

EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER

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SOME ARGUMENTS AND REPLIES ON THE ROAD BONDING ACT.

Statement I—The bond bill does not say that the auto license tax shall be used to pay the interest and retire the principal of the bond issue.

Answer—The bill does specifically mention the auto tax, as it directly refers to House Bill 509 and says that the revenue derived from that source shall be used to pay the interest and principal.

Statement II—Even if the Legislature did pass a bill doubling the auto license tax, the Supreme Court may hold that unconstitutional; or the next Legislature may change it, or pass a law to use that fund for other purposes.

Answer—The bond bill is to be passed by the people and it refers to the auto license tax. The supreme court is not liable to hold unconstitutional an act which the people have passed on. The people of this state are jealous of the right to regulate their internal affairs. The sentiment for good roads is growing stronger and will increase more rapidly.

Instead of obstructing the movement for good roads, public sentiment will soon be overwhelming for retaining all adopted means of betterment. In a perfect democracy the people rule in legislation, and improved methods will never be discarded. Good laws are never repealed. Right thinking leads to right acts; right acts to satisfactory results. Future legislation will strengthen, but never annul an Act that will contribute so much to the pleasure and profit of the people.

Statement III—The bonds issued by the state are a direct mortgage against my farm and if the bonds carry, the farmer being the producer has it all to pay in the long run anyway.

Answer—Bonds issued by a state are not a lien against the individually owned property of that state. They are notes issued by all the people and if the state failed to pay as some states have, the holders of the bonds could not bring suit against individually owned property. The farmer in some states is the producer and would pay anything in the long run, according to some methods of thinking; but he is not the only producer in this state as over 50 per cent of our food products are imported and timber is the heaviest producer and exporter here.

In one sense the farmers have paid and continue to pay for the pavements on Portland streets for all'are taxes against the earning capacity of property and goods sold including dry goods, groceries, even sugar, bears its portion of the burden which is assessed as a part of the overhead expense of conducting business and must, like all other necessary improvements be ultimately paid by the public and no class is exempt from its burden. The question that is paramount to all others is how long will the farmers help pay for city improvements which city people daily receive untold pleasure and profit from and kick against building roads for the country which will be more largely built by city people than even the city streets.

Statement IV—The bond bill says that interest shall be paid when due out of any funds the Highway Commission has on hand, therefore all the people pay instead of the auto owners.

Answer—That is true. Not the bill also refers to House Bill 509 as the source from which such revenue shall be derived.

Anyway the County of Multnomah pays thirty-seven per cent of the state taxes, the towns and cities pay thirty or thirty-one per cent of the whole tax, leaving the farmer, the timber owner and all the corporations to pay the balance, thirty-two per cent. It has been estimated that the farmers' share does not exceed fifteen per cent of the total. The farm lands along improved highways increase in

REPORT SHOWS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

Table with 2 columns: Expense Category and Amount. Includes Salaries (232.80), Lights (35.73), Telephone (5.35), Interest (81.53), Electric Supply (4.00), Standard Laundry (12.40), Grande Lumber Co. (18.15), Blake Co. (13.50), Cudahy Packing Co. (7.25), Golden Rule (31.08), La Grande Grocery (24.80), Spaulding Bros. (1.02), Geo. Palmer Lbr. Co. (13.50), Sawyer-Holmes (78.14).

\$539.25

General Secretary King's report covered the month's work in detail and clearly demonstrated the fact that the association building is in reality a social center; during the month it was used by committees representing the Automobile show, the Stock Raisers' convention, by the Honor Girls, Farmer meetings, Railroad Economy club, Boy Scouts, Social events, etc.

The report shows that the finances are in a healthy condition, the receipts from the rent of the dormitory rooms amounting to \$128.75 being the largest in the history of the association. All the rooms are now furnished and were all filled during the month of March. The receipts from memberships which amounted to \$273.50 also represented an increase. The expenses were higher than usual, because of the shortage of fuel; it cost the association \$100 for fuel during the month. The difference in the receipts and the expenses showed the association to clear \$226.70 during the month.

The report spoke of the reason of the discontinuance of the dining club, of the summer work that will be inaugurated, of the successful basketball team representing the local Y. M. C. A. during the season, the work that will be attempted while the soldier boys are in the city, and in conclusion, the secretary asked the directors for a continuance of their wholesome boosting spirit, of the cooperative spirit and especially of their spirit of service, of sacrifice, of time and of financial support. With the facts and figures shown, it was the opinion of all that the Y. M. C. A. is a very vital factor in the life of the city of La Grande.

value from twenty-five to two-hundred per cent, in some cases, as in the Southern tier of counties in New York state, from thirty dollars per acre to one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, and that in ten years. The farmer receives more benefit from good roads, owing to the low cost of hauling, than any other class of people even if he did not wish his property to increase in value.

Statement V.—This bill was sprung on the legislature at the last minute by the Warren Construction Company and the Governor appointed a State Highway Commission favorable to them. They want the state to bond so that they can use the closing years of their patent to make a killing.

Answer—This statement impugns the motive of the Governor and discredits the intelligence of our Representatives. The fact that the bill was passed after long deliberation on all features of others presented and after embodying all the good features of all, shows not only the wisdom but the integrity of our Representatives. They were not asleep on their job, but worked to the limit of their time and we must admit their plan the best, or criticize our judgment as a people in selecting them as our representatives. The intimation that our Governor would be a party to a plan to sacrifice the best interests of the people to favor any corporation is inconceivable and an insult not only to our chief executive but likewise a vile criticism of the intelligence of his electors.

No doubt the Warren Construction Company and all other paving companies favor good road legislation. Is that any reason why Oregon should continue to pay for the roads she does not have? Remember if we need anything and do not buy it we have to pay for it anyway. Oregon has spent much more than \$6,000,000 for roads, yet there is not, today, five hundred miles of road in the state which is in the condition that the most radical opponent of this bond issue could call good all the year round.

Some counties have already expended enough money to pave half their roads and have no paving yet. Shall we stick to that policy or shall we make a start in the right direction? As to the State Highway Commission, it is composed of men who have made a huge success in their own business, does any right thinker believe they would unmake the reputation of a life time by letting any set of contractors bribe them?

What we need in Oregon is a dollar's worth of good road for a dollar, regardless of the contractor that gets the job. Above everything else, the supreme need in the state is for roads, more roads, better roads, then we can start in the right direction for the development of the state. Let us adopt for our motto the slogan of the Roseburg Commercial Club. "Smile and the world smiles with you, knock and you knock alone, for the cheerful smile will let you in where the knocker is never known."

Will Speak at Y. M. C. A. Rev. H. L. Ford, pastor of the Christian church will be the speaker at the men's meeting at the Y. M. C. A. tomorrow afternoon at 3 p. m. All men are cordially invited to attend; especially is the invitation extended to soldiers who are in the city. A short service of song will be held. The new song books given by the United States National Bank will be used.

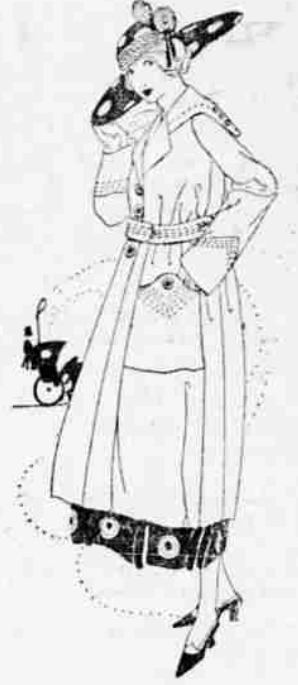
NK West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

The Week End Brings Renewed Opportunity to Choose THE NEWEST MODES IN MISSES' APPAREL

More and more young women are coming to the realization that Spring is here, and that much in the way of apparel choosing must be accomplished. These sections are ready for them. SUITS, they can choose from \$20.00 to \$55.00 and find many modes at each price



The Season's Newest The season's newest modes in SILK SUITS, Just Received. Many charming ideas to choose from. Prices range from \$32.50 to \$55.00 See Our Window Display



Just Received The season's most favored colors in coats, such as tans, mustard, greens, rose and the rookie shades. Ranging in price from \$12.50 to \$37.50

Annual Observance of Easter By Knights Templar Impressive Event

Sir Knights of Eastern Oregon Commandery No. 6 Meet And March to Church—Hold Services in Their Asylum and Then Serve Sumptuous Luncheon to One Hundred and Fifty Guests.



No. 6, Knights Templar, was held Sunday, April 8, and the solemn rites were attended by the local Knights as well as many visitors from all parts of the United States.

The officers of the commandery who had charge of the ceremonies are the following:

- E. Sir C. M. Humphreys, Commander; Sir L. M. Hoyt, Generalissimo; Sir Howard Davis, Capt. General; Sir C. T. Bacon, Treasurer; Sir L. H. Russell, Recorder; Sir L. L. Snodgrass, S. Warden; Sir Turner Oliver, J. Warden; Sir George T. Cochran, Prelate; Sir C. W. Van Fleet, St. Bearer; Sir A. V. Andrews, Sword Bearer; Sir C. C. Penington, Warder; Sir David Fitzgerald, Sentinel.

The Commandery met at their asylum at ten-thirty and formed into line and marched to the first Presbyterian church where the regular Easter service of the order was observed. The sermon was rendered by Sir Knight W. H. Bleakney, A. B., Ph. D., of Walla Walla, Wash.

After the services the Commandery reformed the lines and remarched to their asylum and the Commandery was closed with the usual ceremony, after which a sumptuous luncheon was served in the banquet hall to the Sir Knights and invited guests, some

hundred and fifty all told. Will Moore, of Pendleton, Grand Master of the Grande Lodge of Oregon, was an honored guest at the banquet.

Those in line, including the above officers were:

- A. J. Van Vanikenburg, Taner Commandery, No. 27, Chippewa Falls, Wis.; Rev. W. H. Bleakney, Pendleton, No. 9, Pendleton, Oregon; J. P. Okey, Yakima, No. 13, North Yakima, Wash.; J. M. Burley, Huntington, No. 65, Huntington, Pa.; Paul Denhart, Seattle, No. 2, Seattle, Wash.; W. W. Minnick, Oskaloosa, No. 6, Oskaloosa, Iowa; A. G. Anderson, Betschem, No. 18, Morris, Minn.; J. E. Reynolds, F. J. Holmes, A. W. Lef-fel, J. D. Dobbin, P. A. McDonald, John McDonald, Andrew Van Blok-land, Garrett Van Blokland, J. D. McKennon, R. D. McKennon, Ed E. Kid-die, M. W. Kiddle, J. Y. Walnum, R. W. Logan, C. C. McDowell, Mac Wood, O. J. Berger, S. L. Given, A. C. Bacon, W. M. Pierce, C. H. Conkey, J. C. Henry.

The whole day's ceremonies were impressive, the ritualistic work was in keeping with the religious character of the day and was well done, and the attendance of so many outside guests of prominence made the annual event memorable.

A good social dance at Zuber hall every Tuesday and Saturday night. Private dancing lessons every evening. Phone Black 1211 for appointment.—Adv. 3-14-17.

Visitors Agree That our greatest apparent need here in La Grande is to clean up and paint up. Of course you have noticed how shabby Neighbor John Doe's house looks, but say now, how about your own? Don't it need the attention of OXNER THE PAINT MAN? New Location 1316 Adams Avenue

For Women's Convenience— Some women are just a trifle timid about going to a bank to transact business. Why? Simply because they are not familiar with the rules of banking. This bank is calculated to be of special convenience to women; a place where they can come and feel at home. We aim to make every transaction so clear and so plain, that dealing with our bank soon becomes to them an easy habit. We appreciate the patronage of women. Their business with us is already large and steadily increasing. If you are not already a patron, then please consider this an invitation to become one. La Grande National Bank