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"AULD LANG SYNE."

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
 And never brought to min'
 Should auld acquaintance be forgot
 And days o' auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear;
 For auld lang syne,
 We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
 For auld lang syne!

We twa, has about the braes
 And pu'd the gowans fine,
 But we've wander'd mony a
 Wear foot
 Sin' auld lang syne

We twa hae paidl't' the burn
 Frae morning sun til dine,
 But seas between us braid hae
 Roared
 Sin' auld lang syne.

And here's a hand, my trusty
 friend,
 And gies a hand o' thine,
 And we'll tak a right guld
 Willie-waugh
 For auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint
 stoup,
 And surely I'll be mine,
 And we'll tak a cup o' kindness
 yet
 For auld lang syne. —Burns.

THE BONDING PLAN.

There are some splendid features about the plan to bond the county to secure money for permanent highways. The only way to get good roads is to construct them. Good roads conventions, articles in newspapers and speeches from the stump during campaign time all have their value. But talk alone won't build good roads. It takes money to do the work and the bonding plan will provide the money. It will provide the money and do it in such a way that the taxpayers will not be heavily burdened. The bonds will be met through a sinking fund augmented from year to year. Meanwhile we will have a permanent highway system and the people will be getting the good from the same. The roads will be paying for themselves, through their benefits, while the bonds are maturing. There can be no doubt at all that the bonding plan furnishes a very feasible way of getting good roads. It is not probable we will get permanent highways until the bonding plan is taken up. It is impossible to build a system of permanent roads through use of money from the regular road fund. Besides that is not the equitable way to pay for roads. The future as well as the present will share the benefits of permanent roads. Why not let the future assist in paying for them? In advocating the bonding plan for this county in the event the supreme court rules that the constitutional amendment is operative Judge Maloney is upon the right line. If the county court puts the proposition up to the people next fall the plan will have many earnest supporters.

GETTING INTO LINE.

The East Oregonian is glad to hear the Pilot Rock Record, Senator Burgess and others advise farmers on such streams as Birch and McKay to make water fillings with the state engineer even though the water is seemingly all taken. This action is in line with advice given by this paper several weeks ago. While the controversy over the Extension was underway the East Oregonian called attention to the fact that such fillings should be made. We pointed out the utter foolishness of asking the government to relinquish any part of the water appropriated for the Extension when local people were not in line to get the water should it be released. Farmers were advised to get in line and then talk to the government. But Mr. Burgess and his followers had lost their heads and they spurned such advice at that time. Apparently they were inspired by an all absorbing desire to "soak" the government. They wanted to make the government abandon the adjudication suits and give up some of the water it had filed

upon. This, although such a relinquishment would have done the farmers no good because they had not filed on the water and would not have gotten it. It would have gone to Dr. Andrew C. Smith and others having fillings down the river. The advice to farmers to file on water is good advice. They should not stop because the water seems to be appropriated already. Filing on water is but one step towards its appropriation. The water must be put to beneficial use or it cannot be held. Until the water has been put to beneficial use it is not gone and meanwhile settlers should file upon it and thereby get options that will become effective should older fillings be released.

CONSISTENCY!

The Pilot Rock Record spits and snarls at the East Oregonian and at the Pendleton Commercial club because of the local attitude in regard to the West Extension. At the same time the Record comes into line and tells farmers on Birch and McKay creek to take our advice and file upon water—which advice by the way was about the only counsel worth anything that was given those farmers during the recent controversy. The question now arises, why it is, if this paper is so faulty, that the Pilot Rock Record comes trailing in our wake

ABOUT SINGLE TAX.

Editor East Oregonian: Assessor C. P. Strain of Umatilla county writes to the Oregonian against single tax, and says the aim of well informed single taxers is to confiscate private property. He is mistaken. His confusion in regard to single tax is probably due to his believing what he reads in the Oregonian. Let me give him an example of actual and proposed "confiscation" by some land owners.

I am part owner of 2000 acres of land in Texas. Only one of us owners has ever seen the land; not one of us lives nearer to the land than 800 miles; not one of us expects to live in Texas or to use the land. We have never improved the land in any way. It has been rented for grazing purposes and the rent has paid the taxes and a fair interest on the "investment." We shall sell—when we get our price. We shall get our price as soon as the community is comfortably settled. The land was bought some 35 years ago at 25 cents an acre, or a total of \$500. Its present market value is \$9 an acre, or a total of \$18,000. So in 35 years the increasing population and industry of Texas have added \$8.75 an acre to the value of the land, or a total of \$17,500. That is an average of \$500 a year or 25 cents an acre, the residents of Texas have added to the value of that land by their general industry. But we, the owners, have not turned a hand except to sign leases giving workers the right to use the land and pay us for its use. Each family that moves into that district adds a little to the value of our land. But we owners have added nothing to the land or to Texas. The people of that community hope for a branch railroad to be built into the district. So do we owners of the 2000 acres. The railroad will bring the market nearer to the settlers, and nearness to market will bring the land to our price. As I say, the 2000 acres were bought for \$500 and are now worth \$18,000, which is an increase of \$17,500 over the original cost. Mr. Strain seems to believe that the \$17,500 of increased value is the "private property" of us owners. I believe it is public property of the people of Texas, because they added that value to the land. We owners have not added a nickel to its value. The land itself is the private prop-

erty of the owners; but the increased value that has been added to the land, that is being added every day by the industry of the people of Texas and by every family that moves into the community, does not belong to us owners because it is neither directly nor indirectly the product of our labor. Now, if Mr. Strain has a new method of arithmetic by which he can figure that the \$17,500 increased value of that land belongs to us owners, merely because the land itself belongs to us, I shall be very glad to see the result of his figuring. Single taxers don't propose to "confiscate" that \$17,500. They propose to put a stop to our confining of any further increased values created by population and industry. Every year we are confiscating part of the product of the men who use 2000 acres of Texas land on which we have not spent a nickel for improvements—and we call that confiscation "rent." In addition to that annual confiscation, when we sell the land we shall "confiscate" the value added to the 2000 acres by the people of Texas in the last 35 years.

Oregon single taxers propose to encourage industry and discourage speculators—like the owners of the 2000 Texas acres—by exempting all products of labor from taxation and raising needed revenue by putting a single tax on community made land values as the \$18,000 value of our 2000 acres. That it is not a measure of confiscation. It is a proposal to put a stop to confiscation. Perhaps Mr. Strain knows of 2000 acres of Umatilla land that are being held as we are holding our Texas acres. Possibly he knows of some vacant Pendleton lots, worth as much as our 2000 Texas acres, that are being held up of use until increased population and industry bring them up to the price demanded by the owners. W. G. EGGLESTON.

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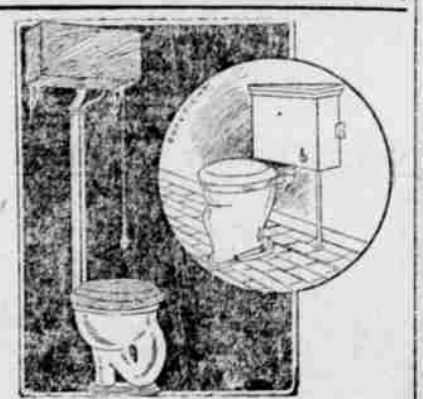
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