

Bandon Recorder

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C. E. KOPF, Managing Editor

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For Good Roads.

If there is one thing that will help a country more than all others, it is a network of good wagon roads. This fact is being demonstrated more and more all the time in the thickly populated countries, and they are paying more attention all the time to the good roads proposition, and are working along scientific lines for building good roads. Road graders, road drags, and many other useful tools are being put into operation with the result that the roads are being bettered all the time. Rock and gravel roads, of course, are to be preferred, but where these are impossible, or at least impractical, there are other methods that can be used to advantage. Here is an excellent suggestion by E. N. Bailey, of Britt, Iowa, who is an authority on good roads, and who conducts a department in the Iowa Homestead of Des Moines, one of the greatest agricultural papers in the United States. Mr. Bailey says:

"A road paved only with good intentions cannot stand the waters of adversity, but turns into a slough of despondency. Turning mud up into a turpentine only gives it a chance to get slippery on the other side.

"You can't cure a mud hole by putting more mud in it. Throw the mud out each side and then you will have two roads and a canal between them, now drain the canal and still you will have two roads. If you had done this in the first place you wouldn't have had the mud hole.

"When earth and water won't make mud the earth is good for nothing. I wouldn't give ten cents per acre for land that won't make first-class mud when mixed with water. The best way to make good roads is to put the water in one place and the dirt in another, and let the silt who use the road mix it to suit themselves."

Be A Booster.

Are you a booster? Everybody ought to be. By being a booster we do not mean that you must be around extolling the great resources of your community or town all the time, but it does mean that you will speak a good word for it whenever opportunity offers. It means that you will do all in your power to assist in every industry or enterprise that has a tendency to build up your community or town. It is not necessary that you put money into every proposition that comes along nor that you boost for every little whim that some people may have; but you can give your moral support to every honest enterprise, and in that way you become a booster.

One of the best ways to show that you are a booster is to patronize home industry, and, so far as possible, buy home made goods. Of course if you live in a town where nothing is manufactured, you cannot buy home made goods; but here in Bandon we have an opportunity to get home made articles in a number of lines, and all these industries are employing labor, and in that way are building up your community and enhancing the value of your property. Are you helping to keep the ball rolling in this way?

Reply to Executive Club

Editor RECORDER:—When we entered into a discussion of this Port question it was with the idea that it was a public question—that any private citizen had the right to discuss and oppose if he thought best, but it seems we were acting under a delusion; that only "leading citizens" have such right. It may be some apologies are due this Executive Club for having invaded their private preserves.

The little exhibitions of ill nature are not to be wondered at. The gentlemen of this club are to be congratulated on the forbearance they have shown in this matter. Under the circumstances it was perfectly natural for them to resort to innuendo, and be rather personal in their article.

We certainly would have shown better taste to have sneaked into this discussion under some club name than to have come out over our own name.

We will have to notify our employers that we cannot accept any more pay for our services. The fun we can get from poaching will be compensation enough.

If the gentleman will pardon, a few more facts will be furnished them, from which new estimates can be made, that will make those already made, look slim.

When one examines the government records, he finds that they base all calculations for maintaining any depth of water on any bar, on the amount of sluicing power; this sluicing power is determined by the natural flow and the tidal area.

These records show that the government started this work at mouth of Coquille with the idea that the natural flow and tidal area would give and keep a depth of 12 feet at low tide if two rubblestone jetties were built, 800 feet apart, to control the water.

These records show that after this work had been carried on for some time, they were compelled to abandon the 12 foot idea and try for 10 feet. In the course of time they were compelled to change the jetty plan to 600 feet apart to maintain 10 feet at low tide. In 1907 the government ordered an examination and survey of the river mouth and the shoals in the river.

There were 25 borings made in the last 3/4 of a mile, or from the life saving station to end of south jetty. 17 borings show rock bottom the remaining 8 sand and gravel.

It is estimated by the engineers that it will cost \$27,840 to make a safe 10 foot bar, and open the three shoals on lower river, with an annual expenditure of \$4,000 to keep these three shoals open.

What compelled the government to change its calculations as to the amount of water it could keep on bar? also its jetty plans? But one answer can be given; that is, the tidal area is insufficient to furnish the required volume of water to sluice it to a greater depth than 10 feet.

What do these bearings indicate? That if a much greater depth is obtained it must be by blasting. And if this depth is maintained it must be by dredging, for the volume is insufficient to sluice it.

It will not do to make light of these reports, for they come from a class of men that this commission will have to depend upon. One paragraph in the Club's article will be quoted: "It is estimated by competent judges that a fund of \$162,840 will be ample to place and maintain the river in condition so any vessel that can cross the bar can get up to Coquille, also make and maintain an 8 foot channel to Myrtle Point."

If this paragraph contains the upper river view of this scheme, it does not the lower river view; for if this Port idea is adopted, this Coquille bar must have its share of improvement. If the advocates of Port Commission in Bandon endorse this paragraph, just keep your eyes open for a nigger in the fence corner, for \$162,840 will not be a drop in the bucket, if these government reports are correct.

Take notice, the government engineers say it will take \$4000 each year to dredge the three shoals in

the lower river, and if this is true in this instance, it will be the same all the way to Myrtle Point, so it is easily seen that it is a never ending job, consequently the estimates of these "competent judges" are of little value.

Any man who is a reasoning animal, knows that the more the brush and timber is cleared away, the greater will be the erosion by the winter rains, consequently, the river will keep getting harder and harder to keep open. This is the experience of every country where climate and other conditions are similar.

Old settlers say that 45 years ago the tides affected the river a good ways above Myrtle Point, so much that they would have to wait until it run out to cross.

Can these gentlemen tell why it hardly affects the river as far as Myrtle Point at this time?

When the fact of unequal valuation was raised to show that the home builders will pay out of all proportion to their power to pay as against the corporate class that own 3/4 of our natural wealth, it was said, "This is foreign to the question." But the favorite argument of those in favor of this scheme is that it will raise values. In fact it is their chief stock in trade. But they seem to be unable to see that it is the other fellows values we want raised first so they will have to pay their fair share of taxes. An even start is what we want in this race. We object to being the scratch man while the big fellows have such a start of us.

We are on the short end of the doubletree; when you have bored the hole in the middle, at least, we may listen with more patience to your song.

But understand, we do not swallow this pill, while valuations are so that we pay in the proportions of from 4 1/2 to 1 to 10 to 1 as against those corporations.

There has been such a seemingly willful attempt on the part of this club to misrepresent our position in this matter that a few facts are necessary to straighten them out.

The Port law gives this commission "the power to borrow money and bond the property in this watershed to 10 per cent of its assessed valuation, that is, assessed for state and county purposes." These bonds cannot draw to exceed 6 per cent interest." It can levy and collect a 1 per cent or 10 mill tax each year to do such work as the law empowers them to do." "Also a special tax to pay interest on bonds and take up such outstanding bonds as have matured."

The present assessment will show a valuation of eight million or more in this watershed, and 10 per cent means a bonded debt of \$800,000 or more if this commission is so disposed. This amount ought to be obtained for 5 per cent interest, which means \$40,000 for interest or a 5 mill tax on the 8 million valuation.

This bonded debt does not keep these 5 men from levying this 10 mill tax each year if so disposed.

Here is a clear statement of facts that cannot be refuted, and no man that is fair will try. These facts were stated simply to show the latitude this law confers on the 5 men who make up this commission. The qualification if so disposed excludes any seeming intent to try to deceive the tax payers. These qualifications were in the first article the writer sent to the Sentinel.

But is it not pertinent to ask "How do we know they will not go as far as the law will permit?"

Admit, for the sake of argument, that the estimates submitted by this Club are correct. The question arises, Why such a vast frame work to raise the small sum of \$90,840? One under which this commission can mortgage our property to the extent of 10 per cent of its assessed valuations, also subject us to an extra tax that may some years amount to 18 to 20 mills on the dollar?

This question of corruption has never been raised by an opponent of Port Commission, but it will bear a little attention. Is the experience of the American people in recent times so reassuring as to make it safe to

give men so much power over our property, especially in a case where there are no restraints, no bonds, no strings of any sort on this board, its will, whim, caprice or fancy the only governing force as to expenditures? Does not the experience of the American people, in numerous places, prove the undeniable tendency of men to be reckless in the expenditure of money not their own, especially where they cannot, except in case of rank fraud, be held accountable?

We have men of some ability among us who are boosting hard for Port Commission, who have maintained in public places that every man has his price.

Is there a man who will deny that the chances are exceptionally fine under this law for graft?

Don't let any man who is a renter think for this reason he is not a taxpayer; for the renter is a taxpayer, indirectly, just as the man who buys and pays the freight and insurance rates, so the renter helps pay the taxes. Any man who rents, feels raise in values because raised values mean raised taxes, and a raise in taxes, as a rule, brings a raise in rents, and any scheme like this Port Commission will raise taxes fast.

It was stated, in the presence of the writer and a number of other men, at a meeting of the Bandon Commercial Club, that the saw mill men along the river would give \$50 apiece for a campaign fund to further this scheme along.

And this is better evidence that the services of some and the fervor of others is paid for than any they may have that the writer has received pay for his.

Let every man who reads this, remember that we get just one vote on this question of Port Commission. Yes or no. Never a vote on tax at any time. FRED N. PERKINS.

Gold In Ancient Rome.

William Jacob in his "History of the Precious Metals" estimates that in the reign of Augustus, the first of the emperors, when Rome was at the height of its power, the amount of gold in the Roman empire was nearly \$2,000,000,000. This vast treasure had been gathered chiefly by conquest from various nations of Europe, Asia and Africa. There had been extensive mines in Spain and in the Atlas mountains of north Africa, but their yield in the wealth of kings and of cities in Asia and Egypt had been despoiled and carried away to enrich the conquerors.

The important fact for the prospective buyer of a cream separator to keep in mind is not the initial price of the machine, but ability to extract butter fat from new milk. If it fails to do this, and any considerable amount of butter fat goes through and is fed to pigs in the swill, it will be a costly proposition if it were a donation to the fellow who is to operate it.

Many of the trees in the older orchards in the Hood river valley were set too near together, from fifteen to twenty feet, and the visitor in the valley last fall saw some trees in yellow leaf, bearing undersized fruit and in general appearance suffering from both lack of fertility and moisture at the end of an unusually dry season. Most later plantings correct this fault.

A quite striking illustration of the limited amount of nourishment required to sustain plant and tree life is found in a pine tree which grows from a crevice, largely of its own making, at the summit of the majestic, weather beaten gray granite sentinel dome in Yosemite valley. It has a diameter of fifteen inches, is twenty to twenty-five feet high, with a spread in top, and seems to have thrived on its scant fare. The United States survey mark within a couple of feet of its trunk gives its elevation above sea level at about 8,000 feet.

The decidedly unfavorable season which has prevailed in the corn belt during the past six months, in which it has been Hobson's choice whether the corn spoiled faster in field or crib, will call attention with new emphasis to the value of the silo as a very effective method of preserving the corn crop. Put here before the killing frosts of October came, it would have come to no harm, while the farm owner and help would not have had to wallow around in the spring mud to get the last of it from the field. Owing to the fact that many fields were not husked before the deep snows came, the stock was not turned into the stalk fields as usual, and as a result they have had to be stuffed with high priced hay, the fodder in the fields, such as it was, not being utilized at all.

A conservation doctrine that needs a deal more attention given to it this year than was last is that of increasing the usefulness and wholesomeness of the myriad homes of the country—the multiplication of home comforts, the increase of home happiness and contentment, the rearing and training of purer minded and more whole souled boys and girls. Here is a conservation directly affecting our perpetuity as a nation in comparison with which the saving of forests from destruction, the keeping of soils from depletion and the prevention of the looting of our mineral wealth by the greedy sink into paltry insignificance. The fact is there is good ground for believing that if we paid more attention to our homes and boys and girls some of these other ills would right themselves, for there would of necessity be a larger moral element in our national life.

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A Square Deal

E. E. OAKES Of Course

Read the Recorder