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PERTINENT NEWS OF STATE WITH OUR OWN COMMENT

Measures to Reduce Cost of Government Introduced in Legislature.

COST OF ELECTION CUT

Judge Bryan Decides Against Ten Mill Tax Levy in Pocatello—New Process of Extracting Gold Discussed—Germans Make Success of Dried Potatoes.

The legislature seems determined to carry out the recommendations made by Governor Haines in regard to economy. Bills looking to the cutting down of expenses have been introduced and many of them will be enacted into law. A measure has been introduced by Senator H. C. Baldrige of Canyon county which it is said will effect a saving of at least \$25,000 per year to the taxpayers of the state. This bill provides for the compensation of election judges and clerks at the rate of \$2.50 per day instead of \$4.00 as at present. It also limits the time that such election officers shall serve to two days. At present the two-day limit does not exist. Senator Baldrige states that his measure would have saved the people of Canyon county \$2,000.00 during the past year. This particular bill or one with the same purpose in view will be enacted into law.

Another bill will be introduced looking to the reformation of the registration laws. The legislature, as well as the people, is convinced that registration for every election is entirely unnecessary. This useless expense can be greatly reduced. Registration should not be compulsory oftener than once every ten years, except for new voters and those who change their residence. The fees could be entirely eliminated by having the county auditor attend to the registration and making it possible to register at any time during the year. The present plan of chasing electors should be done away with entirely. If the voter does not care to go to the court house in order to qualify as an elector the public will not suffer to any great extent if he does not vote at all. The cost of elections has increased by leaps and bounds. Elections are becoming more frequent and the expense greater for each election. We are convinced that elections are held too often, but see no practical way of lessening the number. The legislature must effect reformation by making the cost of each election less.

Other Proposed Laws.

Already a great many bills have been introduced. Among the most important are those to control expenses of municipal government; to benefit taxpayers; and to reduce the legal rate of interest. The first bill mentioned was introduced by Ferguson of Bannock and provides that at the adjournment of each session of a city council or board of trustees the board shall cause to be published the amount of any bill allowed and the name of the person to whom it was allowed. Within 20 days after the publication of the bill allowed any person may take an appeal to the district court and the judge is required to hear the appeal as soon as possible. If the court is of the opinion the appeal was taken in good faith no costs may be entered against the person who appealed. The second measure provides that the county assessor notify each taxpayer what of his property is listed and what figure it is assessed. The bill requires that such notices must be mailed on or before the first Monday in July, and sets the date when the board of county commissioners shall meet as a board of equalization. The object of the measure is to give every taxpayer the right to make an appeal before the state board of equalization in case he deems the assessment unreasonable. The third measure, also introduced by Ferguson, reduces the legal rate of interest from 12 to 7 per cent. It also provides that a judgment on a note shall not bear interest at a rate to exceed 7 per cent.

The legislature has also passed a resolution in favor of an amendment to the constitution of the United States providing for the direct election of United States senator. The members of the legislature feel satisfied that the proposed amendment to the Constitution will be made and that this session will be the last to elect senators.

Borah Asks for More Money.

The Committee on Irrigation of the United States senate has favorably reported a bill introduced by Senator Borah authorizing an additional loan of \$30,000,000 to the reclamation service by the federal treasury. Senator Borah has also notified the same committee that at the next congress he will advocate a vital change in the reclamation law. He proposes that settlers be relieved of the burden of repaying to the government the cost of reclamation projects. It is too early to pre-

dict the fate of Senator Borah's proposed amendment to the reclamation law. He must feel that he has a fair chance of successfully accomplishing his purpose.

A great many people have thought all along that settlers on government reclamation projects would never be called upon to pay for the projects. The government has expended money for the benefit of states and communities in the past without expecting to be paid back. Rivers and harbors have been improved and frequently, we fear where there were no such rivers and where there were no such rivers and lions of dollars in an effort to control the Mississippi river. Other internal improvements have been made from time to time by the government, but until the passage of the reclamation law a return of the money expended to the government was never thought of. The policy of the government should not be changed by the reclamation law. The settlers on government reclamation projects should receive their water free of cost. We all know that the arid states have received little consideration in the past. As eastern men of affairs are becoming better acquainted with western conditions they are inclined to take a broader view of our needs and requirements. They will be more inclined to look favorably upon Senator Borah's measure than they were a decade ago.

Can Extract Flour Gold.

The extraction of fine gold from placer grounds and the saving of the finer gold of the black sands of Snake river has been one of the dreams of miners and scientists for years. Up to the present time no scientist has been able to extract the gold profitably. The Idaho Falls Register claims that E. C. Rowden of that city has successfully succeeded where so many others have failed. Mr. Rowden has devoted the better part of 20 years to a solution of the problem. He has evolved a method that is practical. It has been tried out on a commercial scale in Southeastern Idaho and found to be profitable. The details of the process have been kept secret, but from well authenticated sources the fact has been established that in a plant constructed in 1,000-ton units 65 per cent

(Continued on page five.)

MEET TO DISCUSS TAX REDUCTION

Wednesday about fifty delegates from the various districts of the county met at the court house with the county commissioners to discuss the matter of taxation.

Mr. Harland, state master of the Grange, presided. Various addresses were made by those present, discussing conditions obtaining and many were the changes in our present system which were advanced with the sole idea of lowering the rate of taxation.

The Payette Commercial Club in conjunction with the grange had prepared several recommendations, among which were the abolishing of the office of probate officer, platter, and care in the making of appropriations by the commissioners.

The majority of those present were agreed on the proposition of doing away with the office of probate officer, although it seemed that the idea that the office was costing the city several thousands of dollars annually was the principal reason for this feeling, while as a matter of fact the office has never cost more than \$1,800 in any one year; the present only about \$1,600.

The matter of the platter did not receive any attention at the hands of the meeting. The assessor states that he is the platter and that in the last two years he has expended about \$500 in securing new plats of rough country, which he deemed a very good investment, and one that was required by law.

After much discussion it was found that the probate officer is appointed by the Probate Judge—or not, the matter of having such officer being entirely to his discretion. The meeting then passed a resolution asking the Probate Judge to let the office go vacant the coming year, and a committee consisting of Messrs. H. W. Dorman, R. W. Stoughton, and R. S. Madden was appointed to wait upon the Probate Judge and make known their wishes.

Other measures of economy discussed were the abolishment of the state immigration bureau and a new law by which each political party would have to stand the expense of conducting its own primary. The primaries in Canyon county in connection with the last general election cost about \$4500.

W. A. Coughanour raised a laugh by declaring that such a law would save him money, for under the present conditions it would not be worth while for Democrats to hold any primaries.

Upon motion of Mr. Albert of Payette, a committee consisting of Messrs. R. S. Madden of Caldwell, Finley Monroe of Emmett, J. S. Scritchfield of Fruitland, B. L. Johnston of Nampa, and W. A. Coughanour of Payette was appointed to draw up a resolution recommending certain

\$30,000,000 LOAN CHEERS BLACK CANYON

Senator Borah Making Good on Promises of Help for District.

CAREY ACT ALLOWED

Interior Department Allows Application to Carey Act 15,000 Acres Under the District—Affairs Look Very Much Brighter—If Loan Bill Goes Through Work Will Start Soon.

It begins to look as though through the efforts of Senator Borah the affairs of the Black Canyon Irrigation District will in the near future assume a very encouraging look.

Tuesday of this week the senate irrigation committee ordered a favorable report on the bill authorizing an additional loan from the federal treasury of \$30,000,000 to the reclamation fund. It is confidently expected that the bill will receive favorable consideration, and that the government will take up the Black Canyon proposition as soon as the money is available.

Carey Act Segregation.

According to one of the directors of the district, word was received Wednesday that the Interior Department had approved the Carey Act Segregation of 15,000 acres within the district.

By this action of the department the settlers are relieved of a heavy burden of residence until the affairs of the district assume such shape that water is available.

The Black Canyon Irrigation district embraces nearly 200,000 acres of some of the best land in the state. The lands are in the hands of an exceptionally fine class of settlers and the placing of water on the tract will mean much to the welfare of the community and give a decided tone to the confidence investors feel in the section.

much-needed legislation looking toward greater economy. This resolution is to be handed the Canyon representatives in the state legislature. Mr. Coughanour suggested that if the legislation needed were to be embodied in bills already prepared, that some legislator might be induced to introduce them and perhaps something might come of the matter.

H. W. Dorman, president of the Caldwell Commercial club, suggested that each district collect a certain amount of the sum necessary to defray the expense of drawing the needed bills.

Probation Officer Already Appointed.

When the committee waited upon Probate Judge Harger, they found that they were too late, the Judge having appointed Tim Driscoll Probation Officer on Monday last.

All our watchwork is absolutely guaranteed—F. A. Harmon, Main Street Jeweler, Caldwell. (Adv.)

BRADY LEADS IN SENATORIAL FIGHT

The vote yesterday on the United States senator to take the place made vacant by the death of Senator Heyburn resulted in a slight gain by Brady. Speaker French of Canyon deserted the colors of Ailshie and went over to Brady, as did Johnson of Oneida. Chandler of Clearwater and Parks of Blaine for some reason found the Brady standard more to their liking the Beale insignia. This brought the total for Brady up to the high-water mark—27.

To offset his loss of French and Johnson, Ailshie welcomed Deffenbach and Elliott of Bonner, who came over from French, keeping his total vote the same as yesterday.

There seemed to be a strong indication throughout the day that the North would get together and cast a nearly solid vote for Ailshie today. If the North fails to agree on one candidate and force an election tomorrow, there is growing sentiment in favor of breaking the deadlock with Dewey. The Dewey stock has been steadily going up for the past few days and he seems to be a good compromise between the two strongest factions in the fight.

The defection of Speaker French to the Brady camp is thought to be because of a strong pressure being brought to bear from the Bull Moose adherents. A petition is being circulated in Caldwell asking that the Canyon delegation cast their vote straight for Brady.

DORMAN IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CLUB

Commercial Club Holds Their Annual Election of Officers.

GIBBONS SECRETARY

Vote of Thanks to President J. W. Gue for Splendid Work Accomplished—Financial Condition of Organization Very Satisfactory—Directors Elected.

At the regular annual meeting of the Commercial club, held Monday evening, H. W. Dorman was elected president, and M. H. Gibbons re-elected secretary-treasurer for the ensuing year.

The meeting was one of the largest and most enthusiastic ever held. Preceding the business of the meeting several wrestling matches were put on for the amusement of the members through the courtesy of Jack Gordon. Mr. Gordon, a 210-lb strapping, gave a splendid exhibition of the art, taking on several of his pupils. The event taking real precedence was three bouts between Masters Breshears and Stovel. The lads were very evenly matched and gave a very creditable account of themselves. At the end of the last bout someone threw a coin on the mat for the lads and soon a veritable shower of silver descended upon the little contestants.

After the bouts were concluded the regular business of the election of officers was taken up. President Gue made a short address in which he briefly reviewed the work of the club during the past year, reading a condensed financial report, which showed the club to be on a sound foundation. The membership has increased the past year most satisfactorily, thanks to the untiring efforts of President Gue and Secretary Gibbons.

H. W. Dorman was elected by a unanimous vote as successor of Dr. J. W. Gue as president, and W. P. Lyon, cashier of the First National Bank, was elected vice-president. For directors Messrs. C. J. Westcott, Dr. J. W. Gue, Dr. F. M. Cole, T. S. Jackson and A. A. Binford were chosen; all men prominent in the business and professional life of the city.

For secretary, R. B. Scatterday in a few well-chosen remarks nominated M. H. Gibbons. C. S. Doan seconded the nomination, calling attention to the splendid work which Mr. Gibbons has done for the city in the brief time which he has been in the office. Several others added a few words of commendation, and Mr. Gibbons was elected without a murmur of dissenting voice.

Dr. Gue was tendered a vote of thanks for the work accomplished through his help and direction during the year. In his address Dr. Gue spoke in part as follows:

"During the year 1912 the Commercial club has brought to a successful conclusion many things of the utmost importance to the citizens of

Caldwell and tributary territory. Thousands of letters have been written to prospective settlers; good roads have been built; electric railway development encouraged, and legitimate enterprises of every character have received moral and in several cases financial assistance.

"The most important accomplishment of the club during the year was the securing the right of way for the Caldwell Traction Company's extension to Snake river. The extension of this line has and will in the future mean much to the business men of Caldwell. It took one of the right-of-way companies in the mountain country and a section that from the impetus given it by cheap transportation facilities is developing rapidly. Through the building of the Sebree road residents of the fertile Gem district have been brought into close communication with the business men of Caldwell and trade relations have been firmly established. The importance of the road to Caldwell and her interests can not be too strongly emphasized. The company plans several extensions for the near future. The most important of these is the building of the road to Jordan valley, and this will probably be the first of the extensions built. A branch will also traverse the Gem district. Several other improvements are yet in the formative stage, and the company officials have made no definite announcement regarding them.

"The work of the club has not been confined to the encouragement of electric railway builders. Hundreds of dollars have been spent in repairing and in construction wagon roads leading into the city. Notable achievements in this respect are work done on the Henderson Ferry, Peaceful Valley, Greenleaf and the good roads program now being worked out under the direction of Mr. Vassar.

"With the co-operation of the Caldwell banks the Commercial club greatly aided in the stocking of the farms in the vicinity of Caldwell with high grade dairy cattle, adding much to the welfare of the farmer and to the prosperity of the city. The campaign conducted by the club resulted in the farmers purchasing approximately 700 head of dairy stock. To the banks of the city, however, belongs much of the credit for the successful conclusion of the plan.

(Continued on page five.)

THIRTEENTH ORGAN RECITAL

Federic Fleming Beale, organist at the Methodist church, announces the regular organ recital for January to be given next Sunday afternoon, the 19th, at four o'clock. There will be no soloist but the program offered contains much enjoyment. The recitals are free, though a silver collection is taken. Mr. Beale has just returned from the East where he played on a number of organs, and in his opinion the organ in Caldwell compares most favorably with any of them, large or small. The program for next Sunday is given below.

1. Chromatic Fantasy.....Thiele
2. (a) Prelude.....Rachmaninoff
(b) Ave Maria.....Gounod
(c) Angelic Voices.....Batiste
3. (a) To a Waterlily.....MacDowell
(b) A Sea Song.....MacDowell
(c) In Nomine Domini MacDowell
4. (a) Cantilene Pastorale.....Higgs
(b) Under the Leaves.....Thome
(c) Torchlight March.....Guilmant
5. (a) Fanfare in D.....Faulkes
(b) Festal Postlude.....Faulkes

DODGES DEATH BY 10 SECONDS

George Glenn, a lineman in the employ of the Bell telephone company here, had a narrow escape from death by electrocution Wednesday. Glenn was working at the top of a 40-foot pole near the Caldwell Mill on Fifth avenue, assisting in taking down a number of telephone wires which the company is replacing with a heavy cable. In some way one of the wires which he was handling came in contact with a high tension light wire, establishing a circuit which sent a high voltage of electricity through his body. Kept from falling from the pole by his safety belt and unable to free himself from the live wire, Glenn must have soon succumbed to the shock. His predicament was discovered by a fellow workman who immediately climbed the pole to his assistance, cutting the wires and lowering the unconscious lineman to the ground. It is believed that ten seconds more contact with the current would have resulted in Glenn's death, but owing to aid reaching him just when it did, he suffered nothing more than a severe shock and will be able to return to work in a day or two.

FIGHT ASSESSMENT UN-PATENTED LANDS

Payette-Boise Water Users' Association Holds Annual Meeting.

FORM NEW DISTRICT

Sentiment in Favor of Forming Irrigation District of Lands Not Now in any Such Organization—Will Join Lincoln County Settlers in Fight Against Unjust Taxation.

The annual stockholders meeting of the Payette-Boise Water Users' Association was held Monday of this week, about 100 stockholders being present.

Professor Shinn was elected chairman and J. H. Root, of Peaceful Valley, secretary.

Upon investigation it was found that 89,607 votes were eligible, it requiring 44,804 for a majority. Only 25,272 votes being represented, no election could be held and the meeting was adjourned until the first Monday in February.

The meeting was thrown open for informal discussion of matters of interest to the association.

The first thing brought up for discussion was the matter of taxes on which final proof had been made, but for which no patent had been issued. Mr. Haybaugh of Greenleaf, was appointed a committee to confer with U. S. District Attorney Lingenfelter of Boise with a view of combining the interests of this association with those of the settlers of Lincoln who are now in litigation over the same affair.

Much talk regarding the advisability of forming the lands under the project which are not now in any irrigation district into an organization of this character. The directors of the association at their November meeting authorized Walter Griffiths to draw up a petition to be submitted to the Board of Directors praying that such action be taken. Mr. Griffiths has had several conferences with officials of the Reclamation Service and the Nampa-Meridian District. The Reclamation officials have given him ample assurance that they will render all assistance possible in the formation of the desired district. The matter will be taken formally at the February meeting.

There are many reasons why the formation of an irrigation district would be advisable, chief among which is the fact that the association would then have complete control of the project.

Board of Directors Meet.

Following the stockholders' meeting the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was had, eight of the eleven directors being present. Director E. W. Munson has moved to California; A. P. Jacobs of Kuna has been sick with an attack of typhoid fever for a couple of months; and J. W. Brandt of Nampa was unable to be present.

The directors took up the tax proposition discussed at the stockholders' meeting and appointed Director C. M. Rankin and Stockholder George Clason as a committee to assist Mr. Maybaugh in placing the matter before Mr. Lingenfelter.

Mr. Griffiths reported that the Supreme Court would in all probability render a decision on the Pioneer Irrigation District bonds not later than March and that the government would at once begin operations on the drainage system if the decision was favorable.

President Bradley reported that in the west end of Fargo district there was a basin containing between 300 and 400 acres that is without drainage. The farmers have attempted to do the work, but have found it beyond their means, notwithstanding the fact that the government has rendered aid to the amount of \$1,000.00 in materials which included 1,000 feet of drain pipe. There is a long cut of 17½ feet which makes the proposition a very difficult one for the settlers to work out themselves. The government will be asked to render further aid and provide a foreman to oversee the work.

Mr. Weeks was appointed a committee to take the matter up with the Reclamation officials.

Mr. Sower, watermaster at the Lower Dam, reported that the weather had caused a stoppage of the work of concreting the Deer Flat Law Line and the Golden Gate canals, but that a few days of good weather would permit of a resumption of the work and the canals would soon carry plenty of stock water.

BOISE VALLEY PIONEER DIES AT MIDDLETON

George B. Smith of Middleton, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Maybee in Middleton, yesterday morning of dropsy. Mr. Smith was a pioneer. Leaves five children, two boys, and three girls. He had made his home with Mrs. Maybee for some time.

Funeral will be held this afternoon under the direction of the Jones Furniture and Undertaking company.