

**St. Helens Mist**

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**COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER**



"I pledge allegiance to my Flag,  
and to the Republic for which it  
stands, one Nation indivisible, with  
Liberty and Justice for All."

**WE DON'T BELIEVE IT**

Scurrilous stories circulated about  
men in public life should be disputed  
by everyone who believes in the  
honesty of the men who are tra-  
duced.

The latest about C. E. Spence,  
master of the State Grange, is being  
given currency around the edges of  
road meetings where he speaks. It  
is to the effect that he was paid  
\$20,000 by the timber interests to  
put over the tax limitation amend-  
ment to the constitution; that he  
only expended one-fourth of that  
amount in the campaign, and that he  
pocketed the remainder.

Anyone who knows Mr. Spence  
well knows that although he is a  
man of narrow prejudices and very  
shifty in his stand on many public  
questions, he is absolutely honest  
financially. There is nothing to be  
gained by circulating these slanders.

Mr. Spence has said so many  
contemptible things about unselfish  
citizens of Oregon that he will get  
little sympathy now his own mo-  
tives are questioned, but two wrongs  
do not make a right, and false accusa-  
tions against him should not be  
countenanced by self-respecting citi-  
zens.—Oregon Voter.

The Voter's article has some sweet-  
ening in it, but there are also many  
grains of bitter along with the  
sweet. It is a backhanded compli-  
ment, but Spence has it coming to  
him. Whether or no he received  
any compensation for his efforts to  
put over the tax limitation measure,  
we are unable to say, but Spence  
knew he was working for the timber  
interests when he was working for  
that constitutional amendment. If  
our memory does not fail us, Spence  
was one of the high mogul commit-  
teemen who helped Robert Smith, of  
the Tax Liberator (?) frame the bill  
and deceive the voters of Oregon into  
voting for the measure. This same  
Spence is now making a superhuman  
effort to defeat the \$5,000,000 road  
bond issue, and as master of the  
Oregon granges is appealing to the  
grange members to vote against the  
bonds. As one who knows Spence  
very well stated to us, "Spence is  
just like a block dragging behind a  
wagon—he never supports anything  
that is progressive but would rather  
hold back than push." Our infor-  
mant was mistaken, however, Spence  
did push the tax limitation measure  
and when he and Smith work together  
there's some reason for the pushing  
power. Many granges all over the  
state are going on record as in favor  
of the bonds notwithstanding  
Spence's fight against them. This  
ought to show the gentleman where  
to head in, but, like U'Ren, he is  
possessed with a great idea of his  
own importance. His fellow gran-  
gers, however, while paying him re-  
spect as the head of the great army  
of agriculturists in the state, seem  
to differ with him and refuse to be  
led like lambs to the slaughter. It  
seems as though Spence has "shot  
his wad."

**AID THE NATION**

Government officials, bankers,  
railroad officials, municipal authori-  
ties, and in fact all men and women  
of the country who realize the situa-  
tion which confronts the nation as  
to food supplies, are urging a greater  
production of foodstuffs. At this  
moment no other factor in the na-  
tional situation is of greater impor-  
tance than intelligent precautionary  
preparations and methods to secure  
the largest possible acreage of land  
for cultivation. Whether we are at  
war or peace, the population must  
be fed, and if unfortunately weather  
conditions should be unfavorable and  
the yield of the land not up to the  
average the food situation will be  
much worse next fall and winter  
than it is at the present time, and  
goodness knows the situation is seri-  
ous enough, to say the least. While  
the conditions prevailing throughout  
the country are not alarming, the  
old saying of "a stitch in time saves  
nine" might well be borne in mind,  
for it is certainly the part of wis-

dom to guard and provide against a  
possibility. Plant, plant, plant. Do  
not let an inch of productive ground  
go unused.

**PATRIOTIC LEAGUE SHOULD BE  
FORMED**

As other towns in Oregon are do-  
ing, St. Helens should organize a  
branch of the Oregon Patriotic  
League. This league is designed to  
bring together all of the hundreds  
of organizations so that they will co-  
operate in unison and harmony and  
produce the greatest possible bene-  
fits and results. To attain the high-  
est efficiency, each community in the  
state should have a branch of the  
league, which is non-political and  
sectarian, and the services of every  
worker is volunteered.

There are two main fields of en-  
deavor which the league has under-  
taken. The first is to give every citi-  
zen an opportunity to make that per-  
sonal sacrifice which he owes his  
country; the duty which citizens may  
perform by volunteering their ser-  
vices and material possessions. The  
second field is assisting in recruiting;  
making provisions for those left be-  
hind by the enlisted men; seeing  
that employers keep jobs open for  
the boys who answer the call to the  
colors; provide comforts for men at  
the front; to mobilize the resources  
of the state; urge the cultivation of  
gardens and farms; assist in provid-  
ing farmers with help; provide a  
home guard and assist the govern-  
ment in any manner possible.

The foregoing summary of the ac-  
tivities of the league embraces every  
avenue of endeavor which would de-  
velop in war or preparation for war.  
Under the scope of the program  
there is something which every man,  
woman and child in Oregon can do  
for the nation in the way of patriotic  
service.

By all citizens of the state being  
affiliated with some branch of the  
league there will be no opportunity  
for irresponsible individuals to im-  
pose on the patriotic impulse of the  
people by the formation of mush-  
room organizations. The big idea of  
the Oregon Patriotic Service League  
is to bring the people of Oregon to  
the point where all will work for the  
common good that the best possible  
results can be obtained. The league  
is the clearing house for any and all  
information which anyone may want.

Now is the proper time for St. He-  
lens to take up this work, and it  
should be taken up without delay.  
Surely we are as patriotic as any  
other city in Oregon. Who will start  
the ball to rolling? Further infor-  
mation may be obtained at the Misc  
office.

**IS SPENCE CONSISTENT**

Four years ago C. E. Spence, mas-  
ter of the grange, advocated the  
grange bill which proposed the issu-  
ance of 4 per cent bonds by counties  
for the construction of permanent  
roads, the bonds to be paid by a di-  
rect tax levy. This same Mr. Spence  
is now vigorously opposing the road  
bond bill which proposes the issuing  
of \$6,000,000 twenty-five year 4 per  
cent bonds for hard surfaced roads.  
Voters should bear in mind that a  
direct tax is not imposed for the  
retirement of the bonds. The bonds  
will be paid by the automobile own-  
ers, and those who have made a  
careful study of the matter claim  
that with the increase in the auto  
license and the existing one-fourth  
mill state tax which has been fixed  
against all taxable property in the  
state, that there will be ample re-  
venue to pay the interest and retire  
the bonds at maturity. Certainly no  
one in Columbia county should be  
opposed to the bonds, for one of the  
first projects is the hard-surfacing  
of the highway from the Malmsomah  
line to Astoria. Looking at it from  
a selfish standpoint, Columbia county  
has everything to gain and nothing  
to lose. It is hard to understand why  
Spence is so vigorously opposing the  
bonds. Perhaps he wishes to be in  
the limelight, or else there might be  
a fund provided for the defeat of the  
bonds and he might be in on the  
div.

**A GOOD EXAMPLE**

The Terpsichorean Club has is-  
sued invitations for a dance on Sat-  
urday, May 19. The invitation states  
"dancing 8-12." This is sensible.  
Start the dances early and then stop  
at a reasonable hour. There's no ex-  
cuse to come to a dance at 10 or 11  
o'clock. Come early, have a few  
hours of pleasure. The marshal  
should know "where his town is" at  
shortly after midnight. If dances  
are allowed to continue until the  
early morning hours, he doesn't know  
this. The Terpsichorean Club has  
set a good example which should be  
followed.

"Do you want good roads?" If so,  
vote for the road bonds. If you are  
not an automobile owner, your taxes  
will not be increased by such bond  
issue. Remember that more than 80  
per cent of the entire tax will be  
paid by the auto owners of Malmsomah  
county.

**NO IDLE HANDS  
OR IDLE MOMENTS**

Serve Your Country by Joining the  
"Army of the Hoe."

Patriotism does not consist alone  
in enlisting in the army or navy.  
Only a small per cent of our total  
population can qualify for actual  
military service. But every patriotic  
citizen can and should do something  
to assist in this most critical time in  
the history of our nation.

In time of war it is not so much a  
question of who has the largest army  
as it is a question of who can feed  
their army best and longest. The  
winner is the one who has the last  
carcase of beef, the last barrel of  
pork, the last bag of beans, and the  
last sack of flour. So you can serve  
your country just as well by joining  
the "army of the hoe" as by taking  
up arms of destruction. The call has  
been issued from Washington not  
only for men to enlist in the army  
and navy to join the allies in war on  
Germany, but for everyone—big, lit-  
tle, young and old to enlist in the  
army of the hoe; to produce some  
kind of food product and make war  
on the high cost of living and the  
wolf of starvation. The government  
is asking for an agricultural army of  
2,000,000 boys and girls. Let Ore-  
gon furnish her quota, and let Col-  
umbia county do her part. Every  
acre of ground, every vacant town lot  
and every back yard should be made  
to produce to its full capacity. There  
should not be an idle hand nor an  
idle moment. Never was there so  
rare an opportunity to inspire the  
rising generation with true patri-  
otism—a spirit of service and sacrifice  
—as now. Never was there a better  
time and opportunity to inculcate in  
the rising generation habits of indus-  
try, economy, thrift, self denial, self  
respect and all those sterling quali-  
ties that go to constitute good citi-  
zenship.

The state department of education,  
the Oregon Agricultural College and  
the United States department of agri-  
culture in co-operation are all will-  
ing and trying to do their part by  
presenting these matters to the chil-  
dren in the schools, organizing them  
into industrial clubs and furnishing  
them instruction in the various ac-  
tivities they may take up. Twelve  
different projects are offered the club  
members from which they may select  
any one or two and receive regular  
lessons and instructions. The 12  
projects are: Corn growing, potato  
growing, gardening, pig feeding, pos-  
sibly raising, dairy-herd record keep-  
ing, farm and home handicraft, rural  
home beautification, the agricultural  
club, baking, canning and sewing.  
This is for home work—something at  
which to profitably occupy the time  
of the child outside of school hours.  
These 12 projects cover practically  
every activity a child may take up  
and as he engages in them the natu-  
ral bent of aptitude of the child be-  
comes apparent and he is enabled to  
find his proper sphere in life. The  
universality of the work and the  
strong support given it tends to dig-  
nify labor and popularize the farm.  
The shop and the kitchen in the minds  
of the boys and girls and to solve the  
problem of keeping them on the  
farm.

In company and co-operation with  
Supt. J. W. Allen, spent last week  
in the schools at Columbia county  
and found the teachers and children

If we want power, we have to  
work for it.

generally greatly interested and ready  
to take up some of this work and do  
their part toward feeding themselves  
and helping to feed the other fellow.  
The final results of this work, how-  
ever, is largely in the hands of the  
parents. Unless they encourage the  
children by providing ground, seed,  
tools, etc., and then see that they  
stick to the task there will be little  
accomplished. The county superin-  
tendent can direct and urge teachers  
and pupils to do the work, and teach-  
ers may inspire and instruct the chil-  
dren, but without the hearty co-  
operation of the parents it will all  
come to naught. There should be  
an active, organized effort by Parent-  
Teacher Associations, or some other  
organization, in St. Helens and every  
other town in the county to provide  
all available vacant lots for such  
children as have no ground. At this  
time you cannot serve your country  
better than to assist in such a cam-  
paign, and it is the patriotic duty of  
every one to do his or her part. One  
little garden is not much, but a thou-  
sand or a million little gardens will  
feed an army.

N. C. MARIS,  
Industrial Field Worker, State  
Dept. of Education.

For the first time in history the  
president's salary has been made  
subject to an income tax; the treas-  
ury department is debating now how  
far it can go in making Mr. Wilson  
pay his 2 per cent. Besides the an-  
nual \$75,000 which he receives, Mr.  
Wilson's income includes several  
royalties on literary works he has  
produced.

A new system of identification has  
been adopted by the department of  
labor, for the convenience of the  
thousands of persons whose business  
carry them across the border every  
day. It will go into effect May 1.  
Cards, similar to railroad passes, will  
be used on which will appear the  
bearer's name, his description, photo-  
graph and signature.

The assets of the American na-  
tional banks now aggregate more  
than \$14,000,000,000, according to  
a statement issued by the United  
States treasury. This surplus, which  
is about \$210,000,000 more than  
ever existed in this country before,  
exceeds by about \$3,000,000 the com-  
bined resources of the national banks  
of Europe, with those of Japan in-  
cluded.

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work for it.

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home. See

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sion.  
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the cheapest.

To appreciate the real joy of work,  
one has but to suffer a spell of en-  
forced idleness.  
As much as we all hate to have  
the days slip away from us, yet we  
hate more to have the time drag.  
"Always trade in your home town."

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Lv. Portland ..... 10:00  
Ar. St. Helens ..... 11:50

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