

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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

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I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

KEEP THE HOME FIRE BURNING

In these days when the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion we who constitute the supply department for our boys over there—who cannot find a place on the firing line with General Pershing—have duties to perform which are as essential as those at the front.

Our victorious armies must be supplied with food, clothing, munitions, etc. Ships for transportation purposes and new levies of troops must be made and properly trained, with which to supply reinforcements and the wastage. In these several respects the American people are doing their duty creditably and patriotically. They are keeping the home fires burning brightly.

But there is another duty which is of equal importance with the successful prosecution of the war which in a measure has been overshadowed by our military activities and that is the maintaining of our government, national, state, county and municipal in the highest state of efficiency. It is to protect and make secure for the world democratic forms of government of which the United States is regarded as furnishing the highest type.

It is our duty to maintain a government in all of its several functions which is worthy of the supreme sacrifice which our boys on the firing line seem joyfully willing to make in its defense. And we should be exceedingly careful in the selection of officials upon whom will rest the responsibility of conducting our several departments of government which will make it worth preserving and worth fighting for to maintain.

There never has been a time in our governmental history when our public officials were morally required to be more economical, more efficient and more patriotic than it is today.

We want economy in the conduct of public affairs because it will enable taxpayers to devote more of their earnings in the service of our country; we want efficiency because of the saving of man power in the conduct of the many departmental functions of the government, and we want patriotism because men will fight for something they deem worthy and which they love.

Now a careful selection of a governor and state treasurer will result in a more economic conduct of our state institutions and the consequent less cost of state government. For our legislature we want men who are of pronounced economical ideas and who will use their best endeavors to lop off the barnacles who have succeeded in having themselves

attached to the state payrolls. By cutting off these useless appendages our state government can be operated at a much less cost than at the present time and do away with the so-called necessity of taxing the taxpayer an extra mill for the state's support.

The winning of the war of course is the thing in the thoughts of the people today. But it should not cause us to overlook our state, county and municipal politics. It is in such times that unfit and inefficient officials manage to get into power. While the people are thinking and talking about the big thing these petty and too often grafting officials get in their work.

So let us carefully scrutinize the November ballot and select men or women regardless of their political affiliations but who will make officials in whose hands the public business will be efficiently and economically conducted.

A POLITICAL APPOINTMENT.

If there has ever been a political appointment to a supreme judgeship by a governor of Oregon which is more baldly a payment of a political debt than the appointment of Conrad Olson of Portland, as supreme judge to supply the vacancy of the late Justice Moore, The Tribune has yet to learn about it.

Senator Olson was practically Governor Withycombe's campaign manager in 1914, and as the governor won the election he feels indebted to Olson. Well the debt is paid. The goods have been delivered. But The Tribune opines that Governor Withycombe will pay a heavy price to the people in November for thus using his official position to pay a political debt.

There are many reasons why Mr. Olson should not have been appointed. He is nothing but a sort of jack sea lawyer, possessing considerable political ability but not in the interests of the people throughout the state.

He it was who was mainly responsible for foisting upon the people the \$6,000,000 road bond deal with which to build a joy riding highway for Portland and tourist automobilists. Had it not been for Senator Garland and others, Senator Olson would have crowded this bill, condemned by the people outside of Portland, through the legislature without the referendum to the people.

But the measure carried and nevertheless Governor Withycombe favored referring the measure to the people has appointed Olson to the supreme bench, clearly and only in payment of a political debt. It is simply another order from the Portland bunch which the governor seems to not dare disobey. The election is but a month away and votes will be votes at that time and the governor will probably need them.

The republican state committee is out with a statement that Governor Withycombe's administration has been extra harmonious. The fact is the state board of control has been at loggerheads much of the time and the penitentiary has been in a muddle all the time.

The Tribune admits the governor has been admirably patriotic during his administration. But he has not had a monopoly of Oregon patriotism. There are thousands who love their country and will do anything to win the war as well as he. There are very many who by voice and work have done more than he. Mayor Baker of Portland, has given twice the time and energy in war matters than has the governor who has but done his duty, as thousands of patriotic Oregonians would have done if placed in his shoes.

Governor Withycombe has not been a success as governor. His

blunders have been numerous. He has been accused of taking his orders from Portland and his last act of making Conrad Olson a state supreme judge bears out the accusation.

This twaddle of not changing horses while crossing a stream is all bosh. There are thousands of men in Oregon who are just as patriotic and far more capable to fill the governor's office than Governor Withycombe. Nor are they all democrats for The Tribune can point out many republicans in Linn or other counties who would be governor if in his place.

THAT HARRISBURG BRIDGE

Harrisburg needs a bridge across the Willamette river. There is no doubt about that. So is there a demand for a bridge across the North Santiam near Shelburn. Both of these bridges will be erected in course of time. But to think or to consider the building of either in the immediate future is rank folly. The cost at the present time and will be for several years to come is beyond consideration.

The present county court has been willing, or was up to the present year, to join Lane county in erecting the bridge; but Lane county would not come through with her share. But nevertheless Lane county would not undertake her half of the cost Harrisburg has insisted that Linn county should erect the bridge and trust to Lane's generosity to pay her just portion of the cost. This our county court very wisely refused to do.

Because of the court's action Harrisburg people are very much incensed. Commissioner Irvine doubtless owes his defeat for renomination to Harrisburg's censure and we are told Judge McKnight will be heavily punished at the November election for the same reason. Such action on the part of Harrisburg people is both unwise and unreasonable. It will probably result in the loss of votes for D. A. Pierce, Harrisburg's candidate for commissioner, in other parts of the county.

The offices of county judge and commissioner are hard places to fill. Let the court decide a question in whichever way it may somebody is sure to be offended and to visit punishment later on at the polls.

Mr. Pierce is no doubt a competent man for commissioner but he will have to carry the load of being Harrisburg's candidate at the November election. The Tribune will not say he is in any way pledged to the Harrisburg people to build their bridge at any time in the immediate future for we do not know. But he should be very industrious in convincing his friends in the south end of the county that they are wrong in condemning the present court for its action or lack of action in the bridge matter. People may be coaxed but they cannot be driven.

Miss Lenore Powell of Brownsville, is the democratic candidate for county treasurer. She ought to be elected mainly because she is a woman as more than half of the electorate of Linn county is now women and they should be fairly represented in Linn county officialdom. And besides she is well qualified to fill the position. Moreover she is a product of one of the pioneer families of Linn county. No one will have cause to regret voting for Lenore Powell. We might add W. W. Francis, her opponent, has grown gray in the service of Linn county and he is justly entitled to a rest. We ought not to ride a willing horse to death.

Our fellow townsman Hon. D. C. Thoms is one of the republican candidates for representative in the

state legislature. Mr. Thoms has had experience as a member of that body, having been twice elected when he was a resident of Marion county. His record as the house journal will show is very creditable. His votes have ever been for the interests of the taxpayer. Linn county's interests will be well taken care of if entrusted to his hands. Also he should be elected because he is the only candidate on either ticket representing the larger half territorially of Linn county. His location should be a recommendation in the minds of all fair minded people.

D. P. Mason of Albany, who is the democratic candidate for state treasurer, is a safe, practical and conservative business man. Nearly all of his business life has been spent in Linn county. During the nearly 40 years of business life in Linn county he has built up a reputation for honesty and square dealing which will bear the test of a close scrutiny. Should he be chosen state treasurer the people can rest assured where economy can be brought to bear without injury to the public service in the matters over which the board of control exercises jurisdiction it will be done. Mr. Mason has been successful in the management of his own large business and he will undoubtedly give the state's business a like careful attention.

C. C. Jackson of near Halsey, and one of the democratic candidates for the Oregon house of representatives, is well and favorably known by the old settlers of the Scio country. He served Linn county as sheriff for one term making an excellent reputation as an efficient officer. For many years he has been one of Halsey's progressive and enterprising farmers. He takes a lively interest in public affairs and is well equipped to render first-class service as a law maker. "Lum" Jackson, as his friends know him, if elected will ever be found supporting the interests of the people in legislative activities by working early and late to reduce the expensive bureaucratic government which has gradually been foisted upon the state. Voters will not make a mistake in giving him their support in November.

J. W. Moore, democratic candidate for sheriff of Linn county, is making a careful and judicious campaign and is said to be winning votes. He has been a resident of Brownsville for many years and enjoys the confidence and respect of all who know him. The Tribune believes he would make a careful and efficient sheriff. He is endeavoring to meet the people so that they can judge for themselves if he is of suitable timber to conduct the sheriff's office.

The Portland Journal says that a peace made in Berlin is not wanted by the allies. The Tribune thinks a peace made in Berlin is just what we do want and must have before there is a satisfactory conclusion of peace. But the peace terms must be dictated by the allies, not by Kaiser Bill.

Ex-Governor West, who has just returned from Europe where he was on business for the government, is expected to return to Oregon in the immediate future and participate in the political campaign.

YOUR DUTY AND WHY

"We are fighting this war for the next generation as well as this. We are dedicating the life blood of this nation that our children and our children's children MAY ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY—OTHERS IN THIS COUNTRY WILL GIVE THEIR BLOOD: YOU GIVE YOUR MONEY."
—George W. Wickersham, Former U. S. Attorney General.

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