

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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MAKE CONDITIONS FAVORABLE

THE NEWS feels confident that every citizen of Scio would be glad to see our town and vicinity develop. They would like to see property increase in value, as is the case in neighboring towns. They would like to have direct railroad connection, the construction of a large sawmill and other industries, to have our streets and public highways improved, to have all property owners remove all shacks and unsightly buildings or the old ones painted and made more attractive and our sidewalks placed in good condition.

All of these desired improvements will cost money and to bring them all about immediately would create too great a hardship upon impecunious property owners. But they can be brought about gradually without causing a hardship to any one.

While some property owners will place their properties in a respectable condition, keep their fences and sidewalks in repair voluntarily, others will not spend a nickel in improvement until necessity drives them to it. What is true in the care of property in town, is true of the property in the country and, in a larger sense, of public property in both town and country which depend upon voluntary contributions of our citizens. Hence, the only just and equitable method in which public improvements can be accomplished, is through the medium of taxation. Then the parsimonious citizen can be made to shoulder his share of the public burden.

It is a fact that some property owners, whose properties are located near our city boundary, expect to and do receive all of the advantages in the way of lights, water and fire protection, which property owners within the city limits receive, yet do not and are unwilling to bear a just proportion of the expense of these conveniences and protection. What is true in this regard in the city, is true of our public roads. There are a few people who desire the benefits of good roads; to travel on good roads, and to enjoy the enhanced value to their properties which good roads bring, yet are not willing to bear their portion of the burden of expense, if they can avoid it.

This spirit becomes manifest whenever a public enterprise, of any character is undertaken, and it is manifest whenever any semmi-public manufacturing concern is under consideration. Such men are a block to any town or community. They desire all the good things which are called "development" in a community, yet are unwilling to contribute their just portion of the cost. They are opposed to any public improvement, unless it contributes to their immediate personal benefit. Such citizens are a detriment to any community in which they have elected to locate. Such a community is deserving of pity and, unfortunately,

there are some of these undesirable citizens in almost every community. They screen their selfish stinginess behind a false conception of conservatism. Usually they will do nothing of a public spirit nature, yet are willing to reap personal benefit from what others do. They are receivers of an unearned increment which they do not deserve.

Now, if we want to beautify our town and make it inviting to the visiting stranger, and if we want convenient and profitable improvements, both private and public, we must first create the conditions through which they can be accomplished. If we desire good roads, we must provide the money with which to build them and place the expenditure thereof in the hands of a competent road builder. If we want good streets and sidewalks, we must place the power in the hands of our city council to enforce their construction. If we want our town to grow, we must extend the city limits, so that growth is possible.

We know, as individuals, that if we want a new house or the old one improved, we must first provide the money to cover the expense and it is just as true of a public enterprise which will add to both our profit and convenience. We must make conditions favorable to those who will build them.

To accomplish these public results, there must be a unanimity of action on the part of the people. Yet our town and community cannot—must not be held back because there are a few people who think more of their dollars than they do of public comforts and conveniences. And these few people—mossbacks—know that public improvements and development of our town and community, will enhance the value of their properties. We can only infer that they desire the increase of value, but want their neighbors to bear the burden of expense which will create the increase.

The fact of the business is, a large majority of the people of Scio and vicinity, desire that our town and community shall keep pace with the development and progress of our neighboring towns and communities and they are going to bring these conditions about, regardless of the kicks of objectors. It will be done in an orderly and legal manner and so gradual that the expense will not be overburdensome to anyone. But it will be done and, we believe, the coming year will see a good commencement.

Our county court should have an itemized account of public expenditures published in at least three newspapers of the county, every month. The NEWS is not insinuating that there is anything crooked in the conduct of the county affairs, but the people would feel safer if publicity was given of the procedure of the court monthly. Honest men do not object to publicity. It is only when there is something which it is not desired that the public should know about, that secrecy maintains. Nor can the average citizen go to the county seat and examine the books for himself. It would be less expensive to each taxpayer to pay his share of the expense of publication.

The Oregonian contends that the late tax amendment is next door to the adoption of the Single Tax theory of taxation. Possibly this is true. But the NEWS has understood, so far, that the tax amendment only conveyed the authority to the people of each county to arrange its own method of assessment and collection of taxes—a sort of Home Rule system of taxation. We still think, before the Single Tax becomes operative in any county, the system must be adopted by the people at a regular or special election.

The standpat or old guard element of the republican party is a gang of schemers, sure. Defeated at the polls, they now propose a Board of Control to, practically, exercise complete control of the various state institutions, which would include the appointment of the officers thereof. If these hungry office holders cannot win what they want fairly at the polls, they are willing to resort to trickery to accomplish their purpose. It is a treacherous crowd.

Congressman Champ Clark, who is slated to be the speaker of the Sixty-second House of Representatives makes a statement of consistency, when he states that he will favor the selection of the Committee on Rules by the open House, at the next session. This was the fight made and won against Cannonism last winter. Mr. Clark thinks what is sauce for the goose, should be sauce for the gander.

When you have a cold get a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It will soon fix you up all right and will ward off any tendency toward pneumonia. This remedy contains no opium or other narcotic and may be given as confidently to a baby as to an adult. Sold by all dealers.

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The Telegram is a superb metropolitan evening newspaper, publishing the full leased wire reports of the Associated Press, furnishing all the news of the Pacific Northwest and the world. Its market reports are unexcelled. Its sports are up to date and written in good style. Saturday it runs a special magazine section and a four page comic, both in colors.

Really, Saturday's issue is equal to any metropolitan Sunday. In 1911 The Telegram will continue to be the greatest paper in the state. No one can afford to be without it.

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