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HARD SURFACE IMPROVEMENT

There is a movement under way looking to the improvement of some of the streets of Gresham by giving them a hard surface capable of withstanding the heavy traffic that is so disastrous to gravel or macadam.

The council committee on streets and public ways has been instructed to look into the matter and is working through George W. Stapleton to get an estimate of the work and its cost, as well as providing a method to begin work. It is known that John B. Yeon, the new roadmaster is favorably inclined to assist, if he can be shown the way to avoid conflicts in the law governing county roads through an incorporated town.

Several weeks ago it was stated that Attorney General Crawford had expressed the opinion that when a town incorporated the county roads automatically become city streets, but the city charter of Gresham expressly states that all existing county roads at the time of incorporation shall remain as such, subject to the control of the county commissioners.

It is this apparent conflict that is being looked into. There is another feature that may puzzle the road sharps and that is the method of distributing the cost through the city so as to comply with the new road law. It is provided that the property for one half mile on each side of a hard surface improvement shall be assessed for one-half the cost. If that law conflicts with the city street ordinance which assesses the cost to abutting property there is sure to be fireworks of some kind.

Then, too, where one road intersects another, as at the intersection of Main and Powell streets, who is to determine the way for assessing the property for half a mile in any direction? It would seem that there would have to be a double assessment for the territory each side of Main street, and if the Section Line road, known as Division street, is improved it would further complicate matters in regard to the cost.

In the event that the county should undertake the work the hard surface would probably not be over sixteen feet wide through the center of the roads. In that case, it is pointed out, the city would have to pay for the remainder of the improvement to the curb line.

That would call for a tax on the abutting property, if the work were done, and further complications would have to be settled. Of course it is possible to find a way to make the improvement and everyone is anxious to have it done. Mr. Stapleton is expected to find a way to do it but there will have to be a spirit of co-operation between the city and county officials and some necessary legislation may be needed. Mayor Shattuck is anxious to see hard surfaced streets and will agree to anything reasonable to bring them. Others have expressed themselves in the same manner and it only remains to find the way to get them.

PROGRAM TONIGHT AT GRESHAM LIBRARY.

The Patron-Teachers' association will give the first program of the season Friday evening, Dec. 12, beginning at 8 o'clock. The speaker of the evening has been announced as Prof. M. S. Pittman, of the Oregon State Normal. The other parts of the program will consist of a piano solo by Mrs. S. E. Toepelman, a vocal solo by Mrs. Earl Thompson, a song by the male quartet and songs by 14 members of the high school singing class under the direction of Mrs. Coovert. The entertainment is free.

AUTO STOLEN AND RECOVERED

A sensation was caused last night by the escape of Claude Robinson, adopted son of Charles Robinson, who lives two or three miles southwest of town. When C. M. Zimmerman came out of the grange hall where he had been taking dinner he found his automobile was gone. It had been stolen and the alarm was sent out in every direction to apprehend the thief if possible and restore the machine.

By means of a chain on one of the tires it was easily tracked wherever the ground was soft, and the strongest pursuit was directed toward

HOME COMPANY EXPANDING

Application has been made to the city council of Sandy by the Multnomah and Clackamas County Mutual Telephone company for a franchise there, to run for a period of twenty-five years. The ordinance granting the same has been introduced and ordered published in the Sandy Journal. It will come up for a final hearing on January 6th, when it will probably pass.

The franchise recites all the usual requirements to be conferred to and the city is amply safe-guarded. Up to the present time the company has been operating its lines there simply by permission from the county to use the streets which are county roads. The new franchise will give it a better standing and permit of extensions when they are deemed necessary.

The secretary of the company has been engaged during the past week in preparing the notices for the annual stockholders' meeting which will take place on the 5th of January at 2 o'clock. Those who are entitled to the 10 per cent semi-annual dividend will also receive a check for that amount. Twenty per cent a year means that the stock is a good investment, and the fact that the company is entirely out of debt and has money on hand speaks well for the management and the condition of the plant which is the best in the northwest.

There are about 700 miles of wire on the 50 odd circuits and the number of phones in free use to subscribers is over 600, including the two small systems at Damascus and Corbett.

An effort may be made to have two other systems included. Boring and Troutdale have a small list each and their business would add something to the magnitude of the Gresham system if they could be taken over.

There will be but one director to be elected this time to take the place of A. B. Conrad, whose term will expire. There are nine directors in all and they are elected for five years.

COUNTY MATTERS ACTED UPON.

A petition of Joseph Seliger, of Gresham, Rural route 1, for cutting through Villa avenue from Barker road to Rockwood road so as to make it passable, has been referred to D. W. McKay, superintendent of Division No. 10, road district No. 1, who advised the Board of County Commissioners that he would attend same as soon as the weather improved.

The request of Walker Quesinberry school clerk of Rockwood, for gravel for the grounds of School District No. 27, has been referred to J. H. Yeon, road master, for his attention.

The petition of C. M. Lake and other citizens of Orient for placing gravel on a piece of road, a distance of about 90 rods was referred to the road master, who advised the Board that this matter will receive his attention in due course of time.

The request of W. U. Moore and G. N. Sager, of Pleasant Valley, gravel from the Sycamore pit, to be placed on about one mile of road by the people of Clackamas county, was called to the attention of the road master, who reported to the Board of County Commissioners that he will attend to this matter in the near future.

Carving Sets make excellent Christmas gifts, at Sterling & Kidder's.

"Grandma" Todd of Eugene, who has reached the age of 103 years, has the distinction of being the oldest person in Oregon.

More field fence 30c per rod at Sterling & Kidder's.

AUTO PEOPLE NEGOTIATING

Nothing new has developed in the automobile factory situation since last Tuesday except that negotiations are under way in Portland. Just what they are is not known, except for the rumors published in the last Outlook.

Dr. J. N. Powell is here yet and the stories told on the street persist in coupling his name with that of the Beaver State Motor company in a deal for his land and that of his two sisters, but it is fair to say that Dr. Powell has not authorized any statements for publication or otherwise. The stories are being circulated, however, and were being told on the streets last Monday. Perhaps they are considerably magnified and the public will have to wait in patience for a definite announcement.

What gives color to the supposition that the street rumors are on a hot trail is the chagrin expressed by some of the Beaver Six people over the Outlook's story. If the Outlook's story, which was all speculative, has caused any embarrassment to the company or Dr. Powell it is to be regretted, but it also indicates that the rumors had some foundation.

As to the indicated location of the factory on the Powell farm, the public is well satisfied, except the few living on the east side of town. Many expressions of approval have been heard and there is an almost unanimous desire to hear that work is to be commenced without delay.

SUDDEN DEATH OF DR. F. A. SHORT.

Word was received here early yesterday morning of the sudden death of Dr. Faulkner A. Short at his home, 651 East Seventh street, Portland, about 4:30 o'clock. He had attended a meeting of the Multnomah County Medical society the evening before and was apparently in his usual health. It is reported that he was seized with an attack of vertigo upon his arrival home and it is supposed that his death was caused by the rupture of a small blood vessel either in the heart or brain.

He retired to bed after the spasms had passed away and later took a drink of buttermilk. Then he went to sleep, but aroused his wife by rising in his bed and clutching at his throat with both hands as if strangling. Before any assistance could be rendered he fell back upon his pillow and expired.

Several physicians, including his brother, Dr. J. M. Short, were hastily summoned but arrived too late.

Dr. Short was 39 years old and leaves a wife and one child. Mrs. Short is well known in Gresham, as the daughter of the late J. W. and Mrs. Shattuck, and a sister of Mayor Shattuck and Carl Shattuck, of Gresham.

Funeral arrangements have been delayed until Monday, awaiting the arrival of a brother from Calgary.

Services will be held from Finley's undertaking parlors, Fifth and Montgomery street at 1 o'clock, Rev. J. H. Boyd officiating. Interment will be in the Mount Scott Park cemetery.

Mrs. J. W. Shattuck arrived in Portland yesterday, from Maupin, to attend the funeral of her son-in-law, Dr. F. A. Short on Monday next.

BORING PEOPLE FORM ASSOCIATION.

A Parent-Teachers' association has been organized in Boring. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Gwynn; vice president, Mrs. A. G. Horberg; secretary, Mrs. Lovell; treasurer, Mrs. Geo. Tacheron. The first meeting of the association was held Friday evening, December 5, at the schoolhouse. Quite a number were present. After the regular business of appointing committees, etc., A. G. Horberg and J. B. Jonsrud, former members of the school board, as well as Mr. Beck and Mr. Telford present members of the school board made some interesting remarks on improvements made in the school in the past two years, also of how a better understanding might be made between parents and teachers. There will be programs at the meetings and it is hoped that a greater number of the parents will come to the meetings. There will be a meeting the last Friday of every school month at the schoolhouse.

FRUIT CENTERS ENCOURAGED

Gresham should become a fruit center of great importance. I have long known that the country tributary to Gresham is unusually well adapted to fruit growing, but never so much so as since spending the picking and shipping season in Hood River valley.

Hood River town is a noted and important town, all trains stopping there although it is not a railroad division, not even a water tank town, and is not more than twice as large as Gresham. Furthermore its only output is winter apples, some pears, and strawberries.

The country which forms the trade territory tributary to Gresham will produce as good apples, in as great abundance with as little expense as can be done in Hood River valley. It can produce pears, especially Bartlett pears, equal to any grown anywhere, every year and in great abundance. Cherries, prunes and plums are easy of production in large quantities, while strawberries and all kinds of bush berries grow to perfection. If Hood River can become so important on apples and strawberries why can not Gresham become an important fruit center?

Ideal conditions prevail for the building up of a fruit center at Gresham. Not much of the land is held by absentee speculators, and much of the country is already held in small tracts. It is always a drawback to any town or city or section of country to have large areas held out of use for speculation.

It is only necessary that those who own the land to turn their attention to fruit growing and set out standard trees and berry bushes and plants and take proper care of them.

Canneries, cider mills and preserving and evaporating plants will be established when fruit growing nearby has become of sufficient importance to warrant their establishment.

I do not wish to encourage a land boom or play into the hands of the land speculator, but it is very plain to me that with the country around Gresham, adapted as it is to all kinds of fruit, Gresham could become a greater fruit center than Hood River, and become famous, not only for strawberries and apples, but also for pears, prunes, plums and cherries and all kinds of bush berries.

If the fruit industry was but half developed around Gresham it would support a large fruit packing plant, for all kinds of fresh fruits, a cannery, evaporating establishment, cider mill and preserving works.

That would mean more money per acre for the tillers of the soil, more people at work in town, consequently a market for more truck; in fact greater prosperity all the way around.

BRANCH RAILROAD BORING TO SANDY.

A telephone rumor from a Sandy merchant conveyed the idea, this morning, that the P. R. L. & P. Co., is about to build a branch road from Boring to that place, and that work will commence right away. Surveys were made several years ago but nothing was done, and if the company has decided to build the branch it is a new idea at this time.

Daily and Sunday Oregonian and Twice-a-Week Outlook, special combination, 1 year, \$5.00.

Weekly Oregonian subscription offer extended.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY SILVER OFFERING.

A program of unusual interest has been prepared by the Woman's Home Missionary society, which will be given next Sunday evening at the Methodist Episcopal church. It is expected that Mrs. Emil Oswald will sing a solo and Miss Echo and Guy Jones a duet. A special anthem is being prepared by the choir. Mrs. Starks of the Portland Industrial Home will deliver the address of the evening.

Mrs. C. M. Zimmerman, president of the society, announces that contributions of fruit, vegetables, jellies and good garments may be left either at the garage or at the home of Mrs. Geo. Leslie. It is the intention of the ladies to supply as far as possible any in our own community who may be in need and send the contributions that remain to the Portland Industrial Home. The local society has pledged \$50.00 for home missions for the current year, and the value of all supplies given at this time will be credited on that amount.

MANNING HAS ASPIRATIONS

Gresham, or more properly speaking Gresham Rural Route No. 1, may have the next governor of the state of Oregon.

John Manning, former district attorney, has a beautiful home just west of Rockwood and has announced himself as a candidate for the place of chief executive. He has promulgated his platform in which he says, according to the Journal, that proposes, should he be elected, to apply principles of progressive democracy to the administration of state affairs by taking the people into his confidence and making public every executive act, acquainting them with the expenditure of every dollar of the state's money.

The town meeting, he declares, is obsolete, except in small districts and villages, and if elected governor he will cause to be introduced into the legislature a bill correcting the present evils of the school law permitting the people to vote in their several precincts on the annual budget after studying it for a period of 30 days.

He favors all measures that will insure a betterment of public highways; the curtailing and consolidation of state commissions and the reduction of expenses of legislative sessions.

Regarding the terms of the legislature, Mr. Manning says that he is in favor of a law similar to the California law. He would have the legislature convene as usual with six legislative days in which to organize and present all bills, these bills to be referred to their respective committees and given out by the state printer to the press of the state.

At the end of six days, the legislature should in his opinion take a recess for 30 days without pay other than usual mileage and during the recess the bills should be studied by the committees and people. By this means he thinks hidden jokers would be discovered in the widespread light of publicity and when the legislature reconvenes the bills could be acted on with little delay, no new measures being introduced except in case of unforeseen emergency and with the consent of two-thirds of the members.

Mr. Mannings also has a plan to extend state aid in the settlement of rural lands by placing them in a condition for cultivation and occupancy and selling them at a fair valuation, loaning the settler enough money to build houses and fences and implements and stock taking as security mortgage covering a period of 15 or 18 years and payable in small yearly payments bearing a low rate of interest such as 4 per cent.

He would also extend the privilege of borrowing state money from the state at this low rate of interest to all farmers and rural owners on the understanding that the money is to be used for farm improvement.

If necessary, he would also have the state take over all tillable, logged off and burnt over lands and put them in condition for the plow of the settler. For this purpose he suggests that the state raise the money by the sale of 20-year bonds to be used not only for the reclamation of its own lands, but logged off and burnt over lands necessary to be taken over.

Time Extended.

An extension of 30 days will be given on subscriptions to the Weekly Oregonian at bargain rates. The price for it and the Outlook in combination for one year is \$1.75. This offer will positively close on Jan. 1.

VOTERS ASSERT DISAPPROVAL

PORTLAND, Dec. 12—(Special)—I interpret the defeat of all the measures submitted Tuesday by the city commissioners as a hard slam at the commissioners by a not too discriminating public. It was not that the measures submitted were unpopular, but the special election simply afforded a chance of the opponents of these commissioners to express their disapproval of their policies. With exception of three or four measures all the propositions were corrective and did not give the city commissioners any additional powers. It was found that the charter needed some amendments in order that it would be more workable.

These four commissioners and mayor were elected by substantial majorities, but in less than six months what is practically a vote of want of confidence was given by 20 per cent of the voters. I also interpret this vote as a protest at the tremendous increase of cost of administration that has been projected in the taxes that have been levied at a time when retrenchment is in order. It is my judgment that this protest will assume a more formidable form later on. It will come from the small home owner to whom a dollar at these times looks like the wheel of a truck and about as hard to get. This growing cost of administration will not be tolerated. Somebody must retrench, and retrench speedily.

The personality of the mayor and city commissioners is excellent. They are all men of high character, high standing and ability. However, perhaps they have not been close enough in touch with the plain people to understand just how they feel about the high cost of living, or appreciate the burdens the ordinary citizen is called on to face. He may be paying for his home in monthly installments. There have come assessments for sewers and street improvements until he scarcely knew where to turn. This class voted against the 15 measures as the only way they could voice their protest. Somehow they must meet their assessments and pay their taxes. They understand that, but they imagined they saw opportunity to strike back, and they struck, blindly, it would seem, but the adverse votes will afford them no relief; but it will be a word of warning it would be well to head.

Union of city and county movement gathers headway. Today East Side Burnside District association passed resolutions approving the consolidation. City Attorney LaRoche spoke in behalf of consolidation Monday night at a mass meeting in Sunnyside. That it will be a live issue now seems probable. It may be submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election in 1914. However, if it is voted on it will be because of pressure from the outside on the county commissioners and city commissioners. It will be quite a "wrench" to break loose the "strangle hold" an army have on this county and city. Any effort to reduce this army and require the members to depend upon their own efforts for a living will not be easy.

L. H. WELLS.

Chicken Pie Supper.

There will be a bazaar and chicken pie supper at the grange hall on Thursday, December 18, under the management of the ladies of the Catholic church. Supper 35 cents. Children 20 cents. Supper from 5:30 to 7:30.

JUVENILE MARKET UNDER FIRE

The Oregonian this morning says that all the transactions and financial affairs of the Portland Juvenile Market, which discontinued operations several days ago, after running through the summer and fall months, will be investigated thoroughly by Deputy District Attorney Collier. Mrs. Eunice Douglas, manager of the market, has been summoned to appear in Mr. Collier's office next Tuesday, bringing with her all the books which she kept during the operation of the place.

"I am led to believe that Mrs. Douglas has failed to pay about \$150 to the children who brought articles to her to be sold," said Mr. Collier, "and that when the market was closed goods worth about \$250 were unaccounted for. If these

children have been defrauded full restitution must be made."

Mrs. Douglas was summoned to appear, but was ill, and her daughter came in her stead. Miss Douglas told Mr. Collier all the goods brought in by the children were entered in a day book, but admitted, Mr. Collier said, that no further record was made. She told him that her mother had her checks as receipts for moneys which had been paid the children.

Children were induced by Mrs. Douglas to bring articles to the market, Mr. Collier said, with the understanding that they should receive 85 per cent of the sale price. Delicacies, works of art, clothing and fancy work were brought, he said, as well as fruit and vegetables, by children.