

BIG MONEY BUT WELL EXPENDED

OIL-BOUND MACADAM ROADS ASSET TO COUNTY

Linn County Officials Lead in Praise of Our Road System

"If the voters of Linn county could only see the kind of roads Clackamas county is building; if they could only know their tax money would get the value received your county is getting, we would have some roads in this county."

This is what one of a committee said Monday after he had driven over twenty or more miles of the permanent roads this county has built during Judge Anderson's term. And he said further:

"Linn county is out of debt. We have but a 12-mill tax, and we have not a mile of permanent road in the county."

"We have seen the useless waste of money on the Pacific highway scheme; we have seen how Columbia county has been extorted, until the people simply have no confidence in the good road propositions and will not vote money to build them."

And here is something else: Time and again it has been reported to the Courier office that the expensive stretches of permanent road between this city and Portland, built during the past 12 months, and some just completed, are already going to pieces under the heavy traffic, and are full of ruts.

Monday, with the gentlemen who came from Linn county, who came here to see our roads (one of them a county commissioner) the Courier editor went over some twenty miles of these roads.

The party went over the river road from this city to the other side of Milwaukie, returning by the Clackamas road, going over the contract stretches built by Cromer and Counsel and over many country roads the county has improved.

The oil-bound macadam roads built by Counsel and Cromer, main traffic roads between this city and Portland, are as smooth, as hard and as free from ruts as a billiard table, and far more perfect roads than any the writer ever saw on the miles of state improved roads in New York state, the famous improved toll roads of Pennsylvania, or the macadam roads of Ohio and Michigan.

These roads have cost money, but a taxpayer has only to ride over them and see them to know they are worth the money.

Being main traffic roads between the two cities, and the main roads for all auto tourists up and down the valley, there have been many expensive cuts, fills and retaining walls. Some sections have cost at the rate of \$16,000 a mile, others down to \$4,000, depending on the excavations necessary to cut down bad hills. But the roads are BUILT TO LAST. They are pavements, and with proper care will never wear out. They have the bottom, the top and the drainage. The surface is almost hard surface. It is oil bound and becomes better and harder with use and when the traffic wears out the surface an expense of \$100 per mile will re-dress it and make it as good as new.

While this may seem a fish story to the scoffers and critics of Judge Anderson, boys were using these roads for roller skating, and they were almost as smooth and hard as the cement sidewalks of Oregon City.

These county paved roads are a credit to the county, to the county court which has had enough to build them; to County Engineer Hobson and the contractors Cromer and Counsel.

To those who have so persistently knocked and criticized the expenditures on these permanent roads, we ask them to go and see them, dig in to them as our party did, ride over them, and then you will be bound to admit, as the men from Linn county acknowledged, that it was money well expended.

MULINO

A commercial club was formed for Mulino Saturday night. There was a fair attendance despite the disagreeable weather.

There is considerable cord wood being cut for shipment over the W. V. S. railway.

Mulino is losing a number of young ladies. Miss Gladys Snodgrass has married Mr. Herman of Beaver Creek and her sister, Miss Inez Snodgrass, has married Mr. Vernon Larkin, while Miss Gladys Merry, has married Mr. Cicero Grimm of Aurora. It is now up to Mulino bachelors to hurry up and import some young ladies to take their places.

A number of our young people are skating upon the mill pond, which is a rare treat for this part of Oregon.

This place now has a meat market, a long felt want. Thomas Fish and Joshua Mallat are the proprietors.

Several of our business men are raising funds to build a business block on the town site near the railroad depot site. If their plans mature it will have about 100 feet frontage on Broad Ave., and 80 or 90 feet depth. It will contain three large store rooms in lower story, besides one or two smaller rooms for barber shops and the like. The second story will contain a large public hall and a number of office rooms. We hope they will succeed in this as the building is much needed in Mulino.

MONEY TO LOAN STATE SCHOOL FUNDS
On improved farm security, interest 6 per cent.
W. A. DIMICK, OREGON CITY

A JUST WAY TO EQUALIZE TAXATION

An Article for Thinkers to Read, Forgetting all Prejudices

(The following article was written by Alfred Bishop Mason, A. M., M. A., in The Real Estate Magazine, which we reprint by request.)

The heart of single tax doctrine is that land should be taxed enough to make it unprofitable to hold it out of use.

That a prior argument for the single tax is this: Land can be used only (1) for buildings; (2) for parks, etc.; (3) for transportation, i. e., streets, roads, railroads, canals, etc.; and (4) for growing food materials, vegetable and animal, and clothing material. If more buildings are put up, rents will be lower; if there are more parks, etc., the public health will be better; if there are more transportation facilities, transportation will be cheaper; if there is more food material, food will be cheaper; if there is more clothing material and cheaper factory rents, clothing will be cheaper. Evidently, therefore, if all usable land is used, the cost of living will be reduced, because rents, food, clothes and transportation will be less costly. Evidently again, the erection of more buildings, the laying of more parks, the construction of more roads, railroads and canals, and the growing of more food material and clothing material will give more work to the workless. (We always speak of "giving" work, as though employment were a beneficent boon which the few kindly offer to the many. It is, on the contrary, the right of every man.) Hence, while living-costs go down, wages will go up. Involuntary poverty will cease to be.

The real estate interests cannot answer the a priori argument of the preceding paragraph. Nor can it be denied that if land is taxed enough to make it unprofitable to hold it out of use, it will be used. The first man who built a tax-payer in this city proved a posteriori the truth of that statement. It needs no proof.

The a posteriori argument for the single tax is chiefly based upon experiences in Houston, Texas and Vancouver (and other cities) in western Canada. In the able brief of the architects' association printed in the March Real Estate Magazine, it was said that arguments drawn from the experience of Houston and Vancouver do not apply to New York City.

What politico-economic law is there that ceases to operate as population increases? The only other argument made against the Vancouver statistics is that of the most eminent opponent of the single tax, Professor E. R. A. Seligman. He calls attention to the fact that building in Vancouver decreased in 1913, when it was less than in 1910. In other words, when Vancouver had put up all needed buildings except about \$10,500,000 worth, it invested only that sum in buildings in 1913. No body has ever claimed that the single tax would create a skyscraper on every corner of the city. Our claim is that it would force land into use, the particular use being determined by the particular conditions in each case.

The reforms in Houston, Vancouver, et al., and the reform proposed by the Herrick-Schapp bill—which the real estate interests of New York city were so unwise as to order killed in Albany the other day—are not the single tax, but they are steps toward it.

The reason why the real estate interests were unwise in their fight is this: If they do not accept the single tax without confiscation, they will have it with confiscation. Surely, they cannot be so blind as to think that they can maintain long the present system. As I said in a recent number of the Record and Guide: "The slums of New York, the absurdly high rentals of New York, the 325,000 people out of employment in New York, are a terrible indictment against the land system in New York. The landlord must either break or break. It is his own fault if he does not choose safety while he may." As I write, it is announced that the mayor's committee on unemployment finds "only" 100,000 men out of employment here now. And the women and children who are vainly seeking work and you will have close upon 325,000 unemployed, perhaps more.

Under the single tax there would be no need of committees on unemployment. There would be no need for such gatherings as the February conference here upon unemployment by the American Association for Labor Legislation. That conference was announced as one to consider "constructive proposals" to prevent unemployment. It refused to hear the Manhattan Single Tax club. It did not answer the club's official letter until long after the conference had been held. Professorial discourtesy and professorial unwillingness to hear anything not approved by capital could no further go.

It is a good many years ago since Postmaster General Wanamaker uttered his famous mot: "There are four good reasons against the parcels post; they are the Adams Express company, the American Express company, the United States Express company and the Wells-Fargo Express company." During those years the four companies succeeded in stifling in congress the public outcry for the parcel post. Then the dam broke. Today the express companies are on the road to ruin because they defied public opinion and stood pat. Standing pat is the only thing that a Bourbon knows how to do.

The American public is not a venal creature. It is almost too good humored. But when it sees itself flouted, wronged, robbed, after a long time it loses patience and strikes hard. It has struck down the express companies. It will strike down the real estate interests, and will confiscate

the last dollar of ground rent if these interests continue to flout, wrong and rob it. The landlords make a great mistake when they say to this community: "You do not know enough to vote on how we are to tax you; we, backed by our alliance with Tammany, will attend at Albany to this matter of taxing you, not as you please, but as we please. We are your landlords, your masters. Do you keep still and pay us the last farthing of tribute." That in substance is what the express companies said to the whole community.

Forty years ago when "the-public-be-damned" attitude of the railroads brought about the first attempts to put state regulation into effect, the railroads fought desperately to prevent any change. When this proved vain and the first state railroad commissions were created, the railroads dictated the names of the commissioners or bought the commissioners. The railroads went on for years as they had gone on before. Then at last the public lost patience. Look at the railroads now, good and bad "in one re-burial blend," regulated to death, harassed by class legislation like the extra-crow laws, with the stock of every one of them a profitable sale, with many even of their bonds quite bereft of relationship to Caesar's wife. The railroad kings have been dethroned, as other Bourbons were dethroned before them, as landlords will be dethroned if they still play the Bourbon role.

The single tax can be introduced without confiscation by the simple process of taking the rental value of the unearned increment hereafter. As I have elsewhere said: "It would work out in New York City about

less will choose for you. The responsibility is yours.

CHERRYVILLE EDITORIALS

Former Newspaper Man Comments on Current Events

The old reactions or stand-patters think they are on top to stay. Lay not that flattering union to your souls as the better sense of the American people will assert itself if you become too bold in your old hog-gish tricks, whereby a few of you intend to absorb the wealth of the land. The upheaval this fall was merely a protest against the slavish hard times and the awful poverty that is confronting so many of our people and in their blindness the voters were about to kick something.

Miss Frances Willard, than whom a more noble and unselfish woman never lived, said she used to say that drink caused poverty, but in her later days she said poverty caused drink, as many forlorn and shipwrecked brothers, robbed and ground down, takes to drink to drown his sorrow. A poor way, but for a while they forget the terrible struggle for a wretched existence. This kind of a state of affairs will not last forever and that the people are becoming aroused is shown by their running from one party to another in an eager desire to bring about some kind of a change. They hope for the better but they will find out sooner or later that it is no use to put new wine in old bottles. The better and peaceable, as well as wiser way is to render social justice to the laboring class like Henry Ford in proof that

and don't rob them hereafter.

It is not enough that you feed the poor on Christmas day but give them a chance to get a living every day in the year. The railroads do business on the principle of charging all the traffic will bear and many employers pay as little as will barely allow their workers to live in the most humble manner, and there they hire priests and preachers to tickle them with a hope of a home in the skies in the sweet by and bye.

One party says he asked a number of apparently strong, hearty men out of a job in Portland if they were married men and they invariably responded in the negative, as they could not support themselves on the infrequent jobs they were able to obtain, much less support a family.

Selfish men are often so greedy that they stand in their own light. What are they going to do for cannon-fodder or for cheap help in their factories if their employees are unable to raise families? The "Bohunks" from Europe are being killed off. What then?

Bismark, in his old days gazing back upon the active days of his life, said "he regretted in being the cause of three wars in which 80,000 men lost their lives." And that isn't the worst of it. He will go on thru all eternity regretting it, for that "is the worm that dieth not and the fire that is not quenched." You can not escape from your own memory and can never forget the horror you have caused others to suffer.

Talk about marble being hard, or battle-ship armor plate—they are not in it with the heart of a thoroughly selfish person, for many of them go about daily with immense wealth, yet

THE NEEDS OF OREGON

Extracts from a Talk by C. E. Spence Before the National Grange Meeting

Following is part of a talk State Grange Master Spence made at the National Grange Convention in Massachusetts last month, clipped from the national organ.

"It is a well known fact that bonds, mortgages and many other kinds of personal property do not pay taxes on one tenth their value, and no one seriously believes that they will. If it were not for the inevitable hardship that must result from the transition from the one system to the other, many thoughtful people would favor some system of single land tax, or at least limit all tax to visible property. And yet if invisible personal property is to escape taxation, why shall not visible personal property escape also?"

"It is advocated that lower rates be assessed on accumulations of industry and higher rates on graduated inheritance and income taxes, while others advocate reducing the tax on necessities and increasing it on luxuries. Still others would place the same valuation on undeveloped land whether farms, town lots or other kind, held for speculative purposes, as land which has been improved and brought into use and service."

"The Oregon State Grange stands squarely with the National Grange in the position taken at Manchester on the road question, and I desire to emphasize the necessity of local control of roads and funds. The Western states need a credit system, controlled by the government and not by private interests. Inducements for postal savings should be increased and the funds loaned direct to the borrower at a rate of interest sufficient to pay expenses."

"The Oregon State Grange favors the extension of the rural mail delivery system with salaries of carriers carefully adjusted to meet conditions on different routes. It would oppose the contract system of letting rural delivery routes, and believes that the extension of the rural system is of more importance and benefit than penny postage. We should receive from Congress as speedily as possible: A rural credit law; further denatured alcohol legislation; power to regulate ocean freight rates; government ownership and operation of main telephone and telegraph lines; measures looking toward abolishment of militarism."

The Morning After
After spending a day in Oregon City, partaking freely of the city water, a man awoke the next morning and said: "Dear me, what a headache." He screwed up his face in disgust. The taste in his mouth was horrible, he thought he would have a look at his tongue, and reaching out for the hand-glass, he took up by mistake a silver backed hair brush. He stared at the bristles a long while, then he shook his head and said: "Fergy, my boy, you certainly do need a shave."

Witnessed by a Beaver Creek farmer.

SNObS AND SNOBBERY

Christmas Meditations on Kings and Funkeys
Reading a "piece" in the Oregonian about the Kaiser's income started me on a train of meditation, and when I get free transportation there is no telling when or where I will get off. It was Tom Carlyle, the cranky old Scot, who said that the population of the United Kingdom consisted of 29,000,000 people—mostly fools, and I could not help thinking of that in connection with the Kaiser's income.

The Kaiser owns about forty castles and country houses, valued at ten million dollars. I suppose most of his loyal subjects do not realize that the expense of keeping up all these establishments is taxed on them; and that all the funkeys and servants employed in such places are withdrawn from useful productive industry into a parasitic employment that impoverishes instead of enriching the world.

The Kaiser is said to be the richest person in Germany. His income is estimated at five million dollars a year. This is quite small compared with the incomes of some of our American kings. Germany only sports one Kaiser, while we have to support maybe 100,000. We have oil kings, railroad kings, cattle kings, lords of the land can, potentates of the pork barrel, merchant princes and high and mighty dignitaries of more kinds than I can think of. Many of these are absolute rulers, monarchs of all they survey. They exercise all the powers and authority of kings, collected off the people just as earnestly as the income of the Kaiser and the Czar. It is taken out of wages or it is added to prices. It is taken out of what we sell or added to what we buy. The toiler sells his labor at a sacrifice. The price of it is beaten down to a minimum. The prices of the things the farmer has to sell are squeezed down, but interest, rent and profit are added over and over again to the prices of the things we buy.

We are the people and the sheep of the pasture. We sell on a bear market.

Keep it Handy for Rheumatism
No use to squirm and wince and try to wear out your Rheumatism. It will wear you out instead. Apply some Sloan's Liniment. Need not rub it in—just let it penetrate through the affected parts, relieve the soreness and draw the pain. You get ease at once and feel so much better you want to go right out and tell other sufferers about Sloan's. Get a bottle of Sloan's Liniment for 25 cents of any druggist and have it in the house—against Colds, Sores and Swollen Joints, Lumbago, Sciatica and like ailments. Your money back if not satisfied, but it does give almost instant relief. Buy a bottle to-day.

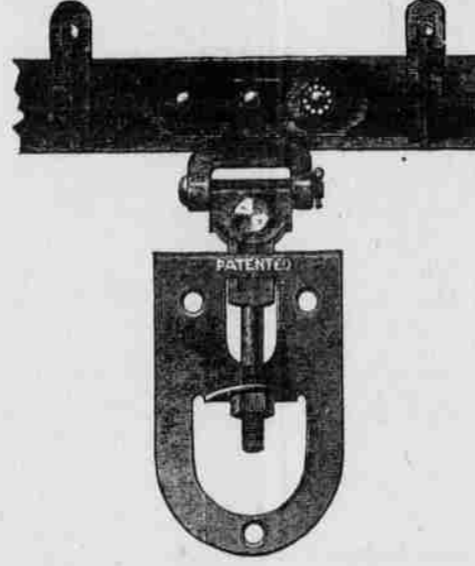
J. L. Jones.

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this way (I use round figures): Upon \$7,500,000 assessed value of lands and buildings, we now collect \$100,000,000. The increase of land value is \$160,000,000 a year. A tax of 7 per cent per annum on this unearned increment would yield \$10,500,000. By lowering the tax on buildings by this amount, annually, in five years all taxes would rest on land values alone. The land owner would retain all the land value he has now and would pay upon it in taxes what happens now. No mortgages would be disturbed. The public would take the income from future increases in value with their present owners."

Professor Seligman believes in a tax on the unearned increment. So does Professor Joseph French Johnson. In my letter to the Record and Guide I call attention to this latter fact, but that esteemed organ of real estate public opinion suppressed that part of the letter. Neither of the two professors mentioned believes in taking the whole rental value of the unearned increment. They would doubtless accept such taking however, if the only alternative were the entire confiscation of ground rent. That is your own alternative, land owners of New York, hear reason, or stand stubbornly defiant, as you do now, and then see every vestige of your ground rents seized by a multitude maddened by many years of your monopoly. It will create its own monopoly instead of yours. Choose quickly, however, or the land-

better conditions tend to better living. Read the following account of the state of affairs existing in his manufactory at Detroit, Mich.

"Effects of the Ford Motor Company's profit-sharing plan, which has been in operation one year, were announced. It was disclosed that the workmen who share in the profits have paid nearly \$1,200,000 on homes valued at almost \$5,000,000, which they bought on contracts. They are depositing in banks or investing in homes and lots an average of \$48.76 a month for each employee. "The gain for each man in bank deposits is 130 1/4 per cent over the old system; in life insurance 86 per cent; in homes owned, 87 1/2 per cent.

"Between 1,000 and 1,100 foreign employees are learning English at the Ford plant, taught by other employees, who have caught the spirit of the co-operative movement and are doing the teaching on their own time without intrinsic reward.

"There is a marked increase in the number of naturalized citizens a marked improvement in the tendencies of them toward thrift and economy; in their habits morals, health and physical attributes."

This bears out Miss Willard's idea that poverty causes drink and that when the door of opportunity is opened many heretofore hopeless waifs abandon their dissipation.

do nothing to relieve the awful suffering they see around them on every hand. They make give a little on Christmas Day but it will be a very small sum in comparison with their wealth.

Many persons, as in olden times, "put burdens on peoples' backs grievous to be born but do not as much as lift their little finger to help.

A regular cold snap. This makes the third week the wind has been in the east.

The clear, cold weather has made the roads like a boulevard in every direction. About 20 degrees above zero is not cold, as it is known in the East and Middle West, but the east wind, coming from the eternal region of ice and snow on Mt. Hood makes it chilly.

A ravis or rare bird in the shape of a spotted or pinto pheasant has been seen in this vicinity this winter and old timers say this is the first one of the kind ever seen here. They think it indicates a heavy fall of snow later on as the goose or ptarmigan in Alaska always become white in the winter.

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ket and buy on a bull market. The market is manipulated to skin us a-go'it and a-comin'. The Lord in His infinite wisdom no doubt ordained that lambs should be skinned.

Our earnings are abstracted by the innumerable and invisible pick-pockets of law. The law is the great pick-pocket. If it does not get the stuff ahead of us, it follows into our pockets after it. The most artful of the Artful Dodgers are those who do their lifting legally. The small pick-pocket, who, when pinched by hunger, swipes some small coins, is pinched again by the cop. He must face the awful majesty of the law and meet his doom, a branded criminal. But the big abstractor owns and runs the machinery of law. The people are crushed and ground in the mills of law to make a grist for the mill men.

Our Kaisers and Czars also have their palaces and castles and country houses by the thousand. Just think of the armies of flunkeys employed in the ignoble occupations of being personal servants for our dollar nobility. One polishes the knob on the big front door. Another pompous person extracts the corks from bubbling bottles with artistic effect. Another gentleman, subdued but dignified, has the important trust of leading miliary's Pomeranian out to take his exercise. We are fast becoming a nation of flunkeys and snobs—worse than England.

In the New Dispensation this kind of ignoble toil, these parasitic occupations, this base and disreputable servitude will cease. The gentlemen and ladies, whose function in capitalist society is to humble themselves and bend their supple backs in menial service will be emancipated. There will be different social customs and other ways of making a living. Industry will be organized so that all can be employed in useful occupations in which they can preserve their self respect.

The diversion of such multitudes of people from productive to parasitic employment is not even the worst feature of the capitalistic disorder. Millions are crowded out entirely onto the armies of the unemployed, and reduced to disgraceful extremity of having to become recipients of "charity."

The Socialist party remedy for this is to tax somebody to raise money to employ them at building roads. Great idea! Suppose a man had two sons and left a great estate to be divided between them. Suppose by fraud and legal technicalities the older manages to get the whole of it and disinherit the other entirely. Then in the course of time when the old cast brother has become so degraded and humiliated that he is willing to accept employment in the service of his enemy, the rich man gives him a job cleaning stables or building roads or walls and hands him out old clothes and mouldy victuals? Does that make everything square? Does that remove the "immemorial wrong" and right the "perfidious wrong?"

Is it any wonder that people don't take much stock in the Socialist party political dope? Such a remedy as this is only an aggravation; of the disease. A good lawyer in a case of this kind would find some way to recover the inheritance and restore the stolen property with heavy penalties and damages. Socialism is all right if you get the right brand of it. Christianity is all right if you can find the true Christian, but may the Lord deliver us from fakers and fustionists.

In a system of society in which the real teachings of Christ are entirely repudiated by church and state, it is fitting that the celebration of His birthday should be turned into a pagan festival. There is a difference between festival and holiday. Holiday means holy day, but there is not anything especially holy about eating and drinking to excess. Nor is the Christian spirit shown very distinctly in loading folks with useless presents, who are overloaded already with such trash, glutting the mails with junk, working mail carriers and sales girls off their feet and making an effort as if the Christmas spirit was an epidemic of illness or a drinkers' orgy.

But I have something to be thankful for in that I am not compelled to be a flunky for a capitalist or a king. I would take to the woods like Joe Knowles, or do like John the Baptist, chase grasshoppers and rob bees' nests for a living sooner than wear the collar and livery of a servant for snobs. I can't see where it is any more dignified than to do time on a rock pile or wear stripes in the pen. I am really and truly thankful that I am neither a flunkey nor a snob, but there are a great many things that I am not thankful for and I don't intend to be contented, nor comforted 'till there is a distinct improvement in the conditions of human life. So long as other people are suffering I do not feel that I have a right to be happy.

J. L. Jones.

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