

# The Polk County Observer

(THE HOME PAPER)

DALLAS, POLK COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1917

(TWICE-A-WEEK)

NO. 91

## BONDING PLAN

### MEMBERS WANT ROAD

County Court Action for Road—Look Favorably County Agent.

### County Farmers' Union at

Meeting at the city library

on record as opposing

the resolution of the state and

Oregon for the purpose

of raising funds to meet the

expenditure for building

the road. In place of

favoring a graduated, in-

crease, not to exceed 100

motor vehicles accord-

ing power and weight, and

other items which would

be in such a manner as

to be approved by the State Farm-

ers of the State Grange. The

action of the court in the matter of

the bridge, condemned the

action of a board of school

directors for the entire county, and

for the county agent

was attended by about

as many more mem-

bers from different locals were

presented in-  
cluding Bridgeport, Cochrane,  
Lackiamute, Mt. Pisgah  
Wood, Pedee, Pioneer  
and Smithfield.

Some of the officers resulted as

follows: C. C. Gardner;  
W. J. Garner; secre-

ary, A. G. Rempel; chap-

lain, F. C. Phillips;  
conductor, F. C.  
Wesper, R. M. McDonald;  
committee, H. S. Butz,  
and P. O. Powell.

The report of the Good

many solve the problems confronting

them." The committee on legislation

recommended endorsement of its reports

and submission to the seventh annual

state convention of the Farmers' Edu-

cational and Co-operative union of

Oregon.

## BASKETBALL GAME TONIGHT.

Dallas to Play Bellfountain High

School; Visitors Are Touring.

The Bellfountain high school team

which is touring the northern part of

the state is billed as the main at-

traction tonight. The visitors are con-

sidered a formidable opponent for the

local quintet.

Captain Bennett announces that

practically the same team will represent

Dallas that faced Silverton last

week. Rickreall versus Dallas second

team may be put on as a prelimi-

nary. The main affair is billed for

8:15 o'clock.

## Esch and Jarman Go To Salt Lake.

D. B. Jarman, of the Golden Rule

store, left today for Salt Lake City,

where he will attend the annual meet-

ing of the stockholders and managers

of the J. C. Penney Co. Manager F. C.

Esch will leave tomorrow on the

same business. Ray Craven is tak-

ing charge of the store here during

their absence. Mr. Jarman expects

to be away for a week while Mr.

Esch's absence will cover two weeks.

## WILKINS FINALLY HERE

COURT INVESTIGATES; "SICK"

PLEA FAILS TO WORK.

Man Charged With Swindling Re-

membered in Dallas; Old Peo-

ple's Home His Airsteak.

M. W. Wilkins, known in local

circuit court circles as the proverbial

"sick" man, is at last standing

trial. He is charged with obtaining

money under false pretenses and mak-

ing conveyance to real property with-

out holding title to the same.

Wilkins was indicted just one year

ago by the grand jury. He has re-

sponded to each summons for appear-

ance before Judge Bell's court with

his family physician's "ill health"

certificate. The local authorities got

tired of this treatment and sent Sher-

iff Orr to Portland Tuesday to in-

vestigate for himself. The result is

that Wilkins appeared in court Thurs-

day morning and plead not guilty to

the charges against him.

Wilkins is known in Dallas chiefly

for his talk in connection with the

establishment of an old people's home

in the southwestern part of the city.

His airy story interested a number of

local people, including Mr. and Mrs.

W. M. Wilson, an elderly couple, who

had a little ready money and a desire

to invest it in a worthy project. Wil-

## SAMPSON GIVEN \$500

VERDICT FOR PLAINTIFF IN AU-

Jury Out Hour and Half; Case Arous-

es Much Interest and Draws

Crowded Court Room.

"Verdict for the plaintiff in the

sum of \$500" was the finding of the

jury in the Sampson versus Hartung

case. The case went to the jury at

9 o'clock Wednesday night and the

verdict was reached at 10:40.

Questions of damages due for al-

leged injuries to A. Sampson when

he was struck by a car in charge

of Charles Hartung in Falls City

June 2 were argued all day Tuesday

and Wednesday by W. C. Winslow

and Walter Tooze for the plaintiff

and Oscar Hayter and Robert Krea-

son for the defendant.

Mr. Sampson's case as presented

to the jury by Attorney Tooze show-

ed that the plaintiff was struck by

an automobile driven by Emerson

Wonderly, an inexperienced driver.

He argued that Sampson was enti-

tled to recover because of the negli-

gence of the driver with not contrib-

utory negligence on the part of

Sampson and that Charles Hartung

was liable because he was in charge

of the car. These were the main is-

ssues.

Defendant's counsel claimed con-

tributory negligence on the part of

Sampson. Mr. Hayter's version of

the accident was: "Young Wonder-

ly drove up the Falls City street, saw

Sampson about ready to cross the

street some 90 feet in front of the

car and thought Sampson would get

out of the way; when he got a little

closer he sounded the horn; Sampson

heard the horn when he was about

two steps out from the curb, stop-

ped, looked up and stepped back

toward the curb; then the driver tur-

ned the car toward the center of the

street and if Sampson had not chang-

ed his mind, with safety a few feet

away, and attempted to cross the

street, no accident would have occur-

ed."

The other main issue, who was in

charge of the car, was handled by

the defense as follows: "Hartung was

not in charge of the car; he gave no

instructions whatever to the boy driv-

ing; the boy had taken charge of the

car May 29; young Wonderly was

experienced enough for ordinary driv-

ing but this was out of the ordinary;

that the relation of carrier and pas-

## BRIDGE IS NOW USELESS

SALEM STRUCTURE HAS SERV-

ed People for 26 Years.

New One Will Replace It—Motor Ser-

vice on S. P. To Accommodate

West Salem People.

After a period of 26 years of con-

tinuous use, the inter-county bridge

across the Willamette river at Salem

was closed at noon yesterday. Bar-

riades were erected on both ends of

the bridge at that time, the watchmen

were withdrawn, and not even a foot

passenger is now allowed to cross.

On the 11th of January, 1891, just

twenty-six years ago to a day, the

structure was first thrown open to

use. In those early days the traf-

fic was light, but after the auto be-

came popular, it was called upon to

carry a greatly increased load. In

the past few years, since the bridge

has been declared unsafe, the traffic

figures have grown by leaps and

bounds, and in recent months it has

had an average travel of more than

2000 persons a day, and an auto traf-

fic of one car for every minute of

ten hours of each day. This despite

the fact that strictest regulation has

been in effect for some time past.

For more than a year several move-

ments have been made to close the

bridge completely to use, based up-

on reports showing the unsafe condi-

tion of the structure. Because of

strenuous objection, however, on the

part of the venturesome public, the

courts had gone no further than a

stringent regulation of the traffic.

The last official report declaring the

bridge utterly unsafe for use came

from the state engineer's office, which

made an inspection on December 28

at the request of the two county

courts. On the basis of this last re-

port the county courts closed the

bridge yesterday. And it was with no

misgivings that members of the

courts saw the old structure placed

in disuse. Its rickety, shaking,

creaking condition for months past

has caused them no little worry, and

now that it has completed its mis-

sion without loss of life, or damage

to property, their restlessness has

given way to an easier feeling. It

is said the old structure was as li-

able to fall with one person on it

as with a heavy load, so precarious

was its condition.

To relieve the inconvenience which

county is favorable to a concrete

bridge, as expressed in a resolution

adopted at a meeting of county road

men in Dallas on October 28 last.

This meeting, attended by represen-

tatives of every road district in the

county, urged the county court of

Polk county to use its efforts to se-

cure a high level concrete bridge

across the river in the following res-

olution:

"Be it resolved, that it is the sense

of this meeting that the Polk county

court be instructed to use its endeav-

ors for the construction of an inter-

county bridge of the high level con-

crete type between Salem and Polk

county."

After the type of bridge has been

decided upon and contracts made for

its erection, no time will be lost in

the preliminary work attendant to such

a large undertaking. Judge Kirkpat-

rick in an interview yesterday stated

that he expected to see active con-

struction work on the new bridge by

the latter part of May. It is esti-

mated that it will require approxi-

mately 12 months to complete the new

bridge after actual construction work

begins.

## Fruit Growers to Meet Saturday.

President H. C. Eakin of the Polk

County Fruit Growers' association

has issued a call for members to meet

at the commercial club rooms Satur-

day, January 13, at 1:30 o'clock.

## TAX VALUES TOTALED

PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS

ASSESSED AT \$181,363,620.

Tillable Lands in State Are Valued at

\$209,347,960; Non-Tillable Lands

At \$80,937,355.

Complete summaries of the assessed

valuation of various classes of prop-

erty in the state are shown in a state-

ment just issued by the State Tax

commission.

Properties of public service corpora-

tions are equalized and apportioned

by the commission itself. The state-

ment shows that railroad companies,

union station and depot companies

## POLK NEEDS TEACHERS

EDUCATOR PRAISES SCHOOLS

BUT POINTS OUT NEED.

Trained Teachers and Savings System

in Connection With Schools Are

Pet Hobbies of Mr. Bonney.

"Better teachers" is the crying

need of the Polk county school sys-

tem, according to Clyde T. Bonney,

county school superintendent of Was-

co county.

Polk county has more standard

schools than any county in the state.

H. C. Seymour, state leader of boys'

and girls' club work at Oregon Agri-

cultural college, was the pioneer in

the standardization movement in Ore-

gon. Until recently he was superin-

tendent of Polk county schools.

Mr. Bonney was loud in his praise