

St. Helens Mist

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County Official Paper

The Absorbing Topic.

In less than three weeks the people of Columbia county will vote by their votes whether \$360,000 bonds will be issued for the purpose of building permanent roads at the places specified in the petitions and orders of the court. The election will be held on Monday, February 2, and there is every indication of a large vote being polled. The election presents a question that has been agitated and advocated for many years. There has been dissatisfaction with the laws for raising funds with which to build roads for many years.

Some parts of the county have taken advantage of the law relating to special levies of taxes each year until large sums of money have already been spent on the roads in those particular districts, and yet there is not a permanent road in the county. Of course the roads on which money has been spent each year are in good condition to be made permanent, and at a low cost, so the money has not been wasted, but there is not a finished road in the county.

In other parts of the county very little effort and no special money has been spent in building roads, with the result that much more money and work will be required than in those places where special levies have been made for years.

For several years there has been agitation of the bonding question so that enough money could be raised at one time to build roads of such a character that the present generation would receive some of the benefits and still have the oncoming generation help in paying for them. The issuing of bonds and building of permanent roads is the only solution.

The bond issue is now the all absorbing topic in all parts of the county. Wherever you see two or more men congregated you may rest assured that roads and bonds are the questions under discussion. It is uppermost in the minds of every voter and taxpayer in the county. There is very little question but that every taxpayer in the county is in favor of good roads and of helping to pay for them, but the method of raising the funds is where the rub comes. From a careful survey of the situation it seems that the northern portion of the county, that is Rainier, Maygar, Quincy, Clatskanie and that portion of the county down the river, is very much in favor of bonding the county, while in the Nehalem valley and the southern part of the county there is a difference of opinion. Just what the proportions of the number of voters on each side of the question in this end of the county is, cannot be determined, but that there are many staunch supporters of the bond issue is apparent as is also that there are numbers of people who are bitterly opposed to the plan and others who are undecided.

The principal objection to the bond issue in this end of the county seems to be that while this section has been voting special levies for years and have the roads in such a condition that

not much money will be needed to finish them up, so that the burden of bonds and interest on them is unnecessary, so far as we are concerned here. In this argument there is considerable merit, too, from a standpoint of purely small locality interest, but good roads and direct communication between all parts of the county should be considered as a county necessity and each individual community should look upon it as such. The county should be the unit when it comes to building roads and not each little separate community. The matter of roads is the most important thing in the development of the county that can be done. It will mean more to the actual growth in population and wealth than any other thing that could happen. The matter should be looked upon from the standpoint of the general good and not for the special interest of any special community.

Then the argument is made that if the county is bonded for the huge sum of \$360,000 the taxes will become so high as to amount to confiscation and that the small taxpayer and property owner will not be able to carry the burden of taxation caused by the bonds and the interest to be paid. It is or this phase of the question that most of the arguments are being made against the proposition. Answering this by way of submitting figures it is pretty safe to say that the reverse will be the result. The small amount of money necessary to pay the interest on the bond issue is one of the strongest arguments made by those favoring it. Figuring on a basis of the present valuation of the county, the cost, per one thousand dollars, for paying interest for the term will amount to \$1.58 per year, which means a levy of one and one-half mills each year for interest payments. In the course of a few years a sinking fund will be started with which to take up the bonds, but by that time all the roads will be completed to such a state that a very small levy for maintenance will meet all the requirements. In case the bonds are issued the general levy each year for perhaps three years will run up from 5 to 6 or perhaps 7 mills, including interest on bonds and all roads completed, while if no bonds are voted there will of necessity be a levy of close to 10 mills each year until the roads are completed. These figures show that bonding will decrease rather than increase the taxes.

That roads will be built there is no question. The public in each and every locality, have arrived at that state where roads are demanded. If the bond proposition is voted down general levies will be made each year until the roads are completed. The people are demanding roads and roads will be built. That being the case it would seem that the cheapest method in getting permanent roads is by issuing bonds.

The argument set up by many people in this portion of the county that they have already paid for their roads and do not feel that they should now be required to pay for the roads in other portions of the county, can be met on the same basis. With the county divided into four road districts and a general levy each year for from 9 to 10 mills we will be required to contribute much more for their roads than by the bonding method.

There is another condition now that is worth consideration. The present tax rolls disclose that nearly 50 per cent of the taxes of the county are paid by non-resident property owners. Those people who own the railroads, the large timber owners and other large real estate owners who live outside the county will pay at least one-half the taxes necessary for the building of the roads. There seems to be a general sentiment in favor of the bonding issue by these large

property owners and if they are willing to contribute one-half the taxes to pay for the roads it would seem that the people who live here and will be the beneficiaries of good roads should be willing to contribute the other half. Of course these big property owners are in favor of the bonds for the reason that the money to build roads will not have to be paid all at once but will continue over a period of years which will make it easier for them and everybody else to meet.

In short there is an answer for every argument when properly considered and the more that the matter is studied the clearer it becomes that bonding for roads is the cheapest and best method of getting results that the present generation may enjoy.

No bridge across Scappoose creek yet. A resident of that city who has an eye for business, has intimated that he will apply to the County Court for a franchise to operate a ferry across the creek at that point.

OUR TRENHOLM LETTER

Cooperage Co. Installs New Engine—Stave Mill Closed For Want of Bolts.

George Cropp visited his ranch at Knappa on Tuesday.

J. Christensen visited Portland Saturday returning Sunday.

Mrs. Gus Wittnebell made a business trip to St. Helens Tuesday.

Henry Kromrey made a trip to Portland Sunday returning on Tuesday.

The stave mill closed down Monday for three or four weeks for want of bolts.

W. H. Eastman, of Portland, and T. W. Robinson, of Olney, visited Trenholm Thursday.

The Cooperage Co. will install a donkey engine on the section known as the Dolman place for the purpose of removing the stave bolts to a place where they can be floated down to the mill.

The literary entertainment on Saturday night was the best ever, and as usual the school building was filled to its utmost capacity. The refreshments were all that could be desired and there was a generous supply for all.

M. E. Church Notices.

Sunday school will meet at 10 o'clock a. m.

The morning service will be taken up on account of the temperance meeting to be held at the City hall at 11 o'clock a. m. by Mr. Sheldon.

Miss Hammarstrom will have charge of the Epworth League service at 6:45 p. m.

Peaching service in the evening at 7:30. A cordial welcome is extended to all.

EDWARD T. LUTHER.

ADVERTISED LETTERS

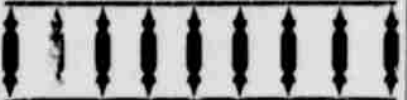
Letters unclaimed in the St. Helens Post office for the week ending January 10, 1914:

Mr. E. Bachland.
Mr. John Didrickson.
L. H. H. Jennings.
Mr. Peter Peterson.
Mrs. Chas. Putnam.

Letters unclaimed by Jan. 24th will be sent to the Dead-Letter office
Iva E. Dodd, P. M.

NOTICE—All persons indebted to me will call at the office of the St. Helens Improvement Company and settle up at once.

J. H. WELLINGTON.



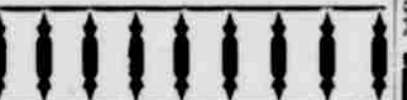
A GOOD PLACE TO DO BUSINESS

Columbia County Bank

ST. HELENS, ORE.
ASSETS \$270 000

—BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

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L. R. Rutherford, Vice-Pres.
A. L. Stone, Cashier
J. S. Allen, Asst. Cashier
L. G. Ross



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—THE HOUSE OF QUALITY—

All Work Guaranteed. Estimates Furnished.

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Plumbing and Heating
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St. Helens Oregon

REMOVAL NOTICE

F. J. BASEEL the Houlton Merchant has completed his new store building next to the Perry & Graham store in Houlton and has moved his entire stock of General Merchandise into new building.

Stock consists of Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Furnishings, Furniture, etc. Christmas Toys and Fancy Goods.

Prices as low as the lowest, Goods as good as the best. A call will be appreciated.

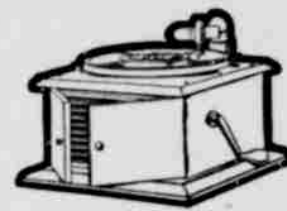
Come and look over our new store whether you buy or not.

F. J. BASEEL, Houlton, Oregon

Again at your Grocers'

WHITE RIVER FLOUR

BETTER THAN EVER
Makes Whiter, Lighter Bread



This Machine for \$15.00

We have them from this price to \$400. We carry all tones of Victor needles, and always have about 100 records on hand. Come in and hear some of them, get one of the latest catalogues to pick records from, and if we do not have the ones you want, we can get you any record the Victor Co., has in two days.

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Successor to Sherwood & Ross

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ST. HELENS OREGON

Columbia County Abstract And Trust Co....

Abstracts, Real Estate, Insurance.

Loans, Conveyancing

St. Helens, Oregon