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Malheur Enterprise

GEORGE HUNTINGTON CURREY, Publisher and Owner Wm. FRANCIS F. SEEMAN.......Managing Editor

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VALE, OREGON, SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 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?

CRAFT VERSUS PUBLICITY--COUNTY NEEDS TRUTH

While Boys Fought War, and Home Guards Furnished Sinews, Special Powers Were Granted, the Press was Censored and Few Questions Asked

The War is Ended, the Press is no Longer Muzzled, the People are Asking Questions, Graft is being Uncovered Publicity is Reviving Truth.

During the war our public officials were protected by a cloak of mystery, news was censored and even tainted by the whims of officialdom, the public inspired by the common danger and patriotism sacrificed their sacred right to know the truth, to criticise, and worked to win the war.

The war came to an end, but this false mystery of officialdom, the habit to evade the truth did not end, and will not until challanged by the light of publicity. Public Officials good and bad have drifted into the "Me and Gott" policy, forgetting their responsibility to the people, forgetting that the people they serve are entitled to know what is done with their money, forgetting or denying the publicity which has protected the people from despotic graft since the birth of the Republic.

What do you know today about the acts of your public servants? We hear charges from many places of graft, graft, graft. There has been graft, and there will be graft until Pitiless Publicity is given a chance to counteract the evils of the Pitiful Makebelieve publicity of the past few years.

We hear of Army Scandals. Had the public been told the truth there would be no scandal today. When the "boss" which in this country is the people, knows from his employees what is going on, mistakes are usually overlooked; but when the boss is hoodwinked, and he later finds out he has been grafted, --well what usually happens,

At the present time our State Treasurer is charged with at least making poor investments with state funds. Had he advertised for securities no one could object to his actions. Officials must recognize that public business is not private business, and must be handled in a public

The policy of our present County Court seems to be to tell the public nothing and to do what they please. They have done many things which had they told the public about and explained their motives, if these motives were proper, there would be no fault to find. But when the Malheur Enterprise turns the light of publicity upon the past actions of the Court, when it investigates the records on its own initiative, and calls attention to a number of little deals and queer actions, asking for explanations, Judge Test simply says let the grand jury investigate. Why are not the people entitled to a statement? Is it not their business he is supposed to be looking after?

The Enterprise has no personal grievience with any of the County Officials, on the other hand this paper is not under obligations to "protect" any official. The policy of the Enterprise is to encourage the upbuilding of every section in Malheur County, to assist the officials in doing their duty, to aid not destroy. However it is its duty, its function, its business to tell the people the facts, any honest information regarding public affairs, regardless of how the truth may effect individuals.

Bearing upon this need of publicity a recent editorial in "Editor and Publisher" under the heading "The Truth Shall Make You Free" reminds the newspapers of America of their trust to the people. Following we reprint a part of this article.

The time has arrived when the press of America—from the largest metropolitan daily to the smallest country weekly—must join in demanding full publicity and open discussion of every question affecting the life of the American nation, the well-being of her people at home and the safeguarding of their relations with the other people of the world.

Whether the stifling and the prevention of the full play of public opinion during the Great War, through suppression of the news of some of the Nation's activities and the isolation of our great leaders from the representatives of the press, in order that they might give their whole time to the business of winning, was ever justified, is open to debate. WE THINK NOT.

It was one of the many things that we accepted without question from our Allies who had two year's experience in the flames that were burning the world before we cast our lot. Two years' work under government restrictions in Europe; two years or longer of foreign propaganda in our midst, lulled the American press into accepting, without serious protest, practices repugnant to every principle of American de-

Monarchies live by suppression, proclamations and fine phrases;
mythical greatness is created through secrecy. Democracies can live only
with the free play of public opinion that finally generates majority action,
great leadership results from response to the call of majority opinion.

Open discussion must be re-established in America; the newspaper of America must immediately resume their place as the chroniclers of facts as THEY see them; as interpreters of actions as THEY view them—AS THE TESTING GROUND OF PUBLIC OPINION. The viewpoint of the individual newspaper is immaterial so long as we first have a fair, truthful andhonest presentation of the basic facts, for a fact is the truth and we are told that the "Truth Shall Make You Free!"

The press, through which our widely scattered citizenry has spoken finally since 1776, must lead the people's fight for open discussion of every issue that effects the international and domestic future and well-being of our people, for it is well known that in America the power of the Government rests upon the consent of the governed and the immediate reaction of the people with respect to policies at home and abroad is absolutely essential to the peace and comfort and well-being of the people, hence we come to demand pitiless publicity as our inherent right.

Out where the handclasp's a little stronger,
Out where the smile dwells a little longer,
That's where the West begins;
Out where the sun is a little brighter,
Where the snows that fall are a trifle whiter,
Where the bonds of home are a wee bit tighter,
That's where the West begins.

Out where the skies are a trifle bluer,
Out where friendship's a little truer,
That's where the West begins;
Out where a fresher breeze is blowing.
Where there's laughter in every streamlet flowing,
Where there's more of reaping and less of sowing,
That's where the West begins;

Out where the world is in the making,
Where fewer hearts in despair are aching,
That's where the West begins;
Where there is more of singing and less of sighing,
Where there is more of giving and less of buying,
And a man makes friends without half trying,
That's where the West begins;

-Arthur Chapman.

To Help You Win Riches—power—happiness. The average man places these as his goal. He dreams about having them.

about having them.

But the average man is slow to take a practical step towards that goal. He is content

tical step towards that goal. He is content to dream about it—and never gets there. The most practical start is to start a savings

The most practical start is to start a savings account. Rockefeller had to save his first thousand dollars. It carned the rest of his fortune,

Character Earns Credit

Saving men not only have capital for their efforts. In saving, they establish a reputation which will make it easy to secure additional capital when necessary.

A farmer has frequent need for capital if he is striving continually to improve his property. How important it is then that he build up his credit—establish his char-

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