

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.*

SCIO, OREGON, MAY 5, 1921

COMMISSIONER BUTLER EX- PLAINS.

Last week Commissioner Tom But-
ler, in an interview to the Albany
Herald, attempted to explain the
over-issue of county warrants, stat-
ing that all but some \$81,000 of the
over issue had been paid.

The Tribune is glad that such is
the case for the county will have to
pay these warrants in the end and
the people will vote to pay them.

But this does not release the court
in the eyes of the people for the
over issue of warrants. The people
would kick if the over issue was but
\$10,000 in lieu of the \$204,000. The
fact that the court will overdraw is
what the people condemn.

If the court overdraws at all,
makes the people feel uneasy. If it
issues an overdraw of \$200,000 why
not a half million or a million? It
is not the amount so much as it is
the fact that the court will violate
law.

The people have lost confidence
in the court and they will not prob-
ably, vote an extra tax to straiten
up the trouble though they will have
to do so in the end. Yet the county
will be held for the debt, whether
just or not. The court is the county's
agent and the county will have to
stand behind the acts of its agent.

Some people in several parts of
the county wish the court to resign
and have even went so far as to
suggest successors, and there is some
talk of a recall. The Tribune thinks
a recall would fail. If the court
will voluntarily resign—that is an-
other story.

True, if a recall should fail the
court could properly say the failure
of the recall is equivalent to a vote
of confidence. But can it be so
construed? Will the people vote
additional tax money for this court
as they probably would for a new
court?

But the present court may con-
strue the present muddle as a lesson
and serve the people as efficiently
as a new court could. Surely the
experience it has had and knowing
the temper of the people, no further
cause of complaint will be given.

The Tribune is loth to believe our
court has wilfully done wrong. We
think carelessness in keeping a close
tally of expenditures is chargeable.

Surely the total of warrants issued
monthly will be looked after more
closely in the future. And too, per-
haps, a better showing of money
expended, especially on roads and
bridges, will be made hereafter.

HIS MONEY SAVED HIM

Henry Albers of Portland, who in
1819 was convicted for having vio-
lated the espionage law and who

was sentenced to two years' impris-
onment and a fine of \$10,000, has
practically been released from serv-
ing the mandate of the court. Why?

Albers is a millionaire mill owner.
When convicted in the trial court
he appealed to the U. S. district
court, and which court confirmed
the sentence. Then the case was
carried up to the U. S. supreme
court and it is from this highest
court of our land the order comes
which practically gives Albers a clear
bill of health. In other words, his
sentence is practically revoked.

Why, again?

This long legal battle costs money
and lots of it. High priced lawyers
must be employed. But Henry had
the money and did not hesitate to
spend it. Our courts may not be
purchasable, but if Henry had been
a poor devil he would now be doing
time at McNeil's island. Money,
through the service of astute law-
yers, kept him out of the pen, and
about his only defense was that he
was drunk when he admittedly used
the unlawful words.

Dr. Marie Equi, also of Portland,
was tried and convicted of the same
offense. Dr. Equi is a woman, but
was not drunk when the incriminat-
ing words were used. She did not
have money to employ astute law-
yers, and when sentence was rendered
she was ready to take her medi-
cine. She is now doing time at
San Quentin in California.

Is it any wonder that people have
little regard for law when such glaring
injustice is manifested?

Henry Albers had money and goes
free. Dr. Equi had no money and
is serving out her sentence. Both
were guilty of the same crime and
both were found guilty in the trial
court. Albers was drunk while Dr.
Equi was sober. Who is the greater
criminal, Albers or Dr. Equi?

Our courts are supposed to ad-
minister justice without respect of
persons. Does the two cases men-
tioned carry out justice as we who
live in Oregon believe it should be
administered?

Albers, presumably, is a republi-
can. He may be a liberal campaign
contributor. He was convicted
when Wilson was president and is
released of the responsibility for his
crime with Mr. Harding as presi-
dent. This may have had no influ-
ence in the matter. We hope it
had not. But people will draw their
own conclusions from the existing
facts, just the same.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

The inordinate increase of over
100 per cent in taxation is a heavy
burden upon the people. There is
no doubt about that. It is the more
burdensome because of the decline
in prices of farm products. People
never value money so highly as when
they put the hand in the pocket to
find it empty.

But who is to blame for this con-
dition in most part but the people
themselves? If we examine the
record we find the people have voted
this trouble upon themselves.

A tax of a mill or two is asked
for this or that meritorious purpose
and the people vote it. They have
voted a millage tax for roads, schools,
etc. Bonds for road improvement,
for civic improvement.

Taken separately the tax is insigni-
ficant, but as a whole the tax be-
comes a great burden. Here a little
and there a little the various propo-
sitions seem light, but in the sum
total become great—too great for
the people to carry. A total of over
nine per cent in taxation, as we have
here in Scio, is an impossible bur-
den. Prosperity will soon suffer.
Property will soon depreciate in
value. Taxation will soon mean
confiscation.

Two of the five amendments to be
voted on June 7 are to increase tax-
ation. Both may be considered

LUCKY STRIKE cigarette



meritorious and worthy, but our
present exorbitant tax rate has been
built up by voting millage taxes and
bond issues.

Are we never to say "No!" to
these meritorious schemes? Are
taxpayers never to be protected?
The taxpayer has a right to live and
wear clothes, the same as the tax-
eater and it is quite time to give
the taxpayer a chance.

The soldier bonus measure is meri-
torious and we all feel grateful to
the boys who helped to save democ-
racy. But if we have to do this by
robbing those who kept the home
fires burning, to give to the young
and able bodied world war soldier,
we go far.

True, we must take care of the
boys who came home crippled or
with broken health. This we do and
are doing willingly and gladly. But
the bonus proposition can and ought
to wait until the taxpayer has a
chance to get a good square finan-
cial breath again.

Another proposed measure is to
increase the legislative session from
40 to 60 days and to increase the
pay of legislators to \$5.00 per day.
Great scot! Can't the Oregon legis-
lators do harm enough in 40 days?
And surely he ought to convince
the people they are worth \$3 per
day (which they are not) before ask-
ing for \$5. Each legislator with
his stenographer now costs the state
at least \$10 per day in wages besides
hundreds of dollars per day in ill
advised legislation.

If this measure was to place legis-
lative sessions 10 years apart, or to
reduce the membership by two-thirds
The Tribune would support it, but
"nix" to the measure as it stands.

There are many parts of our state
and city governments where a wise
retrenchment would be economy.
The state is overloaded in almost
every department of government.
We must begin to unload quickly.

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for the heaviest service
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holds the road at speed in
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They are made in Tacoma and
sold in Scio by
W. L. COBB & SON,
THE SCIO GARAGE

Just how a season of retrenchment
in money spending may be brought
about this paper is unable to advise,
but we do know retrenchment is
long overdue. At least we can re-
fuse to vote for any measure which
will increase taxation. If the tax-
payer is to get protection in any way
we, the people, must do it. There
is no other relief in sight.

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A. E. Randall, Vice Pres.
E. D. Myers, Cashier

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turned out promptly.

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Scio, Oregon

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