

The Santiam News.

Politically Independent.

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T. L. DUGGER
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD ROADS.

OREGON FARMERS, lumbermen and others who have large use for the public highways, have so long been accustomed to having our highways unusable for freighting purposes one-half the year, that they base all of their business calculations upon the handicap of unusable roads for half the year.

For this reason the farmer arranges to do all of his hauling during the season when the roads are in the best condition for the transportation of heavy loads. The lumberman, whose plant is not situated upon a railway line, makes calculations for a cessation in the marketing of lumber during the six months when the roads are unusable. We repeat that these conditions have existed from the beginning, and form the basis of business calculations by all who use the public highway for freighting purposes.

Very few farmers, mill men and others, ever figure just what this handicap of six months bad roads is costing them. As before stated, the condition is regarded by them as a permanent one, and one that is, practically, unremediable. But is it? In nearly every locality can be found short portions of road beds that are, practically, as servicable in winter as in summer. May not these portions of all-the-year roads be extended until, eventually, they meet and a continuous all-the-year road to market results? Did you ever estimate just what the winter roads have cost the Willamette Valley farmer? The average grain farmer, in the past, has marketed 1000 bushels of grain yearly. The custom has been to store this grain in warehouse or mill at harvest time, in order that the best possible price may be obtained. Usually 4 cents per bushel is charged for this storage, or \$40 for the crop. Let us suppose that, instead of paying this \$40 for storage, a like amount had been expended by each farmer, year after year, for the past 30 or 40 years on the roads. Don't you, at once, perceive that all of our country roads would have been veritable turnpikes years ago? Then there is another element of cost not yet considered. The wear of horses and vehicles is great. Rough, stony and rutty roads diminish the average lifetime of the farm wagon fully one-half and the drawing power of the horse a like amount. That is to say, the load in pounds, must be decreased one-half because of bad roads.

When the users of public highways consider these disputable facts, of all taxpayers, he should be most willing for road improvement at public expense; because the tax is collected from the non-user as well as himself.

But wheat raising for commercial purposes will soon give way to the raising of other commercial crops which, from their nature, cannot be placed in storage. Milk, fruit, potatoes, lumber, etc., cannot be placed in storage like wheat, to await a satisfactory price. When they leave the producers' hands, like stock products they must either pass to the dealer or the consumer. Hence, the almost vital necessity of having the road to market in a usable condition at all times of the year.

The present season will see a larger amount of money placed at the disposal of supervisors, than ever before. It should be their purpose to commence the building of permanent roads. That is to say, they should construct, say the roads which are used the most, in such a manner that they will require but little attention for years to come. Roads leading to and from the market centers, should be the first constructed; for in road building, as in all other public enterprises, the greatest good for the greatest number, should maintain. For this reason road construction, as a rule, should commence at the town and work outward.

Complete the road in hand, so far as possible, in a manner so that the portion constructed will not enter into the plan of another year.

Thus, year after year, the good roads can be added to until, finally, roads usable in winter as well as summer for heavy traffic will be at every farm door. Road supervisors, or those who superintend the construction of roads, should prepare themselves, as thoroughly as possible, for the work in hand, in order that every dollar expended, should

be applied in the way that will do the most good. To this end, he should supply himself with a sufficiency of road literature and visit and consult successful road builders. Remember, that while your methods and plans may be good, if there are better ones you want them. Moreover, when you were appointed road supervisor, the court reposed special confidence in your judgement as a road man, and expected that you would give especial study to the matter and, also, that you would use every available means to enlarge your knowledge about the matter. The court usually appoint farmers as supervisors, for the reason that they, who use the roads most, should be the most interested in the matter. They should also, remember that the limit of load for a team, is what it can draw over the worst places.

Let us hope that every supervisor will become awakened to the importance of the position he holds; that upon him, in a large degree, depends the prosperity and progress of the country; that upon him rests the responsibility of whether home-seekers select a home in his district or not and, finally, that the office of road supervisor, from the farmer's financial viewpoint, is of more importance than that of governor.

GEORGE E. CHAMBERLAIN.

LAST MONDAY MORNING the resignation of Governor George E. Chamberlain was handed by his private secretary, Mrs. Shelton, to Secretary of State Benson, to take effect immediately.

Governor Chamberlain has been Oregon's chief executive for six years and six weeks. In many respects he has been the best governor that Oregon has ever had. He has convinced the people of Oregon, that he was true to their interests and that, in so far as he was able, he has stood between the extravagant acts of the legislature and the vaults of the state treasury.

To him, the people owe the revival of the state's claim to ten per cent. of the net earnings of the Oregon City locks, which his predecessors in office had allowed to default, without making any effort to collect.

To Governor Chamberlain, more than to any other officer, is due the fact that the state school lands are now selling at \$7 per acre; whereas they had always been sold for \$1.25 per acre by his predecessors.

While it is true that Governor Chamberlain may have done some things as governor to which some of our citizens have objected, in the main, his public acts have been such that they could be and were applauded by all right thinking citizens regardless as of their political sentiments.

That the Governor has faults, none will deny; but his eminently good qualities; his broad statesmanlike views upon all public questions; his enmity towards the smallest evidence of graft, and his philanthropic views with reference to the conduct of the state's penal and eleemosynary institutes, causes one to forget or overlook the fact that he has faults.

George E. Chamberlain made good as governor of Oregon. For that matter, he has made good in every public office he has held, legislator, prosecuting attorney, attorney general, for two terms, again prosecuting attorney for Multnomah county for two terms and two terms as governor. In any and all of these positions he has not been found wanting. He has ever been true to the people's interests.

Having been tried and found true in many political positions, why may we not expect him to fill the measure of United States senator in every particular? The NEWS predicts that Senator Chamberlain will be regarded as one of, if not the best senator in congress that Oregon has ever had. Nor do we expect to be disappointed.

Being energetic, absolutely honest and much superior to many men whom we have sent to congress, there is no reason why he shall not become a senator of large influence and one of whom Oregon will be proud.

Furthermore, he enjoys a distinction never before accorded an American citizen. He is a Democrat, yet was elected senator by Republican votes. The NEWS wishes to say to those Republican legislators who voted for George E. Chamberlain under protest, you will live to see the day when you will be proud that you voted for him. Senator Chamberlain we, figuratively, doff our hat to you and we expect you to give a good account of yourself as a member of the most eminent body of lawmakers in the world.

Oh no, Brother Oregonian, the Scio Fair did not lose out. On the contrary, it received a continuous appropriation of \$1000 annually with which to pay premiums. Our criticism of the legislature was caused by the extravagant notions of the House members, from Multnomah county mostly, who seemed willing to join the normal school "push" in filching money from the state treasury for any old purpose. The NEWS concedes that a number of very meritorious measures were enacted into laws; but there were a large number of appropriation bills which passed the House, which it ought to never have, even, tolerated. The Fair bills, we believe are worthy. They encourage better farming and the raising of better stock. Anyway, in the last twenty years Linn county has paid into the state treasury over \$700,000 and never received back but \$1500, until this appropriation. No other county can make such a showing.

EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

The following letter from Supt. Jackson explains itself:

Albany, Or. Feb. 24, 09.
Dear Mr. Editor: We are preparing to hold an Educational meeting at Scio in connection with the Grange, Saturday, March 13th. This meeting promises to be one of the greatest of its character ever held in this part of the County. The plan is to have not to exceed two selections of either songs or declamation from each of the various schools in the vicinity, also, map drawing as indicated in this letter. Many subjects of special importance will be discussed. State Supt. Ackerman, Hon. J. J. Johnson, lecturer of the state grange, and Senator M. A. Miller will address the public. The grange will take an active part in assisting in the program and in having a public dinner and a profitable time. I trust that we may have your co-operation as the amount expected from each school is not much, however, very essential to the success of the occasion. The prizes to be awarded are as follows:

Declamation: (a) For best declamation by pupils above the 6th grade \$1.50; (b) For best declamation by pupils below the 6th grade \$1.00.

Songs: (a) first prize for best class song, U. S. flag (8 by 5 feet) (b) first prize for best solo, U. S. flag (8 by 5 feet).

Maps: (a) Best map of the U. S. by pupils above the 6th grade \$1.50; (b) Best map of Oregon by pupils below the 6th grade \$1.00.

If you can possibly take part in this program please let me know at your very earliest convenience, however, you can present your part of the program to me on the day of the meeting. I shall have printed programs for distribution containing all announcements except the part from each school which will be announced the day of the meeting. Please have your school represented and thereby encourage a movement that is intended for mutual benefit. All persons attending are expected to assist in the matter of having a public dinner.

Yours very truly,
W. L. Jackson.
(Copy of a letter sent to each teacher in the vicinity of Scio).

THE NEW CABINET.

Mr. Taft's Cabinet, completed with the election of Mr. MacVeagh, follows:
Secretary of State—Philander C. Knox of Pennsylvania.
Secretary of the Treasury—Franklin MacVeagh, of Illinois.
Secretary of War—Jacob M. Dickinson, of Tennessee.
Attorney-General—George W.ickersham, of New York.
Postmaster-General—Frank H. Hitchcock, of Massachusetts.
Secretary of the Navy—George von Meyer, of Massachusetts.
Secretary of the Interior—Richard A. Ballinger, of Washington.
Secretary of Commerce and Labor—James Nagel, of Missouri.

It takes about all of everybody's income and everything he can make and save to pay his taxes; and means of support must be pinched out in some way, while the tax-gatherer is being satisfied or afterwards. It wouldn't be so bad if the taxpayers got the worth of their money. But they don't. Sixty per cent is frittered away. Officials get it, or it is wasted in ways that lead to no results. An organization for conservation of the revenues is the first duty of city, county and state. Under the present system most of them are wasted.—Oregonian.

Albany seems to be undergoing considerable of a boom at the present time, while there, last Friday, we noticed two brick blocks in active construction and quite a large number of residences as well. The First National bank will soon commence the erection of a brick building on Second street to be occupied by the new savings bank which the First National will establish.

R. SHELTON

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