



ELECTRIC ROAD TALK.

Result of Mass Meeting of Citizens Friday Night.

At a call meeting of Corvallis citizens last Friday night, representatives of the company proposing to build the promised electric railway system for the Willamette valley, appeared and explained the work that has been going on since the subject was first brought to the attention of the public. Owing to other attractions, the meeting was not largely attended, only about 30 of our prominent citizens being present, and nothing of any great consequence was done that has not already been known to the public. The gentlemen who came to address the meeting, accomplished what they desired, in securing the attention of the public to the proposition.

The report was full and complete as could be desired, consisting of fourteen pages of manuscript, and supplemental maps. The point of greatest importance in the report to Benton county citizens is in regard to the putting up of a substantial bonus to show the projectors, their good will in the enterprise. Citizens will be asked to purchase shares, but whether before or after the company has invested its own money is not known. So far, the company has secured men to take up their bonds and furnish the money to build the road and equip the same. They have completed all preliminary and final reports, which are eminently satisfactory. They have completed the preliminary survey from Eugene to Belknap Springs from Eugene to Corvallis, from Eugene to Glenoda, thence down the coast to Coos Bay. The survey from Eugene to Cottage Grove is not yet completed, but will be as soon as the engineers are through on the Sinslaw.

A site for the main power house has been secured between Eugene and Belknap Springs. Negotiations are under way for a permanent line of steamers along the coast. One of the gentlemen in speaking for the company said: "They, the investors, say that they prefer to have you sell a portion of your stock to the people, to your receiving a bonus from them, for should you receive a bonus from a community, the people get nothing in return for their money. They always feel that it is a kind of blood money, and as long as they live they are never genuine friends of the roads, but on the other hand you make them one of you when you make their interest your interest." "There are other requirements which we make of you and when these are met, we are ready to live up to our part of the contract. I tell you these things gentlemen, that you may know that the Willamette Valley Electric Railroad company wish to sell you some of their capital stock. That is one reason and the principal one that we are here. As stated by me in Eugene, the originators of this enterprise did not come here to build this road, they came here to help the people build it. The Eastern investors require that you the people, take up a reasonable portion of the stock of the company. It has been decided to sell the stock at \$7.50 per share in the following manner: You can pay cash for your stock and receive your certificate at once, or you can purchase on the installment plan. When you subscribe for stock you will pay 20 per cent of the whole purchase price at that time, agreeing to pay the balance in four equal monthly installments. The money subscribed for stock will be expended in meeting the requirements of digging the ditch building power house, putting in wing dam, making surveys, etc.

Mr. Bristow, of the banking firm of Chambers & Bristow, of Eugene, is appointed by the board of directors of the com-

pany to receive all money and bank same to the credit of said company. This, gentlemen, takes from the organizers the chance to get your money and skip or to divert it to any other use than here in this special field. We desire to place with the people along the way about \$50,000 worth of stock. This will be in addition to what is already in the treasury and if this amount is subscribed for, the company will go ahead without being obliged to make other arrangements.

The above in brief, is the report of the gentlemen in question and merits the careful consideration of every citizen before any stock is purchased by them. They are objections to the enterprise, but they come largely from the changed attitude of the projectors. At first they did not want the people's money and proposed to construct the road themselves, now, however, they want \$50,000 from the people and want it as soon as they can get it, and before the company has invested any amount of its own money. If the money is to come out of Benton county the road will not be built, and furthermore if this road is built, this company will show its own sincerity by sinking its money first. Benton county has granted every concession within reasonable bounds. It is now the turn of the company to go ahead and do what they promised to do in the beginning. No doubt the citizens will take this stock, if the road is an assured success, but after the experiences of the past it is effrontery to ask the people to take hold of the proposition without something more tangible than has yet made its appearance.

His Peculiarity

Elmer Coombs, until quite recently an inmate of the County Farm, and upwards of 70 years of age, performed a feat a few days ago, that many men of younger years would find beyond their strength. He walked from Bellfountain to Albany, bought a wheelbarrow and trundled it all the way back home, a distance of nearly 30 miles.

Coombs has a mania for hard work and spends much of his time chopping wood, and for this reason the County pays him a small monthly pension and allows him to work where he may please. A neighbor has erected a small house for him and gives the old gentleman employment, paying him what he justly earns.

He rises regularly at 5 a. m. and splits wood until breakfast is ready, not a bad habit by any means, and during the day, as his age and the weather permit, he works away, earning all the way from between 50 and 75 cents. His few belongings are securely locked in a trunk and he never ventures ten feet from his shanty without fastening all doors and windows. Not long ago some one suggested that a wheelbarrow would save him a great deal of labor, but it had to be one of his own, he never borrows, and so he journeyed all the way to Linn county to get it. His act in not patronizing his own county, after receiving nearly six years of free maintenance, is one of those acts of ingratitude occasionally exhibited in those who have received public benefit.

Coombs sleeps with the wheelbarrow by his bedside and will allow no one else to handle it. His devotion to it is that of a friend and he watches over it with tender solicitude.

The C. & E. have made arrangements to run a special train from Corvallis to Albany after the game Wednesday. Those who wish to attend will come over on the regular at 1:30. The S. P. has made the same provision for those who wish to come up on the regular from Dallas, Mouth and Independence.

Over the Hills to the Poor House.

The Benton county Poor Farm is so much unlike the one of ancient scngs and story that visitors to the place, unless otherwise informed, might very readily take it for a brotherhood retreat or some Old Folks' Home. Not having seen the place and being curious to know just how the county pensioners were getting along and how the institution was managed, I happened in one day last week all unexpected and this is what I saw.

Not a conglomerated mass of ramshackle buildings, suggestive of the fate of the unfortunates who are there, but a dozen or so large and small buildings all in good condition, attractively painted and conveniently arranged. There were small houses where those who desire can live by themselves, the barn, poultry house, creamery, and woodhouse well filled with the winter's supply of fuel and in the center of the group, like some old colonial manse, stood the spacious main building, to which all have free access. When I arrived the sun had just risen over the surrounding hills and valleys and a peaceful stillness, broken only by the singing of the birds and the hum of insects, prevailed, while several old gentlemen, with never a thought of want or care were basking in the sunshine. The scene was that of childlike simplicity and peace the best the world affords.

The order and arrangement of the interior of the houses, the creamery, gardens and all things suggests constant, painstaking care and excellent management, and things were not fixed up for a visit of the grand jury but were just as they are every day. Mr. and Mrs. Huggins have been in charge of the farm for the past twelve years and are very much attached to each one there, several of whom have been there for a number of years. Then again Mr. and Mrs. Huggins are held in just as high esteem by those for whom they care. Instead of complaining and striving, each one there is satisfied with his lot.

There are only seven there at present, all men, the lowest number for a long time, the highest number was eighteen but that was several years ago. They come and go, regardless of good or evil times, their ranks are constantly changing, some die, others remove and their places are filled by those who come. Five of those who are there at present, are above 84 years of age, while Jacob Bowman will be 91 his next birthday. All are taught to care for themselves as their age and infirmities will permit, and some of them show great skill in arranging their rooms, but most of them are almost helpless in caring for themselves and require constant vigilance and care.

Take for instance Mr. Mitchell a paralytic, who has never walked and is as helpless as a babe. Then again a man by the name of Cox, an epileptic, can not be left alone a single hour. Sometimes disease breaks out among them and the victim is constantly in the shadow of death. The county pays \$3 per week toward the maintenance of each and this is made to cover the entire expense of food, clothing, medicine, physicians care and other necessities.

For a quiet homelike retreat from the tumult of the world, a lovelier little spot than the one among the hills of south Benton cannot be found. M.

Result of Voting for Silk Flag.

Public School.....	6227
Firemen.....	7984
O. A. C.....	3518
K. of P.....	1028
W. O. W.....	1094
Rebekahs.....	1058
M. W. A.....	1595
Lions.....	875
A. O. U. W.....	155

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or see our delivery wagon coming to your house filled to the top with new goods you will realize how you have bargained—how your dollars have done wonders and how nicely you have been treated. We call

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Fresh cider in any quantity desired for sale at the Corvallis cider mill, south end of Main street. Apples ground for one half.

The Night School is making a rate of \$5 to December 23 for penmanship; and \$10 for both Book keeping and Penmanship. Short-hand and Penmanship \$10. Meet on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings.

The kick-off of the game next Wednesday between the Utah team and the OAC even will be at 3 o'clock p. m. The game will close at 2:30 so that all clerks may attend the game. Let every one come out and cheer the boys to victory.

For information regarding any part of any kind, for either ladies or gentlemen, or boarding places for students, I will be at your service. Phone me at residence 251 Independent or 306 Bell, or at office 303 Independent. J. W. LINGER.

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