

### ROADMASTER YEON ISSUES CHALLENGE

Controversy With County Commissioner Holman Comes to Direct Showdown.

### CHARGES FULLY ANSWERED

Highway Executive Demands Proof That He Has in Any Way Exceeded Authority in Any Work During Four Years' Term.

"If you or any other person in Multnomah County can show me one instance where I have been wrong in the construction of the Vista House or in any other work during my four years of official life, you are at liberty to crucify me from morning to night until the end of time."

With this direct challenge, John B. Yeon, roadmaster, came to a direct "show-down" yesterday in his controversy with Rufus Holman, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, at a conference that lasted more than two hours.

For the first time during this controversy Mr. Yeon met and answered, clearly and plainly, the oft-repeated charges by Chairman Holman that in the construction of the Vista House illegal methods were employed by the roadmaster; that Mr. Yeon had authorized the expenditure of thousands of dollars in its construction without the knowledge of the Board and that he had usurped the powers and functions of the Board time and again.

#### Evidence Is Demanded.

He asked the chairman to show one instance by the Board records where one cent had been spent on the Vista House which had not been authorized by a majority of the Board; he defied him to point out one instance where the work had cost one cent more than it should have cost; he urged him to prove, if he could, that there had been any subterfuge employed by the roadmaster or that the roadmaster had in any way been guilty of extravagance.

And Mr. Holman did not attempt to sustain these charges with proof from official records. He insisted, however, that Mr. Yeon had gone against his wishes and his judgment in the construction of the Vista House and that he had changed the construction plans without the knowledge or consent of the Board. These changes, he said, meant the final expenditure of about \$53,000 instead of \$18,000 which at first had been authorized.

"The trouble with you, Mr. Holman, is that you listen too much to these tax dodgers, like this fellow Goldsmith," Mr. Yeon said. "These are the fellows who never do anything for the community, but who attempt to hinder the work of those who have the best interests of the community at heart. That's your trouble, Mr. Holman, and the sooner you correct it the better it will be for you."

#### Mr. Holman Is Accused.

The long discussion was precipitated at the conclusion of the reading of an eight-page communication to the Board in which Mr. Yeon answered the various charges made by Mr. Holman in an authorized interview made public several days ago. He charged the chairman with attempting to disrupt entirely the work of the roadmaster and to distribute responsibilities around among so many people that inefficiency would surely result in road work.

"I would like to ask you a few questions," Mr. Yeon suggested after his report had been read.

"I don't know that I have to sit here and subject myself to an examination at your hands," replied Mr. Holman.

"Well, I'm talking to you now as a taxpayer, and if you are strictly on the square you will sit here and answer my questions like a gentleman," retorted Mr. Yeon.

#### Political Play Charged.

At the outset the roadmaster accused Mr. Holman of playing politics in his efforts to change all the road engineering from the office of roadmaster to that of the County Surveyor.

"Since when did you begin to believe that the County Surveyor should do this engineering work?" the chairman was asked.

"Why, I have favored that change ever since I have been in office," replied Holman.

"That's strange," commented Mr. Yeon, "because I know absolutely that you have been figuring on abolishing the office of County Surveyor for some time."

"That isn't true," challenged Holman. "Well, you told me so yourself, and I can prove it," was Mr. Yeon's comeback, as further discussion of this issue subsided.

#### Decision Is Postponed.

Throughout the discussion Chairman Holman insisted that he was seeking only the best results through a spirit of co-operation, but Mr. Yeon defied him to show where co-operation could be procured by abolishing the accounting department and putting this work on the County Auditor; by refusing to permit the roadmaster to employ engineers and having this work done by the County Surveyor; by the Board giving orders direct to the road foreman instead of having orders come through the roadmaster.

It was agreed at the conclusion of the conference that matters should rest as they now stand until Commissioner Holbrook is present at a Board meeting to decide the various questions upon which Chairman Holman and Commissioner Muck now disagree. If Mr. Holbrook agrees with Mr. Muck to affirm the road programme as outlined by Mr. Yeon, Chairman Holman said he would abide by the decision of the Board. These differences, it was pointed out, probably will be settled next week, as Mr. Holbrook is expected at the Board meeting Monday.

In his communication to the Board Mr. Yeon challenged Chairman Holman to point out one instance wherein there would be duplication of work or employees by giving the roadmaster the office force sought instead of distributing the work among other county officials. To Mr. Holman's previously published interview referring to the fact that Mr. Yeon erected flagpoles to S. Benson instead of spending money on roads, he replied that he had thus far been unable to locate any such flagpoles.

"By a stretch of imagination this statement might be considered an attempt at humor," is the way the communication disposes of this charge.

Mr. Holman announced he would submit a written reply to Mr. Yeon at a later date.

#### Experienced Sheepmen at Premium.

COVE, Or., Feb. 1.—(Special).—Edward Miller, of Union, has 699 ewes. Laming season is now on hand and it is impossible for him to get experienced men for the two shifts in his camp.



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# MAJESTIC

#### GIRL, 16, DIES OF BURNS

Nancy Briggs Succumbs to Injuries Received at Home. EUGENE, Or., Feb. 1.—(Special).—Nancy Briggs, aged 16 years, died at a hospital in this city today as a result of burns received when she fainted and

#### fell into a fireplace at her home, at Hadleyville, Monday. The girl was terribly burned. She was a daughter of John H. Briggs and the oldest of eight children and had taken the place of both mother and big sister to the little members of the family since the death of her mother three years ago.

She was burned after a night spent in attending one of the small children

#### who had been seriously ill. About 2 A. M. the father went to the bedside and Nancy seated herself beside the fire. She fainted and fell face down into the flames.

H. J. Meiss, the capitalist and expert billiardist, of Salt Lake, is at the Seward, accompanied by Mrs. Meiss. They are just rounding up a lengthy trip throughout the West.

#### I. W. W. TO BE ROUNDED UP

Friends of Martin Krukke, Alleged Bolshevik, Are Arrested. TACOMA, Wash., Feb. 1.—(Special).—A general roundup of Industrial Workers of the World who are con-

#### nected with Martin Krukke, alleged Bolshevik agent and a former Tacoma man, arrested in Seattle on the Hawaii Maru last week, has begun in Tacoma, according to United States Immigration Commissioner Alex Fulton.

Several friends of Krukke are already in the Pierce County jail and others here and in Seattle, believed to have been sent here to interfere with the prosecution of the war through the

#### industrial organization of Puget Sound, will be arrested as soon as there is room for them.

Krukke was formerly employed in and about Tacoma as a flunkie in logging camps. He went back to Russia at the expense of the Russian "Reds" government last summer. The men arrested in Tacoma are known to be connected with this Russian Fulton said.