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BIG IMPROVEMENT PLANS INCREASE STATE EXPENSES

John D. Robertson Makes an Analysis of State Tax Levy and Appropriations--Big Road Levy Heretofore Raised by Bonds.

Of the total appropriations made by the last legislature at least \$1,200,000 was for improvements and not in the nature of ordinary expense for the state government, but rather an investment for the future, says an analysis of state taxes prepared by John D. Robertson, state tax expert and former state senator from Washington county.

The fact that the state had reached its bonded indebtedness limit and that the \$2,000,000 necessary for the state's road building campaign had to be raised by direct taxation instead of a bond issue as it would have been done in another item pointed to as swelling the 1919 appropriations above the ordinary.

Speaking of the cause for increased cost of operating the state government, Mr. Robertson says:

It is not in the salary of your elective officers. They are receiving the same old salaries. We do find an increase in the pay of the help employed, but when you consider the increased cost of living the cost is not in proportion. At the present time the average employe is not receiving the same wage as the ordinary laborer, and you must admit that it requires time and study to qualify for these positions.

Supplies, such as stationery, books and so forth, have greatly increased in cost. Travel expense of those whose duties require them to visit different parts of the state has increased 50 per cent. We find that same increase true in all charitable and penal institutions. Where the individual buys one pair of shoes we have to buy a thousand. The same rule holds true as to food and clothing.

Where is the business man, farmer or head of a household who will claim that the cost of operation of his business or farm, as well as the expense of his household, has not increased more than 25 per cent in the past two years.

"When you and I are compelled to pay double, can you expect the state to get its help and supplies at the same old figure?"

"We find that in some departments there has been considerable increase in their appropriations, be we find also that there has been increased duties imposed upon them. As an illustration, I give the public utilities commission.

Their appropriation was more than doubled that over 1917-18, for the purpose of enabling them to make physical examination of some of our public utilities to determine the value, so that they might intelligently fix rates that the utility might charge the public. To further emphasize the thought the legislators had in mind, that of service and efficiency, and that point should not enter into their calculations, I call your attention to the fact that the ma-

jority of the commission is Democratic."

Some interesting comparisons between the levy of 7.8 mills in Idaho and the levies in other states are made by Mr. Robertson.

Idaho's levy was increased from 2.2 mills to 7.8 mills. The state of Washington which has a valuation basis nearly the same as Idaho's increased its appropriations 47 1/2 per cent and its levy to 10.4 mills. The state of Oregon increased its appropriations 27 1/2 per cent; Utah 26 per cent; Arizona 71 1/2 per cent; Wyoming 26 2-3 per cent.

Some of the improvement appropriations which Senator Robertson points out as contributing to the unusual expense that came upon the state during the biennium are as follows:

University of Idaho—Building, fire system and other improvements, \$122,488. The growth of this institution demanded that a certain amount of building be done to meet their wants. Of the above amount \$48,127 were deficiencies due to past administrations that the legislature considered the state was in honor bound to pay.

Albion Normal—The growth of this institution required an appropriation of \$50,000 for buildings and heating plant.

Lewiston normal—Owing to the destruction of the administration building by fire, it became our duty to replace the same. An appropriation of \$150,000 had to be made. The insurance money which should have been considered as a sacred fund, was spent for ordinary expenses of the state, necessitating this administration raising the total amount by direct taxation.

Idaho soldier's home—This is another institution that went to reduce our taxes. The \$29,000 insurance money which should have been considered as sacred to the use of the old soldiers was used for the ordinary expenses of the state.

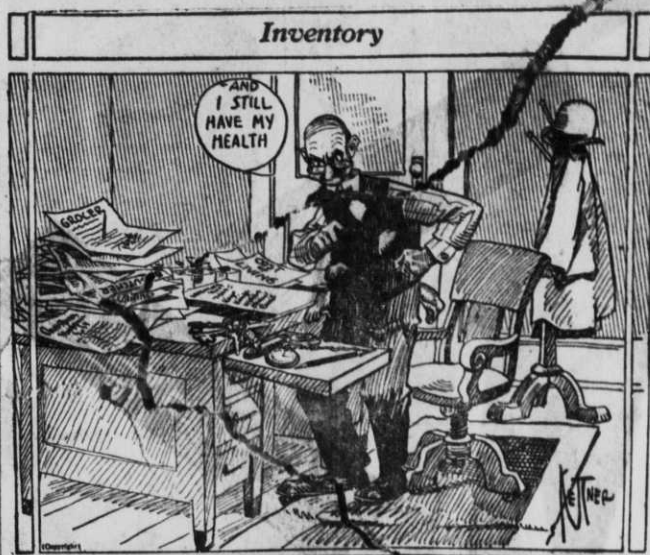
The United States government advised our authorities that it contemplated using the Boise Barracks (where the old soldiers are housed) for a hospital for tubercular patients. It devolved upon the legislature to rebuild that which had been destroyed by fire. To replace the buildings and improvements an appropriation of \$46,900 was made.

Idaho Industrial Training School—Appropriation of \$67,000 was made for a separate building for girls.

North Idaho asylum, Orofino—Improvements, \$9,000.

Blackfoot asylum—Appropriation of \$15,800 for a hospital building and furniture; and \$10,000 for clearing 500 acres of land, which was in

(Continued on last page)



BOOSTERS HAVE GOOD TIME AT SECOND BANQUET

The second monthly banquet given last Tuesday night by the Boosters' club was attended by 54 of the representative men of the city and county.

On account of the limited space in the dining room of the Burgoyne cafe, Manager Hillier very graciously permitted the tables to be set in the hotel lobby. This made the serving much more convenient. The menu provided by Jack Cornish of the cafe was even more elaborate than the one furnished at the first banquet.

After all did ample justice to the good things to eat, Dr. Ashley, acting as toastmaster, called upon Judge Gough, who responded in a pleasing ten-minute talk. He complimented the club on the work it had accomplished in the past year and referred to a number of things which the club should endeavor to push in the future. Principal among these were the securing of rural mail routes running from Montpelier to the various settlements in the county, completion of the state highway, Georgetown to the Bigway from line and the same to the county roads, leading to the state highway.

The judge's remarks were received with hearty applause. The speaker of Georgetown, was the next to speak. He spoke of the growth that Montpelier had made in the past few years, and the fact that it was the recognized commercial center of Bear Lake valley. He also called attention to the need of more homes in the city to accommodate those who desired to come here to live. He urged the members of the club to help in the effort to build the city, and the school board in its efforts to give Montpelier good schools. The people of a large section of the county are looking to Montpelier, said Mr. Clark, as the place to educate their children after they leave the eighth grade, and also as a place for amusement. Along this line he suggested that the club make an effort to inaugurate a half-holiday during the coming summer, and to provide clean sport and amusement for the people on those days.

Mayor Hoff took occasion to thank the club for the hearty support given the city administration at the bond election last week. He also stated that the administration was working out the details for paving Main street this season, and hoped for the hearty co-operation of the club in carrying this needed improvement to completion.

Dr. Ashley commented Mr. Clark's remarks in reference to the public schools. He stated that the three school buildings are now crowded to the capacity, there being a total enrollment of 807 pupils. Although the school fees are now high, he felt that they were paying this tax freely. He felt that it would be only a matter of a few years until it would be absolutely necessary to bond the district for the purpose of erecting a modern high school.

Secretary Trowbridge of the club stated that the membership numbered 70; that the club was out of debt and had \$1100 in the treasury, and that the indications were that the membership would reach forty thousand dollars a year in freight rates, which the merchants are now obliged to pay the jobbers in Salt Lake, Pocatello, Ogden and elsewhere. This saving in turn, should inure to the benefit of the ultimate consumers.

More power to the Boosters' club!

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The annual meeting of stockholders of the First National bank was held last Tuesday, G. G. Wright of Idaho Falls and Joe Kinney of Cokeville, being the only two stockholders from out of town who were in attendance. Aside from transacting other business, directors for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Tim Kinney, G. G. Wright, Joe Kinney, John R. Brennan and H. A. Sullivan.

Immediately after the adjournment of the stockholders' meeting, the board of directors met and elected the following officers: President—G. G. Wright; Vice-President—R. A. Sullivan; Cashier—R. H. Ferguson; Asst. Cashier—Lee S. Wedel.

In addition to being Vice President, Mr. Sullivan will act as general manager and will personally direct the operations of the bank in the future. However, his new duties will not relieve him of much of the daily routine of work.

The election of R. H. Ferguson to the responsible position of cashier was a just recognition upon the part of the directors of a worthy young man. Mr. Ferguson came to Montpelier, a stranger eight years ago and accepted the position of bookkeeper in the bank. By his efficiency and strict application to business he was elected assistant cashier four years ago and has held that position ever since. His advancement to the position of cashier, places added responsibilities upon him, and that he will discharge the duties of this important position with honor to himself and credit to the bank, no one questions.

In advancing Lee Wedel to the position of assistant cashier the directors also recognized the worth and merit of one of Montpelier's young men. With the exception of a year spent in military service, Lee has been a trusted employe of the bank for the past four years.

It is seldom that two men as young as Messrs. Ferguson and Wedel are given such important positions in a bank, and the honors that have been conferred upon them speak volumes for their worth, integrity and ability.

The directors were highly pleased with the report of the bank's business for the past year, and complimented all of the employes for the excellent condition of the records and for their faithful services.

At the rate the business of the bank is increasing it is a matter of only a year or two until larger quarters will have to be secured.

COUNCIL SELLS SEWER BONDS TO DENVER FIRM

At a special meeting of the city council, held last Tuesday night, the re-assessment bonds for local sewer district No. 1 were sold to the Wright-Swan Co., of Denver, their bid on 6 per cent bonds being par, or \$9,645.05, with accrued interest. Bids for the bonds were also submitted by Freeman, Smith & Co., of Portland, Baker & Ballard Co., of Minneapolis and Keeler Bros. of Denver. After considering the details of all the bids, the council considered the bid of the Wright-Swan company to be the highest and best.

The sale of the bonds had the effect of instilling real life and pep into every body present.

The spirit of real fellowship was much more apparent Tuesday night than it was on the occasion of the first banquet, and everybody went home feeling that it was good to have been there.

It was decided that at next month's banquet the members should bring their wives and sweethearts.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CROWDED TO THE LIMIT

Compelled to Use One Room in the City Hall for Class of Beginners--Pupils are to be Given Thorough Physical Examinations.

Since the beginning of school last fall most of the rooms in each of the buildings have been overcrowded. In many instances the children have been compelled to sit two in a seat. In one of the rooms in the high school building every single seat has had to accommodate two pupils. Under these conditions a teacher can hardly expect to get the best results.

The mid-year began last Monday with a consequent influx of new pupils. These could not be properly accommodated under the present crowded condition so it was necessary to send them home for the week. The board has made arrangements for these beginning to hold forth in the city hall. They are now attempting to secure a competent instructor and if successful these children will meet next Monday morning in the east room of that building.

It is to be hoped that the citizens of the district will appreciate the fact that a new building is very necessary for the welfare of their children. If a new high school building were constructed next year it is reasonably

certain that the enrollment in the high school would be double what it is at the present. Many young people who would come here to school are now going elsewhere because they can receive better accommodations.

At a recent meeting of the Montpelier board of education it was decided to ask the various physicians of the city to tender their services gratis in giving each school child a thorough physical examination. This will probably be done in the very near future. The results of this examination will be reported by the physicians to Superintendent Cummings, who will in turn report it to the parents of the children. The parents of children attending school here should co-operate with the board in thus safeguarding the welfare of the children, and when defects of any nature are reported the parents should see to it that their children receive the proper kind of treatment immediately. This is not an advertisement for the medical profession but a plea for the parents of this city to safeguard the health of their children.

NEARLY 200 FARMERS ATTEND BIG EDUCATIONAL MEETING

The meeting which was held in the hall of the Bear Lake Motor Co., Friday for the purpose of spreading the doctrine of better farming was attended by nearly 200 men, the most of whom were farmers and everyone present showed intense interest in the subject.

Mr. J. W. Paxman, former advisor of the Utah Agricultural college and a practical farmer of many years experience was the first and the principal speaker of the day. His talk was aimed towards creating more of an interest in farm work and it has been Mr. Paxman's experience that the best way to hold a man's interest in farming and to get the best results is to use the most modern methods—to take advantage of the agricultural experts have put in and follow their teachings—to use only the best and latest machinery on the farm—other words to make farming a business instead of a drudgery.

That Mr. Paxman knows whereof he speaks is clearly shown by the fact that he has won and holds the world's record for the production of wheat on dry farm land, he having grown 67.3 bushels per acre with only 13 inches of rain fall. He owns and operates 1500 acres of land near Nephi, Utah.

Other speakers of the day were W. T. Clapman, sales manager of the Fordson tractors, who spoke on the merits of these tractors and the advantages of using power machinery in farming.

L. C. Sloey, assistant manager of the Ford Motor Co., at Salt Lake, who gave a short talk on Ford service.

M. F. Henderson, representing the Fordson tractor plow department gave a discussion on plowing with mechanical power.

Fred Serviss, representing the American Seeding Machine Co., gave an excellent descriptive talk on the work of these machines and also laid much stress upon the value of power farming against horse power.

Three thousand feet of film were run showing machinery being used for almost every kind of motive power required on the farm. This film was very interesting and was an eye opener for practically every person at the meeting.

J. C. Olsen of Ovid received the 200 pounds of wheat which was given away.

A tractor school will be held by the Bear Lake Motor company in the near future for the benefit of any one who wishes to attend. This will be an excellent chance for the farmers of the valley to learn more about power farming.

A recipe for happiness? Fifty per cent sentiment and fifty per cent sense.

AMERICAN LEGION WILL MEET AT THE CITY HALL TONIGHT

What promises to be the most interesting session so far held by the local post of the American legion will be held at the city hall tonight. The members are requested to be on hand promptly at 8 o'clock.

A good program has been arranged for the meeting to be held tonight and after the program light refreshments will be served. The presence of every member is requested and all the ex-service men of the city are asked to attend and sign up with the Legion.

It was decided at the meeting of the post held two weeks ago that a drive for new members would soon be inaugurated. There is every reason that the Montpelier post should have at least twice as many members as it has and the boys are going out after them.

Legion members have also decided to get behind the Red Cross of Montpelier in putting on a big social dance for the benefit of the Red Cross and with these two worthy organizations working together the dance will be one of the big events of the season. The date of the ball will be announced in the near future.

TRACTOR SCHOOL IN THIS CITY ON FEB. 9, 10 AND 11

Beginning Monday, Feb. 9, a tractor school will be conducted by the Bear Lake Farmers' Society of Equity in Montpelier for the benefit of farmers who are interested in power farming. The school will continue for three days and will be held in the store of the Equity Society on Depot street.

Following are the subjects to be discussed: the tractor, the motor, fuel and carburetion, ignition and lubrication, cooling and tractor work, plows and threshers.

The school is free and if you are an engine operator or interested in gas engines it will pay you to attend all the sessions.

The farmers of the valley are especially invited to attend these sessions of the tractor school.

PAVILION COMPANY ELECTS OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR

At the meeting of the stockholders of the Montpelier Pavilion Co., held last Saturday night the following directors were elected for the ensuing year: T. M. Mumford, Louis Perkins, Milford Williams, W. J. Crockett, Harry Hull, W. O. Clark and H. H. Dalrymple.

The directors elected the following officers: President—T. M. Mumford. Vice-President—Harry Hull. Sec'y-Treas.—W. J. Crockett. Manager—W. O. Clark.

At a recent meeting of the directors a dividend of 13 per cent of the capital stock was declared.

MRS. MARY J. McCAMMON ANSWERS FINAL SUMMONS

Mrs. Mary J. McCammon died in this city last Tuesday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Chas. Gaskins. Death was caused from neuralgia, with which she had suffered for several years.

The deceased, whose maiden name was Houseworth, was born in Bucks county, Penn., on March 13, 1841. She grew to womanhood there and on Oct. 18, 1859, she was united in marriage to John McCammon. They came to Kansas in 1865, where they lived until 1876, when they came to Utah. They resided there until 1890 when Mr. McCammon took up a homestead near Georgetown. Two years later he passed to the Great Beyond.

Mrs. McCammon was the mother of 14 children, three being triplets—two boys and a girl—the first triplets born in the state of Utah. The three died in their infancy. The three surviving children are John and William of Georgetown, and Mrs. Gaskins of this city.

For several years Mrs. McCammon had made her home in Montpelier, living with her daughter for the past six months, owing to her failing health.

Short funeral services were held at the home of her daughter yesterday

afternoon and the body was taken to the home of William McCammon in Georgetown, where it remained until this afternoon when funeral services will be held in the Georgetown meeting house.

MONTPELIER TO BE WHOLESALE SALE JOBBING POINT

Representatives of the Pocatello Wholesale company have been in the city for the past week or so with the view in mind of establishing a warehouse and making Montpelier a jobbing point for Southeastern Idaho. They called upon the officials of the Boosters' club, and at a meeting of the board of directors with them, a resolution was passed to the effect that it was desirable to have Montpelier a wholesale trading center of Southeastern Idaho. An invitation was therefore extended by the club, to the Pocatello Wholesale Co., and others, to come to Montpelier with that end in view, offering to give them the club's hearty co-operation.

If this is accomplished, it is estimated there will be saved to Montpelier approximately thirty thousand to forty thousand dollars a year in freight rates, which the merchants are now obliged to pay the jobbers in Salt Lake, Pocatello, Ogden and elsewhere. This saving in turn, should inure to the benefit of the ultimate consumers.

More power to the Boosters' club!