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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1913.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

Interest in widows' pensions, which is spreading throughout the country, has naturally taken root in progressive Oregon. Recently Mrs. Robert H. Tate, acting president of the Congress of Mothers and Parent Teachers' Association, outlined in The Oregonian the groundwork of the bill that this organization will present to the Legislature. Briefly, it is proposed to provide a fund by tax levy of not less than one-tenth nor more than two-tenths mill in each county. Pension is to be extended to the woman who has been widowed by death, or whose husband is an inmate of some Oregon State institution or is incapacitated from work, and whose support and the support of the children are dependent upon her labor. The rate of payment is to be \$10 per month for one child under the age of 16 years and \$7.50 for each additional child.

There is a noble inspiration behind the widows' pension movement—that of keeping children directly under the guiding spirit of the mother when poverty would otherwise cast them into the world or place them in a charitable institution. The bill, it is argued with seeming force, that the pension will in the long run largely take the place of the public money now devoted to the maintenance of children's homes, poor farms, supervision of delinquent children and for similar public duties.

Considerable interest has been given to the general movement by a series of articles published in The Delinquent. From this woman's journal we learn that laws approaching the general plan of widows' pensions have been adopted in six states. In Ohio, if the trustee officer deems it wise, the parents of a child who is dependent on the state may aid the parents so long as the child remains in school. The Oklahoma law is like the Ohio statute, but in Oklahoma the mother must be a widow. Aid is in the form of a scholarship equivalent to the wages the child can earn. Illinois authorizes counties, through the juvenile court, to pension parents who are poor and unable to care for their children. The law has been applied only in Chicago. In Wisconsin the Milwaukee County board has adopted a measure for allowances to prevent separation of mothers, whether widowed or not, from their children. California permits payment from public funds for the board of children whose parents cannot support them, but permits the children to be boarded at the home of the mother, if the mother is of good moral character. In Missouri allowances are granted by the juvenile court to women who have children under fourteen and whose husbands are dead or in prison.

While writers in The Delinquent speak only good of these laws, a doubtful note is sounded in a report of the Russell Sage Foundation, soon to be printed. This report has been prepared by C. C. Carstens, secretary of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Mr. Carstens, who is a recognized authority on child saving legislation, spent several weeks of his time in Chicago and shorter periods in Kansas City and Milwaukee. Advance publication of a portion of his conclusions is made in The Survey.

This portion of the report pertains wholly to the working of the Illinois law in Chicago, and is a warning to the pensioning of both parents. Its administration has been confined largely to the relief of widows with two or more children, of women whose husbands are permanently disabled, and of women who have been deserted more than two years. Mr. Carstens finds that the law is an intelligent choice of beneficiaries in the first instance and that assistance has been more nearly adequate than had been given before by other agencies to the same families. But he finds two weak spots. In more than half the cases the income of the parents is not diminished after the public pension went into effect. Incompetence of a large proportion of the probation officers having supervision of pensioned families was disclosed. No action had been taken respecting a number of families whose condition had changed since the original pension order was issued, while in ten families out of 100 investigated home conditions, owing to drink, immorality, or communicable disease, were too bad to warrant keeping the children out of institutions. It was found that while 1700 children were being pensioned the population of Chicago institutions had increased in the six-months' period.

It is demonstrated by this report that the law must be executed by providing proper administration of such laws, particularly in securing intelligent supervision of aided families. It also appears that a flat rate is not the best. The pension rate ought to be as flexible that it can be adjusted to the cases of those who can rely for some aid on relatives or others who are kept in institutions. In other instances the flat rate, unless so large as to relieve wholly all other agencies for home assistance, and ignore all the varying conditions of health and earning ability, will likely prove inadequate.

These are the days when misfit Christmas gifts cause vain regret to many. One man has many pairs of slippers, but no ties. Another has enough ties to stock a haberdashery, but no slippers. A woman who dotes on cut glass is swamped with silver

ware, while she who wishes her friends would repair the deficiencies in her supply of silverware has unlimited cut glass. The boy who yearns for a chest of tools has a dozen pocket knives. A girl has enough dolls to fill an orphan's home, but views with envy her chum, who speeds on roller skates. A clearing use for Christmas gifts would be a useful addition to the modern economic methods of which we hear so much.

AVANT, JEFFERSONIAN SIMPLICITY.

Now that they have an opportunity to give us an example of Jeffersonian simplicity at the inauguration of Wilson, the Democrats balk. The homely legend of Jefferson riding horseback to the capitol, tying his horse to a hitching post and, after talking the white horse and taking possession, has no attractions for the twentieth century Democrat. Much as Wilson would like to ride to the capitol with his angular frame and ride along Pennsylvania avenue unaccompanied by bands, marching soldiers and a citizenry, the Democrats will have none of such simplicity. They are coming into their own after sixteen long years of wandering in the wilderness of exclusion from office, and they will celebrate, they must celebrate; no power on earth shall prevent them from celebrating.

So we are to have an inaugural parade, with martial music, long lines of troops and sailors in full uniform, many civic organizations in gaudy regalia, and a host of other things, the stately parade, but with none of the gore and smoke and devastation. We are to have a pageant worthy of the occasion, which nothing but a blizzard such as greeted Taft's inauguration could blot.

Away with Jeffersonian simplicity!

Up with Woodrow Wilson magnificence! This is the 20th century. Democracy is triumphant and will not baste one trumpet blare, one yard of bunting needed to signalize its triumph.

BIELI AND "BLUE SKY" BILLS.

The conviction of Bieli, the orchard swindler, should serve as a warning to other rascals of the same type that they cannot expect immunity, even though we have no "blue sky" law. But if we have such a law, we could have prevented the people of the Northwest from being swindled, and could have prevented legitimate enterprise from suffering in its good name through being confounded with fakes like those of Bieli and De Larm.

The rejection by the people of the "blue sky" bill submitted to popular vote under the initiative should not be taken by the Legislature as implying that the people do not desire a law designed for substantially the same general end. The initiative bill was rejected mainly because it was not deemed a proper subject for initiative, partly because some of its provisions did not meet with general approval. If a well devised bill should emanate from a legislative committee and should be passed by the Legislature, it could be submitted to a referendum vote with fair confidence of popular approval.

The people of Oregon never intended to grant immunity from punishment to stock and bond swindlers, nor to leave the field open to those swindlers who chose to take the risk of punishment.

THE TURK IN A CORNER.

If the Turks do not hurry and give up Adrianople, that city may give itself up while the envoys in London still explain the situation. Much has been said of his political temperament, but this speech is the best display of the working of that tendency of mind. He calmly analyzes the causes of his overthrow as though the subject were entirely impersonal, as he might sum up the case of a defeated general in a law suit which he had been called upon to decide. He diagnoses the condition of the public mind with great accuracy. Had he been able to do so with a much less degree of accuracy at the beginning instead of the close of his administration, he might have been about to enter a second term.

To have done so, however, would have required a political, not a judicial, mind. A judge looks backward and draws conclusions from a set of known facts, of past events. A politician studies popular needs, opinions, passions, and aims, and he senses today what the people will think tomorrow. He so steers his bark that it will ride the current of public opinion into the safe haven of office.

Taft's political blindness was displayed at the opening of his administration. He was called upon to explain the issue of tariff revision, he summoned Congress to action in a message which showed most confiding trust in the good faith of politicians toward the people, though all experience should have convinced him that the real battle would be waged in the Senate. He wrote a message resembling the opening words of the president of a corporation to a board of directors which had met to carry out a prearranged program. His message might be paraphrased in these words: "Now, gentlemen, we have to revise the tariff; let's get down to business."

Had he taken to heart the lessons of others' experience, he would have written a ringing appeal for revision downward, for removal of the injustices and inequities of the tariff. If Taft and Aldrich had attempted to deal so tenderly with the protected interests, Taft would have been "read the riot act" in true Rooseveltian style; he would have aroused the people to indignation. Had the reactionaries still persisted in their opposition, he would have been beaten in Congress, he would have written a veto message which would have been a clarion call to battle against "the interests" in the election of 1910.

He is not doing this policy, for the simple reason that he has not realized its necessity. Even had he done so, it is questionable whether he could have written the kind of messages which would have rallied an angry people to his support. To do so requires that a man shall see and present only one side of the controversy, or at least one side which he himself is at the head of the insurgents and, had the latter been beaten in Congress, he would have written a veto message which would have been a clarion call to battle against "the interests" in the election of 1910.

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Other nations cannot deny that we have the right to refund to our coastwise vessels tolls collected on the coast. Why collect money from ship owners at Panama or Colon and refund it at Washington? The only valid plea on which objection can be raised is that exemption of our coastwise vessels might cause higher tolls to be charged on vessels of other nations. But this plea cannot be maintained. The tolls fixed on the Panama Canal at its opening are about the same as on the Suez Canal, although the Suez Canal cost only about one-fourth as much as the Panama, and has been in operation more than 40 years. Our government has not been prompted to impose higher tolls on foreign ships by consideration of the loss of revenue due to exemption of coastwise ships. Hence the main part of the British argument fails to the ground. Our right to rebate the tolls being admitted by the British, and exemption of coastwise vessels imposing no additional burden on foreign ships, the difference between the two methods of favoring our own vessels is merely a matter of bookkeeping. Being so confident in our right under the Hay-Pauncefote treaty to exempt our coastwise vessels, The Ore-

gonian would offer no objection to arbitration if it were possible to secure an impartial tribunal. But the arguments advanced by Great Britain are advanced with equal force by any maritime nation. If the British nation believes itself subjected to discrimination, so may any other maritime nation with equal reason. That makes all maritime nations and all their citizens interested parties and disqualifies them as judges. There remain only inland nations like Switzerland, Serbia, Afghanistan and Tibet from which to select the arbitrators. Even Serbia may soon be eliminated from the list. This reduces to an absurdity the arbitration agreement.

Taft tells us "a sure thing is not regarded as the most proper standard for making bets." True, and for this very reason we should not bet against a sure thing by submitting the Panama dispute to a tribunal composed mainly of citizens of the nations which are interested against us. If Taft can find an impartial tribunal to adjudicate the dispute, objection to arbitration will be met, but his ability to find such a tribunal is doubtful.

COMBINATION IN NEW FORM.

By the indictment of President Mellen, of the New Haven road, and President Chamberlain, of the Grand Trunk, the Government will test one more of the devices for suppressing railroad competition. In the Northern Securities case it attacked the holding company, by which two lines which should compete were so indissolubly bound together that they could not compete. In the Harriman case it attacked control of one line by another through direct stock ownership. In the New Haven case it attacks an agreement of one road not to build a line in competition with another.

The agreement in the present case professed to give the Grand Trunk an opportunity to compete for all business on all stations reached by New England lines by allowing the Grand Trunk to use the New Haven tracks, but to the man on the street such competition would be purely illusory and the New Haven's monopoly of English traffic would be practically unbroken. One such law, we could have prevented the people of the Northwest from being swindled, and could have prevented legitimate enterprise from suffering in its good name through being confounded with fakes like those of Bieli and De Larm.

The successive attacks of the Government on so many devices for destroying competition expose one defect in the initiative process. The Government has no power to interfere with contracts between railroads until after the event. In order to be really efficient in keeping competition open the law should provide that no contract between two lines, actual or potential competitors, relating to use of each other's lines should be valid until approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission. We should then have the means of preventing combination and should not be compelled to wait until the combination is effected before acting.

TAFT'S POLITICAL WAKE.

The deplorable tone of President Taft's speech at what he himself called his political wake forms a new explanation of his defeat. Much has been said of his political temperament, but this speech is the best display of the working of that tendency of mind. He calmly analyzes the causes of his overthrow as though the subject were entirely impersonal, as he might sum up the case of a defeated general in a law suit which he had been called upon to decide. He diagnoses the condition of the public mind with great accuracy. Had he been able to do so with a much less degree of accuracy at the beginning instead of the close of his administration, he might have been about to enter a second term.

To have done so, however, would have required a political, not a judicial, mind. A judge looks backward and draws conclusions from a set of known facts, of past events. A politician studies popular needs, opinions, passions, and aims, and he senses today what the people will think tomorrow. He so steers his bark that it will ride the current of public opinion into the safe haven of office.

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manfully for the right against great odds. Taft is too upright to play politics in the service of the people, to do a small wrong as a means of doing a great right.

WIDE DIVERGENCE OF OPINION EXISTS AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE ON ONE PARTICULAR OF THE SO-CALLED WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION ACT AS ORIGINALLY DRAFTED. SOME WOULD REQUIRE THE EMPLOYERS TO CONTRIBUTE ALL THE EXPENSE; SOME WOULD IMPOSE THE WHOLE BURDEN ON THE EMPLOYEES; SOME WOULD ASSESS THE STATE THE GREATER PART; SOME WOULD ASSESS THE STATE AT ALL. THE BILL ITSELF PROPOSES TO REQUIRE THE EMPLOYERS TO PAY THREE-FOURTHS; THE EMPLOYEES ONE-FOURTH AND THE STATE ONE-FOURTH.

The harmonizing of such a discord of thought on this one point may be aided if the understanding is reached at the start that the proposed law is in fact not a compensation act, but a measure authorizing the state to conduct a casualty insurance business for the benefit of employers of labor and their workmen. To the employer the state insurance plan offers a lower rate than he now pays the casualty company. To the employee it offers speedy and certain compensation for personal injuries.

A workman's compensation act in the simple form, on the other hand, makes the state no party to the compensation of injured workmen. The state merely declares what shall be the compensation and the employer is bound to pay it if he is affected by the law, and an employee meets with accident.

Injured workmen now obtain relief through the medium of an employer's liability law, which defines what may or may not be defenses in actions at law to recover damages for such injuries. The burden of payment is wholly on the shoulders of the employer. The employee contributes nothing unless the injury itself and the attorney's fees he usually must provide may be so considered. The state pays no part of the damages, but, of course, is required to maintain the courts which hear and decide personal injury cases.

New insurance plan promises to eliminate the lawyers' fees now paid by employees, and also part of the state's expense in maintaining the courts. It, however, involves a doubtful field of experiment in which no safe guidance as to proper rates or insurance premiums now exists. There is greater ground for controversy over the form of the act than its minor provisions. Whether a state insurance law is better than or as good as a compensation act may yet be the real point at issue.

Perhaps the best resolve we can make for the New Year is to look at things as they are, no matter what happens. There is a positive power in cheerfulness. Gloom not only hinders the mind and body from working, but it opens the door to disease. Every moment spent in regret lessens the capacity for happiness and reacts permanently upon a person's health. It is a little too far with his theory. It is certainly a sin to do deeds that bring repentance, but a little mourning for our transgressions now and then cannot be displeasing to the Almighty. However that may be, we shall all agree that no time is worse wasted than hours spent in vain broodings over the past. The whole mental attitude is one of bright confidence in the future. We ought to trust the power that rules the world and have faith in the goodness of the gods. We have experienced can never happen again. If they do it will be our own fault, not the will of the Almighty. The evils that run riot in the world, the social ills of the time, are not fixed upon us by omnipotent decree, but by our indolence and want of courage to attack them.

The farmer boy who just now allows the pheasants to gather in the shelter of the barnyard undisturbed will reap his reward at harvest time in diminished number of pecks.

What would the Idaho Supreme Court do if Roosevelt were to go to Idaho and there denounce the conditions? Could any Idaho fall hold the furious Colons?

If Oscar Cook's contention that he is legally dead should be sustained, it would be no crime to kill him, for it is impossible to murder a man who is not legally alive.

When Mrs. Cleveland visits the White House she will be able to compare notes with Mrs. Taft on the sensation of being dropped as first lady of the land.

Scientists who reveal easy modes of killing a man by use of germs as well as well as death to death and have done with it.

A German "Mother Shipton" prophesied the end of the empire this year, and the joke in it is that many over there believe her.

Now does the small boy stand on the verge of the frozen pond and let "I dare not" wait upon "I would" go on the ice.

Baltimore telephone exchanges are operated by blind girls. That is in innovation, although deaf ones are common.

De Wolf Hopper is a star, not only on the stage but in the field of what the clergy call consecutive polygamy.

To be corpse and chief mourner, and officiate as well, did not disturb Mr. Taft's equanimity and equipoise.

And now that the holidays are over close young men may feel free to make up with their sweethearts.

The Idaho editors in prison have the Colonel's sympathy, which is consoling, to say the least.

It is possible that the peace conference disapproved over division of the Nobel prize.

You do not hear the Ice-man complain. He has a cold snap the year 'round.

Almost everybody seems to have a quarrel with the game warden.

Nothing less than more fighting will settle the Turkish question.

Feed the birds just now and watch the cats.

WAY TO REDUCE COST OF LIVING.

Parcel Post Offers Opportunity to Circumvent Middleman.

PORTLAND, Jan. 6.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian, Saturday, there are several things set forth which are interesting to people who are endeavoring to ascertain what details make up the gradual increased cost of living in recent years. I notice in this issue boiled ham is advertised at 33 cents for which I paid 16 cents from 1891 to 1897. During the same period I paid 10½ to 11 cents for sugar-cured hams, and 11 to 12 cents for the best.

How much of the increase is the farmer getting? Suppose his price for livestock has doubled, does this explain the tremendous advance in the price of provisions, which cost three times what they were 10 years ago? If the farmer gets double what he formerly did (which is questionable), some other fellow is getting more than his proportionate share of the increase. If he is, and what excuse has he to offer?

I likewise notice that it costs more working girls nearly half their wages for the same work. Might it not be no more than a profit to a drunkard from drinking. An educated character, together with the installation of a little common sense, would help the situation. The farmer's share of the increased cost of living ought to be eliminated.

I also notice that creameries pay 23 cents for butter fat, and one pound of salt and water, and then the roll of 100 pounds is retailed for 68 to 70 cents a roll. Would it not pay the farmers to buy more salt and coax their wives and daughters to learn the art of butter-making? Might it not pay the girls better than coming to the city to work for starvation wages?

I also notice allusions in a couple of communications to the "key package" which the people would only take into consideration the great expense necessary in making the outside of this package and the greater expense in the most expensive material in the nation, the nationally circulated magazines, they would soon discover that they were paying a pretty stiff price for the inside of this package. However, I suppose the patient waiting and the patient waiting and the patient waiting.

The middleman and the grocery manufacturer have become immensely wealthy by keeping the interest of the consumer out of the picture. The increased cost of living, rather than the modest operand of their business—what many people believe to be the real reason. In other words we believe that the farmer and the consumer are forced the farmer at one end and the consumer at the other to pay a big tribute to his game.

The consumer ought to get acquainted with some road, secure a free discussion of the parcel post as frequently as he can. That will not only help some, but a great deal. And further, if the farmer and the consumer who buy all of his supplies in the city is not harassed by some organization of middlemen when he drives to the door of the consumer with a load of his products, he will be a better man, we may help to turn the light into some dark places.

HENRY F. JOSLIN.

REASONS FOR MOVING STATE FAIR

Correspondent Compares Hotel and Transportation Facilities.

MINNIVILLE, Or., Jan. 4.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian, January 1, you published an article regarding the reasons for moving the State Fair Association, Mr. Booth. Please permit me a reply.

I will first state that I have no personal interest in this matter, other than the public good. I have no opinion on such affairs can be no other than for the public good.

Portland is geographically the place for the State Fair, since a large part of the people of the state travel through Portland in order to get to Salem—all of Eastern Oregon. I have no doubt that if it were put to a vote, Portland as a location, would carry by a decisive majority.

Another reason is that Salem has not the accommodation to handle the vast crowds that gather at the State Fair. All day long the crowds of the people of Salem, there is always a number of unscrupulous men that will take advantage of such an opportunity to hold people up and make exorbitant charges for accommodation. Now I do understand me to say that Salem people are worse than the Portland people, but the conditions are different. Salem has not the accommodation to handle the vast crowds that gather at the State Fair.

The objection that Portland has not made a success of her fairs in the past is no doubt largely due to the holding of two fairs in close succession. I don't see any reason why the people would not be just as willing to patronize the State Fair at Portland as at any other place. I, for one, would, and I find quite a sentiment in it.

H. BERNARD.

Opportunities at Newberg.

NEWBERG, Or., Jan. 5.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian of January 4, rendered a service beyond computation to the Willamette Valley in the space given it in the New Year edition, and that service is being appreciated by the thousands of thriving town and the prosperous community on the farms adjacent.

One urgent need of Newberg is the establishment of a market here for fruit, vegetables and berries. Immense quantities of which are produced in this locality. It would seem that some of the business of the fruit firm of Portland would find it profitable to locate a branch house here and combine many small lots into carload lots, to the benefit of the market here.

Another need is the operation of a cannery built here a few years ago and closed within a few weeks, not for lack of business, but for want of a market. It is equipped with up-to-date requirements, is located on a side track and is close to the city. It is a large business. The property is now in the market at half its cost.

JOHN T. BELL.

Offensive Billboards a Nuisance.

Boston Post.

"Why," asks the clever painter of outdoor life, Adam Albright, denouncing the billboards of Chicago, "why does the law permit a man to rent the landscape? That is a new turn to the old thought. The owner of a field believes that he has a perfect right to authorize an advertising company to disgrace his beauty with a hideous row of billboards, and so he has, legally. Yet he is maintaining a nuisance as truly as the man who permits an evil smell or foul water on his premises. Some day God's out-of-doors will be freed from the curse of these billboards, and the landscape will be free of its parks already. The world is coming to regard the value of beauty as next to that of virtue and orderliness."

C. W. BARZEE.

The Privilege of Grumbling.

Home Comforts.

"The weather is very trying to everybody," said the doctor. "Yes," said Mr. Measles to the eyes, "it is very trying. It is going to bear up under it. When the sun doesn't shine she's miserable and when it does she says it's fading the aspect."

F. M. GILL.

POETS' DREAM TO BE FULFILLED.

Great State, Illyricum, to Be Established by Slavs in Balkans.

PORTLAND, Jan. 5.—(To the Editor.)—The events which have occurred in the Balkans in the last few months have doubtless awakened the interest of many to come nearer to this heroic people, to learn their customs and manners, and also something of their dark past and future aim.

We have always been busy, mostly to provide others with life and protect their interests, and the infrequent periods of rest gave us scarcely time to gather as much as we needed to support ourselves poorly. Centuries passed over and we did not really know the world we existed. On one side we became Turkish, on the other Venetian, Austrian and Hungarian subjects, and only in short intervals do we see "Wojwode and Ban" coming up, but always more or less dependent on one or the other. We are now in the midst of the "Illyrian Jurat" (of God's grace).

For the first time, in the nineteenth century, after we had become still more and more dependent on the world, the time had arrived to do something for ourselves, and, behold, in a few years we see on the map Serbia, Bulgaria, Montenegro and Albania, and only in short intervals do we see "Wojwode and Ban" coming up, but always more or less dependent on one or the other. We are now in the midst of the "Illyrian Jurat" (of God's grace).

The silent observer knows what is there brewing, and many know what is to come. The bloody war of today is but only a prelude to the purpose of freeing the Christians from the tyranny of the Turks; it is to revive the national spirit and to prepare the people for a new era of independence. To make their boundaries from the Black Sea to the Adriatic, and from the Danube to the Aegean Sea, and to provide them a place in the world of commerce and industry. We hope that our countrymen at home will carry out this noble cause, but should it fall there are still autonomous empires of war and brave soldiers to fight till the last.

The cannon's successful roar on Kosovo and Adrianople, and the excitement on the other side of the Danube and Save shows that they are not far from their victory.

The most cultured and progressive Slavic provinces—Croatia, Slavonia, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, with many others—are waiting for the moment when it shall be time to change their present state to something better. We are not avenging with the dagger the tyrannical treatment of all these years, but we are waiting for the day of Lombard, Lutzen, 1852; Nordlingen, 1864; Sadowa and Lissa, 1866, and many more, to grow old and contented to live on historical traditions. We do not want to be a state within a state, we want independence. And what is it going to be? A great state, Illyricum, the dream of our poet, George Krizanovic, will be fulfilled. Slavic nations, dual genes, dual divinity in dual regis, dual num, dual ut unus pastor.

IVAN GLAVANOVIC.

NOT FOR STATE-WIDE ROAD LAW

Writer no Interprets Sentiment of People as Expressed at Polls.

WILSONVILLE, Or., Jan. 3.—(To the Editor.)—By popular vote it was emphatically decided that we do not want state-wide good roads legislation. I hope our coming Legislature will not undertake to enact any such laws, because they cannot enact any that will be fair toward the majority of taxpayers.

There are two classes of building good roads where those who are in need