

KEEP OLD OFFICERS

Good Roads Association Meets Four Times Next Year.

DIFFERENT SECTIONS VISITED

Resolutions Call for National and State Aid in Road-Building, and More Power in Hands of County Courts.

GOOD ROADS OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

President—John H. Reed. Vice-Presidents—Each of the County Judges. Secretary—H. B. Thibodeau, Salem. Treasurer—J. J. Trinchard, Astoria. Executive Committee—J. H. Scott, Salem; H. M. Palmer, Albany; C. J. Trinchard, Astoria; George C. Blakeslee, The Dalles; W. W. Travillion, Baker; City; Virgil E. Watters, Corvallis; H. B. Thibodeau, Salem; J. J. Trinchard, Astoria; H. P. Rhoads, McMinnville; T. F. Ryan, Oregon City.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—The Oregon Good Roads Association elected officers today, decided to hold four sessions next year, and closed its proceedings with an address by Secretary Melke, of the Washington Good Roads Association. The sessions next year will be held quarterly, one in Southern Oregon, one in the Willamette Valley and two in Eastern Oregon. The place at which the session will be held will be determined by the executive committee after consulting with towns that desire meetings.

One of the most important features of the session today was the adoption of resolutions favoring a law which shall empower County Courts to regulate traffic on the public highways, so that the roads shall not be ruined by heavy loads being hauled by narrow-tired wagons, and a law authorizing County Courts to condemn rights of way for roads so that the highways may be located where they ought to be and where the interests of a few individuals would have them.

The early part of the forenoon session today was given to a general discussion, opened by Professor Hyde, of the State University, who asserted that if money is judiciously expended for road machinery, the people will approve it if the issue is raised in election day.

F. T. Judd argued in favor of Road Supervisors' Institutes, held upon the plan of teachers' institutes, the Supervisors receiving from the county the amount of their actual expenses.

County Judge J. H. Trinchard, of Benton County, said that he approves the institute plan and that the County Court of Benton County offered to pay all the traveling expenses of supervisors who would attend this meeting of the State Good Roads Association.

Mr. Watters discussed the culvert question and said that in his county they have found that it is cheaper to use heavy pipe than planks.

W. K. Newell favored the use of tile for draining roads, so as to keep the water off. If tile is properly laid, it will drain the roads so that they will dry within 24 hours after a heavy rain.

Professor Hyde said that it is not necessary to have an expensive steamroller for road work, and that a road roller, which is a man who uses a heavy timber, arranged so that it could be dragged along the road either at right angles or diagonally, so as to evenly smooth the road or push the dirt to the center, is all that is needed. The apparatus cost only \$1 and kept the road in good condition.

Justice Ryan, of Clackamas County, expressed surprise at the statement made by several that Road Supervisors spend several hundred dollars on a road without accomplishing anything. "There is none of that in Clackamas County," the County Court tells the Supervisor how to do the work and if he doesn't do it as he is told, we have a new Supervisor in that district.

A Road Supervisor in the audience inquired whether there is not considerable trouble arising from the farmers filling the ditches in order to make it easy to drive into fields. Yes, replied Justice Ryan, "we had some trouble of that kind, but it was in the Justice Court and those farmers won't fill the ditches any more. They paid the cost of removing the obstructions."

Senator Haines of Washington County, inquired whether a County Judge has authority to go outside of his own county to do road work. "I think not," replied Justice Ryan, in all seriousness.

"The reason I asked," continued Senator Haines, "is that we would like to have Judge Ryan come over into Washington County and take charge of some of our road-building. We have learned here that Judge Ryan understands road-building and we are pretty well satisfied that his supervision accounts in a very large measure for the good roads of Clackamas County."

The following resolutions were adopted by unanimous vote, after discussion: Resolved, That the best interests of encouraging the building of good roads throughout the state would be subserved by the association holding four meetings annually one to be held in Southern Oregon, one in Western Oregon and two in Eastern Oregon, at such times and places as may be selected by the executive committee.

Resolved, That the favor National and state aid in road building and recommend the appointment of a commission to determine the amounts appropriated.

Resolved, For the safety of the traveling public and the preservation of our improved County roads, we would recommend the enactment of such legislation as would empower County Courts to make rules and regulations regulating the usage of public highways and the traffic over same.

Resolved, For the purpose of opening, changing and improvement of county roads and the reducing of grades thereon, we would recommend enactment of laws concerning upon County Courts the right of eminent domain, thereby permitting them to condemn private property for such public purposes in the same manner as now exercised by railroad and public corporations.

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this convention be expressed to the Southern Pacific Railroad for the substantial aid rendered in the good road movement by granting low rates of transportation for delegates; to the great of the state for reporting the proceedings of the convention as fully, and to the Salem Commercial Club for extension of the City of Salem for the use of the hall; to the Board of Supervisors and to Professor Melke's Ombudsman for the very excellent and instrumental manner; to Seal & Co. and the Idaho Pitts Company for the excellent banquets provided at the Williams Hotel, and Miss John Albert for providing special transportation for visiting delegates to inspect the model road leading from Salem to Liberty.

JAMES W. WILCOX, JR., Secretary.

H. J. HUBBARD, J. O. BIRTH, H. HAYNES, THOS. P. HYAN, Committee.

The discussion of this resolution brought out the need of giving County Courts the power to take the initiative in condemning rights of way for public highways. Under present laws the initiative lies with property-owners, a majority of whom may remonstrate and defeat an improvement project. In many many places roads are now built over hills, with steep grades and cannot be changed so as to go around hills and reduce the grades

OAKMAN'S ON TRIAL

Charged With Murder of Frank Bennett at Hillsboro.

MOTHER OF SLAIN ON STAND

Tells of Former Dispute Between Her Son and the Prisoner, When the Latter Swore to Kill Bennett.

HILLSBORO, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—

The trial of Bert Oakman, charged with killing Frank Bennett in the rear of the Southside saloon in Hillsboro, after the evening of August 27, 1904, commenced this morning, and it was 2:30 in the afternoon before a jury was sworn. Juror after juror was excused until the regular panel of 12 was ready to try the case.

The 25 or more examined all had read accounts of the killing in the papers, and one of the 12 selected all but two are paper-readers. The jury is: E. J. Ward, Gaston; G. W. Sutt, Beaverton; B. E. Patten, Progress; George Kirkwood, Forest Grove; Fred Hood, Farmington; J. M. Galloway, Forest Grove; A. J. Roy, Hillsboro; Dan Bush, Halter; Farmington; J. W. Hayes, Forest Grove; G. W. Math, Clatskanie; J. J. Meacham and W. F. Hollenbeck, Mountaineer.

In opening, Deputy District Attorney Togue stated that they would prove that August 27 the defendant had struck Frank Bennett with a knife, the altercation occurring behind the Southside saloon, and that Oakman had, prior to the killing, threatened Bennett's life; that the cause of the trouble between them was due to Bennett's telling Miss Alta Ledford, now Mrs. William Hager, that Oakman was a married man and had a wife and child.

The defense opened by saying that the newspapers had grossly colored the facts in favor of the Southside saloon and the defendant. They took the ground that it was justifiable homicide.

Mrs. Bennett, mother of the dead man, told how the two boys had had trouble when they were in school camp and how Oakman had drawn a knife on her son, after a dispute, and how Bennett had taken a butcher knife and made the defendant bleed, and how she had told her husband that she would kill him if he would kill Frank.

Mamma Landess, at whose house Oakman boarded in Hillsboro, just prior to the murder, said that Oakman had told her that if he did justice he would get a revolver and kill Bennett.

Russell Frost told how the men had met in front of the saloon on the night of the killing and after parting, listened to a suggestion from Nils Bennett to "light it up at once" whereupon they agreed to go to the rear of the saloon and settle the matter. Frost said that when they first met Oakman had told Bennett that he would pay his mother for a bill. Oakman denied the liability and the two started to the Bennett home to settle the dispute.

Mrs. Bennett was very ill and Bennett, upon reconsideration, concluded not to go. There was some variance in Frost's testimony to that given at the preliminary hearing, although it is not very material. The two stenographers at the trial, who at times do not agree perfectly, and it is hard to tell how much capital the defense will make out of the lapse.

Frost is a schoolboy in his teens and was easily misled. He told how he went with Oakman to the saloon and how Bennett came in and told him to hurry; how they went to the rear, where Bennett was explaining, with arms out, a blow was struck, and how Bennett commenced to fight and then suddenly exclaimed, "I'm stabbed," and how Oakman picked up his coat and hat and fled out of the alley.

Dr. Linklater and Tamsie told how the injured man was cut at the base of the neck and stated that he lived but a few minutes after the blow was struck, one of the lungs being entered by the point of the blade.

Mrs. Alta Ledford Bagley, with whom Oakman kept company, and to whom Bennett told of Oakman being married and having a wife and child, swore that she had told Oakman of what the dead man had told her, and that she had said there would be bloodshed. She said that Oakman had tried to get her to meet him on the night of the killing, but that she had refused to go out with him. The defendant had told her he would go to Bennett and make him deny his marriage, and had also said to her, "We will have to settle this or I will." She said Oakman denied that he had a wife and child.

Miss Violet Ledford, with whom the dead man kept company, told how Oakman had told her he "would lay for Bennett and kill him." Upon cross-examination, Miss Ledford wept, but her evidence was unshaken. At this juncture the court adjourned until tomorrow morning.

Oakman's sister, Mrs. Nettie Frigley, of Macomb, is in attendance at the trial.

HEAVY SENTENCE AT SPOKANE

Chinese Fined \$5000, Egg Thief is Given Seven Years.

VETERAN OF INDIAN WARS OF 1853-54

The Late James M. Morris.

WANTED TO STAY AT HOME.

Four Deserters From Twenty-Sixth Battery Caught Near Salem.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Sheriff W. J. Culver and Deputy H. P. Minto have arrested four deserters from the United States Army who escaped from Vancouver Barracks six weeks ago. Their names are: Frank Osborne, John Roberts, Carl Richards and Fred Walker. Osborne and Roberts were taken Wednesday on the Bruce farm, six miles north from Salem, and were returned to Vancouver that day. The arrest of the two was supposed, awaiting developments of the Board of Education and the outcome of her. Richards and Walker were found today on a farm near Eola, where they had secured a battery of the Twenty-sixth Battalion of Artillery, and recently came from St. Louis to Vancouver. The battery is soon to start for the Philippines and this is supposed to be the cause of the desertion.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—James M. Morris, an Oregon pioneer of 1843, died at his home near Turner, in this county, December 13, aged 80 years. Deceased was born in North Carolina and came to Oregon from Iowa in 1843. He was a member of the Oregon State, Albany and Turner. He was a veteran of the Indian wars of '55 and '56. In 1845 he married Miss Catharine Condit, who died three years ago. He leaves four sons—David M., Oscar L. and George L., of Turner, and Charles H., of Dallas.

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BEER USED TO GET VOTES.

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CHILDREN'S AUTOMOBILES FOR CHRISTMAS

\$6.50 to \$12.50 Each

"Made to Wear"

PRICES REDUCED To Close Out Before Christmas

Twenty Per Cent Discount on New Bicycles Until January 1

White Flyer \$12.50

MERRILL AUTOMOBILE COMPANY

Empire Express \$12.50

New Location: SEVENTH AND OAK

est which has ever entered this river. Her capacity is supposed to be 500,000 feet of lumber.

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Military Prisoners Are Retaken.

SAN RAFAEL, Cal., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—A party of military prisoners who had escaped from the Alamo, near San Antonio, Texas, were retaken by the United States Army on Monday night. They had been serving from three to five years for desertion and fraudulent enlistment.

Delegates to Livest