

EDITORIAL PAGE

Really It Is The Paramount Issue

There can be no mistaking the fact that road legislation is now and will be for years to come the paramount issue of the State of Oregon. As Senator Walter M. Pierce very truthfully says, "It is on—it is coming this way, and there is no way to stand out against an improvement that bids to be nation-wide."

He told the whole story in those few words. And there is no reason why anyone should be against the good roads program. On the other hand, there is every reason why all should support it.

In Union county there is nothing being done but preliminary work on what seems to the Observer the measure of greatest importance to us as a county. We have reference to the "Six Per Cent Bond Limitation Bill," which is number 300 on the ballot to be voted June 3. By its passage there is no bond issue adopted—it merely paves the way for more effective work by permitting this county to bond for three times the amount that is now permitted.

Suppose there is \$3,000,000 spent in this county for roads in the next six years as the Larison program outlines, and suppose it is an investment that will earn returns on the money, won't Union county people be fervently thankful for this work that is now being done?

We are positive they will be. We are positive that those who are opposed to bonding for the purpose of building permanent roads do not thoroughly understand the benefits to be derived from such roads. We are positive that everyone in the county favors improvement, favors good roads, and what difference of opinion that arises will be an honest difference among friends and neighbors. For this reason the Observer urges more and deeper study of the road plan now started. It is good. It is genuine. And this work should not have to be done over again, as it will have to be should the vote surprise everyone and be recorded against the measure, for good roads are coming, if not this year, then they will come next. The improvement is a live issue and it will eventually carry.

As to the Pierce market road bill. It is a good bill. It should and will carry by a big majority. It is a bill that should have been a law many years ago.

The Roosevelt Highway is also a road bill that must become a law in due time, if not this year then later, for there must be a military road down the coast and the plan put forth by supporters of the Roosevelt Highway is a good one.

Real estate and incomes must now begin to assist in building the permanent roads of the state. Up to the present time it has been the automobile that has been taxed for the bond issues—\$16,000,000 having been obtained from the automobile licenses and the tax on gasoline. But that has gone its limit, and now the earnings of the people and the land and improvements must take their share of the expense. And why should not this be the case? Every foot of permanent highway increases value materially and those who own the real estate will be the ones in the end to reap the permanent benefit.

THE PICTURE OF ALL PICTURES.

It is this time in the spring that one wishes he were a painter like Reuben of old, in order that he might place upon canvas for permanent preservation the stretch of country from Mount Hill to North Powder. If there is a prettier stretch of country in all the world, we have never seen it. If there is a more productive section—a section that responds more freely to honest toil of man—we have failed to find it. If there is a spot where the milk of human kindness flows more freely, that spot lacks a press agent, for no one seems to know where it is located. To every automobile owner we would advise a trip into the Elgin country. Go to the top of the hill that overlooks the Minam river. View the river, the new saw mill being erected, the log drive. Then turn your machine and travel slowly down through Creeklet. This is the new state highway into Elgin; it goes across the low divide into the Grande Ronde valley. Pumpkin Ridge lays to your right and is a young, cheerful, as it is with the fields of different crops, each carrying its own color; the hill showing cultivation is high up on the sides they melt away toward the Sumner country much as the shadows of a master painting. Behind you is the great Hart mountain, and when you make the turn into the Snake ridge, the picture changes into a perfectly perfect agricultural section with every foot of ground filled. You are in every soft color known to the artist, while across the valley the lower Cove country tells its story of business and beautiful yield by its broad acres all bearing something the world needs.

It is a scene that should adorn the lobby of the state house at Salem. It is a scene that should be broadcast by postcards and folders to every one to send broadcast to the country, for in all America there is nothing more beautiful.

CHAUTAUQUA IS VERY ESSENTIAL.

This year will be no exception. La Grande will have her Chautauqua, as usual. It has grown to be a part of the community and we cannot do without it. Many of us are looking forward now to the lectures and special attractions that will entertain us while the delightful odor of ham and eggs well cooked in the open air, lingers under the Cottonwood trees. Better reserve your space and camp out—it's lots of fun, and Tap Thomas, the park owner, is in extra good humor this year. He will not

A Fairy Tale of Modern Times.

Folklore is full of tales like that of Vinson Walsh McLean, heir to a great fortune, with tutors, servants and detectives always watching to see that he came to no harm. The lad ran out of bounds in play and was killed by a passing automobile, when a child accustomed to crossing city streets could probably have saved himself.

There was the prince whose horoscope said he would be killed by his best friend. His father determined that he should have no friends. Miserable, lonely, surrounded by wealth and luxury and lacking all things worth while, at the end, drunk with hashish, he pulled over a lamp and was burned to death. His lover self was his only comrade.

More beautiful and hopeful is the story of Gautama Buddha, also a prince. He grew up knowing nothing of life save joy and beauty. When he went through the town every beggar, every cripple, was made to hide by heralds who preceded him. Once by accident he met a poverty-stricken invalid by the roadside. This sudden vivid glimpse of human sorrow so affected him that he renounced home and wealth and gave his life to the quest of humanity.

The Albatross says: "A man's fate hangs about his neck and he cannot escape it." And even orientals see again and again that in vain man puts his wits against that force which some call fate, and some call Karma, and some call Eternal Justice.

But the hope lies in this—that Fate like all the forces of the universe, is either friendly or hostile according as the man faces it.

Suppose the father of the prince whose friend was to be his daughter had recognized like this: "Friendship and human kindness are more important than the moment of death. Let him have all the friends he will, and love them well, and if at the end he accidentally kills him, at least he will have left a happy, useful life up to the end."

Suppose the parents of the little heir to millions had said: This boy will have grave responsibilities. Let him learn to exercise all his powers to face and conquer all the dangers common to all children of his age. Perhaps Fate would have taken him anyhow, but at least his parents could have felt that he had an even chance.

Cannot Escape the Responsibility.

If there is any possibility of truth from outside of Germany sinking into the German national consciousness, certainly the straight, sharp reply of the Allies to Bismarck's Banzai treaty protests ought to find lodgment there.

After disposing in detail of the main German objections raised usually on the grounds that the treaty would impose on Germany the reply, sum up the whole situation in these unambiguous words:

Germany should recognize the facts of the present state of the world, which she has been mainly instrumental in creating, and realize that she cannot escape the responsibility of the share which she is taking in the world. She should recognize the facts of the present state of the world, which she has been mainly instrumental in creating, and realize that she cannot escape the responsibility of the share which she is taking in the world.

All conditions of Europe are suffering from losses and are bearing and will continue to bear burdens which are almost more than they can

Extending the Boundary Lines of La Grande.

There was some talk of extending the boundary lines of La Grande at the election June 3, but everyone was too busy to talk the matter up and do the necessary preliminary work.

It will come, for the boundary lines of this city should be extended to take in all lines of industry and all citizens who benefit from the municipal corporation. It has been pointed out that the reason for La Grande's low rating in the census is due to the fact that more than a thousand people live just outside. They get the benefit of the city and all its departments, yet they are not in the corporate limits and therefore evade the city tax.

Such a condition is not right and it is unfair to people who pay the city tax and keep up the town.

Taxation is never equitable. It is a hard, hard problem to adjust, but territory that receives the benefit of a well regulated city is entitled to pay its share of the upkeep.

This is a matter for the Ad club to take up and thresh out with assistance of the Neighborhood club, and it should be done for the next election, as there is a census to be taken in 1920, and the best showing that can honestly be made should be the pride of every citizen.

President Wilson may have made a mistake in enacting the war-time restriction on beer and wine, but who cares in Oregon. If there was a brewer on every forty acres in California Oregon would remain as she is.

Director Hrus says he needs a billion dollars for the railroads. Tapping the capacity of the adding machines, a little.

Growing crops of every hand. The harvest this year will beat the box of We at a gig for real money.

Hawker is a dandy. If he will light in this country we will send him to Congress as the senate.

Moroccan Charm. Moroccan wives have a recipe for winning back affection. The suspicious wife draws a line of ash from forehead to chin and collects the dirt particles. When she rubs the tip of her nose with a fine leaf till it bleeds and soaks seven grains of salt in the blood, then she mixes with the honey and puts the dose in the erring husband's food.

What is a "Vicious wife?" 25-3

Good That is Evil Spoken Of. Our good is often evil spoken of because of our thoughtlessness. The woman who looked askance at a stranger who had been shown her door did not really mean to hurt that stranger's feelings, to send her away from church that day with the inward resolution never again to enter his doors, but such was the effect of her look of thought. Our good is often evil spoken of because of the unnecessary insistence of our tongue. It is an oft-repeated excuse of offenders of this kind, "I was born with an unfortunate disposition; it is hereditary." This is an attempt to dodge responsibility, to transfer the blame to our ancestors—who cannot defend themselves. Hereditary sin may be temporary, but it is hardly constitutional. It is an ungracious and harmful habit, and it can be cured.

Influence. The world is only just beginning to understand the extent to which individuals and nations may be and have been swayed by silent, mental influence. A man pretends, of course, to believe that he is the master of his own destinies and the author of his own conduct; but let anyone ask himself how he arrived at any given conclusion or decided upon a certain line of conduct, and unless he can own an intelligent conception of divine principle upon which he rests for guidance, he will have to admit, if he is equal to the analysis, that he has been swayed throughout his career by influences not his own.—Christian Science Monitor.

PROLETARIATS OF RUSSIA ARE FOND OF MUSIC.

LONDON, April 25.—(Associated Press Correspondence.)—One of the most interesting phases of life in Russia since the revolution has been the passion for music displayed by the masses of the people. Albert Coates, an Englishman who has just returned from Petrograd where for years he was one of the principal conductors of the Imperial opera, says the Russian proletariat throngs theatres and concerts.

The educated music-loving public of former days has almost entirely disappeared, Mr. Coates says. The one that has taken its place is a new public consisting of work people, peasants, soldiers and sailors.

"I thoroughly realized during revolution," he went on, "the force of the proverb, 'Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast,' for whatever the people do in the political and social sphere—and their record is pretty bad—at concerts and at the opera they sit as reverently as though they were in church, and listen with the rapt expression of children to whom fairyland is suddenly revealed.

"It has often happened that after a concert some simple peasant has risen and formally thanked me and the orchestra for the pleasure we had given them. Often, after a symphony, a group of work people have crowded round me and asked to have explained things in the music they had not understood. They showed a marked preference for modern and complicated music, infinitely preferring it to the older and simple forms of Russian music. Their special favorite, strains, as it may seem, is Scriabin, and after a performance of this composer's 'Poem d'Extase' that I was conducting at the Maryinsky theatre, the public, which consisted almost entirely of the people, shouted themselves hoarse with enthusiasm. I had never dreamed they would understand it.

"After the performance I was constantly receiving requests—work people used to stop me in the streets—to get up another concert and conduct the 'Poem d'Extase'."

Why not then the corner saloon into a community playhouse when the law allows the closing of these gathering places, asks Miss Hazel MacKaye, director of the Department of Paganism and Deism of the National Young Women's Christian Association.

"I went over on the West Side of New York one night recently to attend a community drama meeting," Miss MacKaye says in explaining her theory, "and as I was riding along I noticed how many saloons there were—one on every corner and another in the middle of the block, it seemed all just blinding with light. These lights ought not to go out with prohibition. They ought to shine for something worth while to all of the people, and what better than community drama and singing?"

Miss MacKaye feels that the war has given a great impetus to popular interest in drama and that through community drama a great deal in the way of Americanization can be effected.

Through the community center, if it be true, she explained largely of one foreign nationality, these people could preserve portions of the life in their mother countries, translating their own English, so that Americans and also the younger English speaking members of their household could understand and appreciate their traditions. American art would be greatly enriched through the drama of all of the nations whose peoples have settled in this country. On the other hand, American ideals, American history and American festivals, even laws such as child labor and minimum wage, could be interpreted to these people by means of pageantry.

"Providence has been learning not only to work together, but to play together," Miss MacKaye says, "particularly since the war, when the people stood together in drives and large patriotic community entertainments. The opportunity to build up a great community organization is now at hand, and the time is ripe for it. Why not utilize the corner saloon?"

DEPARTMENT ADVISES ON PLUMBING AND CURTAINS

New Bureau Opens in W. W. C. A. Overseas Office.

A new department of finance has been organized by the Y. W. C. A. for its work in France. Miss Constance Clark of Pasadena, Calif. is the executive. Miss Clark before her recent visit to France was director of the Y. W. C. A. House at Camp Lewis, Washington.

All contracts, leases and rentals for new buildings will be handled by Miss Ruth Austin of New York City, an experienced architect and builder, who will work through this newly created section.

Plans for remodeling and decorating public clubs and business houses taken over by the Y. W. C. A. will be in the hands of Miss Mary Rockman, an interior decorator, who comes originally from Seattle, but who has been working in France for the American Y. W. C. A. since the beginning of its war work there.

In addition, the department is compiling lists, suggestions and general planning guides for all the buying of the Red Cross in France, including all kinds of building equipment from medicine supplies to plumbing supplies.

A cafeteria expert will have a place in the department to act as general advice on restaurant and cafeteria projects of the Association throughout France.

In short, the department is to be more than finance alone. It is to be a kind of general advisory department and clearing house for all other departments in the French association—a department where dollars will be safeguarded against deeds and needs.

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND

DUBLIN. (Correspondence of the Associated Press)—The national university of Ireland is a federal institution composed of three colleges, in Dublin, Cork and Galway. It was established to meet the claim of the Irish Catholics for university education. The federal system has proved welcome to Cork which now demands that its college should be given the status of a separate university.

The Cork claim has united every section of Munster men and the petitions in its favor have been signed by the heads of all the religious denominations and the leading men of the province. It involves however, a new charter from the Crown, and the bulk of Sinn Fein opinion, while in favor of the separate university for Cork is hostile to the only method by which under present conditions it can be obtained.

A statement issued by Will H. Bennett, state superintendent of banks, showing the condition of the 23 banks and trust companies in the city of Portland on the basis of the call of May 12, gives the total deposits as \$140,299,984.19. This is an increase over the call of March 4 of \$15,035,768.01 and an increase over the call of May 10, 1918, corresponding last year to the present call of this year, of \$33,901,280.42. The statement shows the total resources of the Portland depositors as \$167,321,310.22.

PROHIBITION TO BRING COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

Hazel MacKaye Advises Using Buildings as Centers for Drama, Community Singing and Entertainments.

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CANADA LOYAL TO OLD ENGLAND

SPECIAL EMBASSY AT WASHINGTON WILL NOT LOOSEN TIES

Ambassador Will Act With Mother Country When Imperial Interests Demand

There need be no fear that Canada's decision to establish an embassy at Washington, or to sign the peace treaty and the League of Nations covenant, will loosen the ties of empire of any of the holds that bind this country to the motherland, says the Toronto Globe.

It has been obvious for many years that the Dominion should have its own representative at Washington to deal with affairs directly affecting this country and the United States, and none other, and since it is agreed that the representative is to be much more than a trade commissioner or agent, there is no good reason why there should be any hesitancy about calling him an ambassador. Where imperial interests are concerned the Canadian ambassador will, as a matter of course, act in conjunction with the British embassy to the United States.

The Benefit Mutual.

The benefit to all three countries will be mutual. It is mere pretense any longer to suggest that Canada is not capable of conducting her own affairs in Washington, and it is a fair inference that Britain would much prefer that she did. As a matter of fact she has of late years followed such a course if a number of important affairs so far as their actual working out has been involved, the fatalities having been carried out through the British embassy, the colonial office, and the foreign office.

Crises which are in the national status attained by Canada in her decision not to be treated as an upstart at the peace conference the breaking up of the empire deserve to rank with the gloomy pessimists who harrowed the hearts of the Allied peoples during the war and have been trying to drive them to the limits of despair during the armistice period. Nothing has happened in Paris yet that could prevent the partners of the empire holding all the imperial war cabinet meetings and imperial conferences they want to and promulgating any additional measure of freedom granted the overseas dominions has been a new line of sentiment and affection between them and Britain.

South Africa's course in the war is a shining example of that truth. Could anyone imagine that country wishing to array herself on the side of Britain and the other dominions if she had been denied the right of self government and held in bondage as a conquered nation? It does not seem so long ago since predictions were made by some that Canada was drifting away from the motherland because she undertook to relieve the old country of the burden of maintaining armed forces in this country and to assume the responsibility herself.

The strength and the deeds of the Canadian armies that fought under Britain's banner during the war is the answer. There are those who assert now that the privy council is "an imperial tie" that should not be severed; but the vast majority of Canadians know that they would not be one whit less loyal to the empire and to Britain if their own courts furnished the last degree of appeal for Canadian litigants.

So, in the matter of Canadian ambassador to Washington, the prognosticators of calamity and the advisers who cannot believe their own country of attending efficiently to its own business may be expected to predict themselves into a state of somber hysteria. But most Canadians will believe that, in addition to its material necessity, a Canadian embassy at Washington can render invaluable service in smoothing the way for a still better understanding between Britain, the Dominion and the United States. It would say that such a service alone would not be well worth the money expenditure a Canadian embassy may entail.

E. H. McKinley, a veteran of the Civil war, aged 70 years, was found dead at his home in Edenbrow, Ore. Tuesday by his daughter, who had just arrived from Colorado to visit her father. He resided alone, and when last seen appeared to be in his usual good health. He was expecting his daughter, and it is the opinion that the excitement from his anticipated heart failure. His body was found lying on the kitchen floor when his daughter entered the house.

Capt. W. G. Smith, commander of the local Salvation Army corps, leaves this evening for Portland and Vancouver, where he will spend a couple of days. Capt. Smith will attend the services at the opening of the new building at Vancouver Sunday and the meeting of the Officers' council there. He expects to return Monday evening.

The Modern Version

