

# The COOS GUARDIAN

Vox Populi, Vox Dei.

VOL. I No. 19

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1934

PRICE THREE CENTS

## Brown Company Refuses To Accede To Workers' Demand

### Company to Hold Directors' Meeting

At a special conference held by the Brown Company officials with the Workers Club Wage Increase Committee and Labor Commissioner Davie, the raise demand was again refused, although Mr. Paul Brown declared that he would take up the question at the next directors' meeting.

The Workers' argument lies in the fact that the Brown Company's production is higher at the present time, with less men employed than in 1929. To which the Company replies that it cannot afford to give any increase at this time.

When asked by President Legassie, chairman of the committee, whether or not the Company would consent to present their side of the question before an Arbitration Board, the Company manager declared that his concern had nothing to arbitrate.

The Workers' committee instructed Labor Commissioner Davie to secure affidavits from party who refuses, the law compelling Davie to do so in such a case.

The "seniority" rights deadlock was still in an impasse at this late hour, as Company officials declare that this rule was effective only 85% of the time, and that some of the men were too old to work. The Workers insist that if a man has worked for the Company ten or fifteen years he becomes more competent, so why should he be out of a job.

The Workers' and the Brown Company's next meeting is scheduled for the latter part of this month.

### We Must Wait Weeks for Liquor

This State was legally "wet" yesterday, but hard liquor drinkers are still faced with a wait of from four to six weeks before they can quench their thirst.

The reign of prohibition ended shortly after five o'clock when Governor John G. Winant affixed his signature to the bill over which the Legislature battled over 15 days. This bill provides for sale, of packaged hard liquor in State stores, and medicinal liquor, or prescriptions only, in drug stores. Hotels are permitted to sell hard liquors by the glass and wine by the bottle in dining rooms. In dry towns, such sales may not be made to residents. License fees will run from \$100 to \$300, while part time licenses for hotel resorts will be granted. Clubs can sell hard liquor by the glass only. Hotels and clubs will not be restricted to days of sale, but restaurants are denied the right to sell beer on Sundays. They are given no hard liquor privileges.

A three-member board will be formed, with salaries of \$4,000 each.

Based on the last licensing votes of cities in 1914, Berlin is in the "wet" column.

### Workers Club Weekly Meeting

June 5—The weekly meeting of the Coos County Workers Club was held as usual Tuesday despite the hot weather and was well attended.

President Legassie discussed at length his meeting with Labor Com-  
(Continued on Page 4)

### City Furnishes Money for Re-Employment Bureau

At a meeting of the Re-employment committee, held at City Hall last Saturday evening, the members made their reports on the contributions which were put up for the payment of the rent and other incidentals of the National Re-employment Bureau.

Mayor Feindel, according to a release from the City Hall, granted \$35.00 a month. The town of Dummer sent a check of \$3.00 for three months. Another check was received from Northumberland for the amount of \$5.25.

Discussion ensued on the Pleasant street project, all reports were that the job was progressing along satisfactorily. There are 95 men employed on this construction at the present.

### Present Activities of Civic Federation

The immediate objectives of the Civic Federation are as follows:

- 1 Prepare a folder of Berlin and vicinity.
- 2 Build and operate an information booth.
- 3 Promote handicraft work as represented by the New Hampshire League of Arts and Crafts.
- 4 Prepare landscaping plans for Berlin.
- 5 Start landscaping of Gorham-Berlin road and Main street.

At their last meeting, Mr. Van Arsdel presiding, these different activities were presented and discussed.

Concerning an information booth on Green Square, the City Council

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT

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### City Votes to Lengthen Pleasant Street Repavement

At the council meeting held Tuesday night, the council voted to have the Central Construction Company continue their road on Pleasant street as far as the railroad crossing below High street, and to also have a patch situated on High street going into Main street, paved. This addition will cost the City \$1500.

A report was received from Matthew J. Ryan, City Solicitor, who introduced a bill at the special session of the Legislature, authorizing the City to borrow \$50,000 to finance manufacturing enterprises. This bill was passed and discovered to be unconstitutional, it has been referred to the Supreme Court. If this tribunal agrees to declaring the petition legal, this City will be empowered to raise a sum of \$50,000, by special taxation or by floating of City bonds. This act would enable us to secure the Burtman-Rondeau Shoe Factory for this City.

Different bills ordered paid by the council for City expenditures amounted to \$8,366.74.

Councilmen then suggested that  
(Continued on Page 4)

### Ruth Symonds is Transferred

Miss Ruth Symonds who has been in charge of the Relief Office since August, 1933, has been transferred to another office. Miss Symonds was recently delegated by the Relief Administration of New Hampshire to represent the department at the National Convention of Social Workers recently held in Kansas City, Mo. Upon her return she was called to Concord and given a new assignment which to our present knowledge she hasn't accepted. Miss Hewins of Nashua and Miss Whitten of the Manchester Relief Office are in the city reorganizing the Berlin office and in a short time it is expected that a permanent director will be assigned to this city.

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# The COOS GUARDIAN

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## THE SALES TAX

In these days of depression the normally overburdened small taxpayer is relatively speaking excessively taxed. The sales taxes in effect today are largely responsible for the poor man's tax bill. It is favored and sponsored by the income taxpayers in the upper-brackets to allay the drive for increased income taxes in answer to the necessity of heavier taxation. It has also the advantage of being indirect and consequently often unknown to the person paying it.

At one time the sales tax was advocated by economists to even the tax burden. Under the feudal system a sales tax had that effect. It was advocated by Colbert, the famous French minister of finance, in the days when the tax on land was the government's big source of revenue. The tax on land was shifted from the nobility to the peasantry and consequently the former were practically tax free. A sales tax would of course reach the nobility and have the effect of lessening the burden on the peasants. Under such circumstances the sales tax especially if applied to selected commodities would have the effect of distributing taxation more evenly.

The sales tax today in this country has the opposite effect. Instead of shifting the tax to the wealthy from the poor, it lessens the income tax and shifts the burden more to the class that can least afford it. The sales tax is an inverted income tax, so to speak. The less a man earns the more he pays when it is translated into percentage of his income. This is easily illustrated. A millionaire buys a package of cigarettes or a gallon of gasoline and pays the same tax on his purchase that a poor man does. That tax represents a greater portion of the poor man's income than it does of the rich man's income. The consumer is sure to pay it whether he knows it or not for the sales tax is always shifted except in the case of a few standard price products.

A good illustration of the effects of the sales tax appeared in Time magazine for May 28, 1934, in the form of an article on the Ross whaleship. The Ross docked in New York city with 45 million pounds of whale oil on board representing a catch of 1,117 whales. This oil was consigned to Proctor & Gamble, the big soap makers. It is subject to a tax of three cents per pound which is practically the value of the oil itself. Consequently Proctor & Gamble will pay the government a tax of \$1,350,000 on this oil. They will use it to make soap and consequently the cost of making the soap is raised by that much. This tax they will naturally pass on in the guise of increased cost in the manufacture of their soap. This will be so all along the line till the soap reaches the consumers the bulk of whom will be common people.

The tax on cigarettes is probably the outstanding sales tax which is way out of proportion with the cost of the commodity and the income of the consumer. The New Revenue Act just passed by Congress again embodies a tax of three dollars per thousand cigarettes which means about six cents a package. The committee on ways and means in the House had a subcommittee investigate this tax beforehand but evidently did not pay much attention to its findings. The report is published in the Congressional Record for June 1, 1934. The hearings disclosed that there was "complete unanimity . . . that the tobacco taxes were unreasonable, unfair, and unjust." The evidence was taken

from growers, consumers, and manufacturers. The tax on tobacco is the only excise on agricultural products save oleomargarine. For the consumer the following paragraph is repeated and speaks for itself.

"The tobacco user is rarely considered in any discussion of this problem. The burden on him is indirect and has been endured for such a period of time that many of them do not know the extent of the burden. Those who do know that there is a 6-cent tax upon a pack of 20 cigarettes either pay it, go into the "roll-your-own" class of smoker, or quit smoking entirely. The tobacco-consuming public, as other classes of consumers, are unorganized and generally speaking, inarticulate when taxes and tariffs are concerned. It has long been the philosophy of some that an indirect charge upon the public is painless and less troublesome to lawmakers. Without entering into discussion of such philosophy, the fact remains that the man who consumes one pack of cigarettes per day, pays into the Federal Treasury \$21.90 per year. He pays a tax of 6 cents for an article that could sell for 4 cents with the same profits to all, if it were a 10-cent brand, or would sell for 6½ cents per pack if it were the so-called 'standard brand.'

"We suggest that this tax of \$21.90 per year is a sales tax of monstrous proportions. To illustrate the enormity of it, we suggest that a person who consumes one pack of cigarettes per day throughout the year, pays \$21.90. This is the same amount of income tax that the same man, if married with four dependents, would pay upon net income of \$5,108.61 (all earned income).

"In the fiscal year of 1933, there were 109,400,000,000 (plus) cigarettes consumed. With a tax reduction that would permit the so-called '10-cent' cigarettes to sell two for 15 cents and the so-called 'standard brands' to sell at 10 cents per pack there would have been saved to the cigarette smokers alone of this country, in 1933, \$136,750,000. This is a right considerable saving."



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## On and Off The Main Stem

With Dr. B. U. L. Connor  
We attended the Lewiston-Berlin ball game in the local new pasture last Friday night.  
We were treated to the rare spectacle of three pinch-hitters being called on and coming through with singles. Which would have been swell only the singles came exactly four innings too late. Picture the relatives eating a well trimmed turkey at the starved man's wake.

It all happened this way. Berlin with two runs in the red, jammed the bases with none out in the fifth inning. What a spot for a modern Casey! And a mighty Casey did our star centerfielder prove. Strike one, yelled the umpire, as the stands moaned. Strike two, and the crowd froze in its seats. The pitcher wound up; the sphere came true for the center of the plate. A thousand eyes watched that ball in its rapid flight. Our local Casey swung mightily and . . . fanned. That, boys and girls, is the way Berlin played baseball last Friday night.

The only redeeming feature of the game was Gus Rooney's superb pitching. Holding the Buccaneers, fastest semi-pro nine in Maine, to eight hits and one earned run is certainly a feat to gladden the heart of any pitcher.

We do not wish to discriminate against any one of those boys who spend hot afternoons playing ball for our benefit and entertainment, yet it seems that with the wealth of outfield material on hand a little fielding ability might be sacrificed to insert necessary punch in there! Pitchers' battles may be interesting in the box-scores but the majority of the fans prefer base knocks to curve-balls.

Who will be the first to whack the pellet over the new walls?

Sunday the Purple Sox somewhat atoned our ire by annihilating a well advertised Littleton team by an 8-1 score. Itchy Martin chalked another mark in his win column, and Dancoes, his peppery mate, got three out of four to fatten his batting average.

That 749-W line fairly sizzled when ten different parties rang our Editor and gave him a bawling-out of the most scientific variety upon the appearance of our Moonlite's latest gossiping-revealing rays. Certain people hate publicity, is it pusillanimity or what? Which accounts for the Guardian requesting a budding columnist to resign. Some ambitious people were simply not born lucky.

### NEW CITY NATIONAL BANK CAPITALIZED AT \$250,000

The Comptroller of the Currency on May 31 approved the merger of two national banks of this City to form a bank system with increased capitalization. The merged banks are the Berlin National and the City National each with a capital of \$100,000. The new bank formed by the consolidation will be called the Berlin City National Bank with a capital stock of \$250,000, with a surplus of \$50,000.

The merger was effected under the charter previously granted to the Berlin National Bank. The bank will be located at the Berlin National Bank building.

This transaction merges two of the older banking concerns. The Berlin National was organized at a meeting at the old Music Hall, January 31, 1891. The first building was erected the same year on the corner of Green and Exchange streets. In June, 1927, the present building on Main street was erected. A charter was granted April 30, 1913, to the Fidelity Savings Bank

which is associated with the Berlin National Bank.

The City National started business in November, 1900, in a little building then on Green Square and known as the Ann J. Mason block. In 1904 the building, occupied by the Bank until last week, was erected.

The City Savings Bank which is connected with the City National Bank was incorporated in February, 1901. The business at the merged bank will be conducted by the officials of the former City National Bank.

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### PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF CIVIC FEDERATION

(Continued from Page 1)

has already refused the petition, as the expense would be unsurmountable. It would cost more than \$200, but the Council recommended that signs be placed on Green Square to direct tourists to the City Hall where the information bureau will remain. The majority of the merchants favor this as they want to keep traffic on Main Street, instead of removing it to Pleasant.

The committee appointed on the subject of a local Arts and Crafts League report that specific work on the matter will be delayed as they feel that they need expert advice on the question and have already written to Mr. Frank Staple asking him to come to Berlin to explain the work of the New Hampshire Arts and Crafts League, hoping that a local organization will result of these meetings with Mr. Staple.

An appointed committee for a folder of Berlin furnished a write-up and referred it to the members of the Civic Federation to be reviewed.

### CITY VOTES TO LENGTHEN PLEASANT ST. REPAVEMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

they hold their meetings every other week, during the months of June, July and August. This question was favored by everyone and starting June 5th, meetings will be held on the first and third weeks of every month.

Before the meeting adjourned, one gentleman put up a question to the council, wishing to know whether sewers that run off the main line

are City property or not. He stated that those in front of his house are forever plugged and must be repaired often. A motion was passed that this question be referred to the committee of public works for future report. But it seems that another gentleman was not satisfied with such slow action, he stood up and rather violently asked for immediate action, he wanted to know then and there which was which, as this was not granted him, he departed mumbling thanks to our courteous councilmen, which fact he seemed to doubt.

### WORKERS CLUB WEEKLY MEETING

(Continued from Page 1)

missioner John B. Davie, which took place at the Hotel Costello.

President Legassie also made a report on the committee he headed in a conference with Labor Commissioner Davie, held with Mr. Paul Brown to bring the matter of a wage increase to the State Board of Arbitration and Mediation.

Mr. John Spinney, who was on the committee, reported that Mr. Brown stated that the Brown Company would pay 60 cents an hour if the new code required them to, or if they were forced to.

The Coos County Workers Club voted to hold a mass meeting Monday night at seven o'clock at the Y.M.C.A. field to consider the matter of a wage increase and to bring it up before the Board of Arbitration.

### SPORTS GLEANINGS

By Robert Laliberte

The local baseball team lost a thrilling pitchers' battle to the strong Lewiston Buccaneers Friday evening but made amends Sunday afternoon by soundly thrashing the Littleton A. C., 8 to 1.

The jinx Gus Rooney has held for so long over the Maine Pirates was broken Friday night when he dropped a 2 to 1 decision to the Maine champions.

Rooney's jinx would still hold good but for the following reasons. Berlin's inability to come through in the fifth when they had the bases loaded with none out. Willie Findsen stealing to second standing up. Delorge and Agrodnia being put out between third base and home due to their team-mates' inability to bunt.

Max Agrodnia started his first game of the season, Sunday, and came through in winning style. He smashed out three ringing singles, batted in a run, got walked twice and made four put-outs in the outfield. Not a bad afternoon's work.

Maurice Dancoes, the peppiest and most colorful player on the Berlin team, also had a successful day at bat, getting two singles and a double in four trips to the plate. **COME IN FAST, GANG.**

The fence, which is being constructed will probably be completed this week-end.

The traditional baseball feud between Gorham and Berlin will be resumed Friday at 5 p. m., at the Y.M.C.A. field. Sunday, Berlin will entertain a team from Manchester which is under the direction of Billy Vallancourt, a former star in Berlin High School athletics, during the Burlingame regime.

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