

St. Helens Mist

Founded 1881
 Issued Every Friday by
The Mist Publishing Company
 M. E. MILLER, Editor.
 Entered as second class matter January 10, 1912, at the post office at Saint Helens, Oregon under the act of March 3rd, 1879.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 One year.....\$1.50
 Six months......75
 Advertising rates made known on application. Legal notices 25 cents per line

County Official Paper

FACTS AND FIGURES.

The table of figures on the first page of this issue will be found very interesting to read by every taxpayer in Columbia county. These figures have been compiled from the records of Columbia county by Deputy Sheriff Lake and are the actual levies that have been made by the County Court for general road purposes and all the special levies by the different districts for the period indicated. Taken all together it shows a levy of more than \$875,000 for road purposes in the county since 1903. Now let us figure a little. If the roads now in the county have cost over 700,000 during the past ten years and the bond issue of \$360,000 with interest at 5% running for twenty years will cost approximately \$600,000, and the money be spent in scientific road building, which will be the cheaper and get the better results? There can be but one answer. When you figure the cost of maintenance together with the interest and principal of the road bonds for twenty years, with which a permanent road system connecting all parts of the county will be built, you will then spend less money than has been spent during the last ten years. After the money raised by the bond issue has been spent by the building of the road system as proposed, there will be no occasion for a levy of more than 5 or 6 mills each year to maintain all the roads, pay the interest on the bonds and build all the laterals that may be asked for and granted. You can figure that out for yourself and you will positively find it to be the case. If the road bonds do not carry then there must of necessity be a levy of from 9 to 10 mills each year for four or five years to build the roads and after that a levy of from 3 to 5 for maintenance and building laterals. Ask yourselves which will be the cheaper for the taxpayer.

By using the figures taken from the records of the county it has been ascertained how much money has been spent in each road district by special levies during that period.

In district number one, which is all the south portion of the county from Tide creek to Multnomah county, there has been spent in special taxes \$80,000, while in district number two, which is all the territory between Tide creek and Quincy, there has been spent \$116,000.

In district No. 3, which includes Clatskanie, Mist and Marshland, there has been spent \$113,000, and in upper Nehalem \$67,000.

So it will be seen that the districts along the river from Goble down have spent considerable more than in this district.

These figures go a long ways toward answering the arguments that we in this district have been paying taxes for years for our roads, while the fellows down the river have been doing nothing, and now we are asked to help them build their roads. As a matter of fact they have spent more money on their roads than we have on ours, and if we obtained better results than others it was because we had better fa-

cilities, rock, etc., perhaps had better men handling our money, and a much easier country to build roads in than they have.

Right here it might not be amiss to say that in the old St. Helens and Yankton district more special money has been spent than in any other one district in the county, but Goble and Clatskanie have done almost as well, while Mist is only a little behind us.

Our roads in this district are in fairly good shape. We have about 20 miles of macadamized roads, which have all been built under the supervision of Jack Despain, and the fact that one man has been kept on the job all the time instead of changing each year has had considerable to do with it.

Now comes up the argument by some of the people who are opposing the bond issue that the assessed valuation will, from now on, decrease every year. That in 20 years from now all the timber will be gone and the burden of paying the bonds will then fall on the farmers and cities, while the timber men will have ceased operations and gone out. Answering this after making close investigation and getting information from the most reliable sources, it is fairly safe to say that no such condition will exist. That the timber in this county, taken off at the present rate, will last for more than 20 years by double. But if the timber is gone the timber owners will still have great tracts of land upon which they will pay taxes; and the new developed country, as a result of good roads and removal of timber, will be sufficient to keep up the assessed valuation to what it should be anyway. This argument of the timber being gone, and the timber people being able to avoid paying their portion of the bond issue, is just a wild statement used for the purpose of raising a feeling against the proposition, and is without foundation.

It is conceded by all that good roads are a necessity and that they must come in this county right away. There are some people who are strongly in favor of good roads but are opposing the bond issue because they do not see where a system of roads connecting the various parts of the county can be of any benefit to the farmers and property owners back from the main highways, but this can be best answered by saying that the main system of roads must be first built where they will accommodate the most people and the other roads will follow at a minimum cost and as they are required.

During the next week there will be road meetings in several places in the county, at which time there will be speakers who have had the experience of bad roads and good roads and some who live in a community where the bonding issue was a few years ago the same burning question that it is now here. They will be able to throw considerable light, and answer all questions asked. For the purpose of informing themselves in every possible way the voters and taxpayers in every community should attend these meetings and discuss the proposition from all sides. It will be get-together meetings, and will without doubt prove educational and instructive to all, whether for or against the proposition.

Governor West is about to spoil all the good effect of his recent Copperfield exploit by engaging in an unseemly war of words with District Attorney Godwin, of Baker County.

FOR RENT: House, barn, chicken house and other outbuildings with half acre of land. Half mile from Houlton.
 George Perry, Houlton, Ore.

Industrial School.

State of Oregon, Department of Education
 Salem, January 20, 1914.
 To the Editor—

This department with the aid of the Oregon Agricultural College has planned to organize in every school district a boys' and girls' industrial club. We are now publishing a bulletin giving full details of the plan, and shall take pleasure in sending you a copy as soon as it is off the press.

Each club is expected to take up one or more of the projects named below, the choice of the project depending upon the work which is of greatest interest to the community in which the club is organized. The following are the Industrial Club projects suggested by this department for this year.

1. Boys' Corn Growing Contest.
2. Boys' Potato Growing Contest.
3. Girls' Canning Contest.
4. Girls' Cooking and Baking Contest.
5. Boys' and Girls' Poultry Contest.
6. Girls' Sewing Contest.
7. Boys' Pig Feeding Contest.
8. Boys' and Girls' Gardening Contest.
9. Dairy Herd and Management.
10. Manual Arts Contest.

The Agricultural College has promised to assist us further in preparing bulletins giving expert advice to the children as to how best to produce the different things named in these projects, such as bulletins on potato growing, etc., These will be distributed through the clubs, and will be of value to parents as well as to the children. The work of organizing the clubs will fall largely upon the county school superintendents working through the teachers. The University of Oregon, the Oregon Agricultural College, and the Oregon Normal School have promised to send out men in addition to the field workers from this office to help the superintendents in this work.

The State Fair Board has appropriated to this department \$1,000 to be distributed among the boys and girls as prizes at the State Fair. The board has also promised us \$500 to be used to entertain two boys from each county for the whole week of the Fair. The boys will be under the most careful supervision and will make a study of every department of the Fair, in-

cluding especially the poultry and stock judging. In addition to this we expect to send the ten children who stand highest in the State contest to the Panama exposition at San Francisco.

Personally I feel that the great success which the children's industrial work has had in this state is due to a great extent to the encouragement which has been given to the movement by the press of Oregon. All of us will appreciate most sincerely your continued support in helping to organize this work, and thus make the work of our public schools more practical and efficient. I shall send you from time to time copies of all bulletins as they are published. For any editorial support you may see fit to give this movement, the state and the county superintendents will be truly thankful. Yours very truly,

J. A. CHURCHILL,
 Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Card of Thanks.

We wish to thank all our friends who freely gave us of their help and sympathy during the sickness and death of our loved one.
 Harriet M. DuPuis,
 Mr. and Mrs. J. A. DuPuis.



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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.

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