

Looks and is Better Malheur Enterprise

PUBLISHED BY
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VALE, OREGON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1920.

To call the attention of the thinking men and women of Malheur County to various problems of the day effecting their prosperity, welfare and happiness is the sincere aim of the Editorial policy of the Malheur Enterprise. What benefits may be derived depend upon what action you take. Talk, writing, thinking must be followed by action to accomplish any results. Are you doing your part?

WHY DID NOT THE COURT NOTIFY PARTIES THAT REBATES WERE DUE?

WHERE DID HARVEY TEST GET LIST OF NAMES AND AMOUNTS DUE?

WHY HAS NO STATEMENT OR EXPLANATION BEEN MADE?

Two weeks ago the Malheur Enterprise in the issue of February 21, 1920, performed what to it was a disagreeable duty, of calling the attention of the people of Malheur county to certain practices, in our judgment against good public policy, permitted by the County Court in the collection and repayment of personal tax rebates.

This article inferred that Harvey Test, son of County Judge E. H. Test, had solicited tax payers to whom a cash rebate was due and payable and secured contracts from them appointing him as agent for the collection of the claims and authorizing him to keep fifty per cent of the amount received as a fee for his services. The article further alleged that no notice was sent to these parties by the court that Harvey Test did nothing to earn his commission, and further asked two pertinent questions, namely: Why was no notice sent? From whom did Harvey Test get his information? The article also stated "We will be glad to publish any statement of explanation from any party desiring to present same."

In last week's issue no one seemed to care to make any explanations and as the Enterprise had done its duty by telling the people of the county what was going on no further comment was made.

However in the February 26 issue of the Ontario Argus at least five separate articles appear covering nearly a solid page, attempting without proof to "white wash" Judge Test when no direct charges had been made against him but only a request for an explanation. Misrepresentations, misstatements, nasty names, beclouding issues and many other questionable means were used in an attempt to discredit the Enterprise, to foster a community feud, for what purpose we shall not discuss at this time. Neither will we answer the numerous personal insinuations against the purpose of the Enterprise and the character of the Editor. We simply deny them and depend upon the confidence of the people of Malheur county whom we have tried to our best ability during the last three years to serve without favor to party or creed, to section or person. If any one wishes we may later analyze the malicious articles referred to in the full light of a number of interesting facts. We want to state, however, the Enterprise takes full responsibility for what it has stated. No one else is in any way responsible for our acts. To try and involve others is simply a display of petty meanness. In the mean time let us settle the main issue.

The Argus quotes Judge Test as stating, "Let the Grand Jury investigate these charges. I welcome and demand a thoro and complete investigation. That is all I have to say at this time." May we ask some more questions? Why did not Judge E. H. Test give that statement to the Enterprise? Why did he not answer the two questions we asked the week before as to why no notices were sent out by the court and as to where Harvey Test got his information?

It seems unnatural, impossible to us, that any thoughtful man or woman in Malheur county could justify such a situation, if we have stated the facts. It is only natural that most people could scarcely believe such charges. We denied them at first ourselves, but upon our personal investigation we found sufficient evidence to cause us to ask questions, and to attempt to stop an apparent graft, which seemed to be continued as late as the February term of court.

What action the people or the Grand Jury wish to take in this matter, in fact what action can be taken, is not for us to suggest. We have presented the situation as we see it. We still invite sincerely any statement of explanation or of fact in any way bearing on this issue. Except that we will not encourage or assist any personal or factional fight. This is strictly a county issue. Judge Test should either be proven guilty or innocent of having abetted J. H. (Harvey) Test. The entire question resolves itself into whether Judge E. H. Test knew of his son's actions and if so whether he gave him any information or assistance in holding up the tax payers for half the money due them. He knows whether he did or not. We will be only too glad to help him clear up the matter if there is any way possible to do so in an honorable manner.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS DESERVE SUPPORT

At the election to be held May 21 no measure will appear on the special ballot as worthy of support as the one calling for increased funds to enable the Oregon Agricultural College, the University of Oregon and the State Normal School to more adequately meet the demand by the sons and daughters of this state for a higher education. These institutions are today turning students away simply because we have been slipping behind. More housing room, larger faculties, added facilities are needed to care for the rapidly growing enrollments. No investment will repay the taxpayers comparable to the investment in better manhood and womanhood. Every county in the state should roll up a convincing majority in favor of this measure and prove to the students, the professors and the board of regents that the people are backing their efforts to keep "Oregon First" in the care of our children who were first to enlist, first to go over the top and first to resume the ways of peace. They are asking for an opportunity to lead in the period of reconstruction.

A LITTLE COMMON SENSE NEEDED

Malheur county is blessed by more opportunities than any other section in the northwest. There are millions of acres of unclaimed government land, hundreds of thousands of acres of irrigable lands still thirsty for lack of water, there are millions of dollars of undeveloped resources at our very hand, and yet some of us will work harder to fight over the ten per cent we can see, that to create a portion of the ninety per cent that only awaits the magic touch of a little human courage and effort. When people are starving we expect bread riots, but when people are blessed with a country where it is easier to create than to steal, where it is easier to build than to destroy, there is little sense for the "dog in the manger" attitude.

Next to the traitor who betrays his country into the hands of an enemy, the man we consider the most dangerous to the prosperity and welfare of this country is the cloud-burst agitator who preaches class hatred and incites sectional misunderstandings.

The pure fabric law is needed not only to further the interests of the wool growers but to protect the public as well. Resolutions addressed to our representatives in congress are in order.

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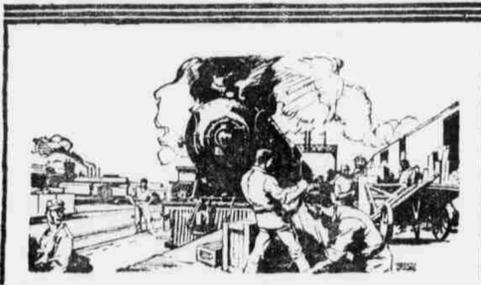
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They couldn't be built now for twice \$71,000

When the talk turns from politics to railroads, and the traveler with the cocksure air breaks in with, "There's an awful lot of 'water' in the railroads," here are some hard-pan facts to give him:

American railroads have cost \$80,900 a mile—roadbed, structures, stations, yards, terminals, freight and passenger trains—everything from the great city terminals to the last spike.

A good concrete-and-asphalt highway costs \$36,000 a mile—just a bare road, not counting the cost of culverts, bridges, etc.

Our railroads couldn't be duplicated today for \$150,000 a mile.

They are capitalized for only \$71,000 a mile—much less than their actual value. Seventy-one thousand dollars today will buy one locomotive.

English railways are capitalized at \$274,000 a mile; the French at \$155,000; German \$132,000; even in Canada (still in pioneer development) they are capitalized at \$67,000 a mile. The average for all foreign countries is \$100,000.

Low capitalization and high operating efficiency have enabled American Railroads to pay the highest wages while charging the lowest rates.

This advertisement is published by the Association of Railway Executives

Those desiring information concerning the railroad situation may obtain literature by writing to The Association of Railway Executives, 41 Broadway, New York

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Which is Right---

For You Mr. Farmer, to let your grain, hay, implements and livestock suffer for want of shelter or build a roomy barn and save dollars now for what once cost dimes?

For you Mr. City Man to put your savings into a comfortable home or on useless amusement, food extravagance, and rent receipts.

For you Home Owner to keep up your house or let it run down and pay as much to "rebuild" it as your initial cost of construction.

For you Mr. Storeman to have added space and shelving to display wares or keep them in such a messy way that they remain on the shelves to spoil or be sacrificed when out of date.

Think Over These Questions Then See If We Can't Help You.

Home Lumber & Coal Co.

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