

The COOS GUARDIAN

Vox Populi, Vox Dei.

VOL. I No. 14

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1934

PRICE THREE CENTS

Democratic Council Oppose Tax Payers

The City Council at its regular meeting this week again refused to prosecute the suit against the Bonding Company when given an opportunity by the Taxpayers Association. It will be recalled that this suit was originally instituted by the City under the Corbin administration and then dropped under the Coulombe administration. The Taxpayers Association took it up in the form of a motion to intervene and the superior court granted the motion. The Bonding Company accepted and took an appeal to the supreme court. The matter is now up for a hearing at the June session and a brief must be prepared. The matter was an issue in the last election and public sentiment favors the collection of that money. Moreover the City will get the money collected and not the Taxpayers Association, so it is only just that the City pay the bare expense of a brief and a trip to Concord for the oral argument. City Solicitor Ryan explained to the Council that one hundred dollars would be an ample sum. After some explanation by attorneys Ryan and Bergeron the motion was made by Councilman Tondreau and seconded by Councilman Moreau that the Council accept and grant the petition of the Taxpayers Association printed in connection herewith. The Democratic councilmen, however, being in the majority voted the petition down and could not give a valid reason for so doing. Why they should be so tender for a bonding company especially after the official in question has been still further discredited is hard to understand. The Association will prosecute the action nevertheless for the benefit of the City and the Council will go on record of forcing the taxpayers of this city to pass the hat to enforce the rights of the City just because the Council is not doing its clear duty of holding a defaulting official to strict accountability. The following is the petition presented to the Council of this City and rejected.

PETITION

To the City Council of the City of Berlin:

The undersigned citizens of Berlin respectfully represent that for the accommodation of the public there is occasion for the prosecution of the suit of the Berlin Taxpayers Association in the name of the City of Berlin against the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland said suit being now in order

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Don't Forget Workers Club
BIRTHDAY PARTY
STATE ARMORY, MAY 10
Legion Orchestra—11 Pieces
Admission 35c

Butler Flays War Makers

General Smedley D. Butler, speaking at the occasion of the National Commander of the V. F. W. James E. Van Zandt's visit to the local post, declared all wars to be "engineered by racketeers who after they have caused untold suffering throughout the land fail to pay their debts to those who have served on the firing lines."

At the open meeting, City Hall, which was attended by a capacity house, Commander Van Zandt and Major-General Butler very strongly advocated the immediate payment of the bonus and the restoration of the veterans' privileges which were removed a year ago through the lobbying of the National Economy League. Mr. Van Zandt explained his plan to form a veterans' commission to investigate and settle the case of all veterans of past wars and also to draft resolutions governing the pensions of veterans of wars to come. The National Commander pointed out the grants to the railroads and to contractors throughout the country to make up

for alleged losses suffered by these operators because of governmental control during the war; these payments which amounted well over two and one-half billion were settled immediately while the soldiers' bonus had been dodged until 1928 when half of it was made accessible to holders of Veterans' certificates.

In an interview the commander scored the Legion for its lack of cooperation with other veterans' organizations and laid to their activity the failure of passage of fair veterans' legislative measures.

The National Commander also pointed out the stand of the V. F. W., which, in his words, is a hundred percent with Labor. He scored the present trend of false pacifism that is permeating into our universities and declared that although the V. F. W. favors world peace, it stands for a new Americanism which will call for a strong preparedness policy.

Major-General Smedley D. Butler, when interviewed, declared that

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State Barbers Hold State Convention

An open meeting to which are invited all barbers in the state is scheduled for Manchester, Sunday, April 6. The organization committee has secured four speakers to discuss the barbers' situation and also the proposed code in the state. The committee urges every barber to attend so that if a code is signed it will meet with general approval. The meeting will be held at 52 Concord Street; Mr. Tosi, Mr. Desjardins, Mr. Schwartz, and Mr. Johnson will speak on the code.

A few of the local barbers plan to attend and will see that the Berlin barbers' interests are protected.

Coming next week: Workers Club Birthday Ball.

F. W. RAHMANOP JOINS PRESIDENTIAL MOTORS

Fred W. Rahmanop, mechanical engineer and former superintendent of the Burgess Mill, has joined the sales force of the Presidential Motor Company in connection with Oscar Dupont and Emmet Kelley.

Mr. Rahmanop came to Berlin in 1906 with R. B. Wolf as assistant to Mr. Wolf at the Burgess Mill. In 1912 he became superintendent of the Mill, which position he occupied until 1931 when he resigned during the reorganization of the Brown Corporation.

Mr. Rahmanop originally came from Chicago to Hudson Falls, N. Y., where he served as assistant superintendent until he accepted the Brown Company offer, in 1906. His announcement to enter the automobile business will be met with approval by his numerous friends.

Workers Club Votes to Uphold Demands

At the meeting held last Tuesday, the 1933 officers were re-elected to serve again. President Edward J. Legassie led the parade of the office holders who were returned to their positions. The other officers nominated and re-elected were Frank Moreau, Labor Councilman from Ward 3, to the Vice-Presidency; Ira Cole to the office of Secretary-Treasurer; and Emile Labranche as Recording Secretary.

The re-elected President then offered the Wage Increase Committee report. This committee which met with Mr. Paul Brown, Friday, April 27, were refused compliance with their demand and after a long conference with the Company officials who claimed it was impossible to raise wages at this time, were dismissed by Mr. Brown without having gained anything in the matter of wages and seniority rights. The matter of seniority rights was claimed to be impossible by Mr. Brown who declares that he cannot force a foreman to take back a man if this foreman deems him too old for a job.

Mr. Brown also declined to commit himself on the question of whether or not he would submit his side of the question to the State Labor Commissioner and an Arbitration Board.

There was also a discussion at this meeting of the Daylight Saving Time question; it appears that after an open mass-meeting had been

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J. H. MONTMINY CONFIRMED AS OVER- SEER TO THE POOR

The controversy which existed over the Overseer of the Poor appointment was finally settled last Tuesday night when City Solicitor Matthew J. Ryan reported that Mr. Montminy "having been duly appointed to office, the appointment could not be rescinded by the Council to the prejudice of any rights thereby acquired by Mr. Montminy." Therefore Mr. Montminy is the Overseer of the Poor for the coming year.

The report on the Taxpayers suit against the Maryland Bonding Co. in which it was question of the City taking over the suit was voted down by a 9-3 vote.

Councilmen Sullivan, Rumney, MacArthur, Ryan, Murphy, Halle, Malloy, and Sloane, (Democrats), and Lambert (Republican) voted no; the Labor councilmen, Barnes, Moreau and Tondreau, voted yes. The Taxpayers will now have to assume the expense of sending an attorney to Concord to appear before the Supreme Court where the Bonding Company has appealed the adverse decision rendered against it last Fall, in the Superior Court.

CLUB JOLIETTE FIRST ANNUAL SNOWSHOERS' BALL STATE ARMORY, MAY 3rd

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The COOS GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1934

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JOHN A. LABRIE

Whenever any irregularities are exposed in the administration of public affairs, people always express surprise. On close analysis it is surprising and hard to understand why officials "go wrong" when they do. Tracks left behind by defaulting officials are almost impossible to cover. Tampering with books and records or the lack of entries in the same generally come to the surface some time.

Public surprise is manifested in various expressions heard when the "trouble" is discovered. Remarks are made that the defaulting official "should have known better," that he was thought to have "more brains than that," that he was "foolish to do it," that one would never "have thought that of him," etc. This story is repeated every time some official gets into "hot water." It happens and the public is surprised.

That is not strange. We could not imagine a public officer that the people would expect to default in his administration. We always expect our officials to be regular. If the people did not have confidence in them they would not be there.

The element of genuine surprise is that the "trouble" was not discovered sooner. There is no evidence implicating anybody else but the books have been audited several times since the date of the first irregularity and apparently nothing has been discovered. Moreover the discovery was not made through extraordinary auditing devices but in the course of a regular audit. It seems therefore that in view of the length of time that this matter has been running that it should have been discovered much sooner.

It is also safe to assume that the people can credit the Labor Party and that had the Democratic machine remained in full control the matter would have remained dormant at least another year.

THE SHOE FACTORY

The Mayor's Committee on the Shoe Factory has made its return. The proposed contract between the City of Berlin and the Burtman-Rondeau Shoe Company is reported as illegal and the Council accepted the verdict.

If the writer is not mistaken there was no lawyer on the Mayor's Committee. We know of no report on the investigation by the City Solicitor. Neither do we understand that there was any discussion of that phase of the problem under the Coulombe administration.

It must be therefore that the Governor in Concord is the one who raised that objection, and the Governor controls the situation as he has the purse strings.

In this editorial no judgment is passed on whether or not the Rondeau proposition should be "thrown out the window," but objection is made to the reason assigned for tabling the offer.

Technically the contract is illegal in the sense that it is *ultra vires*; that is it is beyond the powers of the local municipal corporation to "donate" money to train shoemakers or erect shoe factories. Such is the law strictly interpreted. For illustration, as one writer puts it, "under the American plan of municipal government, the cities are permitted to remove ashes and cinders, but are not allowed to sell coal. They are empowered to pump sewerage out of the cities through 10-foot sewers, but they cannot pump gas into cities through eight-inch pipes. They can maintain fire departments but must not sell fire insurance. They are qualified

to conduct schools, but are incapable of publishing school books for their school children. They can pave and repair streets but cannot operate street railways, etc."

However, the law has always been extended to meet the demands of changing circumstances. Note the N. R. A. Before the depression all wage-fixing laws were unconstitutional which is a more serious thing than a mere *ultra vires* contract. Everyone approved the recent loans of the City of Berlin to the Brown Company to finance the latter's logging operations. Such financing is clearly banking and strictly speaking just as illegal as the shoe business. Yet no one raised that objection and it only occurred in the minds of lawyers and those informed.

Consequently if the shoe factory proposition is fair and sound, if a factory can be made to operate successfully, and if it is the "poor relief" measure that it should be, then the matter of its being "illegal" is no objection any more than it was in connection with the Brown Company.

To think that this city would have to remain overpopulated for the industry it has and thus saddle a relief burden on itself indefinitely just because a commonsense way out of it is illegal according to old legal notions is absurd. The power to appropriate money for poor relief can be extended by a liberal construction to cover the financing of new industry just as it was extended to cover the financing of old industry as in the case of the Brown Company loans. What difference does it make whether an industry is new or old? This argument should have been advanced at the conference with the Governor.

If the illegality objection is the only one in the way and the contract cannot be brought in "under the wire" as a relief measure, it is a simple matter to amend the charter of the City of Berlin to enable it to meet the necessary legal requirements in this matter. If the shoe factory is desirable it should not be lost on that score.

On and Off The Main Stem

With Dr. B. U. L. Connor

It was our pleasure to accompany Commander James E. Van Zandt to Franconia Notch on the occasion of his visit to our Northern Country. When we got to the Old Man, the Commander, who has visited 45 states, got out, peered at the old stone face, and said: "This is the most wonderful natural sight I ever have encountered." Even though he was due in Littleton instantly he spent five or ten minutes admiring God's gift to New Hampshire.

It has been our good luck to have occasion to hear some of the most brilliant orators in this country speak on different occasions yet never in our life have we ever heard one such as General Smedley Butler proved to be. His use of the contrast and his simple way of ingratiating himself into the hearts of his audience make him a true exponent of Demosthenes' art. But the quality of General Butler which made the biggest impression on the crowd was his outspoken frankness. His message, of such importance to the veterans and to Labor in general, certainly unveiled many vital truths. And the Reception Ball in honor of the eminent guests proved to be a great success. General Butler departed from his usual habits to enjoy one or two dances with an overjoyed and happy young lady, and Commander Van Zandt professed to be having a grand time. The Georgians furnished the music and their pleasing melodies added to the general gayety and joy of the occasion.

Well, fans, the lid is off the local
(Continued on Page 3)

ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

The subscriber has been duly appointed by the Judge of Probate for the County of Coos, administrators, with will annexed, of the estate of Edmund Sullivan, late of Berlin, in said County, deceased, testate. All persons having claims against said estate are requested to exhibit them for adjustment, and all indebted to make payment.

April 2nd, A. D., 1934.

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ON AND OFF THE MAIN STEM

(Continued from Page 2)
baseball season; the high school nine succumbed to the attacks of a strong alumni team last Saturday afternoon.

Candidates to Berlin's entry to the North Country League are already cavorting about the Y. M. C. A. field and are slowly rounding into shape.

And tonight is the First Annual Snowshoers' Ball when the Legion Orchestra will entertain the throngs who, with hope in their hearts, will congest the Armory where the lucky boy or gal will emerge possessor of that swell 1934 Plymouth.

Next week is the Workers Club Ball. Malou Lavoic's Band of a Thousand and One Melodies, or Pisani's Legion Orchestra will furnish the strainful rythms for this celebration of Berlin's fine organization's first Birthday.

Well according to the last reports the Legion Orchestra will furnish music for the Workers Club Ball. See you at the Armory Thursday, May 10.

BUTLER AND VAN ZANDT ARE HEARD IN BERLIN
(Continued from Page 1)

he would never again take part in an offensive war that is, unless he could be "shown it was not a Wall Street war." When questioned about disarmament he snorted "poppycock!" He is not interested in Mussolini's statements to the effect that Italy will eventually assume the preponderant place in the world. "In fact," he added, "I won't be living at that time."

General Butler opened his address in the evening with the statement that "all wars are rackets," and that usually it is "the rape of a small country by a larger one." "Because of the propoganda created by Wall Street owned newspapers," asserted the General, "soldiers always believe what Wall Street tells them. . . Anything you ever get out of the Federal Government is a ticket to the front line trenches."

Speaking on the bonus question, he declared that all the opposition to the payment of the veterans' certificates comes from "one lousy lot; the National Economy League."

The distinguished orator then went on to explain that "Wall Street" through the newspapers are trying to incite another war by "getting us mad at Japan." He warned of the prewar propoganda which will paint the alleged enemies as unnatural monsters.

He next directed his attack on "capitalistic war" by pointing out the causes of the last war. "The main reason," he declared, "why we went to war against Germany was because the Allies owed us more money than Germany did." He declared that big business does not fear war because it has a theory that "we can breed you faster than we can shoot you."

The General, who rose from the ranks of the marines to attain his high position and who retired lately, declared that the war with Japan would cost more in a week than all the trade with the Far East would bring in 25 years. His estimate was that it would cost a billion dollars a day to fight the next war.

General Butler is a supporter of strong preparedness to protect the country from Europe's "mad dogs." "We need a good strong fence to keep them out," he declared, "and there is nothing better than a strong defensive navy and large air forces."

He condemned war as the cause of "sorrow, loss of blood and of

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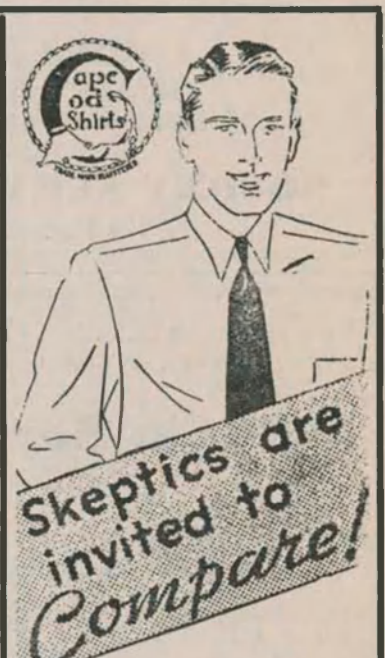
life," and branded it as "bad and ungodly." His plan to stop all future wars would be "to conscript capital one month before drafting the soldiers, and also see to it that we have a government that we can trust." "But," he added, "how can we do it when we have to deal with a lot of selfish fellows?"

The presidential election he characterized as an "open-air circus, and a grand picnic," asserting that it costs upwards of thirty million to put a candidate in the field to wage campaign and that the "big business" which finances such enterprises certainly does not do it "for the fun of it."

State Commander Arthur Trudel, Nashua Post, acted as chairman and presented the distinguished speakers to the enthusiastic gathering. Both the General's and the Commander's speeches made a distinct hit with the overflowing crowd and they were cheered and applauded.

General Butler felt indisposed in the afternoon and rested while Commander Van Zandt visited the Old Man of the Mountain and Littleton where he addressed a gathering of the Littleton Post. Upon his return from the Grafton town Commander Van Zandt was the guest of honor at the Gorham Rotary Club supper and gave a talk on veterans' problems.

The General and the Commander attended the Reception Ball given by White Mountain Post No. 2520, and its Auxiliary, in their honor which was attended by 300 to 400 couples.



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**DEMOCRATIC COUNCILMEN
OPPOSE TAXPAYERS**

(Continued from Page 1)

for a hearing at the June session of the State Supreme Court and being appeal case No. 2659, on said court's docket.

Whereas the City of Berlin was the original plaintiff in said suit,

Whereas the City of Berlin is the nominal plaintiff in the present proceedings,

Whereas it is just and fit that all taxpayers bear the expenses of said present proceedings equally,

Whereas the citizens of Berlin voted in the affirmative on the matter of prosecuting the said proceedings against the said Bonding Company in the last municipal election,

Whereas it is the duty of your Council to enforce all causes of

action the possession of said City of Berlin,

Now, therefore, your Council is respectfully petitioned that the said City of Berlin assume the cost of the expenses to be incurred in the completion of the prosecution of the case of the Berlin Taxpayers Association against the said Bonding Company in the name of and for the benefit of said City of Berlin; and your Council is further petitioned for the aid and assistance of Matthew J. Ryan, City Solicitor for said City, in co-operation with the attorney for the said Taxpayers Association, in the preparation of a necessary brief and at the hearing before the said Supreme Court.

Respectfully submitted,
Berlin Taxpayers Association.
By Arthur J. Bergeron,
Its Attorney.

WORKERS CLUB

(Continued from Page 1)

called to thrash out this question, some men signed a petition to establish Daylight Saving Time which had been voted down at the said open meeting.

This report was voted accepted and filed as also were resolutions not to let the matter drop but call in the State Labor Commissioner, to examine it.

At this time the President read communications from Messrs Keyes, Brown, and Rogers, State Representatives in Congress in reply to the Workers Club petition for their support of the Wagner-Lewis insurance bill. They promised to give the matter due consideration.

A motion to let the Ball Committee pick the orchestra which will furnish the music for the coming ball was voted. This committee met after the meeting and decided to award the contract to the Legion Orchestra.

Mr. Ira Cole, secretary treasurer, was given power to negotiate with the Club Joliette to hire the hall for another week night in order to change the time of the regular meeting. Because of conflict in the dates of the City Council and Workers Club meeting many members cannot attend both meetings, and the Labor-Elect Councilmen cannot attend the Workers Club meeting.

This matter will be decided next week when the secretary treasurer reports his findings to the Club.

Local Employment

Office Reorganized

The local Federal Re-Employment Office has been re-organized and will continue to function for employment purposes based solely on the "qualifications" of the prospective employees.

In accordance with the Federal Government's plans the office had to be re-organized to comprise only a manager and stenographer. Mr. Sharples and Miss Houley will continue as part of the force here.

Their salaries will be paid out of a special Federal appropriation for the purpose but other office expenses will have to be taken out of a special \$5.00 tax per town. If at the end of the year any surplus is left from operating expense, the money will be refunded to the different localities. Mr. Eli Marcoux was appointed bonded treasurer of this fund.

Pleasant Street

Contract Awarded

According to a statement by Mr. Sharples, of the local re-employment office, the Pleasant Street contract has been let out and the money awarded for the project. There has been no set date for the work to start but it will be in the near future.

In his estimation 60 to 70 men will be employed on the project possibly working 30 hours a week. The minimum wage was set at from 40 to 50 cents an hour. The total duration of the project would be about two months and a half.

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