

The Jacksonville Miner

Published Weekly at
JACKSONVILLE, OREGON

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF JACKSONVILLE

Entered as second-class mail on February 19, 1933
at the post office at Jacksonville, Oregon, under
the act of March 3, 1879.

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The Editor Speaking

(Continued from page one)

there are those who have enough humility and conscience to do the job for themselves.

Those who are criminal by nature and who show little promise of ever being corrected should be put out of circulation, as should those who have proved themselves dangerous to society. But those who have committed minor acts such as aiding to remove ballots from the courthouse vault, if they have been made to see the error of their ways and show dependable inclination to straighten out, might wisely and safely be freed from further prosecution.

It is those who, after having committed a crime, continue to feel that they are right and are not willing to take their medicine or change their ways, who should be punished as the law provides. When they refuse to accede that society is right and that they are wrong, and if they are proven a menace to society through violence and destructive leadership they should be placed where society will be safe from their acts. Those who have plead not guilty have placed themselves in this latter category, if they really are guilty.

We have heard words of praise for Art La Dieu, first defendant in the ballot cases who was found guilty, because he plead not guilty and refused to implicate others. He was "honorable" and a "square shooter" and wasn't passing the buck. Or so a few have said. But they forgot to think of another angle to the matter.

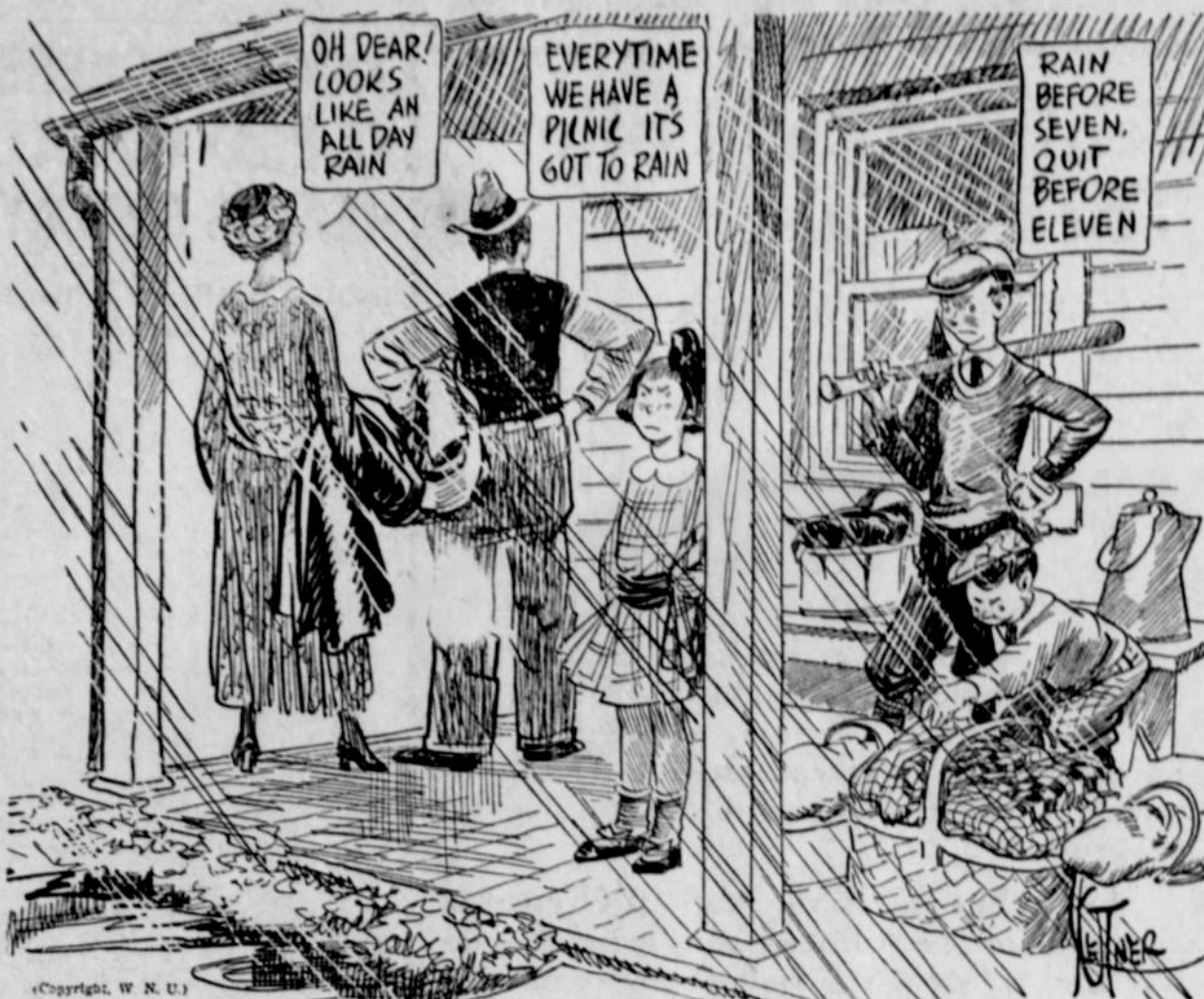
Here we have about eight defendants who confessed, who told the court "yes, sir, we took part in the ballot thefts and are ready to admit our mistake." Quite naturally their confessions implicated their leaders and accomplices. If they told the truth, they couldn't help but draw in others. But the leaders, the ones who had promised them cash pay and good jobs if they would help in the robbery, took the common credit for being "sports" by not confessing!

Now here's the picture we are working toward: Eight men, all lesser lights in the thefts and all guided by the master minds, admit the part they played and told the court they were ready to take their punishment. The leaders, the very ones who got them into the trouble, enter pleas of not guilty, intimating that they feel they should take no punishment. Those entering pleas are trying to make the court think there were just the eight men involved who had confessed, yet they know in their own hearts that they were the inspiration, the heads and the guiding hands of the entire thing. Are they really "sports" and honorable?

Where some may feel that those confessing should not draw in their leaders through some feeling of sportsmanship, we feel that the leaders are the poorest of sports in not taking their punishment along with those whom they got into this trouble in the first place. The guilty leaders who have entered pleas of not guilty are quite willing to let those even less guilty than they take the brunt of the state's punishment while they endeavor to remain free. Yet THAT is the very thing we hear of as being "honor among thieves!"

As a witness in the Walter Jones trial, we spent two days early this week in an anteroom with the other witnesses, former Banks guards. When we had last met, they had been armed to the teeth and so had we. Before the trials we were sworn enemies and watched each other's movements like a couple of

The Day of the Picnic



hungry cats quarreling over a bowl of milk.

But now, with Banks removed and Earl Fehl almost entirely discredited, there was a different feeling. In the witness room we were all friends working toward a common end. Not long ago regarded as enemies to society, some of them had seen the light and had learned their lesson. They were doing what little they could to undo what had gone before. Two days with them convinced us they were of a pretty darned good sort, but had been terribly misled. By misled we mean lied to—told things as the gospel truth that contained not even a little truth.

Most of them, at the time of the ballot thefts, were broke and out of work. Along came a super-salesman, Banks, to tell them he knew what was wrong with everything and that a horrible "gang" was entirely responsible for their plight. "Follow me," Banks chirped, "and I will lead you to justice and steady jobs." They were told lies about the recount of the ballots, were inflamed by Earl Fehl (who was enjoying the dignity of the county judge's chair) to believe that the recount ordered was unjust and a downright violation of the voters' right.

"We'll give you \$10 tonight and you will be paid later, besides we'll give you a good steady job in the courthouse if you'll help us carry the ballots away," they were promised. "You needn't worry about any trouble over this. The sheriff and county judge are with us," they assured the ones who actually did the menial labor for them. Is it any wonder misled, almost hungry youths fell for it and got themselves labeled as criminals? That is exactly why it is so much more important that the leaders and the higher-ups in the ballot stealing should get the maximum penalty the law allows.

And that is the great tragedy of Banks and Fehl in Jackson county, for they have gotten more people who normally were good citizens into trouble than any other thing in the history of southern Oregon. There can be no punishment too great for men of this type who not only are corrupt themselves, but who also have plunged more than a dozen other families into shame and disgrace. And that is why such agitators must be forever removed from activity in Jackson county. Already they have extracted a terrible price from southern Oregon because of its toleration of them this long.

With a special election just a few weeks away there is some discussion sprouting about the proposed sales tax law which will be voted upon. We can see little promise for the proposal for the simple

reason that part of its title contains the word "tax."

And that will be about as popular as the measles with voters. Of course, theoretically, the sales tax is designed to lift a part of the burden from property tax. That would be fine, except theories don't always work out.

We remember a few years back when the gasoline tax was hailed as a great boon to motorists and that it would almost eliminate license fees and personal property tax on automobiles. We paid the tax, and are still paying it, although it has become greedy and has doubled and trebled itself since that time. And just remember what a hard time we have had here in Oregon to get reductions in automobile license fees. Truck fees still remain at the higher figure, although passenger cars now are lower.

The gasoline tax was merely a sales tax. Now it is proposed to levy a like tax on practically everything we eat and wear, as well as other articles. We would like to remind readers of one thing—although we are convinced that the sales tax is right and just in principle—that it is much easier to boost taxes and add new ones than it is to get them lowered, and we're afraid that is what will happen if the sales tax is added onto the present burden.

Take your own experience, for example. When you got a raise in wages it was mighty easy to spend the difference. In fact you just had to have the extra few dollars to get by with. Perhaps the state government won't be much different. Possibly it will be as hard for the state legislators to reduce their expenditures as it would be for us to take voluntary reductions in salaries. In our own cases perhaps the boss demanded reductions and there was no alternative, but Oregonians should realize that under the present system the state government almost is the boss and we the humble yes-men. And will the boss refund extra revenue to us? Phooey!

In the United States people can never say they own a piece of property, for if they stop paying their rent to the government—taxes—the landlordly Uncle Sam kicks them off and sells the ground to another tenant. With a sales tax looming the same thing is going to happen to the food we eat and the clothes we wear if we don't watch our ballots. Uncle Sam will be charging rent for the air we breathe pretty soon if we let him.

And somehow or other we don't believe too much tax on foodstuffs will be savory to the American people. We can almost smell the briny water of Boston harbor the morning after the famous tea party when we think of the sales tax. Those early Americans certainly resented THAT sales tax and we believe a universal application of taxes on necessities is going to make government seem mighty distasteful and domineering.

ELECTRICITY ON FARMS MAKING RAPID STRIDES

Development of more apparatus and methods of applying electricity profitably to agriculture was reported at the annual meeting of the Oregon committee on the relation

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Court of Jackson county, Oregon, Administrator of the estate of Hattie May Hardman, deceased, and have qualified. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present them, with proper vouchers, and duly verified, to me at the office of Harry C. Skyrman, attorney for said estate, at Room 409, Medford Center building, in Medford, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice. Dated and first published June 23rd, 1933.

L. R. BUCKLEY, Administrator.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon in and for the County of Jackson

F. J. Huber, Plaintiff, vs.

Edwin X. Anderson, and Agnes U. Anderson, husband and wife, Defendants.

SUMMONS

To Edwin X. Anderson and Agnes U. Anderson, husband and wife:

In the name of the State of Oregon you are hereby summoned and required to appear and answer the complaint of the plaintiff herein on file against you, or otherwise plead thereto within four (4) weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons.

And you are hereby notified that if you fail to so appear and answer within the time specified, for want thereof plaintiff will take a judgment against you as prayed for in his complaint herein, namely the sum of \$480.08 plus interest at the rate of 8 per cent per annum from February 3rd, 1933, and costs and disbursements of this action.

This summons is published in The Jacksonville Miner by order of the Hon. G. F. Skipworth, judge

of the above entitled court, duly made and entered herein on the 21st day of June, 1933.

The date of the first publication of this Summons is June 23rd, 1933.

ALLISON MOULTON,

Attorney for Plaintiff

301 Liberty Building, Medford, Oregon. (June 23-30, July 7-14)

In the County Court of Jackson County for State of Oregon

In the Matter of the Estate of Gladys Trefren, Deceased.

Notice is given that the undersigned is the qualified administrator de bonis non of estate of Gladys Trefren, deceased.

Persons having claims against said estate are required to present same with proper vouchers to said administrator at office of H. K. Hanna, 32 North Central avenue, Medford, Oregon, within 6 months from the date of this notice. Dated June 2, 1933.

MARK BURKHEART, Administrator de bonis Non. (June 2-9-16-23)

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Thru Monday

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