

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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MOVEMENT FOR GOOD ROADS.

NEVER BEFORE HAVE the citizens of Linn county been aroused to the importance of the building good hard surface roads as now. They seem to have awakened to the fact that the motive power of a team is prescribed by the worst mudhole or the steepest hill, which it will be required to negotiate when drawing a load from point to point. This condition there seems to be a general disposition to remove. The people seem to be fully aware, that the hitherto few shovels of earth or an occasional load of gravel will not suffice to place the roads in condition, to sustain the heavy traffic required of them at the present time. Hence the present agitation and the organization of the "Good Roads League."

Last Friday the NEWS editor was present at a meeting of the Good Roads League, at Albany. There were present representatives from all parts of the county. One could not help noticing the earnestness of purpose of every delegate present. Everyone seemed willing and desirous that a sufficient tax should be levied, so that the building of permanent hard surface roads could be undertaken at once. When the meeting was called to order by the president, Judge Duncan, it was seen at once, that there was lack of program or method of procedure. Secretary Stewart, however, submitted a sort of program which, by common consent, was adopted as the program for the day's session.

As might have been expected, there was about as many different opinions with reference to the various subjects relative to road matters, as there were persons present. But general discussion soon brought to the fore the practical and retired it is impractical methods and plans proposed.

The main subject called out was the fact that a special local road tax did not nor could not reach what was required to make the roads generally good throughout the county. It was shown that some of the road districts which contained the largest amount of taxable property had, comparatively, but a few miles of road; while others with a less assessable property had a large road mileage. After considerable discussion it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the court, that the present special levy of one mill be continued and that two mills be added to the levy for the general fund, to be expended in road building under the general direction of the court. A resolution was also adopted in regard to the future meetings of the League, that they be held at various points in the county, that they might be attended by the people in general. The advantage of placing the largest portion of the road fund under the control and direction of the county court is easily seen. Large bodies of timber land, the railroads road bed and the property of large corporations in general, lie in but a comparatively few road districts. If a tax sufficient to meet the requirements of districts other than those mentioned above, providing the present special road tax levy plan should be adhered to, there would be more money raised in some districts, than could be wisely expended; while in others there would be a scarcity. By placing two-thirds of the road moneys at the order of the court, then appropriations can be made in proportion to the road mileage, easy or difficult construction considered.

The importance of the court's selection of experienced, practical road builders as supervisors, was another feature urged. The election of supervisors by each precinct was discussed at some length, but such a change was regarded inadvisable; seeing that the court would have the responsibility of expending two-thirds of the road funds, it should have control of those in the immediate charge of the expenditure.

The features of our road laws which have been found to be defective and other matters relating to roads which is a matter of legislative consideration, were referred to briefly.

The outcome of the Good Roads League meetings is sure to be a better and more extensive method of road building and a more general arousing of the people to the importance of roads servicable to the needs of the people in both winter and summer.

POINTER FOR THE ASSESSOR.

ASSESSOR D. B. McKNIGHT should make note of the following fact, when he makes his next year's assessment for purposes of taxation: A sale of five timber claims, of 160 acres each, is in progress and no doubt will be consummated, by a timber syndicate which has large holdings of timber. These claims are located on Thomas and Crabtree Creeks, where this syndicate owns several thousand acres. The offer to purchase made is \$5000 per claim or \$1 per thousand feet stumpage.

The present owners think the \$1 per thousand the better offer and, to ascertain the quantity of standing timber, they are now on their claims making estimates. They expect the claims to cruise from ten to twelve million feet each. This, at the stumpage offer, would net the owners ten to twelve thousand dollars per claim. This would give an average value of from \$32.50 to \$75.00 per acre. Nor are these claims considered exceptionally better than the average of claims adjoining, and the purchase price may be considered the cash value which timber syndicates place upon their holdings in Linn county.

The NEWS understands that timber lands are assessed at one-fourth of this value. Now as our farms are assessed well up to their absolute cash value, these timber holdings should be assessed in a like manner. At least they should not be assessed at a price less than what the syndicate is willing to pay without going to the trouble of cruising, which is \$50 per acre, or three times the present assessed value.

Now, as a matter of fact, by far the largest portion of these timber lands has cost the present holders but a trifle. They are being held, not for homes, but for speculative purposes and, as a matter of justice, should be taxed at their full cash value.

The same principle should apply in the assessment of our railroads. There is not a mile of railroad road-bed of the main lines in Oregon, but what is valued at \$50,000 or more, yet the railroads on the assessors books are not placed at above one-half that amount.

Speculative timber land holders, railroads and corporation property in general should not be made a special target by the assessor but they should be taxed relatively as high as are our farms. Even the railroads will admit that this would be just.

An effort will be made, it is said, to have enacted a law at the coming session of the legislature, to provide for a comprehensive inspection of dairies and the methods of handling cream, throughout the state. Most people are careful and clean in the handling of their milk product; but it is a matter of common knowledge, that some people are very careless and even filthy in caring for their dairy herds and milk. This dirty milk pollutes the whole milk supply in proportion that the amount of filthy milk bears to the whole. As a matter of justice to the butter using public these careless milkers should be required to be clean; or have their milk product excluded from the market. The only way this desired result can be brought about, is through a proper and thorough inspection. The inspecting officer should have power to compel dairy barns, herds, separators, cream cans etc. to be kept clean. A cow covered with filth cannot be milked without the milk becoming polluted to a more or less extent. As a matter of fact, Oregon butter is below standard because of filthy cream. We have pure food laws. Let us have a pure milk law as well. No one will object, except the filthy and they should be compelled to be clean.

If the reform legislation now on our statute books is to be retained and kept free from any and all destructive amendments at the coming session of the legislature, it is most important that State-ment No 1 members organize both branches and control the important committees. To insure this control the NEWS believes that the Democratic members should assist the Republican Statement members in securing this organization. It is of vastly more importance that our Initiative and Referendum and our Direct Primary laws shall not be tampered with in a mischievous manner than it is to maintain strict partisan lines in the organization.

Senator Fulton sought to have President Roosevelt recognize his claims to the election of United States senator to succeed himself and failed. Governor Chamberlain did not seek the President's influence in his behalf; but President Roosevelt publicly recognized the Governor's right to the election to that office, by our legislature next month. Now it is in order for the Oregonian and that coterie of peacut politicians down in Multnomah to go into their holes, on this subject and pull the hole in after them.

The annual trouble commenced in Washington D. C. last Monday; but President Roosevelt with his "big stick" will, probably, be able to maintain a proper equilibrium.

President Roosevelt is now after the New York World with his "big stick." Editor Pulitzer will, probably, be able to hold his own, in the bout.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

Accident or Suicide, Which?

It is not generally known that some of our friends up Crabtree way, have a penchant for the breeding, raising and training of gamecocks. Yet such is the case and Wm Neal is said to take great pride in his pedigreed game fowl. While Neal is a superior breeder of gamecocks, he does not know a little bit about training a bird for the cockpit. But as his neighbor Joe Poindexter is a veteran trainer of gamecocks, his ignorance in this respect, is not a serious handicap.

One of Neal's flock of gamecocks was a very handsome attractive bird. His fine form and brilliant plumage was the pride of the barnyard. He was, also, very pugnacious. His fighting quality was such Mr. Neal placed him in the hands of Trainer Poindexter, that he might become the future victor over any and all comers in the way of gamecocks.

This handsome young rooster bore the enthusiastic cognomen of "Davilena." When Davilena's training had been about completed, another neighbor, Geo Griffin, in passing by saw the bird. Mr Griffin being quite a gamecock fancier himself, resolved to become the owner of Davilena. But Mr. Neal would not part with Davilena, at any price. But one night but a few weeks ago, when Mr. Griffin returned to his home, he found Davilena in his buggy. Just how this event happened deposit is not known. But as Mr. Griffin had secured his heart's desire, he did not feel disposed to question how it was brought about.

Davilena, however, did not like his new home. He pined for his old quarters at the Neal household. He absolutely refused to be domestic and raised his new owner no little anxiety. But a few days seemed to remedy this matter and Davilena was behaving himself again. Mr Griffin commenced talking "cockfight" with his neighbors; but as their prize bird had disappeared they fought shy of making a match. In the meantime Davilena prospered and all of his old pugnacious nature returned. He was ready to meet any rooster in the arena. One day the rim of a rain barrel looked good to Davilena and he was soon perched thereon from whence he issued a challenge to any cock within hearing. The barrel was partly filled with water. Davilena saw his image in the water. He at once prepared for war. So did the image. The battle was on, Davilena soon became a source of grief instead of pride to his new owner. Davilena has fought his last battle. But friend Griffin cannot make up his mind, whether the death is an accident or a suicide. Perhaps this story will assist him to a conclusion.

TEN NIGHTS IN A BAR ROOM.

At the public school auditorium on Tuesday evening, Dec. 22, 1908.

COST OF CHARACTERS

Simple Sketches	John Stricha
Simon Lade	Prof. L. W. Reed
Joe Morgan	Ivan Miller
Frank Slade	Lester Arnold
Harvey Green	Rolla Shelton
Mr. Romaine	Archie Powell
Willie Hammond	Chas. Balseweid
Mrs. Slade	Edna Myers
Mrs. Morgan	Beatrice Devaney
Mary Morgan	Maud Anderson
Admirable Cartright	Bertelle Bronner

The play consists of 5 acts and 10 scenes, is replete with interest and is instructive from start to finish.

Admission, Reserved seats 5c, ordinary seats 25c, children under 12 15c. Tickets for sale at E. C. Peery's drug store.

Music by Wesley Orchestra.

Doors open at 7 p. m., curtain raises 7:30 p. m.

Voted a 10-Mill Levy.

Just a bare half-dozen taxpayers attended the special school meeting last Monday afternoon. Voters have become so accustomed to neglect school meetings that one is apt to think the people care but little about school matters. But they do care. If the people of Seio were not satisfied that our school board would do what was for the best interests of the school and school district, the school meeting would be liberally attended.

For several days it was commonly understood that a 10-mill levy would be added for—that it was needed to care for the obligations of the district, and to care for the school and school property. These knowing what would probably be done and being satisfied that such action was for the best interests of the district, most of our voters allowed the matter to pass from their minds and failed to be on hand. The result would have been the same if all the taxpayers in the district had been present.

Cedar Post and Shakes.

I am prepared to furnish cedar posts, cedar or fir shakes in any quantity desired f. o. b. at Detroit. Anyone desiring material of this kind will do well to correspond with me. C. D. MATHREY, Detroit, Oregon.

Hickory Bark Cough Remedy, made by the Hickory Bark Remedy Co., of Salem, Ore., guaranteed to be pure; guaranteed to cure your cold or cough, if not, guaranteed to make a friend of you. For sale by E. C. Peery, Seio, Ore., and first-class dealers everywhere.

SALE

—ON—

Mens' and Boys' overcoats
Mens' and Boys' suits
Ladies, Waists, Ladies' Kimonos
Ladies' and Misses' coats
Ladies' and Misses' skirts
Ladies' Knitted Golf jackets

Now is the time to buy yourself a Xmas present.

Sale Commences MONDAY, DEC. 14-'08
Closes Christmas Eve.

In addition to the Big Cut in Prices we will give away

\$10.00 in gold

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT For Someone

Every dollar's worth of merchandise you buy of us during this sale, gives you that many chances on the \$10.00 gold piece which will be raffled off Christmas Eve at 8 O'clock.

Regular Price Charged for Goods Sold on Time.

TOP PRICES PAID FOR POULTRY

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