

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Official Paper of the City of Medford.

GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Manager.

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PINCHOT'S REMOVAL.

By the removal of Gifford Pinchot as chief forester of the United States President Taft has dealt the so-called Roosevelt policies a vicious blow and effectually relegated, for his administration at least, the policy of conservation of national resources. One by one the bars raised by Roosevelt against corporate greed have been lowered and the "interests" are as much in the saddle as ever they were during McKinley's administration, when Mark Hanna handed out on a gold platter everything the trusts desired.

Much was expected of President Taft upon his election. He stood pledged to tariff reform, prosecution of the criminal rich, conservation and a host of policies that had endeared Roosevelt to the people, though made him hated and feared by the money power. But President Taft has not made good. He was lamentably weak and as flabby as he was fat, in his attempt at tariff reform that ended in an abject surrender to Aldrich and the interests, and the worst of all the tariff bills became a law.

Taft's cabinet, from the steel trust attorney, now secretary of state, down, is a corporation affair. Pinchot, who has done so much to preserve national forests, was retained in office for awhile—out of courtesy to the previous administration, but could not have lasted—a discord in the visible choir of gluttonous greed.

Conservation of national resources—this is no new and untried theory, but as old as government itself. It has been practiced for centuries by the wiser nations of Europe with whom government is not the creation of a day, but the result of the evolution of the ages. But in America, where a get-rich-quick exploitation, rather than a wise outlook for the future, is the policy of money-mad kings that rule unseen, it was little less than revolutionary, for almost alone among the higher civilized nations America has lavishly thrown away her natural resources that the people may forever pay a tribute and the state derive no revenue.

Secretary Ballinger was busy restoring to entry millions of acres that Garfield and Roosevelt had withdrawn until a halt was called by Taft last August. Then came the Glavis charges regarding the Cunningham coal entries in Alaska. He claimed that Ballinger, then general land commissioner, ordered the claims to patent without due investigation when he knew they were under suspicion and urged congress to pass a law that would validate fraudulent Alaska claims; that shortly after resigning the land commissioner Ballinger became attorney for the Cunningham and other Alaska claims, controlled by the Guggenheims, and that after he became secretary of the interior Ballinger's office rendered a decision that would have validated all fraudulent Alaska claims, except for its reversal by Attorney General Wickersham.

President Taft characterized Glavis' charges as "mere shreds of suspicion" and discharged Glavis, who carried his charges into print. Ballinger declared—perhaps with some truth—that Pinchot was "trying to run the interior department," and demanded a congressional investigation, not only of his own conduct, but of the forestry bureau, which is now under way. Yet, notwithstanding the president's white-washing, the stain of the Glavis charges has not been washed in the public's estimation.

Gifford Pinchot has done a great service for his country. He stayed—for a little while at least—the hand of the destroyer—and he awakened the nation—though the awakening came late—to one of its necessities. His removal will split the republican party wide open and probably destroy its political unity—if not in the end cause the formation of a new party, with the "return from Elba" of the erstwhile popular idol as its leader.

In Gifford Pinchot, Crater Lake lost its best friend among government officials, and for this reason, if no other, southern Oregon regrets exceedingly his official decapitation.

SOME SPECIAL EDITIONS.

The prosperity and progress of Oregon were well reflected in the special editions at Christmas and New Year's issued by the more enterprising newspapers.

The Portland Oregonian published an unusually attractive edition, devoted mostly to the little known central Oregon country and is destined to call general attention to this soon-to-be developed interior empire. The issue was replete with cuts and instructive reading matter.

The Oregon Journal published a very complete review of the progress of the state as a whole, which, profusely illustrated by half-tones, is designed to do effective work in attracting homeseekers to the resources of Oregon.

The Eugene Register published a 24-page edition replete with convincing statistics of the progress of Eugene and Lane county and a valuable aid in the publicity work of that rapidly growing city.

The Vancouver Wash., Columbian printed a 20-page issue that compares favorably with the papers of the larger cities and shows that the barracks town has caught step in the march of progress.

The Portland Spectator, the leading weekly of Oregon, came out in a handsome Christmas cover and tersely told the story of the year's progress in the metropolis and the state.

But none of these papers, comprehensive as they were, had much to say of the Rogue River valley and its resources, or of its winning the title of apple king of the world at the Spokane apple show. So had it not been for the Mail Tribune, southern Oregon would have been without representation in the journalistic world and the story of Medford's marvelous progress remain unheard. Ten thousand five hundred copies were printed—no light job for the present plant—and nearly all have been purchased and sent outside the state.

THE CHARTER AMENDMENTS.

Important charter amendments are to be voted upon at Tuesday's election. In another column appears a letter from Mayor Canon fully explaining them.

The first amendment provides for a city court, of which the mayor is to preside as judge, relieving the recorder of this work. In case a mayor is elected not qualified to act, the council may appoint a police judge, deducting his salary from the mayor's.

The second amendment provides a salary of \$75 a month for the mayor and \$25 a month for councilmen. The business of the city has grown so that officials must devote a large part of their time to the work—and they should no longer be asked to give their time. The salary for the mayor, who must also act as police judge, and give practically his entire time to the office, ought to be larger than the amendment calls for.

The third amendment will enable the council to secure interest on city funds while deposited in banks, taking it out of the hands of the treasurer, who usually places it with the bank furnishing his large bond.

The fourth and last amendment straightens out the methods of levying assessments for public improvements, which are somewhat hazy defined in the charter. It enables the council to levy a less amount than the full cost where the benefit is general rather than special and cuts the advertising down from three insertions to one.

All should be passed.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

By withdrawing on the eve of election from his candidacy for the council from the Third ward, J. B. Wood did a most commendable thing—showing that he fully appreciated the situation and the necessity of re-electing the present council in order to let them finish the public improvement work so well begun.

It is not every citizen broad enough to smother his personal ambitions for the public good, but that Medford has many such is shown by the fact that no less than three councilmanic candidates withdrew when they thor-

oughly understood conditions and the necessity for harmony in the city at large and in its administration.

There is little doubt but that all the present officials will be re-elected by large majorities—and they will be if faithful and meritorious service in the public's behalf counts for aught.

The cartoon reproduced upon the first page of this issue is made through the courtesy of the Oregon Journal, which is lending much aid to the movement for good roads throughout the state.

BUY THE VILLAIN OFF

(From the Spectator.)

The imminence of state division cast a horrid gloom over the holiday festivities and make the New Year greetings of good will and good cheer but a reverberating mockery. The Jackson County Press association, impervious to entreaty as it is adamant against advice, has issued another call to Sams, Medford, Eagle Point and Persist for immediate, complete, and irrevocable secession, and those cities are preparing to abandon Oregon and set up a state government of their own, with the assistance of Whiskeytown, Rum Creek, Yreka and Blazingtree, California. The outlook for Oregon is ominous.

That the traitorous secession movement was conceived in the editorial mind of the Medford Mail Tribune, a journal otherwise sane and sober-minded, there is no doubt; and that this treasonable and rebellious sheet has inoculated the patriotic organs of Jackson county with the poison of its dastardly disloyalty is also a fact. When we find the Sams Boomer yelling for state division, and the Eagle Point Bi-Monthly Screamer calling for secession or death, we

know only too well where to look for the inspiration of the perfidious utterances. The treacherous, traitorous plot was hatched in the rebel office of the Medford Mail Tribune.

We shall not ask Governor Benson to command Adjutant General Finzer to instruct Colonel McDonell to order the state troops to invest Medford and suppress the disloyal Mail Tribune, although, goodness knows, there are cause and precedent for our request, the governor's command, the adjutant general's instruction, and the colonel's order. The Spectator does not wish to see Rogue River's tawny flood run crimson from its source to its mouth in the blood of the misguided editors of Jackson county. The Spectator wishes peace—peace at any price; and if the price of peace and a united Oregon—the keeping of Jackson county among the glorious sisterhood of Oregon shires—should be the making of the editor of the Medford Mail Tribune state printer, we say, give him the job.

This is a commercial age; if we cannot win our victories, and keep old Oregon intact, by strategy or force of arms, let's buy 'em.

GOOD ROADS AND BAD

To the Editor: Just a few words in regard to road building in our county. I do not wish in this little article to criticize the county officials or in fact to hurt anyone's feelings.

The road building of Jackson county is as good as that of Josephine or Douglas. The fact is, the building of highways in southern Oregon at times shows almost human intelligence. The trouble is that the county officials, like the United States senate, are ruled entirely by precedent.

Oh! the Pity of It! \$77,927—that makes a beautiful headline for the Mail Tribune; that represents the amount of money spent by Jackson county for highways the past year, 1909, and not a mile of good roads in the entire valley. Oh, the pity of it, Iago, the pity of it! But let us take conditions as they are. If we haven't roads built upon the scientific principles there have been some roads built. It is true the material used is gravel taken from creek beds, a material that will never pack, and a soft sandstone that will grind up under the wheels, make mud in the winter and dust in the summer, but even at that, how much has this kind of a road cost the county per mile? I cannot give the answer, because I haven't a statement of the mileage at hand, but I am sure the tax payers will be delighted to see a report showing how much per mile our sandstone and Bear creek gravel roads have cost us. As I said before, I am not trying to place the blame upon any person, for Brutus is an honorable man, in fact, all our officials are honorable men. It is the method and not the man.

A Few Figures. Let us put the figures to this for a moment. \$77,000 will pay 5 per cent interest on \$1,500,000 and leave over \$2000 for good measure. Two hundred and ninety miles of road will build trunk lines through the entire county, and the question of connecting with these trunk lines would be a matter of a mile or two here and there. The 290 miles of trunk lines would let every farmer into the market.

The best authorities on road building agree that with material at hand, as we have it all through this county, \$5000 a mile will build a first-class macadam road, surface with crushed rock and properly drained. Had we awakened a few years ago and had laws passed allowing the county to bond itself for roads, the amount expended this year would have paid 5 per cent interest on money enough to build 300 miles of macadam road.

The Advantages. Now, let us consider for a moment the advantage in dollars and cents to every citizen of the county, laying aside even comfort and convenience, of good roads, also the added attraction it would be to prospective settlers. During the summer farmers are busy in the fields and have not the time to bring in such products as wood, lumber, building stone, in many places, and in consequence after rushing to get their crop to market and haul out a few supplies for winter, they can do nothing but hole up like bears or raccoons to wait until the sunshine of April or May

has dried the highways, while all during the winter months there was a demand for wood, hay and other products of the farm that bring the highest price during the winter season.

Cost of Bad Roads. Let anyone who has time compute the wear and tear on vehicle, the extra horse power required to pull a load at any season, and see what this item alone will be. Mr. F. E. Merrick tells the writer that the bad roads cost him in extra horse power about \$100 for moving the apple crop last fall from his ranch to the market. Suppose that \$75 had been added to Mr. Merrick's taxes for road building, the howl of injustice that would have gone up, yet he spent more than that sum, which may be counted as entirely wasted, no permanent good resulting from the amount paid out.

The time has come that the district close about Medford, Central Point and Ashland has passed into the hands of holders who in most cases do not care to sell, and the new comer with moderate means is confronted with prohibitive prices for land, unless he moves back five or six miles from the towns. This he would willingly do if it were not for the roads, consequently, bad roads are keeping down the price of land in the outlying districts and preventing settlement that would be of great value to our several communities. Take for instance the Antelope country. The writer is familiar with that district. There is about 12,000 acres of first-class fruit land in the Antelope valley. Small home orchards that are bearing there at present show the highest quality of fruit, a district that is never touched with frost, thoroughly sub-irrigated from the mountain ranges on either side. This land is worth at present from \$8 to \$10 per acre, improved farms at that. A good road in that district would immediately add \$20 per acre, at the most conservative estimate, to every acre of this land. This item alone, as you will see, would amount to \$240,000 of added value to the land, a value that could be cashed in this year, 1910, and about eight miles of road would let that whole community down on the desert, where roads are always good. This is only one of the many districts that would be benefited.

A District Business. Road building is a distinct business of itself, as much as the building of houses, and one not qualified is as incapable of building a road as he is of laying out the streets and sewers of this towns. What would you think of a city that would employ a man with no knowledge of engineering to lay out the sewers and water system without the use of compass and level. Strange as it may seem, this is just what is being done with our county roads. They depend upon the eye to lay out the drainage system, where there is any attempt made for a drainage system, for our roads, but there is no use of stringing out this article. Any man with intelligence can see what is needed. Everything else in the Rogue river valley is up to date. Let every citizen take an interest in this matter. Let us form some feasible plan for intelligent road building in the future.

E. M. ANDREWS.

LIGHT ON AMENDMENTS.

(Continued from page 1.)

This police court work, it is provided that the council may, with the consent of the mayor, appoint a special police judge to perform these duties, and may deduct from the mayor's salary the salary paid the police judge for his services.

The second amendment is one providing salaries for the members of the council and the mayor. This has been absolutely necessary in order to properly perform the duties of the office and look after the interests of the city. Any man of fair intelligence who will give his time and attention to the duties of the office of mayor of Medford can save the city many times the salary that has been fixed. It is not possible for a man who must earn his livelihood to hold the office and give it proper attention without some compensation, for the simple reason that it renders it impossible for him to give his attention or time to any other business or vocation.

The salary of the mayor has been placed at \$12.00 per month. If the police court work were left with the recorder, it would be necessary to employ an additional clerk in that office, whose salary would amount to as much as that provided for the mayor, so, in reality, the expense of running the city is not increased.

The salary of councilman has been placed at \$25.00 per month, and all that has been said above with reference to the salary of the mayor applies to the matter of a salary for councilman.

The members of the present council have during the past year devoted to the work a large portion of their time, and it will be necessary that the members of future councils do the same thing if the interests of the city are not to suffer from lack of attention.

The salaries are fixed by the charter amendment, and the council or mayor has no power to increase them to any extent.

The third charter amendment relates to the matter of the treasurer's duties, and is designed to place it in the power of the city council to secure interest on the funds of the city while they are deposited in the banks. Heretofore the treasurer has had the whole say as to where the city funds should be deposited. He and his bondsmen have been absolutely liable for the funds even though they had been lost by a bank failure. The present plan is to give the city council power to say in what banks the money shall be deposited. In this way the council can secure some competition, and doubtless get interest on the city's daily balances. Had this rule been enforced during the past year, the city could doubtless have secured a considerable amount in interest. It is provided

that the bank receiving deposits shall furnish bonds for the money deposited with them, and inasmuch as the treasurer will not be allowed to designate where the money is to be deposited, he and his bondsmen are not to be liable for any money lost by reason of a bank failure where he has complied with the directions of the city council in depositing the money. As stated above, the city will still have security against such a loss, but the banks themselves will furnish the bonds to cover this instead of the treasurer. This is the method in vogue in all progressive cities, and should be adopted in Medford.

The fourth charter amendment relates merely to the formal method of levying assessments for public improvements. There were some provisions in our city charter which appeared to be somewhat blind and inconsistent in this respect, and the charter amendment is designed merely to remedy this defect. It does not alter the amount of the assessments that can be levied except that it gives the council power to levy against the property-owners a less amount than the full cost of the improvement in a case where the benefit of the improvement is mostly general and rather than special to the property. There is nothing in this amendment which will in any way affect the interests of any property-owner. It merely makes it possible for the city officials to levy assessments with somewhat less of expense, and will render these assessments less subject to attack by any tax dodgers.

W. H. CANON, Mayor.

AT THE CHURCHES

Presbyterian Church.

Communion service at 11 A. M. All Christians who may worship with us are invited to join with us in this service. Preaching in the evening at 7:30 o'clock. Congregational singing. Sunday school at 10 A. M. C. E. society at 6:30.

Baptist Church.

The morning congregation at the Baptist church will be pleased to know that they will again have the privilege of listening to the Rev. Dr. Dyer, whose sermons are always spiritual and intellectual feasts. Rev. J. L. Stewart of Kansas in the evening. The annual roll call, which was to have been held next Thursday evening, has been postponed until February 10, at which time Rev. A. A. Holmes, the newly elected pastor, and his wife will be heard. At this time also will be given a reception to the pastor and wife.

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W. H. CANON, Mayor.

NEW KILN ARRIVES FOR LOCAL MINE

Kanes Creek Ledge Produces Lime That is 99 Per Cent Pure.

Lime that is 99 per cent pure and has been pronounced by government experts to be the best obtained anywhere in the United States, will soon be taken from the Carter-Hughes lime ledge on Kanes creek. The new kiln, weighing 47,000 pounds and requiring a payment of over \$800 in freight charges from the factory at York, Penn., is now being unloaded at Gold Hill, and a few days will see it set up and ready for business. J. F. Hughes, of Salem, who with W. A. Carter, of Portland, owns the ledge, arrived Thursday to oversee the unloading and placing of the kiln. A car of lime from the ledge was shipped to the Hood river country, where it was used for spraying, and it was found to be the best that had ever been used there. It has a cement quality, which makes it stick to the foliage. In building up this quality insures a lasting mortar.

E. S. Hitzler, who has just returned from the state of Michigan, says he was very much surprised to find the Mail Tribune circulating so freely in that state, and that the interest taken in the Rogue valley through its influence has become intense.

FOR SALE

100 Acres of Good Fruit Land 4 miles west of Grants Pass.

Forty seven lots in Jacksonville, fine location.

I have also got a pair of fine Cougar Kittens, five months old, which can be bought at a reasonable price.

ENQUIRE

G.N. Lewis Jacksonville



Behind the Counter

Proper display is absolutely essential in making sales. Even a good salesman cannot get the results in a dark corner that he can in a well lighted department. People want to see the goods and see them in the light. Don't use an illuminant that gives wrong color values if you want to hold your trade. Custom goes to the store that gains confidence by using the right light—electric light.

ROGUE RIVER ELECTRIC CO.

The Jackson County Realty Co.

With offices in residence, corner West Tenth and King streets, are always prepared to show you the best Jackson county has in the real estate line from the unimproved land to the best bearing orchards, farm land or stock ranches; also city property. The manager has had ten years' experience in the county, which will aid the prospective purchaser. Seeing is knowing. We also have modern rooms to accommodate our patrons.

JACKSON COUNTY REALTY COMPANY MEDFORD, OREGON