

# The News Record

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THURSDAY, Editorial Page, MAY 14

## Referendum and Initiative Measures

On the ballots at the June election the voters will find 19 measures submitted or proposed for their approval. The first four have been referred to the people by the legislature and are herewith given as they will appear on the ballots, together with such comment as the News Record cares to make upon them:

For an amendment of Section 28 (evidently intended to be Section 29) of Article IV of the Constitution, changing the compensation of members of the legislature to \$400 for each regular session and \$10 per day for each extra session instead of \$3 per day and mileage. (Section 28 provides the time when laws take effect, and the proposed amendment is, therefore, wrongly numbered.)

300 Yes  
301 No

In our judgment this is a meritorious measure and should be approved. Legislators should be paid enough to cover their actual expenses at least. At present a member from Eastern Oregon is several hundred dollars out of pocket when he attends a session. A working man couldn't afford to accept the office.

For an amendment of Section 3 of Article XIV of the Constitution, to permit the location of State institutions elsewhere than at the seat of government by act of the legislature and vote of the people.

302 Yes  
303 No

We don't see where there could be any question about voting yes on this proposition. If the people today want to locate a state institution in the center of Malheur county, they should have the right to do so without consulting a past generation.

An amendment to Article VII of the Constitution by increasing the number of judges of the Supreme Court from three to five, until otherwise provided by law, and authorizing the Legislative Assembly to provide by appropriate legislation for the exercise by the circuit courts, of the probate jurisdiction theretofore exercised by the county courts, and for the transaction of county business by and before some appropriate body or tribunal.

304 Yes  
305 No

We will vote no on this. The last half of it is meritorious, but we don't see how it will expedite litigation to increase the number of judges. Our observation is that where three do next to nothing, you arrive at nothing by increasing the number.

For amendment of Section 14 of Article II of the Constitution, changing the time of holding the regular general biennial elections from the first Monday in June to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

306 Yes  
307 No

Emphatically no. Simply a political scheme to line the voters up in November on national issues, and to carry the county and state tickets through on the slogan "Vote 'er straight." Change the state and county elections to odd numbered years and there would be no objection to November elections, except Oregon would be lost in the mess of other states voting at the same time and thus lose a lot of advertising she now gets.

Of the measures on which referendum is ordered by petition of the people, the following are presented this week, and the remainder will be given in these columns next week:

An act providing that in all counties, the sheriff shall have the custody of prisoners committed to or confined in the county jail and such prisoners shall be worked at such places and for such time and in such manner as the county court may direct, and that in counties of over one hundred thousand inhabitants, the salaries of guards and jailers shall not exceed \$90.00 per month and the price of meals furnished prisoners shall be 12½¢ each.

308 Yes  
309 No

Nothing doing. If a fellow has to work when he goes to jail he may as well be good. But seriously, while the measure reads well there is an opinion abroad it has a joker concealed somewhere. Vote it down and if it has merit it will come up again.

We may as well say here, that in case of doubt about any initiative or referendum measure, it is the safe plan to vote No.

For an act requiring railroads and other common carriers to grant free transportation to State officers and county judges and sheriffs, as a condition precedent to acquiring land for corporate purposes by the exercise of eminent domain, and to prohibit the payment of mileage for such free transportation.

310 Yes  
311 No

That's an easy one. Vote no. Anyone who knows the devious ways that railroads have in acquiring "ground" for further privileges, will require no diagram to help him make up his mind about this measure.

An act to appropriate twenty-five thousand dollars annually for four years, to be used in purchasing grounds and building armories for the use of the Oregon National Guard, the money to be expended under the supervision of the State Military Board at any time during the four years, the Board not being required to use each appropriation the year it is appropriated. The Oregon National Guard is required to pay to the State Treasurer such rental, for the use of said armories, as may be fixed by the State Military Board.

312 Yes  
313 No

Sure not. There are hundreds of splendid skating rinks that will be for rent as soon as the craze passes in a year or two, that are good

enough for any set of fellows who are anxious to learn the art of wholesale murder, commonly called war.

An act to amend Section 3529 of Bellinger & Cotton's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Oregon by increasing the annual appropriation for the support and maintenance of the University of Oregon.

314 Yes  
315 No

Yes, Yes, Yes The highest and best school in Oregon should be a state school, owned and controlled by the people, and where the sons and daughters of the people may be educated without money and without price. If the News Record had its way it would prohibit trust-owned colleges. God save us, if higher education in the United States is to be left to Standard Oil schools taught by Rockefeller tools, such as Chicago, Brown and Syracuse Universities.

For equal suffrage constitutional amendment, permitting women to vote on equal terms with men.

316 Yes  
317 No

Everybody has his own opinion about this. As for us we vote Yes.

For an act prohibiting fishing for salmon or sturgeon on Sunday from January first to October first, also in the Columbia River only from October first to December thirty-first, also in the navigable channels of Columbia River at night, also at any time in Sandy River and in Columbia River west of west line of range nine west, near Astoria, and east of west line of range sixteen east, near Celilo, and limiting seines anywhere in the State to one hundred and fifty fathoms long and four and one-sixth fathoms deep, and providing penalties.

318 Yes  
319 No

We vote No for two reasons. First, we don't understand the why and whynots of it. As that is sufficient reason for our vote, the second is immaterial.

For constitutional amendment, giving additional and exclusive power to cities and towns, within their corporate limits, to license, regulate, control, and tax, or to suppress or prohibit theatres, race-tracks, pool-rooms, bowling-alleys, billiard halls, and the sale of liquors, subject to the provisions of the local option law of the State of Oregon.

320 Yes  
321 No

No. A scheme for "wide-open" towns.

## Dreams and Promises.

In view of the circus bill promises addressed to "Mr. Voter" by the Wallowa Sun, wouldn't it be well to stop and take stock on the county seat scrap scheme hatched by a few irresponsibles.

The scheme was to take advantage of the dissatisfaction over the high taxes of last year by charging it all to Enterprise. This has failed because the people of the county know Enterprise is no more to blame for the action of the county court than is Wallowa.

It was also thought the disappointment of other towns in not securing the location of the high school, would all rebound to Wallowa's advantage. In a large measure this has failed. Enterprise fought openly and fair for the location, and our nearest competitor in that contest is too square a fighter to feel revengeful over the decision.

The support of another town and section was to be won through open appeals to an old-time prejudice, and an underhand scheme to divide the county. The argument relied upon to bolster up this last, was the county seat being located in Wallowa, a town way off to one side of the county, the people would fall in with a proposal to erect a new county out of the central, southern and eastern parts of the present Wallowa county, of which Joseph would become the county seat.

Several hundred votes were counted on from the transient laborers on the railroad and saw mills that would be in full operation by June.

And lastly, there were the hot air promises of the elegant court house that would be erected and rented at a dollar a year to the county.

All these beautiful air castles have vanished except the pipe dream about the beautiful court house. Rumors reach us that this airy soap bubble will be blown to enormous size in Jonas' Promiser this week or next, and its dazzling beauty will fairly enrapture the voters.

This will fail also. The voters of Wallowa county require something more substantial than pipe dreams to influence their judgment. Big bonuses, with bigger strings to them, will not decide this question.

## Proceedings of County Court

Wednesday, May 6, 1908.

In matter of road petition by R. F. Stubblefield et al:

Prayer of petitioners granted and board of road viewers ordered to view and lay out said proposed road on May 25.

In matter of road petition of J. O. Grove et al:

Petition granted and viewers ordered to view and lay out said proposed road on June 4.

In matter of road petition by G. W. Wright et al:

Petition granted and viewers ordered to view and lay out said proposed road on May 21.

In matter of road petition of C. F. Evans (No. 2) et al:

Petition granted and viewers ordered to view and lay out said proposed road on May 19.

In matter of road petition to vacate, by C. F. Evans et al:

Read ordered vacated.

In matter of change Olof Anderson road:

Viewers report read first time and continued.

In matter of J. H. Yenglin road:

Viewers report read first time and continued.

In matter of Lafayette Wilson road:

Viewers report read first time and continued.

In matter of road petition by G. W. Harris et al:

Petition granted and viewers ordered to view and lay out said proposed road May 22.

In matter of road petition of A. E. Childers et al:

Petition granted and viewers ordered to view and lay out said proposed road May 27.

Court adjourned.

Thursday, May 7, 1908.

In matter of vacating road by J. H.

Dale and others:

After due consideration the matter is continued until further advised.

In matter of road petition of Olof Anderson et al:

Viewers' report read second time and referred to district attorney for his legal opinion.

In matter of road petition of J. H. Yenglin et al:

Viewers' report read second time and referred to district attorney for his legal opinion.

In matter of petition of Lafayette Wilson road:

Viewers' report read second time and referred to district attorney for his legal opinion.

(Continued on page 5.)

## Information Concerning Eighth Grade Final Examinations.

1. Dates: (a) January 23, 24, 1908; (b) May 14, 15, 1908; (c) June 11, 12, 1908.

2. Program:

a. Thursdays—Arithmetic, Writing, History and Civil Government.

b. Fridays—Grammar, Physiology, Geography and Spelling.

3. Sources of Questions:

a. Geography—State Course of Study, Redway and Hinman's Natural School Geography.

b. Spelling—Eighty per cent. from Reed's Word Lessons, and twenty per cent. from manuscript in Language.

c. Writing—Specimens of penmanship as indicated in copied matter and from manuscript in Language.

d. Language—Buehler's Modern English Grammar, no diagramming.

e. Civil Government—United States Constitution.

f. History—List of topics from History Outline in State Course of Study and Current Events.

Notice: Teachers preparing classes for examinations will please notify county superintendent 30 days before examination according to law.

J. W. KERNS,  
County Superintendent of Schools.

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