

# HEPPNER HERALD

VOLUME VIII

HEPPNER, OREGON, MAY 3, 1921

NUMBER 1

## SCHOOL PATRONS WANT TEACHERS' PAY PARED

### LIVELY MEETING OF DIRECTORS HELD HERE SATURDAY

Opinion General That Salaries of Rural Teachers Should Take Downward Trend

It was a lively meeting of school directors at the court house last Saturday when representatives of some twenty or more rural school districts discussed the question of teachers' salaries for the coming school year.

Mrs. Lena Snell Shurte, county school superintendent, presided at the meeting at which there was not one dull moment and the general opinion expressed by the numerous speakers was that, in view of the terrific slump in the price of wheat and livestock, accompanied by steadily climbing taxes, that teachers in the rural districts with only a small number of children to instruct should be satisfied with less pay than has been received during the past year. Instances were cited where districts have been forced to pay as high as \$133.33 per month for inexperienced high school girls to teach a half a dozen pupils and the point was strongly brought out that, as compared with the present prices of farm products, such compensation is more than the service is worth.

Joe Devine, who farms extensively north of Ione, stated that up until the past year his district paid \$75 to \$80 but last fall they were obliged to pay \$133.33 per month for an inexperienced teacher. Mr. Devine said that he sold his last year's crop of wheat for 96 cents a bushel and that the indications now are that the coming crop will go around six-bits. Farm wages, he said, have come down and other commodities are dropping right along and he thought, as a matter of equity to the taxpayer, the compensation of teachers should come down to a more reasonable figure.

Mr. Misener, who is also an extensive farmer and taxpayer expressed the belief that with everything else on the drop and the farmer with a heavy investment in land and equipment unable to pay his taxes or even to buy himself a suit of clothes, that teachers pay should be reasonably reduced.

Mr. Barlow pointed out that the wages of farm hands had dropped from \$75 to \$100 a month to \$40 to \$60, that the cost of general living is falling right along and that the teachers should also accept a reasonable reduction.

Mr. Witzel, of the Morgan district, also favored a reasonable reduction. He said that the taxes on his property has increased lately from \$100 a year to \$400 a year and that about one-half of the increase has been for school purposes of one kind and another.

Al Henriksen, of Coell, stated that his district paid \$90 the past winter to a young lady who in addition to her duties as teacher took over the janitor work at \$30 a month and gave good satisfaction.

Charlie Doherty also endorsed the idea of a reasonable reduction for the present when the farmers and stockmen are so hard put to make ends meet believing that under changed conditions and with a measure of prosperity again established that the patrons of the rural schools will gladly advance salaries to correspond with other things.

Mr. Palmateer, also of Morgan cited a case he said he was familiar with in Lane county where an efficient lady teacher taught a rural school last winter with 25 pupils and also took care of the building for \$75 a month and compared it to a Morrow county district that paid \$125 to a girl teaching eight pupils.

Mrs. Devine, who is clerk in her district, favored a sliding scale of pay for country teachers based on efficiency. She believed that wages should be generally reduced at this time but thought the good teacher should have more pay than the poor one.

Mr. Smith, of the state superintendent's office, in charge of better efficiency in the high schools of the state, was present and made a short address. He also urged care in reduction of salaries pointing out that in great haste or teachers exist and that any material reduction in salaries will tend to drive still more teachers away from the profession. Mr. Smith also gave some pointers to the directors about hiring teachers. He advised that a thorough understanding and agreement should be had with the teacher as to just what would be expected of her at the time she signs the contract and that she should be given to understand that these conditions must be kept or her resignation would be expected.

It was finally agreed that the minimum salary of \$75 a month should be recognized as a basis in hiring teachers for the coming year, not as a hard and fast rule but simply as a general basis from which to work.

Following the meeting another meeting was called to consider the matter of attacking the general high school tuition law on the grounds of its being unconstitutional. A committee composed of Al Henriksen, of Coell, Matt T. Hughes, of Heppner, and A. Keene, of Rhosa creek, was appointed to take the matter up with local attorneys with the view of trying it out in the circuit court.

## MORROW COUNTY FARES WELL WITH HIGHWAY COMMISSION

After all the criticism regarding road work in this county that has been directed against the county and the state highway commission and state highway commission it is of some interest to compare the expenditures already made and contemplated by the state and county in highway construction work already done and ordered to be done in this county. It should be remembered that the original program contemplated that the state highways should be built on a 50-50 basis between the state and the counties. The highway commission was given a wide latitude in this matter, however, in cases where a county went over its limit but was financially unable to complete its share being permitted to put in more than 50 per cent of the cost in order to complete the more important highways.

Morrow county bonded herself to the limit, \$290,000 for good roads, and so far she has expended, and will expend on roads already ordered built, the following amounts:

On Oregon-Washington highway, Gilliam county line to Heppner, \$149,000.

On Jones Hill grading, \$26,000.

On grading and macadam three miles west of Heppner, \$19,000.

On Columbia River Highway, \$22,000.

To be expended on Hinton creek section of Oregon-Washington highway, work already ordered, \$40,000, a total of \$256,000.

The amount already expended by the state in this county together with the estimated cost of the work already ordered to be done are:

On first unit of Columbia River highway, \$131,590.

On second unit of Columbia River highway \$106,376.

Estimated cost of completing grade from Gilliam county line to Jones Hill, \$400,000, a total of \$637,966 showing that this state has expended or will expend on work already ordered some \$380,000 more than the county has or will expend.

Really it looks as if Morrow county hasn't much of a kick coming at the highway commission.

Leo Nickelson, well known Heppner boy, who is a student at the University of Washington, came in a few days ago and will take some exercise and replenish his bank account with a shearing crew. Leo made the U. of W. basketball team last year and is accounted a real athlete at Washington. He also plays a whizzing game of baseball and helped Ione take Condon down the line last Sunday.

should have more pay than the poor one. She also brought out the fact that the rural teacher can get board and room for \$25 a month while the town teacher has to pay an average of \$47.50. She also urged more and better supervision by the school superintendent and the directors charging that the average school director takes little or no interest in school or teacher after hiring the teacher.

Vawter Crawford, clerk of the Heppner school district, was called upon for remarks and made a strong plea against the reduction of salaries. He referred to his long experience in school affairs and said that the efficiency of the school must be built up and that great care should be taken in contemplating any reduction. He told the farmers and stockmen present that they thought more of their horses and cattle than they do for their children which brought a storm of protest from those present. Cries of "No" and "Sit down" greeted the speaker who explained that he only meant that they should work for better efficiency in the school. Mr. Crawford probably used the expression as a mere figure of speech.

Mrs. Charles Bartholomew, of this city favored equal pay for efficient rural teachers with grade teachers of city schools. She said that while the town teacher has but one or two grades to handle, the rural teacher, in many cases, has eight grades to instruct and that she should be paid accordingly if efficient.

Mr. Smith, of the state superintendent's office, in charge of better efficiency in the high schools of the state, was present and made a short address. He also urged care in reduction of salaries pointing out that in great haste or teachers exist and that any material reduction in salaries will tend to drive still more teachers away from the profession. Mr. Smith also gave some pointers to the directors about hiring teachers. He advised that a thorough understanding and agreement should be had with the teacher as to just what would be expected of her at the time she signs the contract and that she should be given to understand that these conditions must be kept or her resignation would be expected.

It was finally agreed that the minimum salary of \$75 a month should be recognized as a basis in hiring teachers for the coming year, not as a hard and fast rule but simply as a general basis from which to work.

Following the meeting another meeting was called to consider the matter of attacking the general high school tuition law on the grounds of its being unconstitutional. A committee composed of Al Henriksen, of Coell, Matt T. Hughes, of Heppner, and A. Keene, of Rhosa creek, was appointed to take the matter up with local attorneys with the view of trying it out in the circuit court.

## REFERENDUM ON FIVE STATE MEASURES NEAR

### VOTERS TO PASS UPON MEASURES JUNE 7

Other Propositions Include Change In Session Periods And Pay And Extension of Veto Right

SALEM, Or., April 28.—(Special.) Five state-wide measures, three of them proposed amendments to the state constitution and four municipal measures, will go before the voters of Oregon for their approval or rejection of the special election of Tuesday, June 7. All were referred by the 1921 legislature.

The legislative act fixing the date for the election provided that only these measures should be voted on at that time. For any county or other municipality to submit any other measure on the same date an additional special election would have to be called.

The state wide measures to be voted on are:

Constitutional amendment lengthening the duration of the state legislature and increasing the pay of members.

Constitutional amendment creating a world war veterans' state aid fund.

Constitutional amendment enabling the governor to veto the emergency clause on legislative measures.

Hygienic marriage examination and license bill.

Measure qualifying women to sit as jurors.

The measure lengthening the duration of the state legislature amends section 29 of article 4 of the constitution.

It increases the length of the session from forty to sixty days; increases the pay of members from \$3 to \$5 a day for both regular and special sessions; places a limit on the period within which bills may be introduced, with the exception of appropriation and defense measures; places the president of the senate and the speaker of the house on the same pay as other members, eliminating the present provision that they shall receive an additional compensation equal to two thirds of their per diem allowance as members.

No change is proposed in the limit of duration placed on special sessions or on the mileage allowance of members.

The purpose of the World War Veterans' state aid fund amendment is, to quote the title, "To issue bonds not to exceed 3 per cent of assessed valuation of all property in the state to raise money to be loaned in amounts of not more than \$4000 or paid as a bonus of \$15 for each month of active service, but not exceeding \$500, to each honorably discharged resident of Oregon who served in the United States army, or navy, or marine corps between April 6, 1917, and November, 1918; to levy an additional annual tax of 2 mills to pay principal and interest of such bonds; and ratifying correlative legislative enactments."

The "correlative enactments" mentioned refers to an act passed by the 1921 legislature providing that each qualified veteran of the world war may borrow from the state up to \$2000 or may receive a cash bonus of \$15 a month for the time he was in service, but not to exceed \$300. This act would be ineffective for lack of funds should the proposed constitutional amendment fail to pass. While the constitutional amendment authorizes loans in amounts up to \$4000, the act passed by the legislature fixes the maximum loan at \$2000, therefore \$2000 would be the largest amount a veteran could borrow.

Veterans taking loans pay the state 4 per cent interest. The affirmative argument in the voters' pamphlet offers this information about loans:

"The loan must be made upon real estate security and shall not exceed 75 per cent of the appraised valuation of the real estate. The real estate need not necessarily belong to the soldier, but may be owned by his wife, father or mother, child, brother or sister. The borrower must repay the loan in installments of 6 per cent per annum. Of this 4 per cent on the unpaid principal applies as interest and the balance applies in payment of the principal. This method will repay principal and interest entirely in twenty-eight years, although the veteran may pay up his

Relative to the bonus the argument says: "Application for bonus must be made within one year from the date the act became effective. The first sixty days of service are excluded from the time for which a bonus may be paid, as it is considered that the government bonus of \$60 paid at the time of discharge covers the first 60 days of service."

Relative to the bonus, the argument explains that the bonus period is extended to November 11, 1919, one year after signing the armistice, because it was many months after the ending of actual hostilities before the men overseas could be returned to the United States, and it was considered to be fair to include the time served by each man up to the date of his actual discharge, in the period for which he received the bonus payment."

This measure applies either to males or females who served at least sixty days. Conscientious objectors and those who served only as students in training camps are barred.

Third of the trio of proposed constitutional amendments is that empowering the governor to veto the emergency clause.

When the emergency clause is attached to a legislative act two purposes are served. First, the bill becomes effective as a law as soon as it is signed by the governor, while acts not having the emergency clause are not effective for ninety days. Second, the use of the emergency clause prevents the invoking of the referendum against the measure.

Charges have often been made that the privilege of using the emergency clause has been used to forestall the referendum. As the emergency clause now serves a double purpose, it will prevent cause being used merely to halt the referendum, and it will prevent the governor from using this clause as a pretext for vetoing an entire bill.

The object of the marriage examination and license is to stop the propagation of feeble minded persons or those otherwise likely to suffer by inheritance. It provides that both male and female applicants for marriage licenses shall submit to examination by competent physicians to ascertain if they are afflicted with contagious or communicable venereal diseases or whether they are normal mentally. If both or either fail to pass the examination the law will prohibit their marriage unless one or both were sterilized. If either should feel the judgment unjust, provision is made for appeal from the county clerk's refusal to issue license to the county court, which would cause an examination of the complaining person to be made by three competent physicians selected by the court. Their judgment would be final.

The women juror bill is a revision of the jury law providing that women are qualified to sit as jurors. Further provision is made, however, that the duty shall be optional with the woman. The amendment changes the word "male" to "persons" wherever the method of calling jurors is set forth. It is provided that in criminal actions in which a minor under 18 years old is involved, whether as defendant or complaining witness, at least half the jurors shall be women.

The municipal measures referred by the legislature are a salary bill in Wallawa county, a salary bill in Umatilla county, a salary bill affecting the justice of the peace in The Dalles district of Wasco county, and the Port of Portland organization bill.

CIVIC CLUB WILL MEET

A social meeting of the civic club will be held at the home of Mrs. Ernest Cochran, on Court street next Friday afternoon at 2:30. All members are expected.

J. L. Jenkins, who looks after county road work in the Boardman district was a court house visitor Friday morning.

## UMATILLA MAN PRAISES MORROW'S ROAD CREW

George Moore, who has charge of the county road maintenance crew, has been working over in the Pine City country this spring and after finishing the work on this side of the county line the Umatilla county court made arrangements with the Morrow county court to have Mr. Moore's crew do some work on the Umatilla county side of the line. Umatilla sent out a man as time-keeper on the work and he is quoted by a Pine City man the other day, as saying he had never seen so much dirt moved for the money in Umatilla county as Moore and his outfit are doing. It must sound good to a Morrow county road man, in these days of high cost and high bidding to hear a word or two of praise for his work even if he has to go into an adjoining county to hear it.

## MINOR, WHEELHOUSE DECLARED ELECTED

### JUDGE PHELPS DISPOSES OF DEMURRER LAST FRIDAY

Old Board Given Five Days to Induct Successors Into Office

Judgement was entered in the famous John Day election case at Ileton Friday when Judge Phelps finally disposed of the matter by declaring C. A. Minor and Arthur Wheelhouse duly elected directors of the district, and ordered the present board to induct them into office within five days.

The case was started several months ago and grew out of the election of directors in the John Day irrigation district.

C. C. Clark and Edward Reitman, incumbents, were nominated by petition to succeed themselves in office and on the day of the election voters of the district wrote in the names of C. A. Minor and Arthur Wheelhouse who had not been regularly nominated. They received an overwhelming majority of the votes cast but the old board, acting on the advice of their attorneys held that the men were not legally elected because they had not been regularly nominated and refused to seat the directors, declaring Clark and Reitman elected.

Property owners in the district retained Sam E. Van Vactor to bring contest proceedings against the seating of Clark and Reitman in the circuit court. Later F. A. McMenamin, as attorney for the directors, filed a demurrer to the complaint, the demurrer being argued before Judge Phelps here on April 1st. The court took the case under advisement and later overruled the demurrer, giving the defendants ten days in which to file an answer. No appearance having been made judgement was taken as above stated and the present board was ordered to install their successors into office within ten days.

LADIES ENTERTAIN AT ELKS' CLUB

A delightful afternoon was spent at the Elks' club rooms last Wednesday afternoon when Mesdames Dean Goodman, R. J. Vaughan, P. A. Anderson and E. E. Clark were hostesses at a bridge party. More than fifty guests were present, fourteen tables being occupied during the afternoon. At the close of the playing prizes were awarded as follows: Miss Black 1st prize; Mrs. Clyde Wells, 2nd prize; Mrs. Cliff Sims, 3rd; Miss Nora Trench, consolation; Dainty refreshments were served before the party broke up.

WOOL MARKET LOOKING UP

There is some reason for optimism in the latest report from the Boston Wool Markets. Last week Eastern Oregon No 1 Staple sold for 85c, secured basis f.o.b. Boston, while Eastern Oregon Clothing sold for 70c same basis. Figuring the shrinkage between greased and secured wool was 68 per cent, which is a little bit high, this would mean 27c greased basis for the first, and 25c greased basis in the second, f.o.b. Boston. This is considerably better than we have been quoted anywhere within recent date.

L. A. HUNT, Agr.

## NO STAIRS TO CLIMB

This is to advise the public that I have moved my offices from the second floor of the Roberts building to the rooms recently occupied by the Tri-State Terminal Co. on the ground floor of the Farmers Union building, east side of Main street where I will be pleased to meet all my patrons and friends and the public generally.

REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE & GRAIN

Will continue to be my specialties.

F. R. BROWN



GENUINE "BULL" DURHAM tobacco makes 50 good cigarettes for 10c