

Councilman Medynski Assails Charter

To the Editor and the people of Medford:

Much valuable time is being wasted by dwelling on the ways of spending money, instead of discussing as we should, how to produce it.

The past few years here, in both city and valley has been a continual expending for things that do not produce anything. They have filled some dinner pails here it is true, but only a temporary filling, the greatest amount has gone out away from us into the capacious pockets of those at a distance, never to come back until now we have at last arrived at the time when our own pockets are practically depleted and our day of reckoning is near.

What is the sensible thing to do,—go on expending until our last dollar is gone, and we have no means of getting another? Or conserve that last dollar, make it do the work that two years ago it took two dollars to do; and in the meantime put our shoulder to the wheel and work for the opportunity that is waiting at our door for admittance—the opportunity to produce something that is in constant demand, "beet sugar," the sale of which sugar will provide a permanent payroll. Then when our dinner pails are full and our pockets likewise, and we are on the high road to success we can go on with further improvements.

Two Millions Expended

Citizens of the community, are you awake to the cold facts that this little city and valley has spent over two millions of dollars within the last few years for what are called necessities and luxuries,—in the way of paved streets, Pacific Highways and automobiles. Yet today, where is there a piece of property that will bring any more on the market, or even as much as it would three years ago? One of the great inducements held out to this city and valley was, that property values would be doubled by these same so-called improvements.

Now I am ready to admit that all of these things are nice things to have and every progressive community is entitled to and should have them, but, if you put all of your money into your clothes what have you left to fill your stomachs? That is just what has been done here and by and by comes the day when you must pay the principal on these bonds.

It is true that the expenditure for these things filled the dinner pails for the time being, but what we most need is something that will fill these dinner pails permanently, bring money in, instead of send it out, and unless you wake up and develop your natural resources you will find your bonded indebtedness due and nothing in the treasury to meet these obligations and your credit nil.

Develop Natural Resources

Are you aware that we have many natural resources undeveloped, awaiting development,—sandstone, granite, marble, coal, iron ore, copper, lime rock, cement rock, and last but by no means least, over thirty billion feet of timber in Jackson county? Do you know what this timber alone when developed means for this county? It would take forty mills of one hundred fifty thousand feet daily capacity, twenty years to exhaust this timber in Jackson county and vicinity.

Railroad to the Sea

Also it would take six railroads in continual operation between here and the coast at least twenty years to haul it out. If one-half of that money which has been spent, had been put into a railroad to deep water, something which would make an outlet for our products, it would bring us positive returns by utilizing some of our resources, and the poor man would have a source of continuous pay-filling and the city, the county, would now be in the position to proceed with highways, paving and other improvements without going deeper into debt. And for God's sake citizens, when we get factories here let us patronize them when all things are equal, not send thousands of dollars outside for something actually inferior when it comes to durability.

Why Not Patronize Local Industries?

We have a tile works here that makes a good cement tile equal to any in the country. Why were they not patronized by the county for culverts, instead of sending thousands and thousands of dollars outside for something that is inferior?

Now, with all due respect to our honorable mayor. It is true that he has given his time and given it freely, the same as the rest of us, and is deserving of much credit. As he is a strong advocate of the new "city charter" I would say, the "board of directors" are expected to do likewise.

The "new charter" provides for no compensation to these directors, but they shall be held absolutely responsible to the people for results—I would like to ask him if he thinks his time would be less occupied or his pay more magnificent should he be one of these same directors? The mayor says "the question is frequent-

ly asked, what has the city government done to kill the town?" He knows full well that we found it absolutely dead financially, and we have revived it to the extent of the amount I have already stated in my previous communications. Did he expect going deeper into debt by making unnecessary public improvements at this time would help the town or relieve the taxpayers? Does he think that keeping men on the city payroll, men that could be dispensed with and not cripple the service, would make good times?

How About the Mayor?

The honorable mayor also speaks of the reduction in the police force as crippling it. He knows that this decrease in the force was because of the demand made by numbers of taxpayers, and with the complaint that two men were unnecessary during the day. He further speaks of "seeing three fragrant violations of the city sugar laws." I hope that he as our highest city official, did not forget to perform his duty of taking the numbers of the violators' cars, and handing them to the proper officials to be acted upon,—for that is the duty of both mayor and councilmen who are all city officers and should work together with other city officials toward the enforcement of all city laws.

He hopes to see things going again soon "in the good old way," which as I take it means for the city to begin to spend money again freely as we did some two or three years ago. How is that to be done? I see only two ways to do it—to raise taxes, the other to bond the city still further for the required funds. Do the majority of the people want to do either of these things?

My knowledge of business is, that whenever your expenditures exceed your income, it is time to change your methods, or a day of reckoning will surely come and you will be a sadder and a wiser man. Remember there is a limit to the credit of a city, as well as that of a private individual.

Now in answer to the "Sun's" editorial of January 5th, I will say: I never at any time favored the adoption of a new charter now. But I do favor at this time many things, that are of much more vital importance.

There are I admit, some good things in the new charter; there are also some things as I have also stated, that I cannot endorse.

There are good things in the old charter as well, things that have been recognized to be sound by the best of legal authority in the country, the efficiency of this authority enabling us to borrow one and one-half millions of dollars. Now that we are crossing a deep and swift stream and have just begun to gain a foothold on the other side, (as our annual reports show), why should we "stop to swap charters" and endanger the loss of that foothold, and so perhaps be swept down stream again?

Now, I am not condemning the commission form of government, neither am I condemning a city manager, when he is under a board of directors who are held responsible in the true sense of the word to the people.

Article 3, section 8, says that "all powers of the city shall be vested in the 'board of directors'". Now these directors are no more and no less than a city council under another name, except that they have more power, but no bonds in either case; and furthermore remember the "new charter" gives them unlimited power to create new offices and contract new debts. But, where is the people's security in case they go too far? They give no bonds, and should there be sufficient reasons to recall them it would take six months to do it, and then what—just this, it might not be possible to do it at all when governed by the new ballot system.

Furthermore, section 48 of article 3 says: "The board of directors may (instead of must) require of any city officer, etc., a surety bond," thus leaving it optional with the board as to whether any employee, secretary or treasurer included will give bonds. Under our present charter the treasurer gives \$25,000 bonds, and our recorder or secretary \$2500 bonds.

Now take the manager, his term and salary are subject to the board of directors, he is their creature, absolutely subservient to their every dictation. His term and salary are beyond the people's control, see section 25 of article 3. The secretary and treasurer are both appointees of the board of directors and under their full control, their terms and salaries are also fixed by board. The people have no part in the selection of men to fill these offices, to fix their salaries, to demand bonds, or to remove them from office, see article 3, sections 37 and 42. Do you call this democratic?

Once more I will call your attention to article 3, section 47. A purchasing agent and storekeeper ex-

APPOINTED COUNSEL TO GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK



WILLIAM HAYWARD

Mr. Hayward has received the appointment of counsel to Charles S. Whitman, Governor elect of New York. Mr. Hayward has had considerable experience in politics as well as in law, and it is expected that he will prove a valuable aid to such of the new Governor's friends as hope to see the New York State delegation to the next Republican National Convention advocate the nomination of Mr. Whitman. Born in Nebraska in 1856, Mr. Hayward was educated in the University of Nebraska and in Germany and was admitted to the practice of law in 1897. He served in the Spanish War as a captain of volunteers and subsequently was major and colonel of volunteers.

SUGAR FACTORY SPELLS PROSPERITY FOR CALIFORNIA

J. W. Watson of Oxnard, Cal., who has been visiting friends in the Rogue river valley, worked for 11 years on the sugar beet farms at Oxnard, Cal. He says:

"The Rogue river valley will miss its greatest opportunity if it fails to secure the beet sugar factory, for it spells prosperity for the community. The beet towns in California today are the beet sugar towns—times are always good in them. The work is so arranged that by the time the factory releases its employees, the farmers employ them in planting the new crop—so there is work the year around, the men go from the factory to the fields and from the fields to the factory."

"There is no town but that the sugar beet industry has not built up and improved. Villages have been transformed into improved cities, and the entire region profits thereby."

"A farmer named Edwards at Huereac, four miles from Oxnard, has the best record for California, producing \$300 of beets in a single acre."

RUMANIA MOBILIZES 750,000 MEN FOR SERVICE

LONDON, Jan. 9, 2.03 a. m.—The Daily Telegraph's Athens correspondent reports that the Greek government is gravely concerned over the increasingly strained Graeco-Turkish relations. The Greek diplomatic and consular representatives in Turkey, the correspondent says, are receiving intolerant treatment, being shadowed by the police and spies, and that the official protests by the Greek minister are ignored.

He also reports that the manager, may appoint an assistant. Two fine fat jobs.

Let us go on to article 4, sections 53 and 54. Affix responsibility and management of city affairs upon "board of directors" with unlimited power to create offices and fix salaries.

Section 61 gives board of directors \$1000 emergency fund to spend. (* * *)

Section 63 says: Library board shall have power to levy not less than \$3000 per annum and spend it at their pleasure.

Section 64 says: Park board may appoint a park commissioner to serve without pay until salary may be fixed by majority vote of city electors. Question—Then why not let the people fix the salaries of the other more important officials, say the manager, secretary, treasurer, judge, etc.?

Section 65. Here is richness—City planning commissioner. Duties possible and impossible, divide duties with the "board" meddles and takes responsibility.

Read section 67 carefully, fellow townsmen and see what unlimited powers are incorporated within it.

Now we come to debts. Article 5, section 71. "Board of directors" may issue certificates of indebtedness to cover any deficiency, but, there is no limit to power to create a deficiency.

And so I might go on ad finem, but I am tired and you must be too.

I am not taking issue with our mayor and our two editors, from a sense of personality, but wholly from a sense of duty.

Respectfully,
F. V. MEDYNSKI.

Medynski's Attack Answered

Councilman Medynski favors the people of the city with another lengthy epistle airing his views on things various and varied.

There are some things in his letter with which the people will agree. His picture of the resources of the valley and the need of their development is true. But will Mr. Medynski or any one else point out a time since Noah landed on Mount Ararat, when, in any section of any country any progress was made in the development of such resources by the policy of stand-still-till-you-go-back for which Mr. Medynski stands sponsor? Has this valley ever taken a step forward by the policy he advocates? Has any of the progress through which this community has passed been wrought by the men who are now opposing a forward step in civic affairs?

Mr. Medynski again rails against the new charter as follows: "The new charter provides for no compensation to these directors, but they shall be held absolutely responsible to the people for results."

It has been publicly stated many times that any provision of the present charter adopted by special vote of the people as an amendment has been retained by the charter commission as an expression of the people's wish. They voted the salaries away from the council; so in the new charter the board can have no salary save by having it again restored by vote of the people. The charter commission felt that public-spirited citizens could be found who would serve the city without pay; and they can. Again:

"I never at any time favored the adoption of a new charter now."

Does Mr. Medynski deny that he was one of the prime movers for the appointment of the charter commission; that he helped select the list of members and that it met with his hearty approval; that it was he who suggested Mr. Purdin as chairman and Mr. Sheldon as secretary; and that his enthusiasm for a new charter continued warm till, in the recent discussions before the city council, his request that the election plan be "stricken out entirely" was turned down?

Again: Mr. Medynski approves the old charter because it enabled the city to borrow about \$1,500,000. Why doesn't he add that every item of extravagance Medford ever saw was under the old charter? Also, that absolutely every city in the United States having adopted one of these modern charters has shown a lowering of running expenses with more efficient service to the people.

Mr. Medynski refers to bonds for officers. Does he not know that the provisions of both new and old charters are, in effect, identical:

Old charter—"Sec. 52. The recorder and treasurer shall each furnish an undertaking in favor of the city with such security and in such amount as the council may require. Officers by appointment must give such official bond as the council may require."

New Charter—"Sec. 48. The board of directors may require of any city officer or employee a surety bond in favor of the city in such sum as it may determine."

In both cases it is left to the business judgment of the board. Under the old charter the council need not demand and secure a bond from any officer. Mr. Medynski further says: "The new charter gives them unlimited power to create new offices and contract debts."

As to the second part of the statement, it is simply not true. As to the first part, the new charter provides that the board of seven can do what, under the present charter the mayor, with the consent of the council, can do. See section 9, old charter:

"The mayor shall appoint, subject to the approval of the council, one city attorney, one city engineer, one chief of police, one street commissioner, one market master, and such other police officers and other city employees as are required."

Where is the difference? Says Mr. Medynski: "They give no bonds." Neither do the councilmen under the present charter. This is right in both cases, for they do not actually handle any money. He adds:

"Should there be sufficient reason to recall them it would take six months to do it, and then what?—just this: It might not be possible to do it at all when governed by the new ballot system."

Pol-de-rol! Mr. Medynski probably does not mean that "it would take six months to do it," as we all know better, but refers to the fact that the state constitution provides that an officer cannot be recalled till he has held office for at least six months. He complains that the charter does not fly in the face of the constitution, which is above all city charters and state laws. Again, the folly of a suggestion that anything this charter contains or could contain takes away or abridges in the slightest degree the right of the people of the city to recall its officers. It is guaranteed in section 18 of article

II of the constitution, regarding the city manager:

"His term and salary are subject to the board of directors. He is their creature absolutely, subservient to their every dictation."

Mr. Medynski's memory is short. Only five days ago he addressed a letter to the citizens of Medford, published in this paper, in which he said: "City manager is a higher sounding name than political boss, but when the cloak is removed it will be found that the city manager, if he desires to be a boss, will have little hindrance."

The first of the week—"too much power." By Saturday—"too subservient." Mr. Medynski objects to placing full responsibility on the board. That is one of the main things the new charter does. It is the one purpose that has caused over 400 American cities to adopt new charters; to put the responsibility up in the spotlight where it can be located and held accountable.

Regarding purchasing agent, Mr. Medynski says: "Two fine, fat jobs."

The charter provides that the city manager shall act as storekeeper and purchasing agent. He cannot have an assistant unless the board provides it. No "nice, fat jobs." In fact, no new jobs at all. This section of the charter was drawn by Colonel Sargent, than whom there has not been a more rigidly economical councilman in the history of Medford.

Regarding the library board. If Mr. Medynski knew our city affairs he would know that the charter commission has simply kept faith in the agreement made with the man who gave Medford the public library building. Is common honesty to be criticized?

Answering Medynski's reference to the park board: For the same reason that the people under our present charter do not fix the salary of our city officers—it is not businesslike. It would make an ordinary man blush to be caught making such a statement as Mr. Medynski's regarding the city planning commission when confronted with the statement of one of the drafters of the Portland city charter, that "it was the best provision on that most important point ever brought to his knowledge." But to Mr. Medynski "here is richness."

Section 67 simply says that the city government shall assume the leadership in genuine civic affairs. To the hammer brigade on Main street, the "health, intelligence, efficiency and welfare of the community and its citizens" are of no concern. But the charter commission assumed that they were to the people of Medford.

"Now we come to debts," etc. More misrepresentation. See in section 61 the following: "All expenditures for the ensuing year SHALL be made from such budget appropriations and shall not exceed the amount thereof except when made necessary by any emergency, judgment against the city, or unforeseen contingency arising after the passage of the annual appropriation ordinance."

"And so I might go on ad finem, but I am tired and you must be, too." No wonder. If a desperate, brain-racking effort to dig out some valid objection to the new charter can only result in the hodge-podge of misrepresentation listed above, it's time to call a halt.

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