

The Evening Herald

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SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1919.

THE MONEY BILLS.

On the state ballot in the election June 3 there will be nine measures. He who examines them hastily or casually will probably form the conclusion that the predominant note in each is the angle of public money. The impression is not wholly correct. For one of them is but an enabling act and two of them interlock with other measures and are presented only to overcome constitutional obstacles. But, what there is a tidy sum represented in the bonding and tax measures.

It is far less to the discredit of a measure in these later years than formerly that it appropriates large sums or authorizes new taxes or new bond issues. Once bonds and increased taxes were viewed with distrust or disfavor, no matter, almost, for what purpose they were to be devoted. But today there is a better conception of public obligations. The citizen has learned that he cannot hope to prosper if he lives wholly within and wholly by himself. There are certain betterments that can be undertaken only by the public. The modern tendency is to enlarge their scope, and it has come to be that the main inquiry is not what they will cost but whether the benefits derived will be worth the money—in other words, whether it is a good investment.

It is not pessimistic to say that low taxes will come no more to this generation, possibly never. Higher taxation does not necessarily mean that the taxpayer is out of pocket. Good roads, progressive educational institutions, reclamation of waste lands—all promote a higher degree of prosperity while a good conscience secured by knowledge that the state's wards are properly housed and cared for is better than money in the pocket.

The first measure on the ballot while it deals with indebtedness, makes no appropriation or directly affects public expenditures. It but grants to each county authority to go into debt up to 6 instead of the present 2 per cent of assessed valuation, for improvement of roads. Adoption of the amendment will not increase any county's indebtedness. That can be done only by vote of the county itself after the authority proposed by the amendment has been granted.

The second measure is an amendment which gives constitutional authority for location of a reconstruction hospital elsewhere than at the state capital. The appropriation for the reconstruction hospital is contained in the reconstruction bonding bill numbered 312 yes.

The third measure which guarantees the interest on the bonds of irrigation and drainage districts for a period of five years, has heretofore been explained in The Oregonian. By the terms of this measure, the state becomes a limited indorser of district bonds. It, like any other indorser, may never be called upon to pay out any money because of the indorsement. But if it does, the money so paid will be in the nature of a loan to the district and will be repaid to the state with interest. The indorsement is needed to stabilize the market for irrigation and drainage district bonds and thus promote the fuller development of Oregon lands.

The fourth measure which appears on the ballot as a "five million dollar reconstruction bonding amendment" is but another grant of authority. In itself it provides for no bond issue. It is only a companion amendment to the reconstruction bonding bill. Both must be adopted before the \$5,000,000 in reconstruction bonds can be issued. The amendment removes the constitutional limitation: The bill provides for issuance of the bonds.

The lieutenant-governor amendment which follows next on the ballot creates a new office at a cost of \$400

in each biennium. He is to be the successor of the governor in event of the latter's death or incapacity. The succession now falls upon the secretary of state. The office of lieutenant-governor would not ordinarily attract candidates of gubernatorial capacity. The office of secretary of state ordinarily does. There is no reason for a change unless it be some present uncertainty as to tenure and authority of the secretary of state when he succeeds the governor. That uncertainty will probably soon be cleared up by the supreme court.

The Roosevelt coast military highway bill appropriates \$2,500,000 for construction of a highway from Astoria thru the coast counties to the California line. The road would have not only military value; it is part of the general highway plan of the state and would open to settlement and further development a great section of Oregon now but poorly served by good roads. The money is to be provided by an issue of bonds, interest and principal of which will be paid by general taxation. The appropriation is contingent upon appropriation of an equal amount by the government and the bill will become void if this federal appropriation is not forthcoming by February 1, 1921.

The reconstruction bonding bill calls for a possible issue of \$5,000,000. This measure was designed in part to meet prospective unemployment due to demobilization of Oregon soldiers and sailors. Of the total issue, an appropriation of \$2,000,000 is contingent upon enactment by congress of a land reclamation act for the benefit of soldiers, sailors and marines. In other words \$2,000,000, if used at all, will be used to match a like amount appropriated by the government. The further sum of \$647,500 is set aside for carrying out the purposes of a soldier's land settlement act passed by the legislature. The remainder of the issue is to be used for the construction of public buildings, some of which are immediately needed and some not.

There has been a definite pledge from the state officials who will have control of this fund that other reasons than availability must be apparent before it will be utilized. If there develops a condition of wide unemployment which building construction will remedy then buildings authorized which may not be immediately needed will be constructed. In the absence of a condition of unemployment none of the buildings will be erected unless a definite and immediate need for them is disclosed.

It appears, therefore, that this bill is in part primarily a grant of authority to deal in a practical way with a possible crisis and in part a contingent appropriation of funds for a land settlement revolving fund. As such it deserves support.

The educational financial relief bill for soldiers, sailors and marines is worthy in its main purpose. By its adoption the state would be authorized to aid in the education of any Oregon soldier, sailor or marine in the sum of \$200 a year for four years. The bill, however, opens a way to gross abuse by permitting this aid to be extended to soldiers, sailors or marines attending any private educational institution of whatsoever character.

The last measure on the ballot imposes a 1-mill tax for construction of permanent market roads. The tax would raise approximately \$1,000,000. To secure an allotment each county would have to appropriate an equal amount. A 10 per cent limitation upon the amount that any county may receive of the state fund would result in only one county's paying in more than it took out. That county is Multnomah. Multnomah county has in the past shown its realization of the benefits that accrue to it from road construction in other counties. Those benefits will be less from the construction of market roads. The same intelligent liberality in road taxes should again be demonstrated.

An analysis of the ballot thus reveals that three of the measures are enabling acts or mere grants of authority; that one is a state guarantee rather than a direct appropriation; that two of the major bond bills call also for expenditure of \$4,500,000 of government money in Oregon; that expenditure of a large share of one of these major bills depends upon employment conditions and actual institutional needs, and that the third major appropriation bill is a tax for good roads.

The ballot can be contemplated by the voter without any feeling that he is invited to become a spendthrift, but with the assurance that he urged in the larger proposals to make wise investment in his own commonwealth.—Oregonian.

At the Theaters

Can you fancy "Big Bill" Hart in a dress suit? Well, it was a great affliction to him for the time being, but those who have seen him in white shirt and clawhammer coat in "Branding Broadway," his latest Artcraft picture are compelled to admit that he presents an excellent appearance. In fact, he demonstrates that dress suits or chaps, red shirts or "Billed" ones, they are all in the day's work with an artist of his calibre. At the Star tonight.

Manager Houston of the Star theatre has secured the local exhibition rights to "Alimony," which deals with one of the most momentous problems now confronting American society. It has an all-star cast of players, headed by Lois Wilson, Josephine Whittell and George Fisher in the leading roles.

"Alimony" is from the pen of Hayden Talbot, the well-known young playwright who has to his credit a number of American and European successes of the speaking stage. It is a smashing big drama, dealing, as the title indicates, with the subject of divorce, and containing an eloquent plea for the elimination of those acts of legislature that permit unscrupulous lawyers to win "easy money" divorce decrees thru the medium of the referee system. Woven around a compelling human document, it proves to be a startling expose and points the finger of accusation at several easily recognizable attorneys who today are reaping harvests from the dishonest methods which the laws of certain states uphold.

Of his subject matter, Talbot says: "In 'Alimony' I think I have written an argument that ought to make people think and think hard. I have striven to put into an entertaining screen play the many surprising and shameful divorce laws, with which I came into contact during my career as a newspaperman. I promised myself several years ago that I would put on paper what I had learned from my observations, and 'Alimony' is the result of my efforts. If it should succeed in its purpose to lift the curtain of ignorance and reveal to public gaze the astounding way in which countless divorces, absolutely unwarranted are granted—because

of the laws which govern them—shall feel that my task has not been in vain."

WHITLATCH HAS ODD ACCIDENT

WELL KNOWN FORMER MERRILL MAN IS VICTIM OF STRANGE ATTACK OF BUCK-DEER AT MONROE, OREGON

MONROE, Oregon, May 31. Jesse E. Whitlatch, formerly of the Merrill district, who now resides one mile south of Monroe Oregon met with an unusual experience last Monday while at work in the field. Without any warning he was struck in the back by a large buck deer whom the neighbors had been trailing with bounds for several days. Mr. Whitlatch was rendered unconscious and was badly beaten and bruised about the head, arms and shoulders. When he did not appear at the dinner hour Mrs. Whitlatch grew alarmed and summoned help. She found Mr. Whitlatch in an unconscious state—having been in that condition for five hours. Medical aid was hastily summoned but the family and friends were unable to ascertain the cause of his injuries until 24 hours later when Mr. Whitlatch was at last aroused from his state of coma and told the particulars. Upon further investigation, the deer tracks were discovered. It is believed that the animal became infuriated upon seeing Mr. Whitlatch and without any warning began the fight.

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U. OF O. GIRLS TO DO SUMMER WORK AT CRATER LAKE LODGE

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, May 31. A unit of university girls, who will work at Crater Lake lodge from June 25 until October 15, has been formed thru the campus Y. M. C. A. The girls will be in charge of various sorts of work at the hotel, and at the same time will be given time to visit the many points of interest near the lake. The unit will be composed of Melba Williams, Eugene; Alys Sutton, Portland; Mary Mattley, Oregon City; Clara Moran, Eugene; Elizabeth Wilson, Helen Watts, Seapoose, and Pearl Craine, Bandon.

CATTLEMAN VISITS.

Ed McBroon, a well known cattleman of Eastern Klamath County is in the city on matters of business for a few days from Vistillas.

Get some of our Sunday Candy today. Star Drug Co. 31-11

For Goodness (sakes) use Revell Cold Cream for Sunburn. Star Drug Co. 31-11

Try our Picture Service. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Star Drug Co. 31-11

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

WANTED: A Job to haul lumber or wood with a five ton truck by the day or job. Address Box 5, Office of office. 31-31*

FOR SALE—5 passenger car. Post bug in town—1621 Manzanita St. North end Hot Springs Addition. 31-11*

FOR RENT—Nice clean furnished rooms for gentlemen. 419 Walnut. 31-31

FOUND—Bunch of keys on Lincoln between 8th and 9th. Owner can have same by paying for this ad. Call Herald office. 31-11*

LOST—A purse containing \$10.00 and a plain band ring with initials E. S. to G. J. Reward if returned to Bradleys Shoe Store, 727 Main. 31-51*

WANTED—Girl for light house work—Mrs. R. B. Amicke. 31-11 Main. 31-11*

WANTED—Waitress, Hotel Bradburn, Dorris California. Phone Mrs. Brown. 31-51*

FOR SALE—Used Maxwell Truck and used Ford delivery wagon. C. I. McWilliams. 610 Klamath Ave. 31-31



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