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PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN



VOLUME III

PORTLAND, OREGON, NOVEMBER 3, 1922

NUMBER 6

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Hotel Benson, 12:10

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON DAY

A Description of the Work of Oregon's Great University

SPEAKERS

PRESIDENT P. L. CAMPBELL

University of Oregon

SUBJECT

"The Greater University"

ALSO

JOHN MAC GREGOR

President, Associated Students

EARL KILPATRICK

Chairman of the Day

*"SHOULD WE VOTE THE BRIDGE BONDS" . . . H. M. Parks, Chairman
Surprising Discussion by City Club City Planning Bureau*

There will be an atmosphere of college song and Oregon spirit at the meeting Friday that will stir memories.

*Every Oregon "Grad" in the City Club is Asked to
Serve on the Reception Committee.*

Next Friday

Music Week Program

Women Invited

Jeanette Boyer Xanten . . . *Soprano*

Sheridan M. Delepine . . . *Violin*

Margaret Laughten . . . *Flute*

Paul Petri . . . *at the Piano*

SPEAKER: JUDGE JACOB KANZLER

COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT ON 1927 EXPOSITION

WITH a reiteration of statements made in its report last Fall and with additional information in regard to the 1927 Exposition plans, the City Club Exposition Committee, consisting of Everett Babcock, Francis H. Murphy, R. E. Koon and Ellis F. Lawrence, chairman, presented its report to the Board of Governors on Monday.

The report was approved by the Governors

and is herewith published in the *Bulletin* for the information of City Club members.

The Report In Full

TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

In a report presented to the City Club on November 25th, 1921, the 1925 Exposition Committee set forth in considerable detail the many advantages which would result to the City and

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PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

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THE CITY CLUB

OF PORTLAND

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CITY CLUB OFFICERS

E. T. MISCHE *President*
DR. OTIS B. WIGHT *First Vice-President*
ELLIS R. HAWKINS *Second Vice-President*
DR. J. EARL ELSE *Secretary*
IRA T. WALKER *Treasurer*

GOVERNORS

L. D. BOSLEY
RICHARD F. SCHOLZ
C. W. PLATT
ROBERT R. RANKIN
DR. C. ULYSSES MOORE
GEORGE E. MURPHY

ROBERT W. OSBORN *Executive Secretary*

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following applications for membership have been received and will be presented for the approval of the City Club, Friday, November 10th:

H. E. DAVIS
Ex. Sec., Oregon Chapter, American
Association of Engineers.
O. G. EDWARDS,
Lawyer, 510 Wells Fargo Bldg.
J. B. FITZGERALD,
Editor, Four L Bulletin.
HENRY M. GRANT,
Executive Secretary, Oregon Social
Hygiene Society.
RAY MCCLUNG,
Editor, N. W. Wheat Growers' Ass'n.
EDWARD LAIRD MILLS,
Editor, Pacific Christian Advocate.

Applicants proposed by: W. H. Marsh,
C. A. Staver, E. R. Hawkins, Earl
Kilpatrick, C. G. Black, C. U. Moore and
invited to membership by the Membership
Committee.

EXPOSITION DISCUSSED

Exceedingly interesting was the discussion pro and con of the 1927 Exposition at the City Club last Friday by John Gratke, representing the affirmative, and Dr. Calvin S. White, the negative side of the proposed Exposition. Although not intended as a debate, the discussion was decidedly spirited and served to apprise the audience of both sides of the question.

Mr. Gratke, the first speaker, gave a concise history of the 1925 Exposition idea, the revised plans for the Exposition embodied in the state and city measures and the reasons for the advance of time to 1927. In his arguments for the Exposition, Mr. Gratke forcibly emphasized, that Oregon needed to advertise its resources and that the Exposition idea had been accepted as the best method for such advertising; that the holding of an Exposition was an opportunity for Portland to render a service to the state and that the Exposition would do for Oregon now what the Lewis and Clark Fair did in 1905. He also explained that the management of the fair would be in the hands of five commissioners to be appointed by the City Council and that the raising of the three million dollars by taxation was contingent upon a million being raised by subscription.

Dr. White stated in his objections, freely emphasized by cutting sarcasm, that the propaganda for the Exposition was misleading, that the state was not being safe-guarded against taxation to support the fair, that foreign nations would not be able to take part in the exhibits, that the city was already greatly overtaxed, that the electrical power development of the state was already sufficient to last several years; and, that as an alternative the City should exert its forces to improving its city plan, schools, stock show, state fair and other projects.

Have you visited the Health Exposition? Any City Club member who neglects visiting the Auditorium with members of his family this week will miss a real opportunity for a liberal education on the work of public health forces in the state and nation. The Exposition is off to a flying start and an attendance record is looked for.

The amount of committee work which is being passed to the Board of Governors for approval is a paramount indication that the City Club is serving its purpose in an exceptional manner.

EXPOSITION REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

State from the holding of a successful Exposition. What was true then holds equally true today.

Another feature of the report was the emphasis placed upon the shortness of time and the urgent need for an early selection of site as well as of the staff of artists, architects and engineers who are to have general charge of the Exposition planning, so that the best results may be secured. Great engineering projects and great architectural achievements cannot be hoped for without long and exhaustive study periods.

Since that report, almost a year has elapsed with apparently little progress having been made in arriving at a definite policy, and it would be physically impossible to properly plan and prepare for a creditable Exposition for 1925. The recent decision of the managing committee, however, to advance the date to 1927 removed this objection and places the City in even better position in that respect than it was a year ago. Furthermore, there would appear to be nothing in connection with the date "1925," in so far as it has come to the attention of the committee, which would be seriously affected by a change to 1927.

Technicality Defeats First Measure

Following the former report of your committee, the citizens of Portland voted, by more than 4 to 1, to raise \$2,000,000 by local taxation on the condition that the state vote a \$3,000,000 tax and that \$1,000,000 be raised by private subscription. At a special session of the Legislature called by Governor Olcott for December, 1921, the question of state participation was prevented from coming to a vote of the people by the action of the Senate in defeating a bill designed to submit to the people of the State a measure providing for the raising of the state's portion of the Exposition fund by a tax on gasoline. The vote stood 15 for and 14 against, one seat being vacant because of a recent death. The bill received a majority of the living scantors, but lacked one of the constitutional majority of 16. It was, therefore, lost by a technicality and the people of the state did not have an opportunity to express themselves upon the matter.

Another feature in connection with the defeat of the bill was that the question at issue was not the Exposition, but only the method by which the State tax was to be raised. While the opponents of the Exposition claim that the past history of the proposed Exposition, as has here been related, reflects the feeling of the state as

SPECIAL MEETING TODAY

There will be a special meeting of the Board of Governors, the Public Affairs Committee and the City Club City Planning Bureau at the Oregon Grill, Thursday noon, to discuss the Planning Bureau's report on the bridge bonds, which will be submitted to the Club on Friday. No member interested in the City's traffic problem and city plan, should miss hearing this report on Friday.

On Monday the Board passed on the Exposition Committee's report and arranged the special meeting for a further consideration of bridges. Members of the Committee on Education were also present to discuss a program of work.

The City Club Volley Ball team has begun practise. This is a game that is just as interesting for the novice as for the experienced player and requires no great amount of skill to play. If you want exercise and fun get in touch with Captain Johnson through the City Club Office.

Music Week next! Remember the program last year at the City Club and come next Friday. Women are invited. There will be no table reservations, hence, it will be necessary to come early.

against the holding of an Exposition, the proponents of the Exposition claim that the action of the Senate was a technical defeat of a method of taxation, not of the desirability of holding an Exposition, and that the only measure submitted directly to the people—the city bonding measure for support of the Exposition—was carried by an overwhelming majority.

Time Advanced Two Years

Since that time, the Exposition movement has largely marked time; the Chairman of the Exposition Commission has, however, in the meantime, made a trip around the World and made a personal investigation as to the amount of participation that might be expected from foreign nations for 1925, and he has returned with a discouraging report.

On the other hand, it is pointed out that since his return, the date has been advanced two years to 1927, that at the present time not less than 15 foreign nations are represented with buildings at the Brazilian Exposition, while 30 European nations are represented in some way or another. There is apparently no reason to feel that these nations—five years hence—will

be any less able to participate in *our* Exposition, nor are they likely to be any less desirous of so doing. Diplomatic reasons would naturally prevent them from giving any assurance until they knew that the Exposition was definitely financed and their countries had taken action on the matter.

There are two measures to be voted upon at the November election, both of which must be approved if the Exposition is to be held.

State Measure Is Authorization

The State measure is an amendment to the Constitution authorizing the City of Portland to raise by taxation a fund of \$1,000,000 per year for three consecutive years beginning not later than 1924, and to expend such fund as authorized by the legal voters of said city at any special or general election, in defraying the expense of holding an exposition within said City in the year 1925 or as soon thereafter as same may be arranged, and in defraying the expense of the representation of said City thereat. The purpose of holding said Exposition is the same as that given in the City measure which appears later in this report.

The measure also gives to the City, if unable to agree with the owner thereof for its purchase, the power to condemn, acquire, and appropriate the use or fee title of any land or property necessary to the holding and conduct of said Exposition. It furthermore validates any legislation heretofore or concurrently passed by the City of Portland relative to the holding of an Exposition in 1925, or as soon thereafter as is found expedient.

There would seem to be no valid reason why this measure should not pass, since it merely gives to the people of Portland the right to vote a limited tax upon themselves if they so desire, but it in no way commits the State to any financial support of the Exposition.

The City measure authorizes the City Council to levy a tax of \$1,000,000 per year for the years 1923, 1924 and 1925 contingent upon the securing of a bona fide stock subscription of not less than \$1,000,000 prior to the levying of any portion of said tax.

Council Would Appoint Directors

It requires the Council to elect a Commission of five persons who shall serve without pay and whose duties it shall be to represent the City in the selection of a site, and the construction and operation of the Exposition, and who shall have charge of the disbursement of all funds raised by taxation in the City of Portland for the purpose of holding an Exposition.

It states further that the purpose of holding

an Exposition shall be to disseminate knowledge respecting the resources, products, commerce, industries, and general advantages of the State of Oregon and of the City of Portland, and through the co-operation of the people of the United States and of foreign nations to promote the progress of science and the useful arts and to accomplish the educational, social and economic advancement of mankind.

The measure apparently provides a broad enough and valuable enough scope in setting forth the purposes of the Exposition to amply justify its being held; it states definitely how and when this tax shall be levied, as well as under what conditions; and finally it requires the Council to elect five representative persons who shall disburse these funds in accordance with the provisions of this measure and who shall serve without pay.

The measure is apparently very definite in its purposes, and while your committee has confidence that the City Council would at all times use its best judgment in the selection of five competent men to act as the Exposition Commission in case the measure carries, yet it believes that the cause of the Exposition would be very greatly strengthened at this time if the City Council would prior to November 7th name the five men whom it proposes to elect in case the measure is carried; otherwise than this, it feels that the measure is satisfactory.

Summary and Conclusion

In conclusion, your committee submits the following:

That the potential advantages of holding an Exposition are as great now as they were a year ago.

That the technical defeat of the Exposition bill in the State Senate was not a decision for or against the Exposition, but only upon the method of raising the tax.

That the loss of a year's time has been offset by advancing the date two years.

That the foreign representation at the Brazilian Exposition is ample justification for feeling that we could expect similar participation at our Exposition five years hence, when many of these same nations will be in better financial condition than they are now.

That the State measure in no way involves the State in any expenditures for the Exposition.

That the City measure apparently safeguards the manner in which the Exposition funds shall be raised and disbursed; and finally—

That in view of the above findings the Exposition Committee recommends that the City Club endorse both the State and the City Exposition measures with the request that the City Council publicly announce prior to the general election to be held on November 7th, 1922, the five persons whom it proposes to elect as the Exposition Commission in the event that these measures are carried.