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## The Last Word

With this issue we close the campaign and wish to thank our readers for bearing with us in using so much space for the county seat question, but now having won the contest the people of Ontario wish to assure all the people of the county that they value their friendship and good will far more than the county seat and have conducted a clean, straight forward campaign so there will be no regrets after it is all over. Every statement and claim made in behalf of Ontario was done with the belief that it was the absolute truth and not distorted.

## Rural Credits Lost

What has become of the system of rural credit which the Democrats promised farmers of the county would be enacted into law just as soon as the new Federal Reserve law was disposed of by Congress?

When efforts were made to amend the currency bill in both the House and Senate, all such amendments were voted down, and the advocates of this legislation in behalf of the farmers were told that an effective and workable rural credits law would follow promptly.

It has not been forgotten that President Wilson once issued a personal statement assuring the farmers of the country that an open right-of-way would be given rural-credit legislation immediately after the passage of the currency law. The currency bill became a law before Christmas, a year ago. Since then there has been a disposition on the part of the President and democratic leaders in Congress not to mention rural credits. The farmers are told now, when they inquire about the promised farm loan system, that the problem has proved difficult and complicated.

It seems strange that an administration and Congress which were able completely to overturn the entire revenue and financial system of the country, should now confess its incapacity to enact a rural credits system. This confession would not be so much a reflection on democratic leadership, if the subject of rural credits were new to bankers, financiers, or economists. If the banking and currency committee leaders of the two houses are so much at sea, there are a thousand intelligent heads of farmers' organizations throughout the United States who can frame a bill which would undoubtedly give all the results to be desired. And then our democratic friends might be surprised that several countries in Europe have rural credits systems which have been in operation for years to the satisfaction of the farmers.

The one big truth of the rural credits blockade in Congress is that the administration and its leaders in Congress have been too busy playing politics and in trying to pass a war tax bill to make up the deficit in revenues produced by the Underwood tariff bill to pay any attention to the needs of the farmers.

## Donated Some Labor

The old timers who resided in or near Vale at the time the present court house was built and who helped build the stone walls which the Vale people claim they constructed and donated to the county at a cost of \$5,000, all unite in declaring that the Vale people donated very little cash even towards the construction of the old stone shell. The Vale people induced the farmers around Vale to haul in the native stone, and the stone cutting and masonry work was almost entirely done by donations of the services of the farmers and laborers around Vale, who were promised jobs to recompense them for their labor donations. The only cash actually contributed towards the court house construction was for the mortar to hold the old stone shell together. After the stone shell was finished, then the "Generous Citizens" of Vale, ceased their efforts and the stone shell was left exposed to the elements for two or three years. When the west wing of the stone wall began to crumble and tumble down, then the "Generous Citizens" of Vale got busy with a petition and asked the county to help them out of the whole and finish the building. It was necessary to rebuild nearly the whole west wing of the building, which had crumbled down, at the expense of the county.

## Part Left Out Quite Important

In the last issue of the Vale Enterprise they claim that Ontario received \$500 from the county court for the repair of the Snake River bridge, when the court holds a bond from citizens of Ontario to keep the repairs up for ten years, without cost to the county, but they failed to state the truth of the matter.

The fact is that the bond given is to keep the 309 feet of piling or wood structure of the bridge in repair and has no reference to 600 feet of steel structure, only to the wood structure, and the bond so states.

The \$500 was used for redecking the steel structure.

This bond is also a guarantee by these people that the piling part of the bridge would not go out by high water or ice gorges, and is signed by thirty of the most responsible men of the city, and this is the only time the Vale court has ever asked any part of the county for a bond to keep any public work in repair.

There is much that might be said regarding this bridge deal, but it has no bearing on the present controversy. How the court was opposed to anything but a wooden bridge and that to be built by a certain contractor, and how said contractor boasted that if he did not get the contract the bridge would not be built, and how one of the county court members who is now fighting Ontario did everything in his power to keep the bridge from being built. This same contractor did all the bridge work in the county for years.

When bids were called for this favored contractor was among the high bidders. In spite of all this opposition the bridge was built and has proven the best investment the county ever made.

## Even Attack their own Court

The Vale people seem to have been in a panic for several weeks and have been making all kinds of wild statements. Their article last week regarding the bridge at Ontario is a fair sample. They quoted part of the agreement regarding the Ontario business men keeping up the repairs, but purposely omitted the part that showed it referred only to the wooden span on this side of the river. Those who were in the county at the time this bridge was built will remember that the county court was opposed to the building of a steel bridge and wanted a wooden one erected and it was finally compromised by having the approach or first span on the Ontario side built of piling and the Ontario people agreed to keep that in repair and have done so. It is an injustice to the county court to insinuate that they misappropriated \$500. They have the records there and are acting accordingly.

When the readers goes over the list of moneys paid to Vale citizens during the past few months he will realize why the whole town of Vale is making such a desperate effort to have the feed trough continued, but the citizens will decide by their vote on Tuesday that it is time to abolish this expense and reduce their taxes that much.

The voters will also show their wisdom in accepting a new court house at Ontario where it will be most accessible to eighty per cent of the people and thus save thousands of dollars in mileage for the people having business at the court house.

## Another Bridge Story

There has been much written and said regarding the bridges across the Snake river during the campaign, of course they have no bearing on the advisability of the county accepting a new court house without a dollars cost to the taxpayers, but is being used to blind the people. The county gave \$3,000 toward the approaches to the Weiser bridge and later gave \$5,000 for a steel span. For the Ontario bridge the county gave \$10,000 and the citizens of Ontario gave \$12,500, this went as part payment on the bridge proper and the balance for the approaches, having had to provide them on both sides of the river. For the Nyssa bridge the county gave \$23,000 and the town about \$6,000. Ontario agreed to keep the wooden span in repair for ten years, the county court refusing to allow the bridge to be built unless this was done. The county appropriation for the fair grounds was about \$12,000.

Here is another thought, Vale pays but 4 per cent of the county tax but every year draws down more than these other sections have received in improvements for all time.

The taxes collected by the county in Ontario is more than double what is collected in Vale. Vale is assessed at \$535,250 and Ontario \$1,143,165.

Thus while Vale pays but 4 per cent of the county tax her people are paid seventy per cent of the total expenses of running the county. The bonded indebtedness of Vale is \$110,000, while that of Ontario is only \$65,000.

The filing of the bond with the names of men worth many times the \$200,000 which Vale wants used in building a new court house, has satisfied the most skeptical that Ontario can and will build the court house and equip it just as the plans and specifications call for. Many voters have stated that there could not be stronger proof that Ontario as at all times meant to do just what she agreed to.

Did you ever have occasion to visit the court house at Vale and start out to catch a train? It would not be so bad if the building was nearer the depot and on higher ground so that the waters of the Malheur river would not flood it.

The middleman is nothing more than a farm hand but he is able to fix his own wages and to collect them and to multiply his transactions as he pleases.

The farmer can neither help himself nor be helped by others until he organizes.

Agriculture needs all the great men it can get.

### Sheridan Has Cannery.

Sheridan.—The first unit of Sheridan's packing and fruit canning establishment was dedicated by the Sheridan Fruitgrowers' association, and 250 farmers and their families gathered in the big warehouse to rejoice over the event.

The entire plant, costing \$8000, will be completed and ready for the season of 1916.

### Cigar Stores and Groceries Closed.

Eugene.—Eugene is to be a closed town to the extent of soda fountains and cigar shops on Sundays, according to the announcement made by J. M. Devers, district attorney. A week ago he notified grocery stores on the outskirts of the city that they must close on Sunday, in conformity with the state law.

## COURT HOUSE COST

Continued from Page 1.

"Miscellaneous and current expenses," as well as those shown in the "Court-house expenses." From an inspection of the reports of the county clerks, rendered semi-annually, beginning with March 31st, 1914, and ending with September 30th, 1914, the following disbursements were debited against the "Court house," "Current" and "Miscellaneous" expenses, and "Jail expenses":

For six months ending March 31, 1904:

No items obtainable.

For six months ending September 30, 1904:

Court house .....\$ 200.00

Current expense ..... 2,289.03

Miscellaneous ..... 682.37

For six months ending March 31, 1905:

Miscellaneous ..... 492.09

For six months ending September 30, 1905:

Court house and Jail..... 4.00

For six months ending March 31, 1906:

No items obtainable.

For six months ending October 1, 1906:

Court house ..... 123.75

Current expenses ..... 2,775.59

Jail ..... 69.95

For six months ending March 31, 1907:

Court house ..... 676.37

Current Expenses ..... 1,181.40

Jail ..... 197.61

For six months ending October 1, 1907:

Court house ..... 326.80

Current Expenses ..... 928.73

Jail ..... Sept. .... 314.86

For six months ending September 31, 1907:

Court house ..... 2,590.81

Jail ..... 307.00

Current Expenses ..... 2,033.50

For six months ending March 31, 1908:

Court house ..... 698.42

Current Expenses ..... 1,488.11

Jail ..... 582.50

For six months ending March 31, 1909:

Court house ..... 583.49

Current Expenses ..... 1,666.92

Jail ..... 2,429.00

For six months ending September 30, 1909:

Current Expenses ..... 583.49

Court House ..... 1,666.93

Jail ..... 2,429.00

For six months ending March 31, 1910:

Court House ..... 1,159.46

Current Expenses ..... 1,310.64

For six months ending Sept. 30, 1910:

Current Expenses ..... 2,098.11

Court House ..... 1,504.38

Jail ..... 388.50

For six months ending March 31, 1911:

Current Expenses ..... 2,071.59

Court House ..... 489.00

Jail ..... 162.84

For six months ending Sept. 30, 1911:

Court House ..... 3,523.53

Current Expenses ..... 3,463.66

Jail ..... 22.90

For six months ending March 31, 1912:

Court House ..... 616.60

Current Expenses ..... 3,678.61

Jail ..... 457.89

For six months ending Sept. 30, 1912:

Court House ..... 449.15

Current Expenses ..... 4,813.67

Jail ..... 685.40

For six months ending March 31, 1913:

Court House ..... 694.87

Current Expenses ..... 2,642.34

For six months ending Sept. 30, 1913:

Court House ..... 913.07

Current Expenses ..... 1,125.57

For six months ending March 31, 1914:

Court House ..... 1,177.05

Current Expenses ..... 1,471.03

Jail ..... 627.00

For six months ending Sept. 30, 1914:

Court House ..... 1,799.29

Current Expenses ..... 1,379.16

Jail ..... 1,003.93

Total ..... \$466,229.75

Court House and Jail ..... \$27,289.07

Current Expenses ..... \$38,940.68

One-half Current Expenses \$19,470.34

Court House and Jail ..... \$27,289.07

Total ..... \$46,759.41

While all "Current Expenses," "Miscellaneous expenses," and "Jail expenses," items do not exclusively contain expenditures on the court house, yet an inspection of the records shows that the major portion of this money was used for that purpose. It would take an auditor several months to ascertain just the exact amount which has been expended in patching up the present dilapidated courthouse building, but it would be more than fair to charge off at least one-half of all "Current Expenses" and "Miscellaneous expenses" to repairs and improvements on the courthouse and grounds. This would show a total expenditure upon the courthouse and grounds for the last ten years of \$46,759, since the stone shell was donated to the county.

\$400 was appropriated by the county court in one lump on September 9th, 1914, a little over a year after the new courthouse had been finished, to make repairs on the building.

An example of the way in which the county money has been squandered on the court house is shown by the minutes of the Commissioner's Journal for April 21st, 1908, showing an allowance of \$1,601.42 to J. F. Wilson of Vale for drilling a well on the courthouse grounds, and everybody knows that the well never was any good, and this expenditure was a dead loss to the county.

On March 5th, 1908, another \$1775 was appropriated by the county court for jail repairs and improvements.

With all this almost yearly expenditure on the courthouse of thousands of dollars, yet what have the taxpayers of Malheur County, who were pledged a courthouse by Vale fifteen years ago, after the expenditure of thousands of dollars of county money to put it in shape, got to show for their money? Is it not about time to quit squandering money on this dilapidated old shell and move the county officers to a new building donated by the citizens of Ontario with all modern improvements and thereby effect a big saving to the county?

Over \$5,000 has been expended by the county court during the past fiscal year on the courthouse and jail, the major portion of the money probably having been devoted to raising that beautiful lawn and shade trees about which much has been heard in the Vale Enterprise. And the county records show that the City of Vale has charged the county as high as \$35.00 per month for the water to water the courthouse lawn with, and thus the county is even asked to contribute its share towards that \$100,000 Vale water system graft.

Accept Ontario's offer of a new modern courthouse and the taxpayers will deprive the county judge of any excuse to give the Vale courthouse hangers-on and pensioners fat jobs at "repairing and improving the court house."

## HERE ARE SEVERAL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED FOR YOUR BENEFIT RELATING TO THE ELECTION

### Make Big Saving

Reports from the people living around Nyssa and most of those in Nyssa is that they will support Ontario on Tuesday, because they know it means a big saving in taxes for the people. Those speakers are showing the voters that Ontario is ready to build the court house and that it will not cost the taxpayers one dollar.

### Thousands Saved

How many of you realize that the business men who are on the Ontario Council have saved the city thousands of dollars in the building of the city sewers, the city hall and that the library building, high school and other improvements here represent full value for every dollar expended on them. Our city hall is nearly as large as the Payette building, but the cost was only half, and the same comparison holds good with the public improvements in any of our neighboring towns. That is one reason why Ontario can and will give the County such an excellent building for a court house. The same building in Vale would cost several times as much, judging from their water system and school buildings.

### Unanimous

Does a vote of only eight against the court house indicate that the move is one of real estate men only? All of the people of Ontario want you to come here.

### All Benefitted

The building up of the Snake river valley helps every part of it and all should work together and make it the best valley in the world, what nature intended it to be.

### Not Bribery Then

When the fight was on for the location of the county seat with Jordan Valley, Vale and Ontario as the contenders, Vale offered to build a court house free and it was all right, not bribery but now that Ontario is going to present all the people with a court house it is bribery.

### Who to Watch

In the Enterprise of the 24th was a statement that it would be the last issue of the paper before the election in which county seat matter would be discussed, but the voters should not take that seriously. That talk about the roorback was another attempt to deceive the people. If any sensational matter in connection with the county seat is sprung it will come from the Enterprise and the Vale people. Ontario will close the campaign in the same open manner they have conducted it throughout.

### Condemn Court House

When Judge McKnight was in Jordan Valley working for the county seat to remain at Vale he stated that a movement had been started in Vale to condemn the court house and he had stopped it, not deeming it advisable to start such a proposition at this time.

### No Bar to Slurs

What do you think of that statement that the Sisters Hospital would be turned over to the county, because it could not be made to pay? Did you ever hear of a Catholic institution being turned over to a city or county? The Catholic conduct many institutions that do not show a profit and the Vale people are certainly stooping very low to spring anything like that.

### Nothing to Debate

The Ontario people have tried repeatedly to have a debate with the Vale speakers on the county seat question, but the Vale speakers claim they are merely speakers, not debaters. They have no arguments and nothing to debate.

### Vale Not Interested

Vale has never done one single thing to advertise the agricultural and fruit industries of the county, or promote those industries, but have always worked against them and the fair which fosters and develops them.

### Just Sentiment

Have you heard a single business reason advanced why the county seat should be kept at Vale? Some sentiment and sympathy stuff, that is all.

### Not Your Ground

The ground on which the present court house stands does not belong to the county, except while it is being used for a court house. That was a donation with a string to it.

### Diamonds and Rags

The people are hard to please. The Nyssa ladies did not like the diamonds and silks of the Vale ladies and the Westfall people resented their old ragged and dirty dresses. The people appreciate honesty in dress, same as in other lines of life.

### Make Bond to Suit

The Vale speakers and writers say they do not like the bond given by the Ontario business men guaranteeing the construction of the new court house to be built at Vale, that it is not legal. The Vale commercial club can employ any lawyer, or set of lawyers to draw up a bond and have it passed on by the Circuit judge, guaranteeing the building of the court house and the work of moving the equipment to Ontario without cost to the county tax payers and the Ontario business men will sign it just as readily as they did the bond printed on another page. They know the money is in the bank to pay all the expenses of the grounds, building and moving and is available for the purpose without any ifs or ands.

### Warrants Still Good

That story about the warrants of the county not being good for the bridge that the Harper people wanted is certainly rank. Less than a year ago the county was in debt several thousand dollars and still her warrants were taken at any of the banks at par and if the court had been permitted to build that bridge the warrants to pay for it could have been cashed at any bank in the county, because they knew that six per cent warrants are a good investment.

### All Foreign Labor

Mr. Workingman do you remember that the water works in Vale were constructed by foreign labor? Do you know that the work of building the Bully Creek reservoir, which the Vale people claim to be paying for is being done by foreign labor exclusively? Do you remember how the home men and others of the county did the work on the Ontario sewers last year? You know that the proposed water system for Ontario will be constructed by American labor. You know that all the building that has been done in Ontario was done by American labor and that the large number of new houses and store buildings that will be necessary in Ontario will all be constructed by white labor. Do you favor a community that employs white labor or one that caters to the foreign element because they will work cheaper and stand for more hardships?

### Ontario Roads

The road taxes collected from the property in Ontario is all used on roads outside of Ontario. Half of it goes into the general fund and the other is used for permanently improving the roads leading into the country. The Boulevard has been gravelled for several miles toward Nyssa and Vale and other roads will be taken up and tested the same way until all the roads in the valley are gravelled. What does Vale do with her road money? Is there a rod of good road near Vale?

### Get out of Slough

Is it not about time for this county to have a court house on ground that is out of the path of every spring freshet. You remember how all the streets of Vale were flooded here a short time ago and the sidewalks washed away. With the dam in below Vale this will occur more frequently because there is less chance for the floods to escape.

### Add \$200,000 to taxes

Figure up what your taxes are now and then try to get an idea of what you will have to pay toward the building of a \$200,000 court house at Vale, in case the new court house at Ontario is not accepted by the voters on Tuesday next. You know how hard it is to get money enough to pay the present taxes.

### Why it Was Done

It is now seen why Vale made the charges that the ballot boxes at Cairo was stuffed and that Judge Brown, John Weaver, Adolph Grames and J. P. Houseman were parties to a fraud. It is seen in the hundreds of men held in Vale for the election, many of them not even citizens.

In union there is strength and in co-operation there is profit.