

St. Helens Mist

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County Official Paper

One week from to-morrow, Nov. 15th, the election will be held in St Helens and Houlton to vote on the question of consolidating the two towns into one Greater St Helens. That the consolidation will be approved by the majority of voters there seems to be little doubt, but there are a number of people opposed in both places who will vote against it. There are perhaps some reasons which are valid against the question and which are sufficient to cause some people who are directly interested in some particular business or location that warrants them in doing so, but there are some reasons advanced against the proposition which amount to nothing. For instance there are people in St Helens who say that Houlton is hopelessly in debt and they can see no reason why the St Helens people should shoulder the burden of the Houlton debt. Upon investigation of this matter the records show that the total debt of the City of Houlton is \$651.01. The assessed valuation of property in St Houlton, exclusive of the public utility corporations, such as Railroads etc., is \$76, 630.00, so that argument of some of the St Helens people that if the towns are consolidated St Helens will be compelled to bear the burden of a great debt, amounts to nothing. Then there are some people in Houlton who are advancing the same argument about St Helens; that the city is in debt so heavy that our people are anxious to get Houlton in so the Houlton people can help pay it off. The facts are that St Helens is in debt \$50,000 in the shape of water bonds, the interest on which is \$3000 per year and the maintenance of which amounts to not over \$2, 000 per year; the income from the water system is between \$8000 and \$9000 per year, so that this debt instead of being a burden is an asset; in fact such an asset that an offer has been made by a private concern to take up the bonds and to give the city a bonus of \$10,000 for the system. The actual debt of the city is about \$11,000 of which \$2400 is for Godfrey park consisting of 21 lots worth, at a very low estimate \$7200. Some of the balance is for sewer improvements which the city has advanced and for which the property in the sewer district is already bonded to the city so that it is simply an advance and not a debt; the interest being paid by the property owners off-sets the interest the city is paying on its warrants. Then there is the debt of the City Hall which perhaps amounts to \$3000 and the City Hall property can be sold any day for from \$12,000 to \$14, 000. There is a little debt against some of the fire fighting apparatus but not enough to amount to anything. So the debt question of either city is simply an empty argument and will not stand the test of explanation when used against consolidation. In the matter of sewers and street improvements the property affected takes care of itself in both places now and that would make no change at all from the present system. So far as the arguments used against the consolidation are concerned the ones given above are the principal ones that

we can hear of. Of course there are some few people who can find nothing else to say and are saying that it is a real estate scheme but when they undertake to show why this is so they can produce nothing to back it up and the possibility of such a thing is so remote and so utterly without foundation that reasonable people do not consider it for a minute. There are many arguments in favor of the proposition some of which have already been commented upon in these columns and others will be given in our next issue. In the meantime it will be a wise idea for people who are interested in the matter to look up the argument pro and con so that when a vote is taken it will be an intelligent one.

The election returns last Tuesday in Oregon indicated that the people of the state were in favor of the referendum law. The question of sustaining that law was one of the principal causes for the approval of four of the five measures on the ballot. It is quite probable that each and every one of the four laws so approved would have been approved any way but the manner in which these bills were referred had considerable to do with it. Of all the laws passed the most important one was the one known as the Compensation law and this one received a much greater vote than did any of the others. The University appropriations received a large majority in nearly every county, Columbia being one of the exceptions, and the County Attorney bill carried in practically every county in the state. Of local importance was the bill raising the salaries of the county officers. This bill was passed by the last legislature and submitted to the people of the county for their approval. Nothing was done in the way of campaigning for or against the bill and the vote was an honest expression. The bill was defeated by a small majority. When the amount of salaries paid to our county officers is considered, it seems that some of them at least should be raised. The treasurer gets \$600 per year, \$50 a month, and all his time is required at his office. He is the tax collector under the new law and his salary remains the same. There are other officers who are entitled to more than they are getting, but this example is so striking that it should have been considered. A peculiar feature of the votes in this county on this bill, as well as nearly all the others, was that in the two largest cities, Rainier and St. Helens, every bill except the Sterilization bill carried by good majorities, while in every country precinct about the only bill that carried was the Compensation law.

On the first page of this issue is a picture of two well known St Helens Lawyers. The Mist cartoonist has secured pictures of all the St Helens bar and each week two of them will be shown in a characteristic attitude. After the legal profession is exhausted some other, probably the medical men, will be shown off and then business men and other prominent citizens. We are going to make a cartoon each week of local characters and topics thereby making this another special feature of the Mist.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

L. H. & W. I. Spencer to Geo. Staley, tract No. 30.
N. A. & E. R. Early to J. E. Meyers, land in 8-7-4.
L. B. & N. Eastman to G. R. Lugar, land in 8-7-4.
D. E. & G. R. Lugar to E. D. & G. G. Tiehener, land in 8-7-4.
C. Smith to A. L. Price, tract 6, Valley View acres.
Rainier Land Co. to E. V. Davis, lot 1, block 13, Blanchard's 2nd Add.
F. H. Warren, by Exs Warren Pkg Co, land.

LODGES

HOULTON CIRCLE NO. 478, Women of Woodcraft, meets the second and fourth Tuesday afternoon of each month at Houlton, Ore. Mrs. Elsie Wikstrom, Guardian Neighbor. Scappose, 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.
G. W. Blakesley, Scribe.

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, Secy.

Avon Lodge No. 62 Knights of Y. M. C. meets every Tuesday Evening in Castle Hall, St. Helens. Visiting Knights always welcome.
M. E. Miller, C. C.
Harold Ross, K. of R. & S.

ST. HELENS LODGE NO. 117, I. O. O. F. Meets 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month. Visiting brothers cordially welcomed. U. W. Clark, Master; E. E. Quick, 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.

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

Court St. Helens, No. 80, meets every 2nd & 4th Wednesdays in K. of P. Hall.
All members urged to attend meetings.
Visiting Brothers always welcome.
J. G. Pringle, C. R.
M. J. Ford, F. S.

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—CHURCHES—

Houlton M. E. Church—First and third Sundays—Preaching at 11 a. m., and 7:30 every Sunday evening except fifth Sunday of the month. Sunday school every Sunday at 10 a. m. H. O. Oliver, Supt. Epworth League, Wm. H. Smith, president, meets every Sunday evening at 7:30, Wm. H. Smith, president. Prayer meeting every Thursday evening at 7:30. Wm. H. Smith, leader.

Yankton—Preaching on second and fourth Sundays at 11 a. m. Sunday school at 10 a. m.

Warren—Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. every fifth Sunday. D. T. Summerville, Pastor.

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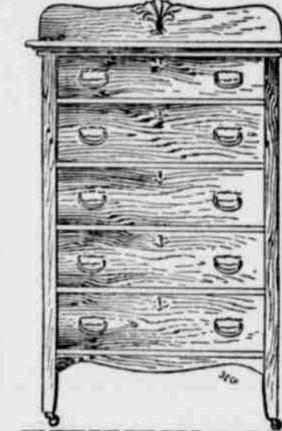
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