

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1921.

\$2.00 THE YEAR.

BUDGET MEETING

The Only Question Discussed Is Whether to Retain the County Agents

With a county and state tax budget of about \$700,000 and district and city taxes enough confronting them to bring the total up to away over a million dollars, the only thing talked about at the meeting of the county court and taxpayers this morning was the question whether the county agents for whom no provision had been made in the tentative budget should be retained for the coming year at an expense of \$5,400.

There were about seventy-five people present at the meeting of whom it appeared, when a rising vote was taken, that sixty were in favor of retaining the agents and fifteen opposed. The Farm Bureau people numbering several hundreds in the county were all represented as in favor of retaining the agents; and all the commercial clubs except that of Bandon on the same side of the fence. In their resolutions the chambers of commerce at the bay pointed out that taxes need not be increased a dollar if a portion of the "Emergency fund" of \$1400 was used for the agents.

Judge Wade pointed out, however, that this fund was provided for unexpected contingencies, such, for instance, as the destruction of a \$10,000 bridge.

Most of the talk was in favor of the retention of the agents but some strong speeches were made against doing so.

The last talk before the noon adjournment was made by C. H. Waymire of Kentuck Slough, who suggested that the court take just one thing into consideration: simply whether the agent had been worth to the people more or less than they cost, just this and nothing more. And this is just what the Sentinel has thought should be the predominating factor in making the decision.

For an hour the discussion had taken a wide range, but that was the gist of the matter, and we believe the court will take that view of it in rendering their decision; but with perhaps some hours more of talk before it is decided we shall not indicate what we think they will do.

One of the speakers who opposed an appropriation for the agents said the question that must be decided was whether the Oregon Agricultural College should run the state or whether the people should do it.

Our friend, Hark Dunham, went to the agents, asserting that their wives knew how to cook very well before county agents were heard of, and he was in favor of reducing taxes. He thought mothers should teach their daughters to cook, as in the good old days.

Patient Waiting

John Aasen is a good stayer when it starts in to do anything. Monday morning he ran his car up in front of the pharmacist's Pharmacy to wait for Mrs. Aasen who had been attending Rebekah meeting upstairs. After waiting for two hours he went up to make inquiry as to when they would be through and was informed that the doctors had left before 8:30 and that the Odd Fellows had been up there since that time. John left muttering maledictions against Geo. H. H. H., although all the latter had done was to answer "yes" when asked him if "they" were still there. Whether John had to extend where he had been when he got home we are not informed.

To Run All Summer

The report that the E. E. Johnson here is to run two shifts is incorrect says Mr. Johnson this morning, but from present indications the mill will be kept running steadily this winter and summer. Most of the arrangements are being made over the dock at Coos Bay and thence north by water. The Lindauer on her trip north will take on half a ton of coal from the local mill, and Mr. Johnson also expects to load the Horseshoe over there. Early in February Mr. Johnson expects to furnish part of a cargo for shipment to Japan.

Richard Falgren, a Swede, was released from the county jail here yesterday in the custody of friends, who were going to send him back to Sweden. The doctors said he was not injured and that a return to his native land might restore him to normalcy.

Better Water Soon

In accordance with the recommendation of the state board of health, the city of Coquille has purchased a chlorination plant for the purification of its water supply from bacterial germs. It is promised that this plant shall be installed about the middle of January. While there is still some doubt as to whether recent cases of typhoid in this city have been due to impurities in the city water, it is recommended as a precautionary measure that all water used for drinking and domestic purposes be boiled.

V. L. Hamilton, Mayor.

Train Runs to Powers

Yesterday the afternoon mail train began running through to Powers for the first time in over a year. This will be a source of great gratification to the people of that flourishing town and put an end to the constant complaints caused by its removal. The train now reaches Powers at 4:45 p. m. and leaves there at 6:45 a. m. The time here is unchanged.

A GOOD MAN HAS GONE

At four o'clock yesterday afternoon J. A. Hatcher, the Fairview gardener, whose face has been as familiar on the streets of this city for many years past as that of almost any resident here, passed away very suddenly of heart disease. He had been a sufferer from that trouble for fourteen years, but it did not become serious until the past three weeks. During that time he has had several severe attacks, but was not laid up. Indeed, he was in town the day before his death, getting his car repaired, and seemed as well as ever.

Mr. Hatcher had worked hard all day yesterday sawing wood and had carried in one armful and gone back for a second when he was overtaken by another attack. He sat down to rest and his wife and daughter rushed to his aid. By that time he had fallen over and his wife picked him up and straightened him out. Although everything possible was done to restore him he passed away instantly.

James Andrew Hatcher was born near Council Bluffs, Iowa, January 28, 1862, and so was 59 years, 11 months and one day old at the time of his death. He came to Coos county with his parents in September, 1877, while it was still a wilderness here.

He was united in marriage to Alice Darnell Oct. 11, 1883, and they moved to Fairview, where they have ever since resided, Sept. 15, 1885. To this union there were born twelve children, four of whom have preceded him to the spirit land. Besides his wife he leaves eight children, six grandchildren, four brothers and two sisters to mourn their irreparable loss.

The children are, Mrs. E. W. Greeg, Mrs. Clinton Crouch and Mrs. C. C. Williams, all of Coquille; James Andrew Jr., of Gaylord; Vernie E. and Carl A. E., of Powers; and Lena L. and Ruby Jean, who are still at home.

The funeral services will be held at 1:30 p. m. tomorrow at the Fairview chapel and conducted by Rev. Thomas Barklow. The interment will be in Fairview cemetery.

Mr. Hatcher was an upright citizen, of strict integrity and high ideals, who always had a pleasant smile and a cheery greeting for everybody, and was ever ready to help any one in trouble. He was widely acquainted throughout the county, where he had lived from boyhood, and will be much missed by a host of friends. The Sentinel joins with those who knew him best in deep sympathy for the stricken family.

Howard State Head

At the meeting of the State Teachers association at Portland yesterday, Supt. C. A. Howard, of the Marshfield schools, who also held the same position here for several years, was elected its president—an honor he well deserved, and a position which he will efficiently and gracefully fill.

Coquille at North Bend

About twenty-five Odd Fellows went over to North Bend Wednesday night where the team of the Coquille Lodge exemplified the work of the first degree for North Bend's candidates. The hosts set a splendid banquet as a part of the evening's program and the visitors were royally entertained.

The Sentinel and the Oregon Farmer both for \$2.15 a year.

YOAKAM ANSWERS BEYERS

County Commissioner Discusses Criticism and Explains as to Character of His Ranch Land.

Green Point, Ore., Dec. 28.

Editor Sentinel:—In your issue of the 16th inst., Mr. Beyers, the county assessor, sees fit to rip me up. I will try and state the facts in this matter.

First of all, the matter of equal taxation came up while Archie Philip was still commissioner and it was agreed that if a third appraiser was put in the field the appraised value should stand. The book of records should be searched and all property be assessed that was assessable.

Second, I am well aware that there are two or more pieces of property that are taxed for more than they will rent for.

Third, I am sure Mr. Byers need not lose any sleep over my purchasers. They told me some months ago that they could meet all their obligations. I would suggest, that he take the needed rest and keep his eyes open during the day.

Fourth, the Budget Committee are fully able to look after themselves; but it seems almost a sin for a person to allow himself to think that men like Mr. Dement, Mr. Sengstacken or Mr. Kreitzer could offer any suggestions that would be of any value whatever to a man like Mr. Beyers. He seems able and willing to function when it comes to solving their problems and telling people what they should have for roads.

Fifth, as to roads, some years back, when the road bonds were to be voted the outlying districts were promised help, if the bond issue carried. They should have more than before. The money budgeted for roads, was money to connect these roads, some of which were built by special levy. As long as nine years ago, a wagon road to within about two miles of the Glasgow road from Schelter's landing, about one mile to connect Haynes Slough with the Glasgow-Hausler road, a bridge to connect the Larson Slough road and short pieces of road to Glasgow from Kentuck, and others where needed. These people have paid their share of the tax; have voted special taxes and have taken part in forming committees to build roads to other points of the county; but having no outlet, none of them have asked for a paved road, so far.

Sixth, Mr. Beyers asks pardon for referring to me. Again this is proper, because his statement is not true. These are the facts: I have never signed a tax statement that was not true to the best of my knowledge. The 440 acre farm lies on the Marshfield road and up to 1919 twelve acres was the amount of plow land, or land that had been plowed. In 1919, there was about six acres more broken and put in barley; and in 1920 we broke four acres more. During the summer and fall of 1920 we stumped and made ready for the plow about forty acres; a part of this new stumping was plowed this spring and the rest this fall. The hay land, except a small part, was never plowed and grows wild grass. Neither is it ready for the plow to day, as the land was not grubbed but the stumps cut off so a mowing machine would pass over.

If the surveyor found fifty acres of tillable land, he measured land that had never been plowed or seeded to tame grass.

Seventh, Now as to Mr. Beyers' personal assessment. I had been assessed by his deputy and given in \$2500.00 in cash; Mr. Beyers came into the County Court room and my assessment came up; he said it was a d—d, dirty shame to pay the tax on the money. I asked if the tax statement did not specify that it was a true and correct statement of all property real and personal; he stated it was, but he had a few thousand dollars down here and before he would give it in, he would send it to his sister in California. Later he asked me to come in to his office, where he would have a talk with me and fix up my assessment. When I went there, the subject of the cash came up, he asked, should he take it off. I said, it would not be a true statement if changed, and if Mr. Beyers got any acreage from me that day, he got twenty-two acres on that place, as tillable land, which was correct then and is now.

I have never tried to dodge any tax and have paid taxes for a good many

years. But if Mr. Beyers thinks I should sit quietly and say nothing, he is mistaken. If cash is assessable, why not be a man; why expect ranchers and home owners and other people to pay the running expenses of the county, build roads and educate his children for him.

When I read of Mr. Beyers' worry I was somewhat puzzled; but when I found it was after the survey and remembered the old saying, "Birds of a feather flock together," it was plain.

Now to come back to the 440 acre farm for \$40,000.00, which is more than I figured. We will take 120 acres of timber sold about 1919, and timber logged or being logged at \$40,000.00, which Mr. Bartlett stated was the price. This land lies across the valley from Coquille near the Campbell & Norton ranch. Compare its assessed valuation with ranch land, near and adjoining for the last eight years. From past experience I would say, it would be an exception to the rule or system, if any man took a piece of raw, waste land and tried to make it worth something to the county, if he did not get a touch of high life, even before he had time to put it in cultivation.

The Coos Bay Times is quoted as saying that the cedar industry has brought into Coos county a total of \$1,750,000 in money. That cedar is gone. The farming and dairy industry have brought into Coos county about \$750,000 this year. Compare the assessed valuation. At present prices one good cedar tree would bring as much as an average crop from an acre of tillable land.

Eighth, Now as to the North Bank road. If there is anything worth while, let us hear it. Mr. Beyers started this thing and I am perfectly willing to finish it. So far, the money spent is special tax, and I am one of the taxpayers, and am willing to continue until the road is finished.

Excuse me for disregarding your advice and giving in my personal property as well as real.

Ninth, a square deal for everybody is all I ask. And when we have a square deal, the taxes on ranches and homes will not amount to confiscation. The people want roads, as shown by their votes for bonds to build them; and I believe they have the right to get them. Mr. B.'s last statement sounds good but, like some of the land surveyed, will not stand digging into.

John Yoakam.

Smith Shipping Cattle

J. S. Stevens intends leaving tomorrow afternoon with three carloads of stock for the North Side Livestock Loan association, of Jerome, Idaho. A representative of the dairy-men of that section, R. B. Thorp, was here a month ago, arranging with J. L. Smith for the purchase of a lot of young dairy stuff—purebred bulls and heifers from tested cows—and the details and red tape necessary for the completion of the transactions have just been completed. All the stock was given, the T. B. and abortion tests and the money was received yesterday. The shipment of the stock has been delayed so long that Mr. Smith decided he could not accompany it and Mr. Stevens was placed in charge of the shipment. They had intended loading today and brought down a bunch of stock from above Myrtle Point last night, but the S. P. this morning notified them that cars would not be available until tomorrow.

Both Men and Women

Lists of names of men and women for jury duty are now being prepared by justices of the peace throughout the county, from which the jury for the February term of the Circuit Court will be drawn. In Marshfield Justice Joehnk is preparing a list of about 100 names, about half of whom will be women without small children, who will be able to serve without hardship.

The Great Nazimova in "BILLIONS," a French Comedy, full of the salt of Gallic wit, at the Liberty Monday and Tuesday. See the program on page three.

Sitka Reported Sold

A report was current on the street yesterday that the plant of the Coquille Lumber Mills, belonging to the Sitka Spruce Co., of Portland, had been sold to a company, which had the means to operate it and that it would soon be running on steady time.

In the absence of R. A. Wernich from the city, the Sentinel is unable to obtain confirmation of this report, but a long distance talk with Judge Coke this morning gave us the information that he had ordered the receiver to turn the plant over to its owners, the Sitka Spruce Co. by Jan. 15th. This may mean that a deal has been made for the plant and it may not. But the operation under the receiver will end in a couple of weeks. Anything that means the resumption of activities at the lower mill will be good news to Coquille.

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MRS. LAIRD PASSES

Another pioneer of Coquille passed to the great beyond at ten o'clock last night when Mrs. J. C. Laird died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fred Von Pegert, a mile out of town on the highway. She had been in failing health for a year, but up to the hour of her death seemed to be as well as she had for several months past. Her death was due to heart failure and the infirmities of old age. A short time before her passing she had a huskiness in her throat which seemed to indicate a cold but Dr. Richmond, who was called, said there was no other symptom. She had helped with the supper dishes, but soon after retiring her heart stopped beating and she passed peacefully away.

The funeral services will be held in the Christian church Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, the interment being in the Odd Fellows' cemetery.

Janie Norris was born in Ames, Ireland, September 23, 1844, being over 77 years of age at the time of her death. She came across the Atlantic to Canada in 1856, and from there to California in 1867.

August 29, 1872, she was united in marriage to John Calhoun Laird at Redding, California. To this union were born six children, all of whom are still living: Mrs. Geo. Schroeder, of Florence, Ore.; Jas. W. Laird, of Coquille; Mrs. Fred Von Pegert, of Coquille; Pinkston W. Laird, of Myrtle Point; Warren C. Laird, of Honolulu; and George L. Laird, of Langlois.

The family moved to Oregon in 1878, settling on the old Laird ranch across the river and three miles above Coquille.

Besides her children, there remains to mourn her loss her brother, Wm. Norris, who resides with J. W. Laird, and a great many of her husband's relatives who reside in this section. Her husband died about 18 years ago.

They Object to It

A remonstrance against the proposed assessment for the Ninth street improvement was filed by the property owners with the city recorder yesterday. With but a single exception the names are the same as those which appeared on the petition last summer asking that the improvement be made. The reason assigned was that the amount assessed was excessive and not in proportion to the benefits derived and that it should be reduced.

The city engineer's estimate of the total cost of the improvement was \$1173.22, including the 5 per cent for engineering, advertising and superintendence. The bid of the contractor, O. C. Harry was \$1118.77, and 5 per cent for engineering, etc., added to that figure makes \$1174.71, or \$1.49 for the entire job above the preliminary estimate. Inasmuch as the property owners petitioned to have the improvement made and did not object to the engineer's estimate, it is difficult to see on what grounds a request for reduction of assessment can logically be made.

Dance Tomorrow Night

The public is again reminded of the New Year's Dance to be given in Goulds' Hall tomorrow evening by the ladies of the Woman's Club. The music will be furnished by Hagdahl's orchestra and a special floor committee will endeavor to make every one feel at home. Admission for gentlemen, \$1.10.

FOR ROADS ONLY

Senator Hall's Talk Against Robbing the Roads For A Fair

The following is a verbatim report of a part of Senator Charles Hall's speech in the legislature last week in opposition to the proposal to finance one fair at Portland by increasing the gasoline tax:

For 20 years I have been a resident of the State of Oregon and I have many friends in Portland. What I am going to do this afternoon requires the greatest courage of anything I have ever done in my life. I am going to vote in accordance with my principles, my belief, and I am going to vote against my friends from Portland, and I am going to vote in the manner my constituents wish me to vote.

I have been a proponent of the road program. I am one of those who believe that the building of roads in the State of Oregon is the one and only thing we need in order that we might develop this state, and my friends know that I have been one of the men in the state who has at all times done everything I could to bring about the building of the roads.

A few years ago, it was thought there must be some manner in which the roads of this state could be built and the maintenance of these roads be taken care of. These gentlemen—the road men—figured out a plan of taxing gasoline. Then they had very little idea as to the revenue that would be produced. Subsequent events have developed that fact. They have developed the situation. They have shown how much it cost every gallon of gasoline will produce in one year in the State of Oregon. At the last session of the legislature the roads and highway committee, of which I have the honor to be chairman, recommended that it be put on gasoline. That was done. Now we discussed in that committee and ever since it has been in our minds that at the 1923 session of the legislature we would recommend another tax on gasoline. There is no reason why the road funds should be raided except that the trail has been blazed and it can be computed just how much will be produced by a cent tax on each gallon of gasoline.

I say positively that I know of many in Portland, who are just as big men as men who are boosting this fair, that have indicated to me in no uncertain terms that it would not hurt their feelings if there were no fair in Portland in 1925. By 1925, I say to you gentlemen of the Senate, that there are going to be a lot more holes in the pavements of the State of Oregon than there are now. We will be fortunate, indeed, if we will be able to get along with three cents for maintenance and not have to find other sources of revenue to assist in rebuilding, repairing and rehabilitating those highways.

It was my privilege and pleasure in September and October of this year to ride in my car over every paved road in the State of Oregon and a lot that are not paved. I say the condition of the paved roads is bad, precarious and alarming. We are going to need this \$3,000,000 appropriation by 1925; therefore, now, I am opposed to placing another cent on gas in order that there might then be an excuse for making a raid on the road fund, which is in the control of the Highway Commission.

Now relative to the men who constitute the Highway Commission. I call them friends. I am alarmed, I am surprised that these men of business experience, of integrity and honor, should aid and abet the raid on the rotad funds of this state.

The end of the rainbow for Southwestern Oregon is a road into that country. About two months ago I wished to get my car home and I paid \$60.00 to get it there from Eugene and it was cheap, for driving it in even during the summer would be much more expensive in wear and tear. However, we believe—we have reason to believe—that during the next few years we will have a road and we hope and also believe that we will have a gravel road into our section. But I will say to you, gentlemen of the Senate, if you want to spend three million dollars so that it will do the State of Oregon the greatest good, you provide roads that will enable the residents and tourists of California to enter the State of Oregon.

(Continued on eighth page.)