THE BEND BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1913

GOOD ROADS AGAIN.

The past week two big things happened in good roads circles, one an injury, the other a distinct benefit to the good roads movement. The first to occur was Klamath county's wrangle over the methods and expenditures of County Judge Worden who was elected two years ago pledged to a program of road construction. In that time about half a million dollars has been spent and some of the finest highways and bridges in Oregon construed.

Factional differences, it is said, culminated in a severe censure of the county court by the grand jury.

Judge Worden issued a statement alleging political and financial conspiracy on the part of the Weyerhaeuser and other large timber interests, to stop the road building begun, to escape taxation, and on the part of certain other interests to gain control of the county. Failing in their various efforts to obtain his resignation, he says, recall petitions were placed in circulation.

Since both sides have begun airing their differences in public, other cities and towns of the state have taken an interest, because such fights hurt the cause of good roads. Klamath county was coming to be talked about for its splendid roads, and these were begun by Judge Worden, and the interest of citizens of other counties of Oregon is expressed in the hope that the work started by him two years ago will continue.

The second big event in our good roads crusade was the visit of the Oregon state legislators to Maryhill and Lyle, Wash., a week ago Sunday, as the guests of Samuel Hill, the good roads agitator and friend, for the purpose of seeing what could actually be done by intelligent and well-directed efforts to give us better roads. The following Tuesday evening Mr. Hill addressed both houses of the Legislature at Salem, and by both stereopticon pictures and word of mouth endeavored to show why good roads mean rural settlement and prosperity. Mr. Hill told of a trip he made through Oregon to secure first hand information regarding conditions. Among other things he said:

"What did I find? Between these beautiful cities, the farm houses were boarded up. The farmer did not have good roads and the comforts they make possible, and he had gone to the cities to get them. Yet we must keep up the soil. It is the only condition under which our government will endure. * *I saw great districts in eastern Oregon, with more clear days and a finer climate than Los Angeles has, and not a passable road to the outside. I saw the wonderful scenery of the Columbia river, our great mountains, more beautiful than any in the world, inaccessible because there are no roads."

By way of recommendation, Mr. Hill said that the only way to secure results was to employ an expert to direct the road work and standardize the highways, just as trained men are hired to build railroads. He said that good roads could not come about all at once, but that the counties could make a beginning and the sooner the better. No community would for a moment tolerate a railroad that had a poor roadbed, where the grading was slipshod, and the curves made by a section hand, yet it would seem as if the people are content to bounce over any kind of a path wide enough for a wagon and endure all sorts of hardships and discomforts.

GOOD WILL PREVAILS.

The resolutions of the local Commercial Club directors regarding Bend's feeling to Burns and that section are timely. They are sincere and they echo the sentiment of everyone in Bend whose judgment is worth consideration. Bend feels nothing but the kindliest interest in Burns. It could not be otherwise. There is a magnificent empire surrounding Burns, and its development, like the development of every other section of the interior, means a reflex development for Bend. What helps one helps all. So far as the possibility of jealousy is concerned it is hard to think for a minute that Bend might be jealous of Burns. That is utterly impossible, for the towns are separated by nearly 15 miles and they depend upon districts that are entirely separate. The growth of one cannot interfere with the other.

For a couple of months a newspaper in Burns has been doing its utmost, apparently, to stir up strife between the two towns. Just why, it is hard to imagine. Of course, the lead of the Burns paper has been followed by a Crook county sheet whose fundamental principles—some say its only principle!—is a jealous desire to throw mud at Bend. Go to it, gentlemen! You can do no one harm except yourselves.

In the meantime The Bulletin will continue its customary methods: that of letting the other fellow do the knocking. And so far as Burns and Harney county are concerned, the substantial people of Bend pledge themselves to a renewed effort to eradicate any shortsighted slighting that may have existed and to a renewed effort to see that everyone who comes here possessing an interest in the southeast country gets out of town with nothing but enthusiastic reports of that territory added to those he already had.

BOYS' CLUBS.

The Knights of the Triangle, composed of boys ranging in age from 12 to 20 years, has been formed in one of the Central Oregon towns. No matter by what name these organizations of boys are known, they should be encouraged by the older people in the small towns of our state. For one thing, these clubs tend to tie the boys to their home towns, and discourage their going away to seek their fortunes, as they say, in strange and distant places. If these bands of young men can include in their aims something to interest their members in land development and the growing of crops or livestock suited to the climate and soil, some communities will soon be leading the less progressive ones to better and more substantial things. Local commercial bodies can well afford to go out of their way to help such unions of their town youth and assist them with suggestions and in other ways more tangible. Anything that will keep the young men at home, and close to the land, is quite worth while not only in Central Oregon, but in every other section.

"There are rumors of a breach between President-elect Wilson and William Jennings Bryan." That line has appeared on an average of four times a week ever since November 5, last. It would be a vast mechanical convenience if the daily papers kept it set up and ran it, say, every other day, just under the weather report.

It is common knowledge that anyone who interferes in a family row gets into a hornet's nest, and our friends the Mexicans promise to unite against Uncle Sam should we venture to step in and administer a spanking. However, anything that would unite Mexico might seem desirable.

MORE HOGS.

Last week we said something about hogs being essential to farm prosperity. Since then we have heard of a farmer who cleared $70 in a year from one hog. That surely is "going some." If we had more hogs we would be more prosperous.

but ... as dirt to it.—Wall Street Journal.

Wickersham has dropped his suit against the coffee trust, as he found that there were no grounds.—Washington Post.

Somebody asks, "Can Roosevelt really write history?" Why, bless you, he's the fellow who makes it!—Wall Street Journal.

Men accused of $5,000,000 fraud in selling "rare books" have been indicted. The bookworm has turned.—Madison (Wisc) State Journal.

Editor Mylius, who libeled King George, has been turned away from the United States. Mylius arrived at our gates just about 138 years too late.—Houston Post.