

THE BEND BULLETIN.

VOL. XI.

**

BEND, OREGON, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 25, 1914.

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NO. 51.

THE EAST SIDE ROAD ROBBERY

Statistics Show Rank Injustice in Division of Road Funds, Wherein West Side Districts Receive No Recognition Despite Preponderance of Taxes and Votes---Table of Figures is Given

Criticism of the County Court for its Bear creek and Beaver creek road appropriations, described in The Bulletin last week, has continued in a growing chorus. By setting aside this large sum, amounting to about \$25,000, the County Court has practically put an end to other road work in the county for the rest of the year, inasmuch as the only money available for road purposes this year must come out of the general fund and this fund cannot stand any further drains for this purpose. In preceding years a special road tax has been levied and this with contributions from the general fund has paid for the road work throughout the county. With it each road district has been assured of having some work done because of the statutory provision that 50 per cent., at least, of this special fund be spent in the districts which paid it. This year, for the first time, no special road tax was levied and the fund does not exist, while the appropriation of \$25,000 from the general fund for this purpose means that little more can be available from it for other road work.

According to those who attended the levy meeting last December, the present aspect of affairs indicate that Judge Springer has put one over on the west side of the county, although this necessitated a slight straining of the law. According to these persons, however, a little thing of this nature is of no interest to the judge. His office is not being investigated. At this meeting, it will be remembered, Springer proposed that a special road tax be levied and out of it that the eastern part of the county be given \$60,000 for road work and the west side only \$15,000. This \$75,000 was to be raised by a special 7 mill levy, but when the proposal encountered vigorous objection not only was it abandoned but also, as suggested above, all special road tax for the year 1914. Now, it is pointed out, the judge sees it that an appropriation is made from the general fund for the benefit of the same people he was trying to favor in proposing the \$60,000 appropriation last December, and he does it without giving anything to the west side who were formerly to be given the top of a \$15,000 appropriation. Not only do they get nothing but they have no chance at anything unless the county court goes into debt in their behalf. Putting it another way, it seems clear that Springer is quite willing to do privately what he does not dare to do publically.

In the year 1912 the total amount used from the general fund for road purposes was \$21,646.48 and from the special road fund, \$13,942.78. This year there is no special road fund and already the general fund is called upon by this Beaver creek expenditure for \$25,000 or nearly \$25,500 more than it furnished all last year for all county road purposes.

It perhaps would not trouble the west side so much that the judge had played one on them in the fashion indicated above if it were not for the fact that they left the matter as they did last December in the belief that they were protected from any such double crossing by the

terms of the statute under which they had their meeting. This so-called budget law provided that it should be unlawful for any tax to be levied unless an estimate were first made fully itemizing the amount required for the improvement and maintenance of public highways, roads, streets and bridges, and providing for a hearing at which taxpayers might appear and discuss the proposed levy. After this hearing, according to the statute, the county court shall determine the amount of taxes to be levied and shall make a separate levy for each purpose. "No greater expenditure of public money shall be made for any specific purpose than the amount so estimated and 10 per cent. thereof."

Although no authoritative interpretation of this law has been made its provisions seem to be perfectly clear. All expenses must be provided for in the annual budget and where they are not so provided no expenditure can be made for that purpose. Certain general expenses, of course, are taken care of by the general fund but as the statute specifically provides that road expenses must be estimated and provided for separately it would seem that the general fund could not be called on for road expense. By taking the action that it has in this respect the court has apparently disregarded the spirit, if not the letter, of the budget law.

The answer that is made to this criticism of Judge Springer to the effect that he is only one member of the Court and could not put these appropriations through without the assistance of the two commissioners is a perfectly proper one. It is true that Commissioner Brown is an east sider and as such would be inclined to favor the appropriations. In doing so, however, he is simply ad-

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LUNCHEON ON SATURDAY

Commercial Club Plans Open Meeting to Discuss Needs.

What is expected to be the first of a series of meetings that will create renewed interest in the work of the Commercial Club will be held Saturday at a noon luncheon at the Bend Hotel. According to the plans of the officers of the club, these luncheons will be held every Saturday or every other Saturday and will be open to all business men and settlers from the surrounding country. A small charge, 35 cents, will be made to cover the cost of the meal, and there will be no other expense.

At the first luncheon important matters will be discussed relating to co-operative work for the benefit of the settlers in the nearby country. The talks will be short so that too much time will not be taken from the business of those who attend. It is hoped that all from the town and country who have the interest of the community at heart will attend. The luncheon will begin at 12 o'clock sharp.

NEW BUILDING NOW OCCUPIED

BANK AND PATTERSON MOVE

Quarters of Both are Thoroughly Modern and Attractive—Opening Celebrated by Bank Yesterday; Store's to Be Next Saturday.

With the removal of the Deschutes State Bank and Patterson's drug store this week into the building erected for them by the Deschutes Investment Co., Bend has two more most attractive places of business added to its already rapidly expanding list, and incidentally another of the town's substantial brick buildings is occupied for the first time.

The structure is not yet finished throughout, but other tenants will move in as rapidly as their quarters are completed.

Bank's Opening Yesterday.

The bank opened for business in its new quarters yesterday morning, and the first depositor was Bert Shney. During the day all the men who called received cigars and all the ladies carriages, and last evening there was a musical program by Forrest's orchestra.

Entrance to the bank is from Wall street. Just inside to the left is a private office for the cashier and beyond that the desk of the cashier where he is accessible to the public. Then comes the working quarters, with ample room and modern banking furniture. The fixtures are handsome golden oak.

The lobby is tiled, and large plate glass windows let in an abundance of light. There are two wall desks for the use of patrons. Two big shaded electric lamps furnish artificial light.

One of the special features of the banking quarters is the vault. It is 8 by 12 feet in dimensions, with 15-inch reinforced concrete walls. There is a half inch of air space and a lining of fire brick, making it thoroughly fireproof. The ceiling is of concrete 17 inches thick. There is a stairway from the banking room to the basement where is located the heating furnace.

Connected with the lobby is an office, facing on Oregon street, which has been rented by F. O. Minor, one of the bank officials.

A name plate on the outside directs the stranger to the bank, and the words "Deschutes State Bank" appear in the screen which shuts out the public view from the cashier's private office.

Patterson's is Handsome Store.

The Patterson Drug Co. is now moving into its quarters one door south of the bank and will have its formal opening Saturday. Without exception, this will be Bend's finest store and one that compares very favorably with any of the drug stores of the large cities. All the fittings and fixtures are of the latest design and the arrangement of the stock will make it a very attractive place.

The vestibule and the main floor are tiled, with the name "Patterson's" inlaid at the entrance. The fountain is located just inside, to the

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REPRESENTATIVE IN RACE AGAIN

FORBES ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY

Central Oregon Man's Able Record in Last Legislature Practically Assures Him of Republican Nomination to House This Year.

While up to the present, candidates for county offices have kept in the background, so far as announcements are concerned, state office seekers are beginning to get into the line light. But no announcement of candidacy will be of more interest to Central Oregon than that of Vernon A. Forbes, representative in the last legislature from this district, who has definitely announced that he will run for re-election.

After the brilliant record Mr. Forbes made last year, it is practically a foregone conclusion that he will receive the Republican nomination and be returned to Salem where he can accomplish more good for this territory.

"I intend to make no special effort to be returned to the House," said Mr. Forbes. "If the voters are satisfied and want me to work for them again, I want to go. Next year there will be many legislative matters of prime importance to this country, and with the experience I have had and the friends I have made, I believe I can accomplish more than a green man possibly could."

According to those who know, he is in a great measure responsible for the many plums which Central Oregon pulled from the legislative tree at the last session. In this connection, the Portland Oregonian once remarked that the people of this section "received a trifle more than full recognition * * * getting at the rate of \$80 per," while the people of the state as a whole received less than \$8 per."

Mr. Forbes is a member of the Cello project commission, the most important committee of its kind in the northwest.

What He Worked For.

In the work of the 1913 session of the legislature Mr. Forbes took a prominent part, particularly in the support of the county road bonding act, the anti-pistol bill, the demonstration farm, the compensation act, the widow's pension law, the act for the state industrial school for girls and the bill prohibiting granting liquor licenses outside of incorporated towns except to hotels accommodating 50 or more guests. He opposed a \$500,000 appropriation for the Panama-Pacific Exposition, supporting the amendment, cutting the sum to \$175,000.

When the road bonding measure was being considered there was a difference between the House and Senate over several provisions and the bill had to go to conference twice. Mr. Forbes was a member of the conference committee and was instrumental in securing the passage of the law as it stands on the books today. One of the provisions finally agreed upon was the County Court call bond elections but that it must

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MALICE BACK OF FARGICAL REPORT

"Expert's" Activity in County Investigation Branded as Political Move and the Accuracy and Worth of His Findings Questioned--Springer Seeks Vainly for Lawyer to Agree with Him

(This is a careful summary of the Court House row prepared by a Bulletin representative after thorough investigation.)

PRINEVILLE, Feb. 23.—Friction that has existed between G. Springer, county judge, and the other county officials, since the incumbency of his honor, came to a crisis at Prineville when the judge's expert, A. McEl. Ball, and Sheriff Frank Elkins, mixed over the custody of the delinquent tax rolls. A partial story of the affair appeared in The Bulletin last week. The incident itself was not so material, except as the culmination of a series of similar incidents that have occurred, not only between Springer and the sheriff, but between Springer and the county clerk, county assessor, county surveyor, county school superintendent and others.

The sheriff, as a matter of law and right, is undoubtedly the custodian of the tax rolls, except the new rolls which under the 1913 enactment are now turned over to the treasurer for collection instead of the sheriff. The sheriff is still made the collector of delinquent taxes, however. When he returned to his office and found the books in the possession of the expert, he immediately took steps to regain possession, asking janitor T. N. Balfour, former sheriff, to open the room where the rolls were concealed by the expert.

Expert Ball had taken from the sheriff's vaults all the rolls back to and including the 1907 roll and insisted that he needed them all to do his work properly. This precluded the sheriff from collecting any delinquent taxes until Ball saw fit to return the rolls to the sheriff. No titles could be cleared up and no one could pay any back taxes until Ball had finished, and furthermore the rolls were not protected from fire or alteration, either by the expert himself, or any other person who might be personally interested in the correctness or incorrectness of the rolls, as the sheriff pointed out.

The sheriff notified Ball that he

could have room in his office where he could work on the rolls un molested but that the rolls must be locked up in the vaults in his office every night, as he was bonded in a large sum to care for them and protect them. Finally, it was agreed that Ball should take one or two of the rolls at a time to an adjoining room and the expert is now checking up the rolls by this method.

Springer Gets In Game.

Judge Springer at once became very much excited when he learned of the sheriff's acts in retaking the tax rolls. He applied to Judge Bradshaw for a mandamus order to be sent down by parcel post to compel the rolls to be turned over to the expert. He also wired the governor asking him if he would not lend the military of the state in enforcing the order that was coming from Judge Bradshaw; and stating that the sheriff had "swiped" his own tax rolls. Both the judge and the governor refused to concur with Judge Springer's idea. Judge Bradshaw referred him to District Attorney Wirtz where he then applied for assistance.

District Attorney Wirtz inquired if it was the order of the entire court or of himself only that the suit was to be started. The judge replied that he had not yet consulted the commissioners, that it was no use to consult Commissioner Brown, and that Commissioner Brown would have to be reached by telephone. Wirtz then conversed with Brown but Brown refused to authorize the suit until he could be personally present and go over the situation.

The judge then decided to call a special session of the County Court for Monday, February 16. He immediately wrote many of his friends in the Haystack, Culver, Madras and Round Butte districts that a grand expose of graft in official circles would take place and when the day arrived the Circuit Court room in

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PRIZE TRIP TO FAIR

Preliminary Announcement of Rules is Made by Committee.

Rules to govern the competition for the prize trip to San Francisco in 1915, offered by the First National Bank to the pupils of the Bend public schools, have been prepared by the committee which is in charge of the contest. They will be printed in full in The Bulletin next week. To those who expect to enter the contest the following announcement is made at this time:

The amount of the prize has been set at \$150, or sufficient to pay the fare to and from San Francisco and give the winner of the trip ample time at the fair. The contest is open to all pupils enrolled in the Bend schools from January 19, 1914, to March 1, 1915. All who desire to enter must make written application to do so to some member of the committee prior to April 1, 1914, stating age at birthday nearest to March 1, 1914. The contest will be based on scholarship records and upon earning capacity and saving ability.

WEYERHAUSERS CRUISE

Representative With Eight Men at Work Near Bend.

There is a sudden and promising activity in local timber. William Helner, who, it is understood, is a representative of the Weyerhaeusers and comes from the Potlatch Lumber Co., Idaho's biggest manufacturer, has started out with a crew of eight men to cruise all the timber on the west side of the Deschutes below Spring river.

This body of pine that is being surveyed is practically all the property of the Deschutes Lumber Co.; that is, the Johnsons of San Francisco, for whom John E. Ryan of The Times is resident representative. While thus far nothing can be ascertained concerning the meaning of the move, it is reported on good authority that there is a good chance of manufacturing by the Weyerhaeusers should pending arrangements be consummated.

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The First National Bank OF BEND, BEND, OREGON

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Capital fully paid - - - \$25,000
Surplus - - - - - \$18,000

The new Currency Bill is now a law. Panics are a thing of the past.

Additional security and safety has been added to the banks of the U. S., and therefore to the people.

This is the greatest piece of constructive legislation passed in fifty years.

We cannot put its many provisions in writing for lack of space, but will be pleased to tell you personally of the many admirable features of this bill, which are for your further safety and welfare. Call and talk to us about it.

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