

The Ontario Argus

GEO. K. AIKEN, Editor and Publisher.

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COUNTY COURT VS HIGH SCHOOLS.

In its account of the stormy session of the County Court last week, the Malheur Enterprise makes the astonishing statement in connection with the refusal of the board to pay the tuition of students in the High Schools who come from districts where no such schools exist:

"The amount or the justice of this claim is not questioned, nor has it been, but a law was passed wherein the restriction of the six per cent referred to seems to eliminate the possibility of providing funds with which to pay it."

This may seem to our contemporary a plausible defense for the indefensible position taken, particularly by the County Judge George W. McKnight, but alas it is as full of holes as Swiss cheese.

In the first place the law requiring the County Court, from the High School tax fund, to provide this money was passed prior to the enactment of the so-called limitation law. Secondly the law is a mandatory statute, and is not left open to the discretions of the County Court. And a third air hole in this sophistry is that the Attorney General, who is a lawyer of high standing and long experience, has ruled that it is the duty of the court to pay this.

But passing all that aside, how can a County Court which places in a budget, the items of Watson grade; and which has levied taxes for general funds so high that it has produced a cash balance in its favor of \$68-145.53, refuse to honor the claims of the High Schools based on a mandatory statute?

What is to prevent the reduction of taxes for General funds so that even after paying for the tuition of the pupils from the outlying sections in the Vale, Nyssa and Ontario schools, the county would still be under the six per cent limitation?

Again what is the matter with the Court paying the bill, since it has not hitherto regarded the budget so religiously, from other funds by transferring the necessary amounts? The County Court house has been repaired at a greater cost than the budget estimate; and a recent budget estimate included the item of \$4,500 for the Succor creek road which was never spent.

The Argus would not for a moment advocate the abandonment of the budget system, in fact it believes that it should be deemed a gross misdemeanor for a governing body to use funds listed in a budget for any other purpose than that for which it was specifically raised. Also is would make it a misdemeanor for any tax levying body to create a deficit in any of its funds.

But since the present court, in the past, has ignored items in the budget, we cannot see how it can now assume so niggardly an attitude as to refuse to meet a just bill.

And neither should it be necessary, as our Vale contemporary intimates, that a friendly suit be brot to compel the court to take this action. That will just add an additional cost either to the school districts involved or to the County. However if the court refuses to accede to the reasonable demands of the School districts the suit should be brot at once and settled.

WSS WSS WSS

SHALL THEY BE PENALIZED.

Practically every boy and girl who attends the Ontario, Vale and Nyssa High Schools, and whose home is not within the boundaries of these districts, is the son or daughter of a stockman or rancher.

Do the people of Malheur county take the position that because their parents are engaged in a business that requires them to live in sparsely settled regions where the best educational facilities can not be maintained for their children, that these children shall not have the same educational advantages enjoyed by the residents of the cities and towns? We believe not.

Are not these children entitled to the same advantages? They certainly are. And furthermore it is up to the taxpayers of the County to see that they get them.

The total bill for the tuition of all these children is small, comparatively speaking, being about half of that for the County Court requested the people to provide to meet the State and Federal road appropria-

tions for Post Roads. The people of the county would rise in rebellion were they denied entirely the right of voting such a tax, could it not be provided otherwise.

WSS WSS WSS

NOT THE EYE FOR AN EYE.

The persistent effort on the part of the German officials to secure the services of the United States government as its agent to bring about modifications of the terms of the armistice shows clearly that the Potsdam gang has not changed its tactics with its pseudo change of government.

Their efforts demonstrate the fact that there is naught in a name; and that good men operating a bad form of government can make it a good government; while the converse is true that bad men at the helm of a good form of government can so pervert its purpose as to make it a menace to its people and to the world at large.

There is no reason, at present, why the American government, or the American people should give a moment's thought concerning the welfare of the German people. They have no one to blame but themselves for the position in which they now find themselves, hated by all the civilized world. They deserve to be dispised of all men.

Before they can return to a status of equality, and be given the right to address other nations as equals they must absolve themselves of their blood guilt. They must make restitution. They cannot be permitted to pay their war costs at the expense of the countries they have ravished.

It is patent that Germany aimed at the economic destruction of Northern France and Belgium. No other reason can be offered for the stripping of the factories of those countries of their machinery and raw material. No war necessity required such systematic pillage. As a precedent to peace Germany should be compelled to return every piece of machinery thus stolen and replace it in working condition. Where this cannot be done a German factory should be stripped, by Germans, and placed in Belgium or France to do the work of the one they destroyed.

This is not a revision to the Hebraic law of, "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." It is merely simple justice. It is making just the robber and thief return the stolen goods.

This policy should not be deviated from in the slightest. There is so great a mass of wrong that the Huns can never right that no maudlin sympathy should be permitted to interfere with the exaction of restitution where it can be made.

WSS WSS WSS

IS IT DAGEROUS?

Repeated news dispatches tell of attempts, in various portions of the United States, of attempts on the part of malcontents to parade streets carrying the Red flag of Internationalism, or Bolshevism.

Is not this carrying the matter a little too far? The Internationalist is a more dangerous enemy of our American Republic than is the Hun. There should be no greater leniency shown the bearers of the Red flag than these would be given those who would march the streets with the Prussian Eagle. The world has had enough experience with the Red Flag in Russia. We want none of that brand of government here in the United States. Representative government has not failed. It is the greatest instrument ever devised by man for his political and material advancement.

WSS WSS WSS

WE CAN RAISE WHEAT.

The statement of Manager Yates of the Payette Mills, that the best wheat received at his institution this year came from West of Ontario should prove an incentive to greater activity on the part of our ranchers to diversify their crops.

At the present time there is too great a tendency to concentrate upon alfalfa raising. This is all right when conditions are normal, but view what has happened this year? Right now there are many ranchers who have their hay crop on their hands because the cattle and sheep are not here to be fed. Of course the hay will be sold in other markets, or the hay ranchers will buy stock and thus dispose of it.

However, it is not good business for the ranchers to carry all their eggs in one basket. Diversified farming has demonstrated its wisdom in other sections, and will do so here. It is well therefore to know that this is a good wheat section, and to have a mill man as authority for the statement.

DEMILITARIZATION OF TROOPS UNDER WAY

1,790,000 Men in American Army Return to Civil Life Soon.

Washington.—Movement of American troops across the Atlantic has stopped entirely and demilitarization of troops in campments and camps at home is under way.

Orders have been issued, General March announced, for the gradual demilitarization of all troops now in this country.

There are now in the United States 1,790,000 men under arms. General March said. Orders which will result in the immediate demilitarization of 200,000 men are already issued and these men will be in their homes in the next two weeks.

When the reduction plan is under full operation, the chief of staff estimated, 20,000 men each day will be released from the army.

Regarding the return of troops in France, General March said that the order in which the divisions will be withdrawn is being left to General Pershing. It is the intention of the war department, however, so far as is practicable, to return each division to the locality from which the majority of its men came and to parade the division in adjacent cities, so that the people may have a chance to give them welcome.

Demilitarization will be in the following order:

- First—Development battalions, 71 in number and comprising 38,130 men.
 - Second—Conscientious objectors not under arrest.
 - Third—Spruce production division.
 - Fourth—Central training schools for officers, with some modifications.
 - Fifth—United States guards, now numbering 125,000 men.
 - Sixth—Railway units.
 - Seventh—Depot brigades.
 - Eighth—Replacement units.
 - Ninth—Combat divisions.
- Orders have been issued to General Pershing to begin the return at once of all sick and wounded, who can be moved, and convalescents. A steady stream of these men should begin immediately to cross the Atlantic.

YOUR LIBERTY BOND PAYMENT IS DUE!

Payments on the second installment for Fourth Liberty Bonds, amounting to 20 per cent of the bonds purchased is due November 21.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, Ontario, Oregon.

Charter No. 1822 Reserve District No. 12

REPORT OF CONDITION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK AT ONTARIO, IN THE STATE OF OREGON AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON NOVEMBER 1, 1918.

RESOURCES	
1 a	Loans and discounts, including rediscounts, (except those shown in b and c).....\$543,553.71
	Deduct:
d	Notes and bills rediscounted (other than bank acceptances sold) 1000 Item 17..... 30,450.00
2	Overdrafts—unsecured..... 2,312.33
3	U. S. Bonds (other than Liberty Bonds, but including U. S. certificates of indebtedness):
a	U. S. Bonds deposited to secure circulation (par value)..... 12,500.00
d	U. S. Bonds and certificates of indebtedness pledged as collateral for State or other deposits of bills payable..... 25,000.00
2	U. S. Bonds and certificates of indebtedness owned and unpledged..... 10,000.00
6	Liberty Loan Bonds:
a	Liberty Loan Bonds, 3 1/2, 4 and 4 1/2 per cent, unpledged..... 11,400.00
7	Bonds, securities, etc. (other than U. S.):
b	Bonds (other than U. S. bonds) pledged to secured Postal Savings deposits..... 1,500.00
c	Bonds and securities pledged as collateral for state or other deposits (postal excluded) or bills payable..... 9,500.00
e	Securities other than U. S. bonds (not including stocks) owned unpledged..... 4,521.09
8	Total bonds, securities, etc., other than U. S. Stock of Federal Reserve Bank (50 per cent of subscription)..... 2,000.00
10a	Value of banking house, owned and unincumbered..... 22,350.20
b	Equity in banking house..... 32,350.20
11	Furniture and fixtures..... 7,619.55
12	Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank..... 56,170.83
13	Cash in vault and net amounts due from national banks..... 166,477.05
17	Exchanges for clearing house..... 1,141.00
17	Total of Items 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18..... 166,618.65
19	Checks on banks located outside of city or town of reporting bank and other cash items Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer..... 236.58
20	War Savings Certificates and Thrift Stamps actually owned..... 625.60
22	War Savings Certificates and Thrift Stamps actually owned..... 134.72
	TOTAL..... 856,587.81
LIABILITIES	
23	Capital Stock paid in..... 50,000.00
24	Surplus fund..... 50,000.00
25 a	Undivided profits..... 23,860.84
b	Less current expenses, interest, and taxes paid..... 13,569.95
26	Circulating notes outstanding..... 10,250.89
27	Net amounts due to banks, bankers, and trust companies (other than included in Item 31 or 32)..... 3,213.75
34	Total of Items 23 and 25..... 475,228.59
25	Certificates of deposit due in less than 30 days (other than for money borrowed)..... 92,630.60
28	Certified checks..... 12.80
29	State, county, or other municipal deposits secured by pledge of assets of this bank..... 9,500.00
30	Total of demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve, Items 34, 36, 38, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41..... 578,440.78
42	Certificates of deposits (other than for money borrowed)..... 88,064.55
44	Postal savings deposits..... 688.54
45	Other time deposits..... 38,409.30
45	Total of time deposits subject to Reserve, Items 42, 43, 44, and 45..... 127,142.39
51	Bills payable, with Federal Reserve Bank..... 25,000.00
	TOTAL..... 856,587.81
57a	Liabilities for rediscounts, including those with Federal Reserve Bank (see Item 1d)..... 30,450.00
	Total contingent liabilities (57 a, b, and c)..... 30,450.00

STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF MALHEUR, ss: I, H. B. COCKRUM, Cashier of the above named Bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of November, 1918.
CORRECT—Attest:
A. L. COCKRUM
T. TURNBULL
ETTA COCKRUM
Directors
H. B. COCKRUM, Cashier
W. W. WOOD, Notary Public

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