

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY BY THE MEDFORD PRINTING CO.

Office Mail Tribune Building, 25-27-29 North Fir street; telephone 75.

The Democratic Times, The Medford Mail, The Medford Tribune, The Southern Oregonian, The Ashland Tribune.

GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year, by mail, \$5.00; one month, by mail, .50; per month, delivered by carrier in Medford, Ashland, Phoenix, Talent, Jacksonville and Central Point, .50; Saturday only, by mail, per year, 2.00; Weekly, per year, 1.50.

Official paper of the City of Medford, Official paper of Jackson County.

Entered as second-class matter at Medford, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Sworn Circulation for 1916-2,491.

Full leased wire Associated Press dispatches.



PERMIT POLES TO USE POLISH TONGUE

LONDON, March 29.—The German government is considering the abolition of the Polish expropriation law and the grant of facilities to the Poles for the use of the Polish language, according to a Berlin dispatch to Reuters by way of Amsterdam. The dispatch says that Herr Breitenbach, Prussian minister of public works, made announcement to this effect during a budget debate in the Herrenhaus. Herr Breitenbach says that by means of an administrative colonization law the Poles would be given state aid to encourage them in settling at home. He added that the details of the scheme would be soon perfected and that a new era of united labor between the Prussians and the Poles would begin.

DOUGLAS TO VOTE COUNTY ROAD BONDS

ROSEBURG, Ore., March 29.—Petitions will be placed in circulation soon asking that a special election be called on June 4 to vote on a \$550,000 bond issue in Douglas county for the purpose of building a system of permanent roads in the county. The proposition was advanced by the Roseburg and Douglas County Merchants Association. The plan calls for the expenditure of \$180,000 on the Pacific highway, the idea being that this will be used in the preparation of the grade and that the hard surfacing will be done by the state highway commission. The balance of the money is to be expended on certain designated county roads which will connect all of the principal communities with the highway and with their business centers. The proposed bonds will bear interest at 4 1/2 per cent and will be retired in five to fifteen years.

FISH SCREENS TO BE MADE HERE

Signed contracts for the manufacture of Aitkin-Worthington fish screens for the state of Oregon have been received by Aitkin & Worthington of Medford from the state game and fish commission. Work on the manufacture of about three hundred screens, for which measurements have been made, will be started at the shop on North Fir street as soon as the necessary machinery can be assembled. Work will be pushed as rapidly as possible under orders from the commission so that as many as possible of the screens will be completed before the turning of water into the irrigation ditches. The Aitkin-Worthington screen has been adopted by the state of Washington and it is probable that the making of screens for that state in Medford will follow.

9779 REGISTERED UP TO MARCH SEVENTEEN

Table showing registration statistics for various parties up to March 17, 1917. Columns include Party, Male, Female, and Total.

CLOSE TO TREASON

THE Women's Committee of the Emergency Peace Federation is sending telegrams throughout the country urging women to hold meetings and raise funds to support the peace demonstration to be made in Washington at the opening of congress. The pacifists have stationed missionaries at army and navy recruiting places, who urge young men not to enlist.

These peace at any price advocates who would surrender American rights and prostrate the nation before the aggression of war crazed Germany, are merely preparing the way for national destruction, for a victorious Germany would as ruthlessly trample over America as over Belgium.

The exposure of German duplicity and treachery, and the open warfare waged against the United States have failed to stir any latent spark of patriotism in these pacifists who are willing to sacrifice the nation upon the altar of their silly sentimentality.

An organized effort is underway, originating in the machinations of German propaganda, for a drive upon congress to prevent enactment of adequate preparedness legislation vital to the country's safety and to kill any bill introduced for universal military training, so that in future as in the present, the nation will be unprepared to assert its rights and the rights of humanity against an imperialism aiming at world dominion.

Such effort comes close to treason. Under the cloak of pacifism, the enemies of our country are masquerading in an effort to hamstring the nation, in a conspiracy to leave it unprotected. And supporters of Prussian awfulness are appealing to humanitarianism to keep the nation unprepared!

The European conflict has become the final struggle of democracy against autocracy and the United States as a democracy, must do its share in the overthrow of autocracy. The defeat of Prussian imperialism will free the world of the rule of autocracy—the basic cause of all wars. The principles upon which our government is based are in direct conflict with those that rule the central empires. One or the other must prevail—there is not room enough in the world for both, and the American people must join the people of France and of England and of Russia in forcing democracy upon Germany that enduring peace may rule the world.

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, and liberty must be fought for to be maintained. Liberty which is not worth fighting for, is not worth having. If we have become such a weakling nation that we are willing to surrender our national rights at the dictates of a foreign tyrant, we are not. Though unprepared, we are preparing and the blood we shed will be as much in the cause of liberty and humanity as that shed by our forefathers of '76.

RAILROADS ASK INCREASED RATES

THE railroads of the country have applied for an increase in freight rates to offset the increased wages forced by the Adamson eight-hour law.

The railroads have been enjoying their most prosperous year, and the present year bids fair to be still more prosperous. In 1916, the net earnings of American railroads were \$1,136,000,000 or \$56 for every family in the United States. Their gross earnings were \$3,753,000,000, so that out of every dollar earned there was 30 cents profit, above all expenses.

In January, 1917, the net earnings of the railroads were \$76,190,690 as compared with \$68,586,006 for January, 1916. The same rate of increase will give the railroads \$90,000,000 more profits in 1917 than in 1916.

The railroads have been most inefficiently and wretchedly managed. They have permitted congestion of loaded cars at terminals and created thereby serious shortage that has paralyzed commercial activities in extensive regions, in spite of which dividends are 150 per cent higher than in 1900.

Wage increases granted employes take up only part of the increased productivity of labor employed under modern conditions and with modern equipment. Net profit increases more than equal the increased wages. The railroads will have to prove their case by better arguments than yet advanced to justify the asked for increases.

Passing of an Old Landmark

To the Editor: Incident to decay and weakness from age, the old saw mill, known as Aiken's mill, at Prospect, succumbed under the weight of the heavy snows of the past winter. 'The old mill' having been closely associated with the events of pioneer times in this part of Jackson county, perhaps a review of some of the most interesting incidents pertaining to its history might please many of the readers of your valued paper.

During the fall of 1911, being desirous of reliable information concerning the priority of my Mill creek water power rights, I addressed a letter to Mr. Slosson, Fairhope, Ala. The following taken from a letter received from Mrs. C. D. Slosson in reply to my inquiries, tells why and how the old mill was built.

The first five years of our married life were spent in the cabin at the bridge (The first and for many years the only county bridge over Rogue river and located near the present site of the California-Oregon Power company's dam) about half a mile from the mill. In the summer of 1872 Deacon & Slosson nearly completed a dam in the river just above the old bridge, but Christmas of that year high water took the dam out, and they went to work and built a mill on what we always called Mill creek. Mr. Slosson, with help built

the mill and did the sawing. Mr. Deacon attended to the teaming and supply end of the venture, which at one time seemed an assured success. The first sawing must have been in 1874. Some 50,000 feet of fine sugar pine lumber, quite well seasoned, ready for the teams, as they returned from Fort Klamath, burned. One of the hands took a notion to fire the slab pile and burned all but about 200 feet, and Mr. Slosson nearly lost his life saving the mill and that about ended our career on Mill creek.

'We had one child (Fannie May) born at the old cabin. The first white child in that part of the world. Perhaps you wonder how we came to locate out there. The fine tract of timber was the first indentment, and then every assurance that a railroad would be built through there. The first summer we were there the railroad surveyors were through five times, and they talked it was the most feasible route. This is all past and gone. But the heart often turns to the old mill.'

For several years prior to 1885, Capt. H. F. Deskins owned and operated the mill, and hauled a goodly amount of superfine sugar pine lumber to Jacksonville and other valley points. Old residents will recall Captain Deskins, his ox teams and his queer ways. In the fall of 1885 Aiken Bros.

FEDERAL AID FOR OREGON HIGHWAYS AWAITS ELECTION

SALEM, Ore., March 29.—Until the government officials receive copies of the new Oregon road laws and official interpretation of the provisions relating to matching the funds to be provided under the Shackleford bill, the Oregon state highway commission will not be given full recognition by the government, and the co-operation with the government may be delayed, according to information contained in an opinion received today by the highway commission from Attorney General Brown.

These cannot be given, the attorney-general points out, until after the people of the state pass on the \$6,000,000 bonding bill, known as house bill 550, at the special election in June.

Commission Asked Advice. The commission asked the attorney general for an interpretation of section 12 of house bill 550, as to whether or not a surplus of the automobile license fund would be available for the payment of the interest and principal upon bonded indebtedness for highway purposes.

'House bill 550 cannot be furnished to the government officials as an enactment of this state,' says the attorney-general, 'nor can any construction there by this office or other representatives of the state be based upon it as being the law of the state before properly given prior to its enactment. Such representation would not be true in fact nor valid.'

The attorney general points out that in another opinion, however, he gave his understanding of section 38, chapter 194, laws of 1917, which is the motor vehicle license law.

Surplus Pays Interest. This section provides that the surplus from motor vehicle licenses may be applied to paying interest and principal of bonds issued to match the Shackleford road fund, which seems to be an answer to the question the government officials have in mind.

The highway commission advised the attorney general that the federal officials were under the impression that he had questioned the authority to issue bonds under house bill 21, known as the Bean-Barrett bonding bill, to raise money to match the Shackleford fund.

Attorney General Brown denies ever having expressed such an opinion, and says he finds no reason why bonds cannot be issued under the provisions of that bill.

bought the mill and equipment. Also Deskin's squatter's right to a section, more or less, of unsurveyed government land.

The next year we petitioned for the survey of a township, which was granted, we being required to deposit \$800. We then entered timber land, improved the mill and water power, and during several years following we manufactured considerable sugar pine lumber, a large portion of which we hauled to Central Point and shipped to San Francisco, which was sure some undertaking, considering the roads and mountains of those days.

'The old mill' has always borne a reputation for excellent lumber, which entered into many of the best houses in the county years ago. As a rallying point for the settlers for many miles around about the old mill will long be remembered.

The present owner intends to rebuild and install a shingle mill and other wood working machinery in place of the old mill.

Respectfully, S. S. AIKEN.

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CUBAN REBELS MEET DEFEAT AT HANDS OF FEDERAL

SANTIAGO, Cuba, March 29.—After a battle of several hours, government troops dislodged the rebels at Songo, thirteen miles northeast of Santiago. In the opinion of government officials the revolution has now entered in its final phase.

Some 800 troops attacked entrenched rebels to the number of about 500. The rebels resisted half a day, after which General Canacho withdrew the liberal forces. Colonel Betancourt sent a detachment in pursuit and it is expected that at least one more engagement will take place.

The losses sustained in the battle were not large. The government reports show that Lieutenant Wilfredo Diaz was killed and six men were wounded. The rebel dead included Colonel Vinent.

Major Fausto Menocal, a brother of the president, took part in the fight. Government troops now occupy Guantanamo. The rebels left without resisting. It is expected the American marines there will soon be withdrawn. No American marines remain in Santiago.

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