

SECRETARY URGES BIG SHIP CANAL

Twice in a While

We believe in the eternal fitness of things. What could be more fit than for the Southern Pacific railroad to help finance the Agricultural Credit corporation, which must be formed with a \$50,000 capitalization in order to borrow about a quarter of a million of government money from the Refinance Corporation. The railroad must depend on the farmer and fruitgrower for much of its earnings from this territory and should be willing to aid them in producing the next year's crop.

Last Sunday evening we watched a young man gathering the day's crop of eggs. When he came out of the chicken house he was carrying a large milk pail full of beautiful white eggs, worth, at the present price, 80 cents. Think of it, you people who are howling about the times. What change has the poor poultryman to get a new car, or even a new pair of cotton gloves, with prices at such a level?

Speaking of prices, what has happened to the price of butterfat? We saw that same young man milk 15 cows, good Jersey cows, too. We inquired what he got monthly for his cream. The answer was, "about 58 to 60 dollars." No wonder the farmers are troubled as to how to raise the wherewithal to pay the exorbitant taxes of the day. Such prices hardly pay for the feed.

W. E. (Shorty) Morris was a caller at The American office yesterday. He says he is making his campaign for county commissioner squarely on his past record and that he expects to win.

Quite a number of candidates have appeared in our midst this week and to hear them talk you'd think all the old world needed was to elect them to share the fleshpots at the courthouse. We predict there will be a lot of disappointed ones after May 30.

We have been trying to induce as many candidates for county jobs as possible to promise to help one poor unfortunate. We want the county to appoint its official road "inspector." We just want the county to furnish us with a new car, equipped with the new "airwheel" tires, and an unlimited supply of gas, and just give us a roving commission to "inspect" as many roads in the hills as we please as many roads in the hills as we please as many roads in the hills as we please.

We are glad to note that the First National bank of Medford has taken in most of the old employees of the defunct Jackson county bank. This is as it should be.

We hear there is going to be a Candidates meeting in the Apple- gate hall Saturday. We hope it will be a warm evening, for it all the would-be sheriffs, commissioners, judges, etc., etc., turn out, that hall can't hold any audience and they all have to sit outside and listen through the open windows.

We wonder if the hard times and scarcity of good, easy jobs, has anything to do with the multitude of men who have "listened to the importunities of friends" to run for the best paying offices. We have a feeling some of these men's sole qualification for public office is an ability to spend the salary attached to the office they seek.

Be it far from us to impugn the purity of motives of any man. But will some one tell us why nearly a dozen men have come out for sheriff? Can it be that some have an idea that there must be something good in that office? Have the stories in the papers of the rich remuneration sometimes given certain police officers by the big bootlegging gangs anything to do with it? Well, your guess is as good as ours.

How many of our readers have ever driven out on "4-City View," the Old Pioneer road, west of the Old Stage road? If you haven't, you've missed something. The panorama (Continued on page four.)

Sweet Standing Firm on Meier Tax Program

L. M. Sweet, Sams Valley farmer and fruitgrower, prominent member of Sams Valley Grange and Jackson County Pomona grange, and Oregon State grange, Republican candidate for the office of county commissioner is busy these days calling on the people of the county in the interest of his candidacy. Mr. Sweet is running on a tax-reduction platform and urges the adoption, or rather the retention of the Governor Meier program. His platform is as follows:



- 1.—The Meier tax-revision and retrenchment program.
- 2.—Jackson County Pomona Grange demanded reforms.
- 3.—Salvage our homes and industries from the wrath of the tax-gatherer and insure security of permanent contentment, happiness and prosperity to our people.
- 4.—A square deal for every inch of Jackson county, without fear, favor or prejudice.
- 5.—A budget so simple every taxpayer can read and understand it.
- 6.—No political debts to pay—no favorites to reward.
- 7.—If elected, I'll not violate the confidence and trust imposed in me.

Mr. Sweet has had many years' experience which qualifies him for the Commissioner's job. He has lived for about 22 years in the Sams Valley district and has always taken an active interest in road matters, also in the question of taxation of real property. He has made an intensive study of the tax question and it is the opinion of The American that he is the proper man for the job.

Gaddis Files Candidacy Co. Judge

Pledged to a program of curtailment and strict economy in county business, E. C. Gaddis has filed as a candidate for the Republican nomination of county judge at the May primary.

Mr. Gaddis, a former mayor of Medford, has been identified with the business life of the city and county for 30 years, and enjoys a wide acquaintance. He has learned the general problems of the applesman, farmer and workingman, which combined with his knowledge of public affairs makes him feel amply qualified for the position in charge of the administration of county business.

Although Mr. Gaddis has served the public in many capacities during the past 15 years, he has never held a salaried office. As chairman of the finance committee of the city council of Medford, 1917 to 1922, inclusive, he participated in reorganizing and strengthening city finances, and later, as mayor, helped reorganize the city fire department and further improve the city's financial standing. He was a member of the water commission from 1925 to 1931, and it was during the early part of this period that the Big Butte Springs water system for Medford was constructed.

George Porter Files In Race For State Job

Medford, March 29—George Porter, city councilman and member of the city planning commission, filed last week for the Republican nomination for state representative from Jackson county. Porter is manager of the Porter Lumber company of this city and has been for years one of Medford's leading citizens.

Porter's decision to make the race comes after long urging by his friends and supporters here. The knowledge that Porter planned to run for the legislature, it is reported, has thrown a cold blanket on the political aspirations of several other candidates.

Martins Are Said To Be Recovering In Local Hospital

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Martin of Grants Pass, who received grave injuries in an automobile accident north of Central Point Tuesday afternoon, were reported as resting as well as could be expected yesterday. X-Ray pictures taken of Mrs. Martin's back showed a badly fractured vertebra which has caused paralysis of one leg.

Hole in Fence Near San Diego Plugged at Last

SAN DIEGO, Calif., March 31.—The United States has at last padlocked the world's smallest port of entry, the famous "hole in the fence" at the Tijuana border, 18 miles south of here.

Woman May Join in Race For Sheriff

Fillings for office in the May primary will close April 5, and prospective candidates have ten days more in which to make their declarations. A couple of more candidates for sheriff on the Republican ticket, and at least one more candidate for county judge are in the offing.

Stevens Dies While Fighting Flames At Neighbor's Dwelling

While fighting fire yesterday afternoon for a neighbor, whose woodshed and garage were destroyed by the flames, Ben Stevens, 52, of Rogue River, who was well known in this city, died of heart attack.

The Churches

CHRISTIAN CHURCH
D. E. Millard, Pastor
Bible School and morning worship, 10:00 o'clock.
Christian Endeavor, 7 o'clock.
Junior Choir, 4 o'clock, Thursday.

TAX RELIEF IN PROPERTY LEVY SHOWN

Salem, March 24—A 14.4 per cent. in property tax reduction in Oregon for all state, county and local purposes, amounting to \$7,243,429, was announced by the state tax commission Thursday for 1932. The reduction was declared by the commission to be the most substantial accomplishment of tax retrenchment in the history of Oregon and "it is believed no other state has made a better showing."

The property tax levied in Oregon for 1932 on the 1931 tax rolls amounts to \$42,979,176, the commission reported. The decrease of 14.4 per cent is for the state as a whole, but a wide difference in the results accomplished in the various counties was noted. In 13 counties the reduction exceeds 20 per cent; in nine it ranges from 15 to 20; in 10 counties the reduction was from 10 to 15 while in four it was less than 10 per cent. No counties reported increases.

RETRENCHMENT SEEN
Of the total saving in which the property owners will participate this year, the commission announced, \$4,592,626, or more than half, is accounted for by elimination of the state tax and \$2,659,801 is due to retrenchment in county and local districts.

Increases Shown
Three departments of tax consumption showed increases for 1932. They are county purposes, exclusive of schools and roads, \$525,912; fire patrol, \$35,018, and reforestation \$8626.

Columbia county showed the largest percentage saving, or 29.97 per cent, followed by Umatilla with 28.68 and Polk with 28.63.

Sheriff Ralph G. Jennings, incumbent, is opposed on the Democratic ticket by Gordon Schenckhorn. The chief interest has centered in the shrievalty race, no other office having so many applicants.

For the county judgeship, there are four candidates on the Republican ticket at present, as follows: C. B. Lamkin, Ashland, incumbent; A. H. Willetts, C. A. Thomas, Ashland and Earl H. Fehl, Medford, on the Democratic ticket, W. F. Phipps, lawyer, Medford, and J. P. Wortman, farmer, Phoenix, are the aspirants.

Three have filed for the county clerkship—Dellilah Stevens Meyers, incumbent, and George Carter, on the Republican ticket, and Vic H. Beckman as a Democrat.

Asks Action on Columbia Power Plan by Congress

War Department Head Tells Congress to Build Ship Channel from Vancouver to Mouth of Snake River.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 29 (Spec.)—Construction of a ship channel costing \$16,100,000 for improvement of navigation in the Columbia river from Vancouver, Wash., to the mouth of the Snake river was recommended to congress today by Secretary of War Hurley.

Hurley pointed out that the Columbia has unlimited power potentialities but recommended development of the power by local governments "under restriction of the federal water power act."

A reservation provided that the interior department be permitted to buy power at cost of production for irrigation projects.

Hurley's recommendations were made on the basis of a report from Major General Lytle Brown, chief of army engineers. They call for completion of existing projects for improvement of the lower Columbia river and the section between the mouth of the Snake river in Oregon and the international boundary.

To Use Projects
Hurley's recommendation of improvement of the Columbia between Vancouver and the mouth of the Snake urged "that the existing projects... be modified to provide for the construction by the federal government of locks having a depth of not less than nine feet over the sills at lower water and of suitable dimensions for modern barge traffic at any dams built in this section of the river, under authority of the federal water power act, and in accordance with the comprehensive plan of improvement for navigation and combination with the development of water power; together with a channel enlargement for navigation purposes, all at an estimated cost of \$16,100,000, with \$300,000 annually for maintenance and operation.

General Brown's report was prefaced with a treatise on navigation, flood control and power development problems of the three sections of the Columbia river.

To Build Dams
The effective method for improving the middle section of the river for navigation is in combination with the development of potential water power," he reported.

The potential navigation of the middle section is of such value as to warrant the requirement that power development be designed on the general lines recommended by the board of engineers for rivers and harbors to provide pools suitable for navigation.

Stevens Dies While Fighting Flames At Neighbor's Dwelling
While fighting fire yesterday afternoon for a neighbor, whose woodshed and garage were destroyed by the flames, Ben Stevens, 52, of Rogue River, who was well known in this city, died of heart attack.

He was born in Medford, March 27, 1880, and spent his lifetime in the Rogue River valley.

At the age of 20 he was married to Bertha Walden, to whom were born two daughters, Freda Marine, Central Point, and Bertha Mae Stevens of Rogue River. His wife, Bertha Stevens, also survives. He also leaves his mother, Elizabeth Stevens, of Talent; two brothers and three sisters, Lenn Stevens, Talent; Lester, Central Point; Emily Hall, Central Point; Hazel Wilson, Crescent City, and Della Gordon, San Francisco.

Jackson Co. Bank Agent Next Step

Medford, March 28—Affairs of the Jackson County bank, incidental to transfer of its deposits and business to the First National Bank, proceed apace and without furor.

Transfer of deposit boxes to the First National were completed Saturday. Preliminary details of the transfer will be completed this week.

One of the early steps will be appointment of a liquidating agent for the assets of the Jackson County bank, not accepted by the First National bank. The appointment will be made by the directorate of the Jackson County bank. The liquidating agent will maintain offices, probably in the Jackson county bank building, and the liquidation will be under his direction.

Central Point Boys Organize In Scout Unit
Twenty-two boys turned out in Central Point last night to reorganize Boy Scout troop No. 40 under the leadership of Carl Hoyer as scoutmaster. Many of the boys have been previously registered as scouts and are anxious to resume their scouting work.

O. E. Hoover, scout executive, attended the troop meeting and anticipates rapid progress in the troop.