

Public Opinion

(Continued from Page Four.)

on any subject, in the court room and will ask Judge Bengé and Commissioner B. If they have ever put their eyes upon such letter.

Yours truly, HERT MASON.

MR. McCALEB REPLIES.

To the Taxpayers: Mr. Bert Mason in his article of last week seems to think that he is representative of the entire Morrow county. He states that a change in the personnel of the purchasing agent would be very acceptable or agreeable.

As the purchasing of all supplies (excepting as stated in my former answer to the question) is done by the court and any thing that I buy in emergency cases is O.K'd and passed on by the court, I would infer that he wishes the court to resign. I do not know just who he has in mind to take over the affairs.

It has been quite evident for some time that Mr. Mason and a few others are against the government, but it is just probable that they do not represent the public in general nor the producer who is the real taxpayer. As to my position as roadmaster, which is his main object of attack, I think he should be able to see from the following he may be wrong. Last December was the time for me to attend to the renewal of my contract. In discussing the matter over I was encouraged by Judge Bengé and others that my work was satisfactory. I made application for a renewal of contract which was signed without question or debate, first by Judge Bengé, second by L. P. Davidson and third by G. A. Bleakman.

Copy of contract: "In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Morrow County. "In the Matter of the Appointment of County Road-Master. "Now at this time this matter coming on to be heard upon the application of Wm. Lee McCaleb for appointment as County Road-Master for Morrow County for the term of four years from date hereof, and the Court being fully advised in the premises.

"It is therefore Ordered that Wm. Lee McCaleb be, and he hereby is, appointed County Road-Master for Morrow County for the term of four years from date hereof, and that the bond of said Wm. Lee McCaleb as County Road-Master heretofore filed herein be, and the same hereby is, approved.

"Dated this 20th day of December, 1927. (Signed) "R. L. BENGE, County Judge. (Signed) "L. P. DAVIDSON, (Signed) "G. A. BLEAKMAN, Commissioners.

"Endorsed: Filed Dec. 21st, 1927.

"GAY M. ANDERSON, Clerk." Webster says, "A lie is to say or do that which is intended to deceive another, when he has a right to know the truth, or when morality requires a just representation."

I was asked by Mr. Mason how much was paid Mr. Dempsey for hauling rock and I stated the price. Judge Bengé thought that I was in error. I stated that I thought my figures were correct, but added that the bill lies there on the table. My statement was correct. Mr. Mason displayed quite an elaborate exhibit of figures. I told him they were not correct, but he said they would "iron out."

I did not get the meaning of that phrase, but think I understand it now. The old suit that is twisted and wrinkled does not look good to the public eye, but after it has been pressed there is a difference. I asked Mr. Mason twice if he would be honest enough in this matter to correct his figures, and the only answer was as stated above.

Mr. Mason would have you believe that I as roadmaster was drawing down from the county hundreds of dollars and no one wise to the fact. This was discussed at the court meeting and he knew the truth, but he did not publish it.

As stated to him and others present, I was hired in beginning at a salary of \$200.00 per month. During the slack times when crops were poor, Judge Campbell and Mr. Waters, county clerk at that time, asked me if it would be agreeable to cut down my salary until times were a little better. It was a verbal agreement and we are still working under same.

In the construction of the market roads I was requested by state engineer to keep the records for him and charge same to the market roads. I have had to work nights and Sundays to keep this work up in order that the state engineers could make their reports. Since Mr. Harris took over the work there has been no charge made by me nor have I received any pay.

I did not keep an office assistant at \$170.00 per month as does Mr. Harris, and the total charge I made does not exceed \$400.00 per year. No doubt Mr. Mason has the figures for to my knowledge and his the county records have been quite thoroughly searched. This searching commenced some months ago and the cost of same is being paid by the taxpayers. It appears the search was not made to get at facts but as a means leading to a certain end. Our best citizens can see that end is not to benefit the farmer and taxpayer. I did not, in answer to Mr. Mason's question, say that Mr. Dempsey would haul rock cheaper than anyone else. I did say and will repeat that we are getting the work done cheaper with Mr. Dempsey hauling. The government gave the county a number of trucks. The court hired drivers and tried to make a success, but found out even with the trucks as a gift it was cheaper to hire Mr. Dempsey.

The drivers did not understand trucks, did not care if same were broke down and had to get mechanics to repair—and whole works held up. I can safely say there has not been a five minute delay caused by Mr. Dempsey in all the years he has worked for the county. We have never had to wait for him to empty our bins, and besides he has been of great help in keeping the work going in other ways. Any of you farmers or practical business men know that the cost per yard in getting our rock hauled does not figure so much as does the time required with the crusher and crews that are at work. The quicker the work is done, the less the expense. Mr. Dempsey is paid 30 cents for the first mile. You will note, however, he is only getting 10 cents extra on the second mile. Also will state that many extra yards were hauled over the break-in miles without extra charge by Mr. Dempsey. Mr. Dempsey, in his hauling, has to begin from the crusher and dump, and is continuously going over the soft dirt and loose rocks. The figures published by Mr. Mason regarding what the state is paying is misleading and it would appear I intended to keep from the public that which they have a right to know. From the best information I can get the state hauling is over paved or macadam roads and perhaps two miles to the first dump. One can readily see how it can be done cheaper. I am not saying that the figures published are not correct. However, I do not have any records cheaper than 18 cents. At any rate the comparison is unjust and I do not believe were given in good faith. Mr. Mason asks if I require Mr. Dempsey to furnish bond, and if I require bids and I have a written order from the court. He would have you believe that I make agreements and issue pay checks for hundreds of thousands of the taxpayers' money without any restraint or confirmation. Mr. Mason knows what my duties are. He has access to the laws governing same. He knows I have nothing to say regarding bids or bonds. He knows that I do not issue checks or spend your money. He knows I check all the time sheets and see that all board and other charges are deducted from the men on the work and that I issue a voucher to the county court showing same in detail. These vouchers are all acted on and passed by the county court. This true the banks and stores accept these vouchers as cash, but the court passes on them and I am held responsible in case of error. Mr. Mason also would have you know that Mr. Harris is under bond, but he neglected to inform you that I also am under bond. It appears that Mr. Mason or his committee checked the records of bills paid by the county court for months back and as far as I know found only one item they could use for their purpose in view. That item showed on the bill as follows: 14-pick handles \$18.00. There was so much said in regard to this bill that Mr. Frank Gilliam whom you all know has had years of experience in hardware business, came to the court house to investigate.

It was he that first suggested that an error was made in the billing. We ordered 24 pick handles and received 24 handles. We have the order that was placed and all the checkings from the shipping clerk showing how many were shipped. The girl in making bill mistook the figure 2 for a figure 1 which is excusable after seeing the copy she had to make her work from.

The price of \$9.00 per dozen is a bargain for they are not your cheap handles that are continually breaking. We still have most of them in stock and others in use giving good satisfaction. After all even had the county court been stung on the cost of the pick handles, don't you taxpayers or farmers whom Mr. Mason is pleased to call "Horny fisted," believe it a pretty good record? Just one place to find where Howard Cooper Corp. overcharged and still they didn't?

Would just like to ask the taxpayers a few questions. Just who is it that wants the county to buy their own trucks and make all this money that they claim Mr. Dempsey is making? Is it because they are so deeply interested in the county or is it the big commission they might receive if they could sell several trucks? Just who is it that would like to see your organization broken up and have your work done by contractors? Just who is it that wants the county court to pay with your money \$2.00 more for grader wheels plus a 10 percent commission than they can get them for direct. Is it because they have the best interests of the county at heart?

Nothing has been concealed in the court's work, nor neither has it in my records. They are open for inspection. All of this slime has been mixed and the time set to start the propaganda. If not, why did they not come to the front long before instead of waiting until just before election? I believe the real reason for the whole thing from the beginning was to change the personnel of the county court in order to attain the hidden object in view. I am pleased to say that one thing has exploded.

Mr. Mason, in order to keep out wish to apologize to the public and the press for the time and space taken. This has been my first appearance in the press and I trust

of a libel suit, has signed a statement saying he was in error regarding the accusation he has broadcast regarding Howard Cooper Corporation.

Now Mr. Taxpayers do you think he was in error or do you think he spread that report willfully and maliciously? Do you think Bert Mason an ignorant and not capable of knowing who it is that signs a letter? If this statement and the big "Bertha" of all is retracted and admitted untrue, how much of the rest can you depend on? Am wondering just what the other barrel is loaded with, and if he shoots again just how much of it will hit a mark. I do not believe you voters will be caught by his propaganda. It will be the last.

W. L. McCALEB.

A 1000-acre stock ranch for sale; 150 acres cultivated. 7 miles north of Monument. \$7000. Easy terms. If interested write or phone I. N. Harrison, Top, Oregon. 5-10.

FOR SALE—1927 14-ft. Case combine. Has cut 600 acres. Good as new. See or write Harry or Sam Turner, Heppner, Ore. 5-10.

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"HELLO Sue"



We're moving into a NEW home at our present address! Not really a new one. Jack and I are modernizing the old home. I've always wanted a cozzy



KITCHEN CUPBOARD and BREAKFAST NOOK and now I have one, so come over and have breakfast with us, and see my new



ARCH and FIREPLACE SET we built in the living room.



Jack is building a lattice fence in the back yard and also a big tree seat for hot summer days and



Our new 40 year CEDAR SHINGLE roof laid right over the old shingles makes the home more comfortable in all weather.



Let us tell you what you think of our new entrance. The Architects of the

TUM-A-LUM LUMBER CO. helped us plan it all! They like to help folks build!

SPEEDWAY CORDS Built by Goodyear 30x3 1/2 \$5.95 29x4.40 \$7.45 Heppner Garage

STAR THEATRE

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, MAY 17 AND 18: KARL DANE and GEORGE K. ARTHUR in "ROOKIES"

With Marceline Day. You'll learn about laughing from this one. Six months in jail or a month in training camp! So he became a rookie—and what he learned was nobody's business. Complications, thrills, and laughs, laughs, laughs.

Also Daphne Pollard and the Sennett Girls in THE SWIM PRINCESS, another two reel comedy with sequences in color.

SATURDAY, MAY 19: LON CHANEY in "MOCKERY" WITH AN ALL STAR CAST.

The Man of a Thousand Faces and a thousand arts in his most mazing effort. He is a timid Russian peasant, dragged into the whirlpool of evolt against his will, who runs against the spy network, and comes through in a crisis with an act of the greatest sacrifice.

Also Cartoon Comedy, News Reel and Oddities.

SUNDAY AND MONDAY, MAY 20 AND 21: ALEC B. FRANCIS, the Screen's Foremost Character Actor, in "THE MUSIC MASTER"

With Lois Moran, Neil Hamilton and Norman Trevor. Based on the play that made David Warfield famous.

The Music Master crossed the Atlantic and through a score of years sought for his stolen daughter and—vengeance—

And when he found her, only Love remained. The most poignant story ever played before the footlights becomes the most dramatic photodrama of the day.

A picture that will linger pleasantly in your memory through the years to come.

Also Charley Chase in THE STING OF STRINGS, 2-reel comedy. CHILDREN 20c—ADULTS 40c

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 & 23: LARS HANSON and EARNEST TORRENCE in "CAPTAIN SALVATION"

With PAULINE STARKE and MARCELINE DAY.

Mighty as the sea in thrills. Out of a terrific storm and shipwreck he rescued the sole survivor, a girl of rare and intriguing beauty. Into his life she brought romance such as he never dreamed possible, stirring adventure and unforgettable thrills.

A Sea Thriller you won't forget.

Also comedy and News Reel.

COMING NEXT WEEK Tom Mix and Tony in THE CIRCUS ACE May 24 and 25 Milton Sills and Betty Bronson in PARADISE May 26 The Duncan Sisters in TOPSY AND EVA May 27 and 28 Richard Barthelme in RANSOM'S FOLLY May 29 and 30

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FRESH Strawberries From the Morrow County project. Large supply for Friday and Saturday trade. Vegetables Direct from the Walla Walla gardens. Special Deal For Friday, Saturday and Monday, or while they last—2 packages soap powder and a fancy rubber apron—whole value \$1.35 regular—at 97c. Quality Always Higher Than Price. HIATT & DIX Phone Main 1072 We Deliver

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