

PROPOSED BRIDGE

Control of State Highways and Bridges Advocated.

ENGINEER'S REPORT MADE

No Recommendation Is Made as to Millage Tax, but Advisability of Making Larger Appropriation Put Up to Assembly.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 15.—(Special.)

Recommending that the State Highway Commission be given entire jurisdiction over all state roads, and the enactment of a provision giving that department supervision of the position and construction of all bridges and culverts costing \$500 or more.

Mr. Howley further recommends that a provision should be added to the present law making it possible for the state to acquire by condemnation or by gift the right of way for the highway.

"This," he says, "should provide a short, simple method by which the attorney-general is authorized to bring condemnation proceedings in all cases where the right of way agent fails to procure the deed by gift or for a reasonable compensation."

The highway engineer makes no recommendation in regard to an increase of the levy for highway construction. He says:

"The present law provides for a levy of one-fourth of 1 mill for the state road fund. This provides approximately \$2,400,000 annually. I make no recommendations for a greater levy. The wisdom of making provision for a larger amount of money for construction of the state roads, it is hoped, will be apparent to the Legislature after they have read this report."

In reviewing the work which has been accomplished during the first 18 months of the existence of the highway department, Mr. Howley says:

"A system of state or trunk roads has been adopted and a start, in a small way, made toward the construction of this system. The rate at which these trunk roads will be built and become open to the public is now only a question of how fast the money is made available for this purpose."

The financial statement of the Commission shows that there is available in the highway fund November 1, 1914, \$5,595,885. Disbursements are shown to have been \$1,878,974.72 and receipts \$248,676.69.

Mr. Howley reports that a movement has been started to construct a road from Portland to Mount Hood.

CEMENT PRICES JUMP

CITY WILL INVESTIGATE ANOMALOUS CONDITION.

Only Two Companies Submit Tenders and These Are Similar, Though Concerns Are in Field.

A sudden discontinuance of competition in the cement business, accompanied by a sharp rise in prices, was the subject of an investigation by City Commissioner Bigelow and Municipal Purchasing Agent Wood.

Investigation into the matter was held yesterday for 5000 barrels of cement for use in various public improvement projects are to be held up.

Although it is said there are representatives of 10 different cement companies in active business in Portland only two bids were submitted for the 5000 barrels of cement wanted by the city.

These were identical, each quoting a price of \$2.39 a barrel, with a reduction of 10 cents for each empty sack returned.

Up to the present it is said competition seemed active in the cement business. Cement dealers have complained in the past that the city bought all its cement from one concern, the Riverside Portland Cement Company, and for that reason it was expected competition would be invited by the city now seeks to buy would be keen.

The Riverside Company failed to submit a bid, as did some of the concerns that had competition for the city's business. The Washington Portland Cement Company and the Santa Cruz Portland Cement Company, however, were competitors.

EGG BRANDING DESIRED

POULTRY ASSOCIATION APPEALS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

Resolutions Call for Marking Imported and Cold-Storage Products Whenever Offered for Sale.

EUGENE, Or., Jan. 15.—(Special.)—Resolutions directed to the State Legislature, asking regulation of the use of foreign eggs and poultry products, were adopted by the Oregon branch of the American Poultry Association at the annual meeting held in Eugene today.

The bill now pending would not only have the eggs marked cold-storage eggs, but would require the display of signs in places where the foreign product is sold.

The resolution adopted was worded as follows: "We, being interested directly in the poultry industry of Oregon and conscious of the fact that the poultry industry is very important in that it is the means of an independent income for many persons in various parts of the state; that the poultry industry is a large portion of our population; that its products are necessary for the people of the state and that its interests are entitled to equal protection with all other interests or industries, hereby petition your honorable body that you favor such legislation as will be submitted to you having for its object the regulation of the selling and distribution of imported eggs and poultry products."

A large high-pressure area over the North Pacific States and a storm of marked severity has been moving eastward in this district since Sunday, and the rain in the Pacific Northwest is much heavier in Eastern New Mexico, Eastern Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota. Snow has fallen in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and in portions of the adjoining states.

The conditions are favorable for fair weather in this district Saturday, with continued low temperatures.

PORTCASTS: Portland and vicinity—Fair, continued. Oregon and Washington—Fair, continued. Idaho—Fair, continued. Nevada—Fair, continued. HEADWIND: DEPARTING FORECASTER.

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