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## GOOD ROADS CURE FOR HIGH COST OF LIVING

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 9.—Lower the cost of living by improving the country roads, thereby giving the farmers easy access to the markets, which will encourage them to produce more. Heavier production means lower prices.

That's the theory of James R. Marker, state highway commissioner, who aims to give Ohio the best roads in the United States. Marker will have at his personal disposal this year \$800,000, and every year thereafter for ten years there will be \$3,500,000 at the disposal of the state highway commissioner for use on the roads in the state.

"This fund means that we will have the best schools, markets and community enterprises of all kinds," argues Marker. "Good roads means better civilization, because they bring persons in closer touch with one another." Work on rebuilding 9233 miles of Ohio roads starts this spring and Marker predicts many miles will be completed by the end of the year. In ten years he expects to have accomplished the whole task.

## GOULD'S TRAVELS.

San Jose, Calif., Feb. 5, 1914. Editor Times:

We took a trip east from San Jose to Evergreen, a place where I used to go to school, and said hello to some old friends. They are doing some good road work out in that direction, as we were shown by the surveyor, J. G. McMillan, of this county.

This section of the valley is more used for general farming than the west side, but they have some fine orchards of peaches, pears, prunes and some good-sized vineyards. The roads are practically dry, but bumpy in places. They are running a 12-ton roller over them now and that will smooth most anything. The county surveyor here has practical control of the road work and it seems to work out pretty well.

George A. Gould.

## TO STUMP STATE.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 9.—William D. Wilson, secretary of the department of labor, is preparing to stump the state of Pennsylvania in the interests of Representative A. Mitchell Palmer, Democratic candidate for nomination to the Senate.

## LOOKING UP QUALIFICATIONS.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 9.—The personnel of the Federal Reserve Board, which is to control the new currency system, probably will be made known by March 1. The President is centering his attention on a group of men and looking into their qualifications.



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## Writes About Legal Rights of Women in Estate Cases

The following is a paper read recently by Mrs. M. A. Sweetman before the College Women's Club and contains much interesting and valuable information:

In the study of the law of inheritance, I have made an effort to anticipate at least some of the questions that might arise.

At the death of a husband the law makes provision for the support of the widow and children, while the estate is being administered.

Anyone wishing for fuller information on this topic can refer to Vol. I, Sections 1233 to 1237 of the General Laws of the State of Oregon.

After an estate has been administered a widow receives a dower. Vol. III, Section 7286, Widow's Use of One-half of the Husband's Lands.

The widow of every deceased person shall be entitled to dower, or the use during her natural life, of one-half part of all the lands whereof her husband was seized at any time during the marriage, unless she is lawfully barred thereof.

The widow may be barred from even the use of one-half part during her life, references Vol. III, Sections 7298 to 7302, 7303, and 7313, Sec. 7308. The law reads that a widow may remain in her dwelling one year without paying rent, also in Sec. 7297, a widow may occupy land without dower assigned, no one objecting. When a widow is entitled to dower in the lands in which her husband died seized, she may continue to occupy the same with the children or other heirs of the deceased, or may receive one-half part of the rents, issues and profits thereof so long as the heirs or others interested do not object, without having the dower assigned. Vol. III, Sec. 7348 Real Property to Whom It Descends. When any person shall die seized of any real property or any right thereto or entitled to any interest therein, in fee simple, or for the life of another, not having lawfully devised the same, such real property shall descend subject to his debts as follows: In equal shares to his or her children, and to the issue of any deceased child by right of representation, and if there be no child of the intestate living at the time of his or her death, such real property shall descend to all his or her lineal descendants, and if all such descendants are in the same degree of kindred to the intestate, they shall take such real property equally or otherwise they shall take according to the right of representation.

2. If the intestate shall have no lineal descendants such real property shall descend to his wife, or if the intestate be a married woman, and leave no lineal descendants then such real property shall descend to her husband, and next his or her father, then brother, sisters, then mother, then next in kin, if no kin, the property escheats to the state. This law as to whom real property descends shows plainly that but few wives would inherit real property, for most men have lineal descendants.

There is another law that might be well to mention in connection with this. It is, Vol. III, Sec. 7034 to 7038, Husband and Wife Have no Interest in Each Other's Property. There can be no contract between husband and wife to bar her from dower or her from the curtesy, even though a contract is signed to that effect. The law of Oregon does not recognize such a contract.

Also commutative property is not lawful in Oregon. Deeds may be so written as to give each one half of the property by inserting. Tenants in Common, but neither can inherit the other half, except when there are no lineal descendants. In some states, when a deed reads joint-tenancy, the survivor takes the whole, but is not lawful in Oregon. Sec. 7318. A married woman may dispose of realty by will subject to the curtesy. Sec. 7315. Estates by the Curtesy. How Created. The widower of every deceased person shall be entitled, as tenant, by the curtesy to the use during his natural life, of one-half part of all the lands whereof his wife was seized of an estate of inheritance at any time during the marriage, although such husband and wife may not have had issue born alive, unless he is lawfully barred thereof.

Estates by the curtesy may be admeasured, assigned and barred in the same manner that dower may be admeasured, assigned and barred, and as far as practicable all other laws of this state shall be applicable in like manner and with like effect, to estates to the curtesy. Vol. I, Sec. 7349, Personal Property, How Distributed.

When any person shall die possessed of any personal property, or any right to or interest therein, not lawfully bequeathed the same, such personal property shall be applied and distributed as follows:

1. If the intestate shall leave a widow, she shall be allowed all articles of her apparel and ornaments, according to the degree and estate of the intestate, and such property and provisions for the use and support of herself and minor children as shall be allowed and ordered in pursuance of Sections 1233 to 1236 inclusive, and this allowance shall be made as well when the widow waives the provision made for her in the will of her husband as when he dies intestate.

2. The personal property of the intestate remaining after such allowance shall be applied to the payment of the debts of the deceased and the charges and expenses of administration as provided by law.

3. The residue, if any, of the personal property shall be distributed among the persons who would be entitled to the real property of the intestate, as provided in this act, and in like proportion or share, except as is herein otherwise provided.

4. If the intestate shall leave a husband or widow, and issue, such husband or widow shall be entitled to receive one-half of said residue of the personal property; but if the intestate leave a husband or widow and no issue, such husband or widow, as the case may be, shall be entitled to receive the whole of the residue of such personal property.

5. If there be no husband, widow or kindred of the intestate, the whole of such residue shall escheat to the state of Oregon.

To many the law of inheritance may seem good because it allows a wife a dower and a husband a curtesy in like manner. To me it does not seem even just to a wife. When a woman marries she becomes a home keeper and usually a mother. Usually she has not been fitted for a business life and each year she cares for a home and children she is becoming less capable of following a business life. She is not a wage earner by nature, in fact should not be, for she can not properly care for a home and children and follow any business calling, although many do. When a man marries, he expects to care for his wife, and each year she is his wife makes it more obligatory for him to care for her, not only while he lives, but to provide for her after his death. I hold that the property that is accumulated is equally hers as well as his, because she is doing as much as he, if not more, in bearing and caring for children. It is not dollars and cents, but it is more. Naturally parents wish to provide for their children, but children do not earn the property, they are an expense, and I think that property should revert to the surviving parent, not to the children. But as the law now reads, the children inherit, not the wife, and any husband who believes his wife is his partner, should will his real and personal property to her. Any woman that is worthy to be his wife and mother to his children, should be trusted to care for the children when he is gone. Another portion of the law that seems to me an injustice, is in lineal descendants where there are no children, lineal descendants or wife, the next in kin is the father, who should be able to care for himself, then brothers and sisters who should be more able, then lastly the mother is considered—the very one who should come first, the one who has grown old in caring for her family and often her grandchildren. She is wholly unable to make her living, still she is the last to be thought of. February 10, 1912, a law was enacted to provide for the assistance and support of women whose husbands are dead or inmates of some Oregon State institution, or who are physically or mentally unable to work and who have a child or children dependent for support wholly or partly upon their labor. This law is erroneously called the Widows' Pension Act. See General Laws of Oregon, page 75. This paper is published in order to enlighten both men and women as to the present law, with the hope that some change can be made in the near future; also that prior to a changing of the present law many men who wish to be just to their wives can at once take steps to devise or bequeath their property to them. Sec 7316 Wills. A husband can devise all his property, both real and personal, to his wife, but must make mention of his children or other heirs, not by giving them any specified amount, but by merely mentioning their names to show they have not been forgotten. He can devise real property to anyone, subject to dower. He can also devise all personal property to anyone he wishes, and no action can be taken to recover the same, as the law does not recognize the husband's property as belonging to his wife. Yet the law reads in Sec. 7039: Both are liable for family expenses and both or either separately may be sued. We need to get busy and adjust our business a little more favorable for ourselves. "LID" ON TOBACCO JAR AT OREGON'S CAPITAL Boys Under Eighteen Years Old Prohibited From Having Weed at Any Time. SALEM, Or., Feb. 9.—An ordinance forbidding any person to sell or give tobacco in any form to boys under eight or years old also prohibits boys from having tobacco in their possession. Violation of the first provision subjects the person to a fine of \$5 to \$50, or imprisonment in the city jail, while boys caught with tobacco will be reprimanded by the City Judge for the first offense and be subject to a fine of \$2 to \$20 or imprisonment for each subsequent offense.

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