

# THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

W. A. DILL

Editor and Manager

Published Every Monday and Thursday by the Lane County Publishing Association.

## RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One Year . . . \$1.50 | Six Months . . . .75 | Three Months . . . .50  
Advertising Rates Furnished on Application.



And Remember to Get a Stop-Over for Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1915.

## THE COUNCIL'S PROBLEM.

The lot of the public official is never an easy one, and particularly is this true when some controversy of long standing bobs up in some new and unexpected phase. Just now the council of the town of Springfield has a difficult problem to face in the case of the suit brought last fall to prevent the collection of certain taxes levied in December, 1913, particularly a tax of 4.6 mills for lights and water, and .4 mills for support of the band.

At the council meeting Monday evening, spokesmen for several of the parties to the suit, declared emphatically that they have carried the suit as far as they want to, and, in the interest of harmony in the town, are ready to pay the contested tax, less their court costs, if the city will not press its appeal in the supreme court.

Here is the dilemma that faces the council. If it grants the request, it will be criticised by many for giving in and allowing a few citizens to dictate terms upon which they will pay taxes. On the other hand, if the council continues with the case it will be criticised for rejecting the olive branch when it is offered in good faith. How best to meet this situation is the problem for the council.

The whole situation has grown out of a forgotten amendment to the town charter, passed in 1906. At that time it appears that the people voted to increase the limit of tax levy from one-half of one per cent to one per cent. The record was not made very clearly in the minutes of the council, and when the fact of the amendment was presented in the circuit court, Judge Harris ruled that the record was too vague to have standing, and he accordingly ruled against the contention of the town and in favor of the parties to the suit. Now as a matter of fact, general fund tax levies in excess of five mills have been levied every year but one since 1906, even though the authority for the levies had apparently been forgotten. Experience has shown that a levy of five mills would not, at any time in the past eight years provide revenues sufficient for all the activities expected of the town government.

Should the tax suit be dropped at this time, and the judgment of the circuit court be allowed to stand, the result would be that the town would lose a few hundred dollars withheld from payment by the parties to the suit, and the tax limit amendment of 1906 would be void. The right to levy a tax up to ten mills would exist, however, under the tax amendment of 1914. This latter, on the other hand, would be subject to review in the courts, and any taxpayer, or group of taxpayers would have the right to bring suit to test the validity of the 1914 amendment, just as the pending suit hinges on the amendment of 1906. Uncertainty would face the council as long as there were any who held the opinion that there are defects in the 1914 amendment and the validity has not been decided in the supreme court.

If the present suit were continued, as a friendly suit if possible, a decision would go a long way toward clarifying the rights of the city. A reversal of the circuit court, for which the council would wish, would establish fully the right to levy taxes such as have been levied for the past eight years and would make the amendment of 1906 the charter of the town. The amendment of 1914 would therefore be null, since in effect it simply re-enacted the amendment of 1906. On the other hand, a verdict sustaining the circuit court would open the way to doubt as to the validity of the 1914 amendment, and render it desirable to have a suit at as early a date as possible to settle the validity of this amendment.

## PEACE AND WAR ESTIMATES OF "TOMMY ATKINS."

Speaking of "Tommy Atkins" in war, World Wide is authority for the statement that a distinguished English surgeon, at work in the hospitals for the past three months, holds it to be a real spiritual experience to work with "Tommy." "Day by day," said that surgeon, "it comes over one what little use we make at home of this splendid human material, and I shall go back determined to do what I can to give this man and the class that he comes from something to lose and something to work for when they have done fighting."

Here is a text for some forceful preaching to the wealth and privilege of Great Britain. "Tommy Atkins" in peace is barely above the endurable; the class he comes from is no more than the dust of the road or the mud of the street; he springs from one vast amalgamated flotsam and jetsam that Englishmen of wealth and Englishmen of brains have been regarding for some years as an extremely troublesome problem. When "war's alarm" sounds it is different. "Tommy Atkins" is a hero when the band begins to play; and when the British empire is at death grips he's more than that. He fights valiantly and suffers like a stoic, except that his patience has a more admirable quality.

What is it that makes the difference in the "Tommy Atkins" of the one time and condition as compared with the other? Appreciation, care and the human regard which the government evinces for him. The government takes him from the dust of the road and the mud of the street and, first of all, exalts him to a man of consequence—an integral, active unit in the life of the empire. It feeds him, it clothes him, it looks after his welfare in every way that it can to make him an efficient fighter. It does all the things requisite for him as a soldier, which it neglects or refuses to do for him as an artisan of peace.

Suppose that the English sentiment toward the "Tommy Atkins" class were to undergo transformation in accord with the utterance of that English surgeon; suppose that it were to survive

the war and hold steadfastly and practically in regard for the welfare of that class in peace, just as it now looks out for "Tommy's" health, comfort and efficiency in war! Pursuing that policy, how many years would it take to get rid of the fear—and we might almost say the conviction—of physical, moral and mental degeneration among the English masses?

"Tommy Atkins" in this present war has demonstrated that this idea of degeneration has been unwarranted in large measure. But the fact that the conditions under which he is allowed to exist in peace have worked and will work steadily to his demoralization remains undisputed. Let the empire do as much for him and his class in peace as it is eager to do in war, and "this splendid human material," as the English surgeon puts it, will be as great an asset in peaceful empire building as it has proved to be in its armed defense.

Moreover, the lesson to be learned in this case of "Tommy Atkins" is not alone for Great Britain.

Springfield will watch with much interest the progress of the suit in San Francisco to dissolve the Southern and Central Pacific railroads, for upon the results hinge a large measure of prosperity for Springfield's immediate future.

## WORK OF PUPILS OF THE SPRINGFIELD SCHOOLS

The Lane County News today presents a few examples of the work of composition in the classes in the Springfield Public schools. The articles are published as written, without correction, in the hope that the printing of them may prove an assistance to the young people in developing their power of expression. Other teachers are invited to submit such articles as they may wish to have published in this column.

[The following stories were written by pupils of the Fifth grade of the Lincoln school, Miss Grace Walker, teacher.]

### A Tramp.

It was a sunshiny day on the 22 of Feb. that William Gerald and I prepared to go on a tramp to the hills. We met at my place at one o'clock that afternoon. We then hit out for the hills.

We crossed the wagon bridge and took the road to Creswell. When the railroad crossing was reached we left the road and climbed the fence. We crossed the hill and were just going to jump a ditch when I saw some petrified wood. We stopped and chipped off some of it. Then we went on and William got stuck in the mud and we had a laugh. At last we reached two old log huts and stopped. I built a fire and we sat around it for a while.

Then we started home and on the way William treed a squirrel and we tried to shake him out of the tree, but he would not come. (Author.) Age 14.

### At the Beach

My aunt uncle and three cousins came on a visit to our house. We planned to go to the beach. So in a few days we prepared to go. We put up our lunch in two baskets. We went on the eight-thirty train.

We had a nice journey all the way. There were many trees we passed.

When we got to the beach by name, Moclips, Washington, we went to a hotel and got rooms.

We stayed at the beach four days. One morning we got up early and dug clams. In the afternoon we went fishing tom-cods. I caught fourty. In the evening my uncle built a fire out of logs. We would sit around the fire and tell stories.

The fourth day we prepared to go home. We took the three o'clock train.

We were real tired when we got home. Mabel G. Aldridge Age 10

### A Trip to Oakridge.

One time I went to Oakridge to spend a few weeks with my father. He was working on the big bridge that crossed the Salmon Creek River. It was a very nice place to live.

I stayed at the hotel at Oakridge and at the camp where the workmen lived the was a commissary where all the provisions were kept. Near it was a large tent where all the men ate and I ate there too. One evening when the men had eaten and were around the camp fire smoking my brother Vernon and I ran away. We went on the other side of the tent and crossed a dashing river on a narrow log. Then we went in a dense woods. Fortunately we came out of the woods and we met some men who were looking for us. The men took us home and he nearly got a whippen for running away.

The next day my papa let me go hunting. We went up on a large mountain. We found no game so we went back to the camp.

On our way back we went through three tunnels and many woods. Lewis Jones Age 11

### Our Trip to the Springs.

One sunny autumn day we were preparing to go to the Springs about fifty miles from our home. We started in the afternoon and camped that

night in a large green pasture. The next day we traveled long after dark and camped in another pasture.

The next day about sun-down we reached the springs. We didn't put up our tents that night, but slept by the wagon. The next morning we put our tents up. Some times we would go fishing and my uncle went hunting.

One morning one of our friends came in and asked us if we were going home. We started home that day and stayed at my uncle's house that night and got home at noon the next day. Mabel McPherson. Age 10

### A Much Disturbed Day.

It was in the afternoon and we were sitting quietly in our room studing. We all had our lessons very nicely for the first time in the year.

But here our trouble begins. It was about three o'clock and the little children were getting out of school. Tramp, tramp, tramp went their little feet down the hall.

This did not end our trouble for the Domestic Science girls now had their turn. We heard a girls voice up stairs crying, "Oh! Lillian I have spilt all my white sauce and it was so nice." Then we heard slam; bang; and down crashed a pile of dishes. A shriek and a scramble and we heard no more from the Domestic girls.

Then it was the janitor's turn. He was hammering nails into the wall of the next room. Bang; bang; bang; went his hammer. He made so much noise that we had to dismiss school. Thus ends a much disturbed day. Age 10

### My Trip East and Back

We decided to go sometime in October and of course mama had to get busy. We left home in the first part of November.

We got on the street car and went to Eugene, then we got on the train and changed at Portland. Then we visited my aunt in Tacoma and then we went on and did not have to change any more. We saw many pretty flowers and meadows on our way. We crossed many mountains. One time we went way up high on a bridge. It was so high that it seemed like if you bare very hard on one side that the train would tip over. The porter was very kind and would come and play with us.

We had a very nice visit while we were there but when we got home we were glad.—Getchan Herrick. Age 11.

### A Visit to the Country.

One summer I spent some of my vacation in the country with my aunty. My cousins and I were planning to go to the falls. The morning was very warm and sunny. The birds were singing and the squirrels were scampering to and fro. We planned and planned to go. We each got a piece of fat meat and a string. We went through the barn yard, climbed over the fence, and then down the steep bank to the falls. We waded in the water for a while and caught a few craw fish.

Walter took the dog and went up above the falls to hunt squirrels. After a while had-past, we herd him calling for us to come quickly. We thought sure he had fallen in the water. Where

96-223  
**The First National Bank**  
of Springfield, Oregon

Report of the condition of the First National Bank of Springfield, in the State of Oregon, at the close of business March 4, 1915, condensed from report to the Comptroller of the Currency.

<b>RESOURCES.</b>	
Loans and discounts . . . . .	\$ 2,969.91
U. S. and other Bonds and Warrants . . . . .	28,190.47
Banking house, real estate, furniture and fixtures . . . . .	18,693.60
Cash and due from banks . . . . .	36,888.78
<b>\$176,742.76</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES.</b>	
Capital Stock . . . . .	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus and Profits . . . . .	3,826.85
Circulation . . . . .	5,900.00
Deposits . . . . .	142,115.91
<b>\$176,742.76</b>	

## The Best Groceries

For Less Money

---

## The Fifth Street Grocery

Thos. Sikes, Prop. Phone 22

## Pay Your Taxes Here

We are a depository for County funds and are authorized to receive money in payment of taxes. One half may be paid on or before April 1st. Bring in your tax statements if you have them, and if not ask us, and we will get them for you. No extra charge.

## Commercial State Bank

Capital \$30,000.00

IF YOU HAVE NEVER TRIED

## The Springfield Creamery

CHAS. BARKMAN, Proprietor

Try it and be convinced that it pays to patronize home industries.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK, EUGENE, OREGON.

Established 1883

Capital and Surplus . . . . . \$300,000.00

Interests on Savings Accounts and Time Certificates

## Blue Printing and Maps

Phone 955, Eugene.

## W. A. REYNOLDS

Work Called for and Delivered.

we were the water wasn't over three feet deep. Over a ways farther there was a swimming pool that was very deep. We went where Walter was and we found out that he had found a poor sick sheep and it had been hurt so badly that one of its legs was nearly off.

Some of us went back home some of us stayed there. She came with some sheep dip, an arm full of hay and some water. We doctored it up and cut some of the wool off of its legs. The magets were working into it feet and hoofs. A coyote had bitten it and it had gotten its horns fast in the ground. After we came home we got a letter which said they had to kill the goat. This happened at Bear Creek Falls, West from Eugene. Mary Edwena Parsons. Age 10

ROBERT BURNS Lodge, No. 78, A. M. E., Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Universal and Symbolic Free Masons meets Friday evening in W. O. W. hall. Visiting brothers welcome.  
P. A. Johnson, L. E. Durrin, Secretary, R. W. M.

We print butter wrappers.