

LINN COUNTY ABLE TO AFFORD PAVING

MILT MILLER QUOTES FIGURES SHOWING COUNTY CAN PAY FOR GOOD ROADS

Speech of Milton A. Miller at Good Roads Meeting, Lebanon, April 7th
Mr. Chairman, members of the State Highway Commission, Mr. Cecil, of the forest service, Dr. Hewes, of the post roads service, members of the county court, representatives of the press, ladies and gentlemen:

I am more than glad to be with you at this time. I congratulate you upon this meeting; I congratulate you upon the spirit that prevails here; and I congratulate you upon the cause that brings us together.

I might add that I congratulate you on living in the greatest republic known to history, living in the best country known on earth, and living in the best part of the best country.

In quick there is strength. That is an old saying, but it is as true today as at any time in the history of the world, and if ever that saying was proven beyond a question of a doubt it has been so proven since the United States entered the world war.

We had no idea in a way of our strength. We did not realize our power. We did not, in my humble opinion, comprehend our riches. We are the richest nation on earth. We are the richest nation that was ever on earth. Since we declared war we have appropriated practically 30 billions of dollars, loaning the allies between nine and ten billions and spending for the costs of the war something like 20 billions.

And yet, my friends, we have more money than we ever had.

We are here tonight to discuss the question of good roads and building them. This road movement takes on tremendous proportions in the state of Oregon. It is no longer a question of money, it is a question of getting the roads built. Every section of this state is raising money, and appealing to the state, the nation, and different sources, for aid.

I am mighty glad the state highway commission is with us this evening. I want to congratulate them upon the splendid work they are doing and wait to assure them of my earnest support in their efforts to grid-iron Oregon with good highways.

I was talking with Honorable E. A. Booth in the Imperial Hotel in Portland, a few days ago. He had just received a telephone message from Klamath Falls stating that they had raised \$500,000 and asked the Highway Commission to match it. They expect, my friends, to raise \$1,000,000 more.

Umatilla County has recently bonded itself for \$1,000,000 for good roads. A dollar will go much farther in Umatilla County than it will in Linn County, so far as constructing good roads is concerned.

Marion County is planning to build 150 miles in her borders at a cost of something like \$1,000,000.

Certainly it is time for Linn County to get in the procession and do her part. This is a great county; it is a rich county; it is out of debt. Every dollar we put into roads will bring us back ten or twenty, to say nothing of the convenience and benefit it will be for the people to travel about and get acquainted, and have a better understanding of this old county and state.

The material for building is here at hand.

Linn County is larger than Rhode Island; and almost the same size as Delaware. It has an area of 2,243 square miles; - or 1,433,520 acres. Its population is 25,685, or 11.4 to the square mile.

It has a wealth of \$31,000,000 assessed valuation. The standing timber in Linn County covers 753,310 acres of which 300,000 are owned by the Government.

They are going to build roads all over this state. We are going to be taxed to ascertain extent for this to be done. A million dollars is a mere bagatelle. It is a very small amount of money as compared to our resources, and the advantages to be received from the proper expenditure of the same.

Why not take advantage of it, get all the outside money we can, and build roads for ourselves?

Let me remind you, my fellow citizens, that Linn County has not, in my judgment, received what she ought to receive from this splendid state, but I am not here to blame any one for it, or to criticize, but simply to call your attention to a few cold facts.

Benton county secured the Agricultural college, where hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent every year. Lane county secured the state Uni-

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Linn County must raise \$518,275. Her bank resources are \$4,959,500. It should be no trick to convert less than one-ninth of her banking resources into Government Bonds to help pay for successfully finishing the job "over there."
Yes, he's watching YOU.