

OREGON CITY COURIER

PARTY POLITICS RIFE AT BANQUET

REPUBLICANS PARTISANS LED
BY GOVERNOR WITHEYCOMBE

SLING MUD

SAY THE NATION IS DISGRACED

Orators Get Tangled in Attempts to
Create Hughes Sentiment at
Cost of Honor

To a mind unswayed by contact with the dirty dirt of professional politics the banquet of the Republican County Central committee at Busch's hall on Saturday evening was a cruel surprise and a wicked joke. It was a meeting of reckless professional politicians, ready and willing to tear at the very heartstrings of patriotism; to attempt to undermine the very foundations of the Union, if thereby could be accomplished some little good for the republican cause.

The crowd was small—much smaller than had been anticipated in the preparation of a tempting repast—and would have been much smaller but for a liberal sprinkling of democrats. And before that liberal sprinkling of democrats had much more than devoured viands of the republican hospitality they felt that they had entered, in all truth, the enemy's camp; where their presence was as undesirable as rain on the new-mown hay. They were made to feel that they were a foreign element; that they were not akin to their hosts either by the ties of blood or nationality.

From a republican point of view the banquet was a success, except in attendance, but from a view point of "the spirit of our forefathers," the spirit that made and has held a union solidly together—from a view point of the brotherhood of man—the banquet impressed us as a miserable failure, as a ridiculous travesty. Bearing out this impression, the quotations from the speeches of the professional politicians assembled will suffice.

The Honorable James Withycombe, governor of the state of Oregon, elected by the citizens of Oregon, republican, democratic, prohibition, socialist and independent, was the principal speaker of the evening. He, like his professional political compatriots, devoted his oratory and his energy to an attack upon the present administration of federal affairs and to campaign thunder in behalf of Charles E. Hughes, the republican presidential candidate. The governor helped his fellow workers to tear down the Hughes possibilities even more than they have already been torn down.

The Honorable James Withycombe won an outburst of applause and the noisy commendation of most of his auditors when he said: "The Wilson administration has made a DISGRACE of the United States."

Mind you, we attended this banquet with a perfectly free and open mind. We wanted to hear of the good points of Charles E. Hughes, we wanted to know why Charles E. Hughes should replace Woodrow Wilson at Washington. We wanted to know why Charles E. Hughes was and what might be expected of him as the nation's highest citizen, as the leader of republicanism, as the spokesman of America, as the representative extraordinary of all the people of these United States.

Instead, we listened to deafening applause as the Honorable James Withycombe stated that his country, our country, if you please, was in disgrace. Two hundred republicans cheered the speaker; two hundred republicans gloried to learn that their country, the honor of the flag of their nation had been disgraced. They cheered and clapped their hands in fiendish glee as they learned from the lips of the chief executive of the state of Oregon that their country was covered with a cloud of shame. "America for Americans! All glory to the republican party! May Hughes lead us to victory in November," dramatically exclaimed the Honorable James Withycombe. America for Americans—and all the glory to the republican party. Then, to the mind of the republican governor, we who lean democratically or socially are out of it.

Charles L. McNary confined his talk to semi-reasonable channels. "The political banquet approaches the height of a church social," he said. "The republican party needs a better spirit and more confidence," and his party patriots cheered him when he pointed out their shortcomings. They were boisterously happy to know that they hadn't enough of the right spirit and confidence.

REPORT SHOWS LAND GRANT TAX IS HEAVY

98,208.29 ACRES WILL BRING TO
COUNTY \$109,898.78. IN-
TEREST \$17,325

The tax department of the sheriff's office, in charge of Deputy George Harrington, has just completed copying 108 pages from the county tax rolls showing the assessments against the Oregon and California Railroad company grant lands for 1913, 1914 and 1915. The total amount of tax money due Clackamas county from these lands is \$109,898.78, including interest and penalties for the three years.

The task of copying the rolls was a stupendous one and was requested of the county by the general land office of the federal department of the interior, under Secretary Franklin K. Lane. The bulky reports were taken to federal officials at Portland and will be forwarded to Washington together with the reports from other counties of the state.

There are 98,208.29 acres of O. & C. lands in this county, according to Deputy Harrington's summary of the report. The taxes alone for three years on this land amount to \$92,578.07 and the interest and penalties add to that amount \$17,325.10. This money when it is received by the county treasurer will be applied to the several district school and road funds of the county in accordance with the provisions of a recent congressional enactment covering the matter.

The receipt of this amount of back tax money will be in the form of a minor salvation for this county. The tax assessment against the O. & C. lands have never been included in the budget funds of Clackamas county because of the uncertainty of ever getting the money. Therefore, if this money is received, it will mean just \$109,898.78 more with which the county has to work. It will provide much needed funds for road improvement and for the maintenance of the several county school districts.

JOSEPH DEMENTED SAY HIS EXAMINERS

RUSSIAN PRISONER ELICITS OFFICIAL CITY. STUDY SHOWS
MENTAL WEAKNESS

Since the publication of a story elsewhere in this issue regarding the case of John Joseph, a Russian prisoner in the county jail since May 23, county officials, including Sheriff Wilson and District Attorney Gilbert I. Hedges, have conducted a thorough investigation into the matter and have had several interpreters talking to their charge.

It has been proved to a practical certainty that Joseph is insane. Not only insane, but the poor fellow seems to be utterly devoid of brain power. Joseph Woerden, Austrian consular agent at Portland and a Slavonic interpreter, visited Joseph at the jail on Wednesday afternoon. Joseph seemed to understand the interpreter, but his answers were ridiculous and without bearing upon the subject. He did not know where he came from, nor where he had been since arriving in America. He did not know the port or the country which he left nor the port of arrival in the United States.

His idiom is peculiar and when trying to answer a question he continually repeats, "Yaw, Yaw!" The man's brain seems entirely powerless. Mr. Woerden, after a very complete examination, said yesterday that he was convinced that the man had not only lost his mind, but that his brain power had vanished. "It would be a far greater crime to release this man than it is to keep him here," said Mr. Woerden. "Clackamas county's action in holding Joseph is nothing short of a blessing. He would be utterly unable to take care of himself and is so simple that harm would come to him the minute he was released. Personally, I believe he should not be released in his present condition."

It appears, also, that Joseph not only stole a chicken from a farmer near Estacada, but that he entered the house and ransacked it. Another interpreter will talk with Joseph this afternoon in an effort to get some intelligent expression from him. County officials are deeply interested in the case and are anxious to take the right action in regard to the prisoner. They do not feel that they can release him in his present sad and helpless condition. Joseph is not being held so much for his confessed criminality as for a thorough study of his case so that he may be cared for in the proper manner.

THREE MONTHS TO GO ON \$7102 FUND

CITY FATHERS MEET AGAIN
SOON TO PREPARE BUDGET
FOR 1917

MAY BUY FIRE APPARATUS

P. R. L. & P. Co. Gets Permit Contrary
to Ordinance Provision. Tax
Levy Settled

Consideration of the municipal budget for 1917 was of a preliminary nature at the council meeting last night and a special meeting will be called by the mayor sometime next week and definite action is expected at that time.

A summary of the condition of the city finances presented at the meeting last evening showed a balance in all funds of \$7,102.47, and with this amount the business of the city government must be carried on until January 1. Two funds, emergencies and city printing, are overspent \$1064.81 and \$1.99 respectively.

The city will gain revenue for distribution among the several funds for 1917 by an apportionment of 70 per cent of the county road tax from this district and from a special levy of seven mills or less, according to the necessities and probable expenses which are to be provided for in the new budget, plus approximately \$4000 collected from licenses, fines, etc.

The revenue from the apportionment of the county road tax fund will bring in approximately \$15,000 and the seven mill levy will produce about \$20,000. If the municipal government is conducted as economically next year as it was this year the assessment within the city will be less than seven mills, which is the limit.

Councilmen Cox, Albright, Andrews and Buckles were absent from the meeting and the fact almost brought a complication in voting upon the passage of an ordinance giving the P. R. L. & P. Co. permission to erect a high tension wire across Main street at Third for the service of the new Hawley mill addition. Councilman Templeton opposed the ordinance on the ground that it would set an evil precedent and voted against it. The four other councilmen present voted aye, but did not constitute the majority necessary. The action was reconsidered upon motion of Mr. Templeton, who voted affirmatively and caused the passage of the ordinance.

Councilman Templeton complained of the condition of the hard surface on John Adams street and of certain cement sidewalks. The former, he said, was soft and porous. The matter was given into the hands of the street committee for investigation and report.

The city scales at Fifth and Main streets were turned into the keeping of the chief of police, who will endeavor to find a keeper. H. W. Strobig, who has had charge of the scales in the past, requested relief from the charge.

The matter of the purchase of a motor driven fire apparatus was taken up with the reading of an invitation from a company manufacturing such apparatus, requesting a councilmanic delegation to inspect the machine recently purchased by McMinville. The council agreed to send a delegation as guests of the company and expressed approval of the plan to purchase modern fire fighting equipment.

A committee appointed to investigate the matter of tax assessments on the property of E. B. Love and Mrs. Kate Newton recommended settlement of the long standing controversies by accepting 75 per cent of the assessment from the owners before October 1. If this portion is not paid by that date foreclosure is recommended. The Love assessment is \$312.50 and the Newton assessment is \$802.52. Seventy-five per cent of these amounts would be \$236.30 and \$601.89 respectively.

ADMINISTRATOR FIGHTS

Heir to Estate Says He Does Not
Know Administrator

CITY SCHOOLS OPEN WITH BIG CLASSES

SPIRIT PREVADES TO INSURE
SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN LOCAL
STUDY HALLS

The Oregon City public schools enjoyed an opening day that presages a year of highly successful work. With every teacher at her place with the call to order on Monday morning the schools held the largest first day enrollment in their history and immediately began the development of a new family in the city school system. New children and those who have been in school before joined heartily with teachers to bring about the maximum result in efficiency from the work of the year.

A large class of freshmen entered the high school, where they, together with the pupils of previous years, were greeted by a practically new teaching staff, which will work under the direct supervision of F. J. Tooze, city school superintendent.

The largest senior class in the history of the local high school has taken up its studies. There were 59 enrolled for the last year work when school was dismissed on Monday. Others have been added during the week and others are still to enroll. This is a contrast with the seven who enrolled in the class seven years ago with the advent of F. J. Tooze as city superintendent.

At the Barclay school, where many welcomed improvements have been noted by the pupils, there were 301 youngsters in their seats before the day's work was ended.

An increase has been noted at the Eastham school also. At this institution 280 enrolled on the first day of the new term. The first day's registration does not indicate the end. Many pupils cannot leave the harvest fields and homes until the second week of school and a decided increase over these figures is expected in the three schools by the city superintendent.

"I am confident that the total increase will average at least ten per cent," said Mr. Tooze. "I feared that the action of the new tuition fund law would deprive the local district of a number of high school pupils this year. My fears are at rest, however, as a result of the enrollment on Monday morning. This makes it a practical certainty that the high school increase will compare favorably with the increase in the grade schools."

Some districts do not send as many to the high school in this city, however, as they have in other years. This is more because of better transportation facilities to other schools than because of the action of the tuition fund law.

The new teachers at the high school have entered upon their duties with a zest that undeniably means success if their relationship with the administration and with the pupils remains as happy as it has been during the first week. In all departments work is well under way, although it paused on Wednesday in order to allow the pupils to enjoy the juvenile day program at the county fair.

Improvements made about the buildings and grounds of the three schools makes the work of this year more congenial and more pleasant than it has been before. In some cases these improvements have been extensive.

At the high school the usual cafeteria luncheons will be served to pupils at a nominal cost as soon as the details of the first few days' work are completed and other lines of activity are successfully started.

NEW STORE TO OPEN

General Grocery, Feed and Produce
Establishment on Main Street

PRESENT BRIGHT, FUTURE ASSURED

BUSINESS MEN HERE CLAIM THE
BEST YEAR IN FIVE. SURE
OF BETTER THINGS

OPTIMISTS TALK BUSINESS

All Lines Thrive. Era of Rare Prosperity Dawns Upon County
and City

That Oregon City and Clackamas county generally are enjoying an era of prosperity such as the section has not known for many months, yes, for several years past, and that the future holds nothing but pleasant promises of prosperity, is indicated by Oregon City merchants and business men, who answered questions asked by the Courier as to business, present and future as they find it.

Without a single exception, business men of all political beliefs and in all lines of activity, spoke encouragingly of the present conditions and of the outlook for the future. This future is the days that are advancing upon us; not the days of glory that are seen in the dim distance, but the days that thinking, studious business men—the constructive element in the community, the men who build business upon solid foundations of fact rather than hopeful dreams—are confident are in store for Clackamas county. They speak of conditions that they know to exist and their future is the future that they can figure out in dollars and cents.

A summary of the statements of these men is interesting. Not one of these men said that business was poor; without an exception these men say that business today is better than it was last year, and most of them say it is better than it has been for five years. And without an exception they say that the prospects for the future are of the most encouraging nature.

Excerpts from the statements made by several of the men prominent in the commercial and civic life of the city and county follow:

"Business is much better than it was a year ago. All local labor is employed at good wages; farmers are getting good prices for bountiful crops and there is a general feeling of optimism developing, I am sure. This feeling comes from the fact that people are busy and, as a result, are making money. Why, even the undertaker told me this week that his patrons are able to pay funeral expenses that they had no money for last year and years before that. As far as Oregon City and Clackamas county are concerned the outlook is very encouraging." D. C. Latourette, president, First National Bank.

"Business, so far as I can judge from our own activity, is 20 per cent better than it was last year. It is good at present and is constantly growing better. It must continue to improve locally, at least, because the inhabitable houses of the city and vicinity are occupied. Industries, such as the mills, are showing the condition of local business by their extensive improvements and the employment of additional labor. With reference to the future, every indication points to a bright and successful year." W. A. Huntley, of Huntley Drug Co., operating stores in Oregon City, Portland, Molalla and Canby.

"Concerning especially this business, conditions are better now than they were last year and I believe there is a much better tone. Indications are for a greater further improvement in all lines. The farmers of the county are prosperous, they are spending their money and, thankfully, they are getting away from the 'Sears-Roebuck' habit." G. H. Bannon, head of the firm of Bannon & Co.

"With us business is better than we expected. The future? The heavy investment we have made in extensive improvements and additions just completed indicates our confidence in the future better than our words could." Wm. Andersen, of Burmeister & Andersen, Jewelers.

"There has been a decided improvement in business within the year and the prospects for the future are nothing short of excellent. With this bank business is better than it has been for several years. The mills are increasing capacity and employing more hands—that indicates the trend and tone of commercial and industrial conditions." C. H. Caulfield, president, Bank of Oregon City.

GROCCERS WILL HAVE OREGON CITY BRANCH

MEETING ATTENDED BY PORTLAND
LAND TRADESMEN. E. S.
LARSEN, VICE-PRES.

Plans were outlined at a meeting of grocers here late last week, for the organization in Oregon City and vicinity of a branch of the Oregon Retail Grocers' association. A committee was appointed at the meeting to accomplish the preliminary tasks looking to the formation of such a branch.

A carload of Portland grocers, members of the association, attended the meeting, which was held in the Commercial club rooms in Wednesday evening. E. S. Larsen of this city, vice-president of the state association, presided at the meeting and at the conclusion of able and interesting talks by local and visiting grocers, appointed Frank Barlow, George Ely and J. F. Jack as a committee to lay plans for the organization of a branch of the association here.

D. M. Klemsen, at the request of the temporary chairman of the meeting, delivered an address of welcome to the visiting delegations, to which W. C. Gunther, president of the Oregon Retail Grocers' association, responded. Mr. Gunther indicated the object of the state association and pointed out the benefits, to both dealer and consumer, of the organization.

Addresses or short talks were made at the meeting by Robert G. Duncan, secretary of the state association; D. J. Van Sayoe, treasurer of the state and Portland associations; A. Emig, president of the Portland branch; C. C. Gault, vice-president of the Portland branch and E. C. Gunther, D. C. Burns, J. H. McAfee, Mr. Caldwell, F. E. Foote, of Portland and Frank Barlow, George Ely, A. F. Jack, L. Adams, A. L. Beattie and others of Oregon City.

Local grocers are confident that a branch of the state association will be perfected in Oregon City, to include Gladstone and West Linn, within a short time.

The program of the meeting last week was featured by the solos of Charles Graham, accompanied by Miss Alice Holman, and the orchestral music of the "Blana Chveka" orchestra.

RADICAL WRONGS ARE SEEN IN ROAD LAWS

LEWIS SAYS \$5,000,000 SPENT IN
HAPHAZARD FASHION IN
THIS STATE

There are radical wrongs in the road laws of Oregon. Counties are spending the money of their taxpayers in a haphazard and sometimes exceedingly extravagant manner. That is what State Engineer Lewis said in a statement this week advocating an overhauling and renovation of the state road laws. From \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 are being spent haphazardly and extravagantly by the counties, says the state engineer.

This large amount of money, Mr. Lewis says, is spent by an unorganized mass of individuals, comprising 105 county judges, 35 county surveyors, 4 county roadmasters and 892 road supervisors, not to mention the state highway commission. These men are honest, Mr. Lewis believes, but their trouble is in their lack of organization.

"Frequent changes in office, occasional recalls and reorganizations make it very difficult for the public to profit by past experience," he says. "Having only limited powers and without any substantial policy to adhere to, these state and county officials are dragged around by interested property owners, enthusiastic citizens who have pet projects, or designing contractors and material men, and forced to spend public money on small, disconnected, hastily considered, inadequately financed unrelated projects, without regard to the larger plans of interest to the whole people."

"We must have a definite plan adopted by the legislature defining the principal routes for intercounty and interstate traffic as stated routes," he says in suggesting remedies. "Whenever a section of portion of a state route has been permanently improved by the state it should thereafter be taken over and maintained as a state road at the expense of the state, the county to pay for such a road prior to its becoming a state road. The main county roads should be built and maintained under the general direction of the county courts. These roads will serve as fillers to the main or trunk lines which will carry the concentrated traffic. The local or district roads should be largely under district control. Different standards should be provided for each class and sufficient overhead supervision had to insure that these standards should be followed at least on intercounty and interstate routes."

BANNER FAIR OF DECADE TO CLOSE

EXHIBITS SUPERIOR TO ANY
EVER GATHERED IN CLACK-
AMAS COUNTY

BIG CROPS, GREAT INTEREST

Racing Program and Juvenile Fair
Feature Annual County Show.
Ends Today

The tenth annual Clackamas county fair will become pleasant history with the closing of the gates after the crowd leaves the sightly grounds to-night. The fair has, by all odds, been the banner event of its kind in the history of annual harvest expositions in Clackamas county. It has attracted greater crowds and far more interest than any other affair of its kind and its program has been replete with interest for the people who flocked to Canby from every corner of the county during the four days of the big show, which opened on Monday morning.

Samples of the bountiful crops from the broad fields of the county's farms and the sleek fat cattle, swine and sheep from the ranches and ranges of the county were the stellar attractions in the exhibit places. The juvenile department attracted wide and just attention for the quality of the work of the school children of the county.

The first feature of the big harvest show is the display of J. C. Kaupisch of Canby, who shows the products of his skill and labors as exercised on a half-block tract within the city limits of Canby. He has everything from fowls to canteenops, with everything that goes between to make up a thoroughly diversified farm. Almost everything is grown on the Kaupisch tract and in addition to the family supplies \$557 was realized in profits on produce last year.

Two grange displays are of excellent quality. Warner grange shows its 10th display, and for five of the nine exhibitions previously made the first prize was awarded. The first is again certain to be carried away this year. Warner grange is located near New Era. Fred Chinn is master. Those responsible for the display at the county fair are: Fred Chinn and wife, Mrs. E. E. Reed, K. Spulak, Mrs. L. Wink, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Coe, W. A. Dodds, Mr. and Mrs. Newton Critser, George Randall, Mrs. Lennie Schmitt, Mrs. J. S. Dick, Mr. and Mrs. D. McArthur, George Randall, Sr., George Lazelle and Mrs. Lazelle, P. H. Mead, Frank Weisenbeck, Misses Gribble, H. Penmann, Mrs. Robinson.

Mrs. R. S. Coe shows a patchwork quilt containing 4000 pieces, worked last winter. Mrs. Coe is 61 years of age.

Damasus grange shows high quality but less quantity than does Warner grange. Damasus grange is located near Clackamas, and George Dallas is master. The display here was made by the women's work committee of the grange. Active workers are: George Dallas and wife, A. W. Cook and wife, S. C. Young, John Byers, A. C. Newell, Robert Browers, Thomas Brown, A. Newell, F. P. Coulter, George Helms, M. Haines, T. Watts, M. White and wife. In the display of fancy work Mrs. E. V. Chittwood shows a remarkable variety of product. Other women who contribute are Annie Bauffman, Mrs. S. Dallas, Nellie M. Roach, Mrs. Charles Hatten, Mrs. Sabina Hunter and others. George Helms has a large display of corn.

A large showing is made in the departments of the fair presided over by women. In fancy work the display of quilts is remarkable. Bread, cakes and preserved fruits and vegetables are shown by a number of expert housewives who live on Clackamas county farms.

Farmers and city residents agree that the county fair must be supported and made to grow. For 10 years the effort has been made to develop a representative exhibition, and to include horse racing. Considerable credit is due R. S. Coe for the early development of the fair at Canby. The management has fallen into other hands in recent years. The present board of directors consists of G. B. Dimick, president; C. N. Wait, vice president; W. H. Bair, secretary; George Lazelle, George Randall, J. E. Calavan, Oregon City; W. W. Everhart, Molalla; H. S. Anderson, Logan; A. Knight, Canby; W. H. Mattoon, Estacada. Department superintendents are: Livestock, W. W. Everhart; poultry, H. Sutherland; farm products, R. M. McCutchie; art, Mrs. A. E. King; ladies' textiles, Mrs. J. L. Waldron; domestic science, Miss A. Knight; juvenile, J. E. Calavan, county superintendent of schools.

A dahlia show is one of the features added this year. Two tables are covered with a wonderful variety of blooms. The display is banked with greens, giving a pleasing effect. The largest contributors to the display are Mrs. Frank T. Barlow, of Gladstone; H. J. Biggs and Mrs. G. B. Dimick.