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County Official Paper

The commission appointed by the Governor to draft a bill for changing the judiciary system of the state has made two reports, a majority and a minority report. In the main the reports agree, and yet both of them have left out some very important matters. For instance, the commission recommends the creating of five additional Circuit judges to be real Circuit judges, go to any part of the state to hold court where they are ordered, which means of course that they would be in Portland most of the time. Then they recommend that the office of County Judge be abolished and that the probate work be put into the Circuit Court and Circuit Judges have several counties to visit, the delays that are now necessary in the Circuit Court business will only be enlarged so as to include the Probate Court too. It will be worse than ever. The law is bad enough now where there is no resident judge to be on hand at all times when necessary, but if they also take away the probate powers from the County Judge and leave the Circuit Judges the way they are, doing the work in several counties, there are some of the cardinal principles of our government that had just as well be thrown away, such as mandamus, injunction, habeas corpus etc. There is only one solution to the problem and that is to have a resident Superior Judge for each county; give him the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court and the Probate Court and let him have his office at the county seat so that matters can be taken up at any time and disposed of when they are ready. It would be economy to the taxpayers and litigants and things would not become congested so that it would take several months to get a case to trial. The majority of that commission are lawyers who reside in a city or county where a Circuit Judge lives and they are not familiar with the inconveniences and delays of doing business in a county where there are two regular terms of court each year. However small the county, a judge is necessary; a county attorney is necessary. Unless such a change is made it would be better to leave it the way it is.

Last fall there was a movement started in St. Helens to organize a live Commercial Club and erect a building, and for this purpose several thousand dollars were subscribed. Since that time nothing has been heard of it. Inquiry among some of the men handling the matter reveals the fact that the work will be taken up again soon and that they have every assurance of finishing the project during the spring months. This is a matter that should be encouraged by every person interested in the welfare of growth of the city. The plan as adopted and explained through the columns of the Mist is one which will insure the people who furnish the money a good investment to themselves directly as well as a great indirect benefit to everyone in the city. It is gratifying to know that the work will be taken up again soon and pushed to completion.

The County Court at its meeting this week passed upon the meaning of a bona fide subscriber to a newspaper and defined such as being a person who subscribes for the paper for not less than one year and who is not more than one year in arrears for the paper. Under the circumstances we are going to ask all who are in such standing with the paper to pay their dues quite promptly.

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Remember Our Specialties---
Red Ribbon Canned Goods
THEY ARE THE BEST QUALITY
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MAKES WHITE, LIGHT BREAD
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NONE BETTER
Dependable Coffee
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ABSOLUTELY FRESH
We will appreciate any part of your business.
Phone 80 and we will deliver the goods promptly
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IF YOU DON'T TRADE WITH US WE BOTH LOSE MONEY

same thing and it will be a good thing for us all if the subscribers will pay up. Not only is this necessary as to bona fide subscribers, but we need the money and must call your attention to it. Look up your receipts and if you are in arrears send us your check or call into the office and let us give you a receipt for a year in advance.

Considerable discussion is being had just now concerning the salaries of the various officers of Columbia County. The salary of each officer is the same now as it was years ago and the work has been doubled or more. The highest salaries paid are to the Clerk and Sheriff, \$1400 per year. The Treasurer, handling hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxes receives \$600 per year. The Assessor gets \$1200. The School Superintendent \$900. To any person who will stop and consider for a few minutes it will readily be apparent that there is not a single one of the salaries mentioned above but that should be raised very considerably. The legislature would be thoroughly justified in doing so and the majority of the right thinking taxpayers of the county would make no objections.

It is now understood that at least one-half of the property owners along Columbia street have agreed to the hard surface paving which has been talked about and some of them confidently believe that other owners will also agree before long so that the work can be done this summer. A suggestion has been made that the city and road district join in the purchase of a machine for this kind of work and it can be used on the streets and roads. It is only a matter of a short time until the roads leading into this city will be hard surfaced as well as a number of streets and the people who are talking about the matter are of the opinion that it would be an excellent time to make the start now. With the foundation now laid on Columbia street it is estimated by men who claim to know that a hard surface could be laid for less than \$1.00 a yard.

REUBEN

Gorman Williams of Terre Haute, Indiana, is visiting his sister, Mrs. D. Asher.
D. Asher was in Portland the first of the week looking for a team of horses.
G. W. Jordan was in Rainier Monday having some dental work done.
The heavy rain last week caused a few land slides in the county roads in this district, but they have been removed so that the roads are passable again.
Ira L. Withrow, who for the last five years has been engineer on the Columbia Timber company's train,

hauling logs from their camp to the boom, has accepted the position of superintendent for said company and took charge of their camp last Thursday.

The following officers were elected by Umpqua Tribe No. 24, Improved Order of Redmen, for the ensuing year at Goble, Ore.:

Saclem, J. W. Patrick; Senior Sagamore, C. Starns; Junior Sagamore, J. Neusbaumer; Prophet, J. T. McKiddie; Chief of Records, W. E. McKinister; Collector of Wampum, F. M. McKinister; Keeper of Wampum, G. C. Fowler.

Officers elected for Goble Grange No. 329, were: Master, J. M. Lindsay; Overseer, Mrs. Annie Lindsay; Chaplain, Lawrence Archibald; Lecturer, Mrs. M. Link; Secretary, Mrs. O. Link; Steward, John Patrick; Treasurer, J. W. Armstrong; L. A. Steward, Mrs. J. W. Armstrong; Gate Keeper, J. W. Patrick; Cerics, Mrs. J. Truman; Nemona, Mrs. C. Link; Flora, Mrs. H. M. Fowler.

SCAPPOOSE

The news of the death of Carl Kreitz has cast a shadow over all here where he was so well known. The burial on Tuesday was attended by the Redmen from here of whom he was a member.

Messrs. Watts and Price have closed a contract with the Northwest Door Company of Portland which insures the running of the mill and the cutting of the timber near by. This will be a material help to the business here.
The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Farmers State Bank was held on Tuesday. The year closed showing a good earning with the balance on the right side. The same board of directors were re-elected, they in turn electing the same officers as last year. The business will continue as in the past.

The coming of the Parcels Post has added to the difficulties of the rural carrier, who thought he had enough before, with the condition of the roads over the mountain.

R. F. Noblock has assumed the position of station agent here.

Supt. Ralston informs up that all of the applications for teachers certificates from this school have passed the examination. They are Herman Miller, Norman Miller, Vergil Stevens, Zelle Ramsey and Marie Novak. These young people may well be gratified with the results.

ADVERTISED LETTERS

Letters unclaimed in the St. Helens, Ore. Post office for the week end, January 4, 1912.
Mrs. Anna L. Anderson, package
Joe Brown 1 letter
Charlie Chatcheson ..
Winslow Dawson ..
Fred Olin ..
Went Rowe ..
Mrs. Chas. S. Witherby, care of Str. Temple E. Dorr 1 letter

L. P. Wygle ..
Mrs. Bertha Wilson ..
Letters unclaimed by January 18, will be sent to the Dead-Letter office.
M. C. Gray, P. M.

THE JANUARY INTEREST

has gone into our books. We request depositors in our Savings Department to bring in their pass-books at their earliest convenience, in order that we may enter their interest therein.

Columbia County Bank
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ST. HELENS, OREGON

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STEAMER
AMERICA
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Arrives at Portland 10:30 A. M.
Leaves Portland at 2:30 P. M.
Arrives St. Helens at 6:30 P. M.

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Phone Main 433; A 1230; Res. E. 4657
1115 to 1117 Selling Building Portland, Or.

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St. Helens Oregon

M. E. MILLER
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
St. Helens Oregon

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Come in all ye newly weds and see our new and complete stock of House Furnishings and let us quote you prices on a complete outfit. We know we can save you money, and you will know it also when you compare our prices with those of Portland or elsewhere. Christmas sales were good and thinned out our stock considerable in some lines but more are ordered and will soon take their places.
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ST. HELENS OREGON

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of fine Groceries is a nice gift to a poor family these nipping winter days. But even for your own family you cannot fill the basket better than with some of our fresh choice Groceries. We believe in the pure food laws, and insist that every article we buy to sell again shall be of the purest and best. We solicit a trial of our excellent New Season Teas and Coffees, which have a reputation second to none among the best judges of quality.
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