

THE GAZETTE-TIMES.

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MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

Thursday, March 30, 1916.

OUR BIRTHDAY.

The Gazette-Times is 33 years old today. It was eleven years after the town of Heppner had been started by the Hon. J. L. Morrow, Tom Quaid and other sturdy pioneers that the first issue of the Heppner Gazette came off the press. This was five years before the railroad. During the years that have come and gone since the advent of J. A. Stine, the first editor, the paper has made a steady, conservative growth. The present management has strived at all times to make the paper better and this will continue to be their aim in the future. We have tried not to get ahead of the community in which we are living, but rather have we strived to work hand in hand with the community and advance as it has advanced. This has been our idea of conducting a paper along sound principles and we feel safe in stating that we believe our policy has been fully appreciated by our friends and readers. We start on our 34th year with greater hopes for the future of Heppner and Morrow county and we are still firm in the belief that we are living in a community which is destined to come into its own before long.

MADE-IN-OREGON TEXT BOOKS.

The Heppner Commercial Club has gone on record as being opposed to the plan of printing school text books in Oregon. The Club is not so much opposed to the printing of text books in this state, for that organization is naturally behind every movement which has for its object the improvement and growth of home industries. But the Club is skeptical over the feasibility of printing text books at home.

The agitation to have the text books printed in the state printing office was started by our state printer, who maintains that at least 50 per cent can be saved. He and other advocates for state printing point to California as a state, which they allege, has had success with state printing of text books after several years of experimenting.

In writing on this subject, Elbert Bede, editor of the Cottage Grove Sentinel, says:

"This proposition sounds nice enough at first reading, and, without investigation, almost any citizen, especially if he had children for whom he was buying books, would become enthusiastic about it. But upon a problem as large and important as this it is well to ponder a little.

"It is to be observed that California experimented several years before it attained anything like success.

"We too, might be willing to experiment a few years in order to reduce the cost of school books 50 per cent. Oregon likes to experiment. Experimentation creates no fear for us, that is one of our long suits; in fact, it is about our only long suit, and while it seems to stand the wear pretty well, we should not forget that tailor bills may have to be met some day.

"While we are experimenting with the publication of school books, we might find a few worthy and patriotic citizens who could be induced to give of their time for service upon a commission for the preparation of text matter for the books, upon a commission for selecting the type in which the books should be printed, upon a commission to select the paper of which the books should be made, upon a commission to decide whether the books should be folioed at the top or the bottom, upon a commission to decide whether the books should be side-stitched or saddle-stitched, and upon a commission to see that other commissions performed their duties. Still other patriotic citizens might be willing to act as secretaries and clerks for the numerous commissions.

"The money to pay the numerous commissions and their clerks and secretaries might be advanced by the State out of the moneys to be saved later by printing the books at home.

"After the commissions had performed their duties faithfully up to the time the books were needed, and drawn their salaries equally as faithfully, it might be discovered that the private publishing houses had copied rights upon all the standing works, that satisfactory substitutes could not be secured, and that the plan could not be a success.

"Investigation might prove that California had these and other troubles."

However, most of us agree upon the fact that the present cost is indeed high. We are also agreed that the present law which gives us a change of text books only once in every six years does not permit of the flexibility of text matter in our schools that there should be. Yet,

again, if we were to take up the State printing of school books, there would be a very great possibility of getting into just such a situation as brother Bede has outlined before us.

CIVIC BEAUTY.

The movement of property owners in doing away with the wooden awnings that have heretofore adorned the fronts of our business houses, is a timely one. While the fever of civic improvement is growing it might not be amiss to suggest extending the crusade into our resident districts and start the removal of unsightly fences which now give our town the appearance of a community grave yard. In the old days when stock ran over the country care free yards in town had to be protected. We have passed that state now and sooner or later the fence will be supplanted by the pretty green hedge and Heppner will then be taking another step forward.

A FORECAST.

Unless Villa shall be speedily killed or captured, Carranza's army will melt away and Mexico will be nearer united than it has been since the rebellion was first sprung against Diaz. And the cry will be one of hate and defiance against the United States. To bring this around was what doubtless prompted Villa to make his raid upon Columbus, N. M. Doubtless the militarists on the border have understood this from the first.

The chief danger of this will be to American residents in Mexico.

Then will follow a swift blockade of the Mexican ports and probably the rushing of an army from Vera Cruz to the Gulf terminal of the Tehuantepec railroad, a second from the Rio Grande and a third from some part in Arizona. On the part of the Mexicans it will be chiefly a guerilla warfare; there will be no really great battle. There will be a great clamor at first and portentous threats of what is to be. The business of our navy will be to prevent supplies from getting inland; of our different armies to take the capital and chief strategic points in the country, and then to order the civil powers there to order an election and see that it is a fair one—to do what was done in Cuba.

It will be a vexatious, expensive and uncomfortable business; it would really be a mercy to that country to permanently take and hold the northern row of sparsely settled states, even as California, Arizona and New Mexico were held in the war of 1846-1847.—Goodwin's Weekly.

Portland schools, by tests of Dr. Edmund Myers, show 45 per cent efficiency. They are next to Los Angeles the most expensive, and his conclusion is, too many fads and fancies and not enough elementals. Seven out of a class of 31 did not know what state the Hudson is in, and the class average in geography was 24.5 per cent out of a possible 100. As an example of socialistic service under public ownership the public schools make a poor showing.—E. Hofer in Pacific Coast Manufacturer.

IMPORTS NOT FALLING OFF.

The Democratic claim that the war has shut off imports and is therefore responsible for the failure of the Underwood tariff law as a revenue producer is hardly borne out by the figures of the department of commerce. The department's analysis of foreign commerce for January, 1916, just issued, shows that in that month total imports amounted to \$184,362,117. This compares with \$122,148,317 in January, 1915, and \$154,742,000 in January, 1914. It is therefore apparent that imports are growing rather than reducing.

Import figures show that there was a falling off in 1915, but this decline has been more than recovered. For the seven months ending with January, 1916, imports totaled \$1,097,148,991, while for the same period ending with January, 1915, they totaled only \$930,503,236. During the seven months ending with January, 1914, imports totaled only \$1,067,752,498, so it is evident that they are increasing rather than falling off.

The fact is that by throwing down the bars the Underwood tariff law has stimulated importation of non-dutiable goods by increasing largely the list of articles that may be brought in free. This explains the falling off in revenue. The war is not shutting off the stream of imports, as the Democrats would have us believe. It has enormously increased the export trade of the country and thus has nullified the worst effects of the Underwood law by turning the balance of trade back in our favor, but it has not cut down the total of imports. Customs revenues have fallen because of large additions to the free list.—Eugene Register.

A. J. Hicks, who for several years published the Heppner Times, is now located at Sumas, in Whatcom county, Washington, where he is the owner of the Advocate-News, a weekly paper. Sumas is a town of about 2000 population and timber is the chief resource.

The warm weather brings the road louse to the surface.

Famous first lines: "At the earnest request of my many friends—Have you registered?"

ROBERT SERVICE.

Robert Service, a well known attorney of Baker, is making an active campaign for position on the public service commission. He is asking for the vote of the common people. In telling of his qualifications, the Portland Oregonian has the following:

Mr. Service has lived in Baker 15 years. He is 49 years old, married and has four children. A native of Scotland, his parents came to Wisconsin when he was 5 years old, and he grew up and was educated in that state.

He has had an interesting and varied career. For five years he was head bookkeeper of a lumber company at Red Cloud, Neb. Then for a year and a half he was general manager of a sash and door factory at Crown Point, Ind., from there going to Pocatello, Idaho, where for nine years he was in the retail lumber and coal business.

For seven years after coming to Baker he was a manufacturing wholesale lumberman and shipper. It was in this business that he became interested in the subject of freight rates, to the study of which he devoted himself for eight years.

He has frequently appeared before the Railroad Commission, now the Public Service Commission, in railroad rate matters. It was he who brought before the Commission the log rate case, from Baker, in 1912, which was said at the time to contain more elements of freight rates than any Federal or state case previously brought in the Northwest.

In 1912 Mr. Service was a candidate for Railroad Commissioner on the Progressive ticket. Up to that time he had been a Republican. Some time ago he left the Progressives and returned to the old party.

He is the fourth announced candidate from east of the mountains for the one vacancy in that district on the Public Service Commission. The other announced candidates for the Republican nomination are James E. Kyle, Mayor of Stanfield; H. H. Corcy, present secretary of the Commission, whose home town is Pendleton; and Ed. Wright, of La Grande, County Clerk of Union County.

From the West Side only one candidate so far has announced himself. He is Fred Buchtel, of Portland, deputy state sealer of weights and measures. However, it is considered certain that Thomas J. Campbell, of Roseburg, one of the two incumbents whose terms expire this year, will be a candidate.

Clyde B. Aitchison, of Portland, the other incumbent, also expected to run again, though he has not announced himself. Under the old law, when all Commissioners were elected from the state at large, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Aitchison were both elected in 1912. This year, with one Commissioner to be elected from the West Side and one from the East Side, one of them may step aside.

THE SENSIBLE WAY.

Everyone who travels the roads ought to devote a little attention at this time of the year to the good that can be accomplished at small expense with a drag. With this simple tool and a team one man can do more for the roads now than a whole crew with teams and graders can do later.

The secret of good roads at reasonable cost is maintenance work at the proper time. If incipient holes and ruts are filled up before they have had time to grow to large proportions, money is saved for the taxpayers and the roads are kept in the best possible condition. It is the stitch in time that saves nine.

Unfortunately, this vital principle has never been fully recognized. It has been the happy-go-lucky custom to build a good road at great expense and then permit it to go to ruin for lack of a little attention at the right time.—Eugene Register.

Villa is getting the recognition he has been striving for.

Clean up and paint up.

Library Association Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Heppner Library Association will be held on Tuesday afternoon, April 18 at 3 o'clock at the library. All patrons are urged to be present at this business meeting. It is the desire of the present officers of the association to hold an election of officers and a quorum is necessary for this. Therefore remember the date, and come out for this meeting. If you don't like the present management come and elect new people for their offices, and if you do like the present officers, prove it by your presence at this business meeting. M 30-3t.

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Robert Service
For Public Service
Commissioner

He is a Baker lawyer with a business career and has hammered the railroads too often to expect their support. He is the common people's candidate and is unalterably opposed to railroad graft. A vote for him is a vote for better regulation.

Heppner Commercial Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.

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