

Sherman County Journal

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FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1932.

LET THE PEOPLE RULE.

An initiative petition now being circulated for signers by members of the tax leagues of the state provides that there shall be a supervisory body of three men appointed by the governor in each county whose duty it will be to pass on the levy of each school board and municipal corporation and county court within that county. They will have the power to change the levy and the levying board—school district, city council or county court—will have the power of appeal to the state tax commission, another body appointed by the governor.

One of the principles upon which this government is founded is that the people are capable of ruling themselves. This bill, if it should become a law, will take one of the most important functions of self government partially out of the hands of the people and give it to a commission appointed by someone who is necessarily out of touch with local conditions. That is not self government.

The bill presupposes that it is possible for the governor to appoint three men with sufficient knowledge of conditions to pass with wisdom on the acts of the people. We consider this unlikely. It is true that the people have voted taxes to excess in some cases, but it has been because of the times that they have done so. Three men could not have stopped the voting of bonds for the Sherman highway. The people were unanimous for it. They demanded it. Three men could not have stopped the purchase of the hotel building in Moro.

It is undoubtedly true that mistakes are made in a democratic government where the people have the final voice in governmental affairs, but we of the United States have made rather notable progress under the system and should retain all of our rights under that system.

Multnomah county now has such a commission. Sherman county has none and Sherman county has reduced taxes to a greater extent than Multnomah or any other county in the state since the depression started. We do not need the aid of any outside agency to tell us when taxes are too high. The only way to make democratic government more effective is to increase the knowledge of the people about governmental affairs and to stimulate their interest in government. In no case should the duties of the common citizen be curtailed or given to appointive bodies as long as the said common citizen is capable of handling his own affairs. We contend that he is capable.

DESERTED.

There they hang the helmet and the gas mask, in the shed back of the house and the house has long since lost its inhabitants. One can imagine him as he made the decision to leave them behind. He stood in the door and, glancing around to see if he was leaving anything behind, his eye beheld that helmet covered with dust that had accentuated its roughness and beside it he saw the gas mask hanging on a nail as it used to hang about his neck. "Ah, to h— with 'em" he said, reverting to the speech that he used when wearing the relics, "I've been packing them around ten—twelve years already."

And there they hang. The strap of the helmet is stiff now from winter's rains and the drying winds of summer and not soft and pliable as when it was tucked under the chin of a sweating soldier. The inside padding that absorbed a part of the shock of singing bullets and whistling sharpnel is torn and ragged enough to attract the mothering instinct of some bird.

The gas mask has been crammed into its receptacle in a manner that was never authorized by any top sergeant and the rubber parts brittle with years. It may be that the flakes of mud clinging to it are Flanders mud accumulated there when the wearer was floundering around in some gas ridden shell hole.

There they are left behind while their owner forgets war and its souvenirs in the brilliant sunshine and cleaning winds of the wheat country.

Why doesn't someone inaugurate a sort of relief that will be permanent? There's a lot of land in this state that the unemployed could make a living on, a lot of deserted farms they could occupy. Any sort of relief that doesn't rehabilitate will not be lasting.

Here comes the longest day though in these days of electricity and other lighting equipment it doesn't make so much difference as it did in the days of the tallow dip.

This election may tell how many forgotten men forget to vote.
 After you, My Dear Gaston.

Grass Valley

CALL FOR BIDS

Bids for bus driver of the Rosebush district No. 32 will be received by the clerk of that district up to 12 o'clock noon, June 20th.

Hans Koepke, clerk.

Mrs. J. H. Schassen, for many years a resident of Sherman county, is very ill at her home in The Dalles. She suffered a stroke of paralysis.

Freddy Knecht, of Portland and Paul Muller, of Tygh Valley, were here last week.

Dr. and Mrs. Poley were in The Dalles Tuesday.

Election of officers of the Grass Valley Grain Growers was held last Monday resulting in the same men being put back into their position. Herman Schilling, Gus Engstrom, E. J. Baker and Luther Davis are the new directors and J. H. Wilson is the hold over member of the board.

Prices of meats at Olds butcher shop in Grass Valley have been drastically reduced lately. Look over these prices, buy, and get SOME good out of this depression, anyway. Beef Steak 16 to 20 cents per pound. Beef Roast 16c, Beef Boil, 10c to 12c; Hamburger 15c, Sausage 10. Pork Roast 15c to 20c, Pork Chops 15c to 20c; Veal Chops 20c, Veal Roasts 16c to 20c. Veal Steak 20c, Side Pork 10c, Spare Ribs 5c, Butter 23c to 25c, Bacon 18c.

Poster Stone addressed a meeting at the auditorium last Tuesday night.

Barbara Walpole returned from Corvallis last Friday. She has been attending O. A. C. there for the past school year.

Mat Simon and Henry Peters attended the meeting at The Dalles last Monday night in the interest of the Legion convention.

Lloyd Johnson and Walter Barnes were seen on the streets here Tuesday afternoon.

One Marion C. Burlingame of Gresham spoke here early in the week on

some of the ills of the country and means to correct them.

J. Arnold Sharp and wife are here for the summer from their home in Olympia, Washington.

Harry Justensen and family visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Justensen, over the last week end. They live in Milton.

Mrs. Leona Rooney, who is working in The Dalles, spent Monday with her parents here.

Sargent Grim, of the state police, was here for a short time Tuesday.

I. D. Lemley, brother of Charles Lemley, is here from Long Beach, California, to visit awhile with Charles and family.

Clyde Davis, son of Mrs. W. J. Davis has been transferred to this district by Marshall Wells Company and comes along every two weeks to sell hardware to the merchants.

The Baptist Ladies Aid will hold a picnic June 23rd at DeMoss Springs and all members are requested to come.

C. W. Fields was in Wasco Sunday visiting with relatives.

Alfred Koch has been very ill with the measles but having broken out is getting along better.

The spot of ground between the Pharmacy and the meat market has been used for community sports for several years. Originally the boys played marbles; when times were better it was golf and now the men and boys gather under the trees to engage in the good old game of horseshoes.

Miss Delpha Blaylock has returned to her work as student nurse in The Dalles hospital after a visit with her parents.

Zell's Funeral Home
 Announces New Feature

C. M. Zell, the proprietor of Zell's Funeral Home, in The Dalles has announced a plan which makes it possible for him to serve residents of this district who wish him to go to other

parts of the state to care for deceased relatives.

The plan was made possible by Mr. Zell's reduction in the price charged for long trips with his equipment. For instance the accustomed price for trips to Portland was \$35.00. This has now been lowered to meet the times and those who find it necessary for them to take charge of the funeral of some one in Portland can have all arrangements made by Mr. Zell and have the services conducted by him with less expense than is usually the case.

It is the intent of this funeral home to always conduct the services for deceased members of any family with the careful attention to detail that the occasion merits and to cooperate with members of the family or fraternal orders in any observances they desire.

A cow puncher taking in the Pendleton Round Up ordered a steak at a restaurant. The waiter brought it in rare—very rare. The cow puncher looked at it and demanded that it be returned to the kitchen and cooked.

"It is cooked," snapped the waiter. Cooked," snorted the puncher, "Say, I've seen cows hurt worse'n that and get well!"

There is no such thing as a good girl gone wrong. It's just a bad girl found out.

Tramp: "Kin I cut your grass for a meal mum?"

Lady of the house: "Yes, my poor man. But you needn't bother cutting it; you may eat it right off the ground."

A Scotchman had lost his wallet and had it returned to him by the

police three days later. He was asked to examine the contents to see if his money was all there.

"Aye, the money's there a'right, but mon, ye've it three days—what about the interest?"

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