

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.

HEW TO THE LINE.

Monday our legislators met and by this time are getting down to business providing the flu has not prevented. As organization had been cut and dried prior to the assembling there is nothing to prevent getting down to work in record-breaking time. And there is need for promptness in getting to work in earnest, for there never has been such a knotty problem given a legislature to solve as the present body has before it.

Two propositions stare our legislators in the face in the outset. One is to cut down expense by the abolishment of not necessary officials and the other is to provide for heavy increased expenditures by our state institutions. They are confronted with nearly \$1,000,000 deficit created by the emergency board—money already spent—and a largely increased demand for the support of our state institutions for the future. At the same time the amount of money which may be appropriated is limited to a 6 per cent increase over the appropriations of two years ago.

In private business, when the income falls down, men are forced to retrench in the cost of business. They cut out employes until the cost is brought safely within the limits of the income.

Why may not the state resort to this same method in conducting the public business? Why may not officials and state employes double up on the work and thus release half their number until this stress passes? This is what we all have to do in the conduct of our private business. It is simply good practical business sense to do so.

As The Tribune has often pointed out, we have something near 40 state commissions, all of which cost money. A number of these state boards could be abolished altogether without injury to the public service and many others could be consolidated. In several instances the duties of these boards overlap and duplicate each other, and one board, without increase in cost, could do the work of two or three boards.

This is a part of the problem our lawmakers must solve. The solution should have been made years ago. Now the point has been reached when the solution must be made. The 6 per cent limitation forbids passing the matter on to the taxpayers as in the past. For practically the first time the legislature is compelled to cut the garment from the stated amount of cloth given.

In the legislatures of the past the membership has been largely composed of lawyers and they have not neglected to provide liberally for the interests of their profession. To illustrate this point let us take the third judicial district as an example:

Some years ago the third judicial district was composed of Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill and Tillamook counties. One circuit judge presided over the courts of all of these counties and at a time when transportation facilities were much inferior to what they are now. The judge's salary at that time was \$3000 per year. Finally these lawyer legislators got busy.

They first enacted a law creating an additional judge for the district; then another law increased the annual salary of the circuit judge to \$4000 per annum. Then still another law was enacted dividing the district, leaving the counties of Linn and Marion as constituting the third judicial district, but the two judges still stayed with the abbreviated district, drawing the \$4000 per year salary each.

Now Linn and Marion counties are ably represented on the circuit bench and both judges are learned, honorable gentlemen, and The Tribune has no fault to find with either. But the amount of work required of each of these is very light. One of them could do the work of both and then not work more than half the time. Linn county holds four terms of the circuit court yearly. Presumably Marion holds the same number of terms. In Linn a court term rarely lasts longer than one week each for departments one and two. If the Marion county terms are similar, each judge is active on the bench for eight weeks each year. If one judge should be required to do the work of both, then he would be on the bench but 16 weeks yearly, or one-third of his time. Nor would one judge be overworked to do the entire district work. Other judicial districts throughout the state may be situated similarly.

Judge W. R. Bilyeu is perhaps as good a lawyer as either Judge Kelly or Judge Bingham. Yet Judge Bilyeu holds 12 terms of the county court annually and his court is open to probate matter all the time. In fact our county judge is busy about all of the time throughout the year. His salary is \$1800 per year. Compare this with the \$4000 circuit judge salary and you are forced to conclude the more work the less salary.

The Tribune has cited the above just to show how the lawyer legislator has looked after his own and without regard to the interest of the taxpayer.

Nearly every other department of the state government has been exploited in like manner. They are flooded with unnecessary clerks whose principal work is to draw the salary, and probably not one of whom works as diligently as he or she would be required to work in private employment.

This is a condition which our legislators must consider. They should institute a process of elimination until every unnecessary clerk and official is invited to look elsewhere for a job. If the pruning knife is used liberally in lopping off these useless and detrimental commissions, officials and clerks, the sum of money at the disposal of the legislature will be found sufficient. Just a little heroic treatment and the trick is done. But there must be no playing of favorites. The legislator must close his ears to complaints and pleadings. He must "hew to the line let the chips fall where they may."

The Tribune suggests a very easy and effectual method of getting rid of these not necessary commissions, officials and clerks. Simply forget to appropriate money for their support. They will disappear instanter.

THE PURPOSE IS NOBLE.

Many people look upon President Wilson's trip to Europe as a sort of pleasure excursion. Such is very far from his purpose. He feels that his presence during the preliminary and first days of the peace congress may be productive of the end of all war. If he can accomplish this purpose history will accord him the honor of being the greatest of benefactors to the human race.

The president has been in Europe more than one month. Few, if any people could see the wisdom of his presence there so long before the opening of the peace congress. But in view of the fact that he thought it necessary to visit England and Italy in addition to his temporary residence in Paris, the month was little enough time to accomplish his purpose.

But why these visits, why this hobnobbing with royalty, the political statesmen and the people of the several nations? Why the many short addresses, etc.?

President Wilson has the one great purpose in view and that is the formation of a great league of nations and the consequent elimination of future wars. To accomplish this purpose he desires to wield the strongest possible influence. He wanted to get beneath the political surface and next to the hearts of the people. He wanted the political leaders of the several countries he has visited to see that their peoples were very weary of war and wanted the greatest possible assurance against war in the future. He believed that his personal contact with the people through traveling around would draw out the sentiment of the people as could be done through no other channel.

His diagnosis of the situation is highly correct. His influence about the peace table is very much stronger because of the great popularity of himself in the hearts of the common people, which has been drawn out by the visits he has made.

He has shown to these European peoples that the United States is wholly unselfish in the advocacy of a league of nations, and that if war can be avoided in the future these European countries which adjoin each other have far more to gain than we—that the probability of war in the future between these European states is very much greater than it is for the United States to become involved.

Now, when these European states are most war weary and are almost overwhelmed with the enormous war debt, the president thinks the time most propitious to bring about an international agreement which will make the war of the future most improbable, if not impossible.

What nobler missive could our president or any other man embark in? Even if his opposing political party shall make some slight political headway while he is absent, what does that signify? While his political enemies have laid the wires for a party victory he will have won a victory for humanity and would have made the world a decent place in which to live. He will have saved the world from using the young men for cannon fodder and have saved the home from grieving for the husband or son lost on the battle field.

When Representative D. C. Thoms went to Salem Monday morning he overlooked taking with him his prize cartoonist, Fred L. Jones. Mr. Jones would have been in his glory if he could caricature some of the legislative acrobatics. In the meantime he is practising his artistic skill on Bill Brenner and others, using grain sacks for his canvas. And Fred is some artist (?)

The Scio Tribune \$1.50 the year.

Auxiliary Power.

Scio must have some sort of auxiliary power to supplement when water power is insufficient else go out of the electric light business. There is no doubt about that. If stores and residences must supply their own lights, for two or three months of the year, rather than be content with a very inferior service from the city, they will soon conclude that they can do so for the rest of the year and save much vexation of spirit.

The almighty dollar is something we all look to very closely. We want to get full value therefor when we pay the same. This is true of the individual and should be true in the management of the city's affairs.

A supernumerary engine could be obtained and installed for from \$1500 to \$2000. This power would be used presumably when water power was insufficient only. As our lease for water will soon expire we may be wholly without water power. Certainly it will then cost us very much more than it does now. Our annual expense, therefore, for auxiliary power from this source may be expected to be not less than \$1000 per year, counting interest on the cost of the engine, water rent, fuel, etc. We could expect no greater income from the light service than we have now, as day service is not reckoned in this estimate.

It has been estimated that a dam could be constructed at the lower end of the Jordan canyon and transmission wires provided at a cost of \$15,000. But to be safe let us say \$20,000. This looks like a huge debt for Scio to assume. But the debt appears greater than it really is. Six per cent bonds could easily be sold at par and possibly at a premium. This would mean an annual interest burden of \$1200. This would give us an abundance of night and day service. And to pay the interest we would have the following increase above what the income is now: If we deduct the \$1000 cost of auxiliary service by engine, cost of water, etc., we will have but \$200 to account for.

Against this \$200 we would have lights supplied to not less than 20 country homes on the way down from the power station, which may be estimated at \$600 per year. Power sold to the half dozen or more places using gas engines now, the flouring mill, etc., \$600 per year. Suburban homes immediately about Scio which doubtless would take lights, \$300.

Thus we would have an additional income over what we have now of \$1500. If to this we add the \$1000 expense of the first plan mentioned we have \$2500 to offset the annual interest charge of \$1200.

By increasing the power as last above outlined the expense of operation would be increased say \$600 per year. This would leave us \$700 per year to the good, which could be used as a sinking fund and which could be increased to \$1000 from the present income. A water bond of \$1000 could be taken up annually and thereby reduce the interest charge.

The Tribune simply offers these figures to get people thinking. We know that there is a strong prejudice against bonded indebtedness. But sometimes it pays to go in debt. Sometimes it is wisdom to assume a larger debt to get something permanent and more satisfactory than it does to assume a smaller debt which would give but a temporary benefit. The above is worth consideration at least.

The Tribune has blank applications for auto or chauffeur license for 1919. Send in your application at once and avoid the rush. 17tf

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.

HECKER & BEAM, Agents.
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Albany, Oregon

St. Francis Hotel

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