

THE BEND BULLETIN (Published Every Wednesday)

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An Independent newspaper standing for the square deal, clean business, clean politics and the best interests of Bend and Central Oregon.

One Year \$1.50 Six Months .75 Three Months .50

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23, 1916.

'THE OREGON SPORTSMAN.' The first issue for 1916 of the rejuvenated 'Oregon Sportsman,' the publication issued under the auspices of the State Fish and Game Commissioner, has just appeared.

Altogether the publication is most creditable and deserving of the attention and support of anglers and hunters throughout the state.

Even if the warden falls far short of that attainment, he will have the satisfaction of knowing that Oregon now boasts probably the most comprehensive and important official fish and game publication in the country.

WASHINGTON—A FARMER.

Eleven days ago we celebrated the anniversary of Lincoln's birth. He was the crowning example of the world's noblest 'common citizen.'

Washington, whose birthday was honored yesterday, was an aristocrat, a landed gentleman, to the manner born.

How many of the greatest men of all times have sprung from the farm, and regard farming as the most desirable of all callings?

'PAY AS YOU ENTER'

Editors are pretty good natured, which is one reason why so few are prosperous. The chief commodity they have to sell is advertising space, and too often that is secured gratis under one pretext or another.

So far as The Bulletin is concerned we find our political friends inclined to be fair minded and to realize that a newspaper is entitled to pay for its space.

'The Enterprise has received the announcement of one of the many candidates for Public Utilities Commissioner, with the request that he be published as a matter of news.'

This gentleman is asking to be elected to an office that pays a very considerable salary, and asks the newspapers to give him the necessary publicity free of charge.

'Fear God and take your part,' declares Roosevelt in his new book. We know the Colonel always does the latter, but it's hard to say what he fears.

FORBES AND SMITH.

The Crescent News says: 'Vernon A. Forbes, of Bend, has announced his candidacy for the republican nomination for representative in the state legislature at the primaries to be held May 19th.'

Which is altogether true. Mr. Forbes merits recognition and his district is entitled to the good work which Mr. Forbes can accomplish for it at the next legislature.

There were not half a dozen men in either the 1913 or the 1915 House of Representatives who made their presence felt as strongly as did the representative from this district. He and Wesley O. Smith of Klamath county won the reputation of being two of the ablest, most aggressive and hardest working members of the House.

The re-election of Vernon A. Forbes and Wesley O. Smith means able and experienced representation for this district.

AN IMPORTANT ISSUE.

In this issue The Bulletin publishes the statements of the Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer and State Engineer setting forth their views regarding the proposed constitutional amendment and subsequent legislation for state aid to irrigation, drainage and rural credits.

This is the first expression of the kind which has appeared, and we feel fortunate in the opportunity to give Bulletin readers this initial knowledge of what Oregon's leading officials think on this important subject.

No doubt the constitutional amendment and the proposed enactments will form the backbone of political debate during the coming state campaign. So in this connection it is especially worth while to know the views of those whom the people have elected to high office.

That there will be a hot fight on the question is assured. And that Mr. Kay intends to fight the proposed measures hard is likewise certain.

PLENTY OF PRECEDENTS.

'Germany did not permit her citizens to sell arms or munitions of war to Spain during the war with that nation' declares a great petition to Congress presented by the 'Organization of American Women for Strict Neutrality,' which would have exportation of munitions from this country to the Allies stopped.

Germany did supply Spain with arms and munitions. Andrew B. White was our Ambassador to Germany at the time of the Spanish-American war, and this he states positively: 'During the entire war vessels carried ammunition from German ports both to Spain and to the United States, and neither of the belligerents made any remonstrance.'

MONDAY'S ELECTION.

Twice in the past 10 months the people of Bend have had an opportunity to show what they would do on behalf of new industries in Bend, first when they raised over \$6,000 to buy land wanted by the saw mills, and second, when they voted what amounted to a guarantee to the Brooks-Seaton company that it would not have to pay city taxes.

On Monday they will be called on again to vote aid to an industry that proposes to center itself here, the Strahorn roads. All of Central Oregon looks forward to the building of the railroads. And each part looks to every other to see that Mr. Strahorn's requirements are met in each locality.

We are confident that Bend will do its part.

The other day in Portland members of the Ad Club were stumped at their luncheon when asked simple questions about Oregon resources, geography, scenery and such subjects. After all, few of us know nearly enough about our own state and our own country.

This continued bring back and forth of notes between Washington and Berlin comes pretty near being a scrap of paper.

Three hundred and sixty five 'clean up' days a year is an admirable civic motto.

Is the new hearse a sign of a growing town?

BAND BEGINS REHEARSALS.

The Bend Concert Band commenced its season last Thursday night with the first practice of the year. On Tuesday night there were eleven members of last year's organization out, and many more have signified their intention to enlist soon.

TENTATIVE DATES FIXED.

July 5 to July 10th are the dates tentatively fixed for the chautauque this summer, according to a letter received from the chautauque company this week.

For the best shave and hair cut in town go to the Log Cabin Barber Shop.—Adv.

OFFICIALS NOT ALL IN FAVOR

(Continued from Page 1.)

whether or not I am in favor of legislation that will permit the State to guarantee payment of drainage, irrigation and rural credits, I will say it will depend altogether upon the sort of measure submitted to the people, or proposed in the legislature, as the case may be.

It should be remembered that Oregon's credit is unimpaired; notwithstanding the State has been reckless in handling its school, swamp and tide lands, its credit is as good as that of any State in the Union.

The people of the State by initiative, at the November, 1912, election, amended the prohibition against debt in excess of \$50,000 so that it further read as follows: 'And the legislative assembly shall not lend the credit of the State nor in any manner create any debt or liabilities to build and maintain permanent roads which shall singly or in the aggregate with previous debts or liabilities incurred for that purpose exceed two per cent of the assessed valuation of all the property in the State; and every contract of indebtedness entered into or assumed by or on behalf of the State in violation of the provisions of this section shall be void and of no effect.'

The amendment was adopted by 59,432 votes cast for the amendment and 43,447 cast against the amendment.

'If the people of the state see fit to repeal or amend said section of the Constitution in order that a statute may be enacted placing the State of Oregon behind rural credits, drainage and irrigation bonds, I am favorable to an act if such statute is so framed that the same is safe and is based upon sound principles. Otherwise, if any bill or proposed measure is such that its chief tendency

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is to exploit the credit of the State to its ultimate injury, put me down against it.'

Mr. Kay Objects.

State Treasurer Kay goes into the subject in detail. He is opposed to state aid for irrigation and drainage. His statement follows complete, excepting minor portions:

'In answer to your request for an expression as to the proposed initiative bill to amend the Constitution, which will provide for the bonding of the State for irrigation, drainage and rural credits, not to exceed two per cent (which would mean \$18,000,000), have to say that I am opposed to the proposed measure for several reasons.

'The proposition to initiate this amendment first came from the Irrigation Congress which met in Portland in December, and, therefore, came from people particularly interested in reclaiming desert lands. A similar measure, which came from the same source, was put on the ballot two years ago, which provided for bonding the State for irrigation and road building; the latter being the more popular issue of the two, yet the amendment did not carry in a single county in the state, it being defeated 135,000 against 49,000 for.

'There is a popular demand for some system of rural credits and the people interested in irrigation have taken advantage of this, and propose to amend the Constitution, which will link together the bonding of the State for irrigation, drainage and rural credits, thinking the latter issues will carry the former one through.

'Now, in my opinion, there is absolutely no demand at this time for the state bonding itself for irrigation purposes, inasmuch as there are now on the market thousands of acres of reclaimed lands ready for settlement, for which there is absolutely no sale. (Here Mr. Kay lists in detail unsold lands under Oregon irrigation projects, including about 14,000 acres on the Tumalo—which he says are exceptionally desirable—7,000 open for sale on the Central Oregon and about 9,000 unsold or uncultivated on the Umatilla.)

'Now, this being the case, then what legitimate demand is there for bonding the State for reclaiming more.

'Some claim the reason these lands are not sold is because the terms are not liberal enough. The terms are ten per cent down and ten per cent paid each year for nine years with interest at six per cent, and these are what I would consider liberal terms. Again, some people maintain that these lands can be irrigated for \$15 per acre, which contention is not well founded, as none of the Carey Act projects have ever been reclaimed on the original estimates. The Columbia Southern Company originally figured it could reclaim and sell these lands, at a profit, for \$14.75 per acre, which was the amount charged for them. This company failed and the State reclaimed the lands, at a cost of nearly \$40 per acre; that being the State lien price for water. The cost of the Government project in Umatilla county is \$60 per acre and this project is favorably located. The value of the land when sold by speculators is added to the lien cost.

'I understand this proposition has received considerable encouragement from some large bankers, who stated that in case the state would guarantee the bonds they would sell like 'hot cakes.'

'I will venture the assertion that none of these bankers would invest a dollar in irrigation bonds, at any rate of interest, unless the State was back of them and if the state had

been back of the Carey Act projects in the past it would have had to pay both principal and interest, inasmuch as practically all of them have been failures.

'There are three acres of tillable land today in the State of Oregon for every acre in cultivation, not counting desert lands, so what demand is there for the State bonding itself and spending large sums to reclaim more lands, with all these tillable lands lying idle and thousands of acres of irrigated lands on the market?

'All subdivisions of the State, such as counties, cities and school districts, can bond themselves and many of them are now bonded to the limit. Therefore, to provide for state bonds would simply amount to re-bonding the same property and adding to the already excessive burden of taxation.

'The State of Oregon is one of the few states which has no bonded indebtedness. In case the Constitution is amended whereby we can bond for one purpose it will not be long until it is bonded for many other purposes.

'Section 20, Article 4 of the State Constitution provides that 'Every act shall embrace but one subject, and matters properly connected therewith, which subject shall be expressed in the title.'

'This Constitutional provision was intended to protect the public against combining several subjects in one bill, as is being done in this proposed amendment.

'Irrigation and drainage, being the two methods of reclaiming waste lands, could properly be included in one measure, but rural credits, having nothing in common with the other two subjects, should not be included in the same bill. It would be absolutely unfair to the farmer as well as to the general public, to combine them and compel people favorable to rural credits to vote for the other propositions.'

Lewis Approves. State Engineer Lewis issued the

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