

## THE QUESTION OF STREET IMPROVEMENTS

With the installation and organization of the new City Council only three days off, one question in the people's minds is: Will they fix up the streets?

That question should be one of the first matters to be considered by the new council. At present our streets are in a deplorable condition. The mud is permitted to remain on the crossings, making it almost impossible to cross the street without rubber boots.

Many of the streets are composed of one rut after another. Take for instance that section of Third street between California street and the Daisy creek bridge; you can easily imagine yourself on one of the roads usually found in the mountains twenty years ago. But even mountain roads are kept up now-a-days.

With all county road building finished for the present year, and the machinery stored at the county sheds in this city, why wouldn't this be a good time to improve our streets. The city undoubtedly could secure the necessary machinery for the work, at a very little or no charge at all. Practically the only charge involved would be for labor.

What an opportunity for street improvement! In a week's time a small crew of men, using the modern machinery stored here, could do a lot of work and improve our streets two hundred per cent.

But in order to do this we would have to get busy and get the work done before the county starts highway work again.

The matter should be brought to the attention of the Council and if any money at all is available for the purpose, work should be started at once.

We wouldn't necessarily need to improve all the streets, but devote the time to the ones which are used the most. A few dollars expended in repairs and in grading will bring a hundred times the amount in blessings from the people who use our streets. We are not favored with paved streets nor with a paved highway through the town, so let us do the next best and improve what we now have.

The present condition of our main streets is a black mark against our fair little city. Get busy and erase that mark. Continue the work of making Jacksonville the best little city on the Pacific slope.

Yours for Good Roads.

## THE CITY COUNCIL

Regular Session Held Tuesday Evening. Regular Routine Business Transacted.

### PROPOSED INTERURBAN MOTOR LINE.

Was Feature of the Meeting, New Ordinance to be Presented Friday Night.

The regular monthly meeting of the city fathers was held at the city hall Tuesday evening. The mayor, councilmen, recorder, marshal, treasurer and street commissioner were present, also a goodly number of citizens.

After the reading and approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting the following claims against the city were presented, added and ordered paid: Fred Hoeslev, blacksmithing \$4.25; Calif-Oregon Power Co. 14.00; D. W. Bugshaw, salary 20.00; Jacksonville Post, advertising 3.00; W. G. Kenney, salary \$50.20; W. R. Sparks, hay 18.55; F. J. Fick, supplies 5.75; W. G. Kenney, cemetery work 7.50.

Report of the recorder showing the following receipts since last meeting, viz, water, rentals collected by Recorder \$42.99 (not including \$67.23 reported Dec. 9); water rents collected by water superintendent \$30; cemetery fees \$10.

Mr. H. K. Hanna, representing the Improvement club recently organized, appeared before the council in regard to the poor service given by the Medford-Coast railroad and in a short address set out many of the shortcomings of that concern, expressing the opinion that there are little indications of better service by that company and urging the introduction of an interurban motor car service between this city and Medford.

Mr. Lewis, manager of the interurban line between Medford and Central Point, was present and stated that his company would put on a line and give efficient service, at reasonable rates, provided that satisfactory arrangements could be made.

After considerable discussion council decided to ask for proposals for the establishment of such service and the recorder was instructed to prepare an ordinance in blank and present the same to the council at an adjourned meeting to be held Friday night, January 9.

Mr. A. H. Gammons, president of the Improvement Club, was present and asked that the council create a free public library and appoint a library board. A resolution to that effect was introduced and regularly adopted.

That there will be bills to create new offices, such as the additional game commission and the additional safety device commission, goes without saying, and it is going to be very hard, in the absence of any real leadership representing the tax payer, to prevent these and other new sinecures being put over.

The abolition of State Biologist and the consolidation of all fish and game functions under one board was really the only reform measure by the legislature in a number of years, after all the loud talk about consolidating boards.

It was supposed that a state biologist maintained at the State University could give the state all the inside information about those lines of science, but a way was found to carry on the second biologist which to the ordinary mind is an almost intangible function.

The present fish and game commission is composed of a number of hard headed business men who asked Mr. Finley to confine his lectures on birds and animal life and his magic lantern shows to the colleges and high schools and rural schools of the state so that the rising generation might get a concept of the effort the state is making to preserve the wild life of Oregon.

There will probably be more teachers legislation asked for, as the smaller districts cannot now raise the \$1000 a year demanded as a minimum salary for teaching country schools. Small districts having from three to ten pupils are not able in some instances to have the number of school months required by law. In larger districts the trend of public school work is towards

## STATE CAPITAL FREE LANCE.

What Is Doing at Our Capital.

Salem, Oregon, Jan. 5.—In one week the legislature meets in special session and the fight at the beginning will be whether the work shall be confined to the five subjects stated in the call or whether all kinds of legislation shall be taken up. New commissions on county salary bills and local road bill may draw out the session for twenty days. The reluctance of the Governor to call the session was overcome by the pressure of the woman suffrage organization.

The law limiting state tax increases to six per cent per annum has been successfully overridden to such an extent that the raise in Multnomah county for 1920 is 51 percent, and in Marion county no levies must be made. There seems to be no strong leadership in either house against raising the taxpayer. The state is asking \$4,231,208 from the counties for 1920 compared to \$3,021,042 for 1919, and there are all kinds of plans to increase the indebtedness of the state.

Plans are made to allow highway bond issues of \$40,000,000 as against present limit of half that amount. Another bond issue is to be authorized to allow more state institution buildings, as the legislature was not able to find all the money asked for by educational and reformatory institutions and at least five millions are needed. The increased appropriations for the education of the returned service men who want more college training may reach half a million.

Two matters are to be given right of way—the national woman suffrage amendment and the re-enactment of capital punishment. That murder has increased under the life term and parole system no one can doubt. The state parole board has recently ruled that lawyers are not permitted to come before that body and present arguments for parole of convicts.

The national woman suffrage amendment does not apply to Oregon as the women have full bill of rights here. As enough states have already ratified the federal amendment to put it into effect, it is a secondary matter and the most important work before the session is to raise the amount allowed under the workingmen's compensation law in case of injuries to correspond to the higher wage scales prevailing since the war. The lawmakers will have to avoid going to the extreme as present wage scales are not likely to be maintained for over a year and a scale once fixed will stand. Already another commission to pass on safety devices in industries is clamored for. There are now so many commissions that direct how industries shall be conducted that not many persons have the courage to go into anything involving a big payroll, and a safety regulation commission would only further complicate matters by dividing the responsibility with the factory inspection act.

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## JACKSON COUNTY IS FOURTH.

Oregon Metal Production

The output of copper in 1918 was 2,454,016 pounds valued at \$605,401; in 1919 it was 2,638,714 pounds, valued at \$501,355, and increase in quantity of 187,698 pounds and a decrease in value of \$104,046. The output of lead in 1918 was 19,601 pounds, valued at \$753; the output in 1919 was 2,000 pounds, valued at \$114, a decrease in quantity of 8,601 pounds and in value of \$639.

The decrease in the gold output of the state was due to some extent to the scarcity of skilled labor and the increase in its cost and to war conditions generally, but was due mainly to scarcity of water and power for hydraulic, dredge and deep mines. The water in the streams of the state were so low during the last two months of the year that hydroelectric power was entirely cut off from large properties, including dredges, being furnished for domestic use only. The larger dredges were shut down in November and December for lack of power, so that the dredges of the state, which ordinarily produce 57 per cent of the placer gold and 22 per cent of the total gold, produced, combined, only \$301,900, or \$85,840 less than in 1918, a decrease of 22 per cent. The larger deep mines were similarly affected. Direct returns from all the dredging companies and the larger deeper mines of the state show a general falling off in the output of gold for the year.

Returns from inquiries to postmasters, merchants, dust buyers, and others reveal the fact that many mines in Oregon were idle during 1919. Higher wages in other industries attracted miners away from their regular operations, and costs were so high that the smaller mining operations were unprofitable. Most of the Oregon placers are worked by the hydraulic system, but the gold output of the dredges is greater than that of all other forms of placer mining combined. There are only about a hundred producing metal mines in Oregon and six of these produce 80 percent of the total output of all metals mined in the state, and one of them produces 80 percent of the total value of the minerals produced. These six mines are those of the Baker Mines Co., Cornucopia Mines Co., Homestead-Iron Dyke Co., and the Commercial Mining Co., all in Baker county, and the Bronze Mining Co., in Josephine county. The only placer mine in this group is the Powder River Gold Dredging Co.

The larger copper companies of the state, which are in Baker and Josephine counties, show some increase in output during the year, notwithstanding unfavorable conditions. The most productive county in the state in all metals is Baker, which produces nearly 80 percent of the gold and of the total value of all minerals mined. Though less ore has been produced in Oregon during the last two years than in 1917, the averaged value of all minerals mined and treated has increased about 90 cents per ton. The relative rank of the counties in Oregon in the production of gold is as follows: Baker, Grant, Josephine, Jackson, Crook, Douglas, Umatilla, Clackamas, Lane, Malheur, Wallowa, Curry and Wheeler.

Oregon teacher's convention rejected request to join labor union.

Portland—East side apartment house sold for \$25,000.

Salem—25 acre fruit tract, 8 miles north of here, sells for \$300 an acre.

Last legislature levied large sums in excess of constitutional limit. Two tax levies necessary will be tested in courts.

the trades. In Portland, Salem, Eugene and Corvallis manual training and vocational courses are displacing the old idea that the public schools were to fit all young people to attend college. If the people get off with less than two million dollars tax increase from the special session they can be well satisfied.

## INDUSTRIAL REVIEW

Manufactures, Enterprises and Improvements. Providing

Copac—New lumber mill incorporated for \$100,000.

Highway Echo to Rieth ordered graveled.

Gold Hill to have \$5000 fire-proof garage.

Albany—The Poyallup & Sumner cannery here closes its first season with big pack. Plan big addition to plant next year.

The sooner the I. W. W. element is impressed that American courts are created to be respected by all who inhabit this country, the better it will be for all concerned.

Railroad from Chemawa to Mount Angel being planned for 1920.

One-third of wool grown in state used in Oregon mills.

Eugene has \$125,000 building projects planned for 1920.

Newberg—Vailley Canning Co. to enlarge plant.

Terminus Mt. Hood railroad to have new 40-room hotel.

Bend—111 Sevelin-Hixson Lumber Co. own homes.

Marshfield—Shortage of loggers reduces men employed in sawmills.

Legality of state dog license tax to be tested.

Roseburg to have new prune packing plant in 1920.

Portland tax levies have climbed steadily since 1920. County taxes for 1920 leap 28.2 per cent over 1919, in spite of 6 per cent limitation.

Portland—Supply & Ballin acquire Columbia ship yards; to operate same.

Marshfield—500 acres flooded tide land to be reclaimed by dredge.

Roseburg planning \$500,000 water supply system.

Harrisburg—\$50,000 sawmill company being organized.

Astoria—New salmon hatchery to be erected immediately on river above Chinook.

Montaville—\$15,000 paid for 10-acre tract joining Morningside hospital to be made into park.

Portland—Peerless 'Belt & Repair' factory to enlarge its plant.

Corvallis—Three new business houses to be built next spring; a bank, store building and garage.

Salem—\$20,000 Salvation army building planned.

Bend—150 acres given for memorial park.

Pendleton—\$75,000 Baptist church planned here.

Roseburg—Mt. Nebo Scenic 'railroad' planned.

Davis—California Lumber Co. to erect new mill.

The movement for better marketing of small fruits and vegetable canneries should not be carried to far. These industries are essentially co-operative in this respect. The producer of the raw material and the manager of the industry have similar interests in the best possible marketing of a perishable product. The nearby home industry can be crippled by pooling a large product and selling it to a distant products factory or cannery for a year or two.

Costs Oregon \$600,000 a Year.

In 9 months the people of Oregon used 30,000,000 gallons of gasoline or at the rate of 40,000,000 gallons a year. The so-called gravity test which compels the people to pay 1 1/2 cents a gallon extra costs them \$600,000 a year. What benefit accrues to the people of Oregon from this "gravity" test which costs them \$600,000 a year. There can be no possible benefit to the users of gasoline unless the law is to make jobs for a lot of inspectors.

## OUR OWN STATE. Some Recent Happenings In Various Parts of Oregon.

**32 Court Cases Dismissed.**  
Salem, Or., Jan. 4.—(Special)—At the opening of the mid-winter term of department No. 1 of the circuit court here yesterday, Judge Kelley dismissed 32 cases due to final prosecution, four orders were issued for judgment in accordance with stipulated action, two cases were dismissed on non-suit motions, two cases were taken under advisement, and in one case a motion to strike from the docket was overruled. Hearing of cases will begin Monday and it is not expected that final adjournment of court will be taken before the middle of January.

**Major Gilbert to Present Pershing.**  
Astoria, Cr., Jan. 4.—(Special)—Major W. S. Gilbert has accepted an invitation from Judge Carey of the Portland Chamber of Commerce to introduce General John J. Pershing when the latter makes an address at the Portland Auditorium on January 18.

Eugene—Condensed milk plant will go up here.  
Oregon produced 15,000,000 lbs wool during past year.  
Portland—American Can Co. to erect \$1,000,000 plant.

## Gold Hill Water Famine Broken.

The Gold Hill water famine was broken last Sunday when Ogden Snyder improvised repairs for the city pumps that were broken during the hard freeze some time past. Half the head of water was lifted to the reservoir, and the meager stream caused great rejoicing among the house wives of the town. Washings had accumulated; baths postponed; cars that had traveled half filled and thirsty were satisfactorily taken care of Monday by all concerned. This day was one of the busiest of the season.

The danger of fire was very great during the the drought. Everybody seemed very careful as no fire alarm was sounded and luckily for nothing could have prevented a serious conflagration.—News.

## Gold Hill Has Rushing Business.

Every known record in the amount of deposits in the bank in this city were smashed during December. The daily statement showing the largest balance in December at the local bank was also the largest balance ever recorded in the history of Gold Hill. \$103,000.00 as a balance with better than \$90,000 deposits that day eclipses any thing previous.

The New Year started off at the bank with a zest that commands the idea that this record will be smashed during January. In spite of the inrush of checks tendered during the holidays, deposits held the balance steady.—News.

## Ten Years Ago.

From The Jacksonville Post of January 8, 1910.

The funeral of Silas J. Day was held from the family residence in this city, Sunday afternoon.

The Firemen held an interesting meeting Monday night. Eighteen new members were admitted after a trying ordeal, in which they proved their abilities in a satisfactory manner.

One big fruit growers union for the entire Rogue River valley district is planned by orchardists of Southern Oregon.

Two men were killed at Grants Pass Tuesday morning by the explosion of fifty pounds of dynamite they were attempting to thaw over a fire.

## School Addition Planned.

Eugene, Or., Jan. 4.—(Special)—Plans are being drawn in the office of a local architect for an addition to the high school at Yoncalla. The addition will be 77 by 80 feet in dimensions and will contain a gymnasium, a room for the domestic science department and rooms for vocational training.

Cottage Grove—Local cannery opens over \$50,000 during past year. Total pack during season, 289 tons.