

### The Independence Enterprise

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#### WE NEED BETTER ROADS

With all credit that is due to the men who have built up the agricultural system of Oregon, and more especially the Willamette valley, it must be admitted that the roads they travel over today have not improved in keeping with the progress of the state in other directions—it must be admitted that we have never had real good going on our country roads, and that the country roads are poor at the best. Newspapers of the state have unanimously declared that there is no subject of deeper practical interest to farmers, merchants and business men in general than that of improving the country highways, and in some few instances decided movements have been effected within a few years past, but in general the roads are about as bad as they can be.

In Marion county where several miles of macadam road has been built, farmers are pleased with the results. They can now haul five times as much to a load as was hauled under the old road system and dollars and cents in time and labor are saved every year in addition to the increased valuation of property situated on either side of the macadam roads.

Scotts Mills and Mt. Angel have about eight miles of macadam road, and the farmers located thereon are saving money every year. At Sublimity the same experiment has been tried with the same satisfactory results.

The matter of getting better country roads is simply a question of means and methods. Everyone admits that action of some kind, practical and definite, is absolutely necessary in Oregon. We most heartily appreciate that the farmer today bears his full share of the taxes, and it is hardly to be expected that he could consent to pay a larger road tax, but if we sincerely consider the present methods and their working, it seems there is much room for improvement right here in Polk county. It is to be hoped that the state will make some effort in a direction to improve the road conditions of Oregon.

One thing which the present legislature should not overlook is a bill providing that the state laws be published in each county paper in the state. This matter has been talked of considerably, but so far nothing has been accomplished. In several other states it is practiced and should be in Oregon. Every taxpayer in Oregon would no doubt be willing to pay an additional tax to have the laws under which we live, where we can get them handy.

Joseph Fells, multimillionaire soap manufacturer says that Oregon will be the first to try the single tax idea. That would be nothing out of the ordinary for Oregon.

#### NOT FOR MONEY

The Enterprise is in receipt of a letter from the "Voluntary Committee" on the State Industrial Accident Act requesting an editorial in support of the Abbott Bill now before the Legislature. The author of the request agrees to pay for 20 copies of the paper mailed to his address and for such comment as we deem necessary in assisting the passage of this bill. Certainly this is quite an inducement, but the Enterprise is not going to support any measure for the sake of a few individuals looking for a fat job, which is going to impose a heavier burden upon the farmer taxpayers of the state—not even for money.

The act provides for the appointment of a State Industrial Accident Commission consisting of three commissioners at a salary of \$3600 per annum, thus affording a fat job for some one—possibly the Portland parties who have worked so faithfully in getting the bill before the House—at the expense of the state. The act also provides for an appropriation of \$50,000 from a general fund of the state treasury, for an Industrial Accident Fund. It is probably a good thing for some classes, but we cannot see wherein the average farmer or merchant is going to be benefitted, and they are the fellows who pay a large portion of the taxes in the state. Why farmers and merchants should be expected to contribute annually for the relief of a few mill men who are injured, perhaps, through carelessness is more than the average taxpayer can comprehend.

It does not require an inordinate amount of horse sense to perceive the motive of this "Voluntary Committee." The bill should be defeated by all means, and those who support it should be remembered in the future by Mr. Taxpayer.

#### NO PLANT NEEDED

The question of purchasing a state printing plant has occupied considerable time and attention of the Legislature, but the bill providing for the purchase of a printing plant is not meeting with much favor on the part of tax payers. Such an investment would be the height of folly. The printing bill is now quite a burden but to own and operate a state printing plant means to place the printing bill away above what it has ever been. In Wisconsin and other states where the printing is let to the lowest bidder, the bill is considerable less than Oregon has been paying under its present system.

If there could be any real benefit derived from such an investment, Mr. Taxpayer would offer no objection but there cannot be and the house and senate well know this to be a fact. A bill to reduce the cost of printing would seem more reasonable under the present conditions.

#### IDEAL RURAL SCHOOLS

What a Massachusetts Professor Thinks About Them.

At the farmers' week meeting at Amherst, Mass., Professor Hart presented his views on the rural school, which were rather more advanced than those ordinarily held by educators so far as they have been publicly expressed.

He remarked that the line of improvement for the rural school should be in the direction of more buildings, more land and more permanency for the teacher. The building should have at least three rooms—one for study, one for mechanical work and one for domestic science and home arts. The lot adjoining a rural school should contain ten acres or more of land. It should be devoted to vegetable and flower gardens for the instruction of pupils, to experimental plots for neighborhood demonstration work, to recreation fields for games and open air gymnasium work. The school term should be continuous throughout the year, the older children and adults using the school facilities during the less busy seasons, the younger chil-

den using them during the spring, summer and fall. The teacher should be induced to become a permanent member of the community and be provided with a home in or near the school building. There should be much co-operation between the home and the school. The ideal rural school should become a sort of clearing house of the practical knowledge on which prosperity of the community rests.

#### The New Jersey Grange.

At the annual session of the New Jersey state grange the farmers were outspoken in their condemnation of the county tax boards, and they will memorialize the legislature on this subject. They are also of the opinion that boards of health are clothed with autocratic powers over the farming products altogether in excess of the sanitary requirements. The milk espionage is especially obnoxious to the grangers, who believe there is an amount of red tape in the matter of inspection altogether out of gear with fair treatment. Among other matters discussed was the taxing of bank stock. It was agreed that bank stock should be taxed at its full value. The grange also favored a parcels post.

## The PASSING OF TIME

DURING THE YEAR 1910 WE INCREASED OUR LIST OF SATISFIED CUSTOMERS BY FURNISHING THE BEST IN THE LINE OF GROCERIES THAT MONEY AND CAREFUL SELECTIONS COULD AFFORD.

IN 1911 WE PURPOSE TO STILL FURTHER OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS ON THESE PRINCIPALS AND FEEL ASSURED THAT OUR GOODS WILL MERIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

**R. H. KNOX,**

The Progressive Grocer.

## Your Bill CUT IN HALF

Is a most happy thought. It's easily done by following the advice of hundreds of satisfied customers, and trading at our store

*We buy the Best Drugs*

at lowest cash prices and guarantee best results. Prescriptions filled on short notice

**Kirkland's Drug Store**  
The Store of Quality

PLUMBING

# IN THE

# SPRING

YOU WILL WANT YOUR PLUMBING FINISHED EARLY. IT IS TIME TO BEGIN THINKING ABOUT IT NOW, BEFORE THE RUSH IS ON. WE ARE BETTER PREPARED TO DO YOUR WORK THAN WE HAVE EVER BEEN BEFORE, AND HAVE IN STOCK A LARGE LINE OF PLUMBING GOODS. AT NO PREVIOUS SEASON HAS THERE BEEN A GREATER DEMAND FOR FULLY UP-TO-DATE PLUMBING ARTICLES, AND AT NO TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT HAVE WE BEEN ABLE TO SHOW AS COMPLETE A LINE AS NOW.

If you contemplate putting in a bath or hot water, see

# Hanna Bros.