

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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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 26, 1921

DISTURBING THE ANIMALS.

Seemingly, what The Tribune has
heretofore had to say relative to the
state granting the soldiers of the
world war a bonus, has disturbed at
least two of these animals greatly.
So much that Dr. Miller, the Leba-
non dentist, and E. E. Bodwell of
Scio have undertaken to switch the
question at issue to past and dead
issues.

The general public is not interest-
ed in when, where and how this
writer was injured which entitled
him to a pension under the law of
1890, 25 years after discharge from
Uncle Sam's service, and 17 years
after the injury was received. But
the general public is interested in
any measure which in effect will in-
crease a taxation which is now an
overburden to the people. This
writer may not be entitled to the
pension he receives, if the remark-
able effusions of Dr. Miller and Mr.
Bodwell imply.

Perhaps the fall while erecting a
barn was purposeful in order to be-
come a fit subject to draw a pension
under a law enacted 17 years later.
But having an honorable discharge,
and the medical board appointed by
the government said that this writer
was entitled to a pension under the
law, the application was made and
the pension was granted, not by the
state, but by the general govern-
ment.

The Tribune will not attempt to
smother the question at issue by
personal attack on Messrs Miller
and Bodwell, as they are as insignif-
icant in the eyes of the public as
this writer.

The question at issue is: Can the
state, under the present conditions
of indebtedness and taxation rates,
afford to increase her bonded in-
debtedness by \$100,000,000 in order
to loan each of the world war sol-
diers each \$4000.

We have been told that each and
all of them will elect to take the
loan rather than the cash bonus. If
so, the loss of marketing this great
sum in bonds would be, probably,
\$10,000,000. This sum would have to
be paid by taxation, as also the dif-
ference between what the borrower
pays (3%) and what the state would
have to pay the bondholders. This
would add 2% of the entire bond
issue, making the tidy sum of \$12,-
000,000 which must be collected by
taxation.

Now The Tribune believes that
fully one-half of these soldiers would
elect to take the \$15 per month cash
rather than the loan. If so, then
the obligations against the taxpay-
ers of the state will be greater.

The war bonus scheme, if suc-
cessful, will dig a pit of unknown
depth for the taxpayers to tumble

into. It will involve the state so
deeply that the increase in popula-
tion will be paralyzed. The value
of all property will depreciate, for
no man will invest in property so
heavily burdened without he can
buy it at half the present value.

Oregon, a state hitherto noted for
her prosperous condition, with her
excellent climate and healthfulness
of her people, will become a state
to be avoided by the homeseeker, all
because of a mistaken idea of the
duty of a patriotic citizen.

If Dr. Miller's statement that the
soldier and four of his relatives is
true, the measure will carry. They
will be on hand to vote, while many
of those who would vote against the
measure will not take time to go to
the polls.

Nor has either of these bonus
boosters given any reason for the
state to practically bankrupt itself
other than other states are doing it.
The same logic will justify A in
stealing a horse because B stole one.

Now, as The Tribune has fre-
quently said, if the general govern-
ment should grant a bonus, we say
go to it, and this writer, if living,
will do all in his power to bring
about such result; but there is no
precedent in past wars for the state
to pay a bonus after the war is over.

Oregon has already provided a
free education for these returned
soldiers and a trade or profession
taught them. Any can avail them-
selves of this feature and which
was not offered to returned soldiers
of past wars.

The fact is these world war sol-
diers simply performed the duty in-
cumbent on every American citizen.
It is the duty of all citizens to de-
fend our country and her institu-
tions in time of need. We honor
them for it and reward them as well
as may be. But when they ask us
who stayed at home for one or the
other reason, to sacrifice our homes
for their benefit, they go too far.

The Tribune man knows that he is
advocating the unpopular side of
this question, that it has been and
will be used to his disadvantage in a
business way, but we feel it a duty
to warn the people whither we are
drifting before it is too late.

There are many other reasons we
can cite why the people should vote
NO on this matter, other than to
say selfishness is displacing patriot-
ism and good horse sense.

THE ROAD OUTLOOK.

The prospect for continuing the
road program laid out by both the
state and Linn county is not over-
bright.

In the state program it is found
that the \$18,000,000 bond issues
will be about exhausted when the
Columbia and Pacific highways are
completed. Unless a new bond in-
sue provides funds this year will end
road improvement so far as the state
is concerned.

When the first issue of \$6,000,000
of bonds was made The Tribune pre-
dicted that the state program for
road building would require \$50,-
000,000 or more to build the roads
which the state would probably have
to undertake.

People of one populous locality
will not be content to help build
roads in other parts of the state and
have their own roads neglected.

Owing to the high cost of material
and labor and the increasing demand
for state aid in building roads it now
looks as if double the \$50,000,000
will be required.

There is no question but what
good roads, paved roads if you
please, will be demanded in all parts
of the state. And justly so, as all
parts of the state are being taxed
to build the roads required in all
parts of the state.

The question is, can the present
sparse population pay the enormous

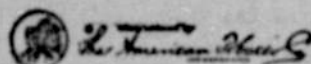
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10 cts; 20 for 20 cts.



It's Toasted

tax which our present road plans
will require, together with the other
expenses required to maintain our
present state institutions?

The simple fact is we are trying
to improve too fast as a state. We
have but 800,000 people. We can't
carry a burden which states of four
or five millions of people carry with-
out a seeming hardship. We can
carry the same per capita burden of
these more populous states, but to
double or treble the per capita load
spells disaster.

The same reasoning, though in a
smaller way, applies to Linn county.
Roads in one locality cannot be im-
proved and those of other localities
neglected for the burden of taxation
is borne by the entire county and no
part of which will bear to be ne-
glected while other localities are being
improved.

The county court has no easy task.
It has charge of the county road
construction, but has not money
enough to improve all of the roads.
And to secure funds to satisfy all
sections means to overburden the
county with taxation. The attempt
to comply with the desires of all
sections of the county is probably
responsible for the over issue of
county warrants.

Unless the taxpayers of the state
and county are willing to assume
the taxation burden to improve the
roads in all portions of the state or
county, as the case may be, the road
program should never have been un-
dertaken.

But both the state and counties
have undertaken road construction
and there is no stopping place until
all roads are improved, for as before
stated all portions of the state or
county are taxed to pay the costs.

So let us not condemn the county
court too severely. It has simply
attempted to satisfy all sections of
the county. If conditions have not
been normal the court is not respon-
sible. It has probably done for
the best under existing circumstan-
ces. Good roads are very desirable.
Such portions of the roads which
have been paved or macadamized
are tantalizing to people of sections
which have not had their roads im-
proved. People will simply have to
be patient, else assume a burden of
bonded debt or taxation which is
simply prohibitive.

It is estimated that there will be
800 and 900 cars of pears to move
from the Rogue River district in
spite of recent damaging frosts. The
peach crop, however, has been prac-
tically destroyed by the low tem-
peratures.

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John B. Couey, Prop.

Phone 6-515

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—Leaves Hotel Scio—
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and 7:45 a. m. and 1:15 p. m. for Munkers

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Scio, Oregon

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