

**The Evening Herald**

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EDITOR

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1919.

**MAKE THEM PAY.**

The attitude of the business men of this city, manifested at the meeting of the Business Men's Association last night, conveys to the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company a message that it will have reason to heed. The unanimous vote in favor of a municipal plant serves notice on that crooked, contract-breaking, public plundering, pocket picking, nickle stealing corporation that when the City of Klamath Falls finishes with it, it will benefit but little from the money it steals from the business men.

It can hide behind that misfit that so phantly serves its interests thru the postoffice department; it can lay the blame at the feet of that handy tool, the Public Service Commission; it can say it is powerless to change the law that the State Supreme Court so happily interpreted in such a favorable light for it, but when all is said and done the victims of this company will know, as they know now, that the responsible party is the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, and they will proceed to collect accordingly.

We know that the threat of a municipal system will be treated as a joke by the Bell outfit, but whether that threat will result in the installation of a municipally operated system or not, it carries with it a warning to the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company and like public plundering corporations, that is dangerous in the extreme. The decision was not reached by any radical element, but by the conservative, hard-headed business men of the city, and is an indication that the public is rapidly reaching a point of rebellion that will mean further drastic legislation seeking to curb the new effort of big corporations to rob the public.

Behind the conditions that have arisen by reason of the war, these big concerns hastened to feather their nests at the expense of the people, in the hope that they could do so unnoticed; and they have been succeeding thruout the nation. Encouraged by the revulsion of public sentiment against government ownership because of the absolute failure made by the government with the railroads, the express companies, the telephone and the telegraph, the big corporations are seeking to capitalize it to their advantage, forgetting the fact that there will be a day of reckoning when they will reap the whirlwind. That day is nearly at hand in Oregon and Klamath Falls. This last outrage by which the Telephone company seeks, thru its tool, the Public Service Commission, to rob the people may be the straw that will wipe out of existence the state body that has so well served the purpose of public utility corporations, and throw their regulation back into the hands of towns, cities and counties, when the people will squeeze the last drop of blood out of them as they have been squeezing the people.

So far as Klamath Falls is concerned, every business man who can get along without a phone should do so, both in his home and in his store; every resident should do likewise. The council should then start in to make this despicable concern spend in the city every dollar of tribute it is stealing from the people. There will be more ways than one that the people of Klamath Falls can get at the company where the Corporation Service Commission cannot protect it, and then when the next election approaches, let us start a petition for the wiping out of existence of the law that, thru crooked state officials, permitted this concern to rob its patrons.

**THE RAILROAD QUESTION.**

The people of Klamath Falls are going to be called upon to decide what disposition shall be made of the

Municipal Railroad. They are to be asked to vote for the sale of the line to the Oregon, California & Eastern Railroad company, accepting in return bonds to the amount of \$300,000. There is a vast difference of opinion among the people of the city on this question, but on one point everyone is agreed—the road should be completed to Sprague river.

The promoters of this line state that if the bonds are accepted by the people and \$50,000 is raised for terminal sites, the road will be completed, and while this may seem like a heavy price for the city to pay, the investment will be justified by future development. If The Herald did not feel certain that there is a sufficient number of sawmills and box factories in sight, awaiting the construction of this road to the timber, to justify the people of the city in assuming the burden, it would oppose the sale of the road under the terms offered. We have not been entirely in sympathy with many of the methods that have been adopted and much that has been done before and since this road was undertaken, and in this we voice the sentiment of nine-tenths of the people of the city, but we are not so blinded by these facts as to permit them to stand in the way of making this road accomplish great things for the city.

We are for the completion of the road to Sprague river for we believe it means practically doubling our payroll within the city; because we believe if it ever connects up with the Hill lines it will be our only means of forcing the Southern Pacific to give to Klamath Falls the recognition and service for which it has paid so dearly many times over; for we believe that only thru competition will we ever get the Natron cut-off and the Modoc Northern; because we believe that eventually it will mean the entrance of the Western Pacific into this territory and because we are confident that it will mean that Klamath Falls will be the metropolis of the great territory that lies east and north and south of us.

The people of the city should take this vital issue under consideration, look at it from every angle, discuss it dispassionately from the standpoint of the welfare of the city and county and try to reach an intelligent solution. The personal equation should be left out of it entirely. It is simply whether its construction will mean a bigger city here, or whether we shall slip back to where we were a few years ago.

**ATTENTION, KLAMATH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI.**

There will be an important meeting of the Alumni Association in the High school library, Thursday evening, May 15, at 8 o'clock. All members should plan to be present if at all possible, and remind others to do so.

RACHEL E. APPLIGATE,  
14-1t President.

**Personal Mention**

John Dubuis and W. A. Kollens-head are here on matters of business from Lapine. They are guests at the White Pelican Hotel.

Eva M Howarth arrived last night from Spokane and left this morning for the Klamath Agency.

Edna L. Ochiltree came in on the train last evening for a short visit from Alameda, California.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Miller, W. E. Wells and G. W. Snow are here looking after business interests from Bend.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Clifton are county seat visitors from the Yachuk district today. They are stopping at the Hall Hotel.

F. C. Klazuba is in the city on business from the Merrill district. Arthur Maddox bought sundries here yesterday for his ranch on the Merrill road.

F. S. Chapman, who has been here looking after business interests, who have been here for the past point this morning.

Ivan Pankey is down for a short time from Chiloquin.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hoeglin and Mrs. M. Bunce are recent arrivals from Los Angeles.

H. N. Moe of Moe and Company has gone to San Francisco on matters of business for a few days.

Mrs. Charles Coseboom and little son, who have been here for the past month visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Coseboom, left this morning for Los Angeles.

Mrs. Robert Goodwin has returned to Pullman Washington after a business visit of a few days in Klamath Falls and Klamath County.

F. W. Nelson a news correspondent, who has been in the city for a few days from Portland, left this morning for Weed, California.

G. A. Manning, R. F. Cooper and Chas. Burgraff are here on matters of business from Albany.

Mrs. W. Worden has returned to Midland after a short visit with relatives in Klamath Falls.

R. C. Spink is in town today from Idlerest on Spring Creek.

Attorney A. M. McCoy, who has been retained in the civil action of White versus Harrison case in the Court of Circuit Judge D. V. Kuykendall, returned this morning to his home in Red Bluff.

L. E. Santee has returned to his home at Grants Pass after a short visit in Klamath Falls.

J. A. Gardner is here on matters of business from Jacksonville.

William Fordney was in the city yesterday from Lorella, where he operates the James Mercantile Company.

J. H. Lyons is a recent arrival in Klamath Falls from Portland. He is stopping at the Hall Hotel.

Ernest Cassel Jr. is a county seat visitor from Kirk. He came in yesterday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Kienitz are in town for a short visit from Odessa. They are guests at the Hall Hotel.

Mrs. W. D. Moore and Miss Naomi Moore are recent arrivals in this city from Harbor, Oregon.

J. F. King was registered at the White Pelican Hotel last night from Portland. He left on the train this morning.

Mrs. Blanche McDonald has accepted a position as clerk at the Star Drug Co.

W. H. Hammell has returned to Ashland after a business visit in Klamath Falls.

The great popularity of the Travelers LOW COST Guaranteed life policies is reflected in the fact that during 1918 this progressive company issued more than \$218,000,000 of new life business. Ask Chilcote & Smith about the NEW 1919 policies. 2-1f

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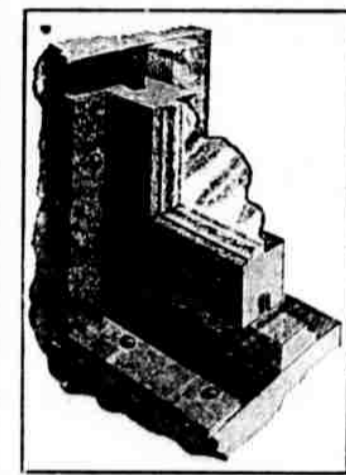


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