EDITORIAL PAGE

The Observer

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OUR STANDING WITH MR. BARRATT.

Mr. Barratt of Heppner is now Highway Commissioner for Eastern Oregon. He is a well qualified man and his decisions will be fair as he views things. There will be nothing but what will be to the best interests of the state and the entire Eastern Oregon country will be represented well in that tribunal.

This condition exists however: All road legislation and all road supervision is essentially selfish. Every man would like to have the road paid for by the state which goes alongside of his ranch. We do not think Mr. Barratt believes in that principle exactly, but he is a citizen of the central country rather than of the extreme Eastern part of the state. As such citizen he does know the problems of that section of the country better than he knows the problems of Union, Wallowa, Baker and Malheur counties. He will hear more about needed roads, including the John Day highway, than he will about the road over the Blue Mountains, because his neighbors and close friends are interested in the John Day highway and other roads in the central part of the state.

Our duty is plain: We must lay every bit of information we have before Mr. Barratt. We must take nothing for granted, but consider that he is unfamiliar with the many phases of road building through the mountains and take it upon ourselves to make him acquainted with these conditions.

We will all find him ready to serve and serve fairly and squarely, but he is entitled to know all the minute details of the roads and need of roads in this section, just as we know such details.

OPENING THE COUNTRY CLUB HOUSE.

The Country Club of La Grande will open its handsome new home next Friday evening. The event will be the big social occasion of the year. It will sparkle with good fellowship, with justifiable pride, for there is not another such an enterprise in the interior country.

Golf links, said to be the best in the state, form a setting for the handsome new building which is situated on a high point overlooking the Grande Ronde river and the rugged canyon in all its natural beauty. A good road leads to the property from La Grande, and it is going to be a great place to repair to, forgetting the cares of the world and let the rest of the world go by.

The building is perfectly appointed. Those in charge of the work have given their time to making it one of the very best and the entire membership, when the opening is held next Friday night, can find no other phrase except, "well done" for the committee.

With the opening of the club house La Grande people mark an era in life. An era that means "We will work and we will play" for too much work without a little play hardens the arteries, makes the mind morose and takes from life the sweet fragrance which friendship works hard to establish. The Country Club will give the physical exercise so essential to men who have chosen their life's occupation inside the four walls of stores and offices and who cannot enjoy the big out of doors like the producer, the lumberman and many others. It will give to the ladies a splendid place to meet in little parties of their own and to entertain friends from out of the city who come to spend a day or so in La Grande.

The movement has met with its obstacles which it has overcome and brushed aside and on Friday evening the club house will be turned over to the membership as a going concern which is destined to play an important part in the city's future life.

Feeding of wheat and feeding it to the market as the consumption is demanded is one of the efforts of Senator Walter Pierce and Frank McKennon who have spent the week in Portland with other wheat growers. If sufficient financial backing can be secured this can be done, and when this is done wheat growing will become much different, or rather wheat selling will become much different.

Our good friend, Editor Southard of the Elgin Recorder, runs a headline informing Recorder readers that what they see in the Recorder will appear in the Observer a week later. He might have added also that "many things pertaining to Elgin and Union county will appear in the Observer and never be seen in the Recorder."

With city affairs quieted down and the city officers reinstated for another year, La Grande citizens should now attend to many things which require attention, the most important of which is Adams avenue from the Meis corner to the hospital.

One week of the state legislature does not seem to have ruined the state entirely. Does it?

State News

The Benton county farm bureau is planning a big drive for membership this month.

A civil service examination will be held at Rainier to select a postmaster at a salary of $1800.

The Commercial club at Agness in Curry county, has filed articles of incorporation with the state.

The American Legion organized a post at Banks last week, and 19 ex-service men were enrolled.

Stamp sales at the Eugene postoffice amounted to $78,250 during 1920, an increase of nearly $17,000 over 1919.

A machine gun company is being organized in Corvallis and already 125 men have signed up for membership.

Mrs. Sarah Ann Caldwell, who crossed the plains to Oregon with her parents in 1848, is dead at Toncalla, aged 80 years.

The body of Claude Perin, first of the Company K boys who lost their lives overseas, has arrived at Corvallis for burial.

There were 813 accidents, none fatal, reported to the state industrial accident commission for the week ending January 6.

Deschutes county alfalfa growers are seeking a lower freight rate on hay that will enable them to market their product.

The new mill of the Willamette Valley Lumber company at Dallas commenced work last week with a full crew of men.

Hillsboro is starting the new year with an epidemic of smallpox and measles, many cases of both diseases being reported.

The Union county court has let the contract for the grading of approximately 10 miles of road from Lyon's hill to Medical Springs.

Train service on the Albany-Yaquina branch of the Southern Pacific, which was interrupted several days by big slides, has been restored.

Fire at Klamath Falls destroyed the Klamath Auto company's garage, together with 13 cars, tires and accessories, valued at $12,000.

Clackamas county will spend $443,673 this year for the construction of the Pacific highway from the Multnomah to the Marion county line.

The Drain Water Power company, owned by the Bank of Cottage Grove, has been granted a raise in rates by the public service commission.

Hillsboro grange, Patrons of Husbandry, is making great preparations for the celebration of its forty-seventh anniversary on Friday, January 14.

Lake county farmers last year constructed eight silos and filled them with sunflowers. In every case the builders pronounced them a success.

Total estimated cost of new buildings and repairs in Eugene during 1920 is $726,491, nearly three times greater than during the preceding year.

There are 475 more manufacturing plants in Oregon than there were two years ago. New plants total 898, but 423 were destroyed by fire or are out of operation.

The Graves cannery at Brownsville, destroyed by fire, will be replaced at once, plans having been prepared for a fine fireproof structure on the site of the old building.

The Klamath county court has included in its budget $50,000 for completion of the Hot Springs courthouse, ignoring an injunction issued by Judge Calkins of Medford.

Dairymen and business men at Amity have been holding conferences with representatives of the Oregon Cooperative Dairy league for the purpose of starting a cheese factory.

The Linn county court is making plans to sell another block of the Linn county road bond issue in order to grade the Pacific highway southward from Tangent to Harrisburg.

After 26 years of service, A. M. Clough has surrendered the office of coroner of Marion county. During that time he has handled 1245 cases of suicides, murders and accidental deaths.

A barge loaded with lumber and a pile-driving outfit towed by the gasoline schooner E. L. Smith was cut loose during a recent storm and has gone ashore at Lower Nestucca, near Haystack rock.

The Hammond Lumber company is preparing to construct 15 miles of railroad in the Crabtree vicinity to tap the company's holdings there. There is sufficient timber to keep a force busy for one year.

Officers charged with employing third-degree methods to exact confessions from three of the five convicted slayers of Sheriff Til Taylor in a jailbreak at Pendleton July 25 last, following their subsequent capture, were cleared of all charges Saturday by a grand jury investigating the prisoners' treatment.

Heavy rains of the last few days have cost the state highway department about between $1,000 and $2,000 as a result of damage to roads and bridges, according to Herbert Nunn, highway engineer.

[illegible]

projects planned by Clatsop county for the coming summer.

Senator B. L. Eddy of Douglas county will present a bill at the coming session of the legislature providing for the remuneration of orchardists and farmers for damage done to their orchards or crops by deer.

The Umatilla county clerk has drawn warrants amounting to $[illegible] for the payment of bounties on predatory animals during 1920, although the appropriation at the beginning for that purpose was only $1000.

W. B. Barratt, prominent farmer and sheep grower of Heppner, Morrow county, was appointed by Governor Olcott to serve as a member of the state highway commission. He will succeed E. E. Kiddle, who died recently at Island City.

Yeggmen blew open two doors on the vault of the First National bank of Molalla in an attempt to rob the safe. The noise of the explosions attracted neighbors, and the robbers were frightened away before they had obtained anything.

Requests for copies of the Oregon irrigation laws received from many states throughout the country indicate that the successful operation of the local system of financing and handling its irrigation development is attracting wide attention.

O. L. Gasch, living near Crane, in Harney county, has recently sunk a well to a depth of 108 feet that has developed a flow of 500 inches of water per minute with a five-inch centrifugal pump. This adds another irrigation plant to that neighborhood.

Manufacture in Eugene of an attachment for grain binders which shocks the bundles of grain is planned by F. W. Schultz and J. C. Hollier of Eugene. A working model has been completed and patents have been applied for in this country and Canada.

Investigations of estates during the past two years, with relation to inheritance taxes, netted the state approximately $36,098.14 in excess of the amounts originally agreed upon by the executors, according to a report prepared by James Crawford, deputy state treasurer.

More than 2500 jack rabbits were killed in the west end of Umatilla county by two teams composed of 20 members each of the Pendleton Hod and Gun club, who held a competitive rabbit shoot, the losing team to forfeit their rabbits and give a banquet to the winners.

Jay H. Dobbin of Joseph, Wallowa county, who recently was appointed a member of the state highway commission to succeed E. E. Kiddle, telegraphed Governor Olcott Friday that for the second time he was compelled to refuse the office because of personal matters requiring his attention.

Fourth-class postoffices in Oregon have been raised to presidential class as of January 1 and the postmasters' salary fixed as set forth after the name of each office in the following list: Bay City, $1200; Cascade Locks, $1100; Cornelius, $1100; Cove, $1100; Kerry, $1400; Knappa, $1200; Mohalla, $1200; Mosier, $1200; Turner, $1200.

After removing the names of 51 Oregon soldiers and sailors which he found erroneously included in the government's official list of local draft deserters, George A. White, adjutant-general of the state, telegraphed the federal authorities at Washington for sanction to proceed with a statewide roundup of established draft dodgers.

Oregon county school superintendents in the closing session of their annual convention in Salem Friday branded as pernicious, vicious and unwise the action of the 1919 legislature in amending the high school tuition fund law enacted at the 1915 session. The superintendents recommend that the next legislature repeal the amendment.

Forest supervisors from Oregon and Washington will gather in Portland for the first time since 1917 for a week's conference February 14 to 21. Plans for the meeting, which will be attended by 24 supervisors, are now being completed by George H. Cecil, district forester, who will preside. The conference will be a round table discussion of all the various divisions of work carried on in forests and for an interchange of ideas among the supervisors.

Passage of a bill prepared by the Oregon legislative board of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers at the next session of the legislature would require all drivers of motor vehicles on the public roads outside of municipal corporations, which cross railroad tracks, to bring their machines to a full stop not less than 12 feet from the rail nearest the car approaching the railroad track. After bringing their machines to a stop it then would be incumbent upon the driver to look in both directions and listen for a train before attempting to cross the track.

Kid Raising for Crows.

Before the war the pennies of many a little village made a living by selling bird to supply the guns of France. Has long been known the performance of the mine in [illegible] by the French [illegible] the battle of the period. So [illegible] to have [illegible] the preparation [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] the