

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
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BIENNIAL TROUBLE COMMENCED MONDAY

Oregon's biennial trouble is now getting busy down at Salem. In other words the 29th legislative assembly convened Monday. Much in the way of retrenchment in state expenditures is expected at this session. The people hope that our law makers will be responsive to their wishes. But it is simply a hope. They are doubtful about the expectation which is necessary to make up a reasonable faith that our solons will make good at this session.

The fact that the organization of both houses was effected in Portland last week, does not give such promise as the people would like. Promises have doubtless been made, combinations effected desired committee chairmen named, etc., at this preliminary session in Portland which does not look very favorable for the retrenchment the people demanded in the initiative laws they adopted on November 7. The people can hope but their expectations are nil.

For the past dozen or more years our legislatures have been building up a bureaucratic government, which has resulted in the employment of several hundred commissioners, clerks, bookkeepers, stenographers, etc. These people are going to be very hard to eliminate or reduce in number. All of these employees will be at the state capital lobbying to protect their jobs. Indeed, the legislative member will have no snap at this session. He is sure to be in hot water during the most of the term.

But retrenchment must be made and the average legislator should procure himself a suit of armor, capable of resisting all attacks of lobbyists and go home at the end of the forty days with the assurance that he has made several hundred political enemies, which are sure to endeavor to get even at future elections.

As a matter of fact our legislatures as now constituted, are not representative of the people throughout the state. Two much power is lodged with the four or five most populous counties, wherein state institutions are located. Let the college counties and Marion and Multnomah counties form a combination of their membership, and they have sufficient power to dominate all legislative action. This is a condition which should not exist. The county with the least population should have power to make its wants known and effective as well as the most densely populated.

It was, probably, the purpose of our fathers, to make our state governments patterns of our national government. But when our state senators were based on population, the same as the house of representatives, then too much power was given the densely populated counties.

Now if each county in the state

should be allowed one state senator only, with representatives based upon population, then the weak counties would have power to protect their interests. But with the present method of selecting legislators, the weak county simply must depend upon the magnanimity of the strong.

This method of selection of members is responsible for our present extravagant state government. Our extravagant fish and game commission is due, principally, to Portland sportsmen influence. Marion and Multnomah counties are to blame for our very costly public service commission. Multnomah, Marion, Polk, Benton and Lane counties are responsible for the extravagance in public buildings and the lawyer members are to blame for the exploitation of our state judiciary.

Now if each county had the same power in the state senate, these grafts would not have grown, at least, as rapidly as they have. The fact of the business is, gentlemen of the legislature, the exploitation of our state government in all its branches, is retarding the growth and prosperity of our state. People from other localities are refusing to select homes in our state because of excessive taxation. Our per capita cost of government is too high as compared with like cost in other states. The Oregon taxpayer knows that taxation has been mounting upward at a rate which is alarming. So they have given you the tax limitation and single item veto laws, just as hints along retrenchment. If these hints do not prove effective, look out for something more drastic in the future.

So gentlemen, go to it. Consolidate and eliminate your commissions, cut out at least one-third of the employees about the state house and all other public buildings and you might fire about one-third of our judiciary without injury to our law courts. We can retrench only by firing a lot of unnecessary employees and let those who are retained earn their salaries.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISES PRISES ARE ASSETS

Every business enterprise in a community, whether public, semi-public or private, is an asset. The men or women who operate them, add to the population, help support our schools and churches, pay taxes on the property and the employees spend more or less of their wages at the stores and shops. Our stores, banks, newspapers, planing and flouring mills, electric light and water plants our condensery, public school, professional men and mechanics, our county fair, all are assets and should have the support of our citizens in every practical way.

Now when any of these enterprises fail or are removed, it is a financial loss, either directly or indirectly to every citizen in our community. It is a direct loss to our town and schools and we should all, by patronage, good words, etc., exert our influence to retain, not only those we now have, but encourage others to come. In this way and this way only, can we expect to build up our town.

Our leading public asset, in proportion to its cost, is our Linn county fair. Not less than \$6000 is distributed among our people every year on this one account. The encouragement to the breeding of better stock, throughout our entire community, can hardly be estimated. The advertising it gives to our community, through attracting visitors, is another most valuable feature. We do not appreciate its value as we should, else we would give it a better support.

Right now we are in grave danger of losing the fair. Can we afford

to lose it? The Tribune believes that every man, woman and child living within a radius of ten miles of Scio, if they will give an honest opinion, will say "keep the fair in Scio."

There is just one way to keep the fair here and that is to come forward and subscribe for one or more shares. Many, who have given the fair a support from the start, have paid for from two to ten shares each. Others, who carry away \$50 to \$100 in premiums annually, do not appear upon the share register. Now if 150 to 200 men or women, boys or girls, will come forward and subscribe for one or more shares each, Albany cannot raise money enough to get the fair away from us.

On next Saturday, January 13, the annual meeting of the stockholders of the fair association will be held in this city. It is desired that every friend of the fair, who thinks it should remain at the present location, will attend. You will be just as welcome if you are not a shareholder. Every shareholder should be on hand for your property is in jeopardy.

Albany wants our fair, because she knows its value as a community asset. She knows that every additional public or private business enterprise adds to her prosperity. A new crowd is running things in Albany now, from ten years ago. This crowd is willing to pay money for a public enterprise, which the old crowd of ten years ago, considered of no value. They want the fair and they will get it, unless Scio people come to the rescue. Will you do it?

WHY ROADS ARE BAD

There are many reasons why roads are bad. First comes the policy of localization which until the past few years prevailed in all the states and which is a relic of the old English system. It places upon the county and in most cases upon the road district the entire burden of construction and maintenance and leaves to it the initiative as well as the final determination of the policy which shall be pursued in carrying on the work. It naturally follows that the more progressive districts and counties outdistance the less progressive, that the undeveloped sections of the country have a tendency to remain undeveloped and that in the poorer counties the result is stagnation and decrease in population.

The greatest element of weakness in our road system lies in our method of maintenance. As a rule the roads are not repaired until they are almost beyond repair. Costly macadam roads put down at great expense are allowed to go to ruin because minor defects are not cured promptly.

We will never have good roads without the adoption of a continuous system of repair and methodical inspection of all roads similar to the one in vogue in Continental Europe.

One of the most serious and most frequent mistakes in the good roads agitation is failure to provide for maintenance. The expression "permanent improvement" is likely to be a delusion and a snare. The permanency of an improvement depends largely upon the character of maintenance. The surface of a highway as well as the foundation needs constant attention, similar to that given to a railroad system. It is the repair of the small break, the filling of a small rut, the stitch in time that prevents serious damage and preserves a road. The common dirt road will sustain a heavy traffic if it is properly maintained. The most expensive construction will soon go to pieces if no attention is paid to its maintenance. Care and maintenance of a road must begin the

day its construction ends and be religiously continued during the life of the road. Only in this way can the investment be preserved to the community. The maintenance then becomes a fixed charge which must be taken into account and figured in the ultimate cost.—Oregon Journal.

Federated Church SCIO, OREGON

Sunday School 10 a. m.
Preaching 11 a. m.
Christian Endeavor 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Song Service 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting, Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Brother Meikeljohn, Leader.
H. B. Her, Pastor

Dr. T. K. Sanderson

DENTIST

Phone 27-7

SCIO OREGON

Mortgage Loans Negotiated Notary Public

N. M. Newport

Attorney at Law

(CITY ATTORNEY)

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