

THE BANNER COURIER

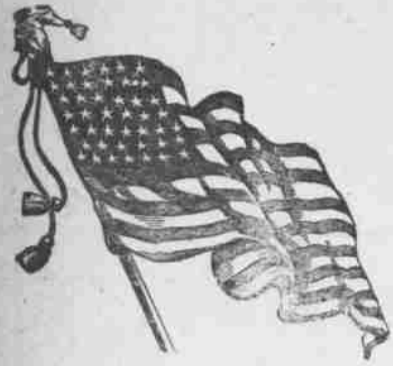
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"Flag of the free hearts' hope and home!
By Angels' hands to valor given;
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in Heaven.
Forever float that standard sheet!
Where breathes the foe but falls before us.
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us."

—JOSEPH DRAKE.

RECALL OF COMMISSIONERS.

The telephone rate decision has stirred up a hornets' nest. The voice of the recall against the Public Utilities Commission is heard over the state.

The Banner-Courier believed that the recall of these public officials was warranted several months ago, when there was a similar movement on foot.

It believed and still believes that the members of this commission do not measure up to the qualifications needed in this position. Their official perspective appears incapable of covering the individual and the organization properly.

In the recent order the commission slopped over and ran around outside the realm of its official duties to condemn methods of procedure instead of confining itself to justice alone, to justify its decision. It "roasted" those who had sought relief at its hands.

In its decision it emphasized the fact that there has been shown an increase in patronage since the rates were raised. And this as a criterion for the discharge of duty or for the equitable adjustment of rates, is absurd. People use a public utility primarily because of the necessity and at the same time resent more and more strenuously the power that forces the exorbitant rate upon them, be it telephone or other utility.

Again, the commission is wrong in its attitude that the charge should be regulated by the maximum which the public will bear. This theory is not in keeping with modern ideas and is the source of regulatory measures taken in hand by the public itself as in the case of the interstate commerce commission.

Nor is it clear why the telephone company or any other utility should not find a way to reduce expenses and at the same time give the patrons a portion of the benefit which would make of the public an ally.

But if the commission were justified in its most recent decision, it would still be without the confidence of the public so essential to efficient service.

The recall is the people's only remedy and with it they should proceed.

POLITICS VS. IDEAS.

"Monkeying" with the Four-Power-Pact is a terse way to put activities of those so-called "irreconcilables" who are blocking attempts at ratification. None of them are offering anything better. They just can't stand anything they themselves haven't made body, soul and breeches. They are so shrivelled up in their partisanship that they will tolerate nothing which has a semblance of the League of Nations.

It seems impossible that legislators would oppose any step not positively dangerous to the nation and which is a step toward peace. And this is the first definite step toward this goal.

Here are some great worth-while things agreed upon by the best, most conscientious diplomats in the world today, and include the initial stamp of our own President Harding and Secretary of State Hughes. The integrity of China is guaranteed and further warfare between Ja-

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pan and China is made far less probable; the size of navies is limited; the use of the submarine regulated, and poisoned gasses outlawed from war. The English-Jap alliance has been scrapped and the Four-Power-Pact arranged to preserve peace in the Pacific. Its chief objection to those opposing it seems to be that it resembles article X in the League covenant. Republicans who oppose it repudiate their leadership.

Democrats who oppose this pact will do so to the shame of their party. Now is the time for them to rise above partisanship. It's an opportunity for them to "heap coals of fire" on the heads of their opponents, by doing exactly what they condemned the opposition for not doing. To the man worthy of a place in the congress of the United States an idea which stands for peace and progress is sacred and takes precedence over political expediences or punishments.

That any considerable number of Democrats or Republicans will finally vote against this treaty or even tuck on weakening amendments, is unbelievable. Such action will be a direct slap at popular government; disgrace this country before the world; and demonstrate the depths to which rotten politics can penetrate.

WHO VOTES THE TAXES?

One of the handy "gags" employed by many of those whom the taxpayers are prodding just now is to attempt to throw the responsibility for the present burdens of taxes upon the people themselves. It is for the taxpayer a double-dose—pay the taxes and then go kick himself. Just so the other fellow is not held accountable morally, financially or politically is the aim.

True it is that the people in their eagerness for progress have voted liberally—especially for roads and schools. This is commendable but no excuse why the legislature should authorize expenditures which burden the taxpayers so heavily they cannot pay.

Here's a small corner of the legislative record. The people voted a millage tax for the support of her three purely educational institutions with the understanding that the sum would be sufficient. The legislature authorized additional thousands without the public's vote or consent. The legislature gave \$388,000 to the Pacific International Livestock exposition and the State Fair in 1921, when taxes were already becoming a terrific burden. The people did NOT vote this nearly four hundred thousand dollar tax on themselves. In fact these institutions should be made to pay their own costs.

In 1919, the legislature voted \$1,200,000 for roads. This was just a "starter." It referred to the people another \$6,000,000 appropriation and brought its influence to bear on putting this over at a special election. On the principle that "nothing succeeds like success," especially in putting over taxation schemes, the lawmakers went to bat again with an authorization of another bond issue of \$10,000,000 for the same purpose. In 1921, they put over another bond issue of \$3,500,000 and in 1921, still another \$7,000,000 issue, and the voters added \$2,500,000 more. Over \$30,000,000 in bonds for roads alone within a period of two years is GOING SOME and of this amount the legislature authorized \$21,500,000 and the people only \$8,500,000 or less than one-third of the total.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been authorized also for things not mentioned in this resume, which may be charged up to extravagance and lack of efficiency and upon which the great mass of taxpayers did not vote.

It is high time that these same taxpayers call a halt; fix the responsibility so there will be no further passing of the "buck" and cut down expenses to meet actual needs and conditions. And believe you, They are Going to Do This Very Thing.

USE BANNER-COURIER COLUMNS.

A policy adopted and always in force, by the management of the Banner-Courier is to furnish opportunity free from cost or obligation to all persons who wish to express opinions in the press on matters of public interest. Many have made use of this paper's columns and are still using them in this way.

The only restrictions are that the articles must be signed by the writer and must not contain libelous matter. No article is excluded on the grounds of political or religious beliefs expressed.

Taxpayers are specially urged to contribute articles setting forth plans for reduction of taxes, criticism on government, and to give expression to other matters of public concern. Whether friendly to or in opposition to the Banner-Courier you are welcome just the same. Use these columns, make them yours, and help to further the public interests.

TAKE A RIDE.

The Oregon City Ferry, which is now carrying materials across the river for construction work will be ready for passenger services on Monday, next, or possibly on Saturday this week. Everything is now in readiness except the roadway on the west side of the Willamette and it is expected that this will require only a couple of days for completion. Here is a big undertaking started only a few days ago.

The rapidity with which this project has been initiated, funds raised and the thing completed is but an indication of what the business men of any community may accomplish if they get together, pull together and stay together until they put things worth-while, over.

This fine sunshine weather ought to justify the groundhog's shadow theory and to make boosters for Oregon.

FARMS THE FARMER.

The biggest insult to the intelligence of the farmer is the agitator whose only occupation is to go about through the country proclaiming himself a farmer and with great sympathy tells him that he (the farmer) is the most abused man in the country and then farms him for from eight-ten to twenty-five dollars of his hard-earned cash with which to build up a political machine.

"Fatty's" trial is over and so will be his "career" if the movies play safe for the public's future endorsement.

Between You and Me

by Joe Jolly

The Booze Plant.

Did you happen to notice a recent article in a local paper concerning the discovery of a booze plantation in Clackamas county? I do not remember of ever hearing about such a plant before and I am wondering if its cultivation is in the way of becoming common! also, in case it does, what will be the resulting legal status of our outlawed alcoholic enemy, commonly called "booze."

Men have always found a fearful fascination in disregarding the danger signals of nature and consequently dashing their frail lives against the ragged walls of defeat. Alcohol has many legitimate uses, but civilization discovered centuries ago that groggy beverages and brains are deadly enemies; of the two, brains is the more indispensable. One of the most absurd spectacles of any age is to see a man pit his feeble physique in hopes and opportunities—his family and friends—in short, his very all against alcohol—and lose. Fermentation is a process of decay; booze has fairly earned its reputation, "rotten."

When the booze plant becomes a common garden vegetable, then it is time to cease agriculture and starve.

Bridge Accomplishments.

At last the stage has been reached where a week brings about very noticeable progress in bridge construction. With the present speed of operations, Oregon City people must observe carefully and often if they would know just how the job is being done. Many remarkable engineering achievements are now being worked out right here under our very eyes.

The structural steel has all been lifted into the air, some going immediately into place, while the center sections were deposited on falsework resting on the old suspension cables. Thus it can be seen that the old anchors and towers are responsible for the burden of the new steel (as the lower sections are all held in position by separate cables spliced to the main cables at the anchors). By the time this paper reaches its readers the center sections will probably be in place and the whole new structure will be self-supporting. Then the old equipment will have performed its last service and be ready to come down.

Finally there will appear a magnificent arch span of 350 feet with a rise of 100 feet above the drive way, which will be nineteen feet wide, or four feet wider than the old one—with sidewalks outside of that.

Catamaran.

Down on the river there's a Catamaran; ever see it? Well, it's simple enough but the idea is well worth imitating. The device consists of only a pair of barges lashed firmly together and used as a foundation from which and upon which to hoist the huge steel sections of the new bridge. The main significance is that they are fastened securely together—not loosely tied—or hinged—or jointed. The hulls are inseparably and rigidly joined so that they act as one unit. The tripod legs of the great derrick span both decks; the operator of the 114-foot boom may swing it around at any angle and pull up an immense section of steel bridge without fear of capsizing.

There are many human relations, which could be improved by the introduction of this common mechanical arrangement. I have in mind several marriages which happen to come under my observation; doubtless you know of many others. The city council might profitably adjourn to the river bank some day and watch how this thing works. It is really not so much a matter of who could as it is of who could not find inspiration therein. All of which goes to show how far a practical engineer excels the average run of humans.

The Great Silent Places.

A week or so ago the mortal remains of Sir Ernest Shackleton, the renowned Antarctic explorer were laid in the cold earth on the frozen shores of Virginia Island in the south polar seas. The burial was only typical of the triumphant life which sought and found the real inspirations and the rich, broad-minded satisfactions far from the traveled highways of civilization.

In varying degrees, it can be noted that the truly great of all ages have found their soul substance in the vast open spaces of the earth. Business and industrial environments alone, inside the confines of structural walls and narrow streets never yield wholesome visions that glimmer on the horizon of a wide and wonderful world out-of-doors.

Call the "roll of modern men of achievements and watch them troop in from the soil, the forest, the lonely leafy retreats. First, call Roosevelt, a mighty champion of unadulterated open-air manhood; then interview Henry Ford out on his big Michigan ranch; linger with the memories of John Burroughs, a man too great to love luxury. Continue the list in your own way, but be sure they are all genuine he-men.

A generation ago America was the whole glorious territory between ocean and ocean; men of that generation had real visions. Today America is New York and Chicago and Los Angeles; now people see money and machinery and amusements. Then we wonder why we have no statesmen who are big enough to pull our country out of its wild revel of waste and extravagance.

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ELWOOD

Influenza or La Grippe is quite busy in this vicinity. The three Valien families and Mrs. Eva Hodgkins are suffering from the malady.

Mr. S. W. Jones had the misfortune to lose one of his work horses.

F. N. Cadonan and family of Estacada were Sunday visitors at the John Park home.

W. T. Henderson is not getting along very well, so was taken to the home of his son, Will Henderson, in Oregon City. Mrs. Henderson accompanied him.

CARUS

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Henriel of Portland were guests at Shockley home Monday.

Wayne Stewart helped Fred Spangler haul cord wood last week.

Miss Anna Josi accompanied by Miss Minnie Edwards went to Oregon City Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Bilas and family were dinner guests at Hargreaves last Sunday.

John Evans underwent an operation for appendicitis last week. Floyd Trafton is doing the work while he is gone.

Mr. C. Kilgore has purchased a new Chevrolet.

Forest Irish is planning on building another new chicken house.

The ladies aid met at the Guillian home last Wednesday afternoon.

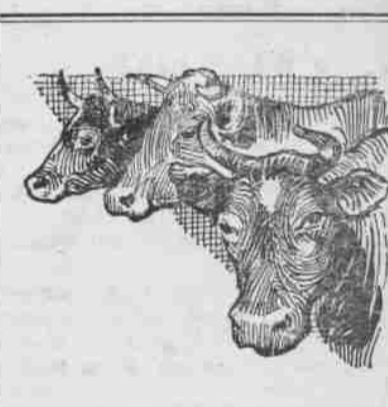
Mr. Herman Smidt was on the sick list last week.

Mr. Herman Smidt transacted business in Oregon City Thursday.

Mrs. Luncie Shockley and daughters, Elizabeth and Lucille, and Miss Minnie Edwards spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Tom Lewis.

Mrs. Jack Griffith spent a few days in Portland last week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kline, and Mr. Ed attended church at Clackamas last Sunday.



Warner Spooner of Tigard, Oregon, insured his Stallion "Black Beaver" for 1000.00. The animal died New Year's day. The Hartford Live Stock Insurance Co. paid the loss, January 17, 1922.

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