

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

Entered at the postoffice at Scio, Oregon as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION, IN ADVANCE \$1.25
AT END OF YEAR 1.50
SIX MONTHS .75

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ANENT GOOD ROADS AGAIN

The Benton Co. Courier, one of our newsy exchanges, in a late issue, saw proper to criticize a recent leading editorial published in The Tribune, which advocated a bond issue to improve our county roads, rather than to continue our present inefficient and wasteful system.

The Courier literally mopped the earth with The Tribune and, advanced argument which, to itself at least, annihilated any and all arguments favorable to bond issues for public improvements.

We conclude that The Courier is utterly opposed to bonds with which to build permanent roads, first, last and all the time and, is, therefore, opposed to building permanent roads; for, to undertake permanent road construction under our present tax levies, is simple nonsense.

The Courier indicates that it would favor building small sections of permanent roads yearly. But, as everyone knows, these small sections of road would be valueless to the travel, the people would not stand for it an instant. Anyway, every farmer would want this section of hard road before his door and, unless he was sure of getting it, would oppose the scheme.

But suppose the hard surface roads do cost \$8,000 to \$10,000 per mile? The interest cost on that sum would be not more than \$400 to \$500 per mile per year. Thus Linn county could hard surface 300 miles of road, yet the cost would be no greater than at the present. The profit would be to double the capacity of freighting teams which for the average farmer would amount to \$100 annually, say nothing about less damage to team and vehicle.

It is a fact, no great public enterprise has ever been undertaken in the past nor will be in the future, without borrowing money with which to finance it. Without selling bonds our great railway systems, steamship lines, great manufacturing enterprises, etc., would never have materialized. Rich as our government is, with unlimited authority to levy taxes, we borrowed money with which to build the Panama canal. Are not our public highways of as much immediate importance as any of the above? Will they not benefit the farmer's pocket as much as either? The Courier's piecemeal plan would favor a very few people at the expense of the many. It would give Farmers A, B, or C, hard surface roads to his market town and force D, E, and F, to continue plodding along in the mud. The Tribune would build for all alike. This can only be accomplished by borrowing money. Nor will hard surface roads wear out, as the Courier, suggests, in 12 to 15 years, if they are properly looked after. They should be as good at 15 years as when first built.

The Tribune is opposed, as a rule, to bond issues, unless the public, which pays the interest, receives commensurate benefit and, also, when a desirable and profitable to the people improvement can be secured in no other way. We must either abandon all thought of permanent highways, else face bonds to secure them. The people cannot provide enough money by any other plan.

We say again if Commissioner Butler's statement is correct concerning the cost per yard for hard surfacing, every county in the state of Oregon can well afford to build that class of roads, for they are cheaper in the end.

Citing our own Linn county again, at our present rate of road tax, we will have paid in 15 years \$2,250,000, and have but indifferent roads to bequeath to posterity together with an annual road tax of \$150,000 yearly. On the other hand, we would bequeath a good hard surface system, with a no greater road tax, with this difference: The tax would be used in paying interest on the bonds but we, the people of the present day would have the use of these roads for the 15 years.

We know that many people object to bequeathing a debt to posterity, but if we hand down better roads, more valuable farms and a higher state of civilization in general, we will not have been derelict in duty.

LET'S PULL TOGETHER

Everybody desires that Main street shall be improved. A large majority of the business men and residents along the street on the north side, have signed petitions asking the city council to make the necessary order. Some who have not signed the petitions, would like the street improved, but do not wish to bear the expense of doing it. Others, because they are opposed in a general way to the men who are agitating the matter and circulating the petitions.

Now why cannot we all drop any personal feeling we may have and work harmoniously for this greatly needed improvement? We all feel like apologizing to the stranger within our gates in the winter time, because of the muddy condition of our main thoroughfare. All would like to have it in better condition. It does not present our town in a favorable light to the homeseeker and has a depressing effect on the value of property as well.

We are told by parties who have ascertained the fact, that the cost per front foot will be \$1.50, making the cost per lot of 50 front feet but \$75. This, if desired, can be divided into five equal annual payments. Arranged in this manner, the cost will oppress no one and give us a surfacing, almost equal to paving.

The best and probably the most important feature of the improvement, will be the proper grading, so that the street will have drainage. Even with the street in its present condition, if properly drained, much of the winter mud would be avoided.

Surely when so greatly needed improvement is proposed, there should not be a dissenting voice. Indeed every property owner and the city council should give it an eager support. It will add to the value of the business and dwelling property along the street, to health, comfort and general appearance. It will show to the traveling public that Scio is not a dead one, but one of the enterprising progressive towns of the valley.

What a harmonious combination exPresident Roosevelt and Boss Barnes will form in the next republican national convention.

HOW ABOUT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY?

In talking about 1916 there are two things that may well be remembered: The democratic party is not dwindling and the republican party is not making good. The Philadelphia Record points out that the Democrats gained in last year's elections in thirty-one states and lost in ten states, and that Sweitzer with all his handicaps got the votes of 162,000 men in Chicago's mayoralty election last month, as compared with Wilson's 120,000 votes in 1912. Those who are fond of figures may note that the solid south (counting Missouri) has 165 electoral votes that Nebraska, Nevada and Oklahoma (democratic in 1908 and 1912) make it 186, and that Massachusetts, New York and Ohio add seven more than are necessary to elect. The situation in those three states is interesting: Massachusetts put in a democratic governor last year, but her heavily republican legislature has made a bad record for autocratic rule and standpat legislation. Republican Governor Wilson of Ohio is conducting what the Cleveland "Plain-Dealer" describes as "a program of unashamed office brokerage," "a reign of spoils unequaled in the recent history of the state." The work of the legislature "has been largely destructive." New York, where William Barnes is suing Colonel Roosevelt for libel, and the rags of machine government are being washed with a vengeance, is even worse—what with undoing the humane and progressive legislation of Hughes and Glynn, hasty office grabbing, and muddled finance. In all three of these states the republicans have harked back toward the old ways of fifteen or twenty years ago, they are not doing their work well, and they are not doing it in popular interest. The very charges they will make against the democrats at Washington will be urged against them in their own home towns. Senator Borah has already issued a plain warning to this effect. It may be that some unspecified republican can be elected offhand to the presidency in 1916 on a platform of privileged prosperity and machine politics, but the above facts had better be considered before making any prophecies.—Collier's Weekly.

Germany can yet do one thing which will stamp her as the most barbarous and cruel civilized nation of the earth. If she will simply drop bombs loaded with poisonous gases upon unfortified and undefended towns from her air ships, she will prove to the world that she believes any and all means by which she can injure an enemy people, is fair in war. She is rapidly losing every vestige of sympathy which neutral nations may have felt for her.

Sardonic.

"The greeting 'How are you?' doesn't seem to me to represent any sincere and sensible inquiry," remarked the man who thinks hard about trifles.

"That is true," replied Miss Cayenne. "When I meet several people I know I am always tempted to say 'why' instead of 'how.'"—Washington Star.

But the World Lies.

My son, I would have you speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and also I would have you keep in mind that the business of this world is mainly carried on by lying.—Michael Monahan in "At the Sign of the Van."

Most Populous Countries.

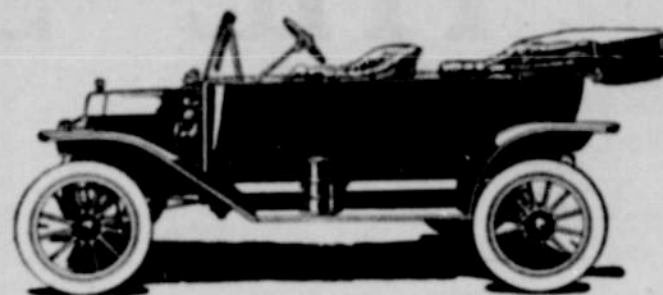
The ten countries with the largest populations are, in the order named, China, India, Russia, the United States, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Austria.

A Way Out.

"She's fond of children." "I'm glad to hear it. I'll leave mine with her the next time our club meets."—Detroit Free Press.

Husband, a maker of excuses: wife, a skeptic.—Smart Set.

Spring Time is FORD Time



1915 MODEL FORDS HAVE JUST ARRIVED

All new Fords are fully equipped, having electric lights and stream line body. A new idea is the Ford Buyers Profit Sharing Plan.

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For Further Particulars see Fred T. Bilyeu Ford Agent, Scio, Ore.

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