

**Weekly Rogue River Courier**  
COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

A. E. Voorhies, Proprietor

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**WHY FARMERS PAY HIGH INTEREST.**

In the current issue of Farm and Fireside, the national farm paper, published at Springfield, Ohio, Judson C. Welliver, the Washington correspondent of that publication, writes an interesting article in which he shows how farmers have to pay high rates of interest in this country because they have no system of collective credits, such as have been developed for the benefit of farmers in certain foreign countries. The substitution of community credit for individual credit is what always reduces cost of interest. Cities borrow their money at lower rates of interest than individuals because they act as a community. Following is an extract from Mr. Welliver's article showing the rates of interest farmers pay in this country at the present time:

"Recently the department of agriculture investigated interest rates paid by farmers all over the country. It was found, through statements made by several thousand banks in answer to questions that on all loans to farmers, secured and unsecured, the average rates run from a trifle under six per cent. in most of New England, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, up to 10.57 per cent. in Oklahoma, 10.57 in New Mexico, 10.15 per cent. in Arizona, 10.13 in Montana, 10.70 in North Dakota, 9.97 in Texas, 9.48 in South Dakota, 9.98 in Georgia, 8.90 in Florida, 6.23 in Ohio, 4.67 in Indiana, 6.31 in Illinois, 6.88 in Michigan, 6.24 in Wisconsin, 7.93 in Minnesota, 7.21 in Iowa, 7.28 in Missouri, 6.86 in Kentucky, 8.28 in Tennessee, 8.26 in Mississippi, 8.33 in Louisiana, 9.67 in Arkansas, 9.37 in Wyoming, 9.24 in Colorado, 8.61 in Utah, 9.03 in Nevada, 9.92 in Idaho, 9.99 in Washington, 8.32 in Oregon and 7.44 in California.

"Broadly, banks accommodate their interest rate with reference to the average balance the borrower may be expected to carry in the bank. A business man borrows \$10,000 for ninety days. His experience with that man justifies the bank in expecting that his daily balances throughout that ninety-day period will average \$5,000; therefore it shades the rate of interest to him. But a farmer borrowing money is likely to take the entire amount away in his wallet, and to maintain a mighty unimportant balance during the period the loan has to run; then he will sell a bunch of hogs, cattle, or a bin of wheat, and with the proceeds pay the loan. Because of such conditions, the farmer must of necessity pay higher rates for his money, because, it might be said, he uses it harder."

**THE CITY TAX LEVY.**

The city administration is meeting with more or less criticism from the public because of the low tax levy made for the general expenses of the coming year. It is charged that the levy was based on political considerations, the purpose being to put the 1914 administration at a disadvantage by a shortage of funds. Figures are quoted by the present city officials, however, to show that the 6 1/2 mill levy for current expenses will suffice, and it is likely that it will be sufficient with the strictest economy, provided all the anticipated revenues are realized. But a long chance is taken when too much hope is based on this realization, for the city has never yet been able to make a clean balance of its credits, and the coming year will probably not break the record in this respect. Last year's

levy of nine mills was reasonable, and a levy of the same kind this year would have safeguarded the city's credit, giving ample cash to meet all expenses and to take care of certain obligations that have already been created. If it had brought more than enough cash into the city treasury, the surplus would neither have been thrown away or wasted. There is also much uncertainty concerning the amount of revenue that will come from the saloons, and with more of the dispensers of liquor in town than the business seems to justify, some may fall to produce the expected \$1,200. Furthermore, it seems a bit unfair to force the new administration to depend so much upon the saloon for cash for the everyday expenses of the city. It is running municipal finances on too narrow a margin, and as there may still be time to have the levy increased, it would seem the part of wisdom to make it a trifle more adequate. It would at least remove a potent cause for criticism.

**REJUVENATING THE G. O. P.**

One of the things that has brought most of discord into the ranks of the republican party has been the over-representation of southern states in the national conventions. States with but few republican voters have had a dominant voice in formulating the policies of the party and in naming its standard bearers, and it was this alone that was the cause of the breaking up of the party last year. A handful of politicians from southern states that never send a vote to the electoral college have named the nominee and have dictated the principles of the organization. It was the worst form of ring politics manipulated by carpet-bagging office-holders. The party suffered through the methods, and defeat last election was a natural result. If the defeat is to be the cause of a reorganization upon better lines, with conventions in which the states are each given proper representation, and in which honest majorities are to control, then the defeat becomes a victory.

The meeting of the national committee indicates that plans for the reformation of the party are to carry the day, and that again both wings of the party can come under the one standard. Bossism is to be eliminated, and delegates from north or south, east or west, are to be given an equal voice in shaping the destinies of the party. Without this the republican party as a potent organization cannot live. Rebuilt along these lines, there is no reason why it cannot be reunited and become both progressive and republican at the same time.

**THE ENLARGED HOMESTEAD.**

The 320-acre homestead law, or as it is often called, the enlarged-homestead law, has made possible the entry of many million acres of dry land in the western states in tracts double the size allowed under the original homestead law. Only land which has been "designated" by the secretary of the interior as "non-irrigable" can be entered under this act. More than 200,000,000 acres have been thus designated, but petitions and sworn statements requesting further designations are constantly being received.

In an interview just given out, Secretary Lane calls attention to the fact that there appears to be considerable misunderstanding among western homesteaders as to the procedure necessary in order that enlarged homestead designations may be made. The secretary states that only the simplest and most direct action by the settler is required, and that it is wholly unnecessary for him to incur the charges now made by attorneys who draw up formal petitions that are in fact no more effective than the homesteader's own letter would be. On this account a brief statement of the essential facts relative to the enlarged-homestead law is timely.

The first enlarged-homestead act was approved February 19, 1909, and as later amended provides that in

the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming any person who is qualified to make entry under the homestead laws may enter as much as 320 acres of public land which is in a reasonably compact body and is non-mineral, non-irrigable, unreserved, and unappropriated and does not contain merchantable timber. Before such entry can be made, however, the land must be designated by the secretary of the interior as not being, in his opinion, susceptible of successful irrigation at a reasonable cost from any known source of water supply.

No definite form of petition is required, but each application should be limited as far as possible to the specific tract desired for entry and should contain a description, by section, township, and range, of the applicant's original homestead entry and the date of this entry, as well as a description, also by legal subdivisions, of the land desired for additional entry. Information as to the possibility of irrigating the land should also be furnished and should include the distance and direction of the nearest stream of existing or proposed irrigation canal, the elevation of the lowest point of the land above such source of water supply, the depth at which water can be reached by wells sunk on the land, and all available information concerning attempts to obtain water by this method. The general character of the land, both of the homesteader's original entry (if he has made one) and of the land desired for additional entry should also be described, to aid the survey in reaching a decision as to its nonirrigability.

**VOTING THE ROAD BONDS.**

The people of Grants Pass and of Josephine county have never been so awake to the question of taxation as at the present moment. Several phases of the tax problem are now before them for solution, and that they are being studied by the individual citizen means that they will be settled intelligently.

On the 31st of the month the electors will determine by the ballot whether or not they want the county bonded for \$225,000 for the fundin of the present road indebtedness and for the construction of better high ways throughout the county. There is at the present time a warrant in indebtedness of about \$125,000 against the road fund. These warrants bear interest at the rate of six per cent., and the bonds will bear a rate of but five. Here will be a direct saving to the taxpayer from the interest item, as well as placing the indebtedness on a more business like basis. The balance of the fun will go to the immediate development of a permanent highway system, and while it will not at once put all the roads on a permanent basis, it will so improve all of them that the work can be carried forward with system and with lasting results. It will take care of the principal roads, the ones over which there is the greatest haul, especially of the Pacific Highway and the road through the Applegate and the Illinois valleys to the California line. The fund seems to be most wisely apportioned throughout all the various districts.

The immediate result of the favorable vote upon the bond issue will be to reduce taxes rather than to increase them, and to provide cash from outside sources to be spent in Josephine county in road building, repayment to be made twenty years hence, when there are many more people here to pay it than are now here. The better highways will aid in making the county richer and more populous, and therefore will in a large measure pay for themselves.

**SILVER MEDAL FOR HERO**

Washington, Dec. 17.—A silver medal was presented today to John Von Dalm, of the steamer General McDowell, by Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo. Von Dalm saved a soldier from drowning in San Francisco bay September 10 last.

**BURBANK'S METHODS**

Editor Courier:— Recently I was requested by Robert John, secretary of the Luther Burbank Society of Santa Rosa, California, to become a member of the society, and I was so favorably impressed with the purposes of the society and the list sent me of the life members that I accepted.

The purpose of the Burbank society is to spread the Burbank achievements "so that every man in the measure of his ability may be his own Burbank."

In a letter to me dated the 13th inst. the secretary says, "Mr. Burbank is no longer engaged in plant growing commercially, but is devoting his entire time to his creative work; since neither Mr. Burbank nor the society has anything to sell, as the society progresses it is intended to compile a list of his creations best suited to particular soils and climates and to verify the reliability of the nurserymen to whom the public may be referred. When at hand this information will be sent to you."

A few of the life members are as follows, to-wit: Luther Burbank, honorary president; Phoebe A. Hearst, Rollin D. Salisbury, Champ Clark, Helen M. Gould, James J. Hill, Frank A. Vanderlip, John Wannamaker, John Muir, John R. McLean, Henry E. Huntington, Hon. Wm. Kent, and Franklin K. Lane.

The immediate interest uppermost in my mind just now is the testing of the thornless cactus. The spineless cactus, Mr. Burbank says, has already shown its ability to outdo alfalfa five to one.

Mr. Burbank, graduating from his teens on a Massachusetts farm, the account says, discovered a way to have roasting ears from ten days to two weeks ahead of his neighbors, and the result was, says Mr. Burbank, "I averaged fifty cents a dozen for my sweet corn in an eager market when my competitors found the product two weeks later a drug on the market at ten cents a dozen." Of the discovery, Mr. Burbank says: "Before my neighbors or I could begin plowing I obtained fresh stable manure, which I mixed with leaf mould from the woods about half and half. While this mixture was moist and hot I placed the seed corn in it, mixing the whole mass together lightly. Thus I allowed it to stand until the seed had thrown out roots ranging from two to six, or even eight, inches in length; while the tops had made a growth of about one and a half inches. As soon as possible the land was prepared to receive the sprouted corn by making drills four feet apart. Along these drills this corn was dropped liberally, no attention being paid as to whether it was right side up or not. I then covered it about one-half inch deep. It was nothing unusual to find the corn up and growing the next morning. Some would show a very strong growth and some a weak growth; the weaker I would pull out after a few days, leaving the stronger ones about twelve to eighteen inches apart."

It was the success of this first experiment which turned the inventive genius of Luther Burbank into the channel of plant breeding.  
W. J. WIMER.

**SACRIFICE OF WIDOWS CONDEMNED IN INDIA**

Calcutta, Dec. 17.—The high court of Allahabad has emphasized its condemnation of the practice of "suttee"—the burning of a widow on her husband's funeral pyre—by increasing the sentences of two of the relatives of a woman who thus recently sacrificed herself. She was the widow of a wealthy Brahman and, according to the ancient rite, which has been prescribed by the Indian government since 1829, caused herself to be burnt alive on his pyre in the presence of the whole village, her relatives assisting at the ceremonies. Five of the latter were arrested on the charge of "abetting suicide" and were sentenced to imprisonment by the trial court. In their appeal to the high court they failed to substantiate the defense that the fire was lighted by supernatural means, the flames descending from Heaven, and the appeal was promptly dismissed and the increased sentence imposed.

Get the boy one of those curved handle, capped-hub boys' wagons at the Rogue River Hardware for Christmas. 12-12-2t

**THIS WILL INTEREST MOTHERS.**

Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children, a certain relief for Feverishness, Headache, Bad Stomach, Teething Disorders, move and regulate the Bowels and destroy Worms. They break up Colds in 24 hours. They are so pleasant to the taste Children like them. Over 10,000 testimonials. Used by Mothers for 34 years. They never fail. Sold by all Druggists, etc. Sample mailed FREE. Address, Allen S. Gimsted, Le Roy, N. Y.



Mr. and Mrs. Everyman:—

What is so nice as a beautiful home brightly lighted for the Christmas celebration! Then it is a Merry Christmas in a merry house. Come to us and make your house complete for the holidays. We have all sorts of unique articles of furniture that will be splendid for X'Mas presents. You can find no fault with our prices.

What makes a better X'Mas present than a Brass Bed? We have them in the Satin Finish priced from \$15.50 to \$22.00.

All sorts of Rugs. A new lot just arrived, come and see them; all prices from \$2.25 to \$35.

**McFarland Furniture Store**

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The prices offered at this sale WILL ASTONISH YOU. Goods will go at cost, for they must be sold. Everything in the way of diamonds, rubies, rings of all kinds, silverware, watches, clocks, and everything found in an up-to-date jewelry store.

Beginning December 17th. Come early and get your choice of these superior articles at this

**Great Bankrupt Sale!**

By Order of the Court,

**C. A. Sidler**

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IN LADIES' HATS, ALSO EVERYTHING IN MILLINERY GOODS AT SPECIAL PRICES FROM DECEMBER 19 TO DECEMBER 24.

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