The Evening Herald

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Tuesday, December 22, 1925

WHY THE ANXIETY?

The Klamath News, voicing the sentiments of its masters, commends the farmers in their decision to take into the courts the vicious Link river dam contract. That the people may know what this power company mouthpiece had to say we quote:

"During the Klamath irrigation district election this fall, one side—the majority—adopted a slogan. It was: 'We own the water—let us keep it.'

The thought back of that slogan was a sincere belief that the power company, with the connivance of the Reclamation Service had stolen water belonging to the project. Water users were told, and many believed, that the power should be made to pay a great share of the heavy cost of water to the farmers—and more. The farmers were told the power company should be made to pay the construction costs of the project.

And closing it says:

"He (Bradbury) and the other members of the board will be small potatoes, indeed, and unworthy of future support from their constituents, if they allow this important matter to lapse."

Why the anxiety? Since when has this power company mouthpiece earned the privilege to even suggest what the farmers of the district should or should not do? After bending every energy at its command to defeat the will of the farmers, after lending what little aid it had to enthrone the will of the reclamation service and the power company and meeting with overwhelming defeat, it now has the effrontery to pose as the farmer's friend, to manifest an interest in his welfare. Like every Benedict Arnold, it is trying to ingratiate itself into the confidence of the farmer in the hopes that the betrayal may be the more effective.

When the board of directors of the Klamath irrigation district decides what is best for the farmers, the conclusion will be reached after securing the advice of friends and turning a deaf ear to the suggestions of enemies.

Where ignorance is bliss it is folly to be wise. It is an old saying, but quite apropros when you read the "illuminated" editorials in the Klamath News. This morning the "brilliancy" of the reference to a gravel pit hit our eye. We were indeed en"light"ened to learn that asphalt required more gravel than concrete. We can only account for the construction of the article in one of two ways—it is really the product of a 10-year old brain, as is indicated in its introduction, or it is the result of the closing of the chief source of narcotic supply. If there is any purpose back of the editorial, we would suggest that the "boy" or the "victim" turn on a little more juice.

ARE THE FRENCH RIGHT?

If the landlord reduces your rent (of course, this is a mere supposition) but the grocer raises prices (you grasp this more easily), your bank account is not improved. Neither is the taxpayer's situation materially altered by the economy program of the Federal government, for the states squander public money faster than Uncle Sam can save. State and municipal taxes are mounting while the Coolidge administration is making reductions.

It is estimated that the people of California had to pay $674.62 for every one of the four hundred and seventy-nine laws that the last legislature passed.

The American situation amazes and amuses European observers. Now the French newspapers are telling their astonished readers that a new law is made as often as a baby is born in the United States. They explain that a man is elected to office to manufacture, not to enforce, laws. Aren't they right?—January Sunset.

Kentucky Town Has Three Sons In Congress

By CHARLES P. STEWART

WASHINGTON—For its population of less than 1000, the little burg of Morgantown, Ky., is pretty well represented in the national legislature. Three of its sons had seats in the last congress and three are on hand again for this session, or as many as are sent to the lower house by the whole state of Arizona, Delaware and Nevada put together. No other place of its size in the country boasts so strong a delegation in Washington.

* * *

Senator J. W. Harreld is one of the number. Harreld wasn't elected from Morgantown. He was elected from Oklahoma, but he was born near Morgantown and grew up there. Congressman Maurice H. Thatcher, who represents Louisville in the lower house, was another Morgantownsman originally. A third is Harreld's cousin, Everette B. Howard, who served in the 66th, 67th and 68th congresses as the first Oklahoma district's representative.

* * *

Howard wasn't re-elected to the 69th congress and it looked as if the Morgantown crowd wouldn't be quite so numerically formidable this winter. It is, however. Robert Y. Thomas chosen to represent the third Kentucky district at the 1924 election, died before it was time for him to take office, and Morgantown had a candidate to succeed him in John W. Moore. He was elected last month and here he is now at the capitol.

* * *

Harreld, Thatcher, Howard and Moore not only all were brought up in the "Free State of Butler"—Butler is the county in which Morgantown is situated—but they were brought up at the same time. They were boyhood playmates.

"But why Free State?" somebody asks. Because, long before the civil war, Butler freed its slaves and never thereafter permitted any to be brought in, despite the fact that slavery was an institution throughout the rest of Kentucky.

LEWES, Del.—The last voyage of Arthur Chambers, veteran pilot, resulted in saving 367 persons. The man, who on October 18 last, guided the burning steamship Lenape in a 30 mile dash, died yesterday at the age of 76.

TIMBER OWNERS ATTACK CRUISE

(Continued From Page One)

to suspicion on the deal," was the statement of D. V. Kuykendall, local legal representative of the Weyerhaeuser interests.

"The job could be done for eight cents an acre and money would be made," Jack Kimball, secretary of the Klamath Forest Protective association declared. "Why then, I ask, should there be such a high price attached to the county re-cruise.

"I would like to have Mr. Cullison, as a member of the firm, tell the county court how many days he worked on the job, how many men he employed, what wages he paid and anything else that will enable this body to ascertain just what justified this 20 cents an acre charge."

Mr. Cullison was present but refused in any way to comment on Mr. Kimball's request.

"I fail to see where information such as Mr. Kimball asks for, would be material in this case," he said.

Judge Explains

To the statements made by timber representatives that the cost of cruising was exorbitant, Judge Bunnell read telegrams from different counties in the state, in which the cruise was accomplished for from 20 to 25 cents an acre.

"But you can't compare a fir stand county with a pine stand county," Arthur Hay, representative of the Long Bell Lumber company interests, objected. "They are as different as hay and straw."

Mr. Cullison cut in:

"Crook county, a pine stand county, paid 25 cents an acre for a county cruise," he said.

"Well, they were robbed," Kimball shot back.

Want Authentic Cruise

The county judge explained to the objectors that the purpose in paying 20 cents an acre for the cruise was to insure the county of an absolutely authentic cruise. He intimated that if the job were open to bids, a group of cruisers, controlled by private timber interests, would step in, bid lowest for the cruising contract and return an incorrect cruise, for which the county would suffer.

"It has been done before, has been a common practice in fact," he explained. "That's why we took this move. We felt that it would be worth the money to have a real timber cruise, one which we could depend upon and one which would serve this county for years to come. I still think it. One has to pay something extra for reliability.

Against Advertising

"There has been talk of the contract not being advertised. We did not open the job for bids because we wanted to protect the county. Show me any other county in the state that has let county cruise contracts to the lowest bidders. What we did do was carry on negotiations with a number of different firms, as our records will show, and finally select the firm of Edgar and Cullison as the most responsible cruising firm available to us at that time."

Judge Kuykendall introduced the second point.

"We, that is the timber holders of this county," he said, "pay forty per cent of the taxes. What we are protesting against principally is the useless expenditure of money, as high taxpayers. The first unit of the cruise is all right. It showed only a net increase of 2½ per cent on pine timber which won't hurt us any. But we object to spending the money this year and for the years to come on this timber cruise, because we as 40 per cent tax payers must foot a large proportion of the bill.

"What do your own figures show for the first unit. They a 2½ per cent increase in pine timber, the only lumber that is really worth anything in Klamath county. That amounts to $70,000 additional valuation which will bring the county just $2100 a year more.

$2100 For $20,000

"In other words, $2100 is the net gain from the re-cruise of 100,000 acres of timber for which the county paid $20,000. Figure it out for yourself."

Judge Bunnell insisted that it wasn't primarily to get a big increase in timber valuation that the re-cruise was instituted.

"We want," he said, "a solid foundation to work from. There are certain tracts of timber that are standing and not being assessed. There are other stands, assessed by virtue of the former cruise, which have been destroyed by beetle bugs or fire. So it works both ways and it will adjust all wrongs in the Klamath timber situation, we feel sure.

County Needs Cruising

"The cruise may or may not show a large increase in standing pine. But whether it does or not, it will at least let us know and those who come after us, where we are at. And I feel that the cruise is justified for that reason."

The hearing went on and on for hours and when it finally adjourned the parties to the dispute were no closer to adjustment of their difficulties than they were when the hearing opened.

What the timber interests will do to check the county court in going ahead with the second unit of the county cruise next spring, was a matter of conjecture among lumber circles today. It was believed that the circuit court would be asked to issue a restraining order to check the second cruise, until the lumber interests could be heard before a disinterested tribunal.

SALEM, Mass.—The brain of Edward Silvester Morse, noted zoologist, will be examined at the Wistar institute of anatomy and biology, in Philadelphia, in an effort to determine the relation between the brain and ambidexterity if his intentions, expressed before his death yesterday, are carried out. He could use either hand with equal skill.

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