier says:
It may be explained that the real trouble commenced tion, by which he desired to prove himself a prophet. The sum and substance of the whole matter was that H. D. Norcross, one of the candidates for mayor, was a nice man. and Dr. Smith was a gentleman, and more of that sort of
gush. This prophetic declaration was prepared in triplicate and sent to each of the newspapers. The Courier re fused to inflict the silly stuff on the public.

Then the Courier proceeds to make the amend honorable as follows:
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We are extremely sorry that trouble has arisen and the pleasant relations which have so long existed'between
the judge and this newspaper have been so rudely severed. We have always been permitted to print very many arti cles for the judge, which always pleased him much, not withstanding the fact that many of our readers were in the habit of saying "rats" whenever they saw his produc tions. We have furnished the judge week after week and month after month with extra papers free.

In further explanation, the Courier asserts that the judge guaranteed political advertising done for demoeratic candidates in 1908, and that upon being pressed fo the money, the judge started the libel suit, all of which i an interesting sidelight upon the political conditions pre vailing in our sister county, and a sad commentary upon
the business methods of the Courier, which should the rule prevailing in most newspaper offices, which experience has shown necessary-cash in advance for political advertising.

It is hard to understand how the court suffered a libel in the article printed, or how his reputation was damaged, even if the road builders had taken gravel from some river bar without consulting the owner. The whole affair is a tempest in a teapot and if Grants Pass papers had been fearless and open in their criticism of public officials as well as in the expression of their honest convictions, Judge Jewell would have long ago learned that a public official unjust-one of the pentalties attached to the job


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