

# Vernonia Eagle

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Paul Robinson, Editor and Owner

MOUTHPIECE of the NEHALEM VALLEY

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Advertising Medium of a Big Pay Roll Community

## PUBLIC CONTROL OF RAILWAYS FAILURE

### Chairman Paterson Recalls Costly Venture During World War.

Portland, Or.—(Special.)—That the people of the United States have been twice hurt by experiments in government ownership of transportation means, once with the shipping board and again during government control of railroads and that these expensive adventures should not be repeated was the gist of a statement issued here by L. L. Patterson, chairman of the Republican State Central committee. Mr. Patterson said:

"LaFollette proponents for government ownership of railroads forget, no doubt, the shipping board's prolonged and costly attempt to operate the nation's vessels at a profit. The experiment cost the country many millions.

"They must have forgotten, too, government operation of railroads during the war period. This was an experiment in socialism and was a colossal and extravagant failure.

"Government operation lasted 20 months. It gave the public the poorest freight and passenger service it had ever known and the most expensive. Although cost was increased, nothing was given the public in return, either in upbuilding the railroads or in service.

"Railroads of the country had been adding to their equipment at an average rate of 100,000 freight cars and 500 locomotives a year. The government operated the lines a little more than two years and turned them back to their owners with 204 fewer locomotives and only 1300 more freight cars than when it took control, while more engines and cars were out of order than at any time in railroad history.

"It might be said that the railroads went through an emergency period, the war period, and that is true. Figures show the lines carried 1.3 per cent more freight than under private operation, but to carry this heavier load, the number of employees was increased 11 per cent and the operating expenses by over 40 per cent.

"Within six months after the government seized the roads, all passenger rates were increased to a basis of 3 cents per mile and mileage passenger books were discontinued. All freight rates were increased 25 per cent. When the democratic administration took over the roads, it guaranteed the owners, as compensation, an annual income equal to the average of their annual operating income during the three years ending June 30, 1917.

"Despite the 25 per cent increase in freight rates and a 20 per cent increase in passenger rates, the railroads the first year of government operation failed by \$240,000,000 to earn the amount of this guarantee. That is to say, they failed by that sum to earn as much as they were accustomed to earn under private ownership.

"The difference had to be paid out of the public treasury. During the second year of government operation the deficit was \$360,000,000, and in the two months of the third year before the lines were turned back to private ownership, the deficit was \$103,000,000.

"Long before the railroads were turned back to their owners, it was realized that government operation was a fiasco. The public had never before known such poor service and such high rates. Shippers were served in miserable fashion and the situation became intolerable.

"The government was in dire straits in handling the problem. President Wilson dreaded to hold on to the railroads, yet he could not let go. Government control could not continue without the nation well nigh bankrupting itself and yet the owners would not receive the roads back in the deplorable condition to which they had been reduced by government control. The public patience was exhausted.

"President Wilson told congress the roads should be returned to their owners but said he did not know just how it could be done. No specific advice was offered, solution of the problem being left to the next Republican congress.

"The Esch-Cummins act, also known as the Transportation Act of 1920, prescribed the manner of giving back the railroad properties to their owners and their future operation. For a period of six months only after the lines were turned back to their owners, there was a government guarantee that was for the purpose of tiding the lines over the period of readjustment and to allow the properties to recover somewhat from the blows dealt them by government control.

"But this guarantee was only one half what it was under government

AS IT RESULTS? SO IT WILL BE

Before another issue of this paper the "Country will be saved". Political questions will be solved. The Nation, State, County and Cities will settle down to business. We have confidence in the outcome, and we will peacefully and smilingly submit to the majority rule. We will offer no harsh kicks if the Councilmen we vote for are not all elected, rather, we will aid by our good wishes any who are chosen. The National and State officers who are elected will be OUR officers after they take office, and we will support them. Kicks accomplish little after the question is settled, and we believe in Majority Rule. If everybody would talk "Good Town", there is no question but what their's would be a good town. Advocating and agitating against one's town only hurts the business of the town talking—if they have any business to hurt. Let us all forget politics after election and pull for business and happiness. A busy man has little time for street corner arguments or midnight prowling. Work is the best little treatment for a discontented mind. Here's to the fortunate ones who win the elections next Tuesday.

control and it ended in six months. This was about the best bargain that could be made to get out of an unfortunate situation.

"The railroads have never recovered from the immense burden of expense saddled upon them during the period of government control and the public has had a tremendous bill to pay as a result of the experiment. One trial of this plan should be enough. We had all we wanted at that time."

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"The World's Greatest Election" is the subject of the sermon for next Sunday evening at the high school auditorium, at 7:30. Christian Endeavor meeting at 6:30.

"The Word of the Hour" is the Sunday morning subject, for 11:00 o'clock. The Bible school session will be at 10:00 o'clock.

A welcome and a message for everyone at every service.

W. A. Gressman, minister

## C. OF C. MEETS

The Chamber of Commerce had a good turn-out, about 40, at its noon luncheon Monday. Important matters were discussed, among them the possibilities of getting a gas motor car on the railroad to come from Keasty and the camps to Vernonia and return every Wednesday and Saturday evenings. It is to be hoped such a plan will materialize. The club eats every other Monday at the Gayosa at 12:30 prompt. Be there a week from Monday.

## 500 PARTY

Mr. and Mrs. Close entertained with three tables of 500 Thursday evening. Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Hayes each won first prizes and Mr. D. Marshall and Mrs. Waltman captured the boobies. Those playing were the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Waltman and Mr. and Mrs. Hughes.

## A DELIGHTFUL AFTERNOON

Mrs. E. E. Hayes entertained the "Millview 500 club" on Monday afternoon. After a number of interesting games, dainty refreshments were served. At each place there were fortunes for the guests, Cats, Witches and other Halloween symbols were much in evidence. While refreshments were being enjoyed Peggy and Edward Hayes entered the room pushing a tea cart on which was a beautiful birthday cake with its lighted candles. This came as a complete surprise to all, the honoree being Mrs. Cropper. A delightful afternoon was had by Mrs. Hayes' guests which included Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Waltman, Mrs. Bleile, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Close, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Cropper and Mrs. O. J. Hayes of Tucson, Ariz.

Born, last Friday night, to Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Amick, a baby boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Chalmers, of Forest Grove, visited this week with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. McGee. They are the parents of Mrs. McGee.

Born, last Thursday, to Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Alexander, a baby boy.

## AN EXPLANATION

"FOR WHOM WILL YOU VOTE?"

The above words headed an article in last week's Eagle. That article has unceasingly been a bit of criticism as well as a stir in trying to find out the name of its author.

This is written to inform all that I, W. A. Gressman, was the author. Every statement made therein is true. No personalities were involved. I have preached its contents many a time and will likely do so many more times. The trouble is not in the article itself, but with the persons who have so grossly misunderstood it.

This is no apology, I have none to make. But this is a plain statement intended to make clear the meaning of the article in question. I trust that no fair-minded person, after reading this explanation, will any longer hold and ill-will. In fact, I expect him to receive this in the way it is given—in love of the truth, with malice toward none and justice toward all.

It appears that the statement most objected to in said article is the following: "Also, some boast of their Americanism and their war record; but they do not seem to realize the fact that true citizenship is measured more by their daily life in upholding the law and officers enforcing the law than by their past war record."

The article, and particularly the statement just quoted, made no reference whatever to the American Legion, much less did it cast any slur upon it. Furthermore, the American Legion is not composed of the only persons who have any war record. Indeed, there is still a remnant of the Civil War veterans, Spanish-American War veterans, etc. Besides, if you have been observant at all, you surely have seen some ex-soldiers who boasted of their patriotism and war record, while at the same time their present daily life was dishonest and un-law-abiding, and they themselves a discredit to the noble group of true soldier men. Also, every reasonable person should know that not every man in the American Legion is an Angel. I stand heart and soul for the American Legion, and if I were a member of this organization I would be the last man to take offense at the above-quoted statement.

It is true that the supreme need of today is that of men to live for America, and this is more essential now than any war record, and any reasonable person will agree with me on this.

To support one ticket is by no means a denunciation of the men on the other ticket. To say that certain men stand for law and order is not saying that the men on the other ticket are opposed to such. However, as a matter of fact, some local people do declare themselves in favor of a more wide-open town, and if you have not come into contact with that declaration you are incompetent in denying my knowledge of same. And what I said in my article on this point was true. I know what I am talking about, and I also know that what I am saying is the truth, and nobody can gainsay it.

More than this, if you note how some of the newspapers resort to mud-slinging, and then observe how free from such is the Vernonia Eagle, you should thank God for the clean and fair way in which this paper treats political matters. Besides, it is well to realize the fact that freedom of speech and of the press is one of our constitutional guarantees. And as long as all persons are given the same rights thereunder, it ill-behooves us to try to deny this right to those who exercise it in a lawful way.

Now, since reading the foregoing, if anybody still has any objections, please make it against the writer, and not against the editor nor any other person. Also, please come to the writer in person and talk it over with him and everybody will feel much better.

Yours for the truth,  
W. A. Gressman.

## FOR INTEREST OF ALL

If your water bill has not been paid by Monday, Nov. 10 by the time the office closes in the afternoon the water will be turned off at your place, regardless. Be you doctor, lawyer, merchant, councilman, garage-man or housekeeper.

## THE EAGLE FOR ALL

The Eagle management is human even as any business man is human. We have a conscience and it doesn't hurt; we have a heart and it is sometimes hurt, as the feeling of one is hurt when he gets no word of comment but rather business knocks when something appears among the reading columns that don't rest good with each reader. To please everyone is an impossibility. We have tried it and continue to try it. Unrest is prevalent and the more that is done to stop it the worse it becomes. We leave it to the readers, if the Eagle hasn't continually boosted Vernonia and every business man in the city. We know that the Eagle is one of the largest and best little country weeklies in Oregon. Outsiders appreciate it more than home people. If a business man happens to say something that someone didn't agree with or happen to have ideas different, is that any reason we should stop dealing with him or advocate a boycott? Would that business man approve of such actions. We would not; we say patronize home. We have always said it and always will. We have devoted many pages and cash in advocating the patronize home idea. We have helped in locating some of our business men, and we are for them. Notwithstanding that some of them have taken their patronage away because some item didn't please, and that item we had nothing to do with. We print the fact that the editor is not responsible for the ideas of Communications and we welcome communications from any on all subjects. Read some of the political writings in OTHER papers and see how mild the communications are in the Eagle. Opponents on political questions can't be expected to brag up the opposite side. Personally the Eagle dislikes a campaign for the enemies it sometimes makes. We are NOT in the present campaign; we like men running on both tickets; we have not advised in any manner how you should vote, we try to be fair, and we are sorry to lose an advertiser. Our readers will miss he ads so often appearing but we will still boost the business of the home concern whether they carry an ad in your home paper or not. If you are attending a banquet and a certain dish of food is on the table that you do not like, you push it aside and eat what you like, you don't leave the whole meal. Same with a paper that is printed for everyone. Read what you like, write what you like—we try in vain to please all. We don't back up with personal beliefs the ideas or writings of those sending in communications—no paper does. We dislike being personal or slinging mud. We don't believe any one man is better than the rest, nor is any one man going to run our business or the town. The buying public, as a rule, must be "rubbed the right way". The Eagle always wants to correct any wrong or mistake it may make, we will apologize willingly, we are with you, and try to be a good old sport, but please don't be ridiculous, or expect us to please everyone or any ONE individual. We are just as human as you are. Lets all boost, won't it be better. We can be friendly, we can all work and speak well of our town, whether we agree on all subjects or not, and we can each vote as we please. And each will try to vote right.

Now YOU'RE OFFERED COAL OIL

One of the largest moonshine outfits ever taken in Columbia county was brought in Friday afternoon by Sheriff Wellington and his deputies. They located it in a barn on the old "West Speedway" northeast of Scappoose. Fred Ulrich rented the place about three months ago and was supposed to be in the dairy business. He was in the residence, about 200 feet from the barn, when Sheriff Wellington called on him. With traffic officers Hadfield and Kestner the sheriff searched the barn and found a quantity of liquor hidden beneath a pile of hay. A trap door was discovered and this was the entrance to the cellar underneath the barn. In the cellar was a man who gave the name of Philip Susta, residence Portland, and also a still which was warm, a considerable amount of liquor, 14 200-gal. tanks which were full of mash and 6 empty tanks, sugar, corn meal, Coal oil, etc., etc.

An inventory of the threetruck loads of stuff brought in showed, 16 sacks of empty bottles, 4 sacks of sugar, about 780 pint bottles of liquor, 15 gal. keg liquor, several gallon jugs, complete still, coil, burners, 20 200-gallon capacity mash tanks, 8 cases coal oil, etc., etc.

The men were arraigned before Judge Eakin Saturday, after having been indicted by the grand jury on two charges, setting up a still and possessing intoxicating liquors, and were admitted to bail in the sum of \$3500. They were given until today to enter plea.

Sheriff Wellington has suspected the pair for sometime, but waited until he was sure of catching them with the goods before making an arrest, and he believes that the capture of the men and still will put a big dent in a Portland moonshine ring.—Mist.

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Here Comes a New Banker

No wonder Mr. Galloway, President of the Bank of Vernonia wears that broad smile this week. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Galloway, Monday morning, October 27, a nine pound boy.

LEGION BUILDING DEDICATED; GUARD HOSTS AT DINNER

Dedication of McCormick hall and the unrolling of tablet honoring the American Legion was accomplished at an interesting meeting of visitors and members of company I, 186th infantry, of Forest Grove, at the college hall Wednesday night. The chief speakers were Judge Jacob Kanzler of the Multnomah county court of domestic relations, Adjutant General George A. White and State Commander Griffith of the American Legion.

A military tone was given to the ceremonies by the presence of guardsmen and visiting soldiers, as well as by fife and drum corps from Portland and Vernonia and the 186th regiment band of Portland. The Forest Grove American Legion did not have a part in the program.

Visitors, aside from the speakers included Col. Hiram U. Welch of Portland and Capt. T. E. Riley, of Salem. The Forest Grove guardsmen were hosts to the visitors at dinner in McCormick hall, following which a dance was held at Pythian temple.—Forest Grove News-Times.

COMMUNICATION

Out if all the campaign arguments that are heard these days, one thing stands out impossible of contradiction.

That is if LaFollette were elected President and able to put his plan of government ownership into effect it would mean increased taxes for every person in Oregon.

This is so because the share of taxes now paid by the railroads, amounting on the average throughout the state to 7.9 per cent of all Oregon taxes, must be paid by the remaining property in Oregon, since the railroads, if government owned, would pay no taxes at all.

Total taxes in Columbia County in 1923 were \$738,328.42. Out of this total the railroads paid \$99,338.48, or 13.5 per cent of the total.

When Columbia voters go to the polls November 4th they should not forget that a vote for LaFollette is a vote for the increase of their own taxes by 13.5 per cent.

November 5 is the last day to pay your taxes at the County Seat, before the 3 per cent penalty is added.

## WISCONSIN TAXES SHOW BIG GROWTH

### LaFollette System Results in Heavily Increased Cost of Government.

"We are content to leave with the people of Oregon the economy record of this administration and the same record of the LaFollette regime in Wisconsin as sufficient reason for a vote for Coolidge in the forthcoming election," said I. L. Patterson, chairman of the Republican State Central committee.

"We find that Coolidge, who said, 'I am for economy. After that I am for more economy,' meant what he said and carried out this policy to the limit, with the avowed intention of cutting government expenses and taxes still further in the coming four years.

"The LaFollette conduct of affairs in Wisconsin shows constantly mounting extravagances of state government and, because LaFollette has been in complete control there, he and his friends who are of the same political theories as himself, for the past 20 years, it should be fair to contrast the record of this administration in government, with Coolidge at the head, and the record of the LaFollette group in Wisconsin.

"We know that Coolidge is the head of the administration that has saved the people of this country \$6,000,000 daily in federal taxes as compared with 1921. It has lopped 95,456 employees from the federal payroll. The national debt has been reduced \$2,750,000,000 in three years. The budget has been established, the Dawes plan adopted and a period of prosperity has replaced general distress that prevailed when this administration took charge of public affairs.

"Now let us see what constructive results the LaFollette group has accomplished in Wisconsin. In 1901 LaFollette became governor and has since retained control of the state with his henchmen. From 1901 to 1920, the records show, there was no great increase in the population of the state. While population increase from 1901 to 1923 was 28 per cent, increase in property assessment for the same period was more than 235 per cent and the increase in state expenditures was 423 per cent.

"In Wisconsin an army of new state employees was created and the new capital building became too limited to house the political swarm of tax eaters.

"The total assessed valuation of Wisconsin in 1901 was \$1,436,384,000. In 1921 it had reached the startling total of \$4,694,739,962, without a material reduction in the rate per cent of taxation. In addition to this assessment, too, a state income tax law took more than \$41,000,000 from the taxpayers from 1912 to 1921, inclusive.

"High cost of government in Wisconsin under the LaFollette plan is apparent to anyone who will consult the record. He proposes to extend his paternalistic, socialistic schemes in Wisconsin to the national government if he has the opportunity.

"Thos. E. Lyons, for years a member of the Wisconsin tax commission, in a recent review of the Wisconsin tax situation, said:

"It will be observed that these levies jumped from \$50,370,579 in 1914 to \$64,488,661 in 1915, or 38 per cent, and from \$64,488,661 in 1915 to \$117,921,738 in 1922, or 81.5 per cent. The increase in the eight-year period from 1914 to 1922 was 134.5 per cent."

"Under the Coolidge plan of government, costs are decreasing and taxes are lessening. Under the LaFollette plan, costs are rising and taxes are growing at a very heavy rate. It should not be difficult for the voters to make up their mind as to which policy they prefer in their government."

## SATURDAY GRANGE DAY

Tomorrow, Saturday, is Vernonia Day for Pomona Grange. The Grange of the County will meet in Vernonia, about 200 being expected. Assembly at the church auditorium will begin at 10:30 a. m.

## CHURCH BUILDING POSTPONED

In answer to some inquiries, I here state that the proposed building for a new Christian church has been temporarily deferred. The money donated by various persons for this purpose is being held in trust by the local church officers on behalf of those who contributed. Should any person desire his donation returned, his desire will be met if made known to the church officers. The building, however, is planned to be erected a little later.

W. A. Gressman, minister

Masked Halloween Dance this Saturday night.