

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.

POLITICS.

Politics is defined by most of our lexicographers as being "the science of government." Therefore as the people through the power of the initiative and referendum and of the direct primary method of nominating candidates for public office, should not content themselves with a few speeches during the campaign years by men or women who desire to be nominated and elected to office, but should keep in touch with matters political during off years as well as during what has come to be known as political years.

By this we mean that public officials should take the people into their confidence; meet with them frequently and tell the people, their employers, what they are doing and how they, the officials, are conducting their respective offices. Such talks should be entirely free of partisanship and should pertain entirely to the conduct of the offices to which they were elected.

To illustrate: Our county court comes more intimately in direct contact with the people than any other of our county officials. It has control of the building of our roads and bridges, a matter in which the people are interested all the time. For this reason these officials should meet with the people of every community in the county frequently and tell them what they, the officials, are doing and what they purpose to do.

In private business undertakings, where a manager is employed to conduct a business, does the employer turn matters over to the manager for a period of two years without an accounting? No, indeed. Frequent conferences between employer and manager are held so that the business is conducted along the lines the employer desires. Such frequent conferences generate confidence on the part of both parties concerned.

Should not such conferences be held with the manager we employ in a public capacity as well as if he or she was employed in private endeavor?

But such is not our practice in the conduct of our city and county governments. We employ an official by election to serve for a stated period and then drop the matter from our minds. Generally the work is well done, but it is too often the case that officials become careless and inefficient, feeling that they are employed for the stated period, and whether they give good or inferior service is immaterial. They

feel sure that their salaries will be forthcoming every month and for the period of time they are employed (elected) and apparently they try to get along doing as little work as possible.

Now, if such official was required to meet the people (his employers) frequently, confer with them and tell them what he is doing and how he was conducting his particular office, he would not become so derelict in duty. Frequent conferences with the people would serve as a stimulant and spur to a better performance of duty.

Men who drive or ride horses know that the whip or spur is necessary to stimulate the lazy or slow horse up to doing his work properly and some officials, unfortunately, are somewhat like the lazy or slow horse.

Linn county in the past has had many excellent and painstaking officials and some who were not so good. Like the lazy or slow horse they needed stimulation in some form. Frequent conferences with the people would have served as the necessary stimulant. It would have made satisfactory officials of, let us say, a very few who retired from office as not satisfactory servants.

If Judge Bilyeu, who is the leading manager of our county business affairs, will make it a point to meet the people of the various localities of the county frequently and tell them his plans an ascertain what the people desire, it will be time well spent.

If Commissioners Pierce and Butler will meet the people occasionally and talk up road and bridge matters, they would create much enthusiasm and a community of feeling. If certain roads could or could not be improved, as the people of such community desired, the reason for or against could be given; or if a new bridge could or could not be built, etc.

People do not expect impossibilities from their public officials, but they do expect the best service possible with the means they (the people) supply. The people are willing to be taxed liberally if funds arising therefrom are expended in a manner which will yield the best results.

At all events the people should take interest enough in their own business to keep in touch with the activities of their officials. Any official who wishes to play fair and do his duty, will be glad to take the people into his confidence, and occasional meetings of the people and officials is the best and cheapest plan yet devised.

CRITICIZING SECRETARY BAKER

No doubt Senator Chamberlain had just cause to criticize the conduct of the war department.

No doubt that the appeals made to him from parties which had and were suffering from lax execution of orders from Secretary Baker to hospitals and other departments which come under the direction of the secretary of war, touched the senator's sympathy and aroused his indignation. Maladministration, when it becomes known, arouses the indignation of everyone and we condemn such maladministration in unlimited terms.

Senator Chamberlain, in his late caustic criticism of Secretary Baker, was fully warranted in his condemnations. He had a just right as chairman of the senate committee on military affairs to let the light of day shine upon minor departments of the secretary of war, which senator Chamberlain had become of information thereof.

The criticism was made at the proper time and before the proper body. Such was not the case when this same senator criticized the conduct of the war office before a New York audience nearly one year ago,

The criticism at that time was untimely and before the wrong audience. It should have been delivered before the United States senate, as was the last expose of maladministration of inferior departments.

Yet Senator Chamberlain's New York strictures on the war department, though made before an improper audience, resulted in good. It caused the rectification of the things of which the senator complained. Let us hope his late criticism made before the proper body of men and at an occasion which was timely, will result even in greater good.

Secretary Baker, however, should not be considered an official failure because commanders or superintendents of minor departments fail to administer their trusts in the spirit intended. Such derelictions were certainly contrary to the wishes of Secretary Baker. He undoubtedly wishes his orders executed in the spirit in which they were given, with promptness and with tender care in handling the sick and the wounded.

However, Secretary Baker is not the first secretary of war to be criticized. Secretary Stanton, one of the ablest secretaries of war the United States has ever had, brought down the maledictions of both the army and the people because he would not exchange well fed and healthy Rebel prisoners, confined in Northern prisons, for emaciated and sickly Union prisoners confined in Southern prison pens. Secretary Stanton's dictum in this matter may have been right from a cold blooded and merciless viewpoint and from an immediate advantage to the Rebel cause, yet it was then bitterly condemned and is condemned yet, today, by the surviving Civil war veterans.

Secretary Alger of the war with Spain, was severely condemned for the rotten canned beef he permitted to pass inspection at the packing houses, to be afterwards issued to our soldiers in Cuba. The "round robin" of which Theodore Roosevelt then an officer in Cuba was the investigator, has not yet been forgotten.

It would be most remarkable if, under the administration of any secretary of war, some subordinate official did not prove recreant to his trust in being dishonest or negligent. Such will probably be the case as long as the world lasts or as long as frail humanity must be trusted.

But when we remember that Secretary Baker transported about 2,000,000 of soldiers to Europe without the loss of a man, if we except the men lost on one British transport guarded by British destroyers, we must take off our hats to him. His transportation system must have been as perfect as human ingenuity could organize. Moreover, he has maintained his commissary stores so abundantly and has kept our men at the front so well supplied with food and clothing as well as arms and ammunition, that not a word of complaint by our boys at the battle front has been heard. This cannot be said of either Secretary Stanton or Secretary Alger.

If subordinate officers carry out orders in the spirit and intent given, which has been done by our army and navy officers in a manner of astonishment, the few derelictions can be overlooked.

Yet, Senator Chamberlain does right in calling down maladministrations and procrastinations: Only by criticisms can these things be ascertained. The guilty commandant will not tell of it, and only by the complaints of those who suffer, or by the complaints of those who know of the suffering, can the shortcomings of subordinates become known. This is the only way Secretary Baker can find out that a subordinate is derelict.

So Senator Chamberlain is right

in motive and Secretary Baker should welcome the criticism for he can at once proceed to correct the cause of complaint.

OUR BIENNIAL TROUBLE.

Next week, to be exact, January 13, our biennial trouble will begin down at Salem. Heretofore the trouble has been with the people who had to raise the money with which to pay the bills the legislative appropriations required. But at this session the legislators have a good sized bunch of trouble to take care of themselves.

A few years ago the people enacted a law creating what is known as "the six per cent limitation law." This law says in effect that the present legislature shall not expend or appropriate a sum in excess of six per cent more than was appropriated at the legislative session of 1916.

In ordinary times this increase would be ample for the usual requirements. The framers of the law figured that the assessed valuation of the state would not increase more than six per cent in a biennium and therefore the cost of government should not make a greater relative increase.

But the past two years have not been nor cannot be classed as ordinary years. The cost of living and about everything else, have more than doubled in price. The maintenance of our state institutions has been sensitive to this increase. This additional cost has been met by what is known as an "emergency" appropriation by the emergency board. This board is composed of the governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives.

This board has, in addition to providing for the deficiencies of our state institutions and necessary war expenses, created a body of men known as "state police." This last item makes up for \$250,000 of the near \$1,000,000 which the board expects the present legislature to provide for.

Thus our lawmakers must deduct from the total amount which they should have for appropriations this \$1,000,000 and the balance will be at their disposal for appropriations for the coming biennium. So to speak, our legislature is given a certain amount of cloth from which they must fashion a certain number of garments.

It must either reduce the number or the size of the garments. In either case there will be a great roar made. In the meantime the taxpayers will simply smile and say: "We build better than we knew when we enacted the six per cent limitation law."

Governor Withycombe bitterly condemns this law and indicates he thinks the same is a disgrace to Oregon statute laws. The governor is mainly responsible for the state police and rightly he and the rest of the board should be made to pay the expense from their personal means. Portland wanted this state police because she did not want to pay for the guards thought necessary to protect the shipyards, etc. So she boosted the expense onto the state, as she did the joy riding Columbia highway which she wanted badly but did not wish to pay for.

The above is the problem our legislators must solve and upon which they will commence next Monday unless the flu forces a recess. By the close of the session they will all have become expert financiers. At all events they will have to quit when they spend all the money.

The Tribune has blank applications for auto or chauffeur license for 1919. Send in your application at once and avoid the rush.

The Scio Tribune \$1.50 the year.

Railroad Time Table

Arrival and Departure of Passenger Trains

Woodburn-Springfield Branch
WEST SCIO
North 7:55 a.m.
South 5:09 p.m.

Corvallis & Eastern
MUNKERS
To Albany 8:11 a.m.
To Detroit 1:44 p.m.
Motor service discontinued.

Mortgage Loans Negotiated Notary Public

H. B. CHESS
Attorney at Law

Office on Sherman St Lebanon, Ore.

THE SCIO STATE BANK

W. A. Ewing, President A. E. Randall, Vice Pres.

E. D. Myers, Cashier
Does a general banking business, receives deposits subject to check, pays interest on time deposits, sells travelers checks and drafts, and makes collections.

MUNKERS and WEST SCIO STAGE

Walter Bilyeu, Prop.
Phone 6-515
STAGE MEETS ALL TRAINS
—Leaves Scio Postoffice—
at 7:10 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for West Scio
and 12:45 p.m. for Munkers

R. SHELTON

Notary Public and Conveyancer
Abstracts of Title Examined
SCIO - - - OREGON

Morrison & Lowe

UNDERTAKERS
Calls Attended to Promptly
Day or Night
SCIO - - - OREGON

H. C. ROLOFF

AUCTIONEER
WATERLOO - - - OREGON
R. F. D. No. 1 Phone 12x Sweet Home
Sale dates arranged for at The Scio
Tribune Office, Scio, Ore.

C. C. BRYANT

ATTORNEY AT LAW
201-2 New First National Bank Bldg.
ALBANY - - - OREGON

Agricultural Credit Corporation of Oregon

Our twenty year rural credit plan of loaning money to farmers helps you to get out of debt. Under our form of loan the TOTAL amount of interest paid during its ENTIRE period of twenty years, is actually less than 5 1/2 per cent interest. Write us for booklet.

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133 Lyon St
Albany, Oregon

St. Francis Hotel

ALBANY, ORE.
Meals 35 and 50 cents
Room 50c and Up
GRANT PIRTLE, Proprietor