

The Evening Herald

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Monday June 21, 1926

AN INHUMAN ATTITUDE

NEVER have we heard of a more inhuman attitude assumed by anyone than that of the local officials of the reclamation service yesterday when they refused to close the headgates of the main canal in order that human life might be saved, or, failing this, then to recover the body of the victim. The horror of it all shocked the community. The bitterness of the denunciation that was heaped upon the heads of those responsible for the callous refusal to stay the flow of water for a brief period, was well earned by those against whom it was directed.

This is the second time this year that these officials have refused in the name of humanity to aid the local authorities in the work of rescue. Where will you find, in all the world, a set of men who would be guilty of such shocking inhumanity? The reason advanced for their refusal is that it would ruin the farmers if the water were shut off. This is the first time we have ever heard of their having any consideration for the farmers of Klamath county and we doubt the sincerity of their plea. It would not have been necessary to stop the entire flow of water and the period of time necessary to restore the full flow would not have been as great as that required when water is first turned into the canal. Even if it were, there is not a farmer in the Klamath district who would utter one word of condemnation.

The real reason is the utter lack of human contact that is to be found only among those who have so demeaned themselves as to enter a service where incompetency is the rule and official arrogance the cloak under which their worthlessness is hidden. It is only when we experience such inhuman disregard for life that we can understand the wholesale slaughter of the bureaucrats following the fall of the Russian empire. Their rule of conduct was the same as that adopted by the local government officials in the action of yesterday. It is typical of the bureaucrat. It is typical of the man who always realizes his incapacity, his incompetency, his inefficiency.

This is further emphasized by the condition of the canal within the city limits. Instead of being fully protected by proper fencing, it lies wide open as a menace to life and property. No better evidence of the curse of the reclamation service to this community is needed than an inspection of the bridges that have been placed across the canal by the reclamation service and the continued refusal to construct the Eleventh street bridge. In no other country in the world could such a condition exist and we doubt if there is another city in the United States that would tolerate it.

But little is to be expected from an organization that has at its head men who have shown such utter disregard for the rights of the individual as that manifested by the present secretary of the interior and his commissioner of reclamation. Being masters of subservient tools, their attitude quickly permeates the

entire organization. Little do these men realize that they are sowing to the wind and some day they or their successors are going to reap the whirlwind, just as their predecessors in Russia did.

DON'T SIGN 'EM

For the past week it has been impossible to pass up or down Main street without having a petition shoved under your nose asking for your signature. One set of petitions is for an income tax, with a property set-off, another is for a tax on trucks, another is for something else. Don't sign any of them, and if they get on the ballot in November, kill all of them.

In the first place, if the people refuse to vote the official tax-eaters more money, they will have none to spend. Already the people of the state are ridden to death with taxes. You never hear of any effort upon the part of the powers that be, trying to reduce the state payroll, but you will always hear them spouting about the necessity for increased expenditures. The time has come when the people should be heard, about stopping the wild orgy of spend, spend, spend. Our theory is that the increase in the value of property by reason of the growth of the state is sufficient to take care of the increased cost of administration. If it is not, then let those in power cut their clothes according to the cloth.

Let every voter refuse to vote a dollar of increased taxation of any kind for the state or county. They now have more than any kind of an additional tax. If it gets on the ballot, vote "no" when you get the opportunity. If this rule is followed for awhile we will soon be back to that "normalcy" that we have heard so much about.

STEWART'S WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Every family that ever wondered how it was going to pay the rent or shivered at the word mortgage will be interested in the proposal of Congressman Robert Crosser of Cleveland, Ohio.

He would have the government do for the struggling householder what it already has done successfully for the farmer. His national home loan bill would help people buy homes just as the farm loan act helps them buy farms. And he would put out of their jobs a lot of business boosters for whom he has no more respectful name than Shylocks.

"I began thinking about this question as a result of some law cases I have handled," Crosser tells you. "People have come to me for help after having made several years' payments on their homes. For some reason they have to sell and they can't even get back their original payment. Well, they have even charged interest at the full legal rate, whatever that is. Sometimes it is 8 per cent, sometimes 11 per cent. Then they have been charged a bonus or commission, which goes up to 30 or 40 per cent additional. It is plain usury, but it is being done.

"Now if the government helps the farmers, as it should, why not the average family also? There are about six and a half million farmers the average family also? There are more than 24 million families that have to have homes."

Those whose homes are mortgaged would be eager, Crosser figures, to exchange their present obligations for the more reasonable rates of loans by the proposed national home loan bank. The minimum interest charge

from one of the proposed home loan banks would be 6 per cent. The total amount borrowed could be anywhere from \$200 to \$8,000, and Crosser is inclined to increase that total somewhat. The limit of borrowing would be 60 per cent of the total value of the home to be bought.

JURY IS PICKED THIS MORNING

Continued From Page One

ing the prospective jurymen as to their qualifications.

The jury finally selected in the Hamilton case is made up of Walter Storey, Al Melhase, Roy Nelson, George North, Grant Nelson, O. A. Hill, T. N. Sherman, H. A. Talbot, O. W. Emble, H. P. Dow, Farrell Hilyard and Henry Gordon.

The following witnesses called by the state testified that Hamilton was arrested on March 22 after he had attempted to break and run from his cabin 11 miles northwest of Dorris, and that shots had been fired to force him to halt, and that subsequently a still was found nearby: Joe Zimmerman, R. E. Knowles, L. L. McBride, W. M. McMillin, and C. H. Bennett.

Counsel for Hamilton is attempting to show that Hamilton was in no way connected with the ownership or operation of the still. The case will go to the jury about 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Daughter of Judge Orr to Wed Tonight

A wedding of interest to Klamath county residents which will take place this evening is that of Frank Marshall of Reno, Nevada, and Miss Elma Ruth Orr, daughter of Judge John S. Orr, former well known resident of this section. Miss Orr, with her parents, came to Klamath Falls several weeks ago to spend the summer months on the Orr ranch near Lorella. The family now resides in Reno, Nev. Mr. Marshall arrived from Reno Sunday, where he is prominently identified in business.

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GAD CURLY! I'M HALF STARVED! WHAT IF THERE'S NO ONE HOME AT THIS RANCH?
WELL, THAT MERELY MAKES IT "SELF SERVE" IS ALL.

THESE CITY CHAPS COME OUT AN SEE ITS DIFFRENT THAN THEY THOT TWOULD BE. A THING THEY'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE IS FOLKS WHO NEVER LOCK THEIR DOOR.

J. WILLIAMS
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