

BEAVERTON TIMES

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SOFT HEADED FOSSILISM.

We had a nice boost prepared for our Washington County contingent in the legislature but are compelled to modify the same after listening to the report of our local committee, which made a trip to Salem in the interests of the tunnel proposition. Their reception was not the kind to look forward to, with much pleasure had they known beforehand just what it would be. The people of this locality have been looking forward to the building of a tunnel through the hills to Portland for years and now that the project has been advanced to a point near its construction we were all hoping for favorable action by the legislature.

When Mr. Frank Stroud and C. E. Hedge the committee undertook to enlist the support of our Washington County representatives they were turned down rather hard. Mr. Stroud was accused by Senator Woods of working a real estate deal. We are not sure but suppose Mr. Hedge was likewise accused. Of course those whom the committee represented are equally guilty. In fact, any public improvement is likewise actuated by mercenary motives. Well these may be Senator Woods' ideas but they are not ours, neither are they the ideas of any public spirited citizen or the ideas of any progressive community. Those are fossils brought unwittingly to the surface in an unguarded moment, and lead us to believe that there may be other "fossilized" ideas poured forth when this community desires assistance along other progressive lines.

Another week has gone by and our relations with Germany have not changed materially. This state of affairs may continue for some time or it may end at any moment in a state of war. However, that the danger of a real war with Germany is very remote, is evidenced by the undisturbed business condition of the country throughout. It seems to be the consensus of opinion that war with Germany, while that country is deadlocked with the allies would be confined to the sea, but at the same time it is probable that the United States will organize a formidable army and equip it to meet any eventuality.

A new cigarette law has passed the legislature making it a crime for a minor to smoke a cigarette or for a person to give or sell them the "coffin nails." Just how effective the law will be in keeping out the habit is difficult to forecast. The trouble with such a law is with its enforcement. While we may know of the harmful and degenerating effects of the cigarette habit still adults would hesitate before reporting a case of infringement because of the baleful effects of sending a boy of otherwise good character to jail. In our mind the only way to stamp out the habit is by utter "taboo" of the cigarette in the state. To enact such a law, however, is making a start in the right direction and will no doubt ultimately lead to absolute prohibition within the state.

Senator Wood's bill to abolish the office of county recorder will most likely become a law. The measure does away with the recordership and places the work in the hands of the county clerk, who appoints the deputy or deputies, who must be paid by the county court, which fixes the salaries of the help.

The new law will not affect the term to which Recorder Jas. H. Davis is elected, and takes effect at noon on date of January 1, 1919.

Consolidation is going on in many counties of the state, and it is estimated that from \$50 to \$75 per month will be affected in savings. This legislation has been attempted before, but has always failed of getting through the committees.—Argus.

It is amusing to watch the antics indulged in by the Hillsboro Independent whenever the question of east end roads comes to its notice. For this, however, we must forgive and forget and remember that as long as the road leads into the county seat nothing will be said. This is Hillsboro diplomacy and Independent sagacity.

What a shame that there is no inducement for each and every individual in this community to plant a tree along the streets this spring.

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