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HOME RULE GOOD ROADS BILL NEEDED

(Continued from Page 1.)

Would any bond buyer buy bonds where the funds are to go into a general road fund without any protection that the funds shall be used for permanent roads?

The second objection to the act is that it limits the county bonded indebtedness to 2 per cent of the assessed valuation of the county.

The authors of these bills have followed the same system of constitutional amendment with reference to this county bonding act, by submitting at the same election a constitutional amendment for the building of permanent roads, such as was voted at the last election.

The other bills are for the employment of convict labor. The last one is an atrocious measure, in that it provides for the working of what it calls "county, city and town convicts."

As to our own situation, this recent opinion of the supreme court in the county bonding case seems to make it apparent that the court would not uphold a county law for county bonding; and even if it did, still another legal complication would arise because such an act would conflict with some of these state acts now being submitted.

Some of our guardians in other parts of the state seem to think that we are going ahead too fast. Knowing that we have a considerable indebtedness for roads already, they limited the bonded indebtedness to 2 per cent of the assessed valuation of the property, after deducting from this 2 per cent the amount of road indebtedness outstanding.

A. E. REAMES.

THE POLICE COURT.

THE city council, in its call for a special election, asks for an amendment to the city charter creating a "municipal court," with powers similar to those of justice courts, except that there shall be no trial by jury.

On January 11, 1910, the charter was amended by a vote of the people, and a "city court" created, having "full and exclusive jurisdiction of all violations of city ordinances, with full power to enforce any judgments it may render," governed by the procedure of justice courts, regulated by the same rules, except that there shall be no trial by jury.

It is stipulated that the mayor "shall ex-officio be the judge of said court. The council may, with the consent of the mayor, at any time appoint a special judge of said court, who shall have concurrent power with said mayor and act as judge of said court," whose salary shall be fixed by the council.

The only proposed change in the law is that the court is named municipal court, instead of city court, that the judge shall be elected after his first appointment, instead of appointed, and that the mayor cannot do the work of the judge and thereby save his salary as at present.

If the work of the police court is too heavy for the mayor, the mayor and council have ample authority under the present charter to appoint such a judge without the expense of a special election. The mayor appoints the police judge, and the mayor should appoint him to avoid a discordant administration.

Whether or not a police judge is needed may be governed by the statistics of the office. The receipts for the year 1911, a busier year, with more of the class that fill the city jail here than are here now, the fines collected totalled \$1101, an average per month of \$91.

There is no necessity for asking the people to vote to create a municipal judge, except that the council, as in the proposed boxing ordinance, lacks the backbone to solve the problem itself. If the appointment of a judge is needed, it has the authority. If it is not needed, it has no right to impose the extra cost of the election upon the taxpayers.

THE GOOD ROADS MUDDLE.

A. E. REAMES, attorney for Jackson county in its road bonding matters, at the request of the Mail Tribune, has written an opinion on the present road situation, published elsewhere in this issue, as concerns Jackson county.

Mr. Reames' legal opinions have the great advantage of being direct, to the point, clearly expressed, free from legal verbiage and easily understood by the layman.

After discussing the apparent defects in the proposed good roads initiative laws, Mr. Reames sums up the local situation as follows: "The recent opinion of the supreme court in the county bonding case seems to make it apparent that the court would not uphold a county law for county bonding; and even if it did, still another legal complication would arise because such an act would conflict with some of these state acts now being submitted."

"What we need is a home rule bill, and to defeat the proposed constitutional amendment. The best way to defeat that constitutional amendment is to put another one on which will counteract it, and maybe they will both pass."

A home rule bill, that is a bill that will permit counties to spend their own money for permanent highways, is what is needed, and all that is needed. Then the progressive counties can go ahead and not be eternally hampered, as under the proposed laws, by the mossback sections, which can be left alone to peacefully wallow in the streaks of mire they call roads, as at present.

What a sad muddle the good roads associations have made of their labored efforts to do something for good roads, which has only had the effect of halting and prohibiting progress already under way in progressive counties, almost as bad a muddle as the home rule bill made in amending local option!

A MODERN DAMON.

A CAMPAIGN expense statement filed by Ben Selling, candidate for the republican nomination for United States senator, shows that Mr. Selling expended \$784.16, and that one Max Michel expended on behalf of Selling \$994.70.

Who is this modern Damon who in these piping times of financial stagnation can throw such a fortune into the balance on behalf of a sorely pressed Pythias in the struggle for a political bauble?

Ten thousand ducats! Great shades of Shylock what a profit in pants! Possibly Max has the proverb in mind that is so tersely put by another member of his race: "You throw it some bread in the river and pretty quick it comes back more as you put in."

In any event, if the Selling expense account is true, and certainly no reasonable minded person will question

it. Max is entitled to the palm for warm-hearted Damon friendship.

There is just one more scene to the Pythian pact and that is the return of Pythias, and if Pythias is not lost in any of the political lanes of Oregon Max's bread may not have been cast in vain.

Why Women of Oregon Want to Vote

(Katherine W. Macgregor in the Dallas Observer.)

That question will be answered at the polls this year. The enfranchisement of women depends entirely upon the willingness of men to give them the right of the ballot. Just why men have the exclusive right to grant this privilege is a question that is answered by men alone.

Now, I am glad to bear testimony to the apparent willingness of a number of men to grant the franchise. I have talked with many about this subject. Their query, each and every one, has been, "Do the women really want to vote? I'd vote for the enfranchisement of the state if I thought the women really wanted it."

For ten consecutive years I have had the experience of a voting citizen. I know what women have done and what they are planning to do in Colorado. In consenting to write this paper I felt that my position was radically different from that of the Dallas women, for what they hope to do I have done.

The reasons for granting the franchise are the same in Oregon as they are in every enfranchised state. Each commonwealth has its own problems to solve, and these problems differ from each other, as do the conditions from which they arise.

For example: The labor questions that so agitate Colorado, while they keep New York in an active state of being, do not dominate the state's advancement or retrogression. The horrors of child labor as they exist in the manufacturing states of New England and the south, are absolutely unknown in Colorado. In the gold camps of that state children are not sent underground a thousand feet to do a man's work.

The basic principle of self-government is accountability to law. The laws made by men hold responsible men and women. Women suffer the penalty of crimes. They are not excused because of sex; no plea is offered in extenuation of crime because a woman is a "wife, and mother, and home-maker."

That women make the best teachers for children is an incontrovertible fact. In the states where women have voted for any length of time the state points with pride to her schools, to the high grade of efficiency, and scholarship. Almost every enfranchised state has elected women as state and county superintendents of schools. I know that many states permit women to vote on school questions when on municipal matters votes are denied them.

In the business and professional worlds, women need the ballot to better their own material interests. Oregon has not the overwhelming number of practicing professional women that New York has. But Oregon is growing and the time is not far distant when those young, vigorous towns and cities of our state will be the Mecca of many splendidly endowed and advanced professional women.

When women crossed the plains with their husbands and settled in Oregon as pioneers, they did their work both as mothers and home-makers, and as men. To the honor of

fathers and brothers to the voting booths. Men everywhere yield respect to women who demand respect, and it is simply silly to urge that voting in any way detracts from womanly attributes.

What will the answer be in November? Will the question "Shall the Women of Oregon Vote" be settled by the words "Concluded" or "Continued in our next"? It is absolutely a question of men's willingness to grant us the franchise. We want the franchise; we are worthy the franchise; and, we think the franchise is our due.

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