

The Santiam News

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L. W. CHARLES

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COUNTRY ROADS

With the approach of spring it
time to begin to plan and think
for a year of work for better
roads about the country districts.

While great progress has been
made in the direction of street
improvement and in main arteries
of highway travel from town to
town the general improvement
of country roads proceeds at a
very slow rate.

One great reason therefor is
the temporary character of so
much of the work. The road
officials are too anxious to make
a record that seems economical
for the time being. It is cheaper
for this year to scrape a lot of
mud out of the gutters than to
cart on gravel or crushed rock
and dig out the gutters so as to
drain off the water.

Slipshod repairs are very costly
in the long run. They place
a permanent tax on all who have
produce to get to market. They
give the country district a black
eye with a great host of the public
that are traveling by automobile.
They discourage the home-
seekers who may be thinking of
locating.

The proper care of water along
the highways is one of the secrets
of permanent work. A road with
ample gutters built with enough
of a slope so that the water will
run off, will last many years,
while an imperfectly drained
road goes to pieces in a hard
shower or under the storms and
frost of winter.

The time has come when un-
scientific patching of country
roads ought to cease. The farmer
needs a good road a great deal
more than the pleasure driving
automobilists. To the latter a
bad road means simply a little
discomfort. To the farmer it
means many hours of time wasted
while he draws his loads through
the sloughs of mud. It means
that he must keep more horses
and that his beasts of burden
will wear out quicker. Let every
farmer insist that the road officials
of his neighborhood do
modern scientific work.

Lebanon will hold its annual
Strawberry festival and Rose
Show about June 1. The cele-
bration will be a two-day affair
and there will be an industrial
exhibit in connection with it.
This, annually, is Lebanon's
biggest local event.

An agricultural club has been
formed at Burns, the first organi-

zation of the kind in that part of
Oregon. The club will discuss
agricultural subjects, encourage
modern farming methods and af-
ford an opportunity for the ex-
change of ideas among farmers.

Wanted—An editor who can
read, write and argue politics,
and at the same time be religious,
funny, scientific and historical at
will, write to please everybody,
know everything without asking
or being told, never make mis-
takes, always have something
good to say about everybody else,
live on wind and make more
money than enemies. For such
a man a good opening will be
made (in the graveyard.)

THE NAVAL "SWEATBOX."

An Old Time Method of Torture That
Lincoln Abolished.

On one of Lincoln's trips to For-
tress Monroe on the steamer Hart-
ford in 1863 his attention was di-
rected to a narrow door, bound with
iron, the use of which he was an-
xious to learn.

"What is this?" he asked.
"Oh, that is the 'sweatbox,' was
the reply. "It is used for refractory
and insubordinate seamen. A man
in there is subjected to steam heat
and has very little ventilation. It
generally brings him to terms very
quickly."

Lincoln's curiosity was aroused.
"This," he said to himself, "is treat-
ment to which thousands of Ameri-
can seamen are probably subjected
every year. Let me try for myself
and see what it really is."

Taking off his hat, for he was
several inches over six feet in height,
he entered the inclosure, which he
found to be a little more than three
feet in length or width. He gave
orders that at a signal from himself
the door should be immediately
opened. It was then closed and the
steam turned on.

He had been there hardly three
minutes before the signal was given.
President Lincoln had experienced
enough of what was then regarded
as necessary punishment for Ameri-
can seamen. There was very little
ventilation, and the short exposure
to the hot and humid air had almost
suffocated him.

Turning to Secretary Welles of
the navy department the president
ordered that no such inclosure as
the "sweatbox" should ever after
that be allowed on any vessel flying
the American flag.

It was not an hour after this or-
der had been given before every
sailor on every ship in Hampton
roads had heard of it. The effect
was most remarkable on the older
sailors, many of whom had them-
selves experienced the punishment
of the sweatbox. Some of them
wept from joy.

But the good results of this act
of President Lincoln were not con-
fined to the American navy. Great
Britain, France, Germany and other
European countries heard that the
sweatbox had been abolished in
America as inhuman. One and all
of these nations in turn fell into
line, and today the sweatbox is not
to be found on any vessel flying
the flag of a civilized nation through-
out the world.—Washington Star.

Paper Money.

Paper money is said to have had
its origin in China in the year 806,
when the government issued it to
relieve a financial stringency, re-
ceiving coin in return, which en-
abled it to pay off outstanding obli-
gations. In the museum of St. John's
college in Shanghai is a paper bill
worth 1,000 cash, the equivalent of
50 cents American money, which
was issued by the first Ming emperor
(Hungwu A. D. 1368-99). It is
nearly two feet long and one foot
wide, printed on mulberry bark pa-
per, and is a dark slate color.

Hard Luck.

A weary and hungry looking
tramp in an English town entered
a shop and bought a pennyworth of
bread. As he was going out he
noticed a tub labeled "Treachle."
"I'm in luck!" he thought as he
dropped the piece of bread into the
tub. "I'm sorry, gov'ner," he said
to the shopkeeper who was standing
near. "I've dropped my bread in
your treacle." "Treachle?" cried the
shopkeeper. "That ain't treacle—
that's tar!"

Not True to Life.

The son of a man who had been
a great philanthropist welcomed a
visitor to his office. The talk turned
on the career of the father of
the young man.

"It was a great blow to every-
body—my father's death," lamented
the youth. "By the way, here's the
last portrait painted of him."

He led the visitor to where hung
on the wall a large portrait of the
dead philanthropist, depicting him
as standing erect with his right
hand in his pocket.

"A fine piece of work," said the
visitor grimly, "but it's not true to
life. Nobody ever saw your father
with his hand in his own pocket."—
Popular Magazine.

New Light on Socrates.

The misunderstanding of words
frequently causes strange answers.
A child who had been taught that
Socrates had a wife who was un-
pleasant to him and that the great
philanthropist drank hemlock, when
asked the cause of his death, re-
plied:

"Socrates died from an overdose
of wedlock."—Strand Magazine.

Natural Query.

A little slum child was enjoying
his first glimpse of country life.
The setting sun was gilding the
grass and roses of the old fashioned
garden, and on a little stool he sat
beside the farmer's wife, who was
plucking a chicken. He watched
the operation gravely for some
time. Then he spoke:

"Do yer take off their clothes
every night, lady?"—Youth's Com-
panion.

Why He Was Late

"What made you so late?"
"I met Smithson."
"Well, that is no reason why you
should be an hour late getting home to
supper."

"I know, but I asked him how he was
feeling and he insisted on telling me
about his stomach trouble."

"Did you tell him to take Chamber-
lain's Tablets?"
"Sure, that is what he needs." Sold
by all dealers.

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Wesely-Cain hall Sunday.

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better than Chamberlain's Liment.
Try it and see how quickly it gives re-
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