

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

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Drop the Fair.

(Oregon Voter)

The best thing Portland and Oregon can do is to drop the 1925 Fair and tend to business.

Events so far have more than confirmed the worst forecast made by The Voter as to the ill effects of attempting to proceed with the untimely venture.

There will be no disgrace attached either to Oregon or Portland if the project is dropped now, for the difficulties and general conditions entirely justify its abandonment on its merits. Rather, sensible people throughout the world, in so far as they may hear of it, will commend our state and city for good sense in knowing enough to turn away from an undertaking when events have demonstrated its inappropriateness to business conditions as they prevail here and all through the world.

If a business man starts a new venture, and conditions prove especially unfavorable, his banker does not hesitate to advise him to lay the project aside for a few years and meanwhile devote his energies to holding his main business together and building it up. While an enthusiastic business man hates to swallow the bitter pill of advice of this kind, as it is a lot of fun to try to carry on in the face of probable disaster, no dishonor attaches to his following such sound advice. Rather, he is to be complimented and honored for his common sense, and for not persisting in risks which the times have made altogether too hazardous. The proponents of the fair, likewise, cannot be criticized if they follow this common sense plan. They have done their utmost. They will be condemned only if they persist in an attempt which conditions have doomed.

Supposing the enthusiasts cannot give up their big idea, what then?

Either the fair must be financed mainly by private subscription in Portland in the near future, or the chance must be taken of the people of the state voting the taxes for it at the November election.

Portland business men and property owners are in no shape to put up \$5,000,000 or more for any unnecessary purpose, and while we have no doubt that millions would be subscribed by patriotic Portlanders if it came to that, the hardship on many would be altogether too heavy. Business is on thin ice. Even our most solid financial institutions are having to exercise extraordinary care. This is no time to ask our bankers, manufacturers, merchants and the few property owners who have any money left to put up millions for any public subscription.

So far as voting taxes is concerned any further attempt to vote a property tax is doomed to defeat. The state is in no mood to accept such an added burden on top of the taxes which already must be faced, especially as from 20% to 40% of taxes are delinquent in some counties.

To try to vote the fair tax onto gasoline, when all the money that can be raised from gasoline is needed for completion of our state highway system, is to fly in the face of a public sentiment that is determined that the road system be completed.

To try to vote an income tax to finance the fair would be equally difficult. Income taxes are too heavy now and the active protest that would go up against adding to them for an unnecessary purpose would defeat the move. We may have to relieve property of some of the existing tax burdens, but there is no sound business excuse for voting it in order to finance a fair.

There are other sources of taxation, but the same kind of objection exists to all of them—based on the inopportune nature of the purpose, to say nothing of the outrageous principle of voting taxes on general or special property.

The verdict would not come till November, 1922, unless by some unexpected twist the measures go on the ballot in May, which at this writing seems impossible. And in November, with an adverse verdict, the fair would have to be abandoned then or financed by private subscription in Portland. Why persist in the face of such a prospect?

In proportion as the people of Portland gradually are learning the point of view of the outside state with reference to the fair, they are becoming reconciled to the idea that the project is untimely. Indifference as to whether it is held is very general, even with the man on the street. "I was strong for the fair, but I don't care now," is the comment heard pretty much everywhere in Portland. In the face of this feeling of indifference, the financing of the fair or even the voting of taxes for it will become increasingly difficult.

Some of the people who are so

wrapped up in the fair idea that it is religion with them are still trying to bolster it up by every method. They try to make it appear that public sentiment is still strong for it. An example is the Portland Telegram, which sent wires to a number of out-of-town citizens, asking for expressions. In every instance, the recipient of the telegraphic inquiry was already strongly on record in favor of or interested in the exposition project. Several were among those named on the Board of Directors of the Fair. To the uninitiated reader, the replies received from these hand-picked outsiders might appear as indicating that some real sentiment exists out in Oregon in behalf of holding the fair. Some day Telegram readers will grow tired of being continually deceived. This is simply a typical instance of the kind of deception ordinarily practiced by that newspaper.

Sentiment out in the state so far as the fair is concerned is mainly indifferent as yet. Of those few who have taken a position for or against it, those opposed are in the majority. Those who are indifferent are certain to swing, most of them, into the opposition. The financial conditions prevailing in their home neighborhoods will be the main influence to swing them, but other influences will be at work which cannot be offset. The primary nominating campaign is to come soon. What is set forth from platform and press during that campaign will tend to arouse the state against the fair, and to some extent against Portland for trying to vote \$2,000,000 onto the outside for a fair to be held in Portland.

To drop the fair project will be to give the wound a chance to heal. To persist in the fair project will be to open the wound wide, and friction unquestionably will ensue that will split the state more or less against Portland. It is not for the interest either of Portland or Oregon to persist in an issue which threatens such sinister results. Aside from who is at fault, the fact remains that the fair tax proposal raised sectional issues which it would be for the best interests of Oregon to bury and bury deep.

Reports of what happened at Salem during the special session are certain to be set forth and reshaped all through the primary nominating campaign as well as the fair campaign, should the issue of the fair be maintained. Some of these reports will be distorted and exaggerated until they do far more harm to Oregon, Portland and the fair than they would were the simple truth told. It would be better to drop the whole business rather than stir the mess up, for it was a mess.

So far as any evil happening to Portland or Oregon by abandoning the fair is concerned, there will be none greater than the humiliation felt by a man who quits drinking after boasting that he would drink the town dry. Outside of Oregon, few people have heard of the fair. The resolutions passed by Congress hardly made a dent. The polite letters exchanged with governors of other states will have been forgotten, even if they are remembered to now. True, Seattle, Spokane, San Francisco, Los Angeles and other competing cities have done their utmost to encourage Portland to go ahead with the fair, as our competitors will gain pretty much the entire benefit of a Coast fair without the expense or tremendous effort necessary to the holding of it. We may have to stand a bit of ridicule from them but we are used to that and are growing industrially at a rate that justifies their envious flings. We will live through all the sarcasm they may feel disposed to waste on us.

At that, our quitting the fair at this time will not give them the chance to joke that they will have if we hold a \$6,000,000 fair, for a \$6,000,000 fair after San Francisco will be worse than a joke if we call it a world's fair. And if we do not call it a world's fair what's the use of deluding ourselves into the notion that any foreign countries except Japan and possibly China will be handsomely represented here?

Honor and common sense dictate the dropping of the fair project while the dropping is good.

A Community House for Heppner.

A community house for Heppner was discussed at the Brotherhood meeting on Monday evening. The subject was presented by A. M. Phelps, who brought forth a number of good reasons why the city should have a place of this kind, but he did not attempt to outline a full plan by which it might be secured. He stated that the boys of the Heppner Post, American Legion, were working on a plan for the building of such a structure, and their side of the question was presented by R. E. Crego, who for two years has been commander of the post here, and who, by the way, is very enthusiastic in his support of the community house idea. Mr. Crego stated that the Legion boys had already secured a lot; that they intended to appoint a building committee and have the plans for the building completely worked out; that the cost of the proposed building would be approximately \$10,000, and they hoped to be able to finance the proposition in such a way that it would pay out in the course of ten years. Just now, the manner of financing the proposition is rather a problem. The need of such a community center was emphasized by other speakers and the sentiment of the Brotherhood in re-

gard to the movement was expressed in a unanimous vote of support to the American Legion in their efforts to put the building proposition over. A committee of the Brotherhood was appointed to work with the committee of the Legion, and it is expected that plans of procedure will be worked out at an early date.

The idea of a community house for Heppner is not a new one. It has been suggested on various occasions, but not until the American Legion took hold of it has anything been done of a definite nature. A town of this size should certainly have such a center, and one of the speakers at the Brotherhood meeting Monday evening, Professor James, brought out very clearly this need, and emphasized the fact that it was not alone a question of what it was going to cost; the price was going to be paid in the lack of physical health and womanhood of the city, if such a center was not provided. The school budget had been trimmed until no thought of obtaining a gymnasium for the school could be entertained, and it perhaps never would be, so it is now coming to the point where some other arrangements must be made if the boys and girls of the community are properly cared for and given the good bodies they are entitled to have.

Other good reasons were presented. Rev. Livingstone pointing out that such a center would be a fine thing also for the business men and professional men of the town and a like sentiment was expressed by Gay M. Anderson.

It would seem now that the Legion boys have gone as far as they have, the logical thing will be to stand by them and help in every legitimate way possible to complete and carry out their plans. One thing is certain, such a plant if built under their supervision will have a proper organization to stand back of it and keep the community house going as it should be.

The development of the plans for a community house for Heppner will necessarily be a little slow, but we believe that it is going to come thru the impetus that has been given it by the boys of the American Legion, who will in due time have the support they desire from the community.

Slat's Diary.

By ROSS FARQUHAR

Friday—ma shurely did get mad with me this evening because I was so timid about carrying in the cole. she lost her temper and all so a patata witch she was a peeling at the same time. winter is almost as wise as summer. if it issent carrying in cole I haf to mow the grass on the yard or wrik in the garden.

Saturday—they is a man frum away off died & had his fuernal here witch ma & pa usa to know so we went. honest the preacher tawked so nice & sweet it most made a fella wish he was the remains his own self.

Sunday—we had are new Years exercises today. They had the church all desecrated up in green & wite & a lady sung an anthem & a man with a long cote & wiskers spoke a address & me & sum of the kids spoke peaces about the glad New Year and etc. pa resolved that I woud be a better boy this coming year & he has got a new razer strap for a Xmas present.

Monday—Back to skool today. I hate it with disatisfakion. In line today I pushed Pug Stevens & told him to get out of my way. He sed Say do you no of whom you are tawking to. I pretend not to pay any at-tenshun as the teacher was looking with her eye on us.

Tuesday—I rote Pug a hot note before skool & called him a big bluff & a lazy good for nothing lofer & a ignorant mule. I got to studying about one thing and a nother & tore it up before I seen him. he thinks I am afrade of him.

Wednesday—Ma is a awfull sore woman on mr. Gillem. She overherd him speaking of her as the Echo witch means I gess she has the last wurd all ways. she sed pa likly put him up to say it. pa was laffing.

Thursday—Pa wants to be on the good side of ma so he had me to by her a mesmerized waste at the stoar witch costed morn a \$. She was awfull tickled with it & she went & made candy with nuts in & on it and all threw it. for us to eat up.

Profiteers Want Another Whack at Public.

The print paper trust is at it again. This mogul of profiteers is now fighting hard in Congress for "protection of its infant industry"—for a tariff to prevent us from using some other nation's forests instead of using up our own forests.

Some two or three years ago, these profiteers discovered that there was a shortage of print paper in the United States and at once they ran their prices up to undreamed of heights. As much as 18 cents per pound was paid for paper that ought to be no more than 3 cents per pound.

American print paper manufacturers are rapidly using up our forests containing the sort of timber that can be ground into paper pulp. If they had replanted where they slashed and devastated, the people of the United States might think twice when it came to the question of giving them a prohibitive tariff against

foreign importation. But they didn't care whether their country was deforested or not; they didn't even have foresight enough to provide for their own future business. Now that their supplies are getting low, they want to use up the last spruce stick and keep out the spruce trees that grow up on foreign lands.

In our opinion, it is better to cut down foreign spruce trees and save the few that are left in the United States.

The publisher who buys print paper does not buy it for himself. He buys it for the hundred millions of American people who read. The paper only hesitates in his plant while he impresses some words in blak ink upon it. Then the ultimate consumer gets it—that is, the people who buy billions of newspapers in a year.

If the public does not want to pay anywhere from 10 cents to 25 cents apiece for their newspapers in the coming future, they would better protest against granting a tariff for the sole benefit of the American print paper makers who are proved profiteers of the worst kind.

The man at the helm of the Blue Mountain Eagle at Canyon City, relieves his system of the following:

If they hold a world's fair at Portland, some of the starving and hungry folks of Asia and Europe would make some good exhibits. They could exhibit in some grand panoramic view the millions out of a job, and they could probably feature in some way the colossal debt of the nations of the world. They could make a fine exhibit out of the pyramid of taxes on the back of the man with a hoe. To hold a world fair at this time will offer some fine opportunities for unusual displays. They could display some Bolshevicks, moonshiners, stills, highwaymen, poverty stricken railroads, mortgages and tax receipts, with cheap wool, sheep, beef, 90-cent wheat and beef hides that have no value.

Tax-Exemption Loophole.

As it becomes increasingly difficult for private industry to finance itself due to the vast amounts of money that are being absorbed by tax-exempt bonds of the government, states and counties and cities, public demand is more insistent that the tax-exemption privilege be repealed.

Not only does industry suffer but the government is losing millions in taxes which should be paid on income derived from such bonds.

What justice is there in a wealthy

man buying \$100,000 worth of tax-exempt bonds and thus escape all taxes from the income he receives, when the man who puts \$100,000 into an industry which employs many people and involves large risks, must pay every known form of taxation that can be invented.

Government securities are the safest in the world and this fact alone is sufficient inducement for capital to invest, without removing all tax features to the great detriment of the government and industry.

Courtesy Pays.

The other day in Dallas, Texas, a seedy-looking individual walked into a big truck salesroom and started to examine a chassis on the floor.

Two dapper salesmen looked him over—decided against him and went on talking about the party of last night. The seedy-looking individual finally walked out.

Down the street he entered another showroom and was at once courteously greeted by a young salesman.

Thirty minutes later he had bought five trucks.

"Cash or time?" said the salesman.

The seedy-looking individual pulled out a certified check for \$50,000. "Take it out of that," he said. "I will be back here in a month for eighty more trucks. Can you have them?"

"You never can tell—and—courtesy pays.—The Coach.

Capital invested in Oregon industries increased from \$139,500,000 in 1914 to \$439,982,000 in 1919. Salaries and wages paid increased from \$26,515,000 to \$34,986,000. Grand total value Oregon products 1921, \$296,805,000. Total amount spent on roads in 1921 \$18,250,000.

Homey Philosophy for 1922.

The United States now being free to traitors whose one desire in life is to overthrow our government, the "Workers' Party" has just been organized in a three-days' convention in New York. It is not a "party" at all. It is plainly and precisely an organization of communists pledged in so many words by its platform to start civil war in America. No wonder all the bloody-minded agitators call us "boob bourgeoisie" (middle class). We certainly are boobs when we allow civil war promoters to hold open conventions in our midst and plan soviet starvation and destruction.

1922 - ECONOMY - 1922. Economize by having your old dress, suit coat, blouse and gloves Cleaned and Repaired. LLOYD HUTCHINSON Where They CLEAN CLOTHES CLEAN

FAIR TREATMENT COMBINED WITH BEST PRINTING

1921 Was a good year with this store. We enjoyed a fine trade—all because of the very liberal patronage of the home folks. We look forward to 1922 with pleasurable anticipation. At this store you will, as in the past, find dependable merchandise at right prices, and will be met with courteous treatment. Sam Hughes Company

ONLY "QUALITY PRINTING" PRODUCED AT THE G. T.

A. M. EDWARDS WELL DRILLER Lexington, Ore. Box 14 Uses up-to-date traction drilling outfit, equipped for all sizes of hole and depths. WRITE FOR CONTRACT AND TERMS. GROceries. Now the holiday excitement is over, and are already back to normal living. We beg to call your attention to our store where you will always find a Complete Stock of Staple Groceries at prices in keeping with good quality. Your co-operation has made the past year possible, and we bespeak good things for 1922. Sincerely, Phelps Grocery Company Phone 53

SAFETY & SERVICE. Put an End to Guesswork. When you transfer an amount of money to another person, for any purpose, you are entitled to a record of the transaction that is clear on all points—the date, the amount, to whom paid. Keep a reasonable amount to your credit in a checking account with the First National Bank. Pay with your personal check on the Bank. Then you will be sure at all times. Your check will provide an accurate, reliable record of disbursements. First National Bank HEPPNER, OREGON