

# Coquille Herald.

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## FOR BETTER ROADS FOR COOS.

### Some Suggestions About the Improvement of Our Roads.

There are very few people who stop to think of the heavy toll farmers pay who wagon their produce to market by horse power. Very few farmers stop to consider how much it costs them to haul a ton one mile and from this lack of foresight we have as a result very different roads. Impassable during the only time that a farmer has idle time on his hands, the winter months. The toll we pay to poor roads, if invested in better roads, would make our roads passable during most of the winter and if we would place our improvements in a systematic way so that every day's work was to one end, we soon could boast of good roads.

I venture the assertion, that we spend enough money for roads each year, which had it been applied intelligently along one or two main highways, we could now branch out into side roads with some show of success. I do not mean to say that this money has been spent injudiciously, with an intent to have poor roads but that there has been no system in the improvements as they are made. One need not go any farther than from here to Marshfield or up the Coquille river toward Roseburg to see that the work has been done with a view of getting over for the time being and not for future use and permanency. Along the dug ways one can see hundreds of feet of side hill work where the water from the hills has no outlet but down the road and no cross drains to allow the water to go under the road bed. Even where there are planks, there has been very little provision for drainage and the water runs or stands in puddles in the road bed.

This year we have a large sum set aside for road betterment and would it not be economy for us to see to the better drainage of roads that are already built and then put some of it into permanent road bed. Above this town there has been some road built of crushed rock, which during the last winter has stood a heavy travel and has rutted very little and that only where it had no drainage. I walked over it during the heavy rains and found it in a good state of preservation. Also at Argo there is a stretch of road covered with a clayey gravel and it has been used for a number of years and is still good and it is on a flat bottom where it has been very muddy before the gravel was put on. Would it not be better to put up a few miles of permanent way every year than to patch up long stretches of road that will not last during one winter. As long as we have roads in Coos County we will have mud, the same as they have in our eastern states. I have seen just as much mud in old Missouri and Iowa as I have seen here and just as deep and a good deal tougher and they have overcome it and have good roads. We, too, can do better and I have very little use for a man that will sit down and not try to improve his country and himself.

Show me a land of poor roads and I will show you a land that is backward and where land values and all that goes to make a land prosperous and its people happy is far below the average. There is nothing that will so soon make a community prosperous, intelligent, contented with their lot as good roads. One need only to go back to the plains country before the railroads came to see what good roads can do. Just as soon as the iron horse came we began to build roads. We could then sell our surplus and we had to have better roads to haul our products to the markets. It is so here. Could a farmer haul his apple crop from the middle fork or the east fork of the Coquille river to this town and have marketable apples when he arrived here? Hardly. Last year a man used to come to my house with tomatoes and his great complaint was, poor roads.

They can raise the stuff but they can't haul it to market. Our towns need their product and they need us. Can no way be found to better these roads? Certainly there can. The commissioners have set aside a large sum for our roads and now see to it that it is properly applied. Better one mile of good road a year than ten indifferent ones. Let us all pull together, one for all and all for one. Let better roads be our slogan and never say die until we have them.

Yours for better roads,  
CROW QUILL.

## Guns For Oregon.

Washington, April 1.—Representative Hawley today received a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, in which Secretary Meyer says: "I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th inst., in which you request to be informed if there are any guns from the battleship Oregon that were condemned, and that it may be possible for the citizens of Oregon to secure and place on the statehouse grounds at Salem."

"In reply, I have to inform you that there are at Mare Island Navy-yard two six-pounder guns, without mounts, which were on the Oregon during the period of the Spanish war, and which have since been condemned for service use. If these guns are desired by the citizens of Oregon for the purpose stated, I will be pleased to take steps, after receipt of their formal application, to have them assigned for donation purposes."

Mr. Hawley has sent the letter to Governor Benson for his action.

## Murder by Wholesale.

The Russian police authorities are investigating the career of Mme. Popova, who was arrested recently on charges of murdering undersirable husbands by wholesale. She is said to have confessed to having killed 300 men in the past 30 years, but the police think she is exaggerating her deeds. The authorities, however, admit that she will probably prove the greatest murderess in Russian history.

Mme. Popova says her own unhappy life caused her to conceive the idea of relieving unfortunate wives of cruel husbands. She claims to have accepted a small fee for each killing and says the operations have been over a large part of the province of Astrakan.

The police claim that such a career would be impossible, as she would have been detected at the beginning of her operations.

## Ashland Woman Ends Life.

Ashland, Or., March 30.—The body of Mrs. Henry Bates was found in Ashland creek last night. She came to Ashland in 1906 with her husband, and the couple went under the name of Smith.

They later separated, and much domestic trouble is believed to have unsettled the woman's mind, which strengthens the suicide theory.

She leaves a bright 14-year-old girl. The father is living at San Francisco.

During the spring every one would be benefited by taking Foley's Kidney Remedy. It furnishes a needed tonic to the kidney's after the extra strain of winter, and it purifies the blood by stimulating the kidneys, and causing them to eliminate the impurities from it. Foley's Kidney Remedy imparts new life and vigor. Pleasant to take. Furrhman's Pharmacy.

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from pure breed stock. Both our Cockerels to head our pens of Brown and White Leghorn took 1st prize at Oregon State Fair 1908, where more birds were on exhibition, than any show ever held on the coast. Have a pen of full blood White Plymouth Rocks headed by rooster from U R Fishel, the most celebrated breeder of W R in the world, also have Black Minorcas of the best strain, and the 1st pair of prize winners Indian Runner ducks at Oregon State Fair, 1908.

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I have more inquiry for all kinds of lands than I can supply. Send me your lands for sale. E. H. Kern, Coquille, Oregon.

## NOTES OF THE BIG EXPOSITION

Further Details of Plans for the A. Y. P. Fair.

Seattle, April 5.—With the combination of natural beauties and architectural skill offered by the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition soon to open at Seattle, this great fair of the Pacific has already been pronounced the most beautiful ever planned. And that is because the landscape artists have worked out so many striking designs in building sunken gardens and because the whole scheme for beautifying the grounds has for a fitting background a lavish display of mountain, lake and woodland scenery.

Two years ago the campus of the University of Washington, that is that portion of it where the exposition has been built, was a forest in which man, but a few years before, had hunted the wild game native to this state. Today handsome state, county, religious, fraternal, amusement, federal and exhibit buildings of every character are nestled in among the stately firs. Shady walks and paths have been cut through the underbrush and the old skid roads are now asphalt paved thoroughfares.

Flowers in profusion are now to be seen on every hand and the central court of honor is one magnificent floral display. Thousands of roses cover the slopes between the drives encircling Cascade Court and Japanese iris will succeed the roses when out of bloom. The entire court will be framed in with rhododendrons, the Washington state flower and cactus dahlis, official flower of the exposition, have been planted among the rhododendrons while flowering horse chestnut trees give shade to the walks.

About the geyser basin will be more than 500,000 English tufted pansies, a beautiful and delicate plant that holds its head erect always facing the sun and blooms continuously throughout the summer.

A feature of the exposition is the three radiating vistas, out through great stretches of fir trees to obtain the excellent view of the lakes and mountains seen on every side. These vistas are now carpeted with great stretches of lawn flanked on either side by walks. Roman benches and settees as well as electroliers have been set in place along the vistas.

Exhibits of the finest specimens of the silversmith's art and Tiffany's fragile glass will be on display at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition at Seattle this summer. None of the exhibits, representing an expenditure of more than \$225,000, will be on sale and the display will be one of the features of the fair.

The exhibit of silver has been loaned by the Gorham Manufacturing Company, and consists of nine pieces, each worth a small fortune, the leading one being the celebrated Century vase manufactured for an exhibit at the Columbian exposition, and never since exhibited.

This vase illustrates in its design the progress of a century on the American continent, starting from early Indian days and carrying the idea through the transitions of war and peace, development and progress to the civilization and prosperity which marked the closing decade of the last century. This vase is four feet two inches high and five feet four inches across the base, is made of solid silver and weighs 2,000 ounces. The value of the vase is not determined, as the vase is not for sale, but it is insured for \$35,000. Four smaller vases accompany the century vase.

Two other pieces in the exhibit are a lady's desk and chair of solid silver, of ornate workmanship easily worth \$25,000. The silver exhibit of the Gorham Manufacturing Company at the exposition totals \$150,000 in value.

The Tiffany fragile exhibit is famous and has been much exhibited abroad in recent years. The glass

is regarded as the highest development of the glassblower's art, excelling in richness of coloring. The Tiffany exhibit is valued at \$75,000.

## Oregon Agricultural College.

An agitation has been started with the avowed purpose of calling the referendum on the Oregon Agricultural College appropriation bill. The friends of the college feel that such action would be extremely injurious to the college and therefore injurious to the important interests of the state which are so closely allied with it. To avoid such a result it is important that the people of the state should be informed as to the real condition of affairs.

In the first place it is not the verdict of the people that is feared, but the effects of the delay which the use of the referendum imposes. If, by the use of the referendum, the people of the state could vote on this bill before the first of July of the present year, there would be no opposition on the part of the friends of the college to its exercise.

If the referendum is invoked the bill cannot be voted on until November 1910 which will mean that the buildings provided for by the appropriation would not be ready for occupancy for at least three years. The present college buildings and equipment are entirely inadequate to meet the present needs. The present attendance is over 1400 while the college library will accommodate 108; the work in agriculture has increased nine times in two years while the room allowed for the work has only been doubled; in the past year the work in chemistry, which requires the use of laboratories, has doubled and there is no extra room available; the present armory will accommodate less than one-fifth of the students required to take military drill, and such illustrations might be continued almost indefinitely if space permitted. Add to this the fact that last year the attendance increased 38 per cent and that in the past four months the number of letters of inquiry received from farmers and citizens of the state generally has doubled, and it will give some conception of the extent to which this vital work will be crippled by the delay.

Moreover, the delay would make it impossible for the college to fulfill the conditions which the Federal Government imposes as prerequisites to the enjoyment of its bounty. The state would be forced to break faith with the Federal Government which has offered many thousands of dollars to aid in the educational and experimental work which is to be done in this state during the next two years.

It is for these reasons, the significance of which cannot be fully realized until the conditions at the college are personally investigated, that the friends of the Oregon Agricultural College urge that the people of the State consider well before calling the referendum.

R. D. HAZEL,  
Oregon Agricultural College.

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