

# 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.

### \$10,000,000 IN BONDS.

It is believed the legislature will  
enact a \$10,000,000 bonding road  
bill at this session. This large  
amount of money with previous  
bond issues will exhaust the state's  
ability in bonding for we are told  
the state can issue but \$18,000,000  
of bonds without an enabling act  
by the people to do so.

When our state constitution was  
made it was not then known that  
roads would have to be builded ca-  
pable of sustaining an automobile  
and auto truck traffic. But these  
improved passenger and freight ve-  
hicles are with us and are here to  
stay. So roads must be constructed  
with firmness sufficient to sustain  
this class of traffic. Dirt or gravel  
roads, let them be constructed in the  
best possible manner, will not stand  
up under the heavy auto and truck.  
A hard and durable surfacing seems  
the only answer to the problem.

This is the problem that is now  
before our law makers. The con-  
stitutional inhibition, like the six  
per cent increase of taxation limit,  
looms up as a prohibitive; the people  
only have power to remove this in-  
hibition. Will they do it?

The method of enacting the \$6,-  
000,000 bonding law was not en-  
couraging to the people and the  
handling of the same so far does  
not inspire their confidence.

But with the shortcomings of the  
present state road commission as a  
sort of dear experience gained,  
which should serve as a monitor and  
guide, the legislature can perhaps  
frame a law by which a dollar's  
worth of road will be obtained for  
the dollar expended.

The Tribune is well aware that  
our legislature is composed of just  
men and one woman. They cannot  
be expected to be superwise. The  
salary is not sufficient to pay for  
that class of wisdom. They there-  
fore must not be expected to frame  
and enact a law which men techni-  
cally wiser than they will not get  
around in some way and who will  
not fail to take advantage of their  
opportunities. But The Tribune is  
well satisfied that our present legis-  
lative solons are more than men and  
a woman of ordinary intelligence  
and that it is their purpose to de-  
velop a method of road construction  
in which the interests of the taxpay-  
ers will be protected.

Our state road bonds should be  
gilt edged in their value. They  
should at least be sold for not less  
than par. The \$6,000,000 bond is-  
sue has been sold at a heavy dis-  
count and the people will be ex-

tremely fortunate if they get one-  
half of the proceeds of the sale of  
these bonds in actual road construc-  
tion. There has been a heavy over-  
head expense nevertheless our state  
road commission is composed of dol-  
lar a year men. There has been a  
heavy rakeoff in the bond sales and  
these undesirable by the people con-  
ditions must be made impossible in  
the proposed \$10,000,000 issue. The  
people are very willing to be taxed  
to become responsible for large  
bond issue but they must be guar-  
anteed against bond shavers and  
grafters. Therefore they will en-  
dorse a \$10,000,000 bond issue if  
such protection is given.

First: All road bonds the present  
legislature issues must be sold at  
their par values.

Second: Invite the present sal-  
aryless commission, composed of two  
lumbermen and a banker, we are  
informed, to retire; then appoint a  
commission of practical road build-  
ers, pay them reasonable salaries  
and place them under bonds that  
they will deliver the goods.

Third: Require the proceeds of  
these bonds to be expended in some  
sort of an equitable manner in the  
several counties of the state.

If the people can become satisfied  
that they in the various counties  
will be given their equitable portion  
of the proceeds of these bonds to be  
expended under the immediate di-  
rection of the commission, else to be  
turned over to the respective coun-  
ties to be expended in road build-  
ing, they will endorse the \$10,000,-  
000 issue, not otherwise.

What the people want is results.  
They have paid enough for graft  
and inexperience. They now want  
to get down to brass tacks. They  
want a dollar's worth of road for  
the dollar they pay out; not in some  
other part of the state but in their  
home counties.

So gentlemen and lady of the leg-  
islature give us a road bonding law  
that will hold water and the people  
will support it.

### CRITICIZING THE PRESIDENT.

President Wilson's political en-  
emies, almost to a man, are criticiz-  
ing him for being at the peace table  
in Paris. They say he is receiving  
too much adulation from European  
people; kings, queens, presidents,  
etc., pay him too much respect, etc.;  
he ought to be at the White House,  
keeping tab on congress, etc.

Such criticism has both political  
propaganda and jealousy behind it.  
If the president were a republican  
and the republican party could reap  
the benefit of the great influence he  
is wielding in making the world  
freer and a better place in which to  
live, their enthusiasm would be un-  
limited.

But just stop and think, gentle-  
men. President Wilson is there as  
the president of the greatest repub-  
lic on earth, not as a democratic  
partisan. Such pomp and agrand-  
izement and respect which he has  
received and is receiving is not be-  
cause he is Woodrow Wilson, but  
because he is the president of the  
United States.

If he as president can wield a  
dominating influence in making it  
possible to do away with wars be-  
tween nations in the future will he  
not have done something, Mr. rep-  
ublican, that you as an American  
citizen will be proud of?

Just remember that the president  
of the United States is placed there  
either by the republican or demo-  
cratic parties. Let his administra-  
tion be what it may be the presi-  
dent of the American nation. If he  
proves to be a great big man, wise  
and comprehensive in his views and  
accomplishes results, we look upon  
him as the representative head of  
the great American people. We  
forget partisanship for the time and

all gather comfort and reflected  
glory because he is an American.

We have a superior military com-  
mander in the field; he is success-  
ful; he accomplishes results. We  
do not stop to ascertain if he is a  
republican or a democrat. Oh! no.  
We feel and know that he is an Am-  
erican and is entitled to the plaudits  
of the American people. Who knew  
what Admiral Dewey's politics were  
when he destroyed the Spanish fleet  
in Manila Bay? Who knew what  
were the politics of Commodore  
Jones, Bainbridge, Perry and others  
when they won their victories? We  
know that they were Americans and  
were superbly successful. Their  
glory would have been dimmed by  
the addition of a political prefix or  
suffix. Who can tell, or who cares  
particularly, what are the political  
sentiments of General Pershing,  
General Bullard, or Admiral Sims,  
of the present war? Who knows?  
Generals Washington, Taylor and  
Grant were not elected to the high-  
est political position within the gift  
of the American people because of  
their politics. They were promoted  
to the position of commander-in-  
chief because they had won results  
for the American people. Then why  
not forget that Woodrow Wilson,  
president of the American people  
and commander-in-chief of our army  
and navy, is a democrat? Why not  
place him as the chief American  
citizen and all be prepared to reap  
any reflected glory which may accrue  
from his presence at the peace table  
in Paris?

We American people are too much  
disposed to carry partisanship to the  
extreme. This may be considered a  
fault of a republican form of gov-  
ernment. Give men the right of  
free speech and free political action  
and extreme partisanship seems a  
productive result.

President Wilson is subject to  
criticism as all of our presidents  
have been and as all of our future  
presidents will be. We recognize  
their greatness and forget or over-  
look their faults after they are dead;  
after which their political senti-  
ments are forgotten. We remem-  
ber and reverence them only as great  
Americans; their party affiliation is  
overwhelmed by their Americanism.  
If men are loyal to American  
institutions and do great things we  
forget their foibles and shortcomings.  
We never forgive if they  
prove traitors.

Arnold was a brilliant military  
commander in the Revolutionary  
war, but we remember him only as  
a traitor. Alexander Hamilton was  
one of our greatest American public  
financiers. We remember him and  
accord him a high place in American  
history as a great American and fin-  
ancier, yet he was killed in a duel;  
Aaron Burr, his slayer, was elected  
vice president and was one of the  
most brilliant men of his time, yet  
we remember him only as a traitor.

President Jackson was the hero at  
the battle of New Orleans; we for-  
get his family shady relations be-  
cause of his great Americanism. A  
celebrated writer has said "the good  
that men do is often interred with  
their bones; the evil they do lives  
after them." This is not true of  
our presidents and public men. We  
remember their great acts and ac-  
complishments, but forget their  
weaknesses. Why cannot we do  
this while the subjects are living?  
Why may we not tender them bou-  
quets in person rather than deposit  
them on their graves when they are  
dead?

President Wilson is in conference  
over in Paris with some very astute  
politicians. They are playing for  
selfish national advantage and will  
bend their best energies to accom-  
plish their aims. If the president  
emerges from this congress having  
brought world wars to an end, will  
he not have accomplished something  
worth while, Mr. republican?

### SALARY INCREASES.

The assaults which are now being  
made upon the Oregon legislature  
to increase official salaries, to the  
superficial observer will seem ill-  
timed and uncalled for. Present  
officeholders, from the highest to  
the lowest, knew the amount of  
salary the position he sought so  
earnestly, paid. He knew the amount  
of work, responsibility, etc.,  
required from the official elected.  
Yet, after spending much time and  
money to secure the election, he,  
through his legislative friends, asks  
to have his salary raised. He for-  
gets that he, in effect, entered into  
a contract with the people to per-  
form the duties of his official pos-  
ition for a stated salary or specific  
sum of money. Now, he, in effect,  
strikes for higher wages.

A bill is before the legislature to  
increase the salaries of our supreme  
judges from \$4500 to \$6000 per  
annum. Now, there is no law to  
prevent either or all of our supreme  
court from resigning and retirement  
to private law practice. Oh! no.  
But there is not a particle of dan-  
ger of either of them resigning.

Our supreme judges place them-  
selves, or are so placed by their  
friends, in the position of the graft-  
er. No other conclusion is tenable.  
What confidence can the people have  
in their judicial opinions upon the  
sacredness of contracts, when they,  
indirectly, seek to abrogate the con-  
tract they made with the people?  
The same may be said of any  
other official, county or state, who  
asks for a salary raise. None of  
them was compelled to accept the  
office he or she holds.

Of course, the high cost of living  
is the basic reason for asking for  
the raise. Now, that the war is  
over, it is expected that commodi-  
ties will gradually seek a lower level,  
thus removing the basic reason. But  
officials would never submit to have  
their salaries reduced, even after  
the cost of living is brought to a  
lower level. Not at all. They  
would, at once, appeal to the sac-  
redness of contract, to hold their  
increased salaries.

Only a few years ago the annual  
salary for the supreme court was  
\$9000; now it is \$31,500, and if the  
increase is granted \$42,000 will be  
required for each year.

A good many years ago, salary  
grabbing was looked upon as being  
next door to dishonesty. Now, it is  
simply regarded as good financing.

There is another reason why this  
bill should be defeated. The ways  
and means committee is scheming  
in every possible manner to scale  
down appropriations to comply with  
the six per cent limitation of in-  
crease of state appropriations law.  
As the emergency board has over-  
lapped the appropriations of two  
years ago by nearly a million dollars  
the state's money sack is shy this  
sum which, otherwise, would have  
been at the disposal of the present  
legislature.

Any way, it is a very poor rule  
which will not work both ways. If  
an official's salary cannot be reduced  
during a pending term, neither  
should it be increased.

The legislature seems inclined to  
place the entire expense of the bond-  
ing road building plan upon the m-  
tor vehicle. This is not at all equit-  
able, gentlemen. It enables the rich  
man, who owns, perhaps, but a single  
automobile, to escape paying his  
just share of the tax burden, and,  
transversely, causes the poor man,  
who pays for his auto in monthly  
instalments, to pay much more than  
his share. Also, the man who does  
not own an auto escapes responsi-  
bility for the bonds entirely, prin-  
cipal and interest. Yet he will have  
the benefit of improved roads, the  
same as the auto owner.

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Trains  
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North 7:55 a.m.  
South 5:09 p.m.  
Corvallis & Eastern  
MUNKERS  
To Albany 8:11 a.m.  
To Detroit 1:44 p.m.  
Motor service discontinued.

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Attorney at Law

Office on Sherman St. Lebanon, Ore.

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A. E. Randall, Vice Pres.  
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makes collections.

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