

DALLAS PLANS BIG SIDEWALK PROGRAM NEXT

Dallas, Or., Mar. 5.—Preliminary steps for a concrete sidewalk program what will call for the construction of approximately 33,000 square feet of concrete sidewalks by July 1, 1925, were taken Monday night by the city council.

The sidewalks to be replaced were designated by the council and a hearing set for Monday, March 23, when property owners may make objections to the program. The program will probably be augmented by additional sidewalk building projects a little later in the spring.

Most of the walks to be rebuilt are wooden ones which have gotten in bad repair, and a few are concrete which were poorly constructed and have given way.

A petition for the improvement of one block on the west end of Washington street, just off Fairview avenue, was presented by property owners living beyond that point who can no longer get in and out because the street is impassable. The city engineer was instructed to prepare plans and specifications for the project. It will require considerable excavation to bring the street to grade and it is probable that the earth removed will be used in filling the old mill race.

Councilman Shibley of the ordinance committee outlined plans for three proposed new ordinances. One would license produce, oil, bakery and other trucks from outside points which now make this city. Another would prohibit the placing of billboards in a way that obscures the view at street intersections and a third would adopt a uniform traffic and parking code for the city. These will be drafted by the city attorney and presented at a later meeting.

The compilation and printing of all charter amendments since 1913, the last date of a printed city charter was authorized.

A request by the Dallas band boys for support by the council for 12 band concerts during the summer was denied because of lack of funds. A request was made for \$300.

City Attorney Hayter announced that the state legislature had appropriated sufficient funds to pay for the paving of the streets adjacent to the army last summer.

The council adjourned to meet Monday, March 9, to hear remonstrances against the proposed paving of two blocks on Lyons street.

POLK COUNTY TO WAR ON DIGGERS

Dallas, Or., March 5.—The first active work in the campaign to rid Polk county ranches of gray diggers was begun Tuesday night at a meeting of Oak Grove ranchers at the grange hall at that place. A permanent redent control association was organized and a district, formed where the work will be carried out.

This district extends from the west line of the Patterson ranch on the Dallas-Salem highway west to Rickreall, thence north along the West Side Highway to Holmes Gap, thence east to Zena road and thence south along the crest of the hill to the joint of beginning. March 8 to 14 was fixed as squirrel poisoning week and all ranchers in the district are urged to put out poison grain during or before that period.

Emerson L. Harris was chosen president of the association and Emil S. Stevens secretary-treasurer.

William L. Teutsch, of the Oregon Agricultural college extension service, had charge of the meeting which is the first of a series to be held during the first week of March in the county.

Reforestation Act Meets Disapproval Of Governor Pierce

Objecting to the power which would be given the state board of forestry under the act, Governor Pierce yesterday vetoed the reforestation bill on which State Forester Elliott and other members of the state board of forestry worked for months prior to the convening of the recent legislature. The governor's main objection is to the power of taxation which would be given the board, a board he says, which is neither put into office by the electorate nor by any other governmental agency, and he points out that under the measure it might be possible for a majority of the board to be controlled by non-residents of the state and at the same time exercise the power of taxation under the act. The governor expresses doubt as to the constitutionality of the manner in which the board of forestry is appointed and suggests that it should be tested out in court.

The governor also objects strongly to the 49-year contract provision in the measure.

"This bill provides a method of taxation on deforested lands and timber not yet of merchantable size," says the veto message. "The act undertakes to separate from the rest of the taxable property in the state all lands now in the hands of merchantable size and chiefly valuable for the purpose of growing such timber, and undertakes to deal with such lands for purposes of taxation in a manner that is different from that provided by law with respect to other assessable property."

"Under this proposed act the state board of forestry would have the power of valuing the lands for assessment purposes. The state board of forestry consists of the governor, the acting head of the forest school of Oregon Agricultural college and five electors of the state of Oregon, to be appointed by the governor from and upon the authoritative recommendation of the Oregon State Grange, the Oregon Forest Fire Association, the West Coast Lumbermen's association, the United States forest service, and the Oregon Wool Growers association, each to select and name one of such members. The board therefore consists of seven members, five of whom are appointed by five different private organizations."

"Assessing property for the purposes of taxation is one of the most important functions of government. It is intolerable that such powers should be exercised by a board the majority of the members of which are appointed neither by the electorate nor by any governmental agency whatever, but solely by private organizations, standing in no responsible relation to the state, and controlled, it may be, by persons who are not even citizens of the state. The appointment of the members of the state board of forestry in this fashion is repugnant to the whole spirit of representative government. Its constitutionality should be tested at an early date by the supreme court. This bill is built up around this state board of forestry, vesting in the board greater power than should be exercised by any commission so constituted."

"Another object of the bill seems to be to permit owners of land to enter into contracts with the state extending over a period of sixty years. Under the terms of the proposed legislation for two full generations the state would be bound by contract not to change the assessment upon lands so classed."

"The payment of one-half of the taxes based on the assessment by the board of forestry would be deferred to the end of the term. During the term no other taxes than the property tax so provided may be assessed on any such lands or any timber thereon or on any profits thereon or upon the business represented by their harvesting. This last provision may be designed to prevent the imposition of any severance tax upon the removal of timber from such lands or any tax upon the income derived from the business of marketing such timber."

"Under the present form of our

constitutional legislation respecting the power of taxation (Article IX, Section 1) whereby assessment and taxation are required to be 'uniform' but are not required to be 'equal' there is eminent judicial authority for the view that the legislature may authorize such a contract between the state and a land owner, and that once such a contract is made it is binding upon the state. It may well be believed that once this bill becomes a law all owners of lands within its purview will hasten to contract with the state in accordance with its provisions. If such a contract be binding upon the state, and there is in my judgment grave reason to apprehend that it would be, the state would be bound to the owners of these lands for two generations not to change in any respect whatever its policy of taxation adopted in this bill."

"In my long experience in legislative work in the state of Oregon I never have examined a bill that might be as far-reaching and as serious in its consequences as this one."

HAMMOND PLANS TO OPEN CAMPS

Mill City, Or., March 5.—Work is being rushed by the Hammond Lumber company on the completion of several new bridges on their logging railroad to camp 24 here, and as soon as finished the camps will be re-opened for the summer run. It is hoped to be able to open the camps not later than March 12. Logs from this camp are brought to Mill City and manufactured into lumber.

The company is also starting the construction of a new store building at their camp 24, and as soon as completed, will open up a general merchandise store for the convenience of employees located at the camp. Heretofore, only a small commissary was available at the camps. The store will probably open about the 1st of April.

T. E. Riley and J. P. Patrick, Southern Pacific employees working out of here, passed their 25th milestone as employees of this company Monday, both having entered the service of the Southern Pacific 25 years ago. Riley went to work just three hours ahead of Patrick, thereby placing him in the lead on the seniority list. Riley is working as conductor on the local freight between Albany and Mill City and Patrick is on the logger between Lason and Mill City. Both look like they were good for another 25 years of service.

The basketball team of the Mill City high school will go to Albany Saturday, to play the Albany team for the Lincon county championship. The local boys have only been beaten twice this year, once by Chemawa and once by the Salem Parrish junior high school, neither of which are counted in the county race. The high school second team and the grade school team will go to Mehama, Friday night, and play the town and grade school teams, respectively.

Mrs. C. A. Howe is confined to her home with diphtheria and precautions are being taken to prevent any spread of the disease in the city.

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Entire City—West Salem, Salem Heights

CITY IS WORKING 80 MEN ON SEWER AND REPAIR JOBS

The most difficult sewer construction job ever encountered in Salem will be completed in two weeks, according to Walter Lowe, street commissioner, who has 24 men employed on the stretch between the Bush pasture and Rural avenue, across the flat west of Twelfth street.

"This section is little better than a lake," comments Mr. Lowe, "and the cement gravel is very hard to dig. The stratum of gravel is several feet thick and about as difficult to work as any we will ever find in the city."

A group of 15 men has just completed the sewer on Fairgrounds road which will serve, among other properties, the new linen mill site. These men will be transferred today to the Nebraska street ditch, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets.

Thirty men are doing grading work on Oak street in the south part of Salem. Five men are tearing out the Fifteenth street bridge that went out this winter and driving piling there. Material from this bridge will be taken to the Fourteenth street bridge in a few days to be used as repair parts and that structure will again be put in commission.

"We are using all the men we can work to advantage," asserts Mr. Lowe, "about 80 in all, including the street cleaning department. If we had just our Salem people to provide with jobs, we could almost take care of the unemployment situation. But the city is full of itinerant workmen. Time after time I've told applicants for jobs to go out to Oak and ask the foreman if there was anything open, only to have them ask me where they could find Oak street."

Mr. Lowe is not deceived about the probable supply of labor in the

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summer, however, for experience has taught him that this over-supply evaporates with the hot weather, and with the opening up of work, until it is very hard to get men to operate the one paving plant now owned by the city, and he therefore advises against the addition of another paving plant, as he believes it would be impossible to keep both in operation.

Melton Mobray, Eng., March 5.—The Prince of Wales is "training" quite strenuously for his prolonged trip to South Africa and South America during his stay at his country residence here. When not hunting he puts in a good deal of time dancing.

At a recent dance he fox trotted from 10 p. m. to 4 a. m., with only an occasional break. The orchestra was sent specially from London.

The prince's favorite fox trot is "Driftwood."

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