

The Madras Pioneer

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ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION

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THURSDAY June 7, 1906

THEN AND NOW.

County Judge Bell is reported to be surprised "that so much objection should be raised by those who pay practically no taxes." It should be explained that this surprise has developed in the last two years. Prior to the election two years ago, when this same Bell was ding-donging in this section of the county in the interest of his candidacy for county judge, he posed as the only Simon-pure, dyed-in-the-wool friend Western Crook County had. And when, with tears in his eyes, he referred to the need for a bridge across Willow creek, and to the efforts of the county seat ring to build up Prineville at the expense of the rest of the county, he was the very picture of outraged citizenship. Still it is hardly fair to draw the deadly parallel on the Judge. Secure in his office for two years more, he could hardly be expected to remember that old ante-election twaddle. It only fooled a few of them then, just as his great surprise is only fooling a few of them now.

BETTER COUNTY ROADS.

It is announced that extensive road work is to be done during the summer, an order for \$200 worth of picks, shovels, scrapers and other road tools having been given to W. F. King, the Prineville hardware merchant. A large portion of that amount went for picks and shovels, and it is expected that a big force will be put at work at once. A cook wagon will also be provided, to accompany the road crew.

The news that the county's roads are to be improved will be hailed with pleasure all over the county. There is something over \$11,000 in the road fund at this time, and there is no reason why our roads should not be put in first-class condition. New roads should be opened up where necessary, new bridges built and grades improved, and in fact there should be a thorough overhauling of the county's roads. The money could not be spent where it would make a better impression upon the home-seeker coming into the county, or where residents of the county could get more returns for their investment.

WHY?

The Prineville Review, referring to the court house matter in its issue of May 31, says, "If the court would submit the proposition to the taxpayers, there wouldn't be more than one per cent. vote negatively."

Then why this effort to sneak the measure through? If ninety-nine per cent. of the taxpayers favor it, surely the county court is not afraid of that other one per cent. Why not have come out in the open with such a popular measure?

And why stop at "one per cent." Why not make it unanimous? With its utter disregard for truth and veracity, the Review surely hasn't balked at a little matter like one per cent.

INJUNCTION STOPS IT

NO CONTRACT LET FOR COURT HOUSE

County Board Enjoined From Proceeding with Plan for Rushing The Contract Through.

An injunction was served on County Judge Bell and Commissioners Stearns and Powell at Prineville on last Friday, enjoining them from letting a contract for the construction of a new courthouse. This action was the outcome of the discovery that the county officials were preparing to railroad a contract through without giving the opponents of the measure a chance to protest, and without even giving an opportunity for a thorough discussion of this important matter by the taxpayers of the county. C. S. Benson of Bend appears as plaintiff in the action, and W. H. Wilson of The Dalles is attorney.

When the purpose of the county court was discovered, there was not sufficient time intervening before the day upon which the contract was to be let, for securing a remonstrance from protesting taxpayers all over the county. A hastily called meeting of representatives from Western Crook county precincts was held at O'Neil, for the purpose of securing some concerted action to prevent the carrying out of the evident purpose of the county court. Mr. Benson's suit to enjoin is a part of the plan adopted, it being quite apparent that such action was necessary in order to make the opposition to the court house plan effective. Although Mr. Benson is nominally the plaintiff in the injunction suit, the opposition to the new court house, which he represents, comprises a large majority of the taxpayers of Crook County.

The injunction was secured on the grounds that the construction of a new court house at this time would necessitate a violation of section 10 of article 11 of the Constitution of Oregon which provides, "No county shall create any debts or liabilities which shall singly or in the aggregate exceed the sum of five thousand dollars, except to suppress insurrection or repel invasion." Another count in the complaint alleged the secretive methods of the county court in a matter of public interest as a ground for the injunction. The complaint also contained other counts, and it is believed that the evidence will sustain them all. The present injunction against the county officials is only temporary, but it is believed that Judge Bradshaw will make it permanent when the case is presented before him. Meanwhile, remonstrances against the building of a new court house are being circulated in a number of precincts, and these will be filed with the county court.

The injunction papers were served last Friday noon, and next day at 10 o'clock was the time set for opening of bids and awarding of contract. There was no time to spare after the meeting at O'Neil, it being necessary to go The Dalles, secure the injunction from Judge Bradshaw, then return to Prineville to make the service on the county officials there, and it was only by making several night rides that service was made in time.

If the editor of the Madras Pioneer is "uninformed regarding the financial condition of the county," as is stated by the Crook County Journal, it is because we got our informa-

tion through the editor of that paper, who perhaps has a purpose in giving out erroneous information. Possibly it is part of his service for that \$300 from the county. At any rate, in reply to an inquiry from this place the information came from the editor of the Crook County Journal, only about two weeks ago, that there was \$67,000 in the general fund of the county, exclusive of the money in the road fund or any other special fund. Later investigation shows this statement to have been absolutely untrue, as the sum named above included all funds of every description, including road and high school funds, and there was really less than \$20,000 in the general fund, available for a new court house. The editor of the Madras Pioneer does not accuse the editor of the Crook County Journal of willful misrepresentation. He merely relates "how it happened," and ask his readers to judge for themselves.

Last week we published an account of the big irrigation scheme which is said to have this immediate section as the objective point of its operations. To those who are familiar with the wonderful transformation wrought in those semi-arid regions where irrigation has been accomplished, the bare announcement of the Madras Water & Power Company's intention is sufficient to conjure up visions of prosperity and opulence for the settlers of this favored section. We can only hope that their plans may prove practical and speedily materialize.

The splendid vote which R. H. Bayley, republican candidate for county commissioner, received in this precinct was a rebuke to those who thought that the voters in this end of the county would not loyally rally to his support. Mr. Bayley received 145 votes here, which is just 15 more votes than Mr. Fisher received in the primaries, and 2 more than the total number of voters in the primary. The result was a source of much gratification to Mr. Bayley's friends throughout the county.

"There'll be no jobbing, no railroading" says the official mouth piece of Crook county. Not if the taxpayers of Western Crook County can prevent it, although it may take an injunction suit to stop it. Some people are born honest, and some men have honesty thrust upon them.

The Crook County Journal prefaces one of its "inspired" statements in last week's issue with this clause: "Again, if a new court house is built, which is a matter problematical at present." Yes, we think so. Extremely so. And we are glad to see the Journal right one time.

For Sale.

Expecting to move from the state, I offer for sale all household goods. A list of articles and prices sent on application, which should be made soon. Also books at half cost and less; a 1200 pound bay mare and buggy; a \$45 magic lantern for \$25; and a \$35 Edison Home Phonograph for \$25, with records at half cost, both as good as new. Time payment granted, on approved security, on amounts over \$20. Address W. W. Gordon, Warm Springs, Oregon. J714

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