

## STREETS BETTERED

### FIFTEEN BLOCKS ARE MACADAMIZED AND CURBED.

### LABOR MONEY KEPT AT HOME.

### Cost to Property Owners Benefited Reaches Approximately \$16,000 To Issue Bonds.

Chief among the works carried on by the municipality of Dallas in the year just closing has been the street improvement work. The city is at an advantage in owning its own quarry and rock crusher, and is thus enabled to secure its materials at a minimum cost. In spite of this advantage, hard paving was out of the question, and all that was actually demanded by traffic conditions had already been laid. By the construction of macadam streets the city has built up a network of thoroughfares that would be a decided credit to a community much greater in size than is Dallas. The surface has been laid properly on a carefully prepared sub-grade, and is not giving way in any manner. It is slow to collect mud, and summer dust is almost an unknown quantity. The macadam is lasting and in more than one place in the city can be found to be almost as hard as asphalt pavement. By being properly built, properly drained, and kept in good repair a macadam street will last for many years, thereby giving the city a street system that is a credit to the community and to the men who are responsible for the constructive work. At a comparatively low cost, for next year hard surface is not being considered. The city administrators have tentatively prepared an outline of the work that will probably be started in the first months of spring, and which will further improve the street system, increasing, at the same time, the value of property affected.

On the various street works carried on this year there were employed a large number of men, in addition to twenty who gained a livelihood from their labors at the rock quarry and crusher. Under the direction of Street Commissioner Peter Greenwood fifty men were employed last summer and fall. G. D. Stewart, as superintendent of the rock quarry, directed the energies of the force there from February until late in October, when there was enough material on hand to complete all the work that could be done before the rains prevented further progress. The city's expenditures for labor on streets, exclusive of quarry and crusher, amounted to \$2,046.77. For labor at the rock quarry and crusher the city spent \$3,326.37. The municipality owns the land, and likewise the quarry and crushing equipment, so that the only expenditures necessary in producing small building materials were those for labor. The cost of the rock used in street construction is represented by the cost of crushing and hauling materials from the crusher at 70 cents a yard. At 7,945 yards of rock were used the total cost of street building materials was \$5,561.50.

Not only were street improvements made, but more than 11,000 lineal feet of cement curbing were placed, at a cost of 30 cents a foot, or a total of \$3,303.70. The street work, as well as that at the quarry and crusher, was done by day labor, but the cement curbs were let under contract after competitive bids had been received on the work. Combining the best of macadam streets with cement curbing on both sides on over 19 blocks of the city's thoroughfares, it can readily be seen that the work done in Dallas in 1915 was of no insignificant scope. The Uglow avenue improvement work has been included in the figures here presented by Auditor Gregory, but in the bond sale and city books this work has been entered as a separate undertaking. Three and one-half blocks were improved on Uglow avenue by macadamization. Curbs were also placed over most of this. In addition to the Uglow avenue improvement 15½ blocks of macadam streets were built by the city. These blocks are on several streets, including Court, Hayter, Ash, Levens, Clay, Robb, Bureh, Academy and Church. In the latter improvement curbs have been set along most of the streets macadamized.

### Cost of Improvements.

The cost of the work done is borne in part by the municipality and in part by the property owners benefited by the improvement. The total amount paid by the property owners will be about \$16,000, according to the estimates made by City Auditor Gregory.

### To raise the necessary amount the city is advertising a bond sale, covering both the Uglow avenue and the general improvement. Approximately \$2,000 of the property owners' share was paid in cash at the time of improvement. The city treasury must bear the cost of street intersections and curb extensions, but aside from that the property owners benefited are required under the city charter to pay. The accounts of the various improvements cannot be closed, and

exact figures will not be known until the bond sale that is being advertised is completed.

For the next year the city council has made no definite plans, although the budget provides a good sum for street improvement and construction work. That the chief portion of development next year will be centered on the streets in the east and west parts of the city is practically conceded. Probable improvements are those needed on Clay, Lewis and Lyle. Plans have been made through councilmanic action whereby it will be possible for cement sidewalks to be constructed under the terms of the Baneroff bonding act, with property owners enjoying the privilege of bonding for the improvement they make. Already a number of property owners have declared that they will take advantage of this simple way of preventing a direct outlay of cash capital for sidewalk construction.

## BAND MAKES HEADWAY.

### Rehearsing for Concert to Be Given in Near Future.

An unusually successful year is just closing for the Dallas brass band, which expects to bring its work to a very fitting climax during the holidays with a public concert at which the talents of the members and the organization as a whole will be shown. For the past several weeks the members have been practicing diligently on a repertoire of entirely new music, and that their concert will be a success is certain from the keen interest all are displaying and from the musical ability that has been brought out by B. A. Downey, director. The band gave a series of open-air concerts on the court house square that put it prominently before the public attention during the summer months, and after a successful summer a re-organization was perfected that has materially improved the band. New members, as well as the best of those who played under the old order of things, allied themselves with the new organization under a new director. Prof. Downey is proving a popular and capable leader and his selection of music, as well as the way those under him present it, is greatly enjoyed by those who have heard the band since the reorganization.

The Dallas band is a public institution in that it is supported by the business interests, but after the first of the year the city council will make a monthly appropriation to cover the expenses of the musicians. They have appeared publicly on various occasions, such as football games, market days and the like, and made one trip to Lebanon with the football team. The members of the band as it has been since reorganized are: Professor B. A. Downey, director; August P. Risser, president; C. B. Williams, vice-president; C. F. Smith, secretary; W. A. Boydston, treasurer, and J. R. James, Arnel Wilson, Walter L. Young, Roy W. Finseth, Oscar Domaschofsky, Thomas Magers, Chester J. Siefert, Richard R. Webster, John W. Orr, Ralph P. Howe, Tobe Naehthigall, A. C. Snyder, Jack Eakin, Ray Boydston, Will Domaschofsky, Harold Rieb, G. D. Stewart, Merrill L. Barber, J. Norval Gates, Will R. Howe, Lloyd Rice, J. E. Miller, Melvin Dungan, Will Young and Floyd Ellis. In addition to the instrumental talent in the organization there is a vocal quartet that is considered excellent, and which will appear at the concert that is to be given soon. Among the vocalists who are to be featured are John W. Orr, A. C. Snyder, J. E. Miller and C. B. Williams. At the piano the work of Lloyd Rice is well-known and his offerings will be another interesting part of the proposed concert.

## Encampment Elects.

At its regular meeting on Monday evening La Creole encampment, number 29, I. O. O. F., officers for the ensuing year were elected. Those who will preside over the destinies of the lodge during the year to come are J. E. Sibley, chief patriarch; O. P. Chase, senior warden; J. E. Richter, junior warden; A. W. Teats, high priest; J. F. Holman, scribe and Anton Larson, treasurer. The outlook for 1916, as the lodgemen see it, is especially bright. With the induction of the newly elected officers will come renewed activity, although the order has been especially ambitious during the past year.

## Polk County Man Dead.

Hop City lodge, No. 1333 of Independence has received a telegram from the police of San Diego that a member of the local lodge, F. Melgar, was found drowned in the bay at that city. It is feared he met with foul play. During the past few years Melgar had been working for Scott Campbell, south of Independence. He went south to attend the fair.

## Grange Elects Officers.

The Monmouth Grange held its annual election of officers Saturday. The grange has been organized here for four years and has 65 members. P. O. Powell was re-elected master; J. R. Stockholm, overseer; Miss Maggie Butler, secretary; Mrs. J. R. Stockholm, treasurer. At the next regular meeting on the second Saturday in January, State Grange Master Spence of Oregon City, will have charge of the installment of officers.

## CHIEF IS OPTIMIST

### DALLAS HAS ENJOYED UNUSUAL PROSPERITY PAST YEAR.

### INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS ACTIVE

### While Stringent Times Have Affected This Section to Some Extent, Not Seriously Felt.

(By Mayor E. C. Kirkpatrick)

A conservative statement at a conservative time! And why not? Dallas is not enjoying a boom; the great war has little effect upon the activities of the community, either one way or another, so that the things that concern us at the year-end are only the condition within the boundaries of the city proper and the country tributary, that plays a most important part in maintaining the welfare of the city. Generally speaking, business in Dallas is good, and it has been good throughout the year. The volume of business is not unprecedented, but I believe I can say that it is somewhat better than it was during the previous year. In the face of conditions that exist elsewhere that statement is a weighty one. Dallas is in better condition, as far as the prosperity of the community is concerned, than perhaps any other city of its size in the state.

Nothing has entered into the year's activity to greatly enliven things. Nevertheless, that business, both mercantile and industrial, has maintained a reasonable degree of stability is indeed a great satisfaction and a credit to the people of the city, when we turn to consider other sections of the country and other cities of the land. The industrial interests of the city have even been better off than those in other valley towns. The lumber mill has continued to operate and all others kept busy, employing the regular quota of hands. Unemployment is practically unknown, and those who desire work here may find it at a living wage. The diversity of the industrial life here represented is a point decidedly in favor of the city. We could suspend the activity of one or more of these important industries without any serious effect, whereas, if we had only one industry operating here the success of that one would spell prosperity or poverty for the city. The most apt comparison at this time would be with the season previous. The past year has seen practically as much business transacted in the city, has seen the maintenance of the payrolls of the year before, and in many ways has been marked by an increase in the volume of trade. I cannot say that the outlook is painted in extraordinarily rosy hues. I foresee, in view of what has gone before, reasonable prosperity for the community, but as long as present conditions prevail in other parts of the nation and world there is little hope for any astounding increase in business activity or trade volume. On all sides there is hope and there is work. Those circumstances over which the people of this city have no means of control have had no effect upon us, in spite of the cry of hard times that has swept the country clean of promise and almost clean of ambition. The talk of hard times, it cannot be denied, is damaging, and its acrid influence has eaten at the heart strings of this city. Though, as I say, I feel that its effect on Dallas has been less than on other cities. While commercial and industrial supremacy is not all that is to be desired and for the city, it goes far toward making more perfect conditions and toward making thereby a better city and better homes. Really as things are in Dallas, and with the sterling citizenship which the city enjoys, there is no reason why the next year and every next year cannot be the best that Dallas has known.

The prosperity of the farmer in Polk county has a very direct and telling effect upon the prosperity of the city. The city and the city's interests have combined to help the farmer, not only through sales days, fairs and exhibitions, but through good roads that they may travel to and from the city year in and year out. The trade during winter months

(Concluded on last page)

## THE COUNTY ROADS

### LARGE SUMS SPENT ON HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

### COUNTY BRIDGE THIS YEAR.

### Road Commissioner Firm Tells The Observer Whereas How 1915 Money Was Expended.

Polk county is engaged in road construction work that is destined to put it in rank with the first counties of the state in point of good road mileage, and to make the county the most attractive in the Willamette valley to the thousands of tourists who will travel through this great wonderland during the years to come, when its beauties will be heralded to the world to an even greater extent than they have been. In saying great work, it must be borne in mind that the work of such more wealthy counties as Multnomah, or the southern Oregon counties, where larger cities make larger tax rolls and therefore more money for the work at hand, is more perfect and far reaching, but at that Polk county has built and purposes building roads that many counties in the same financial standing cannot, or do not try to equal. The building of such famous roadways as the Columbia river highway and the Pacific highway, though the latter will very possibly be routed through Polk county before many years, does not detract from the work done here, but, rather, a means of enhancing the value of and the interest in the local roads. With her immense resources and her scenic wonders Multnomah county is in a better position to advertise her work to the world. By that means will tourists and travelers be attracted to Oregon, thence to Polk county, where good rural highways will have become famed. Most of the tourist travel in years to come will be by motorcar, and the constantly increasing number of motor-driven vehicles makes that statement bear double significance. The roads of Polk county will be tributary to the great highways built by Multnomah county and by the state, and, indeed, may be developed to such perfection that roads leading from other counties will become tributary to these. At any rate such is the glowing possibility if Polk county is successful in a campaign to re-route the Pacific highway through its boundaries.

The beauties of nature reign supreme along the highways and by-ways of the county and extend a charming invitation to the county's citizens, as well as those of other parts of the country, to spend joyous idle hours in touring them. Grain fields, orchard lands, hop fields and veritable forests primeval extend on Polk county roads in a riot of gay colors and rich tints that the best of landscapers would have difficulty in picturing. Slow running streams, rushing mountain creeks, plains, forests and fields combine to give one a choice of any environment, or scenic change that may be in mind. Hunting and fishing grounds that are not excelled in the northwest send out a call for visitors, for sportsmen and for nature lovers that has proved irresistible to those who have tried them. Portland and other well-populated centers are within delightful motoring distance from these Polk county attractions, and with the improvement that is being made in roads throughout the valley a three-hour trip from Portland will be an actuality, rather than a hope, within a very short time.

## Where the Money Went.

That Polk county's boast to good roads is not an idle one is evident from the report of Roadmaster J. Waldo Finn for the year that is just closing, showing where and how \$78,000 were spent on the improvement of the rural highways of the county. This amount was divided proportionately to many projects and to several different classes of work. To road oiling, grading, bridge construction, and various other divisions of the general head of road work, this \$78,000 was credited. First, to repair and maintain the roads that have been in use \$15,000 was required. In this is in-

cluded the cost of 2600 yards of gravel and rock used in repair work. The oiling of fifty-two miles of highway in different parts of the county cost \$3,900. As a testimonial of the value of this work from the viewpoint of the farmer, or the motorist, ask one of them and you will learn that the good taken from the use of oiled roads was easily worth the expenditure. Sprinklers were at work throughout the spring and early summer months in permanently laying the dust with crude oil, and, in contrast to other roads in the valley, tourists from out of the county were free to say that the main traveled highways of Polk county were the best in the valley. Several bridges were constructed during the season just past and many others were repaired or rebuilt, costing the county \$9,000. The cost of machinery, tile and culvert pipe used in the past season was \$4,800, according to Roadmaster Finn's report, and for the payment of engineering and supervising skill the county treasury was called upon for \$5,800. From these figures it is to be seen that the total cost of roads and bridges in 1915 was \$38,500.

For actual constructive work, however, the greater amount was expended. Eighteen miles of standard grade roadway were built, necessitating the moving of approximately 60,000 yards of earth. This work cost \$9,000. Ten thousand dollars were spent in crushing 6500 yards of rock, which was placed on six miles of the grade constructed. Twenty-four miles of grade were graded in the year of 1915, and thus were 17,000 yards of rock used, costing, for rock, labor and all, \$17,500. The approximate cost of regrading 22 miles of roadway is placed at \$3,000. Therefore, for the construction of roads \$39,500 were spent by the county.

That such expenditures should bring the desired results is not to be denied. County Judge John B. Teal has well expressed the desires and ambitions of the county in regard to road improvement and construction, by saying: "We want the best roads possible for the money we have to spend on them, and for the money we are spending on them we expect and are getting the best roads in the state." And in so saying Judge Teal has also expressed the desire and the opinion of practically every individual in Polk county who is interested in the upbuilding of the county, the population of her rich and fertile lands and the maintenance of the place held by the county as compared with others of the state. Though one of the smallest counties in area Polk is within a few places of the top in the matter of road improvement and construction. There are many miles yet to be built and as many miles to be repaired, but with time, prosperity and persistence this work will eventually be accomplished and will be more to the welfare of the county than any other proposed or possible undertaking.

(Continued in second section)

## SCRIPT IS DENOUNCED.

### Hotels of Oregon Refuse to Accept It From Salesmen.

After a talk by Henry Serr of Dallas the Oregon Hotel association, in session at Portland this week, went unanimously on record as being against the acceptance of so called hotel script in lieu of cash for hotel bills. Attention was called by Mr. Serr to practice of certain promoters in signing up one hotel in each town to accept script which the promoters sell at a discount to commercial firms. These script books are given to salesmen instead of entrusting them with cash for their expenses. Hotels that accept the script send it to the promoters for redemption, the commission exacted by the scrip companies being 10 per cent gross. Such hotel scrip was scored by members of the association as being highly pernicious, in that it took from the hotel man profits that should rightly be his.

## Druggist Wants To Know.

Mr. Bowersox of Monmouth has made inquiry of Attorney General Brown concerning lawful means of denaturing alcohol to make it unusable for drinking and at the same time non-poisonous. Mr. Brown says that the United States internal revenue department has several formulas for making alcohol unfit for beverage purposes and that several of the formulas are non-poisonous. The Monmouth pharmacist explains that he wishes to carry alcohol in stock for bathing and antiseptic purposes, but says that the usual method of mixing wood and grain alcohol results in a deadly poison.—Statesman.

## Henry Brophy Buried.

The funeral services over the remains of Henry B. Brophy, who was accidentally killed at West Salem on Monday, were held in Salem on Wednesday afternoon, and were largely attended.

## Rejoice Over Birth.

An 8½ pound son was born December 8th to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sherwood of Canby. They were former residents of Polk county. Mrs. Sherwood was formerly Miss Esther Edgar, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Finley Edgar of Crowley.

## Elected Vice-President.

Frank Gibson of this county has been elected vice-president of the Salem Egg Circle. At present the Dallas circle is sending its eggs to Salem for shipment.

## WINS BACK BABE

### JUDGE BELT REVERSED IN BOWERS' CHILD CASE.

### JUVENILE COURT GETS CUSTODY

### Lengthy Legal Battle for Possession of Marion Bowers, Takes Her From Custody of Grants.

The supreme court on Tuesday held that the juvenile court of Multnomah county and not the county court of Polk county has exclusive jurisdiction in the case of Marion Bowers, aged four years, over whose custody a controversy has been waged for two years. The action of Circuit Judge Belt in dismissing a habeas corpus petition of Mollie Bowers, mother of the child, who contended that the Polk county court had no authority to decide who was a fit and proper person to have the care of the child and that such exclusive jurisdiction was vested in the Multnomah county court, was reversed.

July 1, 1913, the Portland juvenile court made an order awarding the mother the custody of the child until further order of the court. Mr. and Mrs. John Stump, grandparents of the child, had agreed to take the child, the order said. In November, 1913, Mrs. Bowers left the child with Mr. and Mrs. Milt B. Grant of this city, however. About February 1, 1914, Mrs. Bowers demanded possession of the child and Mr. Grant refused to surrender her. Thereupon the mother undertook to spirit the child away to Portland, but was unsuccessful.

On September 25, 1914, the county court of Polk county made an order giving Mr. and Mrs. Grant custody of the child. On February 9 the Multnomah county court made a new order and recited that John Stump, grandfather of the child, had died since the first order was issued, and that Mollie Bowers, the mother, was in a position to give the child a good home, and revoked the order as to giving the child to the Stumps. Thereafter Mrs. Bowers started a habeas corpus case. The court holds in an opinion by Chief Justice Moore, that to permit any other court than that which had original jurisdiction to interfere with a ward, when duly adjudged to be such, would create interminable difficulties.

As a result of the decision, Mr. and Mrs. Grant, who have had charge of the child for two years, must surrender her to her mother, and if they wish to regain her custody they must apply to the juvenile court of Multnomah county. Walter L. Toose, Jr., has represented the Multnomah county juvenile court throughout the proceedings and J. E. Sibley and G. O. Holman have handled the case for Mr. and Mrs. Grant.

## BOOKS SHOW MANY VISITORS.

### More Than 11,000 Place Cognomens on Registers in 1915.

Between January 1, 1915, and December 11 of the same year, 9,211 names were written on the register at Gail hotel, the greater number of which persons were visitors to Dallas. But this is not indicative of the business transacted during this period, for, according to Mr. Serr, the landlord, more than three times that number of "locals" took meals at the hostelry without registering. Adding to this an estimated number of 2,000 registering at The Imperial during the nine months that that hotel was open during the year, brings the number of visitors to Dallas hotels up to the handsome figure of more than 11,000.

Dallas is considered one of the best towns in the valley from the commercial tourists' standpoint, and the knight of the grip is largely in evidence on the register at the Gail. While other towns in this territory have been oppressed by stringent financial conditions of the past year, Dallas has more than held its own, and is coming out of the depression with her colors flying. Like an eagle pluming its wings for a higher flight, Dallas is planning new things for the future that cannot fail to be of material benefit to the community.

## Mink Kills Chickens.

A mink broke into the poultry house of C. E. McPherrin at Falls City and killed and sucked the blood of sixteen grown chickens and frightened the remainder of the poultry from the premises. The varmint was frightened away by the barking of dogs before it had an opportunity to do any further mischief.

This vicinity has been bothered with minks for some time and the residents have lost quite a good many chickens. G. Sowers has been the heaviest loser in the past, having lost 11 at one time and 14 at another.

## Elected Vice-President.

Frank Gibson of this county has been elected vice-president of the Salem Egg Circle. At present the Dallas circle is sending its eggs to Salem for shipment.