

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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

Entered at the postoffice at Scio, Oregon as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION, IN ADVANCE \$1.50
AT END OF YEAR 1.75
SIX MONTHS .75

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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.

ROAD LEGISLATION.

There are several good roads bills now in incubation in the Oregon legislature and doubtless some of them will materialize into laws. All of them so far as yet heard from are based upon state bond issues.

In the light of the experience the road bonding act of two years ago has given us and the arbitrary plans of the state roads commission in selling the bonds and expending the money, the people outside of Portland and the Columbia river counties are not friendly to bond issues.

We have given up the automobile license money to this good roads proposition; have had our roads destroyed by autos at home, and others running up and down the state, but in order to get any benefit from the \$6,000,000 bond issue we must run down to Portland to take a ride on the Columbia highway which our money has helped to build.

The people generally and in Linn county in particular are opposed to becoming obligated for the payment of bonds unless we have some of the benefits. We think our own roads are of more importance to us at least than are the joy riding roads up and down the Columbia river. We use our roads, such as they are, for business purposes as well as for joy riding and we insist that our money at least shall be expended on roads which are of some benefit to ourselves. So we object to any road plan which involves a bond issue which does not inure to our benefit in some measure.

The people of Linn county are willing to vote bonds and are willing to buy bonds providing the bonds they buy the proceeds of which are expended on Linn county roads.

But they will not vote bonds and have the money turned over to a Portland road commission to spend the proceeds whosoever such commission elects to expend it.

The \$6,000,000 bond issue will be practically exhausted this year. As yet Linn county has not had a cent of benefit therefrom though we have given up \$10,000 or more of our automobile license to the scheme. We simply have the promise of ten miles of hard surface road leading from Jefferson to Albany. Let us hope we get this favor from the commission for the \$200,000 to \$300,000 we will be compelled to pay of the bond issue. We feel that this short strip of road is costing us more than double what we ourselves could build it for. Therefore Linn county will oppose another bond issue, as she did the \$6,000,000, unless she

has some assurance that she will receive her full share of such bond issue, the same to be expended on Linn county roads.

Linn county would favor a bonding law for road purposes somewhat as follows: Let the state underwrite the bonds and offer them to the counties for sale at par with the understanding that the money arising from the sale of such bonds in each individual county would be turned over to such county for road building purposes. Then the people would buy the bonds for they would feel that they would receive a direct benefit. Of course the state could require that roads constructed from this money shall be standard and in accordance with the best up to date method of construction. The people would gladly comply with such requirements for they would be getting direct benefit.

We want no more good roads bond issues as conducted under the Benson road commission. A good road in Clatsop, Columbia or Hood River counties is of no value to the people of Linn county. No doubt the people of those counties enjoy their good roads. They ought to for they could not have them without the help of the other counties of the state which the vote of Multnomah county gave them.

Perhaps the people will receive value from the bond issue of two years ago in experience. It is a foregone conclusion that they will not get value in good roads. If so the proposed \$10,000,000 now under consideration by the legislature may be so safeguarded that each county will receive value commensurate with its obligation. But Multnomah county must not be permitted to pull off a deal on the state as raw as that of two years ago.

If the patent paving road companies can be kept away from the state house we are likely to have a bond measure enacted which in a measure will be just and equitable to all the people. But to be just such bond issue should be required to be sold at not less than par and the proceeds so handled that each dollar arising therefrom will be productive of a dollar's worth of benefit on the roads.

The state now has a lime plant which we are told will furnish lime for fertilizing purposes at less than half the cost which private lime concerns would supply it. Cannot the state manufacture cement and thus secure a great saving? Certainly if our roads must be paved, and they must, we ought to be able to cut out the profiteering feature. This cannot be nor will not be done if the Warren Construction Co. or any other patent road* concern has anything to do with framing the law or anything to do with executing the law after its enactment.

TWO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS.

If the Wilson administration shall have nothing more to its credit than the enactment of the regional bank law it will go down in history as the greatest constructive administration which our 144 years of governmental life will have given us.

The republican party had conducted the Civil war and evolved a financial system. For brevity it may be termed the "greenback" system. The democratic party has had conducted America's share of the great world war now being concluded, and has developed a financial system known as the regional bank plan. With each of these systems a currency issue was evolved.

The greenback currency was made legal tender by congress for all debts public and private, except duties on imports and interest on the public debt. The result of this exception clause placed gold at a premium. At one time the gold dollar was

worth nearly two and one-half dollars in greenbacks. Gold, except on the Pacific Coast, disappeared from circulation.

When congress was compelled to borrow money with which to conduct the Civil war appeal was made to the banks of Wall street, New York, and these bankers refused to float the greenback currency without the exception clause. Wall street bankers bought the U. S. bonds at a discount with greenbacks and then when the war was over went down to Washington city and had congress pass "the credit strengthening act" which made the bonds, principal as well as interest, payable in gold at their par value. Yes, Wall street took advantage of the government's necessities and doubled her money which she had invested in the bonds. Had the exception clause not been placed on the greenback they would have been as good as gold and the bonds would not have sold at a discount.

When the regional bank law was enacted under the Wilson administration the partnership which had existed since the Civil war between the government and Wall street was dissolved. When the government issued currency it was done through these regional banks; and mark you, these regional bank notes or modern greenbacks, do not carry an exception clause. They are as good as gold for they perform every function in trade that gold will.

In the Civil war loans but about three billions of dollars in bonds were floated. Wall street forced the price of these bonds down as low as 85 cents at one-time and at this discount they were paid for in currency not worth but 50 cents in gold.

During the great war just closed four great bond issues aggregating six times the total bond issue of the Civil war were floated at par. But Secretary McAdoo did not take them to Wall street for sale. Oh! no. He simply appealed to the people who bought the bonds as a patriotic duty.

President Wilson's political enemies are endeavoring in every way they can to minimize the good things he has done and to magnify any mistakes which may have been. But they cannot condemn the operation of the regional bank, the rural credits, and very many other laws which have been enacted in the interest not of Wall street bankers, but in those of the people.

Of course President Wilson has made mistakes; what president has not? Washington and Lincoln and Grant and Roosevelt all made them. All were criticized for their acts time and again. President Wilson has done some things which even his own party friends have condemned. He would not be human if he did not err sometimes. But never one word has been heard condemning the regional bank act. That one act, the finest constructive financial legislation in the history of our government, is enough to stamp his administration a success.

With the establishment of a league of nations and which will mark the end of wars between nations probable, Woodrow Wilson will go down in history as the greatest of great presidents.

Compulsory Voting.

Senator Banks would have compulsory voting. He would impose a penalty for the misuse of the elective franchise. Perhaps it would be well if the end sought could be practically worked out.

The appended paragraph, clipped from the Boston Herald, will show that Senator Banks is not alone in this view:

"The abnormally small vote cast at the recent Boston election will doubtless be urged on the legislature

at its next session as an indication of some need of a system of compulsory voting. The constitution of the commonwealth now gives the legislature the authority to make provision for this if it desires."

Academically and practically the end sought is justified. But whether justifiable means can be found is the question. The right to vote is the active essence of citizenship. Many of the political evils from which we suffer are due to the lax exercise of that right. The public suffers from it. The right to vote is possibly the most valuable right of citizenship, but of what value is it either to the individual citizen or the community if it is not exercised? If its value is not appreciated and not made to count in the general behalf, why should it be retained?

Senator Banks has at least started an interesting discussion that ought, if it were conducted vigorously, to have its educational effect.—Portland Telegram.

Income Tax Blanks.

Milton A. Miller, collector of internal revenue at Portland, is receiving many inquiries concerning the provisions of the new revenue bill providing for income and other taxes, and numerous requests are being made for forms on which to make returns.

Collector Miller says that no definite information can be given or forms furnished until the bill has finally passed congress and becomes a law. It will then take some little time to have forms printed and ready for distribution. He has arranged to send out a general notification from his office so that all tax payers may be informed promptly of the provisions of the proposed law. The organization of his field force will be such as to render every possible assistance to tax payers throughout the state of Oregon and deputies will be located at many advantageous points so that information may be secured direct to guide them in making returns when the proper time arrives.

The basic principles of the old income tax law will no doubt be applied to the provisions of the new law and it would be well for every individual and corporation to prepare figures and ascertain the exact amount of income so as to be ready to make return with as little delay as possible.

If the legislature does away with the millage tax to support county fairs many if not most of such fairs will go floozy. Better cut out the state fair and save the county exhibitions.

Britons Respect Wilson.

London.—Winston Spencer Churchill, secretary of state for war in the new British cabinet, in a speech at the American Society dinner to Ambassador John W. Davis, in reviewing President Wilson's services, said that the crowds which thronged the streets of London during the president's visit "showed how keenly and shrewdly the British people understood and appreciated President Wilson's work for the world."

"He made us realize," Colonel Churchill continued, "that he grasped and understood our unique situation and our special condition in regard to all that concerned the security of great Britain on the seas. He took away when he left not only the respect due to a world famous statesman, but also the personal liking and confidence of the great mass of the British people."

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 Bilyou, 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.

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