

The Ontario Argus

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GANG BUSY AGAIN.

If the Malheur Enterprise, which last week by the most disgusting piece of sophistry and weasel words, confounded the terms County Court and County Judge in an apparent scandal, is so solicitous over the welfare of the moneys of the taxpayers it will no doubt gladly explain a few things.

For example, it will tell the people why it is that it pads the financial statements of the County Treasurer so that they occupy twice the space that is necessary for them to occupy. Be it remembered that these notices are paid for by the Ineb, measured down the column of the paper, and that thru the "slick" method used by the Enterprise hundreds of unearned dollars have gone into the Enterprise office at the expense of the taxpayers.

In this connection let it be stated that Judge E. H. Test stopped this little graft on the part of the sanctioning editor of the Enterprise, and it is for that reason, or at least that is one of the reasons which actuates the would-be reformer in his scurrilous attack on the County Judge while hypocritically declaring, "this is an attack on no one."

The Argus will not mince words. This is an attack on the motives of the Enterprise and the gang whose tool he is.

The Enterprise, too, will do well to tell its readers of its attempt to hog all the printing of the County. It will do well to tell what is charged for some of its job work, for example, what it charged for the printing of 1000 bill heads recently.

Let the Enterprise tell about some of the bills that some of the county officials try to "put over" on the County Court. No doubt the Court may have erred in its judgment on some of those bills and they were legitimate bills and should have been paid.

But it is well known to many citizens that there has been hard feeling between the Court House crowd and the County Court because the Court would not be worked and that the Court's action has SAVED THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR THE TAXPAYERS.

Concerning the charge that Harvey Test collected delinquent personal property taxes for individual property owners who gave him signed contracts, the Argus makes no defense, but had this been done by anyone save the Judge's son would the three-ply editor have had anything to say? Could he have had anything to say?

The District Attorney, and he is no friend of Judge Test, declares that here is nothing illegal, or criminal in the transaction. Admitting that this is bad ethics, yet what does the Enterprise have to say concerning the fact that under a prior County Judge it was necessary for taxpayers to hire lawyers to fight

cases to secure collections? Were these lawyers grafters?

And while we are asking questions about delayed payments what about the High School tuition fees that a previous County Judge, Geo. W. McKnight, to be exact, tried to deny to the districts that had earned them? To collect these fees it was necessary for School District No. 8, the Ontario district, to sue the County, and in that suit a victory was won for the Nysa district and the Vale district as well.

But the dirtiest, and we use the word advisedly, part of the Vale gang's attack on the Judge was that of innuendo, the reference being to the handling of probate matters. Unless the Enterprise has a specific case which will sustain its reference, it is guilty of libel and slander. It is guilty, twice guilty, in that it stood cowardly to come out in the open and make the statement manfully.

The Road Districts

Take the slimy statement concerning the Road districts, which the slander sheet declares were consolidated by stealth. Again let us have information from this all-wise newspaper: Who recommended this action to the County Court? Who was it that boosted such a movement? Who, tell the people of Malheur County, Mr. Enterprise, and be honest about it, for there are some hundred citizens who know the facts, and you'll have no chance to run for cover?

But, so that the people may know, we will tell you who did it: THE MALHEUR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE recommended this change and did so at Vale, in the office of the Vale Chamber of Commerce, at the meeting when the apportionment of the road bonds was made. That was the time, and that was the place, and that was the body that did it; and let us add the editor of the Enterprise was one of the men that helped to put that over, but:

And this is the rub in the road district proposal, the Vale gang have not been able to dictate where that road money should go. They have not been able to take from the ranchers who needed it and spend it all on the outskirts of Vale.

Come on, Mr. Slander Monger, and tell the truth in all your high-and-holy fashion.

How About Vines and Weaver?

Now the Enterprise has another duty to perform. What has it to say about Messrs. Vines and Weaver? We understand that is the duty of the County Court to pay back these taxes. All right. Who is the County Court? Ed Test alone? No. Messrs. Frank M. Vines and J. F. Weaver are likewise members of that body. The slander monger knew better than call that fact to the attention of his readers for if he did he know his case would fall of its own weight. He knew that these men are above reproach, and that Judge Test is, too.

But when this gang decided that because they could not use the county court as a wherewithal for their pet schemes they picked up Harvey Test, the Judge's son, and in their despicable manner they used the son to hit his father. Could anything be lower?

Could anything be lower? Of course the Enterprise man was

not in on that part of the game. His little part of the play came later. They waited until they had the time ripe for action. They waited eight months after the alleged transactions to spring their "great sensation."

The Argus heard of this two weeks ago and endeavored to get the facts, and was told that it was known to the Vale bunch six months ago? The editor of the Enterprise admitted knowledge of this for some time past. Why did not this sanctified bunch of tin-horn politicians, if they are so anxious to protect the taxpayers' money—if they can't get thru bills submitted for service—hotter then? Why?

Because they thought that Judge Test would resign and then they would be free to have their own way, and when he did not resign—then they decided to drive him out of office.

That is the sordid motive behind the attack on Judge Test. It is an attempt of a gang that thinks Malheur county is its to exploit as it will, and is going to ruin every man who has the nerve to stand in its way.

It is the same gang that tried to defeat the Succor creek road. It is the same gang that tried to defeat the building of the Old Oregon Trail across Dead Ox Flat. It is the same gang that has for years, under County Judges it could work, sold the Big Bend bridge bonds for thousands less than they were worth, and has as long fed at the public crib that they hate the man who stopped their little game.

The people know Judge E. H. Test, they have known him for years, as merchant, banker, officerholder. They know his son, too, and they know the Vale gang as well. The verdict will be certain, and Judge Test has naught to fear from his traducers.

KEEP OREGON TO THE FRONT.

Over at Eugene and Corvallis, where the State University and Agricultural college are located are several hundred men and women whose work is vitally essential to the continued welfare of the State.

They are engaged in an essential industry, the teaching of the youth of the state in the professions. They have themselves spent years in training for this work, and the results they have attained are being shown in the work of the graduates of these institutions all over the state, and in other portions of the Northwest.

It is an admitted fact that these men and women are not being paid a living wage. They are therefore forced to seek other employment, or other schools and colleges which have real appreciation of their worth. Oregon is losing the services of those it can not afford to part with. What is to be done about it?

That is up to the people of Oregon. If Oregon boys and girls are not to be forced to leave the state to get an adequate education then the people must provide the necessary funds to the proper support of the educational institutions.

It is a fact that the university and agricultural college have each of them nearly doubled in enrollment in the past two years. That means more room must be provided, more instructors employed and to this fact can be charged part of the need for more funds.

The facts might as well be faced. Oregon's educational institutions are in dire straits. When the people realize this to be the case there is no doubt of the results. The tax will be voted.

WM. KERCHER—Carpenter and builder, First avenue, N. W., 2 blocks west of school house, 242-13-14

The Congregational Ladies' Aid will meet at the home of Mrs. C. P. Cummings, Wednesday, March 3, at 2:30 p. m.

WANTED TO RENT—Small house with garden tract for summer. Address Argus, L. V. S. 244-13-15

JERSEY BULL for service. Fees \$3.00 cash, and calf guaranteed. —Wm. Kercher, 2 blocks west of school house, Ontario. 242-13-14

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5 HEAD CATTLE

- 1 Red Cow, coming 4 years old; freshen May 3.
- 1 Holstein Cow, coming 3; fresh May 10.
- 1 Holstein Cow, coming 2; fresh Oct. 1. Giving 3 gallons of milk per day.
- 1 Holstein Heifer, coming 2; fresh March 15.
- 1 Red Heifer Calf, nine months old.

3 HORSES

- 1 Black Mare, smooth mouth, 1300 lbs.
 - 2 Black Geldings, 5 years old, Wt. 3100.
 - 1 Gray Gelding, 7 years old, 1400.
- All well broke.

46 HENS AND TWO ROOSTERS

- Pure Bred Plymouth Rocks
- 41 SHOATS, Each 150 Lbs.

- 1 McCormick Binder, 7-ft. cut, complete.
- 1 Superior Grain Drill, nearly new; 8 ft.
- 1 Deering Mower, 1 Hay Rake.
- 1 Two-Way Plow, nearly new.
- 1 Studebaker Half Truck, with Hay Rack.
- 1 3-Inch Wagon, with box.
- 1 14-Inch Walking Plow.
- 1 John Deere Cultivator.
- 1 Shovel Plow.
- 3-Horse Power Stover Engine.
- 1 International 6-inch Feed Grinder.
- 1 Spring Tooth Harrow.
- 1 Set Harness.
- 125 Bushels Seed Barley.
- 30 Tons Alfalfa Hay.
- 1 No. 7 Galloway Cream Separator.
- 1 Oil Stove, 3 Burners.
- 1 Banquet Range.
- 1 Heater.
- 1 Sanitary Cot.
- 2 Large Galvanized Stock Watering Tanks.

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