

# The Coquille Valley Sentinel

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COQUILLE COOS COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1917.

\$1.50 THE YEAR.

## THE 1917 BUDGET

### The Items Are Reduced Over \$50,000 at Saturday's Meeting.

The meeting at the court house Saturday to discuss the coming year's budget was so well attended that the County court moved upstairs to the circuit court room which was half filled by the people who had come to consider the tax question. The Marshfield Chamber of Commerce was represented by Attorney Cassius R. Peck, President Charles Hall, of the Good Roads Association, R. M. Jennings, of the Oregon Power Company, and others. From North Bend came Commissioner-elect Archie Phillip, Geo. A. Stephenson, of the North Bend Mill, and others, while there were representatives from Bandon, Myrtle Point, and other localities.

Mr. Peck was the principal speaker, and he went through the budget item by item, showing where the figures exceeded the expenditures for the same purposes last year and asking that, in the interest of retrenchment and economy, the estimates for 1917 be made no more than the actual expenses for 1916.

One of the principal reductions he recommended was \$5,000 in the court house appropriation for completing and furnishing the annex—not that he opposed those expenditures, which he called an investment, but so as to distribute the expense for this structure over three years instead of two.

Then he advised that the \$9,000 for sinking fund for the road bond issue be deferred until some of the other pressing matters had been disposed of, and taxing became less burdensome.

On his third recommendation there was considerable discussion. He asked that the year's county taxes for roads and bridges be reduced now so that large an expenditure was being made from the bond issue of \$362,000.

Charles Hall, who represented the Good Roads Association as well as the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce, opposed this, insisting that good faith with the communities in the upper Coquille valley which had voted for the bonds, required that the promises made to them during the campaign last spring should be fulfilled, and that the usual annual road fund be raised so as to permit the improvement of the roads north and east of Myrtle Point.

It was pointed out, however, that it would be physically impossible to improve those roads at the same time the work was being done on the roads for bringing which to line and grade the bond issue was voted, and the argument for a reduced levy won.

One statement made by Mr. Peck was especially noteworthy. He said the tax levy for the city of Marshfield this year had been reduced a mill and a half from last year's figures. When that was done the people who opposed the reduction insisted that it would be neutralized by an increase of an equal percentage in the county taxes, so that the total they had to pay over at the Bay would be unchanged. So he asked that the budget be cut enough for them to realize on their economies at home—and he was not disappointed.

The following table shows the original estimates on the principal items of the Budget, the cuts recommended by the Marshfield committee, and the amounts finally decided upon by the court. It will be noted that the court in some instances and in its total made more cuts from the estimates than had been recommended.

	Budget Estimate	Amount Advised	Budget Adopted
Justice Court.....	\$ 1,200	900	1,000
Circuit Court.....	12,000	10,000	10,000
District Attorney's Office.....	2,000	1,500	1,500
Sheriff's Office.....	10,000	8,000	8,500
Clerk's Office.....	7,500	7,150	7,000
School Superintendent's Office.....	4,000	3,500	3,500
Coroner's Office.....	200	100	100
Health Officer.....	400	300	300
Donations, Advertising, etc.....	3,500	2,500	2,500
Court House Expenses.....	25,000	20,000	20,000
Jail.....	5,000	4,000	4,000
Widows' Pensions.....	7,000	5,000	6,000
Insane.....	250	200	200
Tax Rebates.....	200	100	100
Int. on Road Bonds and Sinking Fund.....	27,100	18,100	18,000
Ferries.....	10,000	7,000	8,000
Roads and Bridges.....	37,000	32,000	27,000
Bridges by Contract.....	25,000	20,000	20,000
Totals.....	\$177,860	\$140,350	\$137,700

In addition to this the court cut the estimate of the amount of taxes to be raised for roads and bridges to be expended by supervisors from \$85,000 to

## Things Coos County Needs.

Our old friend M. G. Pohl, of Bandon was a caller Monday. He says there is a great deal of barley raised in this county which is shipped out to Portland to be ground for barley meal and that the meal is then shipped back here to feed the horses in Coos county. Naturally he wonders why some one does not put up a barley mill and save that double freight charge. The same thing is true of oats. We raise a good many and ship them out, and then import the oatmeal we use in packages for which we pay from 5 cents a pound up to ten. Why not have an oatmeal mill.

Referring to our wet bottom lands Mr. Pohl says if we would drain them and keep cattle off them while the ground is damp their fertility would be vastly increased.

Our fruit trees, too, are so neglected in the matter of spraying that they will not produce first class fruit. These are all matters worth thinking about.

## CHANGES MADE THIS WEEK

The following are the new officials at the court house this week:

John F. Hall, of Marshfield, takes the place of L. A. Liljeqvist, for a four-year term.

T. M. Dimmick, of Coquille, as county treasurer, succeeds himself, beginning a new two year term.

Raymond E. Baker, of Coquille, also succeeds himself as county superintendent of schools, with F. A. Golden as supervisor by his appointment.

Charles S. McCulloch, of Bandon, succeeds himself as county surveyor, for another two year term.

Archie Phillip, of North Bend, succeeds W. T. Dement as county commissioner, and begins a four-year term.

Jesse P. Beyers, of Coquille succeeds T. J. Thrift as county assessor, beginning a four-year term. He is as deputy J. C. Sullivan and as clerk Raymond E. Jeb, formerly deputy county clerk, and A. A. Selander, of Sumner. The latter will be the draughtsman in the office.

L. W. Oddy succeeds Robt. R. Watson as county clerk. His office force consists of Nels Osmundson, who continues to hold the position of first deputy, the same as under Mr. Watson. A. B. Collier, formerly deputy in the assessor's office is the second deputy. The clerks are Inez G. Bunch, recording clerk, Esther Asplund, both of whom were in the office before, and Rena Danielson, of Parkersburg.

W. W. Gage, of Coquille, who has heretofore served fourteen and a half years as sheriff, succeeds Alfred Johnson Jr. in that office. Clyde A. Gage, who formerly held the office of first deputy, takes that position again, while Archie O. Walker, becomes second deputy. Geo. O. Leach is retained as clerk, and Walter Newbury, of Powers, is also a clerk. Mr. Leach was in the office with Mr. Gage before and also served under Sheriff Johnson.

## Death of Z. T. Siglin.

Z. T. Siglin, former sheriff of Coos county and a prominent rancher on Isthmus slough, died at Mercy hospital Tuesday night. He was about 70 years of age and one of the pioneers of this section. He had held many offices at the Bay, having been the first city marshal of Marshfield. His death was due to Bright's disease. He had never been married.

Report comes from Marshfield that the Hub store at Bandon is to be discontinued.

## COUNTY AFFAIRS

### Court in Session Again This Week. Contracts Are Awarded.

At the County court meeting this week, the regular monthly accounts were passed upon and warrants ordered drawn.

The bids for the county advertising for the coming year were opened and disposed of as follows:

The publication of the monthly court proceedings were given to the Bay dailies at their bid of five cents a line, on their statements of circulation.

The printing of officers' notices was awarded to the Marshfield Record at 2 cents a line.

The publication of the Tax Summons in foreclosure went to the Coos Bay Harbor on its bid of 3 cents for each description, including the name, for all the insertions and 8 cents a line for all the insertions of other matter than descriptions.

The bids of the Coos Bay Times and the Marshfield Record to publish the delinquent tax list at 5 cents a line for each insertion were held for further consideration. This matter was passed up by the Supreme court in the case of Maloney vs. Coos County, and it was decided that after having been paid 3 cents a line for this service by the County court the publishers could not collect another two cents a line from the county.

Dr. J. A. Richmond was awarded the contract for furnishing medical supplies and medical services at the county poor farm and the county jail. He is to receive \$3.50 for each visit to the county infirmary, whether the number of patients is one or more, and \$1.50 for each visit to the county jail under the same conditions. For prescriptions other than the medicines he furnishes on these visits he is to receive 25 cents each.

The county officials furnished the court with a list of the deputies selected for their offices, and these were approved by the court. The names of the new clerks have not yet been submitted to the court for approval.

The groceries needed by the County will be furnished by the Coquille Mercantile company at their bid.

Prices for wood contracted for vary from \$8 to \$4 a cord.

The court expects to take up road matters tomorrow, and also the cases of widows' pensions and applications for allowances from the indigent fund. The work of the session will probably be completed so that the court can adjourn Saturday evening.

## Liljeqvist Still On the Job.

It must be rather disappointing to the Kinney tract people and the others who thought they would get a breathing spell in the litigation for the foreclosure of the tax liens now in progress to find former District Attorney Liljeqvist still on the job.

Owing to the fact that Judge Hall, the new county attorney, is in the same position as Judge Coke in respect to these suits—disqualified on account of being a party in interest—the county court last Saturday asked Mr. Liljeqvist to go on with them until he secured judgment, carrying them up to the Supreme Court should an appeal be taken, and he agreed to do so for a fee of \$250 and expenses in each of the four cases now in court. These include the tax summonses of 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911 and 1912, the last of which is running in this issue of the Sentinel.

Freed from the pressure of other official business, Mr. Liljeqvist says he will press these cases to a speedy issue. He has had these cases in hand, or a part of them, for the past four years and is thoroughly familiar with all their details. Indeed he made a trip to Seattle last spring to familiarize himself with the litigation in Washington along this line under a statute similar to ours.

## Good Roads People Approve

At the Franchise meeting of the county court last Saturday afternoon, Judge Watson read the resolutions adopted by the Coos County Good Roads Association in relation to the railroad right of way on the county road. The association quoted what the Sentinel said favoring a roadway 30 feet wide and other conditions as expressing its sentiments.

"Taking stock" has been the order of the day at most of the retail places of business in Coquille this week.

## DON'T PAY TAXES

### Attorneys Liljeqvist and Goss Tell What Is the Cause of the Delay.

During the discussion of the items of the Budget for 1917 at the meeting of the County court last Saturday morning complaint was made by the court that such large amounts due from large estates remained unpaid, that the receipts from taxes never equaled the estimates and so the amount of outstanding county warrants issued in anticipation of tax receipts continually increased.

George A. Stevenson, manager of the North Bend Mill and Lumber company, made a talk telling why that company had not paid its taxes for the past three years. He said conditions had been such that the business could not be kept going and pay the taxes on its property.

District Attorney Liljeqvist said that he had begun in 1913 to take steps to foreclose in the property in the county that was delinquent for the taxes of 1906, 1907, and 1908. A large amount of property between Marshfield and North Bend, known as the "Kinney Tract" was involved in this case and its owners were made parties defendant.

Owing to being an owner of some property involved in this case Judge Coke could not try it, and so first Judge Harris and later Judge Skipworth, of this district, had come in to try this case. Mr. Liljeqvist had demanded action in this case in 1913, in 1914, in 1915 and 1916, but it was still before the court. The county cannot foreclose except by action of the Circuit court, and every obstacle possible had been taken to forestall and delay such action. A receiver was appointed for the property to hinder action, attorneys for the parties defendant would appear in court and state that there was a deal on for the sale of the delinquent properties, and that in two months all the taxes due would be paid. Extensions of time were accordingly granted, only for them to reappear later with another story of the same sort. Then there would be some other excuse.

The district attorney had appealed in vain for action. Judge Skipworth said he would proceed with the tax cases—but did not order the sale of the property.

Finally in August, 1916, Judge Skipworth took up one case and in four days took all the testimony in the case. He ordered certified copies of the decrees to be made at once, and briefs filed in 30 days from the time the copies were made. The attorneys promised to have their certified copies out soon, but thirty days passed and then another thirty days and then another until on the 30th of December nothing had been done. No action had been taken on the district attorney's request for an order to compel the attorneys in the case to file their briefs. Public sentiment must demand that the courts give the county a fair deal.

Liljeqvist said he wanted to try the cases, that he was anxious to clean them up. The big taxpayer he said, uses every device to forestall action. The court ought not to favor these people. Heaven only knows when we will get a decision of that case tried last August. "The way it has been put over from year to year is a crime, an outrage and a violation of public rights," he added. The courts should give as much attention to Coos county's cases as to those of private citizens. The county cannot collect these back taxes except in the same way a mortgage is foreclosed. These cases have been in court two and a half years and there has been no progress.

Again today they are talking about having a deal on hand, and telling that the matter would soon be cleared up. It has got to a point here where the manifest outrage is so apparent that the court has got to pass upon it.

There should be a meeting of the taxpayers to demand action. There should be resolutions that we won't stand any more dillydallying.

The reason these attorneys for the defense are making every possible move to prevent a judgment being rendered in the Circuit court here is that they cannot make an appeal from its decision to the Supreme court without bringing into court the

(Continued on Thirteenth page.)

## The City's Tax Levy.

The tax levy in Coquille for the year, 1917, will be as follows:

	Mills
County and state.....	18.4
Port of Bandon.....	3.
City of Coquille.....	17.5
City school district.....	9.5

Total.....49.4  
This is five mills more than last year, the school tax being five mills greater and the other items the same.

## The Ferry Business of 1916.

The following is the report of Ferryman M. C. Tozer, of the traffic over the Coquille ferry here for the year 1916:

Automobiles.....	14,499
Footmen.....	38,664
Single teams.....	2,216
Double teams.....	6,840
Live stock.....	982

## COUNTY COURT SATURDAY

Only two bids were submitted for the construction of the pile approaches to the bridge across Hoffman slough, four miles above Myrtle Point. These were opened at the afternoon session of the County court and the contract was awarded to Edwin Ellingsen, of Coquille, whose bid was \$1,285.96. The other bid was by Hagqvist & Bjorqvist for \$1,680.

Three bids were opened for the completion of the Bandon south to the Curry county line road by the court. The bidders were Chris and Chas. Richert, Michael W. Payne and Hagqvist and Bjorqvist. As the bids were itemized and it could not be determined without considerable figuring which was the lowest, the matter was referred to the Roadmaster to report on at the February session of the court. Another reason for the postponement was on account of the injunction threatened by County Surveyor McCulloch against the construction of the road under the present plans, specifications and survey. His claims that the county has not yet secured title to all the right of way.

A discussion as to the character of the improvement of this road, with regard to bridges, was started when Chris Richert asked that the old bridges, which he said would last for 20 years yet, be left as they are, thus saving \$20,000 so that this amount could be laid for surfacing the road.

Geo. Laird took the position that concrete bridges were needed on this new road now and urged that they be made a part of the new construction work.

Judge Watson gave as his opinion that the application of gravel to the surface did not constitute a permanent improvement and therefore the proceeds from the sale of bonds could not be used for this purpose, as suggested by Mr. Richert. He said the location of this road had been left in the hands of the State Highway Commission and he did not think it the business of the County court to interfere with the commission's plans.

Action on the bids was then postponed until the February meeting of the court.

Bids for operating the Coquille ferry were numerous, there being seven bidders who submitted eight bids. John Hickam offered to take the job for \$120 per month; Chas. P. Offield for \$115; Logan Kay, \$135; M. C. Tozier, \$135; Joe Peart, \$115; J. W. McGuffin, \$110; Rock Robison, \$115. In addition to these bids Logan Kay offered to perform the work, bear all the expenses for new material and make all repairs for \$155 per month. At the evening session of the court this latter bid by Mr. Kay was accepted and he and Jack Tozier will operate the ferry the coming year.

## Half as Many at Infirmary.

Superintendent McLeod, of the County Infirmary, says that it has been usual to have a considerable accession to the inmates there about the first of the year, especially from the class that used to get sick from over indulgence in booze; so that there would be anywhere from thirty to forty people there. This year there has been no such accession, however, and the number there on the last Monday in 1916 was only 16. This reduction to 50 per cent of the customary population is, of course, to be credited to the dry law.

The Sentinel is very much gratified by the way in which subscribers are renewing now—with a fair sprinkling of new ones.

## VERY GOOD NEWS

### Both Our Lumber Mills To Run at Full Capacity This Year.

After standing idle for several years the mill of the old Coquille Lumber Co. is to be put in operation again. This is the fulfillment of a desire the people of this section have cherished for the past three years, and it marks a long step forward in the industrial improvement of Coquille and the surrounding country.

This announcement of the reopening of the mill was made to the Sentinel this morning by E. E. Johnson, who returned last night from a ten days' trip to San Francisco where he secured a lease on the lower mill from the Dollar people.

Since the rise in the price of lumber a year ago it had been hoped that the Dollar people would see their way clear to start the mill up, but the huge profits to be made in the export and shipping business have prevented any attention being given to logging operations.

When Mr. Johnson secured that large contract a few weeks ago from the Sitka Spruce company, of Portland, he immediately began making plans to operate the lower mill. His plan is to run the upper mill on fir and the lower mill on the spruce which the Portland firm is so anxious to secure at once.

It will require about 30 men to operate the lower mill, where G. McC. Johnson will be in charge. Chas. Schroeder will continue to be the foreman in charge of operations at the upper mill. The pay roll at the new mill will be practically the same as that of the old mill now, thus doubling the amount which is now being distributed by this single industry in Coquille and amounting to several thousand dollars a month.

The amount of lumber cut will likewise be doubled, Mr. Johnson figuring on a 2-million feet a month cut.

The old mill has been running steadily for the past month, a large part of the output going to the Southern Pacific, which has ordered nearly 2,000,000 feet, and which it is shipping to Brooklyn, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other points.

While the work of getting the mill ready to operate will begin at once, it will be the latter part of the present month before active operations begin there. Aasen Bros., who have 30 men at work in their camp on Beaver slough and expect to put more men on at once, will probably be ready to supply the mills here with logs by the 15th. Crane's camp will not get into the Boutin tract to cut for the local mills before March.

Mr. Johnson says that there will probably be a demand for more men than can be secured in Coquille at present, when the newly opened mill gets into operation, but from what he said it is understood that Coquille residents are to be given first chance at the new jobs.

While this resumption of operation has been taken into consideration in forecasting the reasons for improved financial ays in 1917, it is with a great deal of satisfaction that we can chronicle the actual closing of a deal which will have so great an influence in bringing about the promised prosperity. While it is a business proposition with Mr. Johnson, it also means better times for all, and the city is to be congratulated on its prospects.

## Short in His Recollection.

Mr. Thrift's books show that instead of Charles Short's five-acre lot in Ferndale paying only \$1.51 tax, it is paying \$21.25. It is Lot 5 and is assessed for \$625. At the Budget meeting last Saturday morning Commissioner Phillip quoted Mr. Short as saying that he had been offered \$5,000 for the property and was still paying the same little old \$1.51 taxes he did ten or twelve years ago, after buying the lot for \$250. Perhaps he was talking through his hat, too, when he claimed to have been offered \$1000 an acre for it.

The ferryman here reports the crossing of 14,499 autos last year. Putting the automobile season at 8 months, this indicates an average of 1812 per month, 60 per day and, at 15 hours per day, four for each hour, or one every 15 minutes between 7 in the morning and 10 at night, for the entire period.