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## RIVER GRADE POPULAR WAY

PROPOSED RINEHART CUTOFF PROMOTED AGAIN.

Auto Club Takes Hold of Proposition—Elgin Anxious.

With the request that the country highways be changed from the road now leading over the rocky hills at the north end of the valley to a water grade along the Grande Ronde River, The Union County Automobile club will begin at once a campaign before the county court to convince that tribunal of the feasibility of the movement.

This comes at the request of Elgin people who have outlined a road that will relieve the arduous task of climbing the rocky and muddy hills, shorten the distance between La Grande and

Elgin by a mile and a half and in every way improve the thoroughfare, according to the opinions of those who are enthusiastic for the change.

It is understood the county court is perfectly willing to grant this change as soon as it is proven to them there is to be had a better highway along the river than the one which now runs over the hill.

"Elgin people have a very good way of encouraging good roads," said Joe Campbell, county road man, to a reporter for the Observer yesterday. "They do very little talking about what they want to do and then they get in with their money and their labor and assist in building the road."

Upon investigation it is found that Mr. Campbell is right in his contentions. The people of Elgin wish the public highway from the city to the cemetery improved and instead of holding public meetings for discussion of ways and means they started a petition praying everyone interested for a donation of either money or labor to assist in building the highway. As a result \$500 was subscribed in a few hours. Then the people said to Mr. Campbell: "You are the official road supervisor of Union county. We want this road built under official supervision so that responsibility will attach to someone, and therefore we ask you to see that this road is properly constructed."

Mr. Campbell will oversee the work and the people of Elgin will put in their money and their time.

### JUST SUITED EACH OTHER.

R. L. S. and His Wife Were a Care Free Happy Go Lucky Couple.

In his autobiography in McClure's Magazine, S. S. McClure pays a tribute to the character of Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson. He says:

"The more I saw of the Stevensons the more I became convinced that Mrs. Stevenson was the unique woman in the world to be Stevenson's wife. . . ."

"Mrs. Stevenson had many of the fine qualities that we usually attribute to men rather than to women; a fair mindedness, a large judgment, a robust inconsequential philosophy of life, without which she could not have borne, much less shared with a relish equal to his own, his wandering, unsettled life, his vagaries, his gypsy passion for freedom. She had a really creative imagination, which she expressed in living. She always lived with great intensity, had come more into contact with the real world than Stevenson had done at the time when they met, had tried more kinds of life, known more kinds of people. When he married her he married a woman rich in knowledge of life and the world. Mrs. Stevenson's autobiography would be one of the most interesting books in the world.

"A woman who was rigid in small matters of domestic economy, who insisted upon a planned and ordered life, would have worried Stevenson terribly. In his youthful tramps he liked to start out with no luggage, buying a collar here and a shirt there as he needed them. In managing his affairs he had, as he often said, no money sense. I remember hearing him tell how he and Mrs. Stevenson once went to Paris for a pleasure trip. They had a \$500 check and some odd money, and they meant to have a thoroughly good time and stay as long as their money held out. After a few days they found their funds running short; they couldn't imagine what they had done with it all, but there seemed to be very little money left, so they decided they had better get home while it lasted. When they got home they found the \$500 check among their papers. They hadn't cashed it at all and didn't even know they hadn't."

### Sense of Direction.

The apparently marvelous way in which Indians, Eskimos and other primitive people make their way through forests, snow covered areas or other regions which have little to indicate direction to white newcomers has led to a widespread belief that they possess a mysterious sixth sense of direction. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the arctic traveler, who has lived much with Eskimos, is very skeptical about the existence of any superiority of sense of direction among primitive peoples of any kind and gives strong evidence from personal experience that Eskimos have no such superiority. The ability of Indians and others to find their way he attributes solely to their familiarity with the country through which they are traveling. They note many things that they have seen before and that have no significance to be stranger in their land. White men can do acquire the same ability to find their way when they have learned to know a country. When the land is equally strange to the white man and the Indian or Eskimo, the white man, because of his better developed reasoning power, is more likely to have a correct idea of direction than the Eskimo. Indianapolis News.

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**New Year in Japan.**  
In Japan the New Year is welcomed with far more zest than in this country. One is expected to arise with the sun and don new clothes to meet the auspicious morning. Then he worships, performs obeisance to the spirits of his ancestors and pays homage to all relatives older than himself. No ordinary viands are consumed at breakfast. On every tray, covered with evergreen leaves and supporting a rice dumpling, are placed a lobster, oranges, persimmons, chestnuts, dried sardines and herring roe, all these dishes possessing allegorical meanings. This meal is the start of the festivities, which in olden times were continued for many days, business being almost entirely suspended. The idea of celebrating New Year's in such a manner is that the year is going to be the way it is started. Smile on New Year's day and you will smile throughout the year. Complain on New Year's day and you will complain all the year round. Weigh your anchor with merry song of heart and it will be smooth sailing all through the voyage. Begin right and you are bound to finish right. That is the Japanese idea of New Year's celebration.—Bulletin of the Japan Society.

**"Knocked into a Cocked Hat."**  
The meaning of this expression is not generally known. "Cocked hat" was a variety of the name of tenpins, in which only three pins were used, set up at the angles of a triangle. When in bowling at tenpins all were knocked down except the three at the corners the set was said to be "knocked into a cocked hat," whence the popular expression for depriving anything of its main body, character or purpose.—London Express.

**Rubber Erasers.**  
India rubber was used for the first time as an eraser in 1770, when a very small piece was sold for 3 marks. It was, however, many years later before it was put into general use. Prior to this the crumb of bread was used for erasing purposes.—London Mail.

**A Cynical View.**  
"Married life is somewhat like a pack of cards," says a lady novelist. "Hearts figure but little any more, but if the husband has diamonds enough clubs become popular, and sooner or later a spade is his last trump."—Glasgow Herald.

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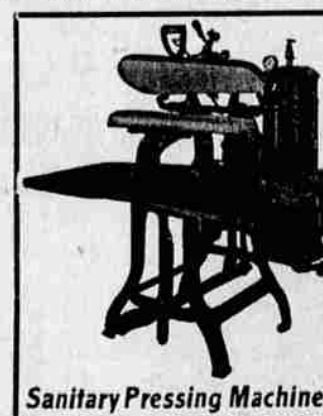
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