

ROAD MATTERS BEFORE GROUP

Grange Convention Also Brought up; Hinman Gives Utility Talk

SILVERTON, March 31.—A plea for the completion of two or three hundred yards of road in the district was brought up at the Silverton chamber of commerce meeting held at the First Christian church Wednesday night. It was said that if this work were done on this road it would open up an entirely new territory for travel. The road lies in the Evans valley.

In response to the plea, Dr. P. A. Loar, chairman of the roads committee of the chamber of commerce, said he was somewhat dubious as the work being done on this road as the district voted down its tax and already owed something. However, Dr. Loar promised to look into the matter. One reason for urging this road work, Earl J. Adams, president of the chamber explained, was that this was in the route planned for the return trip from the Silver Creek falls trip at the time of the state grange convention in June. Mr. Adams went on to explain that as the grange members would have so little time for outside entertainment during their session here, the chamber of commerce had planned to take them to Silver Creek falls for breakfast and have them back at Silverton in time for the morning session. The trip would be made up on one side of the creek with a return trip on the other. Breakfast would be enjoyed in Oregon's newest state park.

Dr. Loar also reported on the secondary highway around Silver Creek falls. Two men, he said were holding this up. He also said that there was some prospect of changing the road around the Union Hill district. The court hearing on this, Dr. Loar announced, would be held April 12. A letter from the grange committee was read. It asked about accommodating the delegates who will attend the state grange convention. The letter also asked what the price of the rooms would be, what tents could be offered, and asked that the chamber prepare the information and return it to the grange so that it could be sent to the grange bulletin in plenty of time before the convention. Registration will begin on June 13 with the first arrivals to the grange.

J. B. Stalker, representative of the grange, who was present at the chamber of commerce meeting, spoke briefly on the history of the Silverton grange which was organized on April 13 with 13 members two years ago. The committee from the grange which will work with the committee from the chamber of commerce consists of Mr. Stalker, Ed Overlund, Oscar Loe and Mr. Van Cleave of Monitor. The board of directors of the chamber of commerce will hold a meeting in the near future to make definite arrangements for the housing of the grange members.

M. G. Gunderson, chairman of the membership committee reported. The work on the committee was not yet completed but to date \$555.00 had been received. A special feature, and one that the Silverton group expressed itself as being very pleased over, was the visit of 13 members from the Salem chamber. C. E. Wilson, manager of the Salem group, introduced his members present: E. E. Sisson, manager of Miller's department store; S. B. Elliot, vice president of the First National bank; Henry R. Crawford of the Ladd and Bush; J. N. Chambers, manager of the Salem Co.; W. M. Hamilton, district manager of Portland General Electric; Douglas McKay, president of Salem chamber of commerce; Oscar Steelhammer, county assessor; "Ting" McNamara, Portland General Electric company; Dr. L. E. Barrick, Norwell Williams, E. H. Leach, J. J. Morris. The latter four delighted the group with their vocal selections.

L. E. Hinman, Pacific Northwest Public Service corporation valuation expert, was present and gave an address on "Public Utility Valuation and Rate Making: Some Popular Misconceptions."

The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

March 31st, 1932.

To the Editor: First, it should be understood that I am speaking for myself alone. It is still too early in the morning to talk over your editorial with any other members of the Salem school board.

For myself, therefore, I accept your criticism and rebuke as merited and plead guilty to the charge of showing poor taste. I am not excusing myself or my actions. I hope that John Hunt and Ted Chambers will accept this as a personal and public apology to them, if I offended them.

It should be stated, however, that when John Hunt and Ted Chambers were nominated it was known that we could expect some criticism and perhaps opposition from them. They were not nominated to "rubber stamp" for the board—any member of the board is willing to accept constructive criticism, though for myself personally I presume I must admit if my nerves are inclined to be on edge I'll probably say sarcastic at times.

I do not recall who nominated Ted Chambers, but I nominated John Hunt, and I did so knowing what John Hunt thought of me. John Hunt, however, is a good citizen, and the rest is immaterial, for I know it is not material. The morning after the nomination, I personally called each of these gentlemen and asked that they permit us to go over the school books with them so that they could be more fully informed on each item. Whether they assume that I was trying to influence them unduly, I do not know, but so far as I know neither of them took advantage of the offer.

My motive was simply this—the prepared budget of itself tells nothing but totals. To make constructive suggestions I felt they should have a more thorough insight into the itemized disbursements. It is very well to say that cuts must be made, but when members have gone over the whole work of the schools and made adjustments and cuts, instructions to make further blanket cuts are not helpful.

The public can rest assured of this that the board expects to continue with a thorough study

of the situation and make further changes where they can be effected, keeping in mind always that we should not impair the efficiency of the schools. But, it should be realized that eliminating departments—and subjects does not automatically reduce the teaching force. If we should eliminate the shops, we will lose state and federal aid to the extent of approximately 50%, and, in addition, would have to provide more teachers in some other departments to take care of the pupils from these classes.

What I particularly resented Tuesday night was the attack on the school board. I will still insist that it is fair to make comparisons with other trades and professions. The teaching profession not only requires extensive and costly training before they can qualify, but constant study thereafter to maintain their standard of efficiency. Furthermore, when the trades and professions were increasing their demands for more and more pay during the years of prosperity, no parallel increase was given the teachers of Salem. Their pay was still maintained at the old level. You would not permit an increase to keep step with increasing cost, but now you insist that the old level be further reduced. You demand that standards be maintained, but refuse to allow them the wherewithal with which to maintain these standards.

The warrants at indebtedness seem to bother you. We went on the warrant basis at the request of the banks. They believed it was the safest and most business-like way of handling our finances between tax periods. I do not have the figures before me, but I think you will find that we are not much more in debt through our warrants now than we were in debt to the banks at this same period last year, keeping in mind, however, that there was a greater shortage in the tax receipts during 1931 than previously. What we borrowed at the bank in the past or in warrants at present is simply to provide operating capital between tax paying periods. The schools are not a store or factory—there is no regular period of receipts. We made our budget for 1931-1932 operations last spring—started operating on them July 1st, 1931, and receive our first income on them some time after May 5th, 1932. On or after November 5th, 1931, it is true, we received some of the money that was levied for the 1930-31 operations and this money as received is used to retire the warrants in the order in which they were issued. Just the same as we were accustomed to pay the banks before.

The Salem school district faces another serious situation. There is a case before the courts attacking the payment of high school taxes by non-high school districts. There are approximately 500 outside pupils coming to the Salem high school. The tuition for these pupils is paid from this tax. Mr. Hug tells me that we have just received the last \$10,000.00 on the tuition for 1930-1931. We have received no tuition for these 500 pupils to meet the current year's costs. Furthermore, if the courts declare this act unconstitutional, we will have expended for the education of these pupils approximately \$40,000.00, and we only receive some will be to try to force collection from the individual parents or guardians. The merchants want these pupils handled by the Salem high school district, for they are a source of considerable trade in the town. As long as we can operate under the present act, the Salem school alides are not losing any money, for their tuition covers their per capita cost of education.

It is fortunate that the Salem school board did not undertake the matter of bus transportation—we do not become a party to

SCHOOL BAND PUTS IN HARD PRACTICE

SILVERTON, March 31.—The band from the Silverton school is busily engaged each day, with extra sessions four nights a week and on Sunday afternoons, putting the final touches to their concert music. The band is entered in the high school state band contest to be held at Corvallis April 16 in the B grade classification, going out of their class, which according to the school's enrollment would entitle them to have entered the lower grade C.

The reason for this procedure is that B grade is for bands of not more than 30 pieces, whereas C grade is limited to bands of not more than 25. In any case the Silverton band had to be cut in half as it has over 40 members enrolled. The 30 boys selected by the conductor, Hal Campbell, were put through a most exhaustive tests.

Silverton will also be represented in the solo competitions. Billy Kleebe and Wayne Tate will take part in the trumpet section, and Ernie Lee and Maurice Winters in the clarinet and trombone sections. At the Eugene Field auditorium Saturday night, April 9, the combined band and orchestra of about 90 pieces will present a concert. The object of this function will be to raise funds to take the boys to Corvallis and at the same time give those of the community an opportunity to hear the band play its entire program of competition music. Judging by the interest already being shown in this concert it promises to be the most successful of the season.

District Nurses in Confab at Silverton

SILVERTON, March 30.—The Oregon State Nurses' association, district No. 2, held its March meeting at Silverton. This is the first time the association has met outside of Salem. Miss Lillian Block and Mrs. Irma LeRiche were hostesses at the affair. Miss Olivia DeGuire, a Silverton junior high school teacher, gave an interesting talk about her trip to the orient last summer. At the business meeting the group discussed the "Sourly nursing" which is meeting with considerable success at Salem.

I do not consider the action of Tuesday one, or the results, legal, as has been the rule the taxpayers have a right to vote on every item by item. A precedent has been broken in that the board has allowed Dr. Olinger to hold the chairmanship for so long. The school law plainly says that the next oldest member should take the chairmanship. The taxpayers should look into the legality of that meeting. A greater savings and cut can be made in the school dist. No. 24, over head or affairs, and still turn out more thorough students.

County Convention Farmers' Union is Slated Saturday

BETHEL, March 31.—Bethel local of the Farmers' Union meets Monday night, April 4. Members are asked to report the amount of bindertwine and fly spray they will require. Two fine sets of slides will be shown, "Sheep Production" and "Kitchen Improvement." Both of these sets of slides are owned and the lectures arranged by the college, so will have considerable local color. The Marion county convention of the Farmers' Union meets at St. Paul in all day session Saturday, April 2.

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28x46	1	\$3.15
28x48	1	\$3.35
28x50	1	\$3.55
28x52	1	\$3.75
28x54	1	\$3.95
28x56	1	\$4.15
28x58	1	\$4.35
28x60	1	\$4.55
28x62	1	\$4.75
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