

St. Helens Mist

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BALLAGH INTRODUCES MORE LAW MEASURES

SOME ARE GOOD BILLS

One Asks that the Salary of the District Attorney be Increased

Edison I. Ballagh, representative from Columbia county, has introduced several bills in the legislature during the past ten days. Among them was a bill to increase the salary of the office of district attorney of Columbia county from \$1200 to \$2100 per year. The salary committee in the legislature cut the amount to \$1800 and the bill will go to the senate as amended.

It is stated that the salary apportioned to the district attorney's office for Columbia county is much less than 90 per cent of the counties in Oregon, and that while the records submitted to the secretary of state show that the district attorney's office in this county had had much more work than a great number of the county attorneys in other counties, that the emoluments of the office are not commensurate with the work performed and far below the average paid by the state for attorneys who serve in the capacity of district attorney.

House Bill 148 Amended

Ballagh's bill in which he magnanimously raised the salaries of certain officials and deputies far above what had been voted at the budget, was amended to read "The county court of Columbia County shall fix and determine the salary and compensation of all deputies in all county offices of Columbia county and they shall regulate the number. This amendment was in line with a bill introduced giving all county courts such authority.

Recall Resolution Introduced

Mr. Ballagh, on January 31st, introduced House Joint Resolution No. 13, which amends Section 13 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Oregon. The meat of the resolution is that while every public officer in Oregon is subject to recall by the legal voters, and 25 per cent of the number voting for Justice of the Supreme Court must sign the petition demanding the recall, that only 25 per cent of legal voters shall sign property in the state or elector of a district, as the case may be, as shown by the last regular assessment. In other words, a man or woman who signs a recall petition, must be a property owner. The present law provides that such person shall be a legal voter. It is understood that the resolution meets with the approval of a majority of the house and senate members and it is quite probable that it will be passed.

Monday, which was the last day for introducing bills, unless they were referred to the committee for consideration by unanimous consent, some 125 bills were introduced. Among them was House Bill 370, introduced by Ballagh which provides for assessments of minerals and oils separately from real estate. The object in this bill, as explained by the Mist by the parties who introduced it, is the elimination of the "reserved rights" on tracts of lands. The bill has some merit and should be passed.

LINK BOUND OVER TO GRAND JURY

George A. Link of Goble, who was arrested last week and charged with larceny of cattle not his property, was given a preliminary hearing before Judge Hazen Monday. The evidence was against the young man. Witnesses identified the hide of the slaughtered cow as the property of another party. Link did not admit the hide, which was introduced in evidence, was the hide from the cow he had butchered and sold, but he admitted that it was not his cow. He was found guilty of making a mistake and was bound over to grand jury.

POST OFFICE IS IN NEW QUARTERS

The St. Helens post office is now located in the bank building in the quarters formerly occupied by E. A. After the mail was distributed Wednesday night, a force of men made a quick job of moving the fixtures and supplies from the old quarters and Thursday morning the patrons of the office were in the new location. The argument of the office is far better than in the old quarters and the office has a more "civilized" appearance.

A. Ross, the house furnisher, taken the quarters vacated by postoffice and in a few days will position to serve his customers same satisfactory manner he did in his former location.

Representative Ballagh on the Job at Salem



CITY'S FIRE TRUCK IS NOW ON JOB IS A FINE MACHINE

Fire Fighting Apparatus Costing \$3750 Has Been Delivered

St. Helens, at last, has a fire truck. It arrived Monday morning and was the center of attraction. The truck is a Brockway truck equipped with American LaFrance equipment and the price delivered in St. Helens is \$3,750. The truck was ordered last March, while E. I. Ballagh was mayor and was chosen over numerous other trucks at higher and lesser prices.

The truck has a wheel base of 144 inches and the wheels are equipped with solid tires. The motor is a No. 1, a Continental and develops 35 horsepower and the truck is capable of a speed of 30 miles per hour on good road. Its weight, without equipment, is 6,000 pounds, and with hose, fire fighting equipment, driver, etc., weight will be about \$500, so it is not thought it will be possible to get to places not on well improved streets.

The truck was ordered by Mayor E. I. Ballagh, who was at that time mayor, last March. War conditions prevented the delivery of the truck, and the council extended the time of delivery. Before the truck was accepted, the mayor and each member of the council took a little joy ride on it, to see how the "million dollar beauty" acted. Apparently they were perfectly satisfied, as an acceptance was signed and the truck became the property of the city.

The mayor is now endeavoring to get some one to look after and drive the truck. He does not think that the city should spend \$3750 for a piece of machinery without having some one to look after it. It is probable that an attempt will be made to reorganize the fire department, so in case there is a fire, the \$3750 truck can be of some service to the city. The payment of the amount of indebtedness incurred in purchasing the truck will take 40 per cent of the entire tax money levied for this year, so it behooves the council to have some one to look after this expensive fixture which is now the property of the city.

HIGHWAY WORK IS TO START SOON SURVEYORS ARE BUSY

State Engineers Now Cross Sectioning to Prepare for Bids

That work on the Columbia Highway between Scappoose and Deer Island will be begun at an early date is indicated by the presence of several engineers from the state highway department who are now engaged in cross sectioning the proposed road. Their work is for the purpose of furnishing data so bids may be asked for the grading of the road.

The county court states that practically all right of way between Scappoose and the McBride fill, (just south of Deer Island) has been obtained, and there is nothing, so far as the work of the county court is concerned, to prevent the state highway commission from preparing estimates and advertising for bids on this section of the highway. It is understood that satisfactory arrangements have been made for the securing of the right of way through the Hegel farm near Scappoose and that the county court has also made arrangements to move the buildings in Houlton which are in the right of way.

Although at the last meeting of the highway commission, this road work was not included with other road projects in Oregon, it is absolutely certain that the commission has it under consideration. Those informed as to the situation say that the reason the commission did not take action at their last meeting, was on account of the fact that at the right of way had not been secured and it was not advisable to advertise the matter until the commission was in position to go ahead with the work. As the estimate of several years ago amounted to about \$80,000. This included a concrete bridge over Scappoose creek. With labor and supplies now much higher, it is probable that the work under contemplation will cost more than \$100,000. This means that much labor will be employed and the distribution of the money means much to the community.

COUNCIL WORRIES AT MONTHLY BILLS THEY ARE TOO MUCH

When Paying Bills City Council Approves of Economy

About the main item of excitement at the meeting of the city council Monday night was the payment of bills against the city. In the first place, the mayor's feelings were ruffled when a bill was presented by the Independent Automobile company for gasoline and oil furnished Walter Blakesley (at that time deputy marshal) and the mayor wanted to know why Walter bought the gasoline. Walter was not there and the matter could not be explained, so the bill was held over so Walter could explain why he bought gasoline and charged it to the city. It is quite probable that the oil was used on the Ford car which Potter and Blakesley found out in the city park, but inasmuch as the bill didn't state that fact it was held up for further consideration and Recorder Quick was instructed to ascertain what Blakesley did with the gasoline.

Ballagh vs. People

So far as the Mist can ascertain, it is now a question of who shall be heard; the people of Columbia county or Representative Ballagh. It appears that Ballagh now has the inside track and unless the people awaken, he will have his bill passed notwithstanding their wishes or what they voted for at the budget meeting.

CITIZENS COMMITTEE IS ORGANIZED

To Combat Bolsheviki Movement Which is Started

An assembly of 100 people, American citizens, met at the courthouse, Thursday night to discuss ways and means of combating the baneful influence of the Soldiers and Workers council, which is being attempted in St. Helens.

The meeting, while considered for the past few days, was brought about by the distribution of pamphlets by some Russian Jew, who came to St. Helens Wednesday. The pamphlets in question advocated the taking over of all industrial enterprises and the down fall of capital and the placing of all industrial and government functions in the hands of the council. As every shipyard worker came from the dock, one of these pamphlets was handed him. The response was that at least 100 of the workers gathered at the courthouse to formulate plans to nullify the actions of the agitator.

Building Permits Asked For

The Columbia County bank asked for a permit to make necessary repairs to a certain section of their

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THE SALARY RAISE OF COUNTY OFFICERS

TAXPAYERS PROTEST

The Mist is Blamed for the Whole Blamed Business

A few of the county officials are peeved at the Mist. This, the Mist regrets, but such peevishness could not be avoided. It appears that some of the "high up" officials are the least bit sore because the Mist dared to criticize the Ballagh salary bill. The Mist has no excuse to offer, but it will make this explanation. In the first place, the county officials thought a raise of \$200 for each official and \$200 per year for each deputy, would, in a measure, meet the "high cost of living" times. This was suggested to the county court and they, being agreeable to the proposition, prepared the budget, so far as the salaries of county officials were concerned, along the lines suggested. The budget was published and few taxpayers, at the budget meeting, opposed the raise in salaries. But neither did the county court or the budget meeting know the ideas of Representative Edison I. Ballagh. Had they, undoubtedly he would have been invited in for consultation. Ballagh's ideas, however, is that neither the county court nor the people at the budget meeting knew their business. The straight raise of \$200 per year for each officer and each deputy did not appeal to Ballagh. He thought there should be further raises, so he introduced his bill No. 148, which added \$1000 more to the taxes and disregarded the wishes of the taxpayers.

But then, that is not the question. The Mist is blamed for the scrambled up conditions of affairs and just because it dared to take issue with Representative Ballagh. The Mist believes it was serving the people when it dared to comment on Ballagh's bill which was directly opposed to the wishes of the taxpayers. The Mist has no apology to offer to either Ballagh or the office holders who inveigled him into submitting a bill directly opposed to the wishes of the taxpayers and the Mist maintains that the taxpayer's wishes as expressed at the budget meeting should have some weight with Edison I. Ballagh, representative from Columbia county to the legislature.

It is possible that Ballagh may succeed in slipping his bill through both the house and the senate, for Senator Banks has said that he will abide by the wishes of Ballagh.

In the meantime, however, the people of Columbia county may bring pressure to bear upon both Ballagh and Banks and inform them that they were elected to represent the wishes of the taxpayers of this county, and not their own personal wishes, and it is possible that Banks might decide that as he is joint senator from Clackamas, Columbia and Multnomah counties, he owes some consideration to the people of Columbia county. Should he awake to the realization that he is supposed to represent Columbia as well as Multnomah county and if he has a conscience, it is possible that he may pay some attention to the numerous letters he has received. If on the other hand, he does not think he is duty bound to represent Columbia and does not heed the wishes of the taxpayers of the county, the people, as a last resort can appeal to Governor Withycombe and ask that he veto Ballagh's bill.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GAINING MANY MEMBERS

ALL ARE INTERESTED

Regular Meeting Attended by Many and Much Interest Shown

That the St. Helens Chamber of Commerce fills a long felt and needed want was forcibly emphasized Wednesday night when 35 men from all walks of life gathered at the rooms of the Chamber to discuss ways and means of furthering the development and interests of Columbia county.

President Morton called the meeting to order and asked for the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. The proceeding was approved. Executive Secretary Storia made a report on matters of interest. He reported that the St. Helens Commercial club had assigned all their rights and interests to the newly formed organization. He also read reports of the committee on legislation. The bill introduced by Representative Ballagh as to mineral and oil rights on lands, was read, upon motion, the Chamber approved the action of Mr. Ballagh in introducing and standing for the bill.

Membership Increases

C. L. Wheeler of the membership committee, read a list of those who have become members of the Chamber of Commerce. Almost 100 names appear on the list. He stated that on Wednesday, 24 more members had been added to the rapidly growing list and he was sure that at least 100 more men who were interested in Columbia county, would soon have their applications in. Judge Fullerton and Commissioner A. E. Harvey both spoke on the road situation in the county and gave interesting information as to the building of the Columbia highway from Scappoose to Deer Island. Both of them thought the construction would soon be started and would give work to many men.

School Matters

Representing H. E. LaBare, chairman of the St. Helens school board, Prof. King interestingly outlined the plans of the school board as to school work in St. Helens. He stated, also, that the board had advertised for bids for the construction of the new schoolhouse. He asked for the cooperation of all citizens interested in the growth and development of the city and county, to back up the schools, for these institutions were essential for any good community.

Social Session Next

After the disposal of several other matters, President Morton stated that the board of directors had decided that a "social session" would be in order after every regular meeting. He appointed Charles Wheeler, J. H. Flynn, Sherman Miles and A. R. Spearow to act as chairmen of the evening, for each successive meeting of the Chamber and to provide some entertainment after the regular business session was concluded.

J. W. Day, J. W. Allen and A. E. Austin were appointed on the resolution committee and it will be their duty to properly prepare all resolutions of the Chamber.

A motion was made and carried that the St. Helens Chamber of Commerce take no part in the troubles which have arisen or might arise between employer and employe.

Many other matters were brought to the attention of the men present, and acted upon. On the whole, it was a very successful meeting and the interest manifested was very gratifying to the officers of the body. The next regular meeting is Wednesday night, February 19th.

ALBERS FOUND GUILTY BY FEDERAL JURY

A jury in the Federal court in Portland, returned a verdict of guilty against Henry Aiber, millionaire miller and a German sympathizer. Coming up from California, Albers became intoxicated and made remarks against America and in favor of Germany. His arrest followed. He was charged with making seditious remarks and violation of the espionage law. The defendant, who has lived in Portland for the past 25 years, plead drunkenness as an excuse, but evidently the jury did not consider this in arriving at a verdict.

to combat the influences which are trying to tear down the principles of the United States government.

No trouble is anticipated in St. Helens, but the red blooded Americans seem to be prepared in case the Bolsheviki start trouble and it is the purpose of the organization, just formed to rid the community of those who are seeking to hinder the government and city work.

From all reports, those who attended the meeting Thursday night, are in no mood to stand for any action which is against the government, and they are pledged to "carry on" the work of aiding the government, whether it be peace times or war times.

Many are of the opinion that the Workers and Soldiers Council is but a return of the I. W. W., disguised under the new name.