

Polk County Observer

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The way to build up Dallas is to pave the streets.

WHY PROCRASTINATE?

If the Commercial club wants to do something truly worth while for Dallas—and it is to be taken for granted that it does—it will lose no opportunity to promote the building of hard-surface streets for the business district. While it is the duty of the city council to help bring about this important improvement, yet the Commercial club can do much to hasten the work, if it will only lend its encouragement and its influence in creating sentiment in favor of modern paved streets.

The pavement problem is one that Dallas must face, if its citizens would hope to see their little city keep pace with its neighbor towns in the march of progress and civic improvement. Every day of delay is expensive. Already ours is the only city of over 2000 inhabitants in Western Oregon that has no paved streets; or, at least, that has made no move toward securing such an improvement. Such a condition of affairs is not at all creditable to a city so far ahead in all other lines of growth and enterprise.

Woodburn, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Independence—none of them better towns than Dallas, and some of them with less than half our taxable wealth—have hard-paved streets. McMinnville, tired of wasting good money on unsatisfactory and unsightly macadam, voted last year to build smooth pavement. Through a slight error in the legal proceedings, the bond election was found to be invalid and the improvement had to be abandoned for the year. A few weeks ago another election was held and the property-owners voted for the improvement by a larger majority than before. Contracts will be awarded at once and every effort will be made to have at least the greater portion of the business district paved before the next rainy season begins.

The Observer earnestly hopes to see Dallas the next town to take up the work of paving its business thoroughfares. This newspaper has always favored the hard-surface pavement, knowing it to be the best and cheapest in the long run. It had hoped that Dallas would move directly from the gravel period of its existence to the smooth pavement period, and thus avoid all costly experiments in unsightly, unsatisfactory, and unsanitary macadam. It believes yet that the property-owners would now be money ahead, had the council shared in this view. At no time would it have been necessary for any property-owner to pay his entire assessment in a lump sum, as the Bancroft Bonding Act was in force long before the macadam improvement was begun. By taking advantage of this altogether wise and desirable law, any property-owner not desiring to pay for his improvement at once could have met the expense in ten annual installments, thus making the tax burden easy to be borne. This annual payment plan is the one adopted by all of the smaller cities which now enjoy the luxury of smooth-paved streets, and it is a privilege which cannot be denied to any taxpayer who desires to avail himself of its beneficent provisions.

The Observer desires to urge once again the importance of paved streets for the otherwise beautiful town of Dallas. It hopes the beginning of this all-important improvement is not far ahead, knowing full well that with all of the prosperity already enjoyed, Dallas' real industrial and commercial growth will date from the day that the first yard of hard-surface pavement is laid in its business streets; knowing, also, that no matter how diligently we may strive in other lines of development, the city will never attain to its desired and deserved importance until it has paved thoroughfares.

This newspaper would not have itself understood as advocating hard pavement for the residence district, where vehicle traffic is light and where well-made macadam streets will fulfill every practical requirement for a score of years to come. Dallas streets are wide and residence lots are large, and it would be unjust to tax property-owners for an improvement neither necessary nor desired. But in the business district, hard pavement is the only surface that will ever successfully withstand the heavy traffic. It is the only surface that

will meet every sanitary requirement and remove the constant expense of maintenance. It is the only kind of street improvement that is not a continual burden and annoyance to the taxpayer.

The improvement plan recently adopted by the enterprising town of Newberg—that of using the macadam streets as a base for the smooth surface top-dressing—is one worthy of the fullest investigation by the people of Dallas. If it shall be found possible to utilize a well-built rock foundation in the construction of a hard-surfaced street, here we may find ourselves able to carry out the desired improvement at a minimum cost to the property-owners. It must be kept in mind, however, that if this rock base is to be used, the work must not be long delayed. The surfacing will have to be done while the macadam is in a good state of repair. Newberg is building her pavement at a cost of \$1.70 a square yard, and it is probable that Dallas could do the work for a less amount, as the city already owns a rock quarry and the machinery by which a considerable portion of the needed top-dressing is prepared for use.

Let us work for every needed enterprise here in the little city we are striving to upbuild, but let us not forget to talk paving, and to keep on talking paving until the glad day shall come when we shall see the needed improvement actually under way. There will be kickers against it—all towns have them—but once we pave a few of our principal business blocks, the property-owners themselves will then relieve the council and the improvement clubs from further effort and responsibility by demanding that the paved district be extended to include every important thoroughfare within the limits of the city. This has been the experience of every city that has ever paved its streets, and Dallas will prove no exception. Human nature is pretty much the same the world over.

But it is to our Commercial club that we must look for the creation of sentiment in favor of an early beginning of the work; to the club and to the city council, whose members we believe will be only too glad to take up the improvement once it is made known to them it is desired by a majority of the property-owners in the business district. We need more factories, and more people, and more amusements—but let the officers and members of our Commercial club, and of our city council, appreciate and keep fully in mind the fact that Dallas' greatest need for future growth on this, the 21st day of May, in the year of our Lord, 1912, is PAVED STREETS.

If it be true, as announced in dispatches printed in the daily press of Saturday that the Socialists have agreed to assist the I. W. W. in their fight in San Diego, for "free speech" Socialism is taking a backward step, and one which will injure the cause. Socialism, as presented by the conservative leaders, contains many arguments that appeal to thousands. Law-abiding citizens have been willing to accept the propaganda as the honest sentiments of honest men, who believe that by its adoption the condition of all might be improved. But when the party turns from the pursuit of law and order, and allies itself with disturbers and seditious of the I. W. W. type, public opinion will turn against it. There is no possible excuse for the I. W. W. It is an organization, for the most part, of the bums and thugs of the country. Its members will not work, if any other course is open to them, and they exist solely to make trouble between the contented workman and his employer. They are not recognized by organized labor—that is, skilled labor as represented by the trades, whose leaders understand the menace of their friendship. Insults to the flag, and bitter attacks upon the constitution and methods of government, will no gain honest recruits to the ranks of the I. W. W. No great reform was ever brought about in this country by resort to such tactics. The federal judge in Seattle who recently disfranchised a blatant seditious for attacks on the government is entitled to the commendation of all who love law and order and respect the sacred institutions under which we live. If more of this same sort of doctrine was forthcoming, it would be but a short time until the organization, born in iniquity, and fed on prejudice, would cease to exist. The sooner the true and honest Socialists divorce themselves from this outfit, the better it will be for them.

It is hard to understand why so many persons in the Northwest are in favor of Roosevelt for president, when Pinchot, one of the Colonel's backers, and who is helping finance his campaign, would bottle up the Northwest with his conservation fallacies, which is one of the Roosevelt policies. Notwithstanding all the vacant land in the south part of this county was placed in a reserve under the Pinchot forestry administration, we are inclined to think that some of our citizens have lived in this bottled up county so long that they want more of it. This surely must have been the motive some persons had who voted for Roosevelt in the south part of the county.—Tillamook Headlight.

Special Announcement.
Our store will remain open until 8:30 p. m. on week days and until 11 p. m. on Saturdays until after our big sale, now on, is over.
WM. HERZOG.

EXCITEMENT AT OIL WELL GROWS

GAS PRESSURE DELAYS ALL DRILLING OPERATIONS.

Mass of Sand and Rock Forced Upward Into Casing to Height of 295 Feet.

Heavy gas or oil pressure has temporarily delayed drilling operations at the Whiteaker oil prospect east of Dallas, and the workmen are striving to clear the well of the sand and rock which have been forced upward into the casing from the bottom of the 1100-foot hole.

Gas in greater or less quantities has been escaping from the well since the 500-foot level was reached, but it was not until last Friday that the pressure became sufficiently great to interfere with the drilling.

Gas Pressure Enormous.
When the drilling gang went to work Friday morning, they found to their great astonishment that the pressure from below had forced sand and rock into the casing to a height of over 100 feet. The baler was at once brought into use in an effort to remove the obstruction, but so tightly had the mass of sand and rock been driven into the pipe that the drill had to be brought into service in removing it. Even with the steady operation of the drill, no progress has been made in clearing the casing. The sand removed during the day is replaced by more at night and the drillers have been losing rather than gaining in their efforts to open the well.

At the close of working hours yesterday afternoon, the drill was within 50 feet of the bottom of the well. This morning the hole was found to be filled with sand and rock to a height of 245 feet—the obstruction having made the enormous gain of 195 feet in 12 hours.

The prospectors, instead of being discouraged by the new developments, are more hopeful and enthusiastic than ever before, as it now seems certain that either gas or oil, or possibly both, underlie the Whiteaker hills in paying quantities and that the next few days will develop the result for which the company has been striving so earnestly for the last two years. It is only through fear of a possible explosion that Superintendent Riley and his men are restrained from carrying on the drilling operations at night in the effort to reach the treasure which at last seems so near at hand.

PARADE IS ABANDONED.

Memorial Exercises Will Be Held at Armory or Park.

The customary march to the Dallas cemetery will be dispensed with on Decoration day and the exercises will be held at the armory, or in the city park. This change in the usual program was voted by the members of the local Grand Army post at a meeting held Saturday night in connection with the committee appointed by the Dallas Commercial club to outline the services for the day. The evening service at the Methodist Episcopal church on Sunday, May 26, will also be a memorial service.

The entire program will be in charge of a general committee, representing the Grand Army, the local militia, and the city. Mayor Craven and Councilman Fenton will represent the city; Captain Toose the militia, and the officers of the Post the veterans.
Comrades J. H. Nies, R. B. Carpenter and Charles McDevitt will visit the city schools on May 29 and deliver appropriate addresses to the pupils. Comrades A. J. Martin, W. G. Campbell, T. T. Notson and B. Lovelace will visit the college in a similar capacity.

Comrades Martin, Arnold and Carpenter will assist in decorating the church for the services to be held May 26. The veterans, each wearing a badge, are requested to meet at the armory at 7 o'clock on that evening, from which place they will march to the church.

As no exercises are to be held in the cemetery on Decoration day, a committee consisting of Comrades Greenwood, Shriver, Arnold, Campbell and Martin, was appointed to meet there at 9 o'clock on the morning of that day and decorate the graves of deceased comrades.

GOOD MOTTO FOR ALL

Forget it, my dear boy, forget it!
That's the very best thing you can do;
It will do you no good to remember
All the mean things said of you.
This life is too short to get even
For every mean act that you know;
So forget it, my dear boy, forget it;
Forget it, and just let it go.
Many good men have been ruined,
And many good, pure women, too,
By some knocker starting a rumor,
And not a word of it true.
So if you hear some fellow knocking
A man or a woman's good name,
You can bet it's a lie—so forget it,
And never repeat it again.
—Charles W. Minnich.
Dallas, May 18.

CLEAN UP DAY

Is a fine thing for any city or town. Also for an Up-to-Date

STORE

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week will be Clean Up Days for our

LADIES' SUITS AND COATS

We have a few fine suits left in Blues, Greys and Tans selling regularly at \$18 to \$25, Grand Clean Up of Every Suit and Coat in our store at **\$12.00**

We have a few Suits and Coats in Cream Serge---they all go. Alterations Made Free.

We only have about 20 Suits left and WE can't BUY any more at this price, so Don't Wait if you want the best bargain that you ever found in Dallas.

Dallas Mercantile Co.

Home of Hart Schaffner & Marx Clothes, Packard Shoes for Men, American Lady Shoes for Women, Buster Brown Shoes for Children.

COUNCIL ORDERS CEMENT WALK

Improvement Will Extend From Smith Corner to Hotel Scott.

Little business aside from routine affairs occupied the attention of the city council last night. Current claims against the city were ordered paid and a few minor street improvements were authorized. The most important improvement ordered was the construction of a cement sidewalk from the Smith corner east to the Hotel Scott, and from the same corner north to the Kirkpatrick property.

The council listened to the reading of several articles from the pens of municipal engineers on the subject of oiling macadam streets. The opinions expressed in some of these contributions raised a doubt in the minds of the city officers as to the desirability of the use of oil in subduing the dust nuisance, and it was decided to send a special committee to Portland to inspect some oiled streets there before proceeding with the improvement in Dallas. The members of this committee, Councilmen Coad, Fenton and Campbell, will go to Portland in a few days and make a thorough investigation and it is certain that the action of the council will be guided largely by their report.

DALLAS DEFEATS WILLAMINA

High School Baseball Team Take Brickmakers Into Camp.

The Dallas high school baseball team defeated the Willamina nine on the latter's diamond Sunday afternoon by the decisive score of 7 to 2. Meyers, the Dallas twirler, pitched great ball, allowing the clay moulders only one hit.

Rice was the bright, particular batting star for the Polk county aggregation, getting a total of four hits. Herzog, of Dallas, was next in line, with two hits to his credit. Dallas battery, Meyers and Herzog.

Gold Discovery Reported.

Much interest has been aroused in Falls City by the reported discovery of gold in the hills near the Willis Frink ranch. It is said that specimens of ore recently taken from the prospect assay \$1.95 in gold and 75 cents in silver to the ton. Albert Teal and other men who are following up the prospect believe that a little development work will uncover a richer vein. Old residents of Falls City say that gold was discovered on the Ford farm nearly fifty years ago, but that the quantity was small. The owner of the land upon which the last vein was uncovered is a Mr. Taylor, a resident of Salem.

Legal blanks for sale at this office.

These are Straw Hat Days

You'd Look and Feel better in a New Lid. We have

Straw Hats

ALL SHAPES
ALL SIZES
ALL PRICES

—Priced from—
25c to \$3.00

We have values never before offered in Polk County.

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THE ROAD TO PERFECT BAKING
is through perfect flour, such for instance as a sack of "Oregon's Best." Those who try it always use it and they would not do that if the flour were not satisfactory in every way. Try a sack and put it to any test you choose.
SWEENEY BROS.
DALLAS, OREGON