

**THE EVENING NEWS**

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**AN OPPORTUNITY.**

A tomato grower at Riddle was unable to dispose of his crop this year. He offered to give the tomatoes to anyone who would pay the freight on the shipments. A sweet corn raiser near Roseburg fed bushel after bushel of corn to his hogs because he had no market for his product. Surplus apples in this valley were given away to any one who would haul them before they rotted on the ground. Cabbage, berries and other garden truck and fruit have gone to waste this year because there was no outlet for the product or crop.

Douglas county soil is productive. No one has ever disputed this. Yet if there is no market for the product the soil might just as well remain idle or cultivated just to that point where it will sustain the grower.

Roseburg today has a chance to get a large cannery here which will take care of the entire crop of all the farmers and growers in this valley. Shall we let it slip away to some other community? Or shall we awake to our opportunity and keep here a project which is needed more now than another railroad.

A few weeks ago two men came here for the purpose of investing in a cannery in Roseburg. They made some inquiries, but found that land values were pretty high—too high in fact to warrant the investment for the purposes of a cannery. The inhabitants of at least two other communities in this county learned of their intention to build a cannery and citizens of these communities came here and sought interviews with the investors. These towns offered building sites to these two men should they decide to locate their industry at their town. There was no quibble—no questions. These towns wanted the cannery and were willing to encourage it to the extent of backing it up and giving it a sufficient quantity of land on which to build. That was the spirit of the citizens of two of Roseburg's neighboring towns.

Roseburg is just as good a place for a cannery as any other place in the county. Will Roseburg do as much for these men who came here expecting to buy but who are besieged with gifts from enterprising and energetic communities, or will it permit, again, an industry to slip from its grasp because of the lack of foresight or interest in an industry which is desperately needed here to take care of the crop production of the wonderfully productive soil of its surrounding valleys.

**GOOD ROADS.**

The News prints today a number of letters written by students of the eighth grade on the subject of good roads. Good roads are a community's greatest asset next to its climate and soil. Douglas county is unusually favored in regard to climate and soil. Its roads, however, can stand much improvement. The News realizes well the almost utter impossibility of getting much relief from the present road system of this state. The entire system is based on a wrong working plan. There should be a county engineer or supervisor, whose sole duty it would be to establish the grade, drainage and course of the roads throughout the county under the supervision of the county commissioners. The county court is in favor of good roads. They have done the best they can with the inadequate road laws to contend with. They will continue to do what they can. But there should be a state-wide demand for better road laws and a better operative road construction system. We believe that if the legislature which meets in January does nothing else but revise and amend the road laws of the state it will have done good work and will be applauded by the people everywhere in the state.

**BERGEN-MARX CONCERT CO.**

The highest priced company ever brought to Roseburg will appear Tuesday evening at the Palace theatre. This will be the third number of the lyceum course. Admission 75 cents to all. Only 40 seats left now.  
ROSEBURG MIN. UNION.

**Thanksgiving Chicken.**

Phone 15F21 for your Thanksgiving chicken, dressed or undressed.

**School Children Want Good Roads**

Eighth Grade Pupils Write Letters on Subject Which are Reprinted in The News. Many Good Arguments are Introduced by the Children.

Eighth grade pupils in Roseburg were given a writing and spelling test one day a week or so ago and they were told to make the work in the form of a letter to Judge Wonacott on the subject of good roads. The News believes this subject is the one that needs more attention than any other in the county and it takes pleasure in presenting these letters written by the boys and girls on this all-important question.

Hon. J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:  
The country schools would be benefited by better roads in several ways.

First, if we had better roads there would be no need of so many small schools with one to six or eight pupils, as two or more schools could unite and pay twice the amount of wages to one teacher, therefore securing a better instructor.

Second, if the roads were not so bad, the children would go more regularly and the schools would be better graded.

The country and city schools both be benefited by better roads in the way that better roads would increase the value on real estate and therefore lessen the schools taxes. This would permit them to pay higher wages to the teachers and obtain better educated and qualified teachers.

Yours respectfully,  
LILA SMITH.

Dear Sir:  
As the question of good roads is confronting the people of Oregon, and especially Douglas county at the present time, I am very sure that you will do all you can to have the roads improved.

I have come to the conclusion that if the roads were improved it would increase the valuation of lands and this would raise the taxes and would make school funds amount to more.

Good roads would aid many children in coming to school otherwise they cannot attend school during the rainy season.

Yours Truly,  
STELLA PERRY.

Mr. J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I am writing to you in regard to the roads of this county, especially in my district. I think that the roads could be improved a great deal and by this it would let the children come to school from out in the country. Some of the children in the country live two and one-half or three miles from school, the roads are bad and they cannot come. They have no side walks and when they come they have to walk in the roads, this being very disagreeable especially in the winter. If you would levy a tax to improve the roads a little this, I think, would help the schools.

Yours truly,  
ANDREW SMITH.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

As a resident of Douglas county, you are, no doubt interested in the welfare of the public schools, and of the benefits derived from good roads.

Many of the pupils in the public schools of this county are compelled to walk from one to three or four miles through the mud and rain, in order to receive an education. As a result of these conditions, the pupils have colds, pneumonia, and the grippe, among the diseases which are so dangerous to the health of the public. Their parents pay large doctor bills, which many cannot afford. Trusting that you will use your influence in the improvement of the roads of this county, I remain

Respectfully yours,  
THELMA E. ALLEY.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I write you in regard to good roads of this county. I think that they would be a great help to this city, county and state as a whole, for it would help the farmers to get to town, and in this way they could get their produce to market and make the city grow. The increased taxes would make the schools better for it would get better teachers and better buildings as a whole.

Respectfully,  
CLINTON BELIGH, City.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

Good roads would be very beneficial to the schools. The pupils also would be benefited as those who live in the suburbs would have better roads to come into the city on. People also would buy more land here.

Yours respectfully,  
MISS HAZEL GOODMAN.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I am writing to you in regard to the roads benefiting the schools. I think that there could be an improvement made in the roads. If the different districts would levy a tax, say five mills and apply it to roads, there would be a great improvement. I think that if the men who made the laws had to walk to school through the black mud a while that they would be glad to improve the roads.

Yours Respectfully,  
BELLE SMITH.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I am writing to you regarding the roads. I think if we had good roads with a good walk along the side that country schools would be done away with altogether. In many places the roads are so muddy that a horse can't go through

without sinking to his knees in the mud.

If a few of the town people would visit a country school in the morning they would see pupils huddled round the stove in a cloud of steam, for they are so wet from walking through the mud and water that they have to get around the stove and dry off.

Then they have to sit in the steamy room all day. If they had good roads and walks they could get to a town school.

Respectfully yours,  
LUCY CONELLY.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

As you are interested in the general welfare of the public schools and would like to do all in your power to advance the up-building of same. If you will allow me to make one suggestion, that is, advocate the improvement of roads in every school district.

Leaving you to do the rest, I remain  
Truly yours,  
MAE METTY.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

If the roads were better the real estate would go up in value and then there would be more taxes and consequently more money for school halls.

Yours etc.,  
EARL POWELL.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I write you in regards to good roads in this country. I believe that if we had good roads it would make this country 33 1-3 per cent. more valuable.

There would be more taxes that would go to the schools, we could have better teachers and the children that did not live over one or more than four miles out of town could go to the city schools, or the schools could afford to take covered wagons and gather the country pupils up and take them to the city school.

Your's very respectfully,  
VERN V. HELBIG.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I think the school system would be improved by good roads because the children would not have such difficulty in reaching school in the country, and those that lived in the country who attended school in town could come and with less trouble. Good roads increase the value of property, thereby increasing the amount of the taxes and increasing the school funds.

Hoping you will do what you can to encourage the improvement of the public highway.  
Yours truly,  
MERLE H. HAYES.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I think that if we had better roads it would increase the valuation of property, thereby making a higher property tax and the schools would have more money for their support.

Yours truly,  
CYRIL DONNELLY.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I think if we had better roads the schools would have a larger attendance as the boys and girls in the country would then have good walking and they would feel more encouraged to go to school. Then if we had good roads the pupils would not bring near so much mud in on their feet and the janitor would have more time to do something besides shoveling mud.

Yours respectfully,  
FLOYD McDONALD.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I think if we had good roads in this county, our schools would be benefited very much in this way. If the roads were better the real estate of the country would increase in value and so the taxes would be higher and the school would get more money to pay the best of teachers, and have the best of buildings and have all modern improvements in them as well.

On the other hand children out of town or in the country could come two or three miles to school as well or better than they could come now at a mile or mile and a half.

Yours truly,  
WILLARD ACKLEY.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I have been requested to write about the effect of good roads upon the schools.

I think that if the rural roads were good, the people might come to school every day, while now they cannot because of the mud and water in the roads.

And also good roads would increase the valuation of property and the increase of property would raise the taxes so that there would be more money for schools, and then they could supply better teachers for the grades and thus develop the the county and schools by having good roads.

Yours respectfully,  
WALDO MARSTERS.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

As a pupil of the Roseburg public school, I am in a position to judge the influence of the public roads upon the school. The roads in some localities of this county are good, while in others they are not. The attendance of the school is greatly decreased by bad roads, and this is especially true of the rural districts. Then, the most important thing is the health of the school children. The result of going to school over bad

roads is often sickness and in some instances, death. This is the direct result of the bad roads, due to carelessness on the part of those who should attend to them. This should be attended to at the earliest opportunity.

Yours respectfully,  
JESSIE CHACROFT.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I am writing to you in regard to the roads of this county.

For I think that if some of the people of this town were compelled to go to school in the mud in the winter, that they would certainly want better roads.

I am sure that there could be a marked improvement made in the roads. I am sure that if some of the men of this county that pays taxes, and help make the laws had to go to school nine months out of a year in the mud up to their knees that

they would want an improvement made in the roads.

Yours truly,  
FRANCES SMITTE.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I am writing you in regard to the benefits which would be derived from better roads, especially in regard to the benefits for the schools of this county.

The conditions are especially bad in the rural districts, there is practically no care taken of the roads.

The people living in the rural districts pay out good money for the care of their roads, and receive no benefits in return.

Out of a district-school whose pupils number twenty-five, three children had pneumonia, one died and the disease left the other with very weak lungs. These two children suffered greatly with colds caused by wet muddy roads. In this same school eight children developed chronic

bronchitis, three suffered from tonsillitis which ended in the removal of their tonsils.

The district-bills for the district amounted to nearly five hundred dollars, while one-third of this money used in improving the roads would have saved all that suffering.

This is only one of many incidents which I could tell you, but from lack of time I will close, hoping this will influence you to improve the road conditions. I am

Respectfully,  
CHRISTINA F. LAURSEN.

Judge J. W. Wonacott,  
Dear Sir:

I am writing to you regarding roads. It seems to me that if the roads were macadamized that the value of property would increase a good deal and the taxes would raise so there would be more money to spend for the schools.

Respectfully,  
MISS FAY METZ.

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