

# St. Helens Mist

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## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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## County Official Paper

Both the initiative and referendum are working overtime in Oregon. At every election there are bills and bills proposed under the initiative which have as their object the fad or fancy of some dreamer or theorist. There are good bills and bad bills. Occasionally a bad bill is passed by the people, but in most every instance only the good ones become laws. The people who vote are becoming educated so that very few laws are being passed without considerable merit. Regardless of this education and care on the part of the voters there are bills placed on the ballot which should not be there. The referendum is a very handy method of playing politics. It has its useful objects and purposes and ordinarily is not abused, but there are times when personal interest or revenge enters in the reference of some bill. Particularly is this true at the present time in Oregon. The legislature passed bills appropriating money for the two great educational institutions of the state, the University of Oregon and the Oregon Agricultural College. The amounts appropriated were shown to be necessary for the proper conduct and improvement of the schools. The members of the legislature visited the schools, looked into the needs of each; studied the conditions here and then voted to let them have the money required. Now comes along some agitators and discontents with a grouch or grievance and invoke the referendum, thereby hindering and hampering the great work being done by these institutions. The people will be flooded with literature showing why these schools should not have the money; they will be told that it is a burden on the taxpayer that is unnecessary and a lot of other stuff which makes it probable that the appropriations will be defeated. Then there is the workmen's Compensation Act passed by the legislature which provides a sensible and reasonable way in caring for injured workmen. This bill, or a bill having for its object the protection and care of men who become injured in hazardous employments, has been demanded for years by the laboring men, and has always been fought by a certain class of employers as well as the insurance companies, until in 1910 the people passed a law which left no protection for the employers; then it was that all hands, except a few of the most rabid union labor men, agreed that a law of this kind was necessary from every view point. Now that the law has been passed, some persons who are ashamed of their identity have invoked the referendum holding it up for a vote of the people who will promptly ratify it when the time comes to vote on it. Another bill held up by the referendum is the County Attorney bill. That this bill, or at least the system of each county having its own attorney, is a necessity and should be adopted by the people, there is no doubt by any one. But there is a political significance attached to the referendum of it which is interesting. In 1911 the legislature passed a county attorney bill providing that at the next election, in 1912, there should be elected a county attorney for

each county, leaving the matter of the selection of this official entirely up to the voters of each county. The governor promptly vetoed the bill. In 1913 the legislature again passed a county attorney bill, but it contained the provision that the governor should appoint the attorney for the various counties, and that his appointees should hold over one election and serve until 1916, thereby depriving the voters of the county in any way as to who should occupy this position for four years. This bill which gave the governor the appointing power, was promptly approved by him and he commenced to make his appointments.

For political reasons, it is evident, several thousand voters who did not believe that the governor should have the power to take away from the people the right to say who should represent them in this office, have invoked the referendum and it is being held up and will probably be defeated at the election, so that the legislature when it meets again can pass a law giving to the people the right to elect these officers. There are other bills referred to the people for various reasons, among them the sterilization bill which should be defeated by the people, for it will only have the effect of making a bad situation worse. Whether or not these referred bills will be voted on in 1913 or 1914 has not yet been decided, but whenever they are the voters should take the time and trouble to thoroughly inform themselves before voting.

After a few more years of initiating and referring, with intelligent voting by the people, the initiative and referendum will be found to have an important place in the law making of the state and will not be subject to the abuses they are now laboring under.

Under the state law it is now a crime to sell pistols to any person except under restrictive conditions. Permits, identification and other red tape has to be gone through with before a person can secure a revolver. Just how much good this will do or how many murders and hold-ups it will prevent is, of course unknown, and always will be so, but that it will prevent some crimes and make people feel at least more secure, is a fact. The law should be strictly enforced and no doubt it will be. Speaking for this city another reform along these lines could and should be inaugurated. There should be an ordinance prohibiting the sale of 22 rifles or any other kind of rifles to boys under 18, or some other age when the boy has at least a certain amount of accountability. Guns of any description in the hands of a boy are dangerous. They do not fit him for the business of life in any particular. A man who cannot hit the broad side of a barn with a gun is just as well fitted for the trials of life as is the man who has had a gun in his hands from the time he was a small child. That is, of course, in the cities where guns are not needed to kill wild beasts. But in this city there are a number of small boys, a regular army, who take their arms and ammunition out for a little sport and before they return some damage is invariably done. If this keeps up more serious damage will result to the great sorrow of some fond parents. It has been only a few weeks ago since a valuable cow belonging to County Clerk La Bare received a shot from a 22 rifle from the effects of which the animal suffered for weeks and the owner was deprived of the use of his cow. There are other instances, too, where damage has been done. It is dangerous to arm small boys with weapons. It is unnecessary and should be stopped.

## LODGES

**HOULTON CIRCLE NO. 448, Women of Woodcraft**, meets the second and fourth Tuesday afternoon of each month at Houlton, Ore. Mrs. Elsa Wikstrom, Guardian. Neighbor: Scappoose, Ore.; Minnie A. Morley, Clerk.

**Columbia Encampment No. 77, I. O. O. F.**, meets in the I. O. O. F. Hall, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, sojourning Patriarchs most cordially invited to meet with us.

G. C. Robey, Chief Patriarch.  
C. W. Blakesley, Scribe.

**COLUMBIA HOMESTEAD No. 2456** Brotherhood of American Yeomen, meets the second and fourth Wednesday night of each month at Yankton, Ore. Visiting members welcome. E. S. HINSON, Honorable Foreman. C. E. LAKE, Correspondent.

**MIZPAH CHAPTER, NO. 30, O. E. S.** Meets in Masonic Hall the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. MARY GEORGE, W. M. LUCY GRAY, Secretary.

**St. Helens Lodge No. 117, I. O. O. F.**, meets in the I. O. O. F. building, on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, visiting members are always given a hearty welcome. Chas. Beeler, N. G. J. W. Allen, Sec.

**Avon Lodge No. 62, Knights of Y. M. C.**, meets every Tuesday evening in the hall, St. Helens. Visiting Knights always welcome. M. R. Miller, C. C. Harold Ross, K. of R. & S.

**ST. HELENS LODGE NO. 4, A. F. & A. M.**, meets 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month. Visiting brothers cordially welcomed. U. W. Clark, Master; E. E. Quick, Secretary.

**United Artisans, Assembly No. 80**, meets first and third Saturdays of each month at K. of P. Hall, St. Helens. Officers: M. A. John Pringle; Sup't, Mrs. Lizzie Robinson; Sec. Mrs. Mabel Bill; Treas., R. H. Robinson. All visiting Artisans are cordially invited.

## —CHURCHES—

**Houlton**, first and third Sundays. Preaching by the pastor, Rev. W. T. Fairchild at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 10 a. m. H. O. Oliver, Supt.

**Yankton**, second and fourth Sundays. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Union Sunday school at 11 a. m.

**Warren**—Preaching at 3 p. m. on first and third Sundays of each month.

Other points, week nights. W. T. Fairchild, Pastor.

All kinds of job work done at the Mist office at reasonable prices.

## Columbia County Bank

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ST. HELENS, OREGON

Capital	\$50,000
Surplus	10,000
Stockholders Additional Liability	50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>

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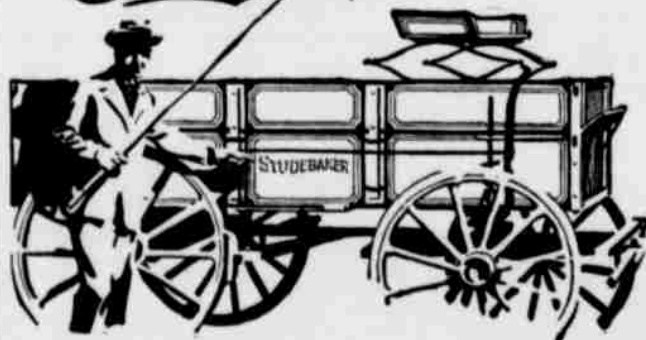
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