

ST. HELENS MIST

FOUNDED 1881

Issued Every Friday By

THE MIST PUBLISHING COMPANY

M. E. Miller, Editor

Entered as second class matter, January 19th, 1912
at the Post Office at Saint Helens, Oregon, under the
Act of March 3rd, 1879

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year \$1.50
Six Months75
Advertising rates made known on application
Legal notices 25 cents per line.

THE COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.

A number of bills have been introduced in the Legislature providing for an increase in the salaries of the county treasurers. Since the last Legislature adjourned the duties of tax collecting has been put upon the treasurer and in very few instances was the salary adequate for the additional service required of that official. As a rule it is against public opinion and really unwise to raise the salaries of public officials until the duties of such officers increase to a very considerable extent, but in the case of the treasurers it would seem that injustice to the officers and protection to the taxpayers require that the salaries be placed at a reasonable amount. In the case of the Treasurer of Columbia County there should be a substantial increase made by the Legislature. Mr. Hattan has not asked for any increase nor, perhaps would he do so at all, but that is only another reason why it should be granted. He is a capable officer. He spends his entire time at his office and his records are in first class condition. No complaint can be made of his administration of the affairs of his office. He receives the munificent sum of Six Hundred Dollars a year for his services in collecting and expending nearly half a million dollars each year. He should be paid a reasonable compensation for his services. Our Representative and Senator would be performing a service actually required of them as such officers if they would ask the Legislature to raise the salary of the county treasurer.

MISPLACED CHARITY.

At Christmas time the Muts of St. Helens extended charity to a family consisting of a father, mother and several children. The man said he was unable to get work and his children were without the necessary clothing to keep them warm and food to eat. The mother was sick with an infant and their condition was really deplorable. The charity extended to the man in his hour of distress by the Muts was apparently misplaced. So far as the small children were concerned, they were entitled to this assistance and no doubt they enjoyed this Christmas as well as any they had ever witnessed. But now comes the news that this man has been given a chance to earn some money during the winter months by cutting wood. He secured a contract for furnishing several carloads of wood to Portland parties. He then made arrangements to cut wood on a place near this city. He hired several men to go to work for him with the promise that he would pay them when the wood was sold. During the past week he shipped three car loads of wood to Portland and received the money for it. He came back to St. Helens, with the money in his pocket and on Sunday at midnight he took the boat for Portland and from there to parts unknown. The man who furnished the timber for him was not paid. The men who did the work remain unpaid. The men who furnished him with groceries received nothing. The man who received the charity from the citizens of the community took all the money and skipped. A man of that kind is not entitled to charity. He should have his children taken away from him before they grow up to emulate the disgraceful actions of their father. He is not entitled to the respect or confidence of his fellow man. He is worthless to himself and to the world.

JUST A NUISANCE.

Reports of the business of a small concern like the Mist are required to be made to so many different branches of government that it takes almost the time of an extra bookkeeper to keep up and to prevent being fined for failure to make these reports. For instance, a report is required annually to the Corporation Department of the State; a monthly report must be made to the Industrial Accident Commission of the State; annual reports are required to be made to the Government on the income tax; on the amount of manufactured articles in the printing office, separately listing the various items; on the amount of papers sent through the mails and by express; on the internal revenue documentary, (war) tax business and to the census department. If a small corporation like the Mist is required to make so many reports it must surely be a

great burden to some of the large corporations to keep up with the many reports required. And if these reports are not in within a certain time heavy fines are imposed.

Truly this is getting to be a great age of publicity. The way things are drifting it seems that it will not be long until the government will provide a man for each corporation, large or small, to prevent any possible surplus from going into the pockets of the people who have their money invested. Of course there is very little danger of much of a surplus in a newspaper business, but for fear there may be we are required to make reports and reports and reports. But we will make them all right and without very serious objections except that it is a nuisance.

AMENDMENTS NEEDED.

The bill before the legislature providing for the appointment of additional Circuit Judges in the state, might be all right so far as the intention is concerned, but in its present form it would result in more delays and greater expense than under the present system. The main idea of the proposed bill should be for better service at not to exceed the same cost to the taxpayers. That some relief along the lines of Court work is necessary seems to be the general opinion but the proposed law would have the opposite effect. Taking Columbia County as an instance we now have a County Judge with probate jurisdiction. He is on the job practically all of the time. The Circuit Judge visits this county once a month. The new bill would take away the probate jurisdiction of the County Judge and still leave us with the visit of the Circuit Judge once each month and on many occasions only for a day or two at a time. So we would be left without a probate judge all the time with the exception of a few days the early part of each month. Our condition would be no better, nor even so good as at present. But there is some reason in the argument that there is work for a Judge in Columbia County all the time. That is a judge with probate jurisdiction. It is true that a judge with all these duties would be kept busy most of the time and that it would expedite matters considerably. But such work is not worth \$4000 a year, nor is the work of the judge in any one county, with possibly a few exceptions. If the legislature wants to make a real change for the betterment of conditions they should provide for a judge in each county and then fix the salaries at figures in proportion to the work. If that method was adopted there would be real progression and greater satisfaction at a cost not exceeding the present cost. It would be better to keep working under the present system than to adopt the plan proposed in the bill now before the legislature, without these amendments.

GOOD, SO FAR.

The Legislature so far has not enacted any very important legislation. The session is remarkable only for the great reduction in the number of bills introduced, less than one-half the number that were introduced two years ago. Important measures are pending and will no doubt be enacted so that the 1915 session promises to result in much good to the people of the state. Already it is reported that many thousands of dollars have been saved in the way of appropriations for the state institutions and if this policy is pursued to the finish the economy promised by the members before election will be to a certain extent realized. With the important tax laws that are really necessary, the prohibition law and the consolidation of the various boards, together with the general appropriation bill out of the way there should be little excuse for any great amount of useless legislation. The present Legislature is making a record. It is hoped that they will not mar that record during the last half of the session.

LEST WE FORGET.

The Mist has had nothing to say about State Highway Engineer Bowlby now for a couple of weeks and we had intended to drop the matter of his work in this county, feeling that we had done our full duty in setting the facts before the people, but this week we got a glimpse of his report, not that he sent us one but there is one in this city which we had the pleasure of looking over for a few minutes. The figures given by the State Highway Engineer in this report are so at variance with the actual figures submitted by him and which are on record at the Court House that it would not be fair to allow them to go unchallenged. Just as soon as we are able to get hold of a report these figures will be compared, and we will publish the comparison so that the people of this county may see just how reliable are the figures submitted, both in the report and in his estimates on file in the clerk's office. When this comparison is made and shown up it will be real interesting reading to the public and to the State Highway Commission.

WEEKLY SPECIALS

One day each week we give specials, the prices on goods offered are always cheaper than you can steal them. Next Wednesday, starting at 9 a. m., we will sell 81x90 inch good quality bed sheets, regular price 90c, sale price 65c. Not more than two to each person. A fine line of

Dress Gingham	11½c yard
Apron Gingham	10½c yard
Calicoes, exceptional quality,	6½c yard
Fine quality Table Damask	57c yard
Old Glory Sanitary Gauze	6½c yard
Try our Toilet Soap, three bars for	10 Cents
Seven boxes of Matches for	25 Cents

WATCH
OUR WINDOWS
FOR SPECIALS**NOAH'S ARK**ST. HELENS
FIVE AND TEN CENT
STORE**Auto Troubles**

respond quickly and inexpensively to our treatment. If your car rattles, or does not run smoothly, or jars, or makes too much noise, IT IS TIME TO BRING IT TO US if you want it to last. A dollar or two spent on that car today may save you ten tomorrow, and that is an INDISPUTABLE FACT.

Gasoline 16 Cents. Marine Engine Repairing.

CITY GARAGE

ST. HELENS.

SYMPHONY LAWN WRITING PAPER

Its Use a Mark of Refinement.

Plain White and tinted, Surf Green, Old Lavender, Champagne, Boudoir Blue, Shell Pink. Variety of shapes and sizes. In Gold Edged Correspondence Cards, with envelopes to match, in white and tints, at 40c. and 50c. the box.

Remember we handle Krause's High Grade Candies, in boxes and by the pound.

PLAZA PHARMACY

BANK BUILDING PHONE 100 ST. HELENS, OREGON

All Work Guaranteed. Estimates Furnished.

R. CONSTANTINPLUMBING, HEATING,
SHEET METAL WORK.

St. Helens Oregon

NEW PERKINS HOTEL

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Handy to Large Stores, Theaters and Banks
Comfortable and Convenient.**A RESTAURANT**Of High Class, with Moderate Prices,
in Connection.Room Rates: With bath \$1.50 up. With bath
privilege \$1.00 up.

C. H. SHAFER, Manager.

This Farmer Lost \$5,000

He had managed to clear from his farm during the past 5 years a total of \$5,000. He kept it hidden in the cow stable. The other night the barn was burned down—the savings of five years destroyed. Brother Farmer, where do you keep your money—where will it be when the Fire King comes? Why not keep it at The Columbia County Bank. It is absolutely safe here. It is not absolutely safe where you now keep it. Isn't that so?

You can bank with us by
Mail. May we tell you
how?**Columbia County Bank**OLDEST IN THE COUNTY
ST. HELENS, ORE.We pay 4 per cent. interest in our
Savings Department.

AN UP-TO-DATE

**Jewelry
Store**

COMPLETE STOCK OF

**Watches
AND
Clocks**

EXPERT WATCH REPAIRING.

VON A. GRAY

Jeweler. ST. HELENS

LUNCH

AT

MASON'SRUTHERFORD
BUILDING.

CHOICE

Confectionery and Cigars

QUICK SERVICE

LUNCH

ANY HOUR.

LARGE ASSORTMENT OF
BOX GOODS.