

SHALL WE ENLARGE OUR PORT DISTRICTS

Newport, Oregon, Dec. 6th, 1916.
Editor Leader:

In order that the people of Lincoln County may know what is being done in regard to the proposed improvement of Yaquina Bay Bar, I may say that a Joint Committee of ten, five appointed by the Toledo Commercial Club and five appointed by the Newport Commercial Club to act in conjunction with the Port District of Toledo and Newport have had under consideration for the past two months the matter of providing ways and means whereby one half of the proposed improvement of Yaquina Bay Bar could be raised by taxation without too great a burden upon the taxpayers of Lincoln County. The Committee in conjunction with the said Port Districts, Toledo and Newport have finally determined upon the following plan which, if carried out, will result in raising the necessary funds to pay for one half of the said improvements providing the Government appropriates the other half. First they have agreed that the two Port Districts, Toledo and Newport will, under the act of 1911 providing for the enlargement of the boundaries of Port Districts, enlarged said two Port Districts so that each of said two Port Districts may take in one half of all that territory in Lincoln County not embraced in the Port District of Alsea dividing said territory equally between assessed valuation of all the said two ports according to the property in said territory according to the assessed valuation of said property for the year 1916, under this division if carried out and voted into said two Port Districts by the people living in said territory, Toledo Port District will have four million and thirty thousand dollars assessable property within the boundaries of its territory, and Newport will have four million and thirty thousand dollars worth of assessable property within the boundaries of its territory. It is proposed to submit said proposition to the voters of the territory proposed to be taken into said Port District. The law provides that a petition be circulated and that if 8 per cent of the voters in a Port District asks for the enlargement of a Port District, then said petition is presented to the County Court and it is the duty of the County Court to call an election giving forty days notice that an election will be held for the purpose of voting upon the enlargement of said Port Districts. The people residing within the boundaries of the present Port District will vote upon it and the people living within the boundaries of the territory that is proposed to be taken in by said Port District also vote upon the question whether they are to be taken into said Port District or not.

When the election is held the votes cast in the proposed territory to be taken in, are counted first and if said proposed enlargement of said Port District has carried, then the vote in the Port District is canvassed and if it has carried the Court issues its proclamation accordingly.

The Act of 1911 to provide for the changing of boundaries of Ports will probably have to be amended by striking out the words water shed as the present law provides only for taking in territories of certain water shed. It is thought, however there will be no opposition to this as Port Districts in other counties desire the same amendment.

During the months of July and August the Government of the United States under its local Board of Engineers at Portland, Oregon has caused a survey to be made of the Yaquina Bay Bar, and an unofficial estimate just received from the Engineer's Office at Portland estimates that in order to restore the jetties to their former height and extend the South Jetty two thousand feet and the North Jetty one thousand feet that a twenty foot channel at mean low tide may be obtained on Yaquina Bay Bar for the sum of \$468,000.00. That the extension of said jetties as aforesaid will scour the sands off the Bar and maintain a depth of twenty feet at the mean low tide. That this result will be obtained by said proposed improvement there can be no doubt for the old jetties have faithfully performed their work and kept sixteen feet of water on the bar at all times during the past twenty years, although not one dollar has been spent in the upkeep of said

jetties or the dredging of said Bar.

To raise the one half of said \$468,000.00 and to pay the interest on the bonds of one half thereof, \$234,000.00 which the people would have to put up, the Port Commissions would be required to assess all the taxable property within the boundaries of said two Port Districts aggregating \$8,060,000.00. To pay the interest on bonds representing \$234,000.00 at the rate of 5 per cent per annum would require \$11,700.00 or an annual tax levy of less than one and one half mills.

The matter of the improvement of Yaquina Bay Bar interests every citizen of Lincoln County and it is now up to them to say whether the Yaquina Bay Bar is ever to be improved and our county is to take its place commercially and as a shipping Port along with other harbors of the Oregon coast. Practically every harbor on the Oregon coast, the Columbia, Coos Bay, Siuslaw Bay, Tillamook Bay, and Nehalem Bay are being improved. Under the system now adopted by our Government of the people putting up one half of the cost of the improvement thereof, and even by doing this they have had a long hard fight to get the Government to come through and order the improvements made. The people of Lincoln County with the assistance of the Commercial Clubs of the Willamette Valley and the Oregon Delegation in Congress have secured the survey of the Yaquina Bay Bar and the report of the United States Engineers at Portland, Oregon will soon be forwarded to the River and Harbors Board of Engineers at Washington, D. C. If the reports of the local Engineers are favorable to the project it is thought that our delegation in Congress may be able to obtain a favorable report from the U. S. Board of Engineers of Rivers and Harbors, in which event if there is a general appropriation bill passed at this short session of Congress and providing we agree to put up our half of said four hundred and sixty eight thousand dollars, Yaquina Bay project may be taken care of.

The timber men who own the fifteen billion feet of timber in Lincoln County are ready and willing to build logging roads and saw mills to manufacture this timber into lumber and place it upon the world's markets if we can get an export harbor. San Francisco and San Pedro are the dumping ground for all the lumber manufactured in the little coast harbors and we must have more water if our lumbermen can hope to compete with such harbors as Coos Bay and Grays Harbor who have at the present time twenty feet of water at mean low tide. Every citizen in Lincoln County knows what it means to have Yaquina Bay Bar improved. They know the resources of this county. They know the great timber wealth of this county. They know that this vast body of timber is over ripe and deteriorating every year, and they know that the timber lands are being assessed highly for the purpose of roads, schools and county government, and that neither the owners thereof or the people of Lincoln County are getting any benefit from this vast body of timber only as a tax revenue. It would seem that if we lose this opportunity to get consideration for Yaquina Bay Bar that we will be lost in the scramble and that it will be years before we can again be in as favorable position to demand just and fair recognition from the Government for the improvement of Yaquina Bay Bar. It is sincerely to be hoped that every tax payer in Lincoln County will give this matter due and careful consideration, take his pencil and figure out just what it is going to cost him for this special tax and just what benefits he will derive from the improvements of Yaquina Bay Bar. And we think that he will find that there can be no sane argument against the proposed improvement or the little tax burden that will be placed upon the people when we take into consideration that great results that will be derived therefrom which will help all the people and timber men, the timber jack, the merchant, the farmer, the men in overalls. Oregon's great and principal industry is the manufacture of lumber. Lincoln County's greatest asset is her timber interests. Now let every citizen in Lincoln County make this fight HIS fight and let us all join hands and pull together

for a greater Lincoln County and a greater Oregon. Let us make Yaquina Bay Harbor known to the commerce of the world and put Lincoln County on the map.

B. F. Jones,
Chairman Joint Committee.
Capt. O. F. Jacobsen,
Chairman Newport Port Com.
I. R. Wishart,
President Toledo Port.

THINKS COUNTY AGENT USELESS EXPENSE

Salem, Ore., Dec. 4, 1916.
Editor Leader:

I have noticed several articles published in your newsy paper regarding the employing of a county agriculturist, especially by a party known as Web, and I am wondering if such party is a bona fide resident of Lincoln County.

As a non-resident taxpayer, I cannot conceive of any necessity for Lincoln County to employ an agent, and I would consider such an expenditure a reckless, unjustified extravagance, especially when we consider that the county is more than eighteen months behind in the payment of county warrants, the assessment valuations, according to the state tax commission, are higher than any other county in the state, with the tax levies also very high; and the further fact that about three-fourths of the county taxes are paid by non-residents, who receive very little consideration from the resident tax-using parasites of the county.

Probably not over fifteen per cent, and possibly less, of the county taxes, are paid by local ranchers, a part of whom might be slightly benefited with the services of a county agriculturist.

Yet, self reliant citizens ought to be capable of managing and financing their own private affairs and needs, without public tax assistance.

Polk County does not employ a county agriculturist; yet she has won first prize for the Willamette Valley District at the state fair for the past two years, in the competition with other counties that do. Such county is noted for registered prize winning cattle, hogs, sheep and goats; for prunes, cherries, hops and various other profitable crops; also because county affairs are conducted upon a cash basis with low assessments and tax levies, cruised timber assessments, good roads and schools. The people of Polk County are certainly not backward and unprogressive in achievements, yet they do not employ a county agriculturist, apparently preferring to spend their tax money for other purposes.

As a matter of fairness, justice and equity, why should the agricultural class be entitled to the services of a professional person at public expense any more than any other industrial class?

It seems to me that the timber, logging, and lumbering industries of Lincoln County, are in a much more deplorable state of affairs than that of the agricultural class, as I have noticed that such properties were advertised to be sold by the sheriff; but not any property of those engaged in agricultural pursuits.

If the people of Lincoln County are determined to employ a county agent why not employ one especially to aid logging and lumbering enterprises, that apparently are experiencing the most depressing difficulties and financial losses? Or one to advise the people and public officials of the county how to manage public business in a way to get county affairs upon a cash basis with lower, more equitable assessments and tax levies; and be upon a comparative equality with counties where public business is managed more efficiently.

As long as other counties possess such advantages over Lincoln County, she will not get her share of increased population, for the mass of people prefer to live and invest their capital in counties where public affairs are efficiently conducted upon a cash basis.

Under present conditions, past extravagances and public wastefulness, Lincoln County people are acquiring, elsewhere, an undesirable reputation in regard to the management of public business, that is proving a serious detriment to the growth and development of the county. Such impression is spread and disseminated by non-resident taxpayers and their friends, through business association and social conversation; a class widely

scattered, that is being continuously impressed in such a way, through periodic tax levies and collections.

When will the people of Lincoln County awaken from an apparent Rip Van Winkle slumber regarding such state affairs.

Yours truly,
Geo. C. Mitty.

GET TOGETHER

The bridge is finally ours, and we can congratulate ourselves on our success. From now on we will be able to look forward to more development and progress in our county. I am sure that everyone appreciates the way our officials handled the issue.

It pains me to note, however, that the two best and only newspapers of Toledo could not refrain from making a few acidulous remarks about each. After several editorials and articles on co-operation and organization, they must still indulge in various didoes instead of uniting to fight the interests who are against both of them.

Our people made a concerted effort to procure the bridge, and got it, (in the right place too.) This is a practical demonstration of what can be done by co-operation.

If we can get a bridge, why can't we get other things, too? Not only such things as roads and bridges, etc., but all kinds of social and civil betterments as well. Other communities do it, why not ours?

But the main thing is to stop our petty quarrels and fights and get in and dig, not alone and divided, but united in a common cause.

Some time ago I read an article about Ford's great automobile plant. This is a great organization, nothing more. It is a gold mine for Ford. There is no squabbling or petty quarreling in this wonderful industrial plant, and as a consequence, it is a success.

I can see no reason why a civil body cannot be handled on the same smooth lines. Surely it would be much more pleasant than to have a series of spats and nothing more. Wouldn't it?

Come on, please, please don't stand back any longer. Let's make things hum all around. We can all find some good to do. Let's cut loose and see what we really can do.

Web.

HAWKINS & McCLUSKEY
Attorneys at Law
Toledo - - Oregon

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Charles Cator and Alwine Mischler, have by the County Court of Lincoln County, Oregon, been duly appointed Executor and Executrix of the estate of John Mischler, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same, duly verified, to said Executor and Executrix at the residence of the latter in Lincoln County, and about four miles from Harlan, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. The date of the first publication of this notice is the 24th day of November, 1916.

Charles Cator, Executor.
Alwine Mischler, Executrix.
Vates & Lewis, Attys for the Estate.

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