

EDITORIAL



Exercise Your Right! Vote!

An election will be held tomorrow—Friday, May 19—that will be of great significance to Oregon, and perhaps to the nation. It is the Oregon primary election, at which time nominations of candidates for the various state, district, and county offices will be made. This calls for majority rather than minority nominations—a full expression by the people, for upon their decision depends to a large extent the future of the state and the Northwest. We must decide whether we want to remain masters of our own destiny or have the socialist planners do all of our planning for us; whether we want a free economy or a controlled (politically, of course) economy.

Those who are seeking to place us in bondage would naturally prefer that those opposed to their insidious ideas stay away from the polls, and from the way a large segment of the voting population has been doing that very thing in recent years it appears that we are being lulled into a state of lethargy by the glib promises of great things to come if we but sit adly by and let the "big boys" up in Washington do all of our thinking for us.

The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. There will be ample time for each and every voter to cast his or her ballot. Exercise your right as a citizen and a registered voter to get to the polls and vote. Only by so doing can we revive an interest in our American way of life.

What Do You Read?

In view of the publicity that was given the rural school budget and the lack of information exhibited by voters prior to and on the day of election, the question arises, "What are people interested in—what do they read?"

The Gazette Times, with the assistance of the Rural School Board through its secretary, Henry Tetz, endeavored to make clear the most salient features of the school budget, feeling it an obligation to the voters that they know what they were being asked to vote upon, yet when election day arrived there were many who did not know what it was about. Is it indifference to our public welfare, or is it a distaste for anything that requires a little thought and study?

Whatever the reason, the Rural School Board has felt obliged to accede to the request of some of the high school districts that another election be called immediately. Just how far the board will carry the torch is a matter of uncertainty, but it is a certainty that it will "pass the buck" to the several district boards to furnish most of the information and promote whatever campaign they feel is necessary to enlighten the public regarding the budget. Should the second election follow the footsteps of the first, then it will be up to the several school districts to call elections on their own budgets.

This newspaper feels it has an obligation to meet in passing on information to its readers and the public—information that will be of benefit to the individual and the community. It can only hope that its readers will make use of the information, which is obtained from reliable sources and given without a spirit of bias. There is no desire to dictate how anyone shall vote. It is believed that if the people go into the booth properly informed they will vote right. The desire is to get information to many more people who should vote on school matters and other elections.

The most upsetting feature about budget elections in particular, is that after all the hard work the public relations committee has undergone to inform the public, someone with a profound lack of knowledge or with malice aforethought can go out on the street and in less than five minutes can have a while block astray by making a single remark that this year's budget is bigger than last year's, thus counteracting weeks and even months of diligent effort on the part of school officials and the budget committees to bring the budget down. That was demonstrated in the recent election in more than one instance, not all on the same thing, perhaps, but following the same line of thoughtlessness. Giving utterance to some unfounded rumor such as the one that each member of the rural school board is paid a salary of \$1500 per year may not seem harmful to the one making that utterance, yet it creates doubt in the minds of some as to the merits of the entire budget and causes them to vote against it whereas if they fully understood the figures and the reasons for their being there they more than likely would vote for it.

This brings back the thought, what do you read? Are you interested in the welfare of your children, of your school, your town, your state and your nation? Do you consider it your duty

to vote on matters pertaining to taxation, to the election of proper officials, and other functions of government? There is no quarrel whatever with the people who voted against the budget at Monday's election. They at least exercised their franchise as citizens. The quarrel is with those who do not go to the polls and express their preference.

Law Abiding Policy Best

The iron hand of the law was exerted against a malefactor who sought to evade the regulations by catching more than his just share of fish. He was not even discreet about the legal size, and he doubtless thought that he was doing his fishing in such a remote spot that the "law" would not find him. In that he reckoned without the keen scent with which the state police are blessed, for he was caught and hauled before the justice of the peace who saw to it that he paid for his folly.

It so happens that the offender was from a neighboring county. He failed to show appreciation for the privilege of indulging in a favorite pastime and was bereft of his fishing outfit, the altogether too many fish he had caught, besides paying fines on two counts. He could have stayed within the law and returned here perhaps several times during the fishing season and would have been welcome. As it is he perhaps feels resentment towards the officials who merely perform their duties and have no desire to interfere with any sportsman's pleasure but who must protect our game resources by defending the laws.

It is difficult for some sportsmen to realize that the game life is propagated and preserved for the benefit of all, not just the few. Our streams are stocked to their capacity to provide angling for those who enjoy the sport—and their number is legion, but it is expected that each fisherman will be a good sportsman and abide by the rules. If he does not he will have to pay the penalty.

What The Country Press Is Thinking

It is always interesting to read what the country press has to say about current issues and events. Such thinking springs from the grassroots and more or less reflects the trend of thought in the editors' respective communities. From one of the news sources that reaches the editorial desk regularly is taken several paragraphs pertaining to national affairs which show that the country press is hving its say.

The Mesabi, Minn., Daily News says: "In the conversion of electricity to do the chores of America, power accomplishes the work of a billion and a half men. No age has seen anything like it, a marvelous testimony to the effectiveness of the private enterprise system."

The Beaverton, Oregon, Enterprise thinks that "the postoffice curtailment will bring sharply home the dire effects of government reorganization and economy. For those who rise up in arms over the lessening of mail deliveries, let them recognize fully that the wages of reorganization are economy, not more governmental services." While the Garner, Iowa, Leader, treating upon a subject that has long been a sore spot with the printing industry: "It can be said without reservation that the solicitation and sale of government stamped envelopes, with the address printed, is highly discriminatory and an improper invasion of the free enterprise field by the federal government."

Of indebtedness, the Dearborn, Mich., Press comments: "Debts of state and local governments have gone up in the last year, according to the Census Bureau, which reports that they reached an all-time high of \$20,875,000,000 last June 30. This looks like a large amount but it is nothing compared with \$252,000,000,000 that the federal government owes. The total, \$273,645,000,000 amounts to \$1,834 for every man, woman and child in the country."

The Norwich, N. Y., Chenango Union, advances this thought: "It is a basic principle of democracy that might does not make right. When that principle is disregarded by any individual or group of individuals, whether it be a labor union or an association of employers or a political party, our system of liberty and justice for all is endangered."

And the Alken, S. C., Standard and Review views the troubles in another land in this manner: "In England... more and more restrictions have been placed on the freedom of the workers... In that country men and women cannot change jobs without permission of the government and when such a condition exists there is no longer any free labor. Free labor and free enterprise go hand in hand. We cannot have one without the other."

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Neal, in town today, announced they had sold their residence property in Ione and are moving this week near to Prosser, Wash., where they have purchased a home. Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Ruggles

and daughter Connie enjoyed a brief visit with friends and relatives in Moro Sunday, returning that evening. Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Forsythe of Ione plan to leave June 1 for

Our Federal Government consists of a grand total of 533 people elected by popular vote (435 Representatives, 96 Senators, 1 President and 1 Vice-President). Into the hands of this small number of men and women, we, the American people, place the power, among other things, to tax us, to regulate us and keep us at peace or at war.

The fault of all governments (and ours is no exception) is that they seek to increase their powers. Seizing upon emergencies as pretexts (sometimes justifiable, sometimes not), they add bureau after bureau, and put more and more people on the public payroll. The worst feature of this procedure is that when the emergency (real or imaginary) has passed and there definitely no longer is need to continue these bureaus, governments do not close them up. All history reveals that once having seized any necessary powers, governments cling tenaciously to them.

There is nothing strange about this—it is simply human nature asserting itself. In the first place, politicians thrive on power, and in the second, those who have been added to the public payroll holler to high heaven if any attempt or threat of an attempt is made to take them off. This creates a vicious circle in which politicians are afraid of losing votes by releasing government employees, and those employed demanding that they be retained as Millstones around the necks of the taxpayers.

The money governments spend come not only from the income-taxpayers but from all of the people. No one escapes the heavy hand of the government collector. He is lurking behind every shop counter. This money gives the politicians power, and with

Glimpses At Highway History

By RALPH WATSON

Oregon elected a new governor in November, 1922: Walter M. Pierce, Democrat of Union County. "According to custom," the three members of the highway commission resigned and during March and May three new commissioners took over the pilotage of the highway program. They were Judge William Duby, of Baker, elected chairman; Judge Wade R. Malone, of Corvallis, and Henry B. Van Duzer of Portland.

Maybe if a paragraph or two of heretofore unpublished political history happened to creep in at this point to break the chronology of bonds, contracts and paving mileage, it might prove an interesting diversion. Anyway, the story is the Ward Irvine, then Governor Pierce's secretary, was sent down to Portland to see former Governor Oswald West, also a Democrat, to ask what West knew about the character and qualifications of "Judge Duby." West thought that Irvine said "Judge Derby." As it happened, Andrew Jackson Derby, County Judge of Hood River County, was a warm personal friend, as well as a real Andrew Jackson Democrat, and when West finished recounting all the good points of Judge Derby, that Hood River magistrate easily could have been fitted with a man-sized halo. Irvine expressed himself as very much pleased observing that the Governor also would welcome the information as the Judge had been highly recommended for appointment.

"When I read a day or so later of the appointment of Judge Duby, of Baker, I was totally flabbergasted," West confided.

CALL FOR BIDS ON PARK FRONT CURBING

Sealed bids will be accepted up to 6 o'clock p.m. Monday, May 22, 1950 for the construction of curbing from the end of the curbing at the corner of the Tum-A-Lum Lumber Co. to the rest room building on the city park property, a distance of 300 feet. The work must be done at once. The city has curb cribs which may be used. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

it they are able to perpetuate themselves in office.

At one time here in America, power was obtained by individuals and groups through the organization of money. That is just as true today. Money now is just as much out of fashion as the bustle, and power comes through political position.

We Americans mistrusted the money power formerly vested in tens of thousands of individuals. Today far greater power is delegated to but 533 individuals. We must learn to distrust this craving for political power, for we have greater reason to be alarmed about it than the erstwhile craving for money power.

The appetite for power on the part of government is progressive—becomes more and more voracious. The more it gets the more it wants. Those in power, already having taken over many things, demand that more enterprises be put in their hands to run. Each additional thing mulcted from private ownership and taken over by government, gives government just so much added power. This in itself is bad enough, but it also is expensive—it heaps additional burdens on the dwindling number of us not on the government payroll, for it is those of us outside of government who must give of our earnings to maintain those inside.

That government is best which rules the least, keeps the number of employees on its payroll at a minimum, and pares its expenses to the bone. It naturally follows that such government, except in times of war, does not have to levy back-breaking taxes. We had that kind of government here in America for a century and a half, up to a few years ago. We do not have such a government now.

"But it was all right anyway, Judge Duby was a good man even though at the time I did not know him at all."

West also reminisces that at about the same time it came to him via the grapevine route from Salem that the Governor was hesitating between the appointment of his oldtime buddy and Democratic colleague in the state senate, Milton A. Miller, then resident in Portland and who wanted the job, and H. B. Van Duzer, Portland lumberman and prominent citizen who did not seem at all anxious to be bothered with it. Somehow—West is somewhat naive about this phase of the story—this circumstance got circulated around over Portland in the newspaper shops and among civic leaders, resulting in an immediate and converging barrage upon the Governor's office urging Van Duzer's appointment on the one hand and upon Van Duzer to accept it, if offered, on the other. It came, Van Duzer accepted and served through the Pierce administration, as commissioner, and as chairman through the four years of Governor I. L. Patterson's administration and on into the Meier tenure, when he resigned.

Commissioner Duby had served as county judge of Baker, Commissioner Malone as county judge of Benton County.

State Highway Engineer Herbert Nunn also joined his three commissioners in resigning to accept a position as City Manager in the City of Santa Barbara, California, and Roy A. Klein, who had been assistant state highway engineer and secretary to the commission, succeeded him.

Mail bids to O. G. Crawford, Chairman Park Committee, Heppner, Oregon.

Mrs. Ella Wilson of Miles City, Mont. is spending some time with her sister, Mrs. Nellie Anderson and is assisting in the Anderson & Wilson apparel shop.

Mr. and Mrs. Alva Jones are enjoying a vacation in California. They will spend some time with their sons, Robert in Eugene and Donald in Ventura, Calif.

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30 Years Ago

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES Thursday, May 20, 1920

D. W. Boitnott, superintendent of Heppner schools for the past two years, has been elected to the superintendency of the Enterprise schools.

A son weighing seven pounds was born to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Gibbs in this city last week.

Memorial Day program under auspices of the G.A.R. and W.R.C. will be held at the Fair pavilion Saturday, May 29, in the afternoon. Sam E. Van Vactor will be the speaker.

The baseball championship of the Morrow County Interscholastic league was won by Ione at Lexington when the Egg City boys defeated the Heppner high school nine for the second time this year. Score 10-4.

The Baccalaureate service for the members of the class of 1920, Heppner high school, will be held in the Christian church on Sunday, May 23 at 8 p.m. Mrs. W. O. Livingstone will make the address.

Graduation exercises were held at the Ione school Wednesday when two graduates received their diplomas from the chairman of the school board.

All girls play, "The Thirteenth Star" will be given tomorrow night. It will be interspersed with musical numbers.

Morris Brothers, Portland bond firm, are trying to back down on a contract they have with the city for the purchase of \$15,000 refunding bonds.



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