

AN APPEAL TO FAIRNESS

TO OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND
FELLOW CITIZENS OF COOS COUNTY:-

We are the ranchers living along Coos River, North and South Forks. It is one of the oldest farming districts of this county, and our farm lands are assessed higher as a district than any other part of Coos County. We are also the people of Eastside, consisting largely of mill employes who have built our homes and are living near to our work at the Smith mills. As a community of ranchers we number approximately eleven hundred persons. As Eastside residents we number approximately six hundred persons. We want you to know in a general way who we are, in the hope that you will listen to our appeal.

Taxpaying Ranchers Crippled

We ranchers are badly handicapped in carrying on our business and in getting our produce to market. We people of this district have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars into the General Road Fund of Coos County without return, patiently waiting our turn to have a road outlet with all it means to any community. Taxes have been paid for 72 years for road improvement and no chance of an outlet without the bridge.

Nearly 2000 Persons Bottled up

We number approximately 1700 persons, who are your neighbors in Coos County, and we want to be able to go around and visit the County, and we want the rest of the County to be able to see our district. We have need and occasion to travel to Coquille to pay our taxes, conduct our litigation, serve as jurors, and we would like to attend the Corn Show.

At present we are absolutely barred from associating with the Coquille district, or with any other district in Coos County, by reason of the fact that there are no means of transportation across Coos Bay to the main highways. It is true that we have had an intermittent ferry service for a few hours each day, which has been unsatisfactory and not sufficient to justify any travel by automobile. There is absolutely no way out for us except across Coos Bay onto the main highways which would then lead us over the County and to Coquille. Any ferry service is unsatisfactory, and across the Bay, which is rough water and windy, the expense is enormous to the County and the service very inadequate at the best. At present we have no ferry and no immediate prospects of satisfactory ferry service.

On account of the matters above stated, we hope to receive an impartial consideration of the following matter.

Present Bonded Indebtedness Small

By comparison with other counties in the State, it is found that Coos County has a remarkably small road indebtedness, amounting to less than \$300,000. This will all be paid off in 1930 and before payment of the \$700,000 will commence. The entire issue proposed will be paid off by 1939, and at the rate of payment will not cause any more taxes for bond payment than we are now paying. It is pointed out by an accountant that in no one year will our taxes be increased by one mill for the payment of bonded indebtedness over our present taxation for that purpose. Under the County Court's statement, in the next five years the additional expense of the bond issue will be approximately two mills more than it would without it, which would mean \$2.00 per thousand on assessed valuation. But even so our bond tax would be less than at present.

A Big Saving

According to the statement compiled and issued by the County Court, the taxpayers would actually save \$148,000 during the life of the bridge over the expense of operating a ferry. This includes the cost of interest and depreciation, as well as the cost of the bridge. Can the county afford to maintain a ferry service which will cause such an enormous loss besides giving a poor service?

Location of Bridge

A point has been raised that the bridge should be located on the Roosevelt Highway between Glasgow and North Bend. We want you to understand thoroughly that such a bridge would not give us any outlet whatever, as we have no way to go to Glasgow and no prospective way. So far as the Roosevelt Highway bridge is concerned, when that is built that is a State project and not a County project.

Good Roads Movement Should Not Be Downed

It has only been possible in this County to build up our road system through the cooperation of the different communities, which has been largely effected through the Coos County Good Roads Association. This association has representatives from your district as well as other districts, to sit in together and work out plans for road development for the good of the entire County. It has been in this way, and this way only, that Coquille could get recognition for her projects, as well as the other districts. The Good Roads Association, after long consideration, has submitted this proposition to the voters. We believe that this should carry a good deal of weight with each district. We act under the recommendation of the Good Roads Association as contained in this bond issue, a considerable amount of road improvement is outlined for Coquille and vicinity; such as North Bank Road, \$50,000.00; Fish Trap-Fat Elk, \$25,000.00; Fairview Market, \$—; Norway-McKinley, \$9,000.00. We know the roads need it, and hope to see you get them.

Budget Money Freed

Finally, we would call your attention to the fact that if this bond issue is passed to take care of certain major projects, it will turn loose General Fund money under the budget system for use in projects which are not taken care of in the bond issue, such as the lateral roads. If this bond issue fails to carry, there will be no money projects demanding money that no one will get any satisfactory amount, and the Good Roads program of the county is certain to be halted.

All Should Vote

The election is to be held on Thursday, July 26th, and every citizen is entitled to vote who is over twenty-one years of age and has resided in the state for six months and in the precinct for thirty days. We particularly urge the support of the taxpayers, although all persons have the privilege and responsibility of voting whether they are taxpayers or not.

Southern Oregon Company Opposition

The principal opposition to this bond issue comes from two sources. In the first place there are certain communities whose road needs are not fairly provided for even in this bond issue. With these people we most deeply sympathize because we have had no road money for approximately seventy years. But we point out that this bond issue will take care of certain major projects in the county and leave the budgeted money to be diverted to the projects which are not taken care of in this issue. In the second place, there are certain taxpayers that feel that the expenditure for roads is not justified. We admit that these people have a right to their views and to present them to the voters at large. So far as the bridge is concerned, we have pointed out that it will be a saving to the taxpayers. We are advised that the Southern Oregon Company is promoting an association to fight this bond issue, with headquarters at North Bend, to be designated as the "Taxpayers' League." This is their privilege. But we call your attention to the fact that they are not residents of this community or state, and ask what such companies as this have ever done for the development of this district.

It Is Our Turn To Ask County Support

In conclusion, we appeal to you to support this bond issue in order to allow us to carry on our business and to associate with our friends, neighbors and fellow citizens in your district and throughout the County; furthermore we appeal to your sense of fairness to our district which has obviously been neglected all these years; we submit to you that the issue should be passed in the interests of the building up of good roads for Coos County.

Thanking you for your consideration and hoping you will see the matter as we do, we are

**Coos River Ranchers
People of Eastside**