

HIGHWAY LAUDED IN RESOLUTION

Taxpayers Pass Resolution Favoring Appropriation For Coos Bay Highway.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

Hon. Binger Hermann Prepares Resolution Setting Forth Reasons Why Coos Bay Highway Should Be Favored.

After a prolonged discussion of various road matters and especially the present supervisor system the Taxpayers League yesterday afternoon passed the following resolution which was prepared by County Judge R. W. Marsters, Attorney B. L. Eddy and ex-County Judge Dexter Rice: "Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that the present road laws should not be changed in the matter of vesting control of county roads and bridges in the county court or in the matter of the appointment of road masters or supervisors."

The discussion then turned to the Roseburg-Coos Bay highway which it is understood is about to be wrested from Douglas county by Lane county and after a great deal of discussion, the following resolution, prepared by Binger Hermann, who has fathered the activity for this particular highway, was read and adopted without a dissenting vote:

WHEREAS, Nearly 65 years ago the first pack horse road was opened by the early pioneers from Douglas county to Coos county via Camas Valley and the Coquille river, and about 45 years ago a wagon road was constructed by the two counties on substantially the same lines, omitting the coast section, and has been continuously traveled since then as the U. S. mail route and by stage coaches and travelers. Much of it avoided the water level of the Coquille river canyon because of the cost of construction there along and passed over the hilly portions of the route. That several surveys for railroad construction have been made since 1880 and the route for such road from Roseburg to Coos Bay approved by railroad companies at a grade a little above one percent over and around the high elevations. The state legislature appropriated money many years ago for this road and one in Curry county which aided both, and

That about 1913 or 1914 the county court of Douglas county, following like action on the part of Coos county ordered a survey which being made followed mainly the former road except that the water level in the Coquille canyon was followed and so much of said survey in Douglas county was approved by the county court while Coos county approved a similar survey in that county connecting with the other county.

Both courts ordered said respective roads opened and there is now a legal county road from Roseburg to Coos Bay. But little or no work has been done on said water level route in said canyon and for six months in the year the entire road from Camas Valley to tide water in Coos county remains impassable for teams and autos, there being but about eight miles only for road work to the Coos county line and but about five miles from there in Coos county to improve roadway.

AND WHEREAS, The state highway commission of Oregon directed a survey of the said roadway from Roseburg to Coos Bay by State Highway Engineer H. L. Bouby, which being done was approved June 3, 1914, and duly approved and adopted September 5, 1914, by the state highway commission consisting of Governor Oswald West, Secretary of State Ben W. Olcott and State Treasurer Thomas B. Kay, pursuant to chapter 335 laws of Oregon of 1913. An official map of the ap-

proved state highway of the state was published by authority of the state, and never changed and upon the map appears outlined the Coos Bay highway extending westwardly from Roseburg to Coos Bay via Camas Valley and Myrtle Point.

WHEREAS, In the year 1916, there was approved by said highway commission the sum of \$5000 for a survey of said highway which action has never been rescinded, but on the contrary at a full meeting of the highway commission and advisory board thereof the matter was again considered in the month of November last and the former action of the board was affirmed unanimously in the face of a report of the present state highway engineer which is interpreted to mean a diversion of the above \$5000 and its expenditure on another proposed route from the Willamette valley extending to Coos Bay. Therefore be it, and it is hereby

RESOLVED, On this 20th day of December by an assembly of citizens and taxpayers of Douglas county, meeting in the city of Roseburg in said county:

First. That any proposed diversion of said \$5000 be unequivocally opposed.

Second. That the state highway commission, the legislative assembly of the state of Oregon and the county court of said Douglas county be recommended to aid in the construction of said highway by such funds as may become available from the federal highway appropriation of \$75,000,000 from available state funds and from the county appropriations available for purposes of road construction.

Nothing Definite Known as to the Intention of Owners No Insurance Carried.

WHARF AND LUMBER SAVED

Company Owns 25,000 Acres of Timber and 10,000 Acres Logged Off Land—Main Industry of Thriving City of Gardiner.

From the papers published at Marshfield the following additional facts are learned regarding the disastrous fire which completely destroyed the large lumber mills at Gardiner (this week. Opinion seems to be divided regarding the rebuilding of the mill, but as the company has large holdings in that vicinity and are said to have plenty of capital, it is more than possible that the mill will be replaced by one of at least equal capacity, in spite of the fact that no insurance was carried.

The fire is presumed to have originated from a hot box, and within five minutes after it was first discovered by the night watchman, the whole plant was in flames.

Steamers Fight Fire.

The Gardiner Mill Company's tug, Gleamer, was lying alongside the wharf, and their steamer, the San Gabriel, had just come in to load.

Both were used in fighting the conflagration, but could accomplish little in fighting the fire in the mill itself.

However, by hard work, the lumber on the dock and the wharves was saved. About 500,000 feet of lumber was piled on the docks.

May Not Rebuild.

O. B. Hinsdale, general manager of the mill, said that there was nothing definite to give out just at present concerning rebuilding.

"I am a little afraid that we will not rebuild now," he said. "The lumber business has been so uncertain and unsatisfactory for some time that there is little encouragement for capital to be invested in it."

"The blow is a hard one—especially for Gardiner and community."

Burned Once Before.

The Gardiner mill was destroyed once before by fire, burning in 1888. It was rebuilt and the plant destroyed last night was started in October, 1889.

The late W. F. Jewett was then with the company. Since Mr. Jewett's death, and even prior to

that time, O. B. Hinsdale had been general manager of the plant.

Was Old Fashioned.

The mill which has just been destroyed was rather old fashioned. Its maximum cut of lumber was about 100,000 feet a day. The company operated logging camps and furnished quite a large payroll for the Umpqua river country. The company owns 25,000 acres of timber and about 10,000 acres of logged off land and a small logging road which extends back to some of the timber.

The president of the company is a son of the late Capt. Nowlin, who resides in San Francisco and Mr. Stevens of San Francisco, is the secretary. W. H. Jewett, of Gardiner, is one of the directors.

The company owns the steamer San Gabriel and also several sailing vessels. The company store at Gardiner is one of the largest general stores in southwestern Oregon.

Duplicate Notes Are Sent.

A footnote to the copy which was addressed to Ambassador W. H. Page in London announced that a similar communication had been sent to the representative accredited to the governments of France, Italy, Japan, Russia, Belgium, Montenegro, Portugal, Roumania and Serbia and to all the neutral governments for their information.

The note to Ambassador Gerard in Berlin said copies had been forwarded to Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria.

It was said at the state department last night the representatives of the United States in Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia and in the countries representing the central powers every indication of peace sentiment.

Appeal May Be Effective.

Officials here declare they believe the belligerents must heed the appeal of the United States. And it is already certain that a majority, if not all, neutrals and the vatican will join in the effort to not only end the war, but to make further conflicts of this stupendous character impossible.

Show Down Is Wanted.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Lansing said a desire for a complete show down by all the belligerents, because American rights have been invaded, was the real purpose behind the note of Wilson. He declared frankly that the United States was "drawing nearer to the verge of war," and the situation can not continue, and he authorized the

following statement: "Our rights have been invaded, and the situation is becoming intolerable. The belligerents on both sides are invading American rights more and more, rendering the situation increasingly critical. I mean by this that the United States is drawing nearer the verge of war, and we are therefore entitled to know what the belligerents want, so we can regulate our future conduct."

Lansing emphasized positively that the German peace proposal and the speech of Lloyd George were not connected with the sending of Wilson's note, and declared that the president does not intend to suggest peace, but wants to render the positions of neutrals less intolerable. The whole talk of Lansing emphasized the idea that America must "do something" in the event her rights are further invaded. The British, Italian, Japanese, German, Bulgarian, Russian and Turkish ambassadors visited Lansing this morning and received copies of the note sent their governments. Lansing said that Wilson finally decided to send the note on Monday, and it was forwarded on Monday night and Tuesday morning.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—President Wilson as chief executive of the greatest nation which has been able to keep free from the European war, has taken the initiative to restore and maintain world peace. He has directly addressed all of the belligerents and neutrals on the subject.

Independent of the peace suggestions made by the Teutonic allies, the president has called on the belligerents to "learn how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind longs with an intense and increasing longing."

Does Not Propose Peace.

He does not propose peace, neither does he offer mediation. He does, however, call upon the belligerents to "compare views as to the terms" to which the war can be ended.

Announcement of the action of the president was made personally by Secretary of State Lansing. The greatest secrecy had enshrouded the action of the chief executive. The note was prepared by him personally after conferring with his cabinet and was sent in code on Monday to the United States ambassadors and ministers.

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