THE NEWS RECORD

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SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1911.

BUILD THEM NOW.

Attorney General Crawford's latest opinion is that while there is no authority to call a special election, counties can vote on bonds for road improvement at a general election without waiting for further legislation. At the last election the people by a majority of 18,000 amended the constitution of the state so as to permit counties to issue bonds for road purposes. The amendment reads as follows:

"Section 10, article XI—No county shall create any debts or liabilities which shall singly or in the aggregate exceed the sum of $5,000, except to suppress insurrection or repel invasion, or to build permanent roads within the county, but debts for permanent roads shall be incurred only on approval of a majority of those voting on the question."

Some of the best lawyers in the state agree with the Attorney General, and see no reason why the counties cannot issue bonds and construct roads without waiting for an enabling act by the legislature. The Supreme court is going to be asked to pass upon the subject with as little delay as possible, so that if bonds are voted there will be no legal difficulties in the way of their sale.

There is no reason why the people should go on paying out great sums—$20,000 or more a year in Wallowa county—for mud roads when they have the authority to build permanent, year around roads.

The sums we are now paying for temporary roads, that for a number of months in each year are no roads at all, would pay the interest on a sufficient sum to cover this county with fine, year around roads.

County bonds for road improvement drawing only 5 per cent interest, can be sold at par. We are using $20,000 yearly of 10 per cent money on make shift roads. No man who is at all posted on the subject will say that $20,000 is near enough. It doesn't maintain in even fair condition the roads we have. But $20,000 paid as interest on $400,000 worth of permanent, year around roads, would mean good roads everywhere over the county.

Why should Wallowa county wait until the pioneers who made this country what it is are all dead and gone before a start is made on good roads?. Those pioneers are entitled to the best there is and they deserve to enjoy good roads as well as as the next generation. They will never see them though unless bonds are voted in sums sufficient to build, for no sparsely settled community like this can pay for permanent roads mile by mile, and at the same time waste $20,000 a year on make shift roads.

It is unfair for sparsely settled counties to pay the entire cost of permanent road construction for future generations. Let those who come after us and who will also enjoy those same good roads, help pay for them.

Let those who advocate mile a year construction remember the story of the Indian who hearing that white men used feather pillows thought he would try it. That night he put one feather under his head, and when he arose in the morning said, "White man heap dam fool."

It is no longer a question whether a new political party will be formed. It is in existence in Congress now, composed about equally of Democratic and Republican progressives. All it lacks is a name. The standpatters, bourbons and hidebounds of both parties have long flocked together on legislative matters; the progressives just began to unite in the last congress.

On the Atlantic coast they had a too previous spring. Fruit trees budded and in southern Virginia even the young fruit appeared. And along came a cold snap and killed all the promise. Even as far south as Norfolk the thermometer went as low as 14 degrees.

An Oklamoma man who arrived in Enterprise a few days ago is already satisfied he has found the country he was looking for and is now seeking some one who wants a good farm back in Oklahoma.

The short ballot is the next reform in Oregon. The principle of it—elect only the responsible officers, and hold them strictly accountable to the people for efficient and honest government.

Reports from the North End as well as from other parts of the county, say the fall sown grain is looking fine. This will be a bumper crop year in Wallowa county.

All the churches were closed in this city last Sunday but there were quite a number of men who didn't notice it.

The mobilization of the army on the Mexican border is said to cost $7,000,000. Send the bill to Morgan.

Taft is a brave man. He is going to call a Democratic congress in special session.

Easter is the next post card day, unless you happen to have a birthday before then.

This is some spring. Well we guess.

CITY AND COUNTY BRIEFS.

The Catholic chapel car is at Joseph this week.

Sam Litch was at Wallowa, Thursday, to see the forestry officers.

Judge O. M. Corkins returned Wednesday from a business trip to La Grande.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Holmes returned Wednesday from a business trip to Portland.

H. W. Beecher of Alder Slope was at Wallowa Wednesday on business with Forest Supervisor Harris.

Mrs. Jane Fogarty returned Wednesday from a several months visit with her daughter and family at Newport.

C. P. Ragsdale who took several car loads of sheep to the Portland market last week, returned home, Wednesday.

Dr. F. A. Clise went to Joseph, Thursday. He will go to Pendleton the first of next week and attend to business matters before returning here to reside.

Will Daisley went to Lostine Thursday to take charge of the barber shop there that he recently purchased. Mrs. Daisley will remain here until the end of the school term. Mr. Daisley has leased his shop here to a La Grande man.

Jerry Rusk was greeted by the band and a large crowd of citizens on his arrival in Joseph last Sunday evening, but the big reception, banquet and speeches were not pulled off because he delayed so long coming home after the adjournment of the legislature.

When you have rheumatism in your foot or instep apply Chamberlains Liniment and you will get quick relief. It costs but a quarter. Why suffer? For sale by all dealers.

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