

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

EIGHTEENTH YEAR

SPRINGFIELD, LAKE COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

NUMBER 15

SENTIMENTS ON COMING ELECTION

Realizing the present need of a new school building, I am heartily in favor of any action taken by the board in obtaining a new building and purchasing additional play-ground space, thus making a move that we would never regret.

C. E. EGGIMANN.

We believe that the erection of a new high school would be as great an asset to the town as any thing which might be done in the line of bonding the city at this time. It would be an inducement for the people to stay in Springfield who have children to go to school as well as being a great boost for Springfield and the surrounding community. We are heartily in favor of a new school.

SPRINGFIELD CREAMERY CO.

I am heartily in favor of the bond issue if it were possible to postpone the issuance thereof and the erection of the building until next spring.

M. C. BRESSLER.

I am most heartily in favor of a new high school and can't see how anyone who has the interest of Springfield at heart can be otherwise. The old building is a disgrace to our town and since the price of building material is nearly back to pre-war level, I think now is the time to build. While it will raise our taxes a little we should be willing to sacrifice that much in order to give our young people the privilege of a good education which they are at this time denied, at least to a certain extent owing to the lack of room and equipment.

J. F. KETELS.

Editor of The News:

Complying with your request for an expression of opinion as to the coming school election, will say, everyone concedes that we need a new high school building and have needed one for several years. The present structure is almost impossible.

However, the proposal of voting and attempting to sell bonds at the present high interest rate, and constructing a new building at this time, in the face of almost peak prices for building material of all kinds, seems most inopportune and gives the electors just cause for serious and careful consideration. This is especially true in view of the absolute certainty of falling prices within a comparatively short time.

It would appear to be good business to take advantage of this condition, defeat the present proposal which makes no provisions for delay in construction whatever, and later on vote the bonds and prepare for early construction next year. In all probability the present proposed building would not be ready for occupancy for the coming school year any way and, therefore, we are not losing anything and stand an excellent chance of saving the district 20 to 25 per cent, or eight to ten thousand dollars by waiting another year. \$40,000 in bonds could not be sold at this time for over \$38,000, if the statutes permit a sale below par, while interest rates on this class of securities is on the down grade along with everything else.

Other things being equal no right minded person will object to taxation for school purposes, but the intolerably high rate of taxation to which we are now being subjected for all purposes is creating a condition so serious that it is imperative that we take advantage of every possible opportunity to save in the expenditure of public funds.

O. B. KESSEY

Editor News:

I think our present high school building is a disgrace to the city.

While some are of the opinion that the building of a new one should be postponed for at least a year; in anticipation of lower cost; I, for one, contend that a new building is an immediate requirement for the pro-

CIVIC CLUB NOTES

On Tuesday evening, April 26 there showed a scene of brisk activity at the town hall when the ladies of the Civic Improvement League met to clean windows and put up the new curtains presented to the hall by the ladies of the league.

We earnestly request that all women, who are interested in rose culture, would consult with the Rose Show committee, Mrs. Wheaton and Mrs. Bryan, concerning ways and means for this in order to make it the success it was before.

The League expects to have a speaker of ability to address it at a meeting in the near future, perhaps next time, on some of the live topics of the day on women's work in civic improvement.

Now that the commercial club has been "born again" we are hoping to see many things for the good of the town accomplished that have been hanging fire for, lo, these many moons for take it all in all, it is brotherhood that makes the world go round. (Can't help saying it).

One of our members made an eloquent plea on enthusiasm being the means of accomplishing results required.

Let us know you live in Springfield by your presence at the next meeting of the live wires, second Tuesday in May.

Protection of the school children and I think it is an act of criminal negligence, on our part, if we send children into this "fire trap" or continue to wager their lives against dollars and cents.

This building has been condemned; has no fire protection and, after it has been destroyed by fire and some of our relatives or friends killed by our negligence we will then curse our folly and build a school house in short order.

How much is your child's life worth? Do you value it in dollars and cents? Would you risk it's life to save a few dollars for a short time; knowing that you would eventually have to spend them for this protection?

H. J. COX

There is no question but a high school building is needed. The only question is, is it advisable to put the burden on the taxable property of the district at this time. Hardware, glass, paint, plumbing and all kinds of building material is very high. Probably within another twelve months one fourth the cost in this line could be saved.

Just now property is paying interest and sinking fund on federal bonds, state bonds, county bonds, city bonds, and school bonds, besides a large warrant indebtedness. We want a good town and everything that goes with it and what makes a good town is good wide awake citizens to make investments and build it up. There is such a thing as putting a tax burden on property that will scare investors away, or that the property cannot reasonably carry. A look at the city records would indicate that to be the case with some Springfield property now. In my judgment it would be wise to wait a little longer and give markets a chance to settle down to something like normal before building a high school.

H. B. WASHBURN.

I am heartily in favor of a new high school, by all means let's have it immediately.

O. H. JARRETT

1st. Springfield's high school building is known over the state as unfit for any use let alone a building for the education of children. There have been more buildings condemned that were in much better condition than our school.

2nd. Our old building is a detriment to the growth of Springfield.

3rd. A new building with proper facilities would be an asset that would increase the value of our city by the additional homes that would be built and increased value of property. This asset would be so great I believe that we would not notice the slight increase in our taxes.

4th. Our next generation will find

According to the Oregon State School laws for 1919, every person whose name appears on the 1920 assessment roll is entitled to vote at the coming election. If property is jointly held by man and wife and only one name appears on the roll, he or she alone is entitled to vote. In the case of a corporation paying taxes it is not necessary that your name appear on the assessment roll. If challenged it is necessary that you show evidence of co-partnership.

TWO MAIN POINTS IN SCHOOLHOUSE MATTER

Next Wednesday, six days from this time, will be the special election which will determine whether the schools of Springfield shall be provided with adequate facilities to maintain the high standard of efficiency which they have attained, or whether the deterioration which has already set in shall continue at an increasing ratio, as it will without these provisions, in spite of the best efforts of the best teaching force and the best administrative work of any school board. That is a fair statement of the case any educator who has had any knowledge of the history of the Springfield schools, from the county superintendent downward and outward, will testify.

We have not space to go into the details of the plans, but it is so well drawn as to be mainly self-explanatory. The plan calls for a basement and two full stories. The basement is to contain a room ample for the housing of the fuel supply, the furnace and other accessories for the supply department of the work of the school. There will be rooms in the front for the domestic arts and science and the manual training work. These rooms will have ample light. The first and second stories (above the basement) will be in the main occupied by school rooms, with the necessary accessories to the teaching work, such as office, library, lunch room, teachers' room, emergency hospital, laboratory etc. One fine feature of this plan is a commodious assembly room, which has been greatly needed in the interest of the school and community.

When a voter who is looking at the interest of the community, as well as his own, approaches the point of decision on an important question like this, he likes to have the proposition before him reduced to its simplest terms. There are just two points to be chiefly considered by the voter who wishes to serve the interest of the community. Because there are really two branches of the proposition. There are two possible lines of action in contemplation: One is certain, the other only contingent. The first can be made definite enough, the other cannot. The first, the absolutely essential one, relates to the building itself. There is no question about that. The building is to be erected on the ground the district now owns. This can probably be done without disturbing the old building until some time after the new one is built. The second point cannot be made so definite, because it is not a matter entirely within the control of the school board or the patrons of the school. This second point is the desirability of securing some additional ground, especially for recreational purposes. This contingency is provided for in the call for the election. But when it comes to this, the owners of any ground that might be considered suitable will have some thing to say, and they may not be reasonable. For this reason, this part of the contemplated action has not yet come to the point of certainty.

But remember this. Do not allow anybody to tangle you. First, the school house by all means. It is a crying necessity. After that, the additional grounds if we can get them reasonably. The school needs them badly enough.

much competition which they will not be able to meet without proper education and it is up to us to see that they get it.

W. H. ADRIAN

I heartily endorse the erection of a new high school building. If ever a town needed one we do. Visit

I. O. O. F. CONVENTION AT JUNCTION CITY BIG EVENT

Tuesday, the 25th day of April, 1921 was the 162nd anniversary of the founding of Odd Fellowship in the United States.

All over the United States this event is celebrated by the lodges and the day is looked forward to with much anticipation and pleasure.

In Washington D. C. the event was celebrated and among those on the program was president of the U. S., Warren G. Harding, while in other cities and countryside the day was duly commemorated with fitting programs.

The Lane county association, comprising the 14 lodges of the county held its meeting at Junction City. The morning session was the business session. At the close of it the Cottage Grove lodge conferred the first degree on 14 candidates, after which a recess was declared and all partook of a sumptuous banquet at the armory.

The meeting was called to order at one o'clock at which time unfinished business was disposed of. At this time the grand master H. M. Johnson delivered an address which was full of good thoughts. During the year just closed, the membership of the subordinate lodges has been increased 2557, making a total in the state of 25,109.

After this address the Giffrey lodge of Crewell conferred the 2nd degree. At 4 p. m. the Rebekah degree was exemplified by the Rebekah lodge of Junction City. The parade at 6 o'clock was a fine feature of the day and the floats would do credit to the Portland rose show.

The 3d degree was conferred at 7 p. m. by the lodge of Elmira. All degree work was done by each lodge without a ritual, and was very interesting.

The program at 8 o'clock was rendered at the Methodist church which was unable to accommodate the entire crowd.

An address of the G. M., music, readings, etc., held the attention of all until 11 o'clock. All voted the day a huge success.

The convention will be held at Cottage Grove next year.

other valley towns and you will find that almost all of them from one fourth our population up have us outclassed in this respect. It may cost a little more at this time but as a taxpayer I am very willing to pay the difference if there is any: A new high school followed up with a few more real progressive moves will make a better town of Springfield and increase the taxable valuation enough to offset the little more that the building may cost at this time. A considerable amount of money expended on this improvement will no doubt be spent among our local citizens for labor etc.

Let us get together and boost this proposition and follow it up with some cooperative effort to attract some new enterprises in here that will be a real investment for Springfield's future. An attractive educational institution in this town will be a very good asset to bring to the attention of investors that would expect to move their families here.

Other towns are going ahead even if times are a little slow. Why hold Springfield back longer. Let us build NOW.

C. E. LYON.

I heartily endorse the building of a new high school.

HARRY M. STEWART

While I am not a tax payer in the Springfield school district I have certainly had a good opportunity during the past two years to see and feel the need of a new building for the high school.

The dilapidated condition of the old building has undoubtedly caused us to lose to Eugene and elsewhere a number of students who would otherwise have attended in Springfield.

The proposed new high school building is modern, convenient and up to date in every way. It is planned to take care of approximately two hundred students. If built of concrete it should cost in the neighbor-

CLUB MEETS AND ELECT OFFICERS

Attendance upon the meetings of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce began to slacken last spring and summer. For a long time a very few of the members, who had the interest of the work the chamber was organized to serve at heart continued to come, and maintained the life of the organization and a degree of interest in the work. At a meeting recently, at which there was a larger attendance than usual, it was resolved to make a special effort to reorganize the society and its work.

A meeting was called for last Friday evening, April 22, the band was secured, a light banquet was served and considerable enthusiasm was manifested. About twenty five persons were present besides the members of the band. Officers were elected for the ensuing year, and purposes formed to carry out the proper work of such an organization with renewed vigor. The time for the next meeting was fixed for Friday evening, May 6. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance, not only of the present members but of any persons who are interested in the general welfare of the community. There is a great need of such an organization in Springfield at this time, and those interested ought to put into it all the force possible.

The officers elected for the coming year are as follows: W. F. Walker, president; H. B. Freeland, vice-president; J. E. Edwards, secretary; A. P. McKinze, treasurer; Board of Directors, J. F. Ketel, O. B. Kessey, C. F. Eggiman, W. H. Pollard and G. G. Bushman.

hood of \$40,000.

It is estimated that this would add about two mills to the taxes each year, until paid for, but it seems to me that it would worth at least this amount—two dollars per annum on every one thousand dollars of assessed valuation, to have a high school of which we need not be ashamed.

The fact that we have such a building should help materially to increase the city's population and prosperity, thereby increasing the taxable valuation of property and tending to lower the tax rate.

Nearly everyone in town knows and admits the unsanitary, unsafe condition of the old building, and recognizes the need for a new one. Let's have it.

F. B. HAMLIN

I am in favor of a new high school.
L. MAY

A Plea for a New High School

There are, perhaps, a good many people in Springfield who do not realize the condition of the high school building. Many of these people are the taxpayers and property owners. They have their money invested in Springfield and they expect the best returns possible from every dollar invested. They know that a town with good schools and good school buildings is the best place in which to invest money.

The high school building in its present condition invites criticism from every passer by.

In the first place wood will not last forever, especially when exposed to Oregon weather. S. H. S. has been exposed for years. The sills have sunken away, leaving the whole building out of line. The roof leaks. This will be confirmed by any student or teacher. The doors are out of line. Many of them can hardly be closed when open, and can hardly be opened when closed. The stairsteps are worn off on the outer edge until it makes a precarious and even dangerous footing. Many of the window panes are broken. The sashes do not work easily.

Then the equipment: There are hardly two rooms which have the same kind of blackboard, and what they have is cracked from heat and scratched until they are unfit to write

(Continued on page four)

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