

# THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY  
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## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS

There is no doubt but what congress will pass some sort of a military and naval preparedness bill at the present session. If a reasonable preparedness measure could be submitted to the voice of the people there is no doubt but what it would win by a large majority vote.

But many of the ideas of preparedness are extremely extravagant, are unnecessary and bear the impress of animating from the counting rooms of the private munitions of war plants. There is too much self interest behind most of the agitation.

The Tribune believes that our regular army and the navy should be increased fully 100 per cent and means provided for a more general knowledge of military and naval matters. It believes the American citizen, when properly trained and equipped, becomes the best soldiers in the world. When Grant and Sherman's armies marched down Michigan avenue in Washington, D. C., in 1865, we were then prepared to meet any nation on earth on land or sea. No other nation was so well armed or had better arms nor a million of men thoroughly seasoned and trained for the battle field; for Europe was then at peace while our troops had just concluded the most gigantic and sanguinary civil war of all history.

But the shoe is now on the other foot. Europe now has the trained and seasoned veterans while we could scarcely make a showing of trained men or ships in comparison.

Just suppose that either of the large European nations now at war, with all its preparedness, should conclude to invade America? We would be almost helpless to withstand the invaders. Our loss of life, property and possibly indemnity would be simply enormous—much greater than the cost of a reasonable preparedness will be.

While the United States will, probably, never undertake a war of conquest for the purpose of acquiring territory, her citizens are ever ready to defend our homes and fire-sides. To be able to make that defense with the least possible injury to ourselves, it behoves us to obtain the necessary training to make the defense effective.

The Tribune does not believe that we are in danger of European or Asiatic attack. But we can not forget what diplomatic troubles we may have nor how necessary it may be, to defend our own shores and to preserve our much talked of Monroe doctrine.

The prudent man does not expect his house or barn to be burned, nor that he will be taken by death until the usual span of life has been lived. Yet, for the protection of his family and those dependent upon him, he insures both his property and life. Reasonable preparedness on both land and sea, is just what insurance is to the individual. We do not ex-

pect fire, death nor war to come, yet one or all may be our portion when least expected.

The people generally would like to see our nation establish her own munitions of war plants, far enough inland to be reasonably safe and then the agitations of private plants for war or preparedness would cease. Anyway, if the profit or hope of profit could be eliminated from the war game, wars would be few and far between. It would then become comparatively easy to establish international courts of arbitration to settle international disputes. But until that time arrives, self interest admonishes us to place ourselves in a condition by which we will be able to protect ourselves and rights against the greed of other nations.

## POLITICAL FOOTBALL

Every real friend of the State Fair and the work it is intended to accomplish, cannot but regret that the political element has been injected into the selection of its officials. Governor Withycombe has, evidently, been indirectly responsible for a serious blunder and has created an enmity or lukewarmness for the welfare of the State Fair association not desirable.

Of course Secretary Jones had no legal right to a continuous possession of the secretaryship. He had but done his duty as secretary, last year, unusually well and instead of the usual deficit, which our legislature accomodatingly provides for, Mr. Jones so managed matters that the association paid all its bills and had a surplus in the Fair treasury when the season had closed. Mr. Jones, also, insisted that ticket sellers and gate keepers should not pocket money which should properly go into the treasury. In other words Secretary Jones used good business judgment in managing the fair business and insisted that the fair officials and employes should be governed by the principles of common honesty.

Such an efficient secretary should certainly be and evidently was highly satisfactory to the president and board of directors. It is but reasonable that the board, having the success of the fair at heart, should desire to reappoint him and, doubtless, uninfluenced, would have done so. But the influence was used and a political worker and friend of the governor was given the job. As a result, President Booth and Director Jones handed in their resignations from the board.

Now Mr. Lea, the newly appointed secretary, may be just as efficient as was Secretary Jones. Let us hope that he will be and that he will insist that employes shall be honest. But in accepting the office under the existing conditions, he is handicapped somewhat; for there is a suspicion that Governor Withycombe used his influence for Secretary Lea to pay a political debt.

But whatever the cause for the mixup, the fact that a division of feeling for the welfare of the state fair now exists wherein harmony was the keynote formerly.

It is also stated that Secretary Jones' activity in having the two young men who appropriated gate money to their own uses indicated, is partly responsible for his supersedeure. This fact will be established when the final disposition of their defalcations is made by the courts.

## TIME FOR A CHANGE

It is reported that about all of our county officials will be up for renomination at the forthcoming primary election. Without casting any reflection whatever upon the official conduct of these officials, The Tribune believes that the time has arrived for a change in a num-

ber of these offices.

Some of our officials have grown gray in the county's service and, unless they expect the county to pay them pensions when they become too old and decrepit for future service, it is quite time for them to make a try in private life and see if they can earn a living for themselves and families.

Nevertheless, the books of the various offices have been regularly expeted and have been found to be correct, there are many ways in which many things can be covered up, so that even an expert book-keeper might not detect them.

A few years ago a Linn county man was appointed clerk of the state land board and, as everybody supposed, served the duties of his office capably and honestly. But two or three years later, a successor discovered that the state school fund was some \$33,000 short. By carefully tracing the matter up, the shortage was found to be during the period when Geo. W. Davis, the Linn county man, was in charge of the office. When an attempt was made to prosecute Mr. Davis, it was found the statute of limitation had expired and nothing could be done.

By keeping the same men in office too long, discrepancies, mistakes, etc., can be too easily covered up. Only a change of officials is apt to bring about a deep and searching investigation and then not delay the investigation too long for the county and state to obtain redress.

The Tribune believes our county officials are honest and efficient. The present low tax levy, with a surplus of money in the county treasury, is very complimentary to the officials who are in control of the county's finances. Linn county stands near if not at the head of the list of counties for capable management. At the same time when there is over a half-million dollars expended yearly, there is room for even honest men to be mistaken and even honest (?) men have been known to cover up mistakes and shortcomings.

For this reason, The Tribune believes the time has arrived when new blood should replace the old in the court house. While we have reason to believe our present officials are good men of capability and efficiency, we have hundreds of other men in the county just as good, just as capable and just as efficient.

Benton county tax payers are up in arms about the way taxation has been increased during the past few years. The Courier says the increase has been seven fold. Part of this increase is due to the fact that the county tax collector collects all road, special road, special school and city taxes. Formerly only the county and state taxes were collected by the sheriff and the city, school and road districts did their own collecting. All the same taxes have been increased much too rapidly and the Courier needs to but look westward from his town to see one of the causes.

The road to West Scio and Munkers is getting pretty badly cut up and rutty. It is a good time to use the mud drag.

If you want any of the daily papers, The Tribune will get them for you at Bargain Day rates, providing you pay for The Tribune one year in advance.

## Political Announcements

### W. E. Chrisman

Announces himself as a candidate for County Commissioner, subject to the will of the voters of the Republican Party at the forthcoming primary election.

Dr. T. K. Sanderson

## DENTIST

Phone 27-7

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