

# THE HEPPNER HERALD

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

S. A. PATTISON, Editor and Publisher

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## BEFORE THE LEAGUE ENTERED POLITICS

The League of Nations has of late become the bone of such partisan political strife that the average reader is apt to forget it was not conceived, fostered and sponsored by the democratic party. It was in no sense born in the minds of the democrats of this country nor were the democrats responsible for the spread of the idea over the country for its strong endorsement or for the very general longing for its attainment.

The league idea was born amid war of a realization of the barbarity and futility of wars and of a world-wide hope and prayer that there would never be another such holocaust to visit the earth. Men and women of all nations, of all creeds and of all political opinion joined in urging the formation of such a union of nations that war would be both unnecessary and impossible. Here in our own country President Wilson championed the idea but he was by no means the only champion. Many of the foremost leaders of the republican party were most active in creating sentiment for it. William Howard Taft, ex-president, was probably the most conspicuous worker for it as president of the League to Enforce Peace and most of the men associated with him in the active conduct of this organization were prominent republicans. Even Senator Lodge, before he saw that it was bad politics even if good patriotism to allow this country to join the league, spoke publicly for it.

Here in Oregon it was the late Governor Withcombe, republican, who sent out a call for the Northwest Congress for the League of Nations which met in Portland in Febru-

ary 1919, and many staunch republicans were the leaders in the movement. The rock-ribbed Oregonian was the foremost spokesman for it.

It was only when it was seen by astute politicians that the joining of the League of Nations as formed at the peace conference would so entrench President Wilson that it would be almost impossible to unhorse the democrats that violent objections were made to the articles of the covenant and bogeys set up to frighten the American voters. The league has been made a political issue by politicians and so much has been said about it to arouse prejudice that it is almost impossible for the average voter to get a true perspective of it.—East Oregonian.

### STIRRING EVENT IN HEPPNER HISTORY RECALLED

Selling cigars and writing poetry comprise the vocation and avocation of Thom. Murray Spencer, "poet laureate of Montana," who is in Pendleton today on one of his regular business visits. Mr. Spencer, for years a traveling salesman, has written hundreds of verses and carried with him not only the snatches of verse he has composed, but many compliments from publications, says East Oregonian.

One of the few compositions which he sold was written for the opening of the Broadwater hotel at Helena,

Montana. He has written numerous poems on Montana subjects including one on Old Fort Benton, at the head of the Missouri, another to White Sulphur Springs and another on topics of interest to that state.

Shortly after the cloudburst and flood at Heppner, in 1893, Mr. Spencer composed a verse telling of the ride of Leslie Claffack and Kelley, who rode down opposite sides of Willow creek valley to ward off the impending danger. Mr. Spencer gave the verse to the East Oregonian this morning to publish. It is as follows:

**The Heppner Ride**  
 When history writes of Heppner's town,  
 Of the terrible flood that swept it down,  
 Fame shall stand by, with guided pen,  
 And write the names of these two men.

Two that rode forth ahead of the wave,  
 Two that rode forth others to save,  
 Two that rode forth who lost their all,  
 Two that rode forth at duty's call.

Fighting their way through storm and night,  
 While torrents roared to left, to right,  
 For the specter Death his white horse rode,  
 And shrieked in gloom on the Willow creek road.

On like the stormcloud the riders came,  
 Urging their horses again and again  
 Above the tempest their words rang clear;  
 "Flee for your lives, the cloud burst's here!"

How many mothers with glistening eye  
 Now gaze on their babes for that timely cry;  
 How many husbands have clasped their wives,  
 And blessed those men who saved their lives.

Two that rode forth ahead of the wave,  
 Two that rode forth others to save,  
 Two that rode forth that lost their all,  
 Two that rode forth at duty's call.

There are hosts of others in Heppner's town,  
 If truth were known, who deserve renown,  
 But 'twill ever be handed from father to son  
 How Kelley and Matlock saved Lexington.  
**THOMAS MURRAY SPENCER,**  
 Portland, June 22, 1903.

### EIGHTMILE FARMER BUYS TOWN HOME

Theodore Anderson, well known farmer of Eightmile, closed a deal Thursday for the purchase of the Brad property in south Heppner recently owned by Dr. M. M. Johnson who bought the property last spring. The location is a desirable one for a suburban home there being several acres of land goes with the place. The consideration was \$4500.00. Mr. Anderson is to have immediate possession.

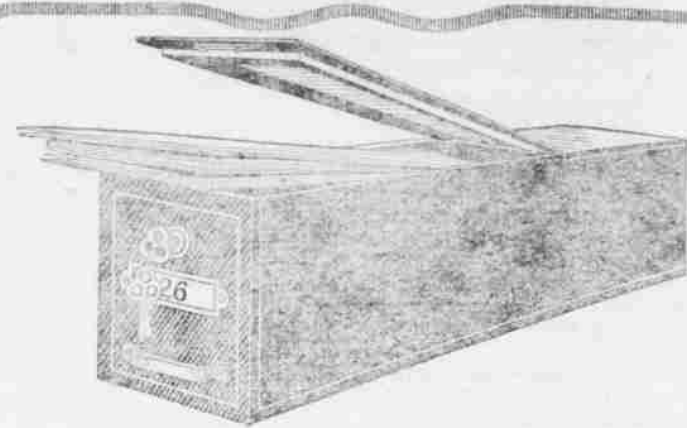
It is understood Dr. and Mrs. Johnson will make their home in southern California.

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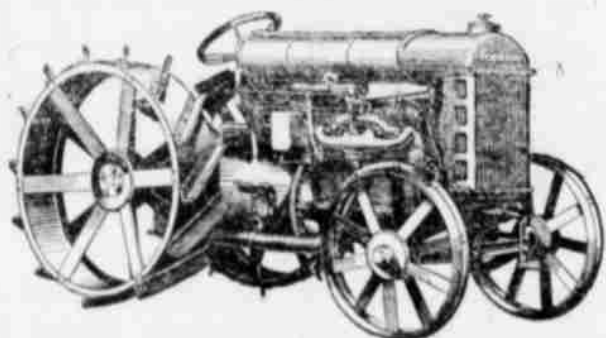
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