

# CLOVERDALE COURIER.

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## SHALL WE BOND FOR HARD SURFACE ROADS?

### Interesting Resume of the Economy and Benefits of Hard-surfaced Highways.

Most of the people in the county are aware that a petition was circulated a few months ago addressed to the County Court asking that Honorable Body to call an election for the purpose of submitting to the voters for their decision the question of bonding the county to create funds with which to hard surface our main county roads. The petition was signed by the requisite number of qualified petitioners but has not been filed with the Court; it has been withheld with the hope that those opposed to the movement could see their way clear to withdraw their opposition or offer a solution in lieu of bonding that would relieve the taxpayers of the excessive charges they have had to meet in maintaining gravel and crushed rock roads that are no longer practical or adequate to meet the demands of present day traffic. The opponents to bonding have failed to present any practical plan that will afford relief and in the

meantime certain interests have been instrumental in securing the enactment of the 6 per cent tax restriction amendment which precludes any possibility of making an appreciable headway in hard-surfacing for many years to come and at the same time take care of maintenance and worthy projects.

Therefore, as I view it, the bonding plan is the only alternative and the most effective and expeditious method of bringing about a reduction in taxes and at the same time affording those who have borne the hardships of pioneer life in this county the great advantages that will accrue to them by hard surfacing as I will attempt hereinafter to point out. Bonding the county for two per cent of its assessed valuation, the maximum provided by law, will create a fund of approximately \$420,000, which fund is sufficient to hard surface our main county roads subjected to heaviest traffic and from the tax money that will be available after bonding the hard surface can be extended to all roads that practicable to hard surface.

That the taxpayers' interests may be thoroughly safe guarded and that the Court may have the advantage of the council and advice of men of ability and integrity it is provided that seven of our heaviest taxpayers, whose names are designated in the petition, act in conjunction with the Court in all matters pertaining to the expenditure of the funds, a precautionary measure that has

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never before, so far as the writer's knowledge goes, been adopted by any county in the state. In addition to this, the Court and advisory committee inform me, delegations representing the Granges, timber interests, Commercial Clubs, etc., will be invited and their counsel and advice sought.

Some of the farmers with whom I have discussed the subject contend that to bond the county would in effect be to mortgage every farm in the county; I quite agree with this contention but let us make an analysis of this mortgage indebtedness as applied to the individual liability of the average farmer in the county. I think an examination of the tax rolls will disclose that the average assessed valuation of the farms of this county is approximately \$3,000.00; at any rate I have taken the pains to look up ten farms picked at random on main county road south from Tillamook City covering a distance of twenty miles with the following results, (will withhold names of the owners and for convenience refer to them alphabetically) viz:

- A—Five miles south, valuation \$3,100.
- B—Six miles south, valuation \$4,500.
- C—Eight miles south, valuation \$1,400.

- D—Nine miles south, valuation \$1,700.
- E—Ten miles south, valuation \$2,100.
- F—Twelve miles south, valuation \$2,300.
- G—Thirteen miles south, valuation \$2,100.
- H—Sixteen miles south, valuation \$3,000.
- I—Eighteen miles south, valuation \$6,500.
- J—Twenty miles south, valuation \$3,600.

An average of the sum total of the above figures is approximately \$3,000. Two per cent of this valuation is \$60; this \$60, payable in twenty equal annual payments, the probable term of the bonds, would reach the magnificent sum of \$3 per annum plus interest at 5 per cent or less. If any reader is desirous of knowing what his or her individual part of the bonded indebtedness would be refer to your last tax receipt and multiply the sum you are assessed with by 2 per cent and you have it.

(Concluded on last page.)

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