

Taxpayers, Protect Yourselves, Vote 323 NO

WHAT OUR NEIGH- BORS ARE DOING

Tersely Told by Conscientious Correspondents

ASHLAND

Mrs. William Rogers left for the east last week from where she will sail for the Bermuda islands, her former home for a two months stay.

Rev. Charles A. Edwards was re-appointed to the Ashland Methodist church for the next year at the recent Methodist conference.

Mr. and Mrs. George Dunn were among the Ashland people who attended the Pioneers reunion at Jacksonville last week.

Tag day in behalf of the county Public Health association was observed last Saturday. The school children assisted with the sale of the tags.

Rev. D. J. Gillanders, pastor of the Congregational church has resigned and gone to Ontario Ore. to take up the work there.

The republicans of our city organized a Harding-Coolidge club last Friday evening with election of officers. The speakers were B. F. Lindas, Ben Sheldon and C. M. Thomas.

The city is contemplating the purchase of 100 water meters which will be installed next summer on an experimental basis.

Senator Chas. L. McNary was a guest of the Commercial Club at luncheon Friday.

A. H. Harris district deputy organizer of the Modern Woodmen of America has perfected plans for a rally and banquet on Nov. 9th.

The Womens College club met with Mrs. Victor Mill Saturday afternoon. A number of Medford women were in attendance.

First company O. C. A. are planning to give an elaborate masquerade ball at the armory on October 29. The Imperial orchestra of Medford will furnish music and prizes will be given for the best and most characteristic costume.

Mrs. R. W. Elden of Willow Springs spent the week with Mrs. Wagner.

Rev. A. Werden from Salem has been appointed pastor of the Free Methodist church.

Harrv K. Tomlinson attended the enjoyable Elk doings at Medford last week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Frobach of Medford were guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Vaupel one day last week.

A number of local people attended the opera "Robin Hood" presented at Medford Thursday night.

EAGLE POINT

A. C. Spence, supervisor of the road district of Brownsboro and Mrs. Spence were business visitors in town one day last week.

E. V. Peterson has been engaged as mail carrier from Eagle Point to Perist for the next year.

Mrs. Day spent the night here on her way home to Butte Falls from Medford where she had received medical treatment for a dislocated shoulder.

Rudolph Peck has begun hauling his potatoes to Medford, of which he has a splendid crop.

William Brown, our merchant, underwent an operation at the hands of Dr. Emmens in Medford last Tuesday.

Dave Rosenburg, owner of the Bear creek orchard south of Medford, was a business visitor in Eagle Point Sunday.

The Rogue River Canal company has three trucks hauling lumber from the depot out along the canal.

George MacDonald, who has a position in the construction work on the Crater Lake highway, was transacting business in town Tuesday.

W. Y. Marshall came over from Central Point to have his horse shod by Mr. Childreth the blacksmith.

Lord Mayor MacSwiney of Cork was noticeably brighter on the sixty-first day of his hunger strike. He is said to be deriving nourishment from grape juice and wine.

Oratorical

Jack Dempsey of Jackson County Scores Knock-out at Nat Tuesday Evening.

Despite the inclemency of the weather an unusually large crowd, including 40 or 50 people from Jacksonville turned out to hear Col. H. H. Sargent, the oratorical Jack Dempsey of Jackson county deliver his first address in the campaign against the county seat removal at the Natatorium in Medford Tuesday night. The address which is universally considered to be a masterpiece abounding in wits, humor and sarcasm was delivered in the Colonels happiest manner and was warmly received by the audience. The speaker being frequently interrupted by bursts of applause and laughter. The Colonel prefaced his speech by remarking that he considered that in bestowing the title "the oratorical Jack Dempsey of Jackson county" upon him, Art. Perry of the Mail Tribune had paid him the greatest compliment he had yet received. The speaker also paid his respect to the Medford Chamber of Commerce. Col. Sargent is scheduled to speak at many points in the county before Nov. 2, and judging by the reception he received at Medford will capture his audience wherever he goes. He addressed a representative audience at Phoenix Thursday night and will speak at Ashland tonight. On the 18 he will appear at Central Point and at Talent on the 20.

Lewis Ulrich acted as master of ceremonies at the Medford meeting and introduced Colonel Sargent who said in part:

The law of Oregon provides that if the petition for the removal of the court house from Jacksonville to Medford carries at the coming election then the county seat and the records, files, office furniture and all public property pertaining to the county offices shall be moved to Medford within ninety days. The law is compulsory. The county seat must be moved within the specified time whether there is any place for it or not; and all the records and files must be moved whether there is any vault for them or not. As you can not build a court house in ninety days even if you had the funds already provided think what that means. A temporary vault would be necessary; where would you build it? Medford has not yet even selected a site. In the mean time where would court be held? Mr. Neff said in his reply to me at the banquet of the Chamber of Commerce that the use of the federal building might be obtained. But the United States does not loan its federal buildings to counties. In a great emergency where, for instance a county court house had been totally destroyed by earthquake or fire perhaps the use of a federal building might be temporarily permitted but never could permission be obtained where a county has a good court house of its own only a few miles away. Even after the money is provided which of itself would take several years it would take several more years to build the court house and in the mean time temporary quarters would have to be provided.

And there is another phrase of the matter to which I wish to call attention, and that is that if the measure passes, it necessarily carries with it the purchase of a site, unless in the mean time Medford has chosen one and deeded it to the county. The reason for this is that the law is compulsory. The court house must be moved and if moved there must, of course, be a place to put it; hence it follows that if Medford does not give a site, the county must buy one. But it is doubtful whether Medford will give a site since it would require a favorable vote of her people; and, under present conditions with such an enormous burden of taxation already resting on them—their bonded indebtedness is now \$1,042,000—they would be very reluctant to increase that burden moreover there is little time to bring the matter before the people before the general election and if a site is not given before then there will be little inducement and no necessity for the Medford people to give it afterwards since a favorable vote on measure will necessarily carry

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This Court House Cost \$75,000 in 1883

Cost of Material and Labor 1883
Rough lumber \$8.00 per thousand feet;
lime \$2.25 per bushel; brick \$6 to \$8
per thousand; nails 3 cents a pound;
carpenters \$1.75 to \$2.00 per day; brick
layers \$2.25 to \$2.50 per day.



Cost of Material and Labor 1920
Rough lumber \$40 per thousand feet;
lime \$2.25 per bushel; brick \$25 per
thousand; nails 11 cents per pound;
carpenters \$8.00 per day; bricklayers
\$10.00 per day.

In 1920 It Would Cost About \$300,000

Why Vote a Needless Burden Upon Ourselves

In considering the matter of county seat removal several questions will naturally propound themselves to the voter. "Will the proposed change of location make for economy in the administration of county affairs? Will it result in increased efficiency and added protection to the county records? How will it affect the rate of taxation?" The removal of the county seat, under present conditions, means placing an intolerable burden of taxation on the already heavily laden shoulders of property owners because—

If the measure carries it means that within a limited time—90 days—substantial and adequate county buildings and property valued at several hundred thousand dollars would be abandoned—a dead loss to the county. Pending a tax levy and creation of a sinking fund to be expended in the construction of a new court house, temporary quarters in Medford would have to be provided and as there is no building in Medford ever intended to be used as a court house it can readily be seen that the cost of remodeling and equipping an ordinary business block to meet requirements would amount to a very considerable sum of money. Add five or six year's rental, which time must elapse before a court house can be constructed, and the sum total of needless expense the taxpayer will be called upon to bear will prove staggering. Remember, this expense is for merely temporary quarters, which would be vacated upon the completion of a new court house, and suitable permanent quarters cannot be erected at less than \$500,000

Considerable solicitude has been expressed by people who desire county seat removal regarding the safety of county records stored in the present court house. It can easily be shown that all documents of value to the county are filed in fire-proof steel vaults where they are much safer than they would be in make-shift quarters. A change of location at this time would not only expose county records to the danger of loss or destruction but would result in more or less disorganization and less efficiency in the different offices.

Pertinent and Impertinent Paragraphs

Considering the exaggerated value that the promoters of county seat removal place on the mass of waste paper now stored in the woodshed at the courthouse, it might not be a bad idea to hang these relics up as the lower's end of the purse in a catch-weight oratorical contest between our local Jack Dempsey and some silver-tongued word bruiser from Medford.

Colonel H. H. Sargent, the oratorical Jack Dempsey of Jackson county, after vainly endeavoring to induce various Medford aspirants for championship honors to climb into the ring with him, is staging a series of shadow-boxing exhibitions at different points through out the county. Col. Sargent is a ring general of marked ability. He is quick and shifty in argument and repartee, has a fine assortment of eloquent hooks, jabs, swings and wallops and carries a k. o. punch on the tip of his tongue which he is liable to put across at any time.

Ask a Medford man to give a reason why the county seat should be removed to that city and invariably the reply is that Medford should have the court house because it is situated on the rail road and easily reached. To be likewise situated on the railroad and easily reached. The difference is that people of that vicinity have not, so far, taken advantage of their fortunate location to clamor for possession of the courthouse.

We are informed that the Medford Nat is one of the buildings considered suitable for temporary quarters in case court house removal measure carries Nov. 2nd. Gee! Anybody knows county records will be lots safer in a bath house than in a woodshed.

One way for Medford to gain possession of the court house is to wait until "bleeding" Jacksonville bleeds to death and then put in her claim as next of kin.

Communicated

What Some of Our People Have to Say About County Seat Removal

TO THE EDITOR:

There is no good reason why the County seat should be removed to Medford for there is no necessity at this time of building a new court house. Jackson county has a good substantial brick court house in excellent state of preservation and provided with steel fireproof vaults for the safe keeping of valuable records, also a concrete fireproof jail. At comparatively small expenditure the building can be made adequate for many years. Why then should the taxpayers of the county be burdened with additional taxes to the amount of no less than \$500,000 principally to gratify the ambition of a few Medford boosters.

Taxes are already very high in Jackson county and frightfully high in the cities and towns. They are high enough now so that the burden of paying them is felt in the present prosperous times but they are going higher and higher year by year. Wait the paying of them will be in hard times we hate to contemplate. Many of the taxpayers perhaps remember what they said or thought about high taxes when they received their tax statements or paid their taxes. Keep it in mind when you vote on removal measure, and help to keep unnecessary expenses, and consequent taxation down.

EMIL BRITT,
Mayor of Jacksonville.

TO THE EDITOR:

I oppose the removal of the county seat from Jacksonville to Medford because it means that within ninety days after the election we must abandon a court house which ranks 7th in the state and which serves its purpose well and could not be replaced for \$225,000 it means that we also abandon a modern, sanitary jail erected in 1911 and which could not be replaced for \$100,000. It means that we abandon a site that to replace in Medford means an expenditure of 10 or \$12,000. It means that temporary quarters must be secured at Medford within 90 days, under the present pinnacle prices of labor and building material this means a tremendous expense in remodeling some large building if it is available. It means at heavy expense the construction of temporary vaults that will safe guard the records.

NEWS OF THE WORLD IN BRIEF PARAGRAPHS

The city hall at Cork was blown up by bombs and valuable records destroyed.

200,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat entered duty free, demoralized the grain market and prices are becoming lower.

Thirty five hundred employees of a Massachusetts manufacturing company have offered to accept reductions in wages in order that the factories may continue in operation.

The exodus of Jews from Poland to the United States still continues. Polish army officers say that it is certain that more than 250,000 have left.

A serious coal shortage again looms in the eastern states. Serious measures to prevent hoarding are being made.

A record corn crop of over three billion bushels is forecasted for this year. The wheat crop however is under estimate.

Sugar from Java was placed on sale in Tacoma at a price of 12 1/2 cents a pound retail.

A shipment of \$10,000,000 in gold arrived in New York consigned to the federal reserve bank from the Bank of England.

It means that during the period of 5, 6 or 7 years that will be necessary to create a sinking fund adequate to construct a new court house and a new jail that the county will be called upon to pay a high rental for temporary court house quarters and temporary jail quarters while the present court house, jail and site are scrapped. We run the risk in every move of records becoming lost or damaged and when all these thousands of dollars of property have been scrapped and when these thousands of dollars have been spent in remodeling temporary quarters and in rental we will not have made one step toward the securing of a new court house or a new jail. It will be money needlessly squandered.

It is no time to squander money, in the near future we will be called upon to spend thousands of dollars to carry out the good road program of our county—good roads will afford convenience to an immeasurably greater number of people than would a change in the county seat but if upon top of our already greatly increased tax burden and on top of our \$500,000 bond indebtedness and on top of our irrigation dis-

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