Oregon City Courier-Herald

By A. W. CHENEY

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PATRONIZE HOME INDUSTRY.

OREGON CITY, JAN. 31, 1902.

GEORGE P. ROWELL & Co., of New York, estimate that 400,000 advertising firms in the country expend annually over $3,000,000,000 in advertising.

FOR nearly nine months 2400 San Francisco machinists and engineers have been on a strike for a nine-hour working day. The labor unions support them.

THE difference between the good and the bad politician is merely the difference between the politician on the platform and the politician in office. In this, as in most other matters, opportunity is the final test.

SAN FRANCISCO has a murder every week and a holdup every day. The city physician states that 195 cases of leprosy have been traced to the smoking of cigars or cigarettes made by Chinese. Mayor Schmitz has a tough town on his hands.

THE selectmen of the town of Shirley, Me., as guardians of the $10,000 willed to it by a rich lumberman, who drank rye whiskey liberally for 50 years, have sowed his grave with a thick seeding of rye (not "old rye"), which, by the terms of the will, they must do every year, for all time.

THE 5000 Boer prisoners on the island of Ceylon, the majority of them over 50 years of age, are really enjoying life in their pen formed by a double barbed-wire fence 10 feet high, thanks to the humane British governor. Rev. Edward E. Hale, of Boston, is begging clothes for 5000 ragged, half-naked Boer prisoners in Bermuda.

BY the order of Mayor Tom L. Johnson, of Cleveland, O., a bill is being drawn to authorize the city of Cleveland to issue bonds to build or purchase a street railway system. The measure allows the city to issue bonds for not to exceed $50,000 for each mile of single track constructed. As drawn the bill contemplates a referendum and a majority vote of the people before the bonds are issued.

THE 62,000,000 pounds of shoddy consumed by our woolen mills last year represented or displaced the wool of 25,000,000 sheep. This adulterant has so seriously injured the wool business that the 200,000 pure-bred Merino sheep at one time in the country have been reduced to 10,000. It takes 5 3-5 pounds of scoured wool to make 4 pounds of cloth, enough for a man's suit of clothes.

AN effort is being put forth to have Crater Lake set aside as a National Park. With that end in view, Hon. Thomas H. Tongue has introduced a bill in congress, and it remains for the citizens of Oregon to support him and our delegation in congress, by demanding such action. All persons interested in this matter, who are willing to circulate petitions, will be supplied with the necessary printed matter, by addressing Will G. Steel, Portland.

Civic duty stands for above party considerations. Only the citizen who is profoundly impressed by it, deeming his obligations to the state to be paramount to those to his party, which are often only sentimental, is the true patriot. The county election in June will offer an opportunity to the republican voter to show whether or not he has a higher regard for the welfare of the taxpayers of Clackamas county than he has for the perpetuation of the republican machine, which has saddled on us a heavy county debt and an excessive rate of taxation, are inimical to our increase in wealth and population, and depreciate the value of real estate. Reduction of county debt and of taxes demand the very best officials in the court house.

COUNTY DEBT NEARLY $200,000.

It is certain that the county debt is getting very close to the $200,000 mark, and if expenses continue at the same rate as at present the debt will soon be over that amount. The county has run behind over $8000 during the past year, but this deficit would not have occurred had the people elected Levi Stehman commissioner instead of T. B. Killin. During the campaign the people of the southern part of the county wanted a new bridge across the Molalla river between Canby and Barlow, and wanted Levi Stehman, the citizen's candidate, to pledge the same, but he would not make any ante-election promise, preferring rather to be defeated than make his way into office by promises. Killin pledged himself for the bridge and was elected. The first cost of the bridge, over $9000, about represents the deficit of the county for 1901.

We do not wish it understood that we are not in favor of improving the roads and bridges of the county, but we do not believe in running behind and piling up expenses to do so. We actually believe if Judge Ryan had not been shorn of his power by Senator Porter because Porter wanted the county printing, the debt of Clackamas count, would have been $50,000 less than it is now under the three-commissioner-board.

We suppose very few people know that the taxpayers of Oregon pay taxes in proportion to what they spend and not according to the amount of taxable property, as under the old law, which was repealed by the last legislature. That is, the taxpayers of Clackamas county pay taxes for the current five years on the ratio of expenses for the past five years, and for the next five years according to the expense of the current five years. In other words if our assessment was higher we would pay the same amount of although the rate would be lower. Clackamas county is the "banner county" of Oregon for high taxes in proportion to inhabitants and has the highest tax rate, 32 mills, of any county. No one knows what the rate will be in the future if a halt is not called soon.

The expenses and receipts for the year 1901, are as follows:

EXPENSES.

County court and commissioner	$ 3,308 50
Circuit court	2,198 50
Justice court	1 205 68
Sheriff's office	2,955 86
Clerk's office	2,448 75
Recorder's office	2,488 70
Treasurer's office	1,262 80
Coroner's office	494 85
School superintendent's office	1,300 81
Assessor's office	6,375 02
Assessment and collection of taxes	1,543 60
Tax rebate	397 03
Current expenses	1,631 80
Courthouse and jail	1,910 51
Care of poor	5, 26 54
Indigent soldiers	608 75
Insane	116 05
Reform school commit	143 50
Bridges and roads	32.831 30
Scalp bounty	612 00
Armory rent	175 00
Total, general fund	$68 535 55
Road fund	24,559 85
Total expenses	$94,095 40
Paid state, month— collected	2 0 17
Total	$94,295 57

RECEIPTS.

County tax for 1900, including state polls	$54,168 17
Liquor license	300 00
Miscellaneous	631 00
Road fund (1900) and road polls	23.098 71
Subscriptions to road fund	1,495 00
For rock crushed for city	610 50
Five per cent of state land sales	213 65
Fee collected by officers	5555 50
Total receipts (except delinquent taxes)	$86 102 54

Besides above receipts there was $7169.08 taken in on delinquent tax sales that would not properly belong to receipts when computing costs and expenses for a current year. The most of this delinquent tax money came from the "junk sale" of back taxes for five or six years which had always been figured as assets, when making financial statement, at about five times the amount realized from the sale.

In looking over the expenses of the county just stop for a moment and compare the cost of running two offices, under republican assessor and recorder, and democratic sheriff and clerk, and see the difference, taking in consideration the amount of work done yearly:

DEFICIT FOR YEAR.

Disbursements	$94.295 57
Receipts	86,102 55
Deficit for year	$8,103 03

Following is a statement of the county debt as it appears on the records in the county court house:

DEBT.

Outstanding warrants, Sept. 30, '01	$144.818 15
Accrued interest, clerk's estimated, Sept. 30, '01	13,007 11
Warrant issued since to Jan. 1, '02 (general)	28,723 33
" " " " " (road)	5,718 56
Interest for three months to Jan. 1, '02	2 500 00
	$194,767 15
Warrants redeemed to Jan. 1, '02	10,863 32
Total debt	$183,903 83

As resources we might allow $3000 for delinquent taxes for the past five years which have not been collected, the amount on the books being over $12,000. This is a very conservative estimate of amount the county will get and, we think, offsets the figures for accrued interest, which are very low. Hence, as near as we can honestly figure, the debt of the county was $184,000 on January 1st, 1902. The debt of the county is now, January 31, 1902, over $192,000, allowing $900 per month for interest and $5888.19 for warrants issued for the month, which is a lower ratio than for the past three months, when over $31,000 worth of warrants was issued.

Before the time for beginning tax collection, say April 1st, the debt of the county will be $205,000, a very low estimate. Of course, we now expect republicans to say that we should give the county credit for 1901 taxes, which, by the way, will not be collected for nearly a year yet. This would reduce debt to about $140,000, not counting the expenses which are all the time accruing. Supposing a business man would say that he was out of debt when he had a bill of $5000 to pay and had accounts, the face value of which were $5000. You would say that he was crazy. He has to collect the money before paying it out. It's the same way with the county: while the taxes are being collected the expenses are keeping up a close second.

To show the business-like management prevailing in some counties, take, for instance, our neighboring county, Marion. It is but $10,000 behind and uncollected taxes are not counted as assets, either. There the the tax rate is but about two-thirds as large as ours, and if we are correctly informed, the expenses of running a county with a population larger than this are very much less. Multnomah county, including an expensive city government, makes a levy of but 28 mills including city. In Clackamas county including Oregon City tax, the levy amounts to 46 mills. The county levy for Marion is 22 mills.

INTEREST $10,000 A YEAR.

Clackamas county pays nearly $10,000 a year for interest on its outstanding warrants. If the expenses of the county government did not amount to more than the receipts the county would still be running $10,000 deeper in debt every year. What we want is a board that will live within its income, even if some of the unnecessary clerks have to be let out.

POLITICAL NOTES.

S. B. Johnson, of Damascus, is spoken of as candidate for sheriff on the democratic ticket. Mr. Johnson is a good man for the place and would make a first class run.

Al Lacey, of Springwater, Charles N. Wait, of Canby, Judge W. W. Jesse, of Barlow. A. C. Sharp, of Tualatin, and the editor of this paper have been mentioned in connection with the legislative part of the democratic or independent ticket. All of the first four would be acceptable candidates to a large number and are men that stand well and are honest and conscientious. A legislative ticket could be selected from the number that would give satisfaction. In regard to the writer we would say that while he appreciates the mention of his name in this connection, an editor makes too many enemies to run well, in other words, he talks too much in black and white, which cannot be erased or taken back as an adriot politician or vote-getter can.

Editor J. R. Whitney, of Albany, a life-long newspaper man, is a very active candidate for state printer on the republican ticket and will give Brother Porter a close rub for the place. The Geer agitation practically takes the wind out of the sails of Clarke, of Gervais, for printer, and Willis Duniway's mix-up with Simon in Portland hurts his candidacy, while Editor E. E. Young, of Baker City, was never seriously taken by the leaders.

W. H. Counsell, of Milwaukie, is an active candidate for county commissioner ont he republican ticket and seems to have the best show of any yet mentioned.

A. S. Dresser is spoken of as an available candidate for attorney general on the g. o. p. ticket. He is in every way qualified for the position.

THE Coast Seamen's Journal of San Francisco avers that the wreck of the steamship Walla Walla, by collision with the French vessel, Max, which caused the loss of 40 lives, was mainly due to undermanning, a condition which exists on most vessels in the Pacific coast trade. The morning was dark though clear, but it seems that, at the time of the fatal mishap, a little after 4 a. m., the "gravy eye," the few men on deck were tired out from over-work, the "look-out," a mere boy of 19, especially. The greed of capitalists makes light of human lives.

For the first time there is given to the public in an article by Mr. George Kennan which appears in The Outlook of February 1, an exact statement of the various plans proposed for enlarging the White House. Mr. Kennan has been aided in the preparation of this article by Colonel Bingham, the superintendent of public buildings and grounds, and the designs of the architect, Mr. F. D. Owen, have been placed at his disposal. The illustration of the article includes not only pictures of the White House as it will appear if the proposed changes are carried out, but also views of the White House and from the White House as it is, from photogrrphs taken expressly for this article.