

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor: William J. Scott's answer to all criticism of the Scott bonding and banking plan, how it would work for the benefit of the taxpayers. Assuming that the preliminary steps had been taken, the county had issued the bonds, deposited same with treasury at Washington, had taken out a charter for the Taxpayers' National bank of Jackson County, Oregon, organized same, and the treasury department had issued the currency, taking \$3,200,000 for the amount, and 100 years for the time as a basis to figure on, the bank sets aside as a road fund \$1,300,000, loans the remaining \$2,000,000 at 6 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually, it would earn for the taxpayers \$120,000 a year or \$10,000 per month. In 20 months \$200,000 of this accrued interest could be added to the road fund, making the \$1,500,000 the county proposed to spend for good roads last September. The bank still has the \$2,000,000 loaned at 6 per cent, earning \$120,000 per year, which in 100 years has increased \$12,000,000, total \$14,000,000 at simple interest the interest could be loaned as it accrued at the rate of \$60,000 one-half yearly.

At the present assessed valuation of Jackson county, \$38,000,000, a levy of one mill on the dollar in 100 years would create a sinking fund of \$2,800,000, \$500,000 more than necessary to take up the bond issue of \$2,300,000. The sinking fund could be kept loaned at a low rate of interest and would pay the running expenses of Jackson county in all departments. This is the writer's reason for making the assertion. Administrations will rise and fall on the economic principal here presented. The plan here proposed will put the supply of money in the hands of the whole people, and not leave them as now, and as they will be to a greater extent if the proposed Aldrich central bank plan is put in operation, at the mercy of a small band of unscrupulous financiers. Can you beat it?

WM. J. SCOTT. (Why not loan the entire \$3,200,000 and spend only the interest yearly, so avoid all taxation? Or better yet, increase the assessed valuation, and the bond issue to the extent that the interest received will not only pay county expenses, but give every one a salary in addition?—Editor.)

FIREMEN AND CITY TO AGREE

A committee of business men who were named to take a hand in the threatened rupture between the fire department and the city officials over a paid fire department, succeeded Thursday morning in reducing the matter to a basis on which it is believed that the firemen and city will agree.

The difficulty which arose was over the matter of salaries to be paid the men. The fireboys did not believe that \$85 for a chief, \$75 for an assistant chief, and \$65 for the men was enough for men who put in 24 hours each day. The business men favor paying a chief \$100; two drivers \$85 each and the men \$75. They will so recommend to the city council soon.

A paid department, argue the business men, will lower the rate of insurance and is a paying investment.

CONCERT WITH KENTNER SALE

In connection with the box sale at Kentner's Friday afternoon there will be a concert at which Miss Hazelrigg and Fletcher Fish will appear. Miss Hazelrigg will sing "My Hero," from the Chocolate Soldier, the song which she sang so effectively at the recent merchants' banquet.

She will also sing "The Swallow." Mr. Fish will play "The Ragtime Villain" and "The Ragtime Goblins." Misses Crowell and Crawford, pianist and violinist, will assist.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

"IF IT'S a good thing, why not pass it along," says County Commissioner James Owens in declining to be a candidate for re-election. "Mr. Davis and I together drew a little over \$200 as salary for the past year. We gave so freely of time and attention that it seriously interfered with our efforts to make a living."

And about the only appreciation the county court receives is abuse. Gold Hill clamored for a new bridge across the Rogue for twenty years. It got last year the best bridge in southern Oregon and vilification has been the appreciation.

In response to popular demand, fine bridges were built over the Rogue between Eagle Point and Sams valley, over the Rogue at the mouth of Big Butte and across Big Butte, to give the upper river section connection with the railroad; miles of the best macadamized roads yet built were constructed; new highways were extended in various portions—all clamored for for years—in brief the past year was a record breaker for construction and improvement that opened the way for further development and the appreciation has been vituperation and scandal.

All this construction could not be accomplished without money. In satisfying popular demand for improvement, the income of the county was exceeded—taxes were necessarily increased, hence the reactionaries, always seeking chances to howl down progress, saw opportunity to yell and are yelling.

The warrant shavers and cent-per-cent sharks saw a chance to make some money at public and individual expense, so they at once manifested their usual patriotism by forcing county warrants below par—that they might buy cheap. Now these same patriots are clamoring for Dunn's election, hoping by shutting off all improvements, to apply all revenues toward a reduction of the indebtedness, forcing warrants to par and enabling them to reap a fancy profit. There is no reason why county warrants, a 6 percent security, should not be worth par.

The flame of discontent, always smoldering in the heart of the pessimist and the mossback whose main occupation is setting upon a ten percent egg, has been assiduously fanned by Ashland, a city that has usually played a discord in the harmony band of Jackson county progress and which ruled the county, politically, for many years—which now seeks to regain its lost domination and restore a do-nothing regime.

In 1904, Geo. W. Dunn was elected county judge. During his term, Joshua Patterson of Talent was commissioner, so that Ashland absolutely dominated the county court—and little was done for other sections of the county. In 1908 Judge Neil was elected, but during the years 1909 and 1910 had little voice, Patterson running affairs with Owens' assistance—still the Ashland regime. In 1910, Davis was elected in Patterson's place, giving Medford its first representation in the county court—so that for one year only has Ashland not been dictator—from the howling one would think it a century of crime.

The county court attempted in one year to make the improvements that should have been spread over a series of years—that had been long needed and long demanded—that because they were not made brought about the defeat of Dunn and Patterson. They could not all be accomplished, but a good start was made.

The issue is simply, shall Jackson county continue to progress, or shall we go backwards? Can we afford to lie down at this critical stage? Was any country ever made or benefited by retreat? Shall Jackson county join the class of the Willamette valley reactionaries?

The county credit must be restored, but there are other ways than by the do-nothing policy. The county should and must continue road and bridge building, but it is as vain to attempt it upon a large scale upon the tax receipts alone as it would be for a city to attempt to pave the same way. The outstanding warrants should be redeemed by a bond issue—the running expenses and improvements kept within the cash income, and a system of highways built by the proceeds of a bond issue.

A broad constructive policy is needed—not a pinhead policy of stagnation.

POLITICAL CARDS

(Paid Advertisement.) County Clerk.

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the democratic nomination for the office of county clerk, subject to the will of the voters of that party at the primaries. I promise the people of Jackson county that in case of my nomination and election I will fulfill the duties of the office according to law and the best of my knowledge and ability.

W. H. MILLER. Gold Hill, Ore., Feb. 16, 1912.

County Recorder.

I am a candidate for a second term for the office of County Recorder on the Republican ticket, subject to the coming primary.

I have conducted the office to the best of my ability, the books are always open for inspection and feel that I am entitled to a second term.

FRED L. COLVIG.

For Sheriff.

I announce myself as a candidate for sheriff, promising a continuance of the businesslike administration I have given the office in the past.

W. A. JONES.

Point, Ore. I have for the past two years been deputy in the assessor's office, and all I ask the people to do is to look up my past record before casting their ballot.

CHAUNCEY FLOREY.

For Prosecuting Attorney.

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the democratic nomination for the office of prosecuting attorney for the first prosecuting attorney district of Oregon, embracing the counties of Jackson and Josephine, subject to the will of the voters of that party at the primaries, and I pledge the people of Jackson and Josephine counties that in the event of my nomination and election I will fearlessly, impartially and to the best of my ability prosecute all violations of law in said district and endeavor to administer the duties of said office with the utmost efficiency and economy.

E. E. KELLY.

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MEDFORD OPERA HOUSE Saturday, March 9th Joe Weber Presents Geo. V. Hobart's English Version of the Greatest Musical Show of the Season ALMA WHERE DO YOU LIVE All Last Season at Weber's Theatre, New York By Paul Harve. Music by Jean Briquet

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