

The Athena Press
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Six and Eight Pages Every Friday.
F. B. BOYD, PUBLISHER.

Application for entrance as 2nd class matter made on July 25, 1907 at the postoffice at Athena, Oregon Under an Act of Congress of March 3, 1879

Subscription Rates: \$2.00 per year, in advance. Single copies in wrappers, 5c.

ATHENA, ORE., OCT. 14, 1910

In the selection of a postmaster, sentiment should not enter into the appointment. Capability alone should be considered. Further than this, the Press has no interest in the matter. With this paper the appointment is considered purely in a business light, for the reason that it sends through the local postoffice approximately 350 pieces of mail matter each week of the year, in addition to letter correspondence. The proper thing to do is for the business interests of the town and the patrons of the office to settle on some one person, well qualified for the position, and unite in securing the appointment.

The labor party in Australia has proposed and will undoubtedly pass a graduated land tax law. This is for the revenues of the entire commonwealth of Australia, corresponding to a general government tax in the United States. It begins with a tax of four mills on all land values, exclusive of improvement values, over \$35,000 and graduated to 24 mills on all over \$400,000. This is not to be confused with the straight land value taxation in the levying of local taxes by the cities of New South Wales, which local levy sometimes runs to 24 mills on the dollar. The commonwealth land bill is complicated and confusing but a step in the right direction.

In Joe Saylor the "East End" has put up a strong candidate for county commissioner. He has resided in different parts of the county and knows the need of the various sections better than any man of our acquaintance. He is a thorough business man is highly educated and is capable of administering the affairs of the county intelligently.

In addition to being the right man for the place, J. W. Maloney, candidate for county judge, pays as much taxes as the present incumbent, and a little more. He has the advantage of being a sagacious business man, the sort of man the office of county judge requires to be of service to the taxpayers of the county.

For sheriff, the voters of Umatilla county never voted for a man better qualified for the office than "Till" Taylor. His efficiency makes it a pleasure to vote for him, and all, irrespective of party, are pleased at the opportunity of again casting their ballots for him.

Dr. Smith will again make an active campaign. As state senator he stands high in the records of his party and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his constituents. He is needed in the legislature, hence his re-election is assured.

The fact that San Francisco has planned to raise \$17,500,000 for the exposition makes one gasp in astonishment and while he commends the spirit he doubts the wisdom of the risk. That doubt however has been shared by others and quickly disappears when the immeasurable resources of California and the comprehensiveness of the plans for the exposition are thoroughly understood. When a man mortgages his home or his business to buy an automobile for pleasure, thinking people comment on his lack of judgment. What, then, should be said of a state which mortgages the future to build an exposition? That is virtually what California has decided to do. The assembly has authorized two amendments to the state constitution, one permitting the raising of \$5,000,000 by special taxation to cover a term of years and the other permitting San Francisco to raise the same amount by a special bond issue. The citizens of San Francisco have already subscribed \$7,500,000 to secure the exposition. So the city's bid for the coveted event in 1915 reaches the commanding total of \$17,500,000.

Minnesota has the largest amount of permanent funds of any state in the union. At present the figures reach the enormous total of \$24,788,850.23. With immense resources in the Mesabi and Gynna iron ranges on state lands this amount will be augmented by many times its present size. It is estimated that all of the natural resources owned by the state, when converted into cash, will aggregate at least \$150,000,000. Others more optimistic in their views, believe that from \$250,000,000 to \$300,000,000 will be obtained. Minnesota is a fortunate state. Not only is it rich in natural wealth, but also rich in good citizenship, and its people believe in having the best of everything, especially the best to be had in educational advantages for the youth of the state, for which much of its wealth has been and is to be expended.

Deitz, the Wisconsin outlaw, so called, has many sympathizers because many feel kindly towards one fighting a losing battle. Yet it would have been better for him and his if he had allowed the law to take its course. The killing of his daughter, the wounding and jailing of his son were too high a price to pay for what he contends are his personal and property rights.

A farmers' campaign against weeds is just what is wanted and is the only movement that can result in any considerable benefit in the way of abating the weed nuisance. Newspapers may rant, business men and legislators may recommend and resolve, but it all goes for nothing so long as the farmers remain inactive.

In England four dukes hold 218,000 acres of land which 20,000 men have sought to rent in small holdings, but they are turned back to the cities. The dukes prefer sheep, horses and hogs to men.

Fifty-two workmen entombed in a Colorado mine are illustration of the perils that have to be faced by the toilers. The explosion that cut off their escape shook the earth for a distance of seven miles in all directions.

ABUSING THE INITIATIVE.

Initiative for Matters of General Interest.

"The initiative privilege is a valuable right and the people of Oregon are fortunate in the possession of the same. It is a right though that should be used with discretion. If the initiative is invoked indiscriminately it will be of injury rather than of benefit," says the Pendleton East Oregonian in its issue of July 19.

"By the nature of things the initiative should be used for the settlement of questions that are of general state interest and questions upon which the people at large are capable of judging. It was proper that the direct primary law be enacted under the initiative. The law could not have been enacted in any other way. Legislatures elected under the old convention system would never have passed the direct primary law. It was proper that the corrupt practices act be enacted under the initiative and referendum. That law pertains to political morality and the people were able to judge of the merits of the law. It is all right to settle the normal school problem under the initiative. The legislature has utterly failed to handle the question.

"But the most glaring abuse of the initiative is on the part of those who have proposed county division measures. Eight bills have been filed asking for the creation of new counties or for the changing of boundary lines. In each case the question involved is of a purely local nature; not of state interest. It will be impossible for the people of the state to judge of these measures with intelligence. All division disputes should have been held in abeyance pending the passage of a law calling for the settlement of such disputes by the people directly concerned. The county divisionists, however, have refused to wait. They have submitted their bills in hopes the people will vote blindly for them. They have abused the initiative privilege and they should be rebuked for doing so. Every county division bill should be voted down.

"Insist that the initiative be used only when it may be invoked with propriety."

County Division Increased Taxes 61.4 Per Cent. (East Oregonian.)

That county division means increased taxation for the secessionists is shown by the experience of E. A. Schiffler, the well-known local tailor, who owns some property in the city of Hood River. To the East Oregonian Mr. Schiffler has exhibited his tax receipts and they show that during the first year of the existence of Hood River county Mr. Schiffler's taxes increased 61.4 per cent. His 1908 taxes which were paid in Wasco county, amounted to \$85.50. His 1909 taxes, the first levied after the creation of Hood River county and which he paid on February 14, 1910, amounted to \$138. Therefore the creation of the new county cost Mr. Schiffler the sum of \$52.50 during the first year of Hood River county's existence.

"I have always said that it is foolish to divide counties," declared Mr. Schiffler. "It only means additional expense and increased taxation."

THE ONLY SOLUTION.

(East Oregonian, July 9.)
Voters of Oregon will be compelled to pass upon 32 legislative measures when they vote this fall. The number is entirely too large and many of the measures are of such a nature that voters simply cannot hope to judge intelligently as to their merits.

Conspicuous in this class are the eight county division bills that have been filed. Each of these measures pertains to an issue that is strictly local in character. The people of the state at large are not interested in county division disputes. The average voter cannot hope to judge of the merits of these division bills. From one side he will be showered with literature favorable to division; from another quarter he will be implored to vote against division. Often people residing in the proposed new counties do not want division to carry.

Now what is the poor voter to do in the view of the East Oregonian there is but one logical way to settle county division problems. All those problems should be held in abeyance until a law has been enacted leaving the settlement of such disputes to the people who are directly interested in them. It is pretty certain that such a law will be passed by the next legislature. Such a law was passed by the last legislature, but for some unknown reason was vetoed by Governor Charbelain following the close of the session.

MR. TAXPAYER.

Are not your taxes high enough? Can two county governments be supported as cheaply as one?

The cry of division comes from real estate speculators who hope to profit by having the county seat located so as to increase values. You will have to pay for it.

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