

# St. Helens Mist

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## County Official Paper

The road bond election will be held next Monday. There has been done everything that could have been done by both sides to the question, and it remains now for the voters to say whether or not the county will continue in the useless expenditure of money on the roads with very unsatisfactory results or will adopt a system of road building and get the very best value for the money spent. It has been said that both sides have done all they could. This is true, but that there are two sides to the question is to be regretted, and no doubt if the voters could and would take the pains and have the opportunities to inform themselves of all conditions there would be but one side, with the possible exception of a few kickers who are opposed to everything anyway. That there should be good roads built is the unanimous opinion of all. That better results can be obtained by a scientific system and the proper use of money, and with enough money at one time to do something that will be lasting, is also admitted by all, but the attitude taken by a considerable number of the voters is that the bonding method will only add a burden to the already overburdened tax payer. That seems to be the only reason for opposition to the bonds. That the bonding method will be cheaper in the long run has been asserted by the Mist on several occasions and figures have been given to back up the assertion, and now comes the statement of the County Court that such will be the case. These men are in a better position to know than any one else. They have made a careful study of the situation. They tell you in their statement published in this issue what their ideas are and as they are all men of affairs, all heavy taxpayers and vitally interested in the affairs of the county, their statement should and will carry much weight. Another feature of the decision arrived at by the County Court in making this statement is the fact that they have consulted with tax payers from every portion of the county. They have patiently listened to all complaints and arguments. They have been visited by delegations favoring the bond issue and by other delegations opposing it. They have talked for arguments and appreciate visits from the citizens.

Aside from the belief that the bonds will increase the taxes here is only one other real objection, and that is the attack on the automobiles. There are certain people who are saying that the bond issue will only benefit the automobile owner and that it is a scheme of the automobile owners to make the farmers pay for their road. Of course there is absolutely nothing to this argument and it is only used to create a feeling by people who do not own such a thing to vote against the bonds. No argument is necessary to any person who will give the thing a second thought.

In fact there is no valid reason that can be figured out now after all the figures are before the people, why we should not have good roads and that the only way to get them at present is to vote for the bonds. The County Court

has sized it up in a most concise manner and puts it up this way: "There is everything to gain and nothing to lose by voting bonds." Study it out Mr. taxpayer from an unbiased standpoint and you can not but agree that the County Court is right.

At the present time when property owners are receiving statements of the amount of taxes they must pay, it will be interesting to note some figures in connection with the high taxes this year.

In 1912 the total amount to be raised in Columbia county for all purposes was \$273,742 while in 1913 the total amount is \$399,230 a difference of \$125,488. That means that this year there must be paid \$125,488 more than was raised last year and this amount represents the increase in taxes. In 1912 Columbia County's portion of the State tax was \$18,432 while in 1913 the state tax is \$26,965, an increase over which this county has absolutely no control of \$8,533. The general school tax, which is fixed by law at so much per capita, last year was \$28,496 while this year it is \$30,777, an increase of \$2,281 over which the county has no control. Last year the special tax was \$52,067 while this year the special school tax is \$61,254, an increase of \$9,187 over which the County Court has no control. The Special Cities last year was \$9,475 while this year the same thing amounts to \$16,072, an increase of \$6,597 over which the County Court has no control. By taking these figures together there is \$66,557 more to be paid this year than last which was fixed by people other than the County Court and which represents more than one half the advance this year over last. These figures show that with the large nine and a half mills general road levy this year the total amount for which the county officers are responsible this year is only \$59,031 more than last. When the expensive trials of murder cases is considered in the Circuit Court it can be seen as a matter of fact the increase in taxes for the county alone is not much above normal.

In Union County dogs are assessed for about \$58 while in Clatsop County the value placed on them is \$2. Might be a profitable venture for some enterprising man to visit Clatsop and buy canines for shipment to Union.

### YANKTON NEWS

Mrs. Ella Briggs made a business trip to Yankton last week. She was on her way to California where she expects to locate.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hyde are expected home this week. They have been visiting for over a month in California.

The voters of this neighborhood will vote in the Grange Hall at the special election held next week, Feb. 2, 1914.

St. Helens Timber Company closed their logging camp for a few days on account of the snow.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Staine at their home near Seaside, Oregon, a son, Mrs. Staine was before marriage, Miss Nellie Slater of Yankton.

The taxes are so heavy this year that the majority of voters in this neighborhood are not in favor of bonding the county, however there will be speakers here Tuesday at 1 p. m., who will give us their views for and against bonds.

### SCHOOL NOTES.

There is a considerable amount of sickness, mostly had cold with two or three cases of mumps, among the pupils making the attendance very irregular in most of the rooms.

The children are using the basket ball floor for play at intermissions which gives them lots of exercise and keeps them in out of the wet weather. The floor is kept clean and all the windows in both ends of the hall being kept open affords the best of sanitary conditions.

The carnival on last Friday evening given by the High School was a "howling" success. The entertainment consisted of side shows of an instructive variety, beside the main comedy of a local theatre manager. The "movies" were of a high order, in which the Pathe Weekly exhibited the recent "current" events. The world famous high dive was very cleverly and safely executed. The side show "for men only" was a great attraction which had an uplifting and sustaining appearance. The fish pond with a sucker on one end of the pole and a stick of gum on the other got lots of bite. A rushing business was done at the fortune teller's stand, in which we all have the greatest faith. The Quaker girls in their simple but very attractive gowns and the militant suffragists were very much contrasted but gave a short program which was very well rendered and was far from being one of the fakes.

Miss Neill, Miss Hammarstrom and Supt. Kilgore spent last week end in Portland.

Don't forget that Wednesday of each week is parents and visitors day. The parents were all in attendance last Wednesday except you.

The county debate in which the high school takes part takes place Friday night at Scappoose. We wish the boys the greatest success.

### Baled Hay for Sale.

CLOVER HAY FOR SALE—By I. Norbeck & Co. and Chas. Kohlstrand, Warren, Oregon. 1-5



J. A. BILL R. C. ROBERTSON

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Your Orders Solicited Good Prices Full Weight  
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WINES LIQUORS CIGARS  
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FOR SAME PRICE AS CHEAPER WARE  
**C. H. JOHN & CO.**  
THE HOUSE OF QUALITY

All Work Guaranteed. Estimates Furnished.  
**R. CONSTANTIN**  
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St. Helens Oregon

LOST—A diamond brooch, somewhere between the Cox residence and the Morton residence on top of the hill. Return to The Mist office and receive reward.



A GOOD PLACE TO DO BUSINESS

## Columbia County Bank

ST. HELENS, ORE.  
ASSETS \$270 000

—BOARD OF DIRECTORS—  
Wm. M. Ross, President  
L. R. Rutherford, Vice-Pres.  
A. L. Stone, Cashier  
J. S. Allen, Asst. Cashier  
L. G. Ross



# 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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Call and look over our stock  
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EVERYTHING MODERN AT THE  
**ST. HELENS HOTEL**  
J. GEORGE, Proprietor ALL BUSES CALL AT HOTEL  
RATES \$1.00 AND UP  
SPECIAL RATES TO REGULAR BOARDERS

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INVESTMENTS, RENTALS, INSURANCE, COLLECTIONS, LOANS, LAND TITLES, APPRAISEMENTS, ADMINISTRATOR, GUARDIAN, FISCAL AGENT, CONVEYANCE, EXECUTOR, INFORMATION AND EMPLOYMENT  
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