

# ST. HELENS MIST

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER

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## LET THE COUNTY COURT ALONE

Truly this is an age of selfishness. Never was this fact more demonstrated than in the road question now before the County Court and the people of this county. At the meeting of the County Court held last Friday in this city, the State Highway Commission were present together with a delegation of citizens from Rainier, Clatskanie and St. Helens. The route of the proposed Columbia River Highway from Tide Creek to the Clatsop County line has been settled upon and the contract let for the construction of that portion of the road. The route adopted is the one surveyed and recommended by the State Highway Engineer. The people of that portion of the county are satisfied with the route and with the contract for building the same. They seem to be so well satisfied with the proceedings on that end of the line so far, that they are afraid something will be done which might change the route or cut down some of the work as contracted for that, they are clamoring for the County Court to turn over to State Highway Association the absolute control of everything pertaining to selection of routes, letting of contracts and handling of the county funds. They are so well pleased with things down their way, after a route has been established which passethrough their respective cities and communities, that they want the people of this end to accept whatever is offered without having any say as to where or how the money is to be spent. They seem to be afraid that the County Court may do something in accordance with the wishes and wants of the people in this end of the county so that it might change the status of the road question and put a little of the money raised by bonds and taxation on roads in this portion of the county where people want it, and if such action should not be in accordance with the plans and aims of the State Highway Engineer, it might work to their especial injury in as much as the County Court, looking to the best interests of the people in this section, do not see things the same way as does the State Highway Engineer.

This is the state of affairs now and it is to be regretted. The election of the route from Tide Creek down was let alone by the people of this end and when the contract for grading that portion of the road was let, which took up practically all the money voted at the bond election, no complaint was made. It was the generally accepted fact that much more money was needed on the lower road than on the upper road, and it was the understanding that sufficient money was to be left out of the bonds and the general fund to do at least some work on the roads in this end of the county. But now that there is such a small sum left that it would take it all and more, to secure the right of way on the route proposed by the State Highway Engineer, our roads would receive no benefits from the road bonds at all. The County Court is composed of men who have made a study of the road situation in the county. They know how much money they have to work with. They know how much it will require on each portion of the roads to do any good. They are in a better position to do equal justice to all parts of the county than could possibly be any other person or commission from outside the county.

The people in this end of the county feel that they are entitled to at least a small portion of the county funds on the roads and that they should have some say as to where the money be spent. The County Court realizing this and in an effort to do equal justice to all of the county will retain supervision of the road matters and the expenditure of the funds.

If the County Court and the State Highway Commission can get together and formulate some plans whereby the Southern portion of the county will receive some share of the money and have that money expended where it will do the most good to the most people, there will be no just cause to complain on our part and the people in the lower end, having received everything asked for, should have no kick coming.

## BISHOP SCADDING

The world is better off for having had Bishop Charles Scadding.

The world has suffered a loss by his untimely removal by death. The Episcopal Church has lost one of its most able, devout and worthy characters. Christianity has suffered an irreparable loss. Society has been deprived of a great and good member. The state and nation loses one of its most eminent citizens.

Hundreds and thousands of people in this land, scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific, of all religious beliefs and creeds, have received some benefit by meeting and associating with this grand and noble Christian gentleman. His life and his teachings, his great love and loyal devotion to the cause of Christianity, his personal interest in the betterment of mankind and the uplifting of humanity, his high and lofty ideals of the true Christian life, have given inspiration to thousands of people.

The people of St. Helens who had the honor and pleasure of an acquaintance with the late Bishop, are mournful in the extreme at the seeming untimely calling away of this good man. Less than two weeks ago he preached a sermon in Christ Church, St. Helens, in which he gave utterance to some truths that will ever be remembered by those who heard him. It was a masterly and scholarly sermon, the last one preached by the eminent Bishop.

Bishop Scadding is gone but his memory will remain for generations. His will be a difficult place to fill, for his people loved, honored and respected him to the utmost. His life has been one of great usefulness and of lasting benefit to humanity.

## REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY, FOR MAY TERM, A. D., 1914.

We, the Grand Jury of the said County, duly chosen at May term of the Honorable Court, most respectfully report to the Court as follows:

That we have examined into the case of confinement of all persons restrained of their liberty in said County, as well as the cause of complaint against those released on bond, and those against whom charges have been made directly to us, or those against whom we had reason to believe any cause for criminal complaint existed, and we have returned true bills of indictment

in those cases where we deemed the evidence justified the same, except one or two cases in which we deemed the assistance of a competent accountant necessary;

That we have examined into the affairs of the Sheriff's Office of Columbia County and find that the Sheriff, A. E. Thompson, has just resigned and left the office in such shape that a full examination into the affairs of said office should be made by some one competent to fix any existing criminal liability where it justly belongs, and we have ordered such examination.

We have carefully examined into the shooting of one Oscar Grannigan, at Rainier, on May 5th, 1914, by Nels Carlson, a duly appointed and acting Police Officer of said city, and find such shooting was necessarily done by said officer, in the discharge of his duty as a peace officer, and is fully justified.

We further find that an examination into such shooting discloses a shameful interference with said officer, in the discharge of his duties, by certain persons then assembled at the place of shooting, in said city; but owing to the fact that the City of Rainier has already begun to administer justice, under proper city ordinances, for such crime, and believing that the local authorities are willing and able to properly deal with the whole matter, we have returned no indictments in connection therewith, but would advise a prompt action by State authority, in case of any future disorder of a like kind.

We are advised that in addition to the large sum of money for which the County has recently been bonded in favor of public roads, the County Court has been induced to expend, or permit to be expended under the direction of other persons, at the immediate cost of the County, a sum exceeding \$17,000.00 for the survey of certain highways on a proposed inter-county road system, with the understanding on the part of Columbia County Officials that such sum should be returned to the County from the State Road Fund, under authority of the State Highway Commission; and while there is no legal contract to that effect, we advise the County Court to strenuously contend for the return of all the money so expended as a matter of justice and right to Columbia County.

We regret the haste which has resulted in the letting of contracts involving the expenditure of over a quarter of a million dollars for public road work, before the rights of way were obtained, or a proper and sufficient advertisement was had, and would suggest to the County Court that the people of Columbia County look to it alone to manage and control the expenditure of County funds raised by the sale of County Bonds for road purposes;

We regret that the plans for said roadway were not so drawn and advertised as to allow a better opportunity for local bids;

We deem the amount for which a contract has already been let on the proposed highway from Tide Creek to Clatsop County line entirely disproportionate to any probable local benefit to Columbia County therefrom, and would recommend no opportunity be neglected to interest the State in such route as a State Highway, or possibly the National Government as a Military road connecting the interior of our County with the Forts on the Coast.

Finally we would recommend to the County Court, a retrenchment in expenditures, which must seem necessary to any one who has observed the growing tax-list of the County, during the last few years.

We are unable to realize the necessity of the new office of County Highway Engineer, and we recommend that the office cease with the present necessity, if such necessity now exists.

We believe that the residence of a Judge of a Court of general jurisdiction in each County in our State would result in general benefit and economy, and so recommend to the consideration of the representatives of Columbia County in our future Legislatures.

Respectfully submitted, this, the 23rd day of May, 1914.  
John G. Pringle, Foreman; G. W. Rodes, Will Karth, Ben Van Cleave, J. F. Loyd, J. E. Johnson, S. Saulser  
Members of the Grand Jury.

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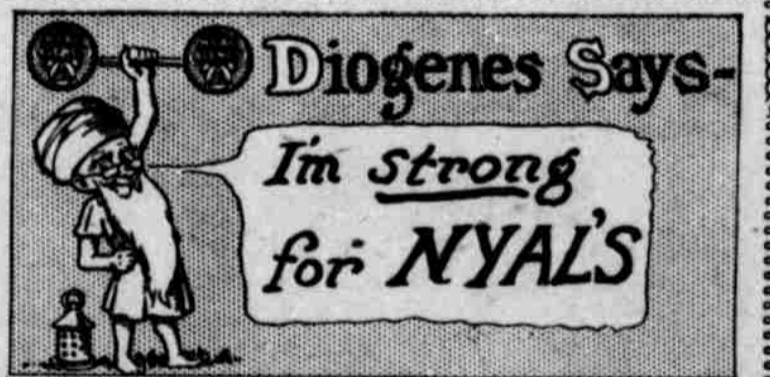
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