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To the People of Cottage Grove and Southern Lane

Of all the candidates to be nominated tomorrow, the most important to the people of Lane county is the county commissioner. There are three in the field from Eugene and one from northern Lane, the same being myself. Northern Lane has not been represented in the county court for many years; our people feel that they have been discriminated against, and they now make a special appeal to you of southern Lane to stand by them as they have stood by you in the past; and we make the same appeal to you of the west. A body of men in Eugene, usually spoken of as the Eugene Ring, have had altogether too much influence in the past, and are now making frantic efforts to retain their hold.

Finding Fault

It goes against me to tell of the other fellow's sins and shortcomings. It always reminds me of the fellow in the bible that thanked God he was not like other sinners. However, it is only by turning the light of publicity on public affairs that we can keep them in healthy condition, and there are certain matters that should be looked into. For instance:

The Price of Gravel

In understand that Lane county is now and has for years paid \$1.25 per yard for gravel while the same grade can be bought in Harrisburg at 65 cents per yard. Why this difference? If nominated and elected I will look into this matter and if I find that we can save money by the county having its own plant, I will see to it that we get it.

Save the Roads

Much is being said in certain quarters about the excellence of Lane county roads—and we certainly have some fine roads; but then when millions are expended one naturally look for some results. Up to March 1, 1922, the state had expended over \$1,300,000 in Lane county.

But it is not for that kind of roads I plead, but for our common gravel roads. Up to four years ago we in this end of the county were able to improve our roads a little each year, but since then they have got only a very little gravel but plenty of scarifying. There is natural wear to the road and unless the worn material is replaced the result will be the same as if you keep on drawing on your bank account and make no deposits. Scarifying done in the spring makes the road smooth for a little while, but it loosens the road bed and mixes the gravel with the dirt and next winter the road is worse than before. And the scarifying and scraping and patrolling in automobiles absorb all the money and leaves nothing for gravel. In former years all road districts got 2½ mills on their assessed valuation. This year they get only 2¼ mills. That shows the tendency of those in power.

The Real Issue

The real issue in this campaign is this question of road work and road maintenance. The valley to coast road will be built no matter who gets elected, but how about the farmer roads? Particularly out in the back country where people have been asking in vain for a little help?

If nominated and elected I will assume the office unfettered by any secret pledges. I will not kill for the pleasure of killing, but I am opposed to retaining anyone on the county's payroll that is not necessary or profitable.

H. P. Markusen

Republican Candidate for County Commissioner

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Information of Our Readers.

A new Evangelical church will be built in Monmouth this spring.

The eastern Oregon interscholastic track meet was held on the Round-up grounds at Pendleton.

Plans have been approved for the erection of a new Methodist church in Corvallis to cost \$100,000.

Statewide reports on frost damage has led to the hope that the loss was not as great as had been feared.

Ranchers along the Columbia river are planting far back from the river's edge this spring in anticipation of another flood.

Fines aggregating \$3245.10 were collected in various parts of the state in April as a result of the activities of state traffic officers.

Nearly twice as much squirrel poison has been distributed among farmers this year as was used last year in Linn county. A. C. Heyman, county agent, reports.

Preliminary plans are complete for the opening of the eastern Oregon branch of the state normal for a summer school in Pendleton, the dates of which are June 19 to July 28.

The cost of printing and mailing the so-called voters' pamphlets for the primary election aggregated \$11,050, according to a report prepared by Sam Kozler, secretary of state.

Just as fast as the snow recedes in the mountains road work is being started in the Deschutes national forest, which has a \$20,000 program mapped out for the spring and summer.

Thirty-five cents a pound was paid for wool at Klamath Falls, setting the high mark for the season. Approximately 250,000 pounds of Klamath county wool has been sold in the past ten days.

The first pier of the "Bridge of the Gods," at Cascade Locks, which is under construction by the Young-McDonald company of Portland, has been completed and the second pier will be begun soon.

There are bright prospects that congress will at an early date authorize the improvement of the port of Umpqua, according to W. P. Jewett of Eugene, who has arrived home from Washington, D. C.

More than 17 tons of T. N. T. will be used on forest road work this summer. It is announced. Nineteen thousand four hundred pounds will be used on the Deschutes forest, 14,000 on the Ochoco and 2000 on the Fremont.

The state highway commission at a meeting in Portland awarded 26.88 miles of road work, amounting to \$261,237. The commission referred to the engineer offers for 13.26 miles, the low bids for which aggregated \$297,811.

Construction of the Roosevelt highway between Hebo, in Tillamook county, and Siletz, in Lincoln county, which will cost practically half a million dollars, was one of the agreements of the state highway commission at a meeting in Portland.

The raising of sugar beets to supply the Utah-Idaho Sugar company is an experiment which will be tried at Stanfield in the hope that the beets, which thrive best in rather heavy irrigated soil and which resist alkali, can be grown successfully.

The Oregon Memorial Annual, published by the state superintendent of public instruction and containing a suggested program for the day, rules of flag etiquette and selections to be used in observing the occasions, is being sent to all schools in the state.

Definite advice that the public service commission will tolerate no longer delay on the improvement of the Southern Pacific depot at Oregon City as ordered last September was forwarded to the company by Fred G. Buchtel, representing the commission.

Portland's 1922 Rose Festival will be held June 29, 21, 22 and 23. The new dates were chosen because the lateness of the season would not permit that luxuriance of bloom so essential to a successful festival in time for the dates originally set, June 7, 8 and 9.

There was one fatality in Oregon due to industrial accidents in the week ending May 11, according to a report issued by the state industrial accident commission. The victim was J. P. Adams, timber worker of Myrtle Point. A total of 420 accidents were reported to the commission.

Activities of officials of Oregon and of the city of Portland, coupled with the work of the White Cross chapter and Oregon Narcotic Control association, were praised by Harry D. Smith, in charge of the federal narcotic squads on the Pacific coast. Activities of the officials and citizens have already done much in cutting down the business of the drug peddler and have driven several of them away, Smith told Gov. Ben W. Olcott and Mayor George L. Baker in a conference.

Hoff's Record

(Editorial in Salem Capital Journal.)

The candidates election pamphlet contains the following statement in behalf of State Treasurer O. P. Hoff, who is a candidate for re-election, as to why he should be nominated and re-elected: "His oath of office is his only pludge. His record is your guarantee. His experience is your protection." It is therefore incumbent upon the voter to scan the record that is your guarantee, and the experience that is your protection.

The last report of the Industrial Accident Commission shows that \$100,000 has been marked off from the value of securities in the Industrial Accident fund for depreciation—as a result of the investments made with the funds by State Treasurer Hoff. These investments in questionable securities of money reserved for widows and orphans resulted in a grand jury investigation of the state treasurer's office two years ago, exposing as great a scandal as ever broke under the dome of the capitol, showing that the state investments were practically turned over to a corrupt bond house, which was given a virtual monopoly of investing state funds by the state treasurer.

The grand jury, of which Gideon Stoltz, of Salem, was foreman, found that the state treasurer often paid for bonds long before their issuance or delivery, and that the bond brokers were permitted to make extortionate profits at the expense of the state. The jury reported:

"State Treasurer Hoff purchased from Mr. Etheridge, of Morris Bros. Inc., from January 6, 1919, to March 15, 1920, bonds of the par value of \$1,106,629.09 at a cost to the State of Oregon of \$1,172,223.12, which bonds cost Morris Bros. \$1,088,147.93, giving the enormous profit to Morris Bros. Inc., of \$84,075.19. The records further reveal that bonds which were not in existence had been sold by Mr. Etheridge to State Treasurer Hoff at an exorbitant profit, and payments made in full thereon by the state treasurer."

Instead of purchasing bonds on the open market or buying directly from municipalities and saving the state excessive commissions Treasurer Hoff made practically all of his purchases through one bond house, permitting them to make excessive profits. About this, the grand jury said:

"The most flagrant example of excessive profits is the sale of \$100,000.00 water bonds of Reedsport to the state treasurer at the enormous profit to Morris Bros. of \$16,919.90. On June 19, 1919, Reedsport was incorporated. August 25th same year Morris Bros. Co. entered into contract with its city officials to take \$100,000.00 of its bonds when issued for \$92,320.00. Mr. Etheridge sold them on October 28, same year, to State Treasurer Hoff for \$108,399.90, and Hoff paid him that day that amount. Thirteen days later the city voted to issue said bonds and forty-four days later did issue and deliver them to Morris Bros."

The grand jury severely criticized the "right apparently given by State Treasurer Hoff whereby Morris Bros. Inc., were authorized to withdraw securities sold to the state, some of which were offered for sale by Morris Bros., while they were yet held by the state treasurer." The bond house has authority to sell any first class security held by the state and substitute other security for it, leading the grand jury to remark, "there should be no strings upon any of the bonds purchased by the state of Oregon." Further, the grand jury reported:

"We condemn the policy of State Treasurer Hoff in investment of such large sums in one investment; also condemn his practice of buying bonds that pay a high rate of interest regardless of the property that must redeem the principal. Safety first should apply to investment of public funds. Why should not the State of Oregon use as much intelligence in the investment of its funds as it does in buying supplies?"

Attached to the grand jury's report and made a part of it, was the auditor's report of the investigation made of the books of the treasurer and bond house, which revealed the fact that during the first month of Mr. Hoff's administration, L. G. Hulín, who filled the office of deputy state treasurer as appointee of Mr. Hoff, was paid a commission by Morris Bros. Inc., for bonds purchased by the state. To quote this report:

"On January 21, 1919, a payment of \$562.50 was made by withdrawing that amount from the bank by means of a check made out to the order of cash. The stub of this check contains the following information: 'Cash for account of State Industrial Accident Commission ¼ of 1 per cent on \$75,000.00 Astoria 5's dated October 1, 1918.' We were informed by Mr. John L. Etheridge, of Morris Bros. Inc., that this was a commission paid to Mr. L. G. Hulín, at that time deputy state treasurer, on a sale of those bonds to the state January 24, 1919. This amount was charged to the commission account on the books of Morris Bros. Inc."

"In the same account we find that amounts totaling \$315.33 were charged as commission paid to L. G. Hulín February 5, 1919, by means of a check made to the order of L. G. Hulín which plus the commission of \$562.50 on the Astoria bonds, Mr. Hulín received a total commission of \$877.83 for sale of bonds from Morris Bros. to the State of Oregon."

After the adjournment of the legislature, Representative J. G. Richardson succeeded Mr. Hulín as deputy treasurer and practically all of the state treasurer's bond business was turned over to John L. Etheridge, of Morris Bros. Inc., who invested the state funds in whatever security at whatever price he desired and reaped a fabulous profit, the state treasurer apparently not caring about the security as long as the interest was at a high rate.

As a result of the expose, the grand jury recommended the taking away from the state treasurer the right of investing state moneys and the placing of it with the state board of control—a recommendation enacted into law at the next session of the legislature. Mr. Hoff was not and is not accused of dishonesty but his competency was challenged. The conduct of his office has demonstrated his lack of business acumen.

In the argument for his re-election, Mr. Hoff praises himself for increasing interest earnings of the funds in his charge. For this, of course, he is to be commended, but the saving thereby resultant does not begin to offset the loss to the state due to depreciation of poor investments.

Mr. Hoff has handled more money than his predecessor, due to increased revenues from taxation, from highway and bonus bond sales, but this entailed relatively little more work. On the other hand part of the work formerly done by the treasurer, the state land loans, have been taken away from his department altogether, despite which he has spent over double the amount of money that his predecessor spent. The last legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the state treasurer for two years. During the first year he spent \$26,227.44 in addition to \$14,643 out of the inheritance tax fund. So that his total cost per year is over \$40,000, as against \$19,550 for the last year of his predecessor.

Neither as investor, nor as guardian of public funds, nor as economist nor as administrator has Mr. Hoff earned re-election. His opponent, Thomas F. Ryan, of Oregon City, was for eight years assistant state treasurer and his qualifications for the office seem superior to those of Mr. Hoff—at least they could not be poorer. Mr. Hoff's record is certainly no guarantee and his experience no protection to the people.

(Paid Advertisement by Ryan-for-Treasurer Club, Hal E. Hoss, Secretary-Treasurer, Oregon City, Oregon)