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ROAD BOOSTERS DEBATE ISSUES

One hundred residents of Washington and adjoining counties met at the Hotel Laughlin dining room Tuesday evening for a Commercial club dinner and to hear the road bond question discussed.

President Graham of the Commercial club presided and, in opening the meeting, extended an invitation to all residents of the county to join the club, stating that with the G. A. R. encampment, the important road work contemplated and various other matters needing attention, there was plenty of work for all.

President Graham then introduced Simon Benson of Portland, a member of the state highway commission, who proceeded to tell about the provisions of the \$6,000,000 road bonding act and what the commission proposed to do. He stated that the bonding act specified where the roads were to be built and estimated that the money from the bonds, the revenue from the quarter-mill tax and the money provided by the federal government would in five years hard-surface 600 miles of state highway; that the state would take care of this highway when completed, leaving the counties free to spend the money now put on these highways into laterals or roads leading to the highways. The \$6,000,000 bonds would be paid by the men who own and operate automobiles, as a bill had been enacted by the last legislature which doubled the license fee on motor vehicles and these fees, with the other funds mentioned, would pay both the principal and interest on the bonds, even if there never were any more motor vehicles than at present. In the past, however, the increase had been one-third per year and if this increase continued, at the end of 25 years there would be a balance left after paying off the bonds. He promised that he would be very careful that nobody got any unearned profits out of the building of the roads.

C. E. Spence, master of the state grange, followed and contended that he was as much in favor of good roads as Mr. Benson or any of the other boosters for "peacock" highways. But he wanted to pay for the roads as they were built and was more interested in roads for the farmers than for paved auto highways. He would be willing, he said, to take the auto licenses, year by year, and build so much road yearly as this fund and the quarter-million levy provided. He contended that these funds would pave the 600 miles asked for in seventeen years, without paying \$4,000,000 interest on \$6,000,000 bonds. He asserted that it was proposed to spend \$1,500,000 of the \$6,000,000 on the Columbia highway, which would not leave enough to do all that was promised by the bond boosters. This big bond issue, he feared, was merely the first of others to follow. More bonds would be asked to save what work had been started. He was, apparently, afraid some paving company was going to make some easy money off the paving contracts. "Let us try out our commission this year with about \$1,000,000," he said. "If they show that they can build roads honestly, then we can give them some more money." He believed Mr. Benson to be honest, but charged that he was so prejudiced in favor of Warrenite that he couldn't see anything else in use. He believed the patents on the Warrenite expired in two years and then roads could be built cheaper.

Whitney L. Boise, a Portland attorney, followed with an appeal

for the bonds, saying the advocates of good roads were asking the people to vote now for \$6,000,000. They might later ask for more bonds, as Mr. Spence suggested, but until they did there was no need to worry. He was satisfied that if the bonds carried, the commission could and would do all it claimed—pave between 500 and 600 miles of state highway. Portland would pay 40 per cent of the bill and would not get a mile of the road, as the bill prevented building any of them in incorporated cities and towns. "You all want better roads," he said, "the only question is how they shall be paid for. If you vote the bonds, the auto owners will do the paying; if you don't, you'll not get the roads unless you vote a direct tax." He cited instances where farmers near Gresham had been paying \$3 per ton to get freight into Portland, but with the coming of a paved road, auto trucks had been delivering the farm produce on Front street for \$1.00 per ton. Of course, all farms would not be on the paved highways, but they all lead to markets and after the counties were relieved of keeping up these trunk lines, they could use their road tax money to build laterals to the highways and the farmers could get their produce to market much cheaper than now. This would enhance the value of every acre of farm land. In closing, Mr. Boise paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Benson as the master philanthropist of Oregon and stated there would be no graft in the paving of the highways so long as Benson was on the job. He also appealed to all present to stand up for President Wilson and the Stars and Stripes in the present crisis. He did not vote for Wilson, but he was back of him now. If war came, it was not Wilson's seeking and every American should be loyal and true.

Mr. Spence followed and asserted that Multnomah's generosity in paying 40 per cent of the cost of the proposed roads was amazing. If that county has 40 per cent of the wealth of Oregon, he asserted, it had somebody else's share. "If it's roads you want," said Mr. Spence, "vote down the bonds and pay as you build. If it's bonds you want, just take the advice of these gentlemen and vote for them."

Asked how wide the proposed paved roads would be, Mr. Benson replied that that would be determined by the amount of travel; it was left to the commission; he thought the average would be about 12 feet.

Asked when the last million would be spent, he replied that the law make available one million in 1917, two in 1918 and the remainder would be used as fast as the work could be done.

D. B. Reasoner, county judge of Washington county, was in favor of the bonds; he was not in favor of Mr. Spence's piecemeal, pay-as-you-go plan; did not want to wait 17 years for the paving of 600 miles of highway. He predicted that the bond issue would carry and feared that if Washington county did not vote favorably we couldn't expect very much from the commission. Mr. Spence asked if that was a threat to club Washington county voters into line and the judge replied that it had always been the policy of the county court to help those road districts that tried to help themselves.

Senator Wood of Hillsboro said he was about as close in money matters as anybody; believed that was why he was elected, but he was for the bonds as the quickest, cheapest and easiest way to get good roads. The bonding act specifies that a highway shall be

paved east and west through this county, by way of Hillsboro, Forest Grove and Gaston and he hoped the people of the county would vote "right."

President Graham made an appeal to local people having vacant rooms to rent during the encampment, at it was going to be a big job to accommodate all the visitors. He suggested rate of \$1.00 per bed per night, for either one or two occupants; 25c for breakfast and 35c for dinner and supper.

John Thornburg moved that "this body; but not as a Commercial club," take a vote on the bond question. On a rising vote, ninety of the hundred present voted in the affirmative, after which the meeting adjourned.

Among those present were a number of women, who seemed to take as much interest in the debate as the men and President Graham invited them to join the club. Interested delegates were present from Orenco, Beaverton, Hillsboro, Banks, Gaston, Dilley and Wapato and all showed a deep interest in the question.

Mrs. Sherrett of the Laughlin did not know she was to have the banquet until 9 o'clock the previous evening and she was put to the test in preparing for so many guests, as she was at first told to prepare for 75, but she made good, as she always does, and the banquet was satisfactory.

When the Commercial club was reorganized ten days ago, its membership was confined to its officers, but Saturday morning Messrs. McCready, Fenenga, Littler, Inlow, Broderson and Hollis got busy and by the close of the banquet Tuesday night they had convinced an even hundred citizens that it was to their interest to become members. This is probably the largest paid membership the club has ever enjoyed and the end is not yet, for there are others who should, and probably will, join.

Burglars Attack Sheriff's Safe

Sometime between midnight Saturday and 2 o'clock Sunday morning, burglars entered the court house at Hillsboro and attempted to force the safe in the sheriff's office, after having covered the door with horse blankets to muffle the sound. Nitro glycerine was the explosive used. The safe is rather old and of antiquated make, but it appears, like a pair of sox, to have gained strength with age, for it refused to open, although badly sprung and bent, and the burglars left without any loot. The safe is said to have contained a check for \$1,000 and about \$75 in money, but the burglars evidently figured that considerable tax money might be found therein. Prisoners in the county jail heard the explosion at 2 o'clock, but had no way of notifying anyone of the proceedings, but they began to shout and make so much noise that the burglars left. Owing to the fact that the keys to the jail were in the safe, the prisoners could not be fed until about noon, after blocksmiths had, with sledge hammers and chisels, opened the battered safe.

The same night somebody cut a panel out of the back door of the C. C. Hancock store at Cornelius and carried away \$75 worth of shoes, shirts and other merchandise, including a few pies and cakes.

John Mason, who has charge of the department of oratory in the Oregon City high schools, attended assembly Tuesday morning at the high school here and gave a number of excellent readings. Several other interesting numbers were given by local talent.

U. S. SENATE VOTES 82 to 6 FOR WAR

Washington, April 4.—The resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany was adopted in the senate tonight by an overwhelming majority. It will be taken up for passage in the House tomorrow.

Senators who cast the negative votes were Gronna, of North Dakota; La Follette, of Wisconsin; Norris, of Nebraska; Lane, of Oregon; Stone, of Missouri, and Vardaman, of Mississippi.

Detailed plans of the War Department for raising an army numbering millions if that is necessary "to bring the government of the German empire to terms" were placed in President Wilson's hands today in the form of a bill prepared by the General Staff and reviewed and revised in part by Secretary Baker and the general officers who are his military advisors.

PATRIOTIC GIRLS HAVE ORGANIZED

Determined to bear a part of the burden in case Uncle Sam becomes involved in war, a number of the young ladies of the city have organized a unit of the Girls' National Honor Guard in this city and will offer their services to the government as nurses, clerks, stenographers, hospital cooks, auto drivers and in various other capacities.

The first meeting was held at Verts' hall Saturday afternoon, with Miss Helen Phillips, president of the Newaka Camp Fire Girls, presiding, and a number of the girls listened to addresses by Miss Mann of Albany and Miss Langley of this city. A number enrolled at this time and at a meeting held at Langley hall Monday afternoon with Miss Langley presiding, many more were enrolled. The girls of the Kappa Delta society of Pacific University joined in a body. Officers were elected as follows: Mrs. Ray T. Williams, leader; Miss Marjorie Forbis, assistant leader; Ruth Haines, secretary; Lucile Higby, treasurer; Donna Mack, leader of Corps No. 1; Duleina Brown, leader of Corps No. 2; Manche Langley, leader of Corps No. 3.

The members have received their badges and the officers have outlined the following schedule for the classes:

Class in plain sewing, to be held at Mrs. E. F. Burlingham's, Thursday afternoon, after school work. The ladies of the Belgium Aid have kindly consented to take over the girls for the plain sewing at that time.

Class in swimming will be held at the P. U. gymnasium, Friday afternoon at 3:30. The girls will bring their own bathing suits and towels.

Military Drill of the entire Guard will be held in the P. U. gymnasium on Saturday, at 1:45. Mr. Ray Williams has kindly consented to direct this work.

The first aid work will be directed by Dr. Ward and lectures will be announced later.

The classes in automobile driving will be opened as soon as the weather permits. Many of the automobile owners and dealers have kindly consented to give their time and machines to the work and a number of the girls will be instructed in driving and caring for automobiles.

Mrs. A. T. Buxton will direct a class in home cooking, and specific announcements of this class will be given later. The people of the town have been particularly kind in assisting the girls in this work and the spirit of co-operation is evident.

Eighty-six girls had joined up to last evening.

Christian Church Convention

Toward the close of the district convention of the Christian churches in this city last Friday, the old officers were re-elected, as follows: F. T. Porter, Salem, president; B. L. Hicks, Newberg, secretary.

It was decided to hold four county conventions next year, instead of a district convention, the dates to be arranged so as not to conflict with each other.

The convention sent a telegram to President Wilson assuring him of the hearty support of the delegates in any action the government might take in the threatened war.

It was a fine convention, but not so largely attended as it might have been.

M. W. A. County Camp

The county camp of the M. W. A. for Washington county convened at Banks yesterday afternoon, with H. G. King and E. P. Martin of this city acting as chairman and secretary. Henry Atlee of Banks was elected delegate to the state camp, to be held at LaGrande May 2d, with H. G. King as alternate. The next meeting of the camp will be in Hillsboro in 1920. At 6 o'clock the delegates had a fine dinner at the Banks hotel, after which they witnessed Banks camp initiate four new members, followed by an oyster supper at midnight.

Those from this city in attendance were H. G. King, E. P. Martin, W. B. Potwin, E. U. Cate and J. M. Tucker, who arrived home just before daylight this morning.

CONDENSED NEWS NOTES

Mrs. W. A. Ross of Eddy is among the invalids.

L. Chowning of St. John visited his son, Brady, and wife Sunday.

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Loren Watkins has the measles.

Word from Portland is to the effect that M. J. Abbott continues to improve in health and may be home in ten days.

Miss Elizabeth Sheuh returned Tuesday to her work in the home of Prof. F. C. Taylor, after having recovered from a siege of the mumps.

Local Woodmen of the World are planning for a big time on May 12th, when a Portland degree team will confer the degrees on a number of candidates.

Mrs. J. G. Lennerville was in Portland Sunday to see her brother, Walter Morris, who was injured in a train wreck six weeks ago, and found him improving nicely.

The "Star Points" of the Eastern Star chapter will give their first Easter Monday party at Masonic hall on April 9th. All sisters and brothers are cordially invited. Program and refreshments.

Bert Doman and Harry Hogue have gone to Portland to enlist in company F, third infantry, and several more boys have tried and been rejected. The regiment has been moved, but the government has ordered that no information as to destination be made public.

Mrs. H. R. Bernard and Mrs. John Templeton were last night elected delegates to the thirtieth annual session of the Rebekah state assembly, to be held at Eugene on May 22. Mrs. Bernard was recommended as district deputy president.

There have been rumors for some days of several men up Gales Creek being arrested for making traitorous remarks about the government, but the Express cannot learn of any actual arrests, although there are a number of U. S. secret service men in every county in the state, watching suspects.

Oregon Historical Society
Journey Bldg