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MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

Thursday, December 31, 1914.

A CASE IN POINT.

The recent report of the State's experts made the treasurer of Wheeler county short \$7000; it further stated that since the report of the experts had been made the "shortage" had been paid. It would appear, however, that there was no shortage in fact, for when the experts appeared on the scene to make their examination of the Wheeler county official records, the treasurer held in his hands this balance which he had not deposited in the bank and the deficit was only technical and should never have been reported against that official. Apparently this was a case of the experts lying to report something on somebody to show that they were earning their money.

In this connection, also, it is stated that the county court of Wheeler county considers the bill of the Portland experts who made the examination as being exorbitant. It is eight times the amount charged by previous experts for similar work done not many months before when the court had the privilege of making their own terms and arrangements with the accountants.

This is another case in point. It is further proof that the office of State Expert should be abolished. Retrenchment and economy can begin here. So far as we have been able to learn, there has not been an instance where these Portland experts have saved any money to the counties. This is bound to be so as the law provides they shall receive ten dollars per day for their work and there is no one to say how many hours they shall work or how much labor they must perform each day.

This is certainly one job that should be under the control of the county court of each county. The court is in position to get this work done to the best advantage when it has the say regarding who shall do it. As in Wheeler county, as in Morrow, Hood River, Marion, Washington, and in fact practically all the counties of the state it has cost from twice to three times as much to get the work done as it formerly did under the arrangements made with private experts. Surely the taxpayers have a right to demand some trimming of expenses here.

Many Oregon counties are complaining about the state accountants who come unasked to expert the county books and charge extortionate prices for doing it. The price charged in Wheeler county for this year's experting by these fellows was eight times as high as Max Crandall, one of the best experts in Oregon, used to charge. Some increase, eh!—Fossil Journal.

Great Britain has received stern warning from the United States concerning her meddling with American shipping, and the note of our government is intended for the whole allied forces. There has been an unwarranted interference with the ocean commerce from this country by the British fleet and the government at Washington says it must cease.

The cost of experting the books of Marion county for the past year by the Accounting department of the state insurance commission was \$1,523.11 as against an average cost in the past of about \$300.00. Simply another of the beauties of government as compared with private enterprise.

It is said that a Joplin, Mo., man has discovered a process of turning water into gold. We do not know anything about the Joplin man's process, but in very familiar ways this transformation has been worked to the building of many a colossal fortune.—Telegram.

The Pendleton East Oregonian says the United States will never have cheaper beef as long as land prices soar and the packers have it in their power to adjust prices to the growers and to the consumer according to their own sweet fancy.

Jonathan Bourne, Jr., in an article in Colliers, warns the American people against the present tendency toward bureaucracy. He says that the inevitable result of the present course is the development of a monarchy in fact if not in main.

It takes 120 barrels of flour to make a carload. Better hurry with that donation.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.

A big fight is on over the speakership of the next house of representatives. Ben Selling, of Portland, seems to be the choice of the Oregonian and the Multnomah county delegation for the place, while Allen H. Eaton, of Eugene, and a representative from Lane county since 1907, is claiming the support from over the state. The Oregonian makes the announcement that Selling is in the lead and will be chosen, and there is much talk emanating from the Eaton headquarters that the Portland papers, especially the Oregonian have been unfair to Mr. Eaton in not allowing him a hearing through their columns.

This is a matter in which the people outside of Portland and Multnomah county are much interested. It undoubtedly effects the redistricting of the state, and as Multnomah county will try to get a bill through that will give that section much more power in the legislature than it already has, (and this is more than they are entitled to) it is well for the balance of the state to get busy and put a few blocks in the way of the game.

As a sample of what is being undertaken, the following quotation is given from a recent editorial in the Oregonian:

"The total population of the state, according to the Commercial Club's figures, is 795,587. Multnomah county, then, has a little more than one-third of the population of Oregon within its borders.

"Under the present system—with a total of 90 members in the legislature—Multnomah county should have 30 senators and representatives."

This is given as a hint to the rest of the state and points the way to what Multnomah county may ask for.

The single city of Portland now sends 20 men to the legislature. It has 12 members of the house and 6 members of the senate. In addition it has the Multnomah-Clackamas joint place in the house and the Multnomah-Clackamas-Columbia joint place in the senate, which two members not only represent Portland but nearly actually live in Portland.

If under the proposed redistricting the "injustice" to Multnomah county is removed by giving Portland 30 legislators instead of 20, or one-third the entire membership of the house and senate, the additional ten will have to come off the up-state membership.

For example, if all counties were to be reduced to the same basis of representation as that given to Multnomah county as per basis suggested in the Oregonian, 1 legislator might have to represent Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow counties, instead of, as at present, 2. For here in substance is the deft Portland argument:

"We have 277,183 population and only 20 legislators. This is one legislator for every 13,859 of population. Sherman county has 4,207 people for 1 legislator, Gilliam county 3,815 and 1 legislator, and Morrow county has 4,292.

"If, now, Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow counties are brought down to the Multnomah basis of representation, that of one for each 13,859, their combined population will give them one legislator instead of their present two, plus a joint interest with Umatilla in one more."

Now it has heretofore been the habit of the Multnomah county delegation to name both the president of the senate and the speaker of the house, and in most instances these men are Portlanders, and when it so happened that they were not the influence of the big delegation was so strongly asserted that they might just as well have been from among their own number. In other words the Portland delegation has been getting what it wants, and this new move will only cinch their hold on the legislature all the tighter should it succeed.

One good move in the direction of checking the power of Portland over the rest of the state would be to elect Mr. Eaton as chairman of the house. His platform calls for a reduction of 25 percent, and more if possible, in the expense of running the legislative session. It calls also for a new legislative procedure that will cripple gang methods in the future.

Mr. Eaton contends that the present chances of election are even between him and Mr. Selling, and he is making a strong plea for the support of legislators outside of Portland and hopes to win through their support by the county press. It is a struggle between Portland and the counties outside of Portland and the outside counties are entitled to win that the general good of the entire state may be protected and Multnomah county not be allowed to put through extravagant measures for her selfish benefit on the plea of greater population.

We are interested from the standpoint of being entitled to at least one representative of our own, and in this redistricting process we should contend for this and get it.

Good-bye old 1914. You have made your place in history.

PACKING HOUSE MONOPOLY BEFORE SUPREME COURT.

The ordinance passed by the city of Portland to regulate the slaughter and sale of meats is before the Supreme Court. It involves the meat industry of Oregon and Washington, as the ordinance if sustained compels enforcement of the rules and regulations provided by the federal government.

It would result in wiping out the

smaller packing houses in Portland and vicinity and would subject all carcasses shipped to Portland for distribution to government rules of inspection.

It is contended by commission men and small markets that this ordinance would prohibit such shipments and compel the farmer to sell his stock alive to the Union Stock Yards. It is alleged in the pleadings and made part of this case that the slaughter house of the Union Meat Company is the only plant in this industry that could exist and do business at Portland.

The ordinance is being fought by all the independent packing firms and many of the retail markets of Portland. It is claimed by the plaintiffs and appellants in this case that the ordinance is in the interest of the meat monopoly, and would tend to raise the price to the consumer while destroying a competitive market for the producer.

The plaintiffs in conclusion allege that the burdens and restrictions imposed are such that the Union Meat Co. alone can comply with them.

INFLUENCE OF THE FRATERNITIES.

Mr. Bryan has expressed the view that the fraternal organizations will prove an effective force for world peace. He admits that after international difficulties have reached a crisis the fraternities will be unable to avert a breach, but he argues that prior to such time the international ties of brotherhood would resist ordinary attempts to sever them. This presumes a strength of international membership of fraternities which does not exist. It also presumes too much on the strength of obligations between men who have never met each other face to face. It is probable that individual members of fraternities would be influenced by such obligations to temper the horrors of war when dealing with individuals of the same brotherhood. There have been numerous well-authenticated cases to support this conjecture. But it is doubtful whether fraternal would be stronger than patriotic ties.

We have seen in the present war the best personal friends on opposite sides. German professors who were regarded as spiritual fathers of English students are defending the German cause against exceptionally bitter assaults from their former pupils. International Socialists, who called each other "comrades" and who openly repudiated patriotism as obsolete narrowness, are on opposite sides of the European conflict, each defending his country's cause as just. There seems to be no sentiment strong enough to break the ties of patriotism.

But the fraternal societies of the United States have exerted a remarkable influence in mollifying the bitterness of patriotism and sectarian controversies. At an earlier period in our history men of one set of political views were socially ostracized by neighbors of another political faith. In the border states, for example, children fought each other in the school because of differences of views on slavery. The antislavery boys were not permitted to court the proslavery girls. Religious prejudices were equally bitter. The denominations spent more time fighting each other than they did fighting the prince of darkness, or perhaps they thought that they best fought him by fighting each other. The cordial relations now obtaining among the evangelical denominations would have been impossible two years ago.

That the association of men of different religious and political views in fraternal societies had much to do with destroying these bitter prejudices may well be argued. The other day the president quoted Charles Lamb as declaring that he could not hate anybody he really knew. When men met each other in lodges, under favorable conditions, they learned to know and to like each other. They recognized that men could be good at heart and filled with noble aspirations, regardless of their peculiar beliefs about religion and politics. After men had fraternized it was impossible for them to renew their old hostilities. The present tolerance in religion and politics is probably more directly due to the influence of fraternal societies than to any other single cause.—Globe-Democrat.

EVILS OF STATE REGULATION.

Cattlemen in various parts of the state complain that they are driven out of the fine stock business by too much regulation and the evils of growing bureaucracy.

As a practical illustration of the working out of the agricultural problems by farmers themselves without state interference take the action of the Farmers Exchange at Hermiston last week.

They decided to form a co-operative Bull Association, to secure for the members pure-bred bulls of good milk-producing ancestry, and save expense in buying and prevent inbreeding.

The Farmers Exchange is working this all out for itself and has so far not asked a state law or the intervention of the numerous Domestic Animal boards, commissions, ect.

More cows and better cows, more and better dairy products, richer and more successful dairy ranches, will be the result of this movement of the hard-headed Farmers Exchange.

The theories of bureaucracy are falling down from the federal government to the state and county affairs, and the people are revolting

1914

GREETINGS

1915

To Our Customers and Friends:

With best wishes for your prosperity and success for the coming year, we extend to you the

GREETING OF THE SEASON

and assure you of our earnest desire for a continuance of the cordial relations between us.

Respectfully,

PHELPS GROCERY CO.

REMNANT SALE

We are going through our stock and throwing on the REMNANT COUNTER all odds, ends and broken lots.

We are getting ready for our Annual Inventory and are marking these remnants at a price that will go.

You will find just what you want at a small price.

We are still giving 10 per cent. off on Men's and Boy's Suits and Overcoats.

Thomson Bros.

against the useless tax burdens.

The chances are in favor of the Farmers Exchange Bull Association accomplishing more for its members than all the laws, boards, officials, commissions and bureaus under the shining sun.

THE RETRENCHMENT PROGRAM.

The business men's delegation from Multnomah county has been holding sessions twice a week for a month trying to map out a retrenchment program that shall cut off at least a million dollars.

They find themselves besieged by all the boards and commissions and expert bodies that have been created in the past to hold their soft jobs and even demands for new sinecures and new appropriations.

The Multnomah businessmen in the house and senate this time seem not to be the regulation A. B. D. delegation, but are hewing out a stiff program that once put on the skids will be hard to intercept.

Five important consolidation bills to cut out at least a million dollars of fixed charges are being framed and will be put up to the legislature with the option to pass them or have them initiated.

One will put all the various land and water boards and engineering and surveying projects under one head.

Another will consolidate the various labor and compensation boards and commissions under one head. A third will consolidate all the do-

How Is That Cold?

We carry a complete line of cough and cold remedies

SLOCUM DRUG CO.

domestic animal and veterinary functions under one head or board.

A fourth will unite the various medical and health boards into a single function or health department.

The fifth will consolidate five or six higher educational boards and commissions into a board of three.

These bills will be constructed to simplify service, eliminate duplication, and reduce expense.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

To our many customers and friends, we wish to express our hearty thanks and appreciation for your liberal patronage and friendship during the past year. With goods as represented and an effort to please, we hope to see you often one and all. May a prosperous and happy new year be your lot.

WM. HAYLOR.

Attention Knights.

The regular installation of officers of Doric Lodge No. 20, K. of P. will occur on Tuesday evening, Jan. 4th, and it is desired that there shall be a good turnout of the membership on this occasion.

Don't forget the Poultry Show on the 6, 7, 8, and 9, of January.