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"Harmony in
Diversity"

PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

"Fore"

VOLUME I

PORTLAND, OREGON, OCTOBER 15, 1920

NUMBER 3

REPORTS OF LEGISLATIVE BUREAU

AS READ BEFORE CITY CLUB OCTOBER 8, 1920

INTEREST FIXING AMENDMENT

THIS measure is a proposed amendment to the constitution proposed by petition initiated by J. F. Albright of Oregon City. The amendment provides that the legal rate of interest in the State of Oregon shall be fixed at four per cent., and that the contract rate shall be fixed at not to exceed five per cent. If the amendment is adopted, the highest rate of interest that can be obtained for the use of money in the State will be five per cent., a rate which, under the most favorable conditions this country has ever known, would not be sufficiently attractive to compete with rates money can obtain in every other state in the Union.

Lenders, when seeking a market for their money, are far less impressed by delightful climate, beautiful scenery, and Utopian legislation, than they are by the interest return that can be obtained. When safety is unquestioned, the highest rate offered for money will undoubtedly attract it. At the present time Canadian and other government securities of unquestioned goodness, and standard Railroad and Industrial notes and bonds can be bought on a basis yielding from seven and a quarter to nine per cent. The highest type of investment known in this country, Liberty Loan Bonds, can be bought at a price yielding a rate of about one per cent, above the rate allowed in the proposed amendment. Even the normal rate

[CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR]

COMPULSORY VOTING AMENDMENT

THIS measure is a proposed constitutional amendment submitted by joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives. It is proposed to amend Section 2 of Article II of the Constitution of Oregon so as to permit legislation (by the legislature or through the initiative) to provide for compulsory voting.

The evident intent of the amendment is to compel the voters to exercise their privilege to vote or lose the right to do so. This feature of the measure is reactionary, as the modern trend of legislation, not only in this country, but throughout the world, is to extend the right of franchise, as experience has shown that the extension of the right of franchise is the safety valve through which political upheavals may expend their

force without explosion.

In this country the right of franchise has been continually enlarged since the adoption of the Constitution, and our courts have repeatedly held that restrictions upon the *right* to vote, as distinguished from the *manner* of voting, are contrary to the principles of our laws.

The only argument in favor of such a measure is that it will enable us to secure better laws and more competent officials by reason of a greater number of people taking part in their adoption or election. Such might be the case if by statute we could compel all voters to be informed on the candidates and measures pre-

**COME FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 15!**

HEAR

**Port Consolidation Bill
report to be read by**

F. B. LAYMAN

**More reports to
be read by**

CHARLES A. HART

PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

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sented. The people who now vote are the ones who have an opinion to express as to the merits of the candidates and measures on the ballot. They do not vote merely because they have the right to do so or because they consider it to be their public duty, but because they desire to register their approval or condemnation of the measures and candidates presented. The more a measure or candidate is advertised and discussed before election, the greater will be the vote cast for or against such candidate or measure, while a little known candidate or measure on the same ballot will receive a very light vote. This is because the average voter does not desire to favor or oppose measures or candidates about which or whom he is not in-

formed. A mere vote without some information or opinion behind it is of no value and cannot mean better officials or better laws. This measure would compel those who are not informed and who have no opinion as to the merits of the matters presented on the ballot to take a chance and vote anyway. It would be just as logical to decide elections by the flip of a coin.

ROOSEVELT BIRD REFUGE MEASURE

This measure is a bill proposed by petition initiated by the Roosevelt Bird Refuge Association, Portland, Oregon.

PURPOSE

As states in the official pamphlet, the purpose of this measure is as follows:

"To create a refuge for the native waterfowl of Oregon, and in memory of the late Theodore Roosevelt, request the National Government to designate such refuge Roosevelt Bird Refuge, by ceding and conveying to the United States the right, title, claim, and jurisdiction possessed

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following applications for membership will be submitted to the vote of the Club at the regular meeting on Friday, October 29.

LOUIS I. HERZ,

Deputy Collector, Internal Rev.

EARL D. WALKER,

Travel Dept., American Express Co.

WILFRED A. WHITE,

Civil and Hydraulic Engineer, North Coast Power Co.

C. W. MORDEN,

Mechanical Engineer, Crown-Willamette Paper Co.

JOHN McCOURT,

Circuit Judge

K. E. MACLENNAN,

Accountant, Northern Grain and Warehouse Co.

by the State of Oregon in lands within the exterior boundaries of and in and to the waters within Malheur Lake Reservation in Harney County, as set apart by executive order issued by President Roosevelt in 1908, for the use of the Department of Agriculture as a breeding ground for wild birds."

RECOMMENDATIONS

After careful and impartial consideration of the arguments advanced both for and against the enactment of the Roosevelt Bird Refuge Measure, support of the measure is recommended for the following reasons:

1. It is believed that the highest use of Malheur Lake will be achieved by its continuance as a game refuge and breeding grounds for wild fowl.

2. It is believed that this use can best be maintained and protected by placing complete jurisdiction within the Federal Government for the reasons that:

(a) It will prevent possible artificial drainage of the lake or other acts which would totally destroy the lake's superior value as a refuge and nesting grounds.

(b) The present unsatisfactory condition of divided authority and responsibility would be terminated, and full control would be vested in a single agency.

(c) The authority of the Federal Government is commonly given a greater degree of respect than either that of local or state bodies.

(d) The viewpoint of the Federal Government is national in scope rather than merely state-wide or local.

3. It is believed that the advantages, both tangible and intangible, which will accrue to the local community and to the people of the State as a whole through continuation of the lake as a refuge are of greater worth than considerations such as additions to the tax receipts or to the state school fund.

4. It will not interfere with the present or prospective use for irrigation purposes of all tributary waters to the fullest practical extent, nor to the present use of the lands between high and low water lines for the production of wild hay.

THE CITY CLUB IDEA

By Henry G. Huges*

THERE is a current impression—not without some foundation—that we are being "organized" socially, and otherwise, to the vanishing point. With more or less grace we support, morally and financially, temperance and housing organizations, park and playground associations, uplift, social, reform, trade, benevolent and civic societies. The subject of our story—The City Club—finds its home in the last named group. What is the meaning of this IDEA? what is its place in our modern civic society; and what deserts does its relative significance predict for its future?

The City Club is distinctly the "social club with a civic purpose." Where it is really the city's club it unconsciously guides public opinion in finding itself. Its forum acts as the civic

*Acting Secretary Cleveland City Club.

CITY CLUBS OF THE UNITED STATES

- City Club of Portland,
Portland, Oregon
- City Club of Baltimore,
Baltimore
- City Club of Boston,
Boston, Massachusetts
- City Club of Chicago,
315 Plymouth Court, Chicago, Ill.
- City Club of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati, Ohio
- City Club of Cleveland,
Cleveland, Ohio
- City Club of Kansas City,
Kansas City, Missouri
- City Club of Los Angeles,
Los Angeles, California
- City Club of Milwaukee,
Milwaukee Wisconsin
- City Club of New York,
55 West 44th St., New York, N. Y.
- City Club of Philadelphia,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- City Club of St. Louis,
St. Louis, Missouri

balance wheel. Here the real "citizen" learns that the idea or the person formerly representing, in his mind, the essence of antipathy, may after all, be "right" inside. The forum turns the container wrong side out, and the idea is exposed. Ideas, like surfaces, will never reflect until the light has been turned on them. By their reflections ye shall know them. The popular forum provides for post-prandial discussion—otherwise it is not popular. And if it is not popular, it is not a forum, for without successful contradiction Noah Webster has told us that the forum is "a natural place of popular assembly." Therefore, since the very existence of a City Club pre-supposes a forum, the City Club is the natural place for us to meet the thinking electorate. Otherwise it is not the city's club, and hence not entitled to assume the label—"The City Club."

Thus we can clearly understand how it is that the City Club Idea has ingrafted itself on the civic consciousness. As the kaleidoscope of public opinion it holds to itself all the virtues and has freed itself from all the vices possessed by such privately owned, axe-to-grind, institutionalized opinion-forming agencies as the newspapers and periodicals. Your jellified opinion will be furnished a backbone, and your opinionated vertebrae will be shocked into a modest respect for the opinion of others. Such a mental surgical operation is cheap at any price.

City Clubs may be divided, roughly, into two classes: militant and non-militant. The former "goes after" the city administration; the latter makes the administration come after it. Between these two extremes there are all sorts of degrees and variations. Some City Clubs have a long list of bi-partisan, untrained, non-technical, semi-interested and unwieldy investigating committees, whose function it is to "go into" public questions, public departments and public

A CITY CLUB IDEAL

The City Club brings together men who have a genuine interest in the social and economic welfare of the City of Portland, and, through earnest study, impartial discussion and united activities, enables them to cooperate intelligently and effectively in the work for good citizenship and good government.

officials. They report their findings to the board for endorsement and publicity. In City Club parlance this is known as militancy. Your City Club is more or less militant in proportion to its "consciousness" as just interpreted.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

INTEREST FIXING AMENDMENT

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE]

for money prevailing throughout the country will be, for years to come, higher than that permitted under the Constitutional Amendment in question. Consequently, if the amendment is adopted, lenders will not make new loans in Oregon, and loans already made will be called at maturity, and withdrawn from the State.

Under normal growth, the State will require, for many years to come, additional money for development purposes. If we are to develop new irrigation and drainage projects for the purpose of increasing our tillable acreage, and lumber and other industrial enterprises for the purpose of increasing pay rolls and making a more steady demand for labor, large amounts of new money must be obtained. It would be sufficiently unfortunate if this additional money were denied the State. How much worse would it be were any part of the amount now used in the State withdrawn. Supporters of the amendment think it means cheap money. In the opinion of the Committee, the adoption of the amendment would result in "no money" rather than "cheap money," which would immediately develop a very serious situation for all borrowers of money in Oregon, the principal classes of which are, of course, the farmers, home owners and business men. Wide depression throughout Oregon would inevitably result.

The Portland Journal, early in the year, charged that the intent of the backers of the proposed amendment was a dishonest one, and this charge has never been disproved. This charge alone, regardless of the economic demoralization, which the amendment's adoption would produce, ought to be sufficient to condemn the amendment.

In the opinion of your Committee, the members of the City Club should not only vote against the amendment, but should at once take an active part in spreading propaganda for its defeat, since there is a grave likelihood of the amendment's adoption.