

Independence Enterprise

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LET'S ANALYZE THE SITUATION.

Assuming that there is a sincerity of purpose on the part of those who are in favor of recalling Judge Robinson, wouldn't it be a far better course to analyze the situation than to plunge into it blindfolded, as appears to be the case at present.

So far as the Enterprise has been able to ascertain there is no personal criticism of the Judge. He is a good citizen and has always been one. Neglect of the highways is the paramount issue. Well and good. Then why is the burden placed solely upon the Judge's shoulders.

The county court, under whose direction all county road operations are handled, is composed of Judge Robinson and Commissioner Graves. Both Mr. Robinson and Mr. Graves must sanction all acts of the board. There has been no discord, and the only disagreement they have had was over the selection of the third member of the board to fill an unexpired term. They did not agree upon a candidate and consequently the board has been functioning without the third member. Then it naturally follows that if Mr. Robinson has been negligent in his official road work what about Mr. Graves?

All acts of the county court are of record. They reveal one unique feature: Polk county has no indebtedness—bonded or otherwise. That is a pretty good record as far as it goes and a closer scrutiny will show that there has been no extravagance—that there has been no money squandered. The affairs of the county have been handled in a businesslike manner.

This leaves only one avenue for censure: The county court has been too conservative. Let's see if this attitude is justified. Judge Robinson has been in office a little less than two years—years unparalleled in the history of this country for inflated prices, during which time a dollar was not worth to exceed four bits in purchasing power. Using what money was available the court endeavored to keep the roads in as good condition as possible and incidentally made preparations for a more extensive road program when conditions got back to normal. For months and without any blowing of trumpets the county court has been assembling a road outfit, one which will meet present requirements, and the hiring of a competent road builder has likewise been under consideration.

The only other course which the county court could have pursued would have been to shoulder upon Polk county a heavy burden of indebtedness, and during a time when gilded securities of eight percent were going abegging.

In simple justice to Judge Robinson these are matters for Polk county folk to seriously consider.

All will admit that Polk county roads—or many of them at least—need improving, still at the same time the average Polk county taxpayer is not in favor of reckless extravagance.

MEXICAN PRISONER FOR YEARS RETURNS HOME

Tacoma—The world war had been fought and won and he didn't know a thing about it. He was Mate Maguire, an American engineer and graduate of the Boston Institute of Technology, who for six years was a soldier of fortune in the rebel army of Mexico and for five years and eight months a prisoner at hard labor in the Mexican salt mines, during which he never saw light of day or a newspaper of any kind. Maguire reached Tacoma a few days ago after a thrilling escape from the mines in which he had been condemned to life imprisonment after his capture by the Mexican federals. He has just taken a position in the county engineer's office in Tacoma.

His story of soldiering as an officer in an American troop fighting for Madero and later under Villa his personal experiences during the years of Mexican disruption, his final capture and years of imprisonment in the Chihuahua salt mines and lastly his escape from the mine in the uniform he had taken from a drunken guard, and long journey on foot to the American border, are just a few of the features of Maguire's thrilling experiences.

Young and adventurous, Maguire joined a troop of Americans who were fighting under Madera. He became second in command of all the troops and was part of the time directly under Villa. He was truly a soldier of fortune.

But one day Maguire and two other officers went into Chihuahua because they had heard trouble was brewing there. They entered a cantina through a rear entrance. Here they found several of Huerta's officers carousing. They had nothing to do but surrender to them. They were gagged, tied and taken 65 miles on horseback to the headquarters of the American halfbreed, General Hill, serving under Huerta. Here at a general courtmartial they were sen-

tenced to life imprisonment in the salt mines of Chihuahua.

"It was worse than a death sentence to us," said Maguire. "We had heard about the conditions of the salt mines, where unbelievable conditions were existing, and the workers were being just tortured to death."

"We were dropped some 1500 feet in the ground in a bucket. We felt as though we were being buried alive and when at last I stepped into the mine with its few dim candles, the famous lines, 'All hope abandoned ye who enter here,' entered my mind. It was just pure and simple hell. Rats, gila monsters, scorpions, lizards, lice and every other imaginable underground creatures were in the surroundings. Food consisted of beans and pancakes, which to look at would turn an ordinary person's stomach."

"That we might get a little tobacco we sacrificed part of our meals. No medical aid of any sort was available and the death rate ran about one prisoner a day. Their bodies lay uncovered for weeks sometimes. In all the five and two-thirds years I was in there, I never saw as much as a newspaper or magazine. In fact I didn't know there was such a thing as the world war."

"But fate at last favored us. The guards, we noticed, were on a carousal that evening. When they came down the shaft we ended their careers with blows from huge stones. We donned their uniforms and made off. I went toward the American border, which was 130 miles, and the other two officers went down south."

"Well, now I am here, thank God. Ambition for adventure is wonderful, but adventure itself of this sort is far from entertaining."

Maguire is going to make a systematic search for his family, whom he left in 1906 to go to Peru on an expedition.

Deschutes irrigation projects gets President's O. K. for \$400,000. This approval of the department of the interior assures the project.

In The Churches

B. Y. P. U. Meetings.

Don't forget the B. Y. P. U. meets at 6:30 at the Baptist church. Rev. and Mrs. Proppe will be in Portland Sunday, so we will all meet at the Baptist church and go from there in a body to the Methodist church. Mr. Arthur Smith will chaperone.

M. E. Church.

A sacred concert will be given by the M. E. Choir next Sunday evening at the regular hour of worship, 7:30. All lovers of good music are most cordially invited.

The Rev. J. H. Ebert, Conference evangelist will begin a series of revival services on Sunday, Jan. 2, 1921.

Rev. F. S. Clemo will preach at Buena Vista next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

Interest in the Sunday school is still growing. You are invited to join us in service next Sunday.

The members of General Gibson Relief Corps No. 42 and families, the G. A. R. and families and all Civil War Veterans and families are invited to a big chicken dinner January 1, 1921, at 12 o'clock. After dinner the W. R. C. will hold a public installation of newly elected officers for the incoming year.

Press Correspondent.

Charles Clinton Barker, a former resident of Salem, died in Portland Dec. 16. Interment made in Salem where the deceased had resided for many years. Mr. Barker was a brother of William J. Barker of Airline, Oregon.

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Independence Garage

Independence, Oregon