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VALLEY ROADS HINTS GIVEN

C. D. HUFFMAN PROPOSES SEVERAL VENTURES.

Among Others Want Mile Oiled for Experiment Purposes.

La Grande, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor)—This is a subject that appears to be uppermost in the minds of almost every class of citizens and should be thoroughly discussed from every viewpoint. I was pleased with Judge Phy's article published last week but will confine my little discussion to local conditions and leave the interstate and county roads for future consideration.

Being a farmer I will confine my remarks to roads for the farmers. Then the roads to be improved first will be from the farm to the market place—say a good road from Cove to La Grande and as the Sandridge is always a good road the most practical thing to do would be to use it all we can. Then a hard surface road from Cove to Sandridge by way of what is known as the Red bridge or the town site of Nibley will be the shortest and cheapest way out but a hard surface or rightly constructed dirt road directly across the valley to La Grande from Cove would greatly accommodate all of the farmers between the two points. My idea would be to relocate the road as far as practicable making it conform to legal subdivision—and taking a more direct course across the valley, thereby saving all the distance possible. Then laterals may be built from the farms to the main road. Thus we might plan for all the important roads in the county letting each locality work out its own road system—avoiding as much as possible duplication of main roads by making more laterals. As to kind of roads to build I would say, make them out of the most available material; where gravel is handy, use crushed rock. While the macadam road is condemned as useless, a good macadam road is a very splendid makeshift. Near the Sandridge or other such good road material use that. For example the road from the sand hill at Nibley to the river at the red bridge is made by moving the dirt from the cut in the hill to the river. Those who know this piece of road will testify to its good quality when kept rounded up so as to keep the water from standing on same.

The same condition can be found at the Schwelke hill on the road from Cove to La Grande. Now why not continue to make the same kind of road by moving this sandy soil as far out on the roads as is practical and thus extend the sand ridge road over as much of the adjacent roadbed as possible. Keep in mind the fact that the well rounded roadbed by judicious grading—and use of road drag together with right use of the roads during the wet season, will go far to solve the good road problem in this county. The fact that our real wet season is very short compared to other parts of the state makes it possible for us to do our heavy hauling the dry season or at least to load according to the condition of the road rather than put on more teams to draw the same load over muddy roads. In many states the size of the load is regulated by the width of the tire used; also condition of the road.

I would like to see a piece of road nicely graded—rolled and oiled and in order to try the experiment we on Cove avenue will help the county to oil, say one mile east from the city limits. I understand that it can be done for about \$100 per mile.

As to the road to be improved first let that be done where the best inducements are afforded. Any locality where they will do a lot of gratis work or levy a special tax for road purposes, should have the preference.

I hope these random thoughts may be the means of awakening some brighter mind and bring forth the complete solution of the good roads problem in this county without paying a royalty to some patent road material firm. C. D. HUFFMAN.

Order Court to Make Levy.

Baker, Ore., Dec. 23.—Circuit Judge Anderson yesterday handed down a preceptory mandamus commanding the county court of Baker county to make a tax levy against the non-high school districts of Baker county, as provided by the new school law, for the payment of tuition of students of such districts as attend high school in other districts of Baker county. This order followed the filing of the answer of the county court by District Attorney Godwin.

Action will be taken by the court at a special meeting Dec. 31. "I do not know what the commissioners will do," said Judge Messick, "but I am in favor of appeal and so is Mr. Godwin, who advises the county court to appeal. I would like to see the constitutionality of the law tested out and will recommend to Mr. Welch and Mr. Ritter that appeal be taken."

If the county court appeals from the ruling of the circuit court, such appeal will automatically stay proceedings pending the ruling of the supreme court.

War News of One Year Ago
The Mikado dissolved the Diet when the House rejected army expansion bills. Ambassador Dumba at Washington denied that Austria wanted peace between the U. S. and Canada was commented on in London. European war orphans thanked American children for the Christmas toy ships.

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As you proceed on your voyage in 1916 may Good Cheer follow you with just sufficient rough, stormy weather to bring out the very best that is in you, and may no good thing escape.

We are all getting a little older, but if we have profited by what has gone before, we ought to make the 1916 trip in safety.

We wave the flag of Good Luck and wish you bon voyage.

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