

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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COMMUNICATION.

That Bridge Across Bear Creek.

To the editor: I see by your valuable paper that between the county court and the city council, that the long talked of and much desired improvement, the bridge over Bear Creek on the county road called East Main street is about to be consummated and in this connection I note that the city (Mayor Canon and P. J. Neff) propose to call an election to vote to bond the city for \$13,500 to provide for the city's part of the expense; now the object of this article is to inquire why this bonding act is necessary; now the Medford road district received from the county treasurer \$9000 reserved from the county road tax for Medford road district to be used exclusively on the county roads in said district and as no part of it has been so used to my knowledge it must be on hand unless borrowed (?) for some other purpose; now there will be paid to the city of Medford this year from the same source approximately the same amount; then why ask the people to vote bonds when the means are already provided for that specific purpose? The people of Medford have been taxed to raise this road fund, then why tax them again? The amount derived from the tax of Medford road district last year and paid into the county treasury was \$18,000. This was cut in two by the county court and one-half placed in the general county road fund and the other half (\$9000) paid into the city of Medford for the special county road improvement in said road district. What has become of it? Do our \$25 per month council men know anything about it? If they don't they had better get busy and inform themselves and earn their salary.

What has become of the county road money that has been paid into the Medford treasury year after year and no portion of it applied to the county roads; perhaps it has been borrowed?

The law says it shall be illegal to transfer one fund to another, but it was told me by an ex-town official they only borrowed it.

Now if a highwayman held you up at the point of a gun and borrowed \$100 from you, could he plead successfully before the court that he only borrowed it? The cases are exactly parallel and criminal in one case as the other, yet it is the known custom in Medford's city affairs, and who ever heard of a cent ever paid back to the fund borrowed from.

We want the bridge and have the means to pay for it without adding further burdens to an already over-taxed people.

More pretty soon. J. S. HOWARD.

COUNTY MAY BUILD PROTESTED MINE ROAD

The resistance of Mrs. Eline Curry, owner of a homestead near Rogue river, against the building of a road across her property as a means of connection with valuable mining property in the Owl Hollow district, took a step nearer a solution Thursday when the county court appointed road reviewers to inspect the right of way and assess the damages against J. J. Wilson, who asks that the road be built. The date of the review of the road is set for May 18.

Mrs. Curry is an aged woman, and for a number of years has made a determined resistance against the building of a road across her property. Last winter she had J. J. Wilson and his partner arrested for alleged assault. About the same time Mrs. Curry wrote letters to President Taft, Theodore Roosevelt and Bill Bryan, asking their assistance in forestalling the building of the road. Afterwards Mrs. Curry was examined for her sanity, but was discharged by the county court.

A number of the residents of the district in which Mrs. Curry lives have been involved in trouble with her, one man losing a number of hogs that trespassed on her land.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE tempest in the teapot resulting from the misunderstanding whereby the suffragettes of Medford were denied the use of the assembly hall in the new public library to hear a distinguished Chicago advocate speak upon the subject, raises the question as to what the auditorium should be used for.

President W. L. Vawter of the library board is quoted as saying:

"Our rule is aimed at long-haired and bald-headed men. The library is for non-partisan purposes, and the first thing we know all parties would want to use it for argument and speaking purposes. The women and children can use the basement any time they want to, but politics among those who can vote will not be allowed."

Primarily the library is intended for educational purposes, and it is to be presumed that the board will permit its use for anything educational. It is supported by a special tax levy, to which all the community contributes, and hence should be available to all the community, even to the long-haired and bald-headed.

Of course the library was not intended for political campaign purposes and candidates should be barred from using it for partisan rallies, but politics is of vital human interest, especially in a presidential year, and its discussion educational in the highest sense.

Oregon has broken away from the old established conventions and is trying experiments in government that may vitally affect the future of humanity. These experiments depend for complete success upon the intelligence of the people, and anything tending to enlighten the people and make them think may be called educational.

People are not interested in the dry bones of the classics, of ancient history or of literature. They are not going to turn out in any appreciable quantity to discuss Julius Caesar or Shakespeare, Trilby, Old Sleuth or the best seller. They are, however, much interested in current history, in the live and vital issues of today, in the study of government in which they themselves are concerned. The study of these vital problems leads to a study of the problems of the past, their evolution and disposition. There is no surer way to spread knowledge of history and philosophy than through the discussion of the present. If the library board wants those records of the past which adorn its shelves used, the people must be awakened to an interest in them, and a free discussion of politics offers the opportunity.

Medford's greatest deficiency is a lack of intellectual life. People have been so busy with the physical improvements, with the creation of a municipality, with chasing dollars, with planting orchards, with speculation and making bread and butter that they have neglected cultivating the intellectual. We have our social life, our pink teas, card parties and dances, our clubs, lodges and fraternal gatherings, we have our churches and religious organizations to care for the moral side, commercial organizations for upbuilding the country, but nothing to develop the intellectual life. Even our schools are shamefully neglected.

Our population compares in intelligence with that of any community in the world. We have graduates from two score of universities. We have business men who have made notable successes in various lines in the east. We have globe trotters, noted educators and scientists, we have all kinds of politicians, theorists and faddists, but no common meeting ground.

Medford needs a public forum, in which all classes and all kinds of people can meet once a week or so, interchange ideas, hear lectures on vital topics and participate in debates and discussions. Of necessity these discussions will be political, at least in the beginning, or the people will not be interested, and there is no fitter place than the public library for such gatherings and no educational work it could do of greater value.

There is no reason why the library board should not free itself from the dry conventions and routine of conventional library boards, and take the lead in creating such a public forum, where all may meet on equal terms and discuss public men and public measures, the politics of yesterday, today and tomorrow, and so make something besides trashy novels in the public library read and the library itself a vital force and influence in the community.

HIGH PRICES FOR IOWA LAND.

THE current issue of the Waverly (Iowa) Democrat records the sale of Iowa farm land at \$1000 an acre in the following:

"The sale of the two small farms owned by Mr. Crandall and located about three miles east of Cedar Falls, on the Waterloo road, attracted a large crowd of prospective buyers. They were sold at auction by William Holland, the well-known auctioneer, and brought fairly good prices. What is known as the east farm, consisting of five acres with fair improvements, was bid in by B. J. Rodamar, of Waterloo, for \$4,000. This was the first and only bid. The second and best improved tract was bought by G. W. Miller of Cedar Falls, for \$5,850. The stock and machinery, in fact everything, brought good prices. It is understood that Mr. Crandall contemplates going to Oregon, where he will make his future home.

"The aggregate price for both places makes nearly \$1,000 per acre, which gives some idea of what Blackhawk farm land is worth. A few years ago this same land could have been purchased for \$175 per acre."

The land, it is stated by those who are acquainted with it, is not prospective city property, but simply fine farming and garden land. Bottom land, similar to it in character and equally valuable for truck farming, adjacent to Medford can be purchased at from \$200 to \$300 an acre, and in many parts of the valley at half this price. Land values must be based upon what the land will produce, that is, the revenue it will yield. When this is taken into consideration, land values are lower in Oregon,

even in the highly developed orchard sections, than in Iowa.

It is only land with fancy orchards upon it that brings \$1000 an acre in the Rogue River valley. The highest price ever paid for farm land here was \$400 an acre for an alfalfa field adjoining the city which was immediately subdivided into town lots or villa sites—yet alfalfa land will yield a good return on a much higher valuation.

When the superiority of climate, resources and possibilities is considered, land ought to be worth several times as much in Oregon as in Iowa. Mr. Crandall is to be congratulated upon the good judgment he showed in selling his \$1000 an acre Iowa farm to invest the proceeds in Oregon. The Rogue River valley is looking for just such men.

SUFFRAGE CLUB CAN USE LIBRARY

If the equal suffrage workers in the city wish to use the auditorium in the basement of the Carnegie library for their sessions in the future they will be allowed to do so according to members of the library board today. The refusal to allow them to use the room Thursday is said was due to a misunderstanding. The library is not open in the morning.

Hereafter if the ladies wish to use the room they will have someone watch the library rooms while the meeting is in session.

The library board does not wish to have the building used for political speaking but will allow the suffrage club composed of women to meet there.

JOLTS AND JINGLES

Off to the library they marched, A suffrage score and ten; And then they faced the other way And marched right off again.

The spring is here and I have heard The laughter of the falls; 'Tis time for lanky youths in white To swat at tennis balls.

Lucky is he whose last season's straw hat need not be ashamed to face the light of day.

We never took sides in the controversy over the Turkey trot or bunny hug, but we rise right here to say that, on account of its name alone, the jelly wobble ought to be preserved.

Mr. Roosevelt may convince himself that the voice of Massachusetts isn't the voice of the nation but he can't convince a Bostonian of the fact.

Contributors' Club.

Dear J. & J.—Enter this as short "pome" No. 5432. Massachusetts, we have read, Tied a cap of beans to Ted.

—B. A.

If signs Don't lie The time Is night When you And I Must sweat The fly. —Springfield Union.

The signs, By gee! It seems To me, Right now Decease To grab The flea. —L. A. Tribune.

And we, By Pete! Will have To meet The old Mosquito And crush His Meat. —Chico Enterprise.

HUNGER FELT IN REBEL RANKS

EL PARO, Tex., May 3.—Hunger in the ranks of the rebel troops may force a decisive battle in the Mexican revolution immediately, according to reliable reports received here today from the rebel headquarters below Chihuahua.

The reports declare that the rebel food supply is exhausted, the country stripped of edibles, the horses emaciated and the men desperately hungry. General Orozco must either fight his way into the Laguna district, where there is food, immediately, or retire to Chihuahua.

It is believed that Orozco will choose to force the issue at once. The rebel advisers say that reinforcements are coming from Sinaloa and that the combined forces of Generals Salazar and Orozco will attack Torreon, while General Zapata is assaulting Mexico City.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will apply to the city council of the City of Medford, Oregon, at its next regular meeting on May 7, 1912, for a license to sell spirituous, vinous and malt liquors at wholesale and retail, or for a license to sell the same in quantities of more than one gallon, and for a license to sell the same at retail, or in quantities less than one gallon, at No. 16 North Front street, in said city for a period of one year. April 25, 1912.

ANGELES WINE CO., Per A. S. Ash.

Are You Guilty?

Do You Smoke too Much, Drink too Much, Eat too Much?

It takes a mighty good stomach to feel ready for a good breakfast the morning after the banquet or social session.

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RELIABLE ETHICAL

ATTEMPT MADE TO ROB BANK

TACOMA, May 3.—An attempted robbery of the National Bank of Commerce here at 10:30 today by Tom O'Malley, unarmed and a dope fiend, according to the police threw Pacific avenue into an uproar.

O'Malley walked up to Paying Teller A. M. Fraser, stuck his hand into his pocket threateningly and said, "You know what I want."

Before Fraser could reply, Mike Morris, a contractor, stepped up, unfolding a wad of bills. O'Malley diverted, made a grab for it, and Morris started after him. The dope fiend fled.

In a minute 100 men were in pursuit. H. F. Alexander, a local steamship man grabbed him, and with the help of three other men overpowered him.

It was discovered that O'Malley was unarmed. He carried a stick of wood in his pocket to frighten the bank men.

"I guess I tried to hold up the bank," said O'Malley at the police station. "I needed a drink and didn't have any money and couldn't get any."

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