

Rogue River Courier

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CUT 6 MILL ROAD LEVY OFF CITY

COMMISSIONERS HEED PROTEST OF TAXPAYERS

MUNICIPALITY IS EXEMPT

Citizens in Mass Meeting Discuss County Finances and Consider 1914 Budget

COMMISSIONERS MAKE REDUCTION OF LEVY

The county court, in session Thursday afternoon, granted the request of taxpayers for the elimination of the tax levy of six mills for road purposes within the municipality of Grants Pass. Argument upon the resolution adopted at the mass meeting Tuesday night was made by Attorney Clements, author of the resolution, and by Attorneys Norton and Miller. The attorneys showed by court decisions and opinions that the spreading of the tax over the city was not in accord with law, and the court made the reduction in the levy as it applies to the city.

As the result of a mass meeting of citizens held in the Commercial Club rooms Tuesday evening a resolution was adopted protesting to the county court and commissioners the spreading of a six-mill tax levy over the municipality of Grants Pass for road purposes. The meeting was presided over by Attorney Richard, and a discussion over tax matters in general preceded the adoption of the resolution.

The budget as published by the county clerk provided for the levying of this six-mill tax, but as the fund is used outside the city, the city maintaining its own streets and roads, the protest followed. In addressing the meeting Attorney Richard explained the matter of the proposed bond issue of \$225,000 for the building of permanent roads, and showed that the issuance of the bonds was the economical thing for the county to do. Formal endorsement of the bond issue was not given by the meeting, practically all of the taxpayers present signed the petition asking the county court to call the special election. In supporting the bond issue, Mr. Richard stated that a levy of a single mill annually would care for the interest upon the bonds, and that no levy would have to be made for the sinking fund for four years, and that then a single mill annually would provide for the retirement of the bonds. Without the bonds the continuing of the six-mill levy for road purposes might be necessary indefinitely, with no greater progress toward permanent highways than is now being made. The present system of road work and road building, as followed in the county, was branded as obsolete and ineffective by Mr. Richard, who believed the issuance of the bonds and the construction of roads under the contract system would produce better results.

Mr. Gilkey followed with a strong argument for reduction of the taxes, and said that under present methods the county and the city were not getting the value for the money expended. He said the machinery for getting action was too expensive, leaving too little for the actual building of roads and other developments. He cited the Hays Hill work as an example of a road costing too much and then being wrongly constructed. A result of the present system.

The county budget was read and discussed by items, and while there were many expressions of individual opinions, no recommendations were made by the meeting. The cost of maintenance of the county home and the care of the poor therein was es-

TO HOLD ROAD MEETING AT COURT HOUSE SATURDAY

A meeting will be held at the court house at ten o'clock Saturday morning, at which the question of the expenditure of the funds for the building of the roads in the county providing the bond issue is carried will be discussed. The petitions for the bond election will be presented to the court tomorrow, and it is necessary before the election that the plan for the road construction, and the places where the improvement will be made, be filed before the bonds are voted upon. All interested are requested to be at the Saturday meeting.

CHRISTMAS SHOOT BY SHOTGUN AND RIFLE MEN

It is said that all the rifle and wing shots of the state will be challenged by the local shots to meet at the Grants Pass range on December 21 to compete for cash and other prizes. No definite plans have yet been made for the arrangements of the shoot, but both rifle and shotgun clubs will meet as soon as possible and final arrangements will be made. It is being planned to have a shotgun shooting at flying targets, and also a range for rifle shooting. Grants Pass holds the record for secreting in its many surrounding valleys some of the best shots on the Pacific coast, and it is understood that several challenges have been made to meet the local boys. This will be one of the largest gatherings of sports that has ever met heretofore in the state.

MAN WITHOUT CLOTHES HAS DISAPPEARED

Somewhere in the chill of the December day a stranger in a strange land is wandering clad only in a coat and minus even the "happy smile." Early Thursday morning the stranger was found burrowed in the hay at the old Kerley livery stable. He said that he had been shown his sleeping apartment the night before by a citizen, and he had made his preparations for the night's rest by removing his clothing and donning the coat as a robe-de-chambre. Without waiting to explain further the man, without making his toilet, broke away and darted down South Sixth street toward the steel bridge, and at a late hour in the afternoon had not been seen again. His clothing was later found lying in the street outside the livery barn, the only papers in the garments that might identify the owner being a check drawn on a Portland bank in favor of Harry Anderson and endorsed over by Anderson. Following the strange disappearance of the man the officers were notified and a search made for him, but at last reports he had not been found. Nothing is known of him except that he had been seen around under the influence of liquor the day before, and it is supposed to be a case of delirium tremens.

SPECIAL TRAIN FROM MEDFORD WEDNESDAY

Rogue River sent a party of seven and Medford 32, including Judge Colvig, Mr. and Mrs. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Fiero, Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. Ruhl, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Randall, Mr. and Mrs. Egan, Mr. and Mrs. Graffia, and Messrs. Cramer, Rosenbaum, Edgell, Clark and Bingham, to witness "Within the Law" at the Grants Pass opera house last night. The party chartered a special train for the occasion, which arrived here at 8 o'clock and departed immediately after the performance at 11:20.

It was shown that it was costing the county at least a dollar a day for each inmate of the home, the average number of inmates being about 14, with an annual appropriation of \$5,000.

The committee appointed from the meeting prepared the resolution protesting the road tax levy within the city, and presented it to the county board. This committee was composed of Messrs. Williams, Moss, Hooper and Gilkey. The board has not yet taken action regarding the resolution.

M'KINSTRY ELECTED MAYOR OF GRANTS PASS BY MAJORITY OF 3

City Election Was Quiet, With Only About Half of the Voters Taking Trouble of Going to the Polls.

By the narrow majority of three votes, as shown by the unofficial count of the ballots, E. T. McKinstry was elected mayor of the city of Grants Pass over A. A. Porter at the election held Monday, the final count showing 538 for McKinstry to 535 for Porter. As had been anticipated, the vote cast was light, only 1073 out of a possible 2,000 or more going to the polls. Practically all of those who had registered in the three days in which registration was possible voted and numbers in each ward voted by signing blank "A," though at no time was there the "ginger" in the campaign that has marked the usual Grants Pass election. Geo. P. Jester was re-elected treasurer without opposition, as was Councilman W. P. Counts from ward 3, but for other vacancies on the council contests were waged. In the first ward, with two members to elect, the strife was warmest, and Councilman Caldwell was returned to his seat with a majority of 26 over his opponent, L. L. Jewell. For the short term P. B. Herman was elected over Councilman E. V. Smith with 21 votes to the good. In the second ward Councilman Barnes sprinted to victory with a majority of 122 over S. W. Phillips, and in the fourth Lee Sill defeated A. N. Parsons by a margin of 40 votes. The third ward was the first to complete its count, this giving a majority of 19 for Porter, and with the count about half complete in the other wards, and Porter seemingly well in the lead, the McKinstry people were about ready to concede defeat. McKinstry voters had been early to the polls, however, and by making a good finish in the count their favorite came under the wire a nose to the good, and the brass cannon was called out to assist the McKinstry partisans in celebration of the victory. The detailed vote in the four wards was as follows:

OFFICES	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Total	Mar.
For Mayor—						
E. T. McKinstry	179	165	73	121	538	3
A. A. Porter	156	151	92	136	535	
For Treasurer—						
Geo. P. Jester	293	276	142	217	928	928
Councilman, First Ward—						
G. M. Caldwell (2 year)	171					26
L. L. Jewell (2 year)	145					
P. B. Herman (1 year)	167					21
E. V. Smith (1 year)	146					
Councilman, Second Ward—						
A. S. Barnes (2 year)		218				122
S. W. Phillips (2 year)		96				
Councilman, Third Ward—						
W. P. Counts (2 year)			148			148
Councilman, Fourth Ward—						
Lee Sill (2 year)				146		40
A. N. Parsons (2 year)				106		

City Budget Calls For 7 Mill Levy

The budget covering the estimated expenses of the city of Grants Pass for the year 1914, as prepared by the finance committee of the council, was adopted last night, and on its recommendation a city tax levy of seven mills was ordered. This levy includes a 6 1/2-mill general tax and half mill special library tax. The budget contained the following items of expense, as estimated for the coming year:

Street Maintenance	
Upkeep of team	\$ 350.00
Driver of team	800.00
Two laborers	1,600.00
Street sweeper	800.00
Material for streets	800.00
Total	\$ 4,350.00
Fire Department	
Two men, auto fire truck	\$ 2,000.00
Maintenance fire dept.	200.00
Volunteer fire dept.	300.00
Total	\$ 2,500.00
Police Department	
Marshals	\$ 500.00
Police force	4,080.00
Total	\$ 4,580.00
Light and Water	
Lights	\$ 5,000.00
Water	2,300.00
Total	\$ 7,300.00
Other Expense	
City Attorney	\$ 900.00
Auditor's office	2,300.00
Parks	1,500.00
City Treasurer	240.00
City Engineer	1,000.00
Sewer expense	400.00
Bond interest	5,280.00
Total	\$11,520.00
Total estimated expense	\$30,350.00

Council Accepts Bid For \$200,000 Bond Issue

The city council at its session last night accepted the bid of Keeler Brothers of Denver, Col., bond buyers, for the \$200,000 issue of bonds voted by the people at the recent special bonding election, the rate quoted in the bid being a premium of one per cent, with accrued interest. The bid is contingent upon the approval of the legality of the issue by the attorneys employed by the buyers, and payment of the first \$50,000 is to be made upon the issuance of the final approving opinion of the attorneys, with further payments of \$40,000 every 30 days till the entire issue is taken up. The definite terms of the bid made by the Keelers are to pay \$1,010 for each \$1,000 bond, and \$505 for each of the \$500 bonds, together with accrued interest.

F. W. Keeler, representing his firm, has been in the city in meeting with the public utilities commission during the day, and the commission had given its approval to the conditions of the offer, and had made written recommendation to the council that the bid be accepted. The recommendation was signed by Messrs. Williams, Moss, Gilkey and Counts, of the commission, the other members not being present at the meeting. The bonds carry six per cent. interest, and are to be issued in denominations, dates, etc., as the attorneys of the buyers may prescribe.

In discussing the purchase with The Courier, Mr. Keeler said that he anticipated no delay in the approval of the bonds by the attorneys, the necessary steps for prompt action having been taken, and that he thought a week's time would suffice in which to prepare for the initial payment to the city upon the issue.

HOME TALENT WAS PLEASING IN COMEDY

A large sized audience at the opera house last night vented its approval of the three-act comedy, "Lost, a Chaperon," given by local players directed by Mrs. Earl Ingels, under the auspices of the Ladies' Auxiliary. Every player made the most out of his—or her—role, and each of the local thespians was satisfactorily cast. The comedy was first produced at Tufts college some three years ago and is particularly suited to the abilities of those academically just crossing the threshold of young womanhood or young manhood.

The Misses Mildred Churchill, Clara Wolke and Helen Hair appeared in eccentric parts that denied their physical charms but that displayed their uncommon histrionic powers; Mrs. Merle Caldwell-Dyer and the Misses Mina Hill, Lydia White, Beulah Williams and Della Jewell—the latter reminiscent of the Anna Held of 20 years ago—were capable, charming, even beautiful to behold, while the boys—Russell Drake, Neil Allen, G. V. McCracken, Vernon Basler, Arthur Schilling and Roy Dunlap—left nothing wanting in a cast of amateur players of which the city should be proud.

McCracken, especially, made a big hit in a skit between acts in which he "did" a monocled Briton, and later sang with effect a fine ballad, the audience howling for more.

There is a probability that the play will be given again on an early date, to satisfy many requests.

BOYS MADE TO PAY FOR BREAKING WINDOWS

Complaint was made to the county attorney's office of three boys from the Jerome Prairie district who had broken the windows out of a vacant building. Following the filing of the complaint the boys came to the attorney and made settlement of the claim against them and proceedings will likely be quashed.

The breaking out of windows from vacant buildings has become almost a mania with many lads, and it is promised that the next bunch caught will be dealt with in a sterner manner.

STATE GAME WARDENS ARE OUT OF THEIR JOBS

Salem, Dec. 3.—When Governor West accepted the resignations of four members of the state fish and game commission Monday it had the effect of entirely wiping out the complete organizations of the fish and game departments in this state.

The governor today notified State Game Warden Finley and Master Fish Warden Clanton that their department no longer existed. All game and fish wardens throughout the state, all employes at the fish hatcheries and others employed by the departments are out of jobs.

The only member of the state fish and game commission left is M. J. Kinney, over whom the trouble which has disrupted the departments arose. Kinney refuses to resign and is resisting the governor's efforts to dislodge him. The four members of the commission, C. F. Stone, Klamath Falls; J. F. Hughes, Salem; B. E. Duncan, Hood River, and George H. Kelly of Portland, who resigned, said they did so because Kinney was constantly causing trouble in the commission and they refused to longer serve with him.

Governor West announced today that he would not appoint another committee until he was assured it would operate harmoniously.

PETITION FOR NEW ROAD ON SUCKER CREEK

A petition for a new road in the Sucker creek district was filed with the county clerk Thursday by Attorney O. S. Blanchard, who appeared for the petitioners. The new road desired is to run from Holland, on the south side of Sucker creek, connecting with the present road at the Robinson place. It is said that the proposed new road will be over practically level ground, and will eliminate the bad road on the north side of the creek. It will also become part of the highway to the caves from the Sucker creek side, and will make the ascent to the caverns much easier.

PROTEST MADE TO CONCRETE BRIDGE

FARMERS OPPOSE NEW TYPE OVER WILLIAMS CREEK

SAY HIGH WATER A DANGER

County Commissioners Receive Alternative Bids for Steel and Concrete Structure

Judging from the protest that came before the county commissioners at their session Wednesday afternoon the people of the Williams creek district do not take kindly to the idea of a bridge built of concrete over the creek at Provolt. The protest filed was largely signed by the farmers of Williams and Applegate valleys. Objection was made because the creek has occasional periods of excessively high water, when all the clearance possible is demanded of the bridge, and the protest states that the building of a pier in the stream, as would be necessary with a concrete bridge, would make an obstruction that would endanger the bridge and that it might be washed out. It is also stated in the protest that the drift that comes down the creek during the spring and winter freshets would lodge behind the piers, and that the channel of the stream might be changed, to the great damage of private property. The court has not yet taken action upon the protest or upon the character of the bridge to be built.

At the November meeting of the board bids were received for the construction of this bridge from steel and wood, the lowest bid being that of R. S. Dahlberg, who agreed to put in the structure for \$2,485. The attention of the board being called to the desirability of concrete, the acceptance of the bids was laid over till the December meeting, and alternative bids for a concrete structure were asked. These bids were opened Wednesday, Albert Anderson agreeing to build the concrete bridge according to specifications for \$3,650, or \$1,165 more than the cost of the steel bridge. H. E. Newell of Portland offered to build the bridge for \$5,046 for completion by June 1, or \$5,546 if it must be completed by April 1.

C STREET IMPROVED BY ENTERPRISING CITIZENS

A few enterprising citizens of ward one, including C. D. Welter, Elmer Dunbar, R. W. Clarke, S. W. Fisher, Dr. Stricker, A. Conklin, A. C. Hough, and H. L. Truax have improved C street, the main outlet of the Pacific Highway from Sixth street, by putting in \$100 worth of granite and work, and putting the granite where it would do the most good, as well as ditching for drainage.

Four blocks have been improved, and with more granite and a little road rolling, promised by the city, it will put the street in shape so that tourists going through will not say that the worst road traveled in Josephine county was in the center of Grants Pass.

MEXICAN CONGRESS MAY ANNUL RECENT ELECTION

Mexico City, Dec. 4.—It was believed today that congress would take up this afternoon the matter of annulling the recent election. Some thought it would also ratify a concession to a Belgian company to build 5,000 miles of Mexican railroads.

CLAIM FOR TRANSPORTATION OF VETERANS APPROVED

Salem, Dec. 4.—Governor West today approved a deficiency claim against the state for \$3,552.70, incurred by sending veterans of the civil war to the Gettysburg reunion last July.