

COUNTY BALANCE

Cook Shows Up \$200,000 to the Good in Her Latest Financial Statement.

The information contained in the county budget which we published last week, and which appears again in this issue, when studied and digested affords a very comprehensive survey of the financial condition of Coos county as a going concern.

The budget shows what the county court thinks it will be necessary to expend during the year 1918 in the business management of the county and in compliance with the laws of the state but this is by no means all.

The first items given relate to the courts of the county and the amounts required for them which altogether aggregate \$13,700. This covers the justice's courts, juvenile court, the county and circuit courts and the expenses of the district attorney's office in the enforcement of the criminal laws.

The sheriff's office, for which \$12,000 is appropriated, not only has to hunt criminals and the witnesses in both criminal and civil suits, but is also charged with the collection of three quarters of a million dollars each year in taxes, beside an almost endless amount of bookkeeping.

The clerk's office, on the other hand, is entirely an inside office job, but it is the one department of the county government that is self sustaining, receiving more in fees than its forces are paid for their services, though its estimated cost is \$8,500.

The treasurer's office is put down for the very modest amount of \$1,500 for salary and all expenses.

The assessor has a good deal of field work as well as office work to do and this year a revision of the entire county assessment is to be made by a board yet to be appointed, for whose expenses \$5,000 is provided, which with \$6,000 for the usual routine work makes a total of \$11,000 for that office.

Then comes a lot of smaller amounts, \$300 for the coroner, \$5,500 for the school superintendent, \$500 for the county health officer, \$1,500 for the county agriculturalist, \$1,000 for gifts or donations, and \$300 for auditing the year's accounts.

The item of \$10,000 for the court house, covers two janitors, a night watchman, fuels, lights and repairs—and the fuel bill for the two buildings amounts to quite a tidy sum.

The jail is down for \$2,000 which covers board of prisoners, medical attendance and necessary repairs.

Then comes a bunch of items amounting to \$25,200 which can be classed together as charities. The widows' pension fund is down for \$7,000 of this, the county infirmary for \$6,000 and outside relief to the sick and indigent \$10,000 more. No one can complain that Coos county is niggardly in caring for the poor and unfortunate.

Interest on outstanding warrants is estimated at \$15,000 for the year. This would be 6 per cent on an average of \$250,000 warrants for one year; but we have no occasion to worry about this, as considerably more is due in delinquent taxes which pay the county double that rate of interest.

We are to have a primary election in the spring and a city, county, state and congressional election in the fall and for the expense of these affairs \$8,000 is thought to be the probable figure.

Next follow a number of minor items, scalp bounty at \$600; sealing weights and measures so that nobody may be cheated, \$260; paying for tuberculous cattle killed to prevent further infection, \$2,000; mistakes made in paying too much taxes, double payments, etc., \$300.

For tax publications \$2,000 is provided; and \$300 for a third of the expenses of the Forestry department.

One of the biggest items is \$60,000, the estimated amount of the state tax, and it will be noted that this amounts to about \$3 for every man, woman and child in the county and \$1 for each \$300 of taxable property. Another thing that is to be remembered in this connection is that no matter how far short the county comes of collecting all the taxes, it has to put up the whole of the state's percentage just the same.

Extra taxes on account of the war are \$20,000 for the Marshfield army and \$10,000 for a war emergency fund. We come now to the road budget

Saturday a Patriotic Day.

Until noon tomorrow, December 15, is also the last date on which men of draft age may enlist as volunteers in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps. After that date, men subject to the draft will not be accepted as volunteers in the army and can enlist in the Navy or Marine Corps only in case their numbers come so far down that they will not be needed for the current draft quota.

December 15 is important for still another reason. It is the date on which all previous exemptions or discharges from military service under the draft are automatically revoked.

Every registered man, whether previously exempted or not, must answer one of the Questionnaires to be sent out, beginning on December 15. Whether he is granted a deferred classification will be based on the information in his Questionnaire.

Only seven days are allowed from the time the Questionnaire is mailed to answer and return it to the local board.

Any lawyer will assist a registered man, free of charge, in answering the questions in his Questionnaire.

The Coos Bay people are at their old tricks. These fine pajamas made by the Coquille Branch of the County Red Cross have been passed on as the product of the Marshfield chapter, where none have been made. And Marshfield is being complimented by the outside press on the excellence of these garments. And the Coquille ladies who made them are saying things.

PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS

Plans for the Community Christmas Tree are nearing completion. The committee having the work in charge met last night and while the program will not be ready for publication until next week, it is possible to outline the general idea.

The main celebration will be held Christmas eve, beginning with a band concert from 7:30 to 7:45 at the intersection of First and Taylor streets. This will be followed by ten minutes of music by the Community Chorus after which ten minutes will be allowed for the people to assemble in Masonic Hall where the program of recitations, readings and music will be given.

In the hall will be located a small decorated tree and bags of candy will be provided for every child in attendance. No other presents will be permitted. The Honor Guard has been called upon to decorate the tree and hall.

At the street intersection above mentioned will be stationed a large Christmas tree, brightly illumined with colored lights and decorated. This tree will stand for the week from Christmas to New Year's.

Much interest is being shown by those who will take part in the program and a very enjoyable entertainment is assured for Christmas eve.

Many Young Men Volunteer.

A large number of young men have left Coquille and vicinity this week for Portland to enlist in the army and navy.

Monday morning Carl Beck and Frank Lockhart, who have been conducting Fred Slagle's tailor shop went out. Wednesday morning there were 16 on the train leaving here at 6:12, from Bandon, Myrtle Point and Coquille. Those who secured their transportation through the local postoffice were Lee and Otha Ray, Harry Davis, Israel Johnson, Wilbur F. Aber, Delno G. Aber, and Chas. A. Goodrich. Mr. Leneve tells us that Mr. Johnson, who is a fine appearing man over 6 feet, desires to enlist in the cavalry and expressed as his dearest wish the desire to "meet up" with the kaiser some morning before breakfast.

Joe A. Carter and Robt. E. L. Abell went out yesterday morning for enlistment in the navy.

L. P. Mast was in from McKinley yesterday morning. He says great preparations are being made for a big Christmas entertainment at the hall there and that the tree for the occasion will be one of the finest. Although he has lived in the valley of the Middle Creek for many years Mr. Mast says he has never before seen as much plowing done and grain sown there before as there has been this fall. They are also plowing for spring crops and he will soon plow seven acres to plant with corn.

ARREST 2 I. W. W.

They Were Trying to Provoke at Powers and Loyal Loggers Gave Them Away.

G. F. Erdmann and Chas. A. Falls were arrested at Powers last Tuesday morning and examined before United States Commissioner E. A. Dodge at Myrtle Point Wednesday, on charge of disloyalty and I. W. W.ism. After they had been held in \$5,000 and \$2,500 bonds respectively, they were brought here and placed in jail that night and then taken on to Marshfield Wednesday, whence they were to be taken to Portland by U. S. Deputy Marshal Frank Berry.

These are said to be the same men who were here at the time of the Corn Show last month taking interior views of business houses.

These men are said to have started in at Powers by insisting on great secrecy and then urged the loggers to tear up the pledges and cards of the Loyal Legion. Then, they are alleged to have urged the loggers to send their membership dues and initiation fees to the I. W. W. at Spokane and to hide or destroy any I. W. W. literature or cards they may have. It was claimed that Erdmann, the principal talker, said that the government had sleuths all around, and would arrest any man caught with any I. W. W. cards or literature.

However, the men they were talking to were real patriots and, although listening attentively and in an apparently receptive mood, really were getting evidence against them. Monday they sent for Deputy Marshal Berry and Assistant U. S. Attorney McKnight, who went to Powers and took the pair in custody.

Erdmann and Falls deny their guilt, claiming that what they said was merely pretenses and false manifestations to gain the goodwill of the loggers so that they could sell them more pictures.

Attorney McKnight says that Erdmann while on the witness stand at Myrtle Point Wednesday admitted that he knew Wm. Haywood, head of the I. W. W., well. Erdmann was an evasive witness, but Mr. McKnight cross examined him for a couple of hours. McKnight finally forced him to admit that he knew Haywood at Boise several years ago when Haywood, Moyer and Pettibone were on trial for the murder of Gov. Steunenberg, of Idaho, during the Western Federation of Miners' troubles in that state.

Erdmann is also alleged to have been in Idaho, at Everett, and at other western points where the I. W. W. most recently pulled off their stunts.

Erdmann claims that he was four years old when his folks moved here from Germany and that his father was naturalized before he came of age.

Inspiring Sight at Sitka Mill.

It was an inspiring sight at the Sitka Spruce Co. office Wednesday afternoon when the 30 men employed there, from the bosses down to the most humble laborer, signed up and became members of the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen. So far as known every man on the payroll affixed his name to the honor roll.

Capt. W. A. Arnold, of the Signal Corps, stationed at Portland, was the army officer having the work in charge and he was assisted by Fred Wilson, of Marshfield.

As fast as the men signed, the captain fastened a badge of honor to their coats and presented them with a government card, similar to that issued by lodges, stating that they were members of the Loyal Legion. It took an hour or more for the ceremony and the men were all eager to thus show their patriotism in government service.

President Kerr Stays in Oregon.

So President Kerr, of O. A. C., has turned down that flattering Kansas offer of \$9000 a year and will remain in Oregon at a smaller stipend. Every Oregonian who has at heart the welfare of the state, the interests of our youth, the development of our agriculture and the maintenance of high educational ideals, will rejoice with us that he is not going to desert the coast.

A laugh is good for the soul. You'll laugh at "Just for Fun," Masonic Hall, Thursday night, Dec. 20.

Send the Sentinel to eastern friends

RED CROSS DRIVE

Committees Appointed to Secure the Members Needed in the Coquille Section.

A largely attended meeting was held at the city hall Wednesday evening to organize for the Red Cross membership drive next week.

J. E. Norton, who has been named local chairman by the county chairman, presided and appointed the following committees to take charge of the work next week:

Team No. 1—W. H. Lyons, captain; Mrs. W. H. Lyons, Mrs. J. S. Lawrence, Miss Vesta Boyrie and O. C. Sanford.

Team No. 2—H. A. Young, captain; Mrs. H. A. Young, Mrs. A. T. Morrison, Mrs. J. A. Jackson and J. W. Noble.

Team No. 3—J. S. Barton, captain; Mrs. J. S. Barton, Mrs. Wm. Candlin, Mrs. H. O. Anderson and J. S. Lawrence.

Team No. 4—C. W. Endicott, captain; Mrs. C. W. Endicott, Mrs. C. J. Fuhrman, Mrs. E. E. Johnson, Chas. Harlocker.

Team No. 5—J. A. Lamb, captain; Mrs. J. A. Lamb, Mrs. S. V. Epperson, Miss Clara Sherwood and F. G. Jennings.

Team No. 6—M. O. Hawkins, captain; Mrs. M. O. Hawkins, Mrs. J. E. Norton, Mrs. Aaron Wilson and Aaron Wilson.

Team No. 7—Chas. Baxter, captain; Mrs. Chas. Schroeder, Mrs. T. B. Currie, Mrs. J. A. Collier and Clarence Tuttle.

Team No. 8—P. G. Leslie, captain; Mrs. F. G. Leslie, Mrs. Fay Jones, Mrs. E. E. Fradrick and F. C. True.

Team No. 9—J. L. Smith, captain; Miss Ada Newell, Mrs. Henry Dorenz, Mrs. B. H. Burns and B. H. Burns.

Team No. 10—A. J. Sherwood, captain; Mrs. C. McC. Johnson, Mrs. Jas. Richmond, Mrs. E. H. Harnden and E. H. Harnden.

Rural Team—Leo J. Cary, captain; Mrs. L. P. Brannetter, Mrs. Roy Warrick, Jas. Watson and F. E. McKenna.

Rural Team—L. H. Hazard, captain; Mrs. C. A. Gage, Mrs. Geo. Robinson, Frank Burkholder and C. T. Skeels.

With Mr. Norton, L. J. Cary and L. H. Hazard will form the executive committee.

It is the object of this drive to secure as members of the National Red Cross every man, woman and child in the United States and it will mean hard work for the committees to see every one in their districts—especially outside the towns.

Every member is to be given a Red Cross button and every home, business house, office, etc., in which there are members will be presented with a service flag to be placed in the window.

On Christmas eve from 7:30 to 9:30 it is desired that a candle be placed immediately behind this flag bringing into prominence the Red Cross in every home in town.

Last evening the committees met at the city hall for further instruction and it promises well for the success of the drive when it is stated that about fifty were present.

The town was divided into ten districts and beginning next Monday a house to house canvas will be made for members.

Railroad a Money Saver.

The statement made by C. C. Carter, Myrtle Point stockman, that a hundred cars of cattle have been shipped from there in the past six months, recalls some estimates by W. T. Dement, former county commissioner and one of the biggest stock growers in Southwestern Oregon, at the time the first trainload of stock was shipped from Myrtle Point in September 1916. That train comprised sixteen cars and Mr. Dement estimated its value at nearly \$30,000.

Comparing rail shipments with the old way of driving to Roseburg on the hoof Mr. Dement estimated that the cattle shipped by rail netted ten per cent more than before cattle began to go out by rail, making an additional profit to the growers of about \$3,000 on that trainload.

On the same basis the 100 carloads shipped in the last half of 1917 would bring the growers about \$18,000 more than if they had no railroad to ship them over. Probably no one will question now that the railroad has greatly promoted the prosperity of Coos county.

Nice useful presents for boys and girls at the Ladies Bazaar.

Mayor's Proclamation.

Whereas the American Red Cross, through its President, Honorable Woodrow Wilson; its Chairman, Honorable William H. Taft; and the Chairman of its War Council, Honorable H. P. Davison, has called upon all loyal and patriotic citizens of the United States to affiliate with said organization by taking membership therein, and

Whereas the week of December 17-24 has been designated by the aforesaid as the time for membership affiliation, and

Whereas the State of Oregon has been assigned the quota of 240,000 members, being 30 per cent of the estimated population, and

Whereas to fulfill its quota it is necessary for every man and woman in Oregon to join the American Red Cross,

Therefore, I, E. E. Johnson, Mayor of Coquille, do hereby proclaim to all citizens of the City of Coquille that it is a patriotic duty incumbent upon each and all of them to affiliate with the American Red Cross during the aforesaid week of December 17-24, to the end that the City of Coquille and the State of Oregon may sustain our beloved nation and the American Red Cross to the full extent required. Every man and woman in Coquille must become a member of the American Red Cross to fulfill this patriotic obligation.

This proclamation by issued on December 13th, 1917.

E. E. Johnson, Mayor.
Attest: J. S. Lawrence, Recorder.

TO OPEN THE RIVER'S MOUTH

At the special meeting of the Port of Bandon yesterday the commissioners decided to get the bucket dredge which is over on Coos Bay to come over and dig a channel at the mouth of the Coquille river. For some time steamers coming into the river have had to follow a very tortuous course after getting inside the jetties on account of the deposit of gravel there. This deposit causes the water flange the jetties to be much more shallow than it is on the bar.

The plan is to cut a channel straight through the gravel bar in the hopes that freshets will aid in sluicing it clear.

The Geo. W. Moore mill, of Bandon, was closed yesterday owing to the crowded condition of the docks with no steamers able to get in and load, and every day the shoal exists it is costing the Coquille river dear.

There is strong hope that congressional action will be taken at this session which will result in the greatly needed work on bar and river channel being done. As a war measure, in facilitating the getting out of spruce, it should have recognition and strong pressure is being brought to bear with the engineers and others in positions of authority. Just what interests are opposing the project has not been brought to light.

Some Tax Figures.

The state tax levy for Coos county this year is \$62,236.70. This is \$3,684.60 more than last year when it was \$58,552.10.

The valuation of the property of Coos county this year after receiving the figures for the Public Utility corporations from the State Tax Commission is \$20,003,604. This is \$240,927 more than in 1916 when it was \$19,762,677. It is also \$1,106,066 less than in 1915 before the O. & C. lands were taken off the rolls. Then it was \$21,109,670.

While our valuation has increased less than two per cent in the past year, the state tax we pay has increased six per cent. That is the limit under the law or those fellows at Salem would probably have made it higher still.

Judge Coke Has the Case.

The case of Ella and Warren V. Ogren against the City of Coquille, involving the validity of the ordinance imposing a 10 per cent license on the stocks of transient traders is still in Judge Coke's hands. It was agreed by the city attorney that no attempt would be made to enforce the ordinance in this case until Judge Coke had had time to make a thorough investigation of the laws applicable to it, so no temporary injunction was granted. Mr. Stanley will argue the case for the city before Judge Coke in chambers.

Butter Wrappers and Trespass signs at the Benthall office.

SAUCE FOR GOOSE

Not Sauce for Gander When It Comes to the Kinney Tax Cases.

Last week three of the Bay papers agreed together as touching one thing The Coos Bay Harbor, the Marshfield Record and the Agitator all urged that Coos county should "throw off the interest and penalties due it on the Kinney taxes"—make the parties owning the first claims on those properties a present of that amount. These parties are the Title Guarantee Trust Co., of Portland, the holders of the Shehan mortgage, and F. B. Waite. These three security holders who come next to the tax liens, have respectively about \$90,000, \$30,000 and \$200,000 interest in these properties.

In arguing the injunction asked for by the Title Guarantee and Trust company against Coos county to forbid the sale of these lands at Portland last Monday Mr. Liljeqvist representing the county, made a point which probably few people have considered. The Trust company was, of course, one of the parties to the proposed settlement, if the county would remit all interest and penalties. But the Trust company, itself, has an original claim the courts have fixed at \$45,000. The interest accretions on this already make the total \$90,000; yet this company which asks the county to be nice and generous and free-hearted and throw off \$40,000 of its claim, has never once offered for the sake of the holders of the inferior claims to throw off the \$47,000 interest due it. Not on your tin type. Nor have either the holders of the second mortgage or the Waite interests suggested that they would put as much or more of interest claims into the pot and relinquish them in order to help the holders of other junior claims.

It is a case in which every other fellow proposes to keep all he has got and get all he can, but in which strong pressure is being brought to bear on the County court of Coos county to induce it to relinquish \$40,000 of the county's claim for the benefit of some capitalists, who do not propose to relinquish a copper of their claims in anybody's interest.

The people at large are always the goat in such cases and the men who act for them are always asked to do the generous thing without consulting their constituents to learn what their wishes are in the matter.

People who pay their own taxes in full without any squealing are not very much impressed by the requests made by big capitalists for special favors.

It is no doubt true, as the Bay papers referred to, assert, that the Kinney properties were held at prices far beyond their value and very likely assessed at the request of their owner for more than their value would warrant. This over-valuation was also with a view to unloading on credulous purchasers, as these papers assert.

It was a scheme to catch suckers, but one in which those who went out to shear are bound to come back shorn. Is that any reason why the laws should be set aside to let them down easy? We throw not.

But, we believe, that if everyone interested in the Kinney tract, all the way down the line to the estate of the original schemer, now in the Salem hospital for the insane, will forego its claim to interest on its investment in these lands the Sentinel will be glad to urge the court to be just as generous as the law will permit.

Simpson for Governor.

The people over at the Bay regardless of politics are making a long pull, a strong pull, altogether to induce Louis J. Simpson to consent to the use of his name as a candidate for governor at the republican primaries next May.

While the Sentinel has expressed a preference among the outside candidates for this position, should Mr. Simpson accede to the request of his Coos county neighbors, we should certainly feel like taking off our coat along with the rest and helping put him over. L. J. Simpson is one of the big men of the state and eminently capable of filling the office of Oregon's Chief Executive during these trying times and becoming one of the great war governors. The way in which he took hold of the first Red Cross drive and worked day and night for its success marks him as a man of decided executive ability.