

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1918

FUTURE ROAD ACTIVITIES.

The fact that Oregon has embarked on a comprehensive road constructive era is no longer a matter to be questioned. It is stated some \$20,000,000 or more will be available for Oregon roads within the next three years. This large sum will mainly be used for improvement of what are termed "trunk roads," most of which parallel railways. Other roads, or laterals, which lead from the country to the market centers on the railways, are termed "market roads."

The relative importance of these two classes of roads is matter of opinion among men. The farmer who must draw his produce to market by team or motor truck, insists that market roads are of first importance; while the tourist or the business man who takes outing in his touring car, contends that trunk roads should be first improved.

The Tribune believes the farmer's contention is the correct one, for the market road is his only means of getting his stuff to market. On the other hand, if the tourist or business man wants to go to the seaside or to California, he has the option of going on the railway train if the condition of the trunk road does not suit him for auto driving.

But the powers that be have elected to spend the great bulk of the \$20,000,000 on the trunk roads and the market roads must wait or the farmer must do the fixing. The legislature provided a way, however, by which farmers may tax themselves for market road purposes. A bill was passed, to be submitted to the people at the special election in June, providing for a 1-mill tax levy throughout the state for special use on market roads. Also a law was enacted which authorizes any county, if voters desire, to levy a 5-mill tax, the proceeds to be used in like manner. Our county court will probably submit the 5-mill proposition to the people in June.

Many precincts have been taxing themselves for several years from two to five mills over and above the general county road levy. Other precincts, however, do not make such levy, thereby nullifying in a large degree the better roads of the more progressive precincts. So the proposed county levy of 5 mills will make the burden no heavier for the progressive precincts but will bring the no-tax precincts to time. Moreover, this measure will place all of the money in the county treasury to

be disbursed in proportion to the mileage of roads in the respective precincts.

It can be seen that the property owners in our large towns and the holders of timber lands will all help to build roads, not only in their home precincts but in those precincts which have a large road mileage with only farms from which to gather revenue.

Another feature for consideration is that the state highway commission, with exception of grading, will take care of the road from Jefferson to Harrisburg. This will leave quite a bit of money to be applied on the market roads.

While many of us do not like the plans of the state road commission, we have no alternative in the premises. We have to take the medicine; so let us get as much benefit from the dose as possible.

Our county court seems disposed to do all it can in road construction. So let's give them the money to work with. Each year's experience makes our county authorities wiser in road matters. They are continually getting more road machinery by which road construction is brought to a minimum of cost. So let us, one and all, get behind the good roads plans with willing hearts and hands. No doubt we will differ in opinions as to hows, wheres and whence, but in the end if we have builded a first class system of highways, we should and doubtless will be satisfied.

GOVERNOR OLCOTT.

When Ben W. Olcott subscribed to the oath of office as governor of Oregon the event was one of great moment to the state. The tragedy of the death and burial of the late Governor Withycombe which had transpired prior to Governor Olcott assuming the office, must have cast a gloom upon those present, which otherwise would have been one of cheerfulness. But these members of our state government had completed their duty and respect for the late leader; they could do no more, and they must take up their duty to the state.

With courtesy and respect to the late governor Secretary Olcott refused to be inducted as the successor until after the obsequies. This should be a pleasure and source of satisfaction to the bereaved family. It was simply a mark of delicate respect which Ben Olcott's friends expected of him.

Governor Olcott has announced that while the office of governor adds greatly to his responsibilities he would accept but the salary as governor for the doubling of his work. Few men in his place would do this. Most men are out for all they can get; there are but few Ben Olcotts.

Governor Olcott has also announced that he will hold the office of governor only until the general election of 1920. There are good grounds say good lawyers that Governor Olcott could serve out the full unexpired term of the late governor, or until the meeting of the legislature in 1923. But the governor is very jealous of the rights of the people and is not disposed to override their voice where legally expressed. Another view: As secretary of state Governor Olcott's term of office will expire January 1, 1921. If he holds the office of governor by virtue of being secretary of state he could hold no longer than his commission as secretary was in effect, for the state constitution provides that the secretary of state shall be governor in case of vacancy by death or otherwise of the governor.

So Governor Olcott will be on the safe side in requiring the election of his successor in 1920. Then if the people desire his services longer he

can become his own successor at the polls.

The Tribune predicts that Governor Olcott will prove one of the best, if not the best, governors Oregon has ever had. Being a highly trained business man, scrupulously honest himself, he is sure to require honest and economical service in all departments of state government and the various institutions. His actions as a member of the state board of control, when he had but one-third of the authority, gives confidence that the affairs of the state are in safe hands when he wields two-thirds of the power of the board.

Again The Tribune predicts that Ben W. Olcott will make good in the office of governor as he has in all other public positions he has held.

"SIX YEARS AS PRESIDENT."

The Sunday Oregonian of March 9 contains a long editorial article criticizing the six years of President Wilson's administration. The article is made up mainly of scolding, fault finding and misleading conclusions. While that paper dwells in a ghoul-like spirit upon the president's mistakes as viewed by the writer of the criticism, it does admit that the fourteen peace propositions and the effort to form a league of nations are meritorious. Mere mention of the best financial system the United States has ever had, is made.

Now as a matter of fact there has been more real constructive legislation in the interests of the people during Wilson's six years than during the more than fifty years of republican control of the government.

The only comparison one can make is the present great war with that of the Civil war. The Civil war was entirely under republican control. A great army had to be created and a financial system evolved. A republican congress practically turned the country's finances over to Wall street direction. As a result our national currency depreciated more than 100 per cent and government bonds were sold at a discount of from 10 to 20 per cent.

The Wilson administration dissolved partnership with Wall street, created the regional banking system and appealed to the people to buy the government bonds. As a result the bonds sold at par and the currency you have in your pocket is as good as gold.

The republican draft law permitted any one who had money to buy a substitute and thus escape service in the army. The democratic draft law compelled every man who was fit, rich or poor, to serve.

These two features of the Wilson administration are sufficient to stamp it a success, yet the Oregonian is not fair enough to admit the fact.

Of course President Wilson has made mistakes; what president has not made them? Any president in time of war is subject to criticism; Lincoln was severely criticized, but the fair critic will measure up the good as well as the bad. The Oregonian has not done so.

HUNS NOT WHIPPED ENOUGH.

When the armistice was declared between the Huns and the allies last November 11, the remark was made by many persons, "They have not been whipped enough." This opinion four months later seems fully justified. The Huns have been subdued but not whipped.

A brave man when he has been thoroughly whipped acknowledges his defeat; the coward will never make such an admission. He will say if and if and if. He will always have to be watched for he will be sure to strike you when you are not prepared. He hopes to accomplish by treachery and deceit what he could not in the open.

When Germany knew she was licked and that invasion of her territory was a surety, she begged for peace. She evidently expected that the allied troops would be vandals, such as hers had been in Belgium and northern France. She was willing to get on her knees and beg for quarter.

General Foch, with whom Germany must treat for a cessation of hostilities, is a humane man. He was unwilling to sacrifice a single life unnecessarily. He dictated the terms of the armistice and the German representatives signed them. Hostilities ceased. Not a foot of German territory proper was then occupied. Not a German home had been despoiled.

Four months have elapsed. Germany has failed to comply with the terms of the armistice and it is doubtful if she will sign the final peace terms with any intention of fulfilling them. Like the coward she will be ever ready to strike in the dark and to take every possible advantage. She will have to be watched even after she signs the peace terms. She is without honor. Her leaders regard a treaty simply as a scrap of paper to be violated whenever she can do so with the hope that she can get away with it. But when she fails, as at the present, she begs like the cur she is to escape the punishment she knows she richly deserves.

A brave people would not do as Germany has done and is now doing. When defeated they would abide the result whatever the terms. Germany will not do so if she can in any way, honorable or dishonorable, dodge them to her advantage.

LIME FOR SOUR LAND

The state of Oregon at an expense of about \$40,000 established a lime plant at Gold Hill and is prepared to supply farmers with lime with which to sweeten and make more productive their soured lands, at a cost of from four to five dollars per ton.

The farmers, however, are not taking hold of this opportunity as generously as they should nevertheless it has been demonstrated that the liberal use of lime as a fertilizer will greatly increase the crop yield. Some farmers who have tried liming their lands say it will double the yield, while others say the gain is not more than one-half; but all agree that it is of great benefit.

At the present price of wheat, if a ton of lime will increase the yield by five bushels per acre, certainly the farmer will be well paid for the labor and investment, figuring for one year only. But those who have experimented with lime say the benefit will extend to from two to three years. Therefore, the profit from one ton of lime can be modestly estimated at from ten to twenty dollars per acre. Moreover, the second and additional applications, say every other year, needs to be but a half ton per acre. By such procedure and proper drainage, our run-down lands can be restored to their old time productivity.

Any farmer can well afford to buy at least one carload of lime each year. His increase in crop yield for one year will well pay for the investment and the increase the second year will be clear profit. Besides, he will be building up instead of impoverishing the land.

If Governor Ben W. Olcott makes good, which The Tribune believes he will, it will make no difference whether he serves until the next general election or for the full unexpired term of Governor Withycombe; the people will elect him anyway.

Advertise in The Scio Tribune and get results.

POLES DRIVEN TO GERMANY TO WORK

Hun Commander's Brutal Order Issued to Conquered and Helpless People.

Every Able-Bodied Man Forced to Leave His Starving Family and Labor Under Shocking Conditions for the Oppressor.

This I have seen. I could not believe it unless I had seen it through and through. For several weeks I lived with it; I went all about it and back of it; inside and out of it was shown to me—until finally I came to realize that the incredible was true. It is monstrous, it is unthinkable, but it exists. It is the Prussian system.—F. C. Walcott.

F. C. Walcott, a member of the United States food administration, and during the time America was feeding the civilian populations of Belgium, Serbia and northern France an assistant of Mr. Hoover in these invaded countries, has pictured in a graphic way the conditions he found among the people it was his duty to help. After describing the terrible conditions in Poland in 1916, the millions that were dying of starvation, the hundreds of thousands of defenseless people that had been ruthlessly cut down by the sword of the German conqueror, he says:

In that situation, the German commander issued a proclamation. Every able-bodied Pole was bidden to Germany to work. If any refused, let no other Pole give him to eat, not so much as a mouthful, under penalty of German military law.

This is the choice the German government gives to the conquered Pole, to the husband and father of a starving family: Leave your family or die or survive as the case may be. Leave your country which is destroyed, to work in Germany for its further destruction. If you are obstinate, we shall see that you surely starve.

Staying with his folk, he is doomed and they are not saved; the father and husband can do nothing for them, he only adds to their risk and suffering. Leaving them, he will be cut off from his family, they may never hear from him again nor he from them. Germany will set him to work that a German workman may be released to fight against his own land and people. He shall be lodged in barracks, behind barbed wire entanglements, under armed guard. He shall sleep on the bare ground with a single thin blanket. He shall be scantily fed and his earnings shall be taken from him to pay for his food.

That is the choice which the German government offers to a proud, sensitive, high-strung people. Death or slavery.

When a Pole gave me that proclamation, I was boiling. But I had to restrain myself. I was practically the only foreign civilian in the country and I wanted to get food to the people. That was what I was there for and I must not for any cause jeopardize the undertaking. I asked General von Beseler, "Can this be true?" "Really, I cannot say," he replied. "I have signed so many proclamations; ask General von Kries."

So I asked General von Kries, "General, this is a civilized people. Can this be true?"

"Yes," he said, "it is true"—with an air of adding, Why not?

I dared not trust myself to speak; I turned to go. "Wait," he said. And he explained to me how Germany, official Germany, regards the state of subject peoples.

It is hard for us to imagine such a condition in America as Mr. Walcott has described as existing in Herrieden Poland, and yet that is just what could exist should our boys, and the boys of our allies, now fighting the France fall to defeat the soldiers of this murder empire. This fair country of ours would be made into a German province; our people would be the slaves of the Junkers of Germany, subject to the beasty whims of the officers of the German army. In no war in which America has ever engaged have the stakes been so great as in this present conflict. Should we, by any chance, lose; should the Hun, by any chance, win; our liberties, our happiness, everything Americans hold dear, would be lost.

German Submarine Loss Huge. London.—Of the 263 German submarines lost during the war, it is estimated here semi-officially, 120 were sunk with all on board, and in the others on the average half of the crews perished.