

TAXPAYERS GATHER AT IONE FOR CONFAB

In a Lively Meeting of These Residents Afternoon, Subjects of Taxes, Road, County Officials and Excessive Expenditures Are Discussed.

There was a meeting of some forty taxpayers of the various parts of Morrow county at the rink in Ione on Saturday afternoon. Attorney Frank Robinson acted as temporary chairman and he briefly outlined the object of the meeting. Taxes, which seemed unreasonably high; and increasing every year; a wasteful and unwarranted expenditure of the county funds, particularly with reference to roads; the increase in salaries, etc., were topics for lively discussion, and appeared to be the keynote of the speaking. And Attorney Robinson stated that owing to these conditions, the meeting was called to devise some ways or means by which the situation might be remedied, and everyone present was ultimately called upon to express their views and present what facts and figures they might possess that would give light on the situation.

D. S. Barlow, the first speaker, stated in part that he believed most of the expense was on the road work; that three or four surveys were usually taken before any actual work was begun; the county court had no say in the matter of the construction of Willow creek highway; the state engineers were doing the work as they saw fit, according to Mr. Barlow. "There has been a great deal of money spent already on the creek highway, and only one mile and a quarter graded and surfaced, and at the rate they are going there will be no money left out of the \$28,000, and this road about half finished," was a statement given by Mr. Barlow. And he further remarked that the foolish waste of money in building the Jordan Sliding grade will cost the taxpayers of Morrow county a big sum of money to put in a fill across the railroad crossing.

The position of Mr. Barlow was supported by James Biddle regarding the Rhea creek highway. "We must do one of two things. If this 1-1-4 mile cost \$10,000, I say the money was not properly spent, and we should quit building roads right now. The biggest percentage of taxes are paid by the farmers; the county men are too extravagant; the money is simply wasted; let us do something."

"Mr. Campbell and Geo. Bleakman are good men to meet, but not business men," stated Bert Mason, lone merchant. "I have known Mr. Bleakman for a good many years, and he has tried everything from herding sheep on up to his broke now. Judge Campbell is not the man for this road job. These men haven't the business ability. We are putting these men up by our money; they are getting more pay, we will admit, but about all they seem to want is the honor of holding office. There's this road to spray via Hardman, and this monument. About one or two, such as Bob Carner is about all this road will benefit. There has been appropriated the sum of \$20,000 for this road, and if they proceed the way they have been doing they will never get to the top of the Heppner Hill. We should recall these men and put in men who are capable of holding office. I say get a competent man in there if it does take a little more salary; let's get him."

M. R. Morgan expressed his views as to the present legislation, referring especially to the election. By our votes we send a man to Salem and put up a measure and have it passed over the wishes of the people, the measure being the raising of the salaries of county officers. "We are paying these men big money and they ride around in taxicabs. What are they doing for us? We used to get along on these roads several years ago and they were kept up in better shape and they received only one tenth of the wages they receive now. We have got to put a stop to this extravagance or we will be insolvent. We must have men to work for the interests of Morrow county. These men are not interested in road work in our work and not interested in their work, I say, take them out of the County Agent Hunt; for instance, there's all over the hunt; for now we understand he went to Spokane. All this money, ladies and gentlemen is coming out of our pockets; making our taxes so high we can't pay them. We must do away with this kind of people. County Road Master McCall also came in for his share of the criticism."

C. M. Schriver expressed himself as being very much in accord with the views of Mr. Morgan, making reference to what Mr. Fred Ely had to say concerning the building of the highway around his store at Morgan. This instance was only one more of the waste of money on the putting of the bridge across the canyon at Morgan cost the county some \$2000 in extra money. There is evidence of waste on every mile of this road.

Mr. Harrison, of Morgan, stated his views on the John Day Irrigation project. We must fight it. Never let it get its claws on you; because you might as well sell out and pack up and move out, was the assertion of the speaker.

"\$15,000 is what it cost to grade around the city of Ione instead of using the bridge as originally planned. On top of this was the construction of the street at \$2000 and another at \$4,500. All of this unnecessary extravagance was laid to some spite work so stated Bert Mason. The excuse given was that the railroad company would not let them build the road across their right-of-way.

There was more speaking along this order and this will suffice to give the trend of the meeting from this view point.

Mr. Robinson emphasized the need of getting organized and getting around among the farmers and get their sentiment.

GEORGE W. CHAPIN, OF HARDMAN, IS DEAD

Word was received in Heppner Tuesday morning announcing the death of that place shortly after midnight of George W. Chapin, one of the pioneer residents of Rock creek. Mr. Chapin had been ill but a very short time, and his sudden demise came as a shock to his many friends in this part of the county. His funeral is being held at Hardman today and burial will be in the cemetery there. Mr. Chapin was one of the successful farmers of the county and had been extensively engaged in both farming and stockraising here for many years, owning quite a large tract of land in what is known as Chapin canyon on Rock creek. He is survived by his wife and one son who reside at Hardman.

Dan Staifer Returns from South. After having spent the past three months in Southern California, Dan H. Staifer returned to Heppner on Thursday evening last and will remain in this city for a short time. Mr. Staifer states that he had the finest time of his life and while in the south he met many of his former friends. He was joined by a sister who lives in Illinois and her daughter, and the greater portion of the time was spent at Long Beach and the weather was delightful. Mr. Staifer stated that the trip was one of great pleasure all through and there was not a point visited that he did not run across some old time friend and acquaintance. He was entertained for several days at the home of John C. Brown in Redlands, and in company with Ed Brown made a trip into the Imperial Valley by auto. He also crossed over into Mexico at Tijuana and witnessed some real life. At San Francisco, on the way home he ran across Art Crawford and had a nice visit with him. Dan thinks southern California the finest place on earth to spend the winter.

WANTS TO PUT IN FERRY ACROSS RIVER AT IRRIGON

Gordon Holmes of Irrigon has filed notice with the county court of Morrow county that he will petition that body at its May term to grant him a franchise to establish a ferry across the Columbia river at a point about three miles below the town of Irrigon. He will also have a similar petition before the commissioners of Benton county, Washington, at the same time. The point of landing on the Washington side would be about a mile above the town of Patterson. Mr. Holmes has already purchased a boat which he secured from parties at Pasco at a cost of \$2500, which is propelled by a good marine engine and has capacity for the accommodation of about seven tin lizzies. Should this ferry be established along with one at Boardman, there would be no difficulty in tourists making it across the Columbia at convenient points on the highway, there now being ferries at both Arlington and Umatilla.

Brother Dies at Albany

Mr. E. R. Huston of this city received the sad intelligence on Tuesday of the death of his brother, H. F. Stuart, on Monday evening at Albany. He was aged 46 years and was a veteran of the Spanish-American war and served with an Oregon company in the Philippines, where he contracted an ailment that he could never be rid of. On account of illness, Mrs. Huston was unable to go to Albany to attend the funeral.

Harry Bartholomew, Alfalfa Raiser and Stockman of Stanfield, is a Visitor in This City for a Short Time on Wednesday

Harry Bartholomew, alfalfa raiser and stockman of Stanfield, was a visitor in this city for a short time on Wednesday, and continued to present other facts which we have not the space to mention at this time. Many other speakers added their mite and there were numerous statements that might be considered pertinent, but this much is given at this time to show that the meeting has started something.

A Committee consisting of Bert Mason, Dan Barlow, Mr. Mathison and James Biddle was appointed to investigate the taxes and expenditures on road work, and to gather such other information as may be of value.

All Henrickson of Cecil was present, and he made some defense of the expenditures that had been made. Calling attention to the fact that a very large portion of the taxes complained of had been voted by the people themselves and the court was powerless in this respect. He would urge the people to be cautious in creating further tax burdens by the voting of measures calling for additional funds, that now the funds had been voted there was nothing much left to do but try to get the funds together to pay the bills.

Agent Hunt was present and took up the defense of the court, and we will present some of his facts and figures in another article.

SPRING IS HERE



THE SPRING LIVESTOCK SITUATION PROMISING

A trip through eastern Oregon shows that the winter just ended has been the most favorable in many years for live stock. The overhead which was so ruinous a year ago, has been cut to practically one-fourth the costs of the winter of 1919-20. Cheap feed and mild weather have been in part responsible for this, material reduction has taken place in labor costs. Ranch employees have been cut from \$15 a month to something like \$8. Sheep herders are now working for from \$60 to \$75 a month which represents a cut of forty per cent. Sheep shearers are asking 12-1-2 cents largely because this price was established by the Utah Sheep Shearers' Union, who voluntarily cut from 17-1-2 cents to 12-1-2. The growers are talking ten cents and will have no trouble in filling the jobs at this price.

The heavy fall rains produced a luxuriant growth of grass and all stock taken up in the fall were in prime condition. This was responsible for an early maturing of all feed-lot stuff. Practically everything got fat this year. As a result there has been an early marketing of pan-fatt animals and a fine growth of wool and a bumper lamb, calf and colt crop will be insured.

Stockmen are optimistic. They have been able to get along without much money and have by means of trading amongst themselves and in some instances giving their help an interest in the stock, been able to squeeze through. They have been successful in cutting the overhead. Labor has objected but little, knowing that this was absolutely necessary. A peculiar situation is present in respect to cattle. Feeders are selling at market prices for practically as much per pound as killers, indicating confidence in the future of the beef industry.

The horse market is improving. There is considerable demand for stock to take the place of trucks and tractors. A number of mares will be bred this spring. Farmers feel the need of raising sufficient colts to replace the older horses worn out or sold to avoid depreciation. Several years ago, horse raising enabled the central eastern Oregon wheat farmers to pull through several short crop seasons. The present price for grain and hay bring horse expense per year below \$100. Small tractors cost at least \$600 (covering operation, depreciation and repairs) annually hence more than six head of horses will have to be replaced in order to pay out under present conditions.

The University of Illinois recently made a tractor horse survey. It was found that 72 per cent of horse maintenance constitutes feed costs and that the grains used would be approximately 25 1-2 bushels of barley, 37.8 bushels of oats and 2 tons of hay and 170 days access to outside pasture. One hundred tractor users were interviewed and the farm work was put into three divisions, "Tractor Work," "Doubtful Tractor Work" and "Non-Tractor Work." Approximately 75 per cent of the work on the average farm was in the horse and doubtful-tractor column. None of the 100 farmers using tractor gave increased crop yields as an advantage for the tractor. One may conclude that the average farm must be larger than 240 acres before tractors can be successfully substituted for horses then only for part of the work.

Eastern Oregon stock growers are determined to pull through the present period of depression. Bankers state that there has been enough money saved during the past six months to recoup much of the loss that has been sustained because of growers not selling at the top prices. Stockmen realize that the only way in the long run that one can lose in the stock game is to lose the stock. This year there has been a storm loss, neither has there been a disease loss, nor has there been any considerable amount of loss from forced liquidation. If there ever have been losses in the stock industry, either the stockman or the banker have been at fault, the stockman, perhaps, because he has lots of faith. Any stockman that has stood off failure until now is surely through the worst of it. The banker who has helped him is now well able to see the fruits of his good judgment.

Federal reports show that there are ten million less domestic animals in the United States than a year ago. Breeding stock is sure to be in much demand. There are good reasons for believing

FIRST BASEBALL GAME HERE NEXT SATURDAY

Coach Hendry's call for baseball practice Monday resulted in a turnout of over twenty men, last among which were eight veterans of last year's team. The coach has been putting the boys thru some stiff workouts and has picked the team to play Lexington Saturday, April 2. Peterson, who played short last year, has become a regular at pitching and will start the game Saturday with Cason, a recruit, as Hendry's second batter. Cason lacks experience but has a wonderful arm and a fair curve and should be a winner with more experience. The two will alternate at third also. At catching we have Alken who has had considerable experience and should help the team considerably as a catcher. Boyd at first looks good and bears watching as he is playing a good game of ball at present. He should star easily this year.

The second sack is safe with Irwin watching it. He has been pastiming here for two years and should do well this year. Ferguson at short seems to be the real work place. He needs lots of practice, though he is a hard worker and will give an entertainment. Coach Hendry will make good as a head and coach. The outfield has many aspirants but Logan, Howell and Wright have the edge on the others. Logan is a heavy hitter and fast. Howell and Wright are also good and will show up well with more experience. Humphrey, Chidsey, McDuffee and Dougherty are fighting hard to get on and may be used later.

Don't forget the game Saturday, April 2, Lexington vs. Heppner. The high school is having half a holiday off today for the purpose of working on the new play grounds and tennis court. The boys will serve "bow wows" and coffee at noon.

B. C. Culver, an old ball player from O. A. C., has been showing the boys some fine points in baseball this week and helping Coach Hendry get started. The U. of O. Girls Head club will be here Friday and give an entertainment in the high school auditorium. After the entertainment the high school will entertain the girls in the auditorium. The big mystery is: Where has the freshman pennant gone? Catherine Pattison has been playing a McSweeney stunt and hasn't returned to school yet.

Ble is a new sweater. Bernice is still wearing the green coat. Spec has been wearing two days without missing a period. See you next week.

District Attorney S. E. Notson returned home from Salem on Friday evening. He spent several days at the local looking up some election matters. He states that the legal held at Willamette University the past week for the election of a May Queen, resulted in the choosing of Miss Mary Notson, who will be crowned at the May Day festival, May 6 and 7.

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Dr. Stephen D. Phelps and wife departed for Vancouver Wash., on Tuesday where they expect to reside for the summer at least.

COMMERCIAL CLUB HAS GOOD MEETING

A Lending Question for Discussion Was Raised; the Closing of Gap in Willow Creek Highway and the Handling of Market Road Money Claiming Attention.

A very interesting discussion came up at the commercial club meeting on last Friday evening when the subject of "Roads" was reached in the order of business. The club is naturally interested in the matter of getting the Willow creek highway completed, and there is now a gap of some 12 miles extending from a point a short distance beyond Lexington to the Wightman place below Heppner, or about 12 miles, that is not graded and cannot be until some funds are secured to carry on the work. It is not yet decided as to what the problem had not yet been decided at the time of the meeting Friday evening, and the subject called forth considerable talk and developed the fact that something must be done to complete the road and that the time to do it was now. However, when it was suggested that the market roads fund might be applied on this road and used to close up this gap it developed that it might be well to proceed with caution, as this fund was understood by the farmers to be set aside for purely market roads and there was some question as to whether the highway would come under this classification. The opinion prevailed, that while it was stated that there could be no question in this regard, the attorney for the state highway commission having held such roads to be market roads as well as state highways, it was only fair to put the matter squarely before the farmers and get their sanction or disapproval of the procedure before an attempt was made to divert the market roads fund. Dist. Atty. S. E. Notson gave it as his opinion that the funds could not be borrowed by the county as the matter now stood, so that it would be impossible to get hold of the funds temporarily in this manner. J. P. Conner, who was instrumental in getting a petition before the court to apply this fund this year on the Lexington-Jarvin road, stated that he was sure that all those interested in this proposition would waive any claims to the fund at this time and allow the money to be spent on the Willow creek highway, providing they would be assured of its return in a reasonable time; that he was ready to pledge their support to this proposition, while County Agent Hunt properly expressed the opinion that if it was attempted to divert the fund without a thorough understanding on the part of the farmers interested in the market roads, there would be a bitter fight precipitated.

HOWARD ANDERSON SALE SATURDAY WAS SUCCESS

Howard Anderson was in town from Eight Mile on Tuesday and stated to us that his sale on Saturday was a complete success in every respect. There was a fine crowd in attendance, bidding was lively and everything offered brought good prices under the efficient handling of F. A. McMenamin, assistant auctioneer. David Wilson, clerk, was kept busy in getting down the bids, and the great pressure to Mr. Anderson was the fine amount of cash realized, as he had feared that even though everything should sell well, under the present conditions he would have to prepare to take paper for the greater portion of the sales. As it was realized fully half cash. One team of horses sold for \$33 cash. Miles went from \$120 to \$170 per head, while cows sold around \$70 and yearlings \$25 to \$30. Mr. McMenamin had three sales the past week and he will cry the Dykstra sale on Saturday. Mr. Anderson states that he is especially well pleased with the work of both auctioneer and clerk. He is yet undecided as to just what he will do, but thinks that he will move with his family to a small place near The Dalles, providing he can get a satisfactory trade.

Parent-Teachers Organize at Lexington

On Monday evening 45 of the patrons and teachers of the Lexington school met at the high school auditorium for the purpose of organizing a Parent-Teachers association in Lexington. The constitution as recommended by the state superintendent was adopted. The officers were elected as follows: president, W. D. Hill, vice-president, Maude H. Pointer, secretary, Mrs. Geo. W. Garrett, treasurer, Karl L. Beach. The first regular meeting will be held at the school house April 12th. A committee was appointed to secure every eligible person within the school district as a member of the association. The association will be affiliated with the state and National Congress of Mothers, and Parent-Teacher associations, and will receive suggestions and advice from both the state and national organizations.

Andrew J. Warren Passes at Hardman on Saturday

Andrew J. Warren, a respected citizen of Hardman, died at his home on Saturday last at the advanced age of 75 years. Death was caused from chronic bronchitis from which Mr. Warren had been a sufferer for a number of years, though just prior to his taking away he had been in his usual health. His funeral was held at Hardman on Monday, Mrs. W. O. Livingstone of this city delivering the discourse and conducting the services. Burial was in the cemetery at Hardman.

CLIFFORD GORDON McDONALD

The home of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McDonald at Hardman, as well as that of the entire community was saddened by the death early Tuesday morning of Clifford Gordon McDonald, aged 11 years, 10 months and 4 days. The lad had been sick but a few short days, suffering from spinal meningitis, when the death angel came and he was taken home.

His funeral was held at Hardman church Wednesday at 1:30. Mrs. W. O. Livingstone of this city conducting the services. There was a very large attendance of the friends of the family, and the school turned out to the funeral in a body, as Clifford was a bright student in the 6th grade, was beloved by all his schoolmates. The floral offerings of his friends were profuse and very beautiful.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. J. J. McDonald, he leaves to mourn his loss three sisters, Mrs. Ray Robinson of Lane Rock, Ethel and Hazel and two brothers, Robert and Raymond, and the entire community of Hardman, for the lad was loved by all who knew him.

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HOMESTEADER TAKES HIS LIFE BY SHOOTING

James Craig, in Pit of Homestead Shows Himself With Small Rifle—Is Found by Sheepherder in Unconscious Condition Sunday Morning and Dies Shortly After in Hospital Here.

James Craig, residing about three miles east of Heppner, was found in his cabin at an early hour Sunday morning in an unconscious condition caused by a gunshot wound in the head. The body was discovered by George Davis, a sheepherder who was going for a band of L. V. Gearty's sheep that were feeding near the Craig cabin. Davis went over to the cabin as was his custom, to spend a few moments visiting with Mr. Craig, and knocking on the door, got no response, whereupon he opened the door and discovered Craig lying on the bed with a 22-caliber rifle grasped in his hands and lying across his body. Davis did not enter the cabin but ran down to the road to give the alarm and met W. P. Mahoney and E. G. Sigbee coming out from town, telling them what had happened. These men returned to the cabin with Davis and found Craig still alive but unconscious. Going to a telephone at a nearby neighbors they called up the sheriff's office and Sheriff McLaughlin and Dr. Chick hurried out to the Craig cabin, where upon making a careful examination it was decided that the man had shot himself with suicidal intent.

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