

# JACKSONVILLE POST

Official Paper of the City of Jacksonville Oregon

A weekly newspaper published every Saturday at the county seat of Jackson County, Oregon.

Tom Fulton, Editor.

Entered as second-class matter June 22 1907, at the post office at Jacksonville Oregon, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1920

SUBSCRIPTION: One year by mail \$2.00. Advertising rates furnished on application.

**This week the Jacksonville Post is a visitor at 4500 homes in Jackson County.**

## Oratorical Jack Demsey Scores Knock-out

(Continued from page 1)

with it the purchase of a site by the county. So that the taxpayers of the county might as well right from the start face the fact that if the measure passes they will have to dig down into their pockets for the money not only to build the court house and provide, for several years, temporary quarters but also to purchase a site.

I have found some difficulty in finding accurate figures as to the cost of building the present court house. Judge Gardner says he thinks its cost including the foundation' about \$75,000. Dr. Robinson does not think it would cost quite that much. As a foundation then upon which to base our argument let us assume that its cost was about \$60,000 if built today it would cost four times that much or \$240,000. But those who favor the building of a new court house would never be satisfied with simply a duplicate of the old building they would want a larger, better handsomer one.

This would make it cost \$480,000, not counting the cost of a site, temporary quarters and rent during its building. Of this latter we can form no accurate estimate suffice to say, however it would be a great many thousands dollars.

Then if the court house is moved the jail must be moved also. From what I can learn its cost when built was about \$25,000. It is a new building; it was finished in 1911. The cost of building material and labor is now at least three times what it was then which would make the cost of a new jail of the same kind we now have, \$75,000. This added to \$480,000 gives us a total cost of \$555,000 for the cost of the court house and the jail without counting at all cost of site, temporary quarters, rents and etc.

Think of it! over a half million dollars for a court house and jail when we already have good ones which are satisfactory and which can be made perfectly satisfactory by the spending of a few thousand dollars.

The total county indebtedness including municipal indebtedness as figured at \$3,756,456 and if to this we add the cost of the court house and jail \$555,000 as I have figured it we have a

total of \$4,311,456 a staggering sum to contemplate; but even this does not include a lot of things that must be paid out if the court house is moved nor does it include the \$96,000 of county money which the Bank of Jacksonville had when it failed. Just a statement of these figures speak louder than words. It is not necessary to make an argument on them—anyone with eyes can see that with such an enormous indebtedness as is shown here hanging over the county the cities and the people, it would be the height of folly—it would be a crime to add to this enormous debt more than half a million dollars to build a new court house and jail in Medford which is not needed at all.

During the past two years in Jackson county taxes have gone higher and higher and the delinquency list seems to be getting bigger and bigger. If this thing continues the county will soon go bankrupt. My taxes in 1919 were 19.9% higher than they were in 1918 and I owned precisely the same property in both years.

## Communicated

(Continued from page 1)

trict assessments and on top of our city special benefit assessments which are not included in our general taxes and on top of our \$107,000 loss in the recent bank failure which must be made up immediately we are called upon to expend thousands of dollars for temporary county seat quarters and then thousands more for a new court house and jail it would appear that the excessive tax burden would deter further good road building and bankrupt the people.

H. K. HANNA.

Do the Right thing at the right time! Now is not the time to consider the erection of a new court house with building material and color at the highest pitch. The idea is preposterous. Is not the county already too deeply in debt? and what about taxes? do you want them any higher?

Sizing up the whole situation just how could Medford provide temporary quarters within the ninety days which is all the time allowed for removal even if the measure should carry. Jackson county now has a new jail

and a good substantial court house. Let us, the people of Jackson county give this important issue due consideration and vote to leave the county seat where it is.

JNO. M. WILLIAMS CO.

No, I don't see any urgent reason for moving the county seat. The present court house with a small expense can be made to answer the purpose for some time to come. The jail which cost about forty thousand dollars when building material was cheap cannot be replaced for double that money. To move the records, fixtures and fit up temporary quarters & pay high rentals or same will cost tax payers many thousand dollars. No, wait until a saving fund is raised to build Medford million dollar court house and then we will talk about money and possibly sweeping Medford brothers' dirt was or ask any more about these old records in the wool shed we will take care of them.

J. W. ROBINSON.

"Shall the County Seat of Jackson County, Oregon, be removed from the City of Jacksonville in said County, where the same is now fixed by law, to the City of Medford in said County?" I vote NO! and give the following reasons for my vote:

1. The county seat is now fixed by law in Jacksonville and a proponderance of valid argument should be required for any change. Only a small group in Medford desire the change for personal convenience. It would be just as reasonable for Rogue River to desire the county seat changed to Gold Hill; that Ashland should desire it changed to Talent; or that Bitter Falls should desire it changed to Eagle Point.

The number of signatures to the petition for the removal means nothing. Most people will sign a petition as the easiest way to get rid of the collector. For example—hundred signed the "Back Luke" petitions in Ashland but only 43 voted for the project at the election. Many of the signers of the county seat petition have already declared their intention of voting against the removal. That voters outside of Medford signed and spoke for the removal was merely a cheap political trick intended to create the impression that such a demand was popular.

2. The county and its principal cities are now very heavily in debt, and not prepared for the heavy burden of additional taxation that would be necessary. If the change were voted it must be accomplished within 90 days, and no building is in readiness.

The county has no funds on hand for building a court house, and as the law does not permit bonding, must raise the funds first. A more business-like proposition would be to levy a tax for five years or more and then talk of building.

3. However, our Medford agitators have not shown that a new building is necessary. The present structure is adequate for years to come. The records can be made as safe in Jacksonville as they ever can be in Medford, and perhaps more so, for a building of concrete construction across the street court house is available for but little expense, the fact that it is not new in use only shows that no records of value are in danger of being destroyed.

I have faith in the good judgment of the voters of the county and believe they will vote against the removal overwhelmingly. Sincerely,

ALBERT H. GAMMONS,  
Pastor Presbyterian Church.

Why the court house should not be moved:

1st. Because Jackson county does not need a new court house or a new county seat:

2nd. Because if more room is needed for offices, storage, etc., it can easily be had by enlarging the present structure, at a cost less than one-tenth of the amount required to move the county offices to Medford, fit up temporary quarters and pay rent for same while the money is being raised for constructing a new building; the present court house when so enlarged, would be ample for the needs of the county for 25 or 30 years.

3rd. Removal would cause an additional and very heavy tax levy for a number of years, to provide a fund for building a new court house and also for paying rent at a good figure on the building to be used for temporary quarters.

4th. That the amount of money required for the removal of the county seat, including the erection of a new building, would pave many miles of county roads and if used for such purpose would be a lasting benefit to all the people of the county, while if spent for a new court house would benefit no one save a few speculators and promoters at Medford.

5th. Because no good reason for the removal exists: Jacksonville is as good a location for the county seat as there is in the county, and because it is a few miles west of the center of population in the county is no reason why the court house should be moved. The county seat is here, it should stay here for all time, unless some valid cause for the removal should arise later.

D. W. BAGSHAW.

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until Eight o'clock in the afternoon of said day.

The City Recorder is hereby notified to give notice of the aforesaid election by the publication of this resolution in the Jacksonville Post, the official newspaper of the City of Jacksonville, in the regular issue of said newspaper dated October 16th, 1920, and by posting copies thereof in three public places within the corporate limits of said City for a period of at least Ten days immediately prior to the day here-in set for said election.

Approved by the Mayor, October 5, 1920.

Attest: EMIL BRITT, Mayor  
D. W. BAGSHAW, City Recorder.

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