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WOULD BAR COUNTIES FROM DOING OWN WORK

The associated contractors of Portland are seeking to have a bill passed by the present legislature to amend section 3208 of Oregon Laws, the effect of which will, if passed, prevent any county in the state from doing road work jobs or purchasing machinery or supplies in any amount in excess of \$250.00 without first advertising for bids, the work to be let to the lowest bidder.

The present law is so worded as to apply to counties of 50,000 or more population and at present applies in fact only to Multnomah. The proposed amendment would simply strike out the words "In counties of fifty thousand inhabitants," thus permitting the law to apply to all counties in the state.

The proposed change in this important law is meeting considerable opposition in the smaller counties and a determined effort is being made to prevent its passage.

H. E. Cross, county judge of Clackamas county, and president of the Oregon state association of county judges and commissioners, is leading the fight against the measure and in a letter he has sent out to every county judge and county commissioner in the state he sets forth his objections to the bill in the following terms:

"Some of the counties are standardizing their machinery. Where they are doing this it would lead to needless confusion.

"Other counties, notably Marion, are doing extensive paving work and have complete organization and it is proving satisfactory to their people. They claim they are getting better work than by letting the work to the lowest bidder.

"Some well informed men have strongly intimated that it would prevent any county doing any of its own work. If it applied to all work, then in the case of our county (Clackamas) it would lead to the scrapping of about \$250,000 worth of machinery."

The Morrow county court gave Judge Cross' letter very careful consideration at its last meeting with the result that the following letter, signed by Judge Campbell and Commissioners Davidson and Bengtson, was sent to members of the legislature:

"If this bill should become a law it would compel Morrow county to scrap something like \$50,000 worth of road building machinery. It would also add to the cost of much of our work as there would be added cost of engineering work in preparation of plans and specifications and extra supervision by engineer and the cost of advertising for bids.

"If we scrapped our road building machinery we could not, as a county, bid on state contracts in the city. We have been able to make some saving in the past by being prepared to bid on state contracts. The first successful bid for placing crushed rock on the state highway in this county was \$3.10 per cubic yard. The next contract was let at \$2.90, which seemed to be about as low as could be expected. The next time a contract was to be let the county decided to bid. The county did not get the contract but the bid which was accepted was for \$1.87.

"On our market road work, the past year, the county placed the rock for \$1.65. If the county is barred from doing its own work we see a way to keep the prices down to the minimum.

"As we view the proposed bill we are opposed to it and desire to protest against its enactment."

These objections to the bill appear to be pretty well founded. The tendency among many Oregon counties of late years has been to supply themselves with modern road machinery and do their own work independent of the contractors, and at least the case of Morrow county the experiment has proven a success, as is shown by the figures from the Morrow county court's letter quoted above. A saving of \$1.03 per cubic yard is worth while and when it is shown that the county, last summer, actually macadamized six and one-half miles of road for \$1.65 per yard, the inference is strong that without county competition some contractor might have enjoyed an unduly fat profit.

On the face of things it would appear that, in the interest of the taxpayers of the state, section 3208 of

GOOD READING FOR WINTER EVENINGS

Attention is called to the new serial that starts today in the Herald "The Joy of Living," by Sidney Gosling, is one of the most entertaining stories of the year and is sure to please the reader who enjoys a slice of humor with his everyday affairs. The story is staged in England; the hero is a Yankee, the heroine an English girl of good family. The two get into all manner of funny adventures and for a time have a considerable section of England going some. Better save the papers as the story progresses because you may want to read it again. "The Joy of Living" commences on page three of this issue.

SOMEONE SWIFTED THE STILL

Sheriff McDuffee made a trip out to Harve Coxen's ranch last Wednesday in the Alpha-Butter creek section, having received a tip that moonshining operations were being carried on there. Nobody was at home and the sheriff failed to find any still but did find some of the finished product in the house. On his return he found Coxen at Lexington and captured a gallon container in his car. Coxen was brought to town where he admitted having been engaged in the business and offered to go out and bring in the plant. His case was continued till Monday but when he went to where the still should have been it was gone, some enterprising neighbor having, presumably, confiscated it. Mr. Coxen reported the situation Monday and was granted a little more time to continue the search, the authorities thinking it poor business to capture the man while the still was still running around the sand country looking for a place to operate.

PATRON-TEACHERS ENJOY INTERESTING MEETING

Members of the Patron-Teacher association held an enjoyable meeting last Tuesday afternoon in the high school auditorium.

A program of musical and literary numbers, and in which Mesdames L. Sweek, Chester Darbee and P. Gammell obliged, was much enjoyed by the members. Mrs. W. P. Mahoney had charge of a contest in which the poetic muse was courted to the extent of composing original poetry in which only the letters used in name "Patron-Teachers Association" could be used. Much ability and still more entertainment came to the surface in this contest which was the best of the season.

A report was received from the child welfare committee recommending the enforcement of the curfew ordinance and keeping youth out of the pool rooms but no action was taken. Suggestions were called for from members and after some discussion in which it was charged that bootleggers have been playing their trade around the pavilion and selling their wares to school boys while dances were being held, a committee was appointed to confer with the mayor and other city authorities in an effort to have such conditions corrected.

Heppner town team won over the lone town team in a score of 13 here last Saturday night. Fans say it was one of the best basketball games of the season.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to all residents of Heppner that the city council has ordered that the fire syren shall be tested on the first and fifteenth of each month. I will, therefore, in the future, make such test 12:00 o'clock noon, on the first and fifteenth of each month.

Warning is also given to all citizens against dumping hot ashes into wooden receptacles. A large majority of all fires are caused by such gross carelessness. Let all make an effort to protect our own and our neighbors' property.

M. L. CURRAN,
Fire Chief

27-28

Oregon Laws would better remain as it now is.

LIVE NEWS NOTES FROM HEPPNER HIGH SCHOOL

A basketball game has been scheduled with the Pocatello high school team next Saturday night on the home floor. The hall will be heated and there is no reason why a large crowd should not turn out and back up our boys.

The first student body play to be given in February is "All-of-a-Sudden Peggy." Most of the cast has been selected, and practice will commence as soon as the books arrive.

Mr. Hedrick attended a meeting of the representatives of the different districts in debate held last Saturday in Pendleton. A definite schedule was arranged for the high school debating teams.

The prize winners in the recent yell contest were announced last Friday by the S. B. president, Dorothy Hill received first prize, Luola Bengtson second and Harold Case third. The new yell was tried out very successfully at the lone game last Friday night.

A bystander could almost guess that this was the end of the semester by the number of books under each student's arm last Friday night. All classes are devoting the first three days to review, and Thursday and Friday to examinations. There has been much talk of organizing a class in millinery, but the outcome will depend on the number able to take it, as it will require two periods a day.

At an annual staff meeting held Monday evening, work on the "dummy" was commenced. They plan to have the "Hehshish" out by the first of May. The subscription lists have a number of names already, but committees will canvass the town later on. Be prepared to sign up for a least one book.

Heppner High Boys Win From Lone Lookers-on at the Heppner-Lone games played at Lone last Friday witnessed the best games of the basketball season. The girls' game was played first, and the tie score was 8 to 8—would seem to indicate that both teams were evenly matched. Our boys were the victors in the boys' game, winning by a score of 15 to 1. About thirty high school students from Heppner went down on the bus to back up their home team.

(Too late for last week.) Heppner won her second game of basketball on the home floor last Saturday night by a score of 31 to 2. Although the Boardman boys were good sports they were outclassed by the local team and their only scores were seemingly accidental. A large crowd is planning to attend the game at Lone next Friday night.

From the report of the retardation and acceleration survey of the Heppner grades just completed, it would seem that the girls are leading the boys educationally. It appears from the survey that eighty-five per cent are normal or in the expected grade for their age. Five per cent are one or more years beyond the expected grade, while ten per cent are retarded one year or more. With the boys, seventy-three per cent are in the expected grade for their age; six per cent are one or more years advanced, while twenty-one per cent are one or more years retarded. According to a report compiled at the close of the fiscal year there have been 294 pupils enrolled in the grades of the Heppner school and 113 in the high school. Twenty-eight of the grade pupils and twenty-seven high school pupils are non-residents of the district. By the same report it is seen that there has been a reduction in teacher cost of about 9 per cent in high school and about 20 per cent in the grades. Last year it cost for teaching and janitor service 44 2-10 cents per day per pupil in the high school. This year the cost is 40 2-10 cents. For the grades the teachers and janitor service cost last year 31 2-10 cents per day per pupil. This year it has been cut to 24 5-10 cents. According to Mr. Hedrick this reduction was brought about in three ways: Elimination of one teacher; cut in teachers' wages; and an increase in the number of pupils assigned to a teacher.

The first and second debating teams have been organized into a class and will devote one period several times a week to the work. The

Continued on page 4, column 1)

FIRST NATIONAL BANK HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of stockholders of the First National Bank of Heppner, was held last Tuesday evening when the annual report of the institution's business for the past year was submitted by W. P. Mahoney, and other business transacted. The report showed the First National to be in a prosperous condition.

After hearing the report the stockholders proceeded with the election of directors for the ensuing year, with the following result: M. S. Corrigan, T. J. Mahoney, Frank Gilliam, John Kilkenny, W. P. Mahoney, Jack Bynd and W. E. Moore.

Following the election of directors that body met and elected the following officers: M. S. Corrigan, president; Frank Gilliam, vice-president; W. P. Mahoney, vice-president and manager; Walter E. Moore, cashier; Forby Greamba, assistant cashier; Kenneth K. Mahoney, assistant cashier.

The promotions which resulted from the election came not only in the way of a reward to the men receiving them for faithful and efficient service, but also as necessary action for properly taking care of the bank's increasing business. W. P. Mahoney, who has been with the bank for six years as its cashier and manager, will continue as manager and Mr. Moore, who has been assistant cashier for some time, has well proven by past efficiency his ability to step into the more responsible position. Messrs Greamba and K. K. Mahoney have also been with the bank for several years and their promotion is also due to trustworthy service given in their former positions.

MUCH FUN AT ELKS' CLUB

There is plenty of fun at the Elks' club in the athletic line since the new mat and gloves are on the job and many near stars are becoming visible without a telescope. After lodge adjourned Thursday evening Bauman brothers put on a novelty match, one man boxing and the other wrestling. It was an exciting affair while it lasted and the peculiar thing was that the wrestler drew first blood on his opponent.

The original Mutt and Jeff were also present and favored the fans with one of the most wonderful boxing exhibitions lately witnessed in Heppner. Mutt and Jeff are traveling under the aliases of Pete and Bob. They put on a fine show until both men "laid down" but, come to think of it, that was after the match stopped. Spectators were disposed to call the match a draw but Pete wouldn't stand for that and insisted on either boxing or wrestling the winner in each succeeding bout.

Sam Turner was present but his brother Frank, and Pete, the barber, didn't offer to take him on.

NEVER DID LIKE INDIANS

An Oklahoma editor tells of an old Indian that came into his office to pay for his paper. The editor took the money, then the Indian wanted a receipt. The editor tried to talk it out of it. Mr. Indian insisted on getting the receipt. After making it the editor wanted to know why he was so persistent about wanting a receipt. The Indian said: "Me die some time. Go to big gate and St. Peter ask if I been good Indian. I say yes. He say did you pay your debts? I say yes. He say did you pay editor for paper? I say yes. He say where is receipt? I say no have it. I have to run all over hell to find you to get receipt."

SMOKER AT LONE

A smoker will be given at Lone Friday evening at which a fine boxing card is promised. Steve Handran, of The Dalles, and Harold Ahalt, of Lone, will put on the principal event and Vic Eads, of Heppner, and Joe Marcus, of Arlington, will also go for a three-round bout, and there will be a number of class preliminaries.

Merle Blake and Walter Corley are the promoters and they promise a fine evening's entertainment.

MUST HAVE EITHER LICENSE OR RECEIPT

According to state traffic officer, C. L. Lienallen, owners of cars must have license plates or a receipt to show that they have applied for same before they will be allowed to drive their cars.

There is such a congestion in the office of the secretary of state now, due to the rush of applicants that there will be some delay during this month in getting out the license plates.

Those who have never had the pleasure of greeting the judge with a cheery "good morning, your honor" may experience this "grand and glorious feeling" unless they comply with the above regulations.

After February 1, those who have not license will have to secure a permit from the sheriff before "lizzie" can be cranked up and taken out for her exercises.

POLICE CHIEF STAGES HOLDUP

Chief of Police Devin staged a little holdup on Main street early Sunday morning when five men were persuaded to "stand and deliver." The job was completed Monday morning by Police Judge Richardson, who said it without flowers: "Ten and costs."

The charge was disorderly conduct or undue hilarity after business hours. "Too much foolery," quoted the chief, "whoop, whoop all time in the wee sma' hours, and it has got to stop."

Red alsike or white clover seed is the best cash crop on Oregon irrigated and on western Oregon farms. The acre yield is 300 to 600 pounds of seed. Rotate clover with wheat or barley and get more grain per acre. But plant no buckhorn, sorrel, or dodder.—O. A. C. Experiment station.

MOTHERS URGE UNITY IN CURBING LOCAL EVILS

To the Editor:

In the issue of the Gazette-Times dated January 4, 1923, which stated: "The mere boys from Heppner had had imbibed of 'bug juice' had marred the pleasure and harmony of the dance at Morgan."

The boys went to the editor of the Gazette-Times asking for a retraction. The editor said to leave it to him, the result being a greater insult including not only the four boys but several others of their class. Whoever says the boys who were at Morgan were drunk will have that statement to prove, as they are guilty of a gross misrepresentation.

Some people here can always see what the young folks are doing but they never stop to see who is responsible for the drinking and other misdeeds. The boys and girls are only following the example set by their elders. If their elders can escape without punishment, why not they?

If the mothers of this town would work together to bring the real evils to justice our preachers and editors would not need to advertise our boys' faults so often and we would have a cleaner and better town.

Signed by the mothers of these boys.

MRS. THOS. BOYD,
MRS. ED BUCKNUM,
MRS. E. LOGAN.

Oregon farms grow 700 pounds rye grass seed per acre, and 4500 pounds orchard grass seed. The United States imports nearly four million pounds of these seeds annually. Until Oregon can grow enough to stop foreign importations, her farmers will still have at least a part of this 6500-acre, \$250,000 opportunity, says the O. A. C. Experiment station.

NOTICE

To Dog Owners:

Compliance with Section 9367, Oregon's Oregon Laws, will be required of all parties having dogs, after January 1st, 1923.

Penalty is provided for failure to comply with this law is a fine of \$10 for each and every month of the owner's failure to comply. License may be had by applying to the County Clerk.

GEO. McDUFFEE, Sheriff.

27-28

REDUCE CROPS ADVICE OF N. D. CONGRESSMAN

Grand Forks, N. D.—Congressman George M. Young of North Dakota, has again declared his belief that farmers must limit their acreage to a point where the market will absorb their products. He opposes the growing of a surplus for exportation because he claims the price obtained for what is sold in the United States is dependent on the export sales. Young says a manufacturer would be considered crazy if he produced more than the market would absorb, so why should farmers produce more than they can sell at cost plus a reasonable profit?

In a letter to A. B. Herman of Relette, N. D., Congressman Young says:

"My belief is it will be the part of wisdom for all those who are now striving to find a means of relief to work intelligently and map out a course such as will offer some possibility of securing the votes of a majority of the members of congress.

"When an effort was made last winter to secure the passage of a law to guarantee the price of wheat, those interested in cotton, tobacco, corn and other products insisted on being included in the bill. The members of congress balked, declaring that it would bankrupt the treasury.

"Of course, it is well known that a law which simply prohibits the sale of any commodity below a stated price is worthless if not supported by money from the treasury to buy whatever is offered. That is the experience of price fixing laws the world over.

"It is now claimed by those who oppose price fixing legislation that if the bill proposed last winter had been passed it would have cost the government on wheat alone over \$600,000,000, and if other products had been included it would have swamped the treasury, even if there had been poured into it the excess profits, inheritance taxes, and other taxes now proposed and urged by different organizations.

"The time has come when farmers throughout the entire country should limit production to a point within the requirements of our own country. We have been permitting the price we get for our exportable surplus to fix the price for which wheat is sold for domestic consumption and that will continue just as long as we gamble at seeding time.

"We should adopt as a permanent policy that we will not export wheat at any time at a price below the cost of production plus a reasonable profit. This can be done by crop limitation. We produced this year 800,000,000 bushels of wheat. In round numbers we need 600,000,000 bushels for bread and seed in the United States, which leaves an exportable surplus of 200,000,000 bushels. Supposing all farmers reduce their wheat acreage next year 25 per cent. One of three things will happen.

"1. The average yield may be the same as this year. In that case the full tariff duty of 30 cents per bushel will become effective and the deduction for freight will be to some point in the United States instead of Liverpool as at this time.

"2. The average yield per acre may be larger than that of this year. In that case there would be a surplus but a study of crop statistics for the past ten years indicates that the surplus would not exceed 40,000,000 bushels and could not exceed 70,000,000. But such a surplus would have no terrors because it could be pooled and carried over until 1924 when it could be disposed of by a further reduction in acreage of 5 per cent or 10 per cent in acreage as the case might be. Under this head the freight would also be paid to a domestic point rather than to Liverpool as at present and the tariff duty would be effective.

"3. The average yield per acre might be reduced below that of this year, creating the necessity for importations, which would add to our price of freight to the United States and the tariff duty of 30 cents per bushel.

"A reduction annually of an average of 200,000,000 bushels of wheat in the United States would also have its influence on general world price levels."