

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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BOND ISSUE DUE TO COLUMBIA HIGHWAY

Some of the readers of The Tribune may be getting tired of the articles which appear weekly in its columns, especially those who feel disposed to favor the bond issue. All want good roads and are willing to favor any proposition which promises that result. So does The Tribune. But when a proposition is proposed, which this paper knows is conceived for a selfish purpose and which will render the state at large no benefit, The Tribune will oppose it as long as it can get money enough to pay its printers.

Everybody knows that the secret and underlying purpose of the boosters of the \$6,000,000 bond issue, is the completion of the Columbia highway. Had it not been for this incomplete highway, there would have been no bond issue proposed. But the counties of Clatsop, Columbia and Hood River appeared at the legislature and said "we have exhausted our ability to borrow money yet our road is incomplete; you must help us for we cannot now help ourselves." Portland was extremely anxious to have this paved highway completed. She had bulldozed the legislature into appropriating \$25,000 per year to advertise her scenic highway and it would not do to have this highway in an incomplete condition. Multnomah county had completed the road to her county lines, but could not have the three counties mentioned, raise the money to complete the road through their respective counties. So the state bonding scheme was evolved in order to complete this road. In fact this was shown when Clatsop and Columbia lobbyists were before the legislature.

These three counties, including Hood River, have bonded themselves to the limit. They are bankrupt and can no longer borrow money except at exorbitant cost. They could not raise the money to complete the much desired scenic highway. Multnomah had built the road through her confines, but was unwilling to raise the money to build the road through these other counties. The counties were unable to do so and bonding the state was the only other alternative.

A very large share of the bond issue will be consumed in the completion of this road. This is to be a trunk highway, pure and simple. It will have no lateral roads to speak of. It will not open up any considerable agricultural sections, for it is not there. It is not nor will not be of commercial importance, except for joy riding purposes.

Now will the state tax herself to complete this auto road to the sea, when the counties through which it passes acknowledges their inability to do so? It is nonsense to say it will cost the tax payer nothing, for it appropriates the auto license

money, which has hitherto been applied to our roads and the 1 mill tax levy as well and the taxpayer will have to make up the deficiency. In order to carry the measure, an elaborate road sketch is included in the campaign argument. Anybody, including the bond advocates, knows that it will cost anywhere from fifty to one hundred million dollars to pave these designated roads. This is a sum too stupendous for Oregon, with her present population and wealth, to consider. It would mean the doubling of our present taxes for all time, and that means for the state to retrograde instead of progress as we desire.

The people who advocate this initial bond issue, do not expect that the state will ever pay off these bonds. They are trying to place a perpetual interest paying bonded debt upon the state. Can we afford it at the present time? Can we afford to pursue a policy which will reduce the value of our city property and farms, just to build roads, chiefly for the benefit of the automobiles, whose use is chiefly for pleasure?

Our people who oppose the issue, should be up and doing. Bond advocates are doing everything within their power to force the measure upon the people. No subterfuge is too low or too small for them to resort to. Even this libel suit against the Lebanon Criterion and Mr. Steen is for the purpose of manufacturing public opinion, in favor of bonds, we are told.

Nearly all of the state newspapers are subsidized or hypnotized in favor of the bonding scheme under the general desire for good roads.

As a matter of course we all want the very best roads which we can get and are able to pay for. We are willing to tax ourselves to the limit to secure this result. But in the name of decency and good sense let us pay our tax moneys for building good roads and not to bondholders in the way of interest.

The late fact that when our rural credit bonds were offered for sale, not an Oregon man offered a bid and those bids offered were so low that the state board refused to sell at the price. These rural credit bonds should be gilt edged, for they have the best of security behind them. These road bonds, except at a high interest rate, will sell below par as well and which will add materially to the cost to the state for the benefit of joyriders.

SHOULD HAVE TROUBLED DREAMS

The German kaiser must be carrying a tremendous load on his shoulders. Say nothing of the destruction of life and property the German soldiery has effected in Belgium and northern France and say nothing about the women and children his submarines have sent to the bottom of the sea, the killing and wounding of hundreds of thousands of the best men in his kingdom affords and the starving condition of his people and, especially innocent women and children, must present a spectacle that should melt a heart of adamant.

When Austria declared war on Serbia, the kaiser could have prevented the clash of arms, if he had but said the word. But, having unbounded faith in the success of his military machine, which he has been years in building up, he launched an attack upon little Belgium in order to open an easy road to France with Paris as his objective. He believed that his military machine was so perfect and unbeatable that he thought he would have the whole world at his feet in a few months, begging for terms.

How great must have been his astonishment and chagrine, when

the despised French held up and turned back his highly prized fighting machine at the battle of the Marne. How great must be his disappointment when he now beholds his fighting machine being driven back by both the French and English troops, which he expected to conquer in a few months. And how he will be surprised when American troops intrepidly face his long trained battalions. Surely, because of the terrific loss and suffering of his own people, he must soon be willing to cry "enough."

The kaiser is now rapidly learning the fact that it does not take as long to make the best of soldiers of Freeman as it does of his own people who have never, by experience, learned the meaning of the word. The freemen has a spirit and morale which the man who has always been held in subjection cannot have. He finds much more in life than does the man who has been educated for generations that the king and titled nobility are superior in every way but physical strength, to himself.

The kaiser, with a nation of 60,000,000 people, has builded up a war machine which he thought invincible and the outside world was of the same opinion. So immense were his arms of all kinds, and so perfect were the evolutions of his men at arms, that France, England and even the United States regarded his war conditions as nearly perfection. And when the tocsin of war sounded, all knew that the resources of the civilized world must be employed to defeat Germany's ambition.

But German formidableness has been over estimated and her cruelties and disregard of life has aroused the entire civilized world to the fact that German despotism must be subdued. And it will be. The force of numbers and equipment, fully equal to the best which Germany can produce, is being and will be employed against her and, besides, right and the liberty of mankind are behind the guns of her enemies.

After the great holocaust is over and the countries of Europe have been reduced to a pitiful case of destitution and poverty, when her wage earners have been either crippled or killed and when the kaiser beholds the deplorable condition into which his and other European nations have been reduced and which he could have prevented, had he held his ambition to rule the world in check, if he has any conscience whatever and sympathy for the condition to which he has reduced his subjects and others, his mental torture will be beyond endurance. He will be having all the punishments of hell while on earth. But having been born and bred to the velvet, he cannot know or realize what the sufferings of the men in the trenches are, nor of that of the thousands of the poor women and children in his kingdom.

The man who commits awful crimes, may be pitied for his mental condition, providing he has such a commodity, but his mental sufferings are surely infinitesimal to what the kaiser is now feeling but surely not enjoying. It should be, if it is not, hell on earth. He should suffer tortures because of the untold suffering he has caused.

Linn county has the lowest tax rates of any county in the state, yet they are plenty high to satisfy the people who have to dig up the money. Better still, she is out of debt and can pay her bills when they are presented. At least five counties in the state cannot make this statement and be within the range of facts.

Farmers gladly welcomed the respite from rain the first of the week. Two or three weeks of rainless weather is wanted as badly as a defeat of the Germans.

H. C. ROLOFF

AUCTIONEER

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