

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
 H. A. YOUNG and M. D. GRIMES
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BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

Approximately 2200 people paid two bits admission for the two evenings of Corn Show entertainment, and considering the better order it was possible to maintain and the high class of the entertainment each evening, practically everyone was more than willing to pay this small admission charge.

And looking into the future, the success of this year's Corn Show gives an idea of what can be accomplished by carrying out the same program for a few years to come. True, the present building is needing a new roof and should be sealed inside, plaster board would improve acoustics and comfort, but look a little farther ahead.

By accumulating \$500 a year, or \$800 or \$750, in a sinking fund it would not be many years until the city would be ready to begin thinking of a fine, large concrete auditorium, capable of seating two or three times the number which can now crowd in to the Community Building. In the basement of such a building could be located a gymnasium, and possibly a swimming tank.

Another idea to be considered would be a room of sufficient size, on the ground floor, to accommodate the Coquille Public Library.

The Sentinel is not suggesting that such a program could be carried out in the next year, nor the next five years, but is one worth planning for.

For seven or eight years the Corn Show was held in any room that happened to be vacant—on one rainy occasion it was held in a huge tent—and the accommodations are superior now to what they were when the Corn Show idea originated. But they are not yet what we would like them to be. In another ten years the Corn Show will be more than double its present size—and it is possible to have it properly housed by 1940.

The postoffice department is one which advocates early shopping and early mailing of Christmas packages. Better and more prompt service can be given if the usual week before Christmas deluge of parcels can be spread out over two or three weeks. It's all in the day's work with postal employes, but neither the patron nor his package is delayed if the mailing is attended to early.

The man who lives in a glass house should not throw stones. Frequent appearance in the criminal and civil courts indicates the most fragile kind of a glass domicile.

Next Thursday is Thanksgiving day, and Christmas is just around the corner. It will soon be too late to "do your Christmas shopping early."

R. A. Easton's Weekly Letter

There are folks who get a great deal of unmoral courage out of a landslide election. They seem to take it for granted that it is the result of a great reform thought and action, that a big majority is always the sign and symbol of victory and that victory is always the result of intelligent courage.

If that line of reasoning is correct, the cry of the mob, "Release us to us Barabbas" was inspired patriotism. And the results of that release a "landslide" victory. But nearly 2,000 years of time have pronounced that Victory hung on the cross that day while the victorious hawking of the mob were the ashes of defeat. All through the history of mankind a "landslide" victory has not always been a sign of success nor defeat the evidence of failure. Harding's election to the office of president was a "landslide" victory, but his administration was a disastrous failure.

Walter M. Pierce's election as governor of Oregon was the result of a landslide election. And as far as I can recall no man ever scattered fictitious promises with as liberal a mouth or left the state of Oregon in as deep a tax hole as Governor Pierce. Isaac Patterson was elected governor of Oregon by a "landslide" vote for the reason he was not a windjammer

or long on promises. His election to the office of governor is one of the few instances in Oregon where the "landslide" vote brought with it dependable and honorable fruits of victory—a victory for righteousness in state government.

As to the fruits Oregon will gather from our recent "landslide" election, we know not, but are hoping it will be something more than an advertising stunt and a selling agency for a department store or an attempt to insult and belittle the supreme court of Oregon. A news item in a Portland paper referring to Judge Coshow's defeat, stated, "This removes the only democrat from the supreme court bench. Coshow's defeat, it is generally understood, was due to his attitude in the Joseph disbarment proceedings."

If that statement in the Portland paper is correct, (think it was the Telegram), then the people of the state of Oregon may know this about Judge Coshow—he would rather be an honorable, practicing lawyer, known as a man who deals fairly with his clients than to sit on the supreme bench of the state of Oregon and have even thought of him that he dealt out justice in the spirit of the howlings and the yappings of the mob.

R. A. Easton.

News From State Capital

Speculation as to the possibility of a special session of the state legislature for the purpose of dealing with the state's muddled taxation problem was set at rest this week in a statement from Governor Norblad declaring that he "deems a special session unnecessary and therefore no call for one will be made."

This decision, the governor declares, comes after "a thorough consideration of the subject from all angles and in light of what I believe to be public opinion."

In a statement to the press two weeks ago the governor declared himself as of the opinion that the intangibles tax collected under the invalid 1929 act could be saved only by a special session. This opinion he reaffirms in his statement this week.

"However," he declares, "as I sense the opinion of the people, they are opposed to a special session and therefore the intangibles tax money should be immediately returned as one of the first acts of the next regular session of the legislature beginning in January."

A study of the entire tax situation, the governor declares, has convinced him that the state tax commission "can reduce the general property tax by a substantial amount for next year without the additional legislation and under existing laws."

"The recently enacted income tax," he points out, "can reasonably be successfully handled without the special session three reasons are given by the governor for his decision not to convene the legislature in extra session. They are, first, the question as to the membership legally constituting a special session; second, the danger of a referendum being invoked on any legislation passed by such a session, and third, the fact that the time of such a session would be too limited to permit of any careful thought and consideration being given to the problems which confront the state at this time."

Confirming a statement made by L. A. Liljeqvist, assistant attorney general, in a recent hearing before the State Reclamation Commission, L. H. Van Winkle, attorney general, in an opinion to Governor Norblad, holds that "all of the waters of Klamath river and all of its sources of supply not already appropriated" has been ceded by the state to the federal reclamation commission and that therefore there is no water available for appropriation under an application filed by the California-Oregon Power company involving seven power projects on the Klamath river. According to this opinion there can be no further power developments on the Klamath river without the specific consent of the reclamation service and Dr. Elwood Meade, commissioner of that bureau, has advised Attorney General Van Winkle that while the department has no desire to retard development and would be willing to release any water not needed for its purpose such release would be made only "upon adequate assurance and showing that the rights of the government and the project water users would be in no way prejudiced thereby."

George Bylander, Portland petition peddler, is to the fore again with another initiative measure, this time a proposed constitutional amendment by which he expects to make it more difficult to recall public officials. Among other changes Bylander proposes in the recall procedure is an increase in the requisite number of signatures to a recall petition from 25 per cent of the vote cast for supreme court justice to 25 per cent of the total registered vote.

C. L. Tallman, of Benton county,

was elected president of the Oregon association of county assessors at the annual meeting at Salem last week. J. P. Beyers, of Coos county, was elected vice president of the association and I. N. Center, of Lincoln county, secretary.

Approximately \$1,000,000 in federal funds have been released in Oregon through the medium of the national guard during the past two years, according to the biennial report of Major General Geo. A. White. The state, White points out, spends only one dollar in support of the guard for every five dollars spent by the federal government. This money is distributed in 21 counties in which guard units are located.

Two opinions of more than usual interest to the taxpayers of Oregon have come out of the office of Attorney General Van Winkle this week. In one of these the attorney general confirms unofficial statements previously made to the effect that legislative authority will be necessary before any refund of the intangibles taxes, collected under the invalid act of 1929, can be made. In the other opinion the attorney general holds the state income tax, just approved by vote of the people, does not apply to 1929 incomes, in spite of the fact that the act so reads, but becomes enforceable first in 1931 upon incomes of 1930. In this opinion the attorney general points out that when the legislative act of 1929 creating an income tax was attacked by the referendum the "act" became a legislative "bill" and did not go into effect until after its approval by the voters at the election November 4.

More than 73 pounds of coupons clipped from Oregon state highway and soldiers' bonus bonds were received by the treasury department this week from the Chase National Bank of New York City, fiscal agent for the state. The coupons, which were contained in nine bags and cost the state \$11.25 in express, represent approximately \$2,000,000 in cancelled bonds and interest payments and marks the peak of Oregon's program for the retirement of its huge bonded indebtedness.

While assessed valuations in the counties over the state will show a decrease of approximately \$4,000,000 this year, due largely to the slump in real estate values, utility valuations have been increased approximately \$10,000,000 according to a statement by the state tax commission. The approximately 900 public utility corporations in the state show a full valuation of approximately \$316,000,000, the statement shows.

Power utilities spent a total of \$54,259.25 in an attempt to defeat the People's Water and Power district bill in the recent campaign, according to reports filed with the secretary of state at Salem. The largest contributor to the fund was the Utility Taxpayers committee with \$29,087.16 while the Portland General Electric company spent \$18,133.35. Smaller expenditures are reported by other utilities.

"Oregon Trail" the Subject For Beckman History Prizes

The Oregon Historical Society has selected "The Oregon Trail" as the subject for the 1931 C. C. Beckman History Prizes and Medals. The prizes are four in number, viz, first, sixty dollars; second, fifty dollars; third, forty dollars; and fourth, thirty dollars; and will be awarded for the best four original essays on the subject written and submitted by girls or boys over fifteen years of age and under eighteen years of age, attending any public or private school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other educational institution within the state of Oregon. Each of the four prize winners will also receive a handsome bronze medal.

The conditions governing the competition are as follows:

- (1) The essay submitted in competition must not exceed two thousand words in length.
- (2) The essay may be in handwriting or in typewritten form, preferably upon paper of commercial letter size, either ruled or unruled, the several sheets being numbered consecutively and written on one side only, with blank space of about one and one-quarter inches at top and left-hand margin.
- (3) The essay shall be accompanied by a separate sheet containing the name and post office address of the writer, the date of his or her birth, and the name of the school attended.
- (4) There shall also be delivered with the essay a certificate signed by a teacher or instructor of the educational institution attended, stating that the writer of the essay is a pupil or student attending the same.
- (5) In order to be considered in competition the essay must be delivered, by mail or in person, to the Oregon Historical Society, Room C, Public Auditorium, 253 Market Street, Portland, Oregon, not later than

March 16, 1931.

(6) All essays submitted in competition will be numbered and submitted, without the names of the writers or other identifying marks, to three judges selected by the undersigned committee.

(7) All competitive essays will be judged according to their general merit and excellence; but the judges will also take into consideration, in passing thereon, neatness of manuscript, accurate orthography, correct grammar and composition, and purity and clarity of diction.

The Oregon State Library in Salem has a reading list or bibliography upon the above named subject which will be sent to any Oregon student on request.

News From Powers

Oiled roads for the Powers community! The voters with a vote of 287 to 48 approved the 10-mill tax Monday at the special road election held in Powers at the school gym. A good majority plainly shows that the people of this vicinity are anxious to make the saving that an oiled road means. When the road check was taken last summer, there was an average of 308 cars per day. The difference of operation of a car on an oiled road and on one that is not surfaced is about 2 1/2 cents per mile, making an average saving of \$185.00 per day to drivers of this road. Our next step will be to build the eight miles of road up Salmon Creek to Eckley, connecting us with one of the richest parts of Coos and Curry counties.

The mountains in the vicinity of Powers are covered with their first snowfall. Tuesday Camp 2 on Eden ridge was closed for the day.

Shorty Adams has gone to Eckley to file saws for the South Folk Logging Co.

A. B. Mortensen has bought the house next to the school gym from the Coos Bay Lumber Co. They will move in immediately.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Stewart have moved into the Burton house.

Mrs. Elmer Davis entertained the Thursday Bridge Club at her home last week. Three tables were in play during the afternoon. Mrs. Jack Griner received high score and Mrs. Ray Stewart low. Refreshments were served at the close of the afternoon.

Mrs. Bill Marsee gave a delightful afternoon of Bridge Saturday. Mrs. Ray Stewart received high score and Mrs. Harry McAdams low. Refreshments were served the following: Mesdames Geo. Gessler, Jim Sennott,

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The Oregon Farmer, one of the best agricultural papers in the northwest, can be secured in conjunction with The Sentinel for 25 cents. \$2.25 for the two for one year.

Eyes tested—glasses fitted. V. E. Wilson, Optometrist, Coquille, Ore.