

## Just Folks wyage




NEEDED HIGHWAYS FIRST
N his talk here yesterday Commissioner Barratt of the stat ern Oregon's essential road needs should be cared for bafo any attempt is made at construction of the duplicate highway tion of the Oregon-Washington highway and the highway be
tween Pendieton and John Day in Grant county. The arguments in favor of such a course are so sound that all favor it who know the facts. These roads are naeded parts of the scenic
bighway system of Oregon but they will serve a greater need
han that. They will provide highway accommodations for the people of Morrow, Grant and Umatilla counties, These road will foster the development and settlement of a region that is greater in area than many states. They will provide transporta-
tion for people who have been pleading for help for many years. For 25 years or longer the people of Grant county have been im ploring that a good road be constructed between Grant and because for a large part of G
al trading and banking point.
On the other hand the plan to build the Wallula road in-
volves the expenditure of from $\$ 350,000$ to $\$ 500,000$ on a high way that Eastern Oregon does not need and does not want. No is that road needed for tourist purposes. Should that road be
built and used it would be to the injury of Oregon, not to the betterment of this state. This is true because a tourist entering Oregon near Wallula and going westward over the Columbia highway would be travelling through desolate country from Wallula to The Dalles. The natural impression gained by such traveler would be that Eastern Oregon is a sandy and worthvonderful wheat fields of Umatilla county nor of the alfalfa ields and orchards of our irrigated disticts. He would form an dverse impression of the state when common intelligence calls for so handling the tourist as to give him a favorable impression

It is because of these facts that the people of Umatilla county are so incensed over the promotion werk being done in behalf of such a road will serve no useful purpose and would be an injury to the states tourist highway system. Knowing the subject
from first hand knowledge they naturally resent the efforts to foist such an extravagance upon the state at a time when money is so precious. They are particularly resentful because to deway projects that are actually needed.
Not since Oregon entered upon state highway work has any and common sense appears so asinine as the Waluta cutof scheme

## Post road money and forest road money may very logically be used on the Grant county road; on the Wallula cutoff there

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