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## THE STRANGE VIEW OF MR. PURCELL

M
R. PURCELL, representative of the federal good roads bureau in Portland, is reported as having gone before
the state highway commission in Portland with an amazing line of thought on the subject of the Wallula cutoff. The following from a front page news story in the Oregonian
yesterday gives his position: yesterday gives his position
Under the law the primary

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 at Wauhington, D. C. that the Umatilhe-Wallula cutoff be designated, an this
will
Sive an interstate conneetion.
The Purcell view seems to be that the standard paved high-way between Washington part of that highway has not been giv en a certain technical definition by the Washington state commission. What a quibble and what a point on which to base a
recommendation for the needless expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars at a time when money is scarce and road
projects of great merit are going uncared for. If the Walla Walla-Milton highway is not a primary road
neither is the Wallula cutoff. But the present road can be made a primary road by purely perfunctory action and no doubt the Washington commission would be glad to take such action. On
the other hand it would cost real monev and a lot of it to provide an interstate connection by the Wallula cutoff. Of all the ideas thus far advanced regarding the mueh dis-
cissed cutoff the contention of Mr. Purcell is about the weakest cussed cutoff the contention of Mr. Purcell is about the weakest
thus far set forth. It is a contention that a splendid interstate thus far set forth. It is a contention that a splendid interstate
highway used all the year round by thousands of people does
not exist as far as the Portland branch of the federal highway highway used all the year round by thousands of people doe
not exist as far as the Portland branch of the federal highwa
department is concerned WHY DID THEY DO IT?


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