

CENTRAL POINT HERALD

By HASSLER & BEBB  
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How chance, our council meets so often?

Say Mike! "What is a game of chance?"

Mike. "That's a simple question, ask any member of our city council."

Limit the number of bills is the only way for the next legislature to cut down expenses.

Official returns from all the counties in the state show that capital punishment has been abolished in Oregon.

The grandmothers of Springfield, Massachusetts, have formed a club for social service and pleasure. The chief requirement for membership is the status of grandmotherhood.

Cleveland, Ohio, pastors will sound the "shop early" Xmas season slogan from their pulpits. The aid of the churches in the movement came at the request of the Cleveland Consumers League an organization of buyers and shop-keepers.

A junk dealer from the middle west had heard that Ford, the auto manufacturer, used tin cans in the construction of his car. He gathered up several hundred tomato, sauer kraut and oyster cans and sent them to the Ford factory along with a request that they be made into an auto. A week later he received a Ford by freight and a check for \$9.80 by mail. He had sent in too many cans.

An exchange says that up in the northern part of the state, a jury has acquitted a mail carrier who was on trial by the federal authorities for ditching a large consignment of political speeches of Congressman Lafferty, which had been sent out through his district under his frank. While his action was doubtless questionable, as long as the practice is allowed and upheld, still one cannot blame the jury much, especially if they were constituents who were expected to read the junk.

THE ROCK PILE FOR SPEEDERS

In these days of freak legislation, fanatical laws and attempts to regulate habits and personal affairs by legal rules, it is refreshing to come across a new idea in city ordinances which, hurting no one, acts as a means of saving lives and reducing the number of accidents. Portland is the city which is to be complimented upon writing into its code a law which has made the place unique in one respect. There are 200,000 people in Portland and there are countless automobiles. Yet in the last nine months there has not been one person injured, much less killed in an automobile accident in that city. And why is this so? Because in Portland the driver of an automobile who exceeds the speed limit is put to work on the rock-pile, for from two to thirty days. No fines accepted. If the driver is convicted he must do his time at hard labor and no exceptions are made. Portland's streets are safe to pedestrians. Here is an idea that ought to spread eastward.

FINANCES OF JACKSON COUNTY

The report of the state accounting department is at hand showing the financial standing of the counties of the state at close of business on September 30, 1914:

Funds on hand at that date in Jackson county were: General county and state \$75,467.62. General road, \$298,035.24. Road districts, \$8,713.15. County schools, \$31,356.60. Special school districts, \$7,915.11. State school, \$4,828.19. Register and indemnity, \$219.44. Bond interest and miscellaneous, \$14,204.77. Total funds on hand, \$441,347.55. Total indebtedness: County road bonds, \$500,000. Outstanding warrants, \$472,451.92. Agency funds liability, \$59,131.54. Total county indebtedness, \$1,031,583.46. Total indebtedness over the amount of funds in the treasury is \$590,235.91.

WHY DO TENANT FARMERS MOVE?

The past two months, as is usually the case in fall, has marked the sale of much farm property in the rural communities of the state and the moving of farmers from one farm to another! This frequency of moving, or instability of occupancy, very likely is one of the chief causes for the decline of rural prosperity, or is a hindrance to greater progress. Frequency of removal of farmers is one of the greatest of causes why the roads and bridges are generally in a poor condition because the farmers, moving at frequent periods are not particularly interested in their upkeep. Farm buildings of such farms are not usually kept in good repair, as the man who is about to move will leave the repairs for the next tenant to make. The same reasons will apply for lack of interest by the unstable farmer in the schools, churches, and general welfare of the community.

This section of the country is noted for its open-handed hospitality, but are we really as hospitable and as neighborly as we believe ourselves to be? Let us be honest with ourselves. Do we welcome the incoming tenant and try to make them permanent members of the community? If not, let us begin with the next new tenants, starting out with the idea that we will accept them at their own valuation and treat them as we would like to be treated under like circumstances. Are our ways, our local laws and regulations the sort that would naturally attract, and what is more important, hold good settlers—fill them with the desire to buy a farm in this neighborhood? Let us try to get the viewpoint of the stranger, and if we are wrong, let us about-face. If we are hide-bound and stand-offish, let us put the Golden Rule in operation. If our local laws and regulations are too puritanical, we have the remedy at hand.

WAR WEARY

The obligation that rests upon decent newspapers to tell the truth is ever a sacred and responsible one. Right-minded people have weari of the unending procession of tales of the war's horror, cruelty and destruction, and are eager, even anxious, to address themselves to the constructive policies of peace. The plain truth is, the reading public is sick and tired of the monotony of the war diet served up to them. Yet how many sensational newspapers disregard their duty to their readers, and careless of their obligation, deliberately invent horrors for the sole purpose of claiming supremacy in the publication of exclusive news.

Never in the history of the newspaper has there been such a demand for truth, yet never in the history of the newspaper has truth been so carelessly handled. No wonder the reading public is weary of "war news."

Will the farmers of Willow Springs stand for irrigation?

Lumbermen of the Pacific Northwest have been asked to bid on railroad ties for the Orient aggregating 9,000,000 feet, and with orders for the same material coming from Europe, it is expected the millmen of this territory will be right in line for their share of the anticipated good times.

WHAT ARE WE UP AGAINST?

Are Our Taxpayers to be Burdened by More Taxes to Further Desire of an Irrigation Monopoly?

Jackson County has been most liberal in voting bonds for public enterprises. A half million was voted by a flattering majority for the construction of a highway from the summit of the Siskiyou to Gold Hill.

Now comes a proposition fathered by the Rogue Lands Irrigation Co., to bond that section of Jackson county lying under their ditch for irrigation purposes.

The scheme proposes to make a "District" of that section and submit to the land owners within its boundaries the proposition as to whether they will take the ditch company's water at fifty (\$50), dollars per acre and \$2.50 per acre perpetual upkeep of the system. The Company by the terms of the proposed movement, is to put the water upon some spot within each forty acre tract.

The voters within the district will have the bonding scheme submitted to them by authority of the County Court of Jackson county in due course of time, probably by January 1, 1915.

If the proposition receive sixty per cent. of all the votes cast thereon, it becomes binding upon all.

In consideration of this subject, several questions will arise naturally.

1. Are all the lands within the district within need of irrigation?
2. Are some of the lands within the district of such a nature as to be injured by irrigation?
3. If all the lands need irrigation, can they, in the present condition of transportation and markets, support an initial cost of \$50.00 per acre with a continuing upkeep expense of \$2.50 per acre?
4. If sixty per cent. of our land owners favor the system, would it be right in the nature of things, to force the other forty per cent. to submit to a \$2000.00 indebtedness on a 40 acre tract against their will?
5. Is the proposed bonding scheme a short cut to bring into line parties who would not subscribe of their own free will?
6. If some land owners fail in the payment of the burdens of the bonding scheme, who would become the ultimate owner of such land, and would there be many tracts to be sacrificed under the application and enforcement of the scheme in the last analysis?
7. Do the people of Jackson county feel themselves already bonded to the utmost of good business policy, and should the people of the proposed irrigation district be made to suffer added burdens when any considerable number of its people object?

HIGH COST OF SCHOOL BOOKS

A committee created by the last legislature is investigating the high cost of school books in Multnomah county. The same subject should interest the legislature so far as the rest of the state is concerned, for there is general complaint.

Public school books not only cost too much but changes are forced upon the people altogether too frequently. The first text book commission, appointed by Governor Geer under great public pressure, was composed altogether of business men. It cut the list of books used about one-half and reduced the price materially, giving the pupils a high class of text books. The next text book commission was partly composed of business men and partly of "educators."

This commission increased the number of books and made some changes, also increasing the total expenses. By adding "educators" to the commission, and re-

ducing the number of business men the purposes of economy reform arrived at in creating this board have been lost sight of.

Its functions will probably be merged with those of the State Board of Education.

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The fighting in France and Flanders has been unimportant throughout the past week, though there have been persistent reports that the Germans are preparing for a retirement. These rumors seem improbable at present, in view of the French government's official statement that the allies are outnumbered by the Germans. Fifty German army corps are said by Paris authorities to be in France and Belgium, making probably a total of 2,000,000 men. That the allies have been unable as yet to surpass this number is due without doubt to their shortage of equipment. They must wait for more arms and ammunition before they can develop a numerical superiority in Flanders and assume the offensive.

Both the allied armies and the Germans facing them on the long battle front through Belgium and France are utterly exhausted. The Germans have hurled themselves against the stone-wall defense of the allies from Ypres to the sea without success, for more than a month. They have fought day and night, hammering constantly with heavy artillery and intermittently and with violent infantry attacks. In addition they have undergone the greatest hardships. They have been flooded from their trenches and fought by both fire and water. It is now extremely cold on the northern frontier and a heavy blanket of snow covers a large part of the field of operations.

Equipment for half a million additional men is now on hand and ready for use by the French army. Reports say this number of men soon will be available to reinforce the allies' lines. These second line troops have been kept from General Joffre's army heretofore because of the lack of guns, clothing and war equipment.

The condition of the French troops in the field is declared to be excellent despite the winter weather which set in a month ago. Reports of the movement of guns and troops behind the German lines coupled with the general cessation of violent fighting, is taken here to mean that the Germans are bringing up new guns and troops to strengthen the lines weakened by severe losses of recent weeks.

Paris is afire with new enthusiasm because of the arrival at Havre and other French coast points of Field Marshal Sir John French's reinforcements to the number of nearly 1,250,000 men.

This second great expeditionary force arrived from England in a steady stream from troop ships. Nearly 200 ships comprised the fleet.

The work of equipping this new army is going rapidly forward and as fast as they are put in readiness for service at the front they are being sent to the firing line.

General von Hindenberg held fast to his advance in the position at Lowicz, in Poland, during the week. Both the Russian and German capitals insist the enemy is being held in check.

The advances by the Germans into Poland are primarily diversions for preventing a Russian invasion of Germany.

General von Hindenberg, who has just been made a Field Marshall by Emperor William in recognition of the protection he and his troops have given the East Prussian frontier, in an army order issued at Thorn says the Germans have brought the Russian offensive to a standstill and inflicted heavy losses.

It appears from the communications of the Russian staff commander-in-chief that the Germans have been compelled to fall back from Rzgow and Tuszyn through Przesmy and Strzykow under conditions most disadvantageous to them. The Germans suffered enormous losses during the retreat.

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