

# THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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

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*I pledge allegiance to my flag and  
the Republic for which it stands, one  
Nation, indivisible, with liberty and  
justice for all.*

## CHRISTMAS

The Christmas spirit of the present opening day of the holiday week is much different from the Christmas of one year ago. Then the Yankee boys of the United States were just getting to the battle front of the world's greatest hostile contest and no one knew when the human slaughter would cease, nor what would be the extent of the demands from the people would be to finance the war.

We knew we would win in the end, but we did not know the price in blood and treasure we would be required to pay. Consequently the people felt that they must husband every energy to meet the demands, financially and otherwise, whatever they might be. We were determined to comply with the emergency however great.

Now the end, let us hope for all time, has arrived. Hostilities have ceased and the terrific roar of great cannon and small arms is no longer heard. No longer is American blood moistening the soil of France and Belgium. The armistice is in progress and the peace congress is assembling to arrange terms of permanent peace. Our soldier boys are arriving back from the field of battle bearing the banner of victory, and will soon be at their respective homes. Because of this fact the high tension to which the war had brought the people is relaxed and the Christmas spirit is resuming the sway with a zest as in former times of prosperous peace.

For the origin of Christmas we must go back many centuries to when the human family was young; to the day when the people believed the earth to be a great flat table, and that the sun, in some manner, slipped back beneath the great table during the night, to be ready to rise the following morning to make the daily journey over the surface of the table.

The people of those primitive days were sun worshipers. They believed the sun was the greatest power for good of which they had knowledge. They could understand that the light and heat supplied by the sun caused vegetation to grow and mature, and which supplied them with the necessities to sustain life. Therefore they felt grateful to this beneficent power and worship was a natural sequence.

When the sun started on her journey south they knew and felt discomfort because of the lack of warmth and decay of vegetation. And when the sun reached the sou-

thern limit and started back northward, these primitive peoples rejoiced, were glad and gave gifts.

The sun reaches the southern limit December 21 and for two or three days seems to remain in about the same position. The journey north commences on or about the day we know as Christmas. Just what name these sun worshipers gave the day we cannot say.

Just when or how Christmas day became associated with the birth of Christ, is not clear. There is nothing in the bible which connects the two events. The circumstances, as given in the bible, surrounding the birth of Christ, indicate that the birth occurred in spring time, in April or May. Such history as we have of the event is indefinite.

But whatever may be the origin the day means much to Christian peoples. It is a day fraught with good cheer and the delights of the home coming of absent ones. It is a day of joy and expectation to children and young people and pleasant anticipation to we who are older.

To many who are gliding down the hillside of time Christmas harks us back to the time when we, too, were kiddies; when we, too, would hang up the stocking to receive such gifts as Santa Claus might bring us; when we, too, believed that Santa Claus was a verity and traveled from house to house in a sleigh pulled by a team of reindeer; when we, too, enjoyed with the zest of childhood the family or community Christmas tree.

Many of us may and probably will not be here when the Christmas of 1919 arrives. Many of our boys who went over to France to fight in the cause of liberty are absent, never to return in the body, to take a seat at the Christmas table. Yet such thoughts and absences should not sadden us. If the grim messenger calls us or our loved ones another Christmas, we will simply be obeying a law of nature, and our boy who marched away to France and has made the supreme sacrifice, has died that men may live and enjoy a freedom hitherto unknown in the world.

So let us banish all sad and gloomy thoughts, make others happy and be happy ourselves, for we have reason to rejoice. Men and women of all lands are freer to-day from the domination of tyrants and taskmasters, than they ever have been.

They, the downtrodden have great reason to rejoice and we should rejoice because a brighter and happier day for mankind has dawned.

## ROADS REQUIRE BIG MONEY

Anybody who has given the road question deep thought knows that it will require a large sum of money to place all of our roads in first class condition. He also knows that a vast majority of the people want, and the business of our county requires that these roads be constructed as quickly as possible. The placing of one thoroughfare, or parts of several, in good condition will not satisfy. All roads in the county, especially those which carry the main and heavy traffic, must be improved at the same time.

To do this not less than half a million dollars must be made available annually. There must be enough money to place all of the main roads leading to the business centers throughout the county under construction at the same time. Not less than 20 to 25 construction gangs, under proper engineering direction, would be necessary.

To provide \$500,000 annually would oppress the people too severely if direct taxation alone should be the means. People might vote this heavy burden for one year, but they would refuse to do so the next year. The man who had an im-

proved road between his farm and his market center might talk about continued road improvement in a grandiloquent manner, but he would sneak into the voting booth and vote against the tax. Men are selfish, and when their own wants are satisfied they care but little for the neighbor who must still plod to market in the mud.

Mr. Ewing's plan of slightly increasing the road tax would simply amplify our present method somewhat. His plan would make no more than \$300,000 available. Inaugurate a program with this sum only in sight and half the people of the county would raise a howl. The other half would smile but be ready to vote "no tax" as soon as their particular roads were improved.

So, in order to inaugurate a road plan which will satisfy the people, the work must be undertaken at one and the same time. Every road gang must have the necessary tools to make construction economical. Instead of having but one tractor gravel wagon train there should be 20, with crusher, etc.

Two to three million dollars will be necessary to improve all of the roads in Linn county and this sum should be expended in a period of not more than five years.

This large sum can be supplied only by bonding. If the bonds be made exempt from taxation they could be floated at par at 3 to 4 per cent interest. It would be necessary to sell them only as needed, or \$500,000 annually. The proposed plan of converting government bonds into road bonds, is merely a suggestion, with a view of creating a ready market for the road bonds.

Any plan, however, for providing this large sum of money would require legislative authority, otherwise the 2 per cent limitation, as now required by law, would intervene.

The question in a nutshell is: Do we want first class roads as quickly as they can be constructed? And are we willing to provide the money with which to build them? These questions answered affirmatively, the further question arises: How shall we raise the money?

To raise \$3,000,000 by direct tax would require a 10 per cent levy, or a 2 per cent levy for 5 years. Of course, if this money was absolutely and vitally necessary, we would raise it. But the people would be tremendously distressed. If instead, we distribute the assessment over a period of 30 to 40 years, then the roads can be built and the bonds paid off, and our present tax levy need not be increased more than 5 mills.

A bill should be prepared at the coming legislature and enacted into law authorizing the county to contract the indebtedness, and at the same time authorize the calling of a special election for the people to pass upon the measure. Only by a majority vote should the debt be contracted.

Dairying is soon to be the leading industry of Linn county people. Soon every farmer will have a herd of cows, large or small, as the case may be. With first class roads, usable in winter alike with summer, every farmer will be able to get his milk to condensery, creamery or cheese factory, as the case may be, at a saving of five or more cents per hundred. This saving in a year will amount to more than his taxes would be increased because of the bonds, to say nothing of the less cost to get his other produce to market.

Ivan Miller started Sunday for Sisters, going by way of Portland and The Dalles. He expects to assist his father in farming operations for a year or two, or until his brother is discharged from the U. S. marine corps.

## Out With Mann

If the republican party in the house wishes to blast its brightening prospects, it will elect James R. Mann as speaker. Throughout the difficult times which preceded declaration of war on Germany Mr. Mann was a heavy load for the republican party to carry, heavier than was senator La-Follette, for it could reasonably be argued that the latter spoke only for himself while Mr. Mann's position as leader of his party in the house was a plausible pretext for regarding him as the spokesman of republicans.

When President Wilson called Germany to account for the murder of 114 Americans on the Lusitania, Mr. Mann said it "would be the silliest thing for this country to permit itself to be drawn into the European war"; that, if anything should make war necessary, it "would have to be something more serious than has happened to date," that is, something more serious than wholesale murder of Americans.

He reluctantly supported increase of the Army on Jan. 25, 1916, and said: "I have much more fear in the end of war with England than I have with Germany."

He voted for the Mc Lemore resolution which would have renounced the right of Americans to travel by sea and in April 1916, he condemned the President for sending an ultimatum to Germany about the Sussex case and said:

"His attitude has not been neutral in any respect. I think this country should be neutral. His message today shows he expects, if he can, to force war on Germany."

"We have some complaints against Germany, although the president exaggerated them this morning. We have some complaints against Great Britain, but the president does not care about that. Where Germany has injured one ship carrying American commerce England has seized a dozen."

On February 13, 1917, after relations with Germany had been severed, after that country had tried to incite Mexico to war upon the United States, and while an American ship was being torpedoed every day or two, Mr. Mann proposed an amendment to the naval appropriation bill reaffirming the policy of settling disputes through mediation or arbitration, "to the end that war may be honorably avoided." That amendment could have no other effect at that juncture than to embarrass the president and to encourage Germany.

This man, whose recovery from illness strangely coincides with the signing of an armistice, now has the impudence to seek election as speaker and republicans actually consider him. In the gravest crisis in the nation's history since the civil war, he has shown utter lack of stalwart patriotism and far-seeing statesmanship, and he has always acted and spoken with both eyes and both ears open for the approval of his pro-German constituents. He has not spoken the sentiments of the republican party, he does not now represent the party as a whole, and his election as speaker would be hailed with joy only in Germany and in that Little Germany which elected him to congress. He would be one of the assets to which the Frankfurter Zeitung referred when it said:

"Our policy, both domestic and foreign, is not without assets, and can we not make use of them?"

Germany should have no opportunity to make use of Mann. Out with him—Oregonian.

The Scio Tribune \$1.50 the year.

## Liberty Bonds

If you must sell your bonds we will buy them.

J. M. & H. M. HAWKINS,  
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## Railroad Time Table

Arrival and Departure of Passenger  
Trains

Woodburn-Springfield Branch  
WEST SCIO

North 7:55 a.m.  
South 5:09 p.m.

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MUNKERS

To Albany 8:11 a.m.  
To Detroit 1:44 p.m.  
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