

## ROAD MEETING IS FRUITLESS

Base Line Property Owners Resent Interference and Show Their Teeth.

A packed house at Rockwood on Friday evening was the answer to a call made for a meeting of Base Line property owners to consider the advisability of approving or rejecting the proposed hard surface improvement of that thoroughfare.

The call was made by a few interested persons, partly by use of the telephone and partly by the authorized announcement in the Outlook of last Tuesday. It was intended only for those who would be affected by the proposed improvement, but it seems that an invitation was given to County Commissioner Holman, Roadmaster Yeon and several others to be there also.

The idea, as expressed in the call, was to get an expression of the people among themselves either for or against the hard surfacing of the Base Line, but the whole thing turned out differently and the people were forced to listen to speeches and explanations for nearly two hours, and were then made to adjourn without expressing in any formal way their intentions regarding a petition or remonstrance, which is what they went there for.

From the temper shown by a number of those present, and from expressions heard after the meeting it is apparent that they resented the presence of the Portland delegation, and it is believed by many that the improvement cause was materially injured thereby.

The people were not allowed the opportunity to talk among themselves, but were worked up to a white heat by a few who insisted on having satisfactory "explanations" from the Portland visitors who were innocent of any idea that they were intruding on what was intended to be a talkfest of property owners on a subject which they considered themselves able to handle and decide for themselves.

O. J. Brown was chairman and he proceeded to introduce Commissioner Holman and J. H. Hall. Both of these gentlemen made lucid explanations of the plans and stated clearly that the Base Line had been selected for the first hard surface in Eastern Multnomah. They were bombarded with questions and insinuations more or less in keeping with the ill feeling engendered by their presence, and before many were aware of what was being done a motion to adjourn by Road Superintendent Donald Mackay was carried and the gathering was dissolved without attaining the object for which it had been called.

It is quite likely, however, that the sense of the meeting would have been opposed to the improvement, had the original program been carried out. There was nowhere near a majority of the property owners along the Base Line present, and it was noticed that not over half a dozen of those owning large tracts were there. The crowd of nearly two hundred was composed mostly of those who are owners of small tracts, some of them on cross-roads within the half mile limit. It was not a representative gathering but they are capable of doing the good roads cause a lot of harm.

It was asserted by some of those who "talked back" at the speakers that the improvement would be of no use to anyone but auto owners, Japs and Italians, as the real owners of property would have little use for the road if it were improved. One opposer asserted that the hard surface was intended to promote the auto industry and get rid of horses. Another made some remarks about graft in paving contracts and still another that there would be no sense in tearing up a road that had been recently macadamized to replace it with another at the expense of the property owners. Still another was heard to say that the road would be improved anyway at the behest of the automobile club and that they were endeavoring to escape the cost but would get nearly all the benefits.

What more was said was along the same line, and some of it won't stand repeating. Half of them were mad at the way things had been manipulated against them, and there was a great deal of exaggerated talk as they wound their different ways homeward.

Others from Portland besides those mentioned were A. S. Benson, John B. Yeon and Lee Arnett.

## GRANGE HEARS ADVANCED IDEAS

### GRANGE STANDS FOR PROGRESS

Development of higher citizenship, protection of the use of the initiative and referendum laws from faddists and agitators, recall of corrupt judges of the courts, preservation of the integrity of the Agricultural college and the University of Oregon, giving the country boy and girl the same opportunities enjoyed in the city, elimination of the cigarette and the liquor business and progressive legislation, were some of the suggestions made in the address delivered by L. H. Wells, of Portland, before the Gresham grange Saturday. Mr. Wells was introduced by Lecturer W. B. Parsons as a newspaper man. He said in part:

The grange is one of the most powerful organizations of this country. It should play no small part in directing the current of events in the political and social and civic world of the day. It is my desire to speak of some of the public questions and in plain language. We are in the midst of political, economic, social and civic evolution, or revolution if you desire to term the conditions. We must meet the challenge. We must as citizens, men and women, face these problems with a patriotic desire to do our part. The grange stands for social, civic, and political progress more in Oregon than in any part of the United States. It was here the people are more nearly the government by the people and for the people than in any state in the Union. Every man and woman in Oregon is a legislator and helps frame the laws of the state theoretically. One of the greatest problems, and the greatest menace, in my judgment, is the indifference of the masses even in Oregon to the ballot. At the last election held in Portland out of 60,000 voters, men and women, only 37 per cent went to the polls and cast their votes. At the regular election last November the per cent of the vote cast was only about 60 of the whole number of votes registered. It had been supposed that the women would flock to the polls after they had been granted the right to vote, but such has not been the case.

What may we expect from this indifference to the ballot? It simply means that the few will rule the majority. I heard an eminent thinker remark that the growing indifference of the masses of the American people to the ballot was a most appalling peril that must be met and overcome. He suggested that in our public schools and colleges that a department should be established in which the duties of citizenship should be taught and urged upon the young men and women where they should be taught that the most sacred trust is the ballot box and that if the institutions of this country are to be preserved and maintained it must be done through the patriotism of the people. "Let George do it," is a principle that is fraught with peril. If the wise and good people remain away from the polls on election day we must not expect that right policies will prevail. You be sure that the evil men and women will be there. Here in Oregon this neglect of the voting privilege has reached a point where such organizations as the grange should take prompt action. We need a department of citizenship in this order. If the men will persist in remaining away from the polls then let the women do their duty and show to the world that they are worthy, more worthy, than their brothers of the most sacred trust—the voting privilege. Here in Oregon where the initiative and referendum are the courts of last resort it is essential that we should cast our votes. The grange can do much in that direction.

**Dance Postponed.**  
The proposed Pastime Club dance, announced for next Friday night, has been postponed until further notice.

**Dressmaking.**  
Parlors next door to Gresham Real Estate company. Prices reasonable. Satisfaction guaranteed. Mrs. M. M. Squire.

Down goes the cost of living at last; eat eggs.

It will be a warm year in Oregon—politically.

### PRIMARY LAW BEING ABUSED

Oregon is the home of the initiative and referendum.

It is due to the grange in large measure that we have these safeguards. We have the direct primary also, supposed to be a bulwark against the boss. These laws are ideal in theory. It is true that the political boss has passed away, but I think no one here will deny that the initiative and referendum are being abused in this state, and will continue to be unless there is some way by which they can be safeguarded. No one can go further than myself to preserve intact the initiative and referendum, and should resist to the bitter end attempt to impair these measures, but at the same time am honest in my conviction that the friends of these measures, these protective laws, should rally to their protection. I want to speak exceedingly plain on this subject. As the matter now stands any crank, agitator or faddist can get any kind of ill-considered measure on the ballot if he has the money to pay for the circulation of petitions. In Portland, in the last two general elections the voters were confronted with ballots nearly three feet long, containing 40 different and distinct measures, involving great questions. Not a fraction of the voters were able to digest these questions and vote with any degree of intelligence. The majority of these measures should never have been placed on the ballot. I am not here to say how the initiative and referendum should be amended, if amended at all. They should not be impaired nor weakened. We are unanimous in the protections of these laws. I don't think anybody in this state would have the hardihood to propose anything that would impair the initiative and referendum, but yet I do not hesitate to say that they should be safeguarded in some way in order to protect the people from the crank and faddist.

I said we are challenged by evolution and revolution. The state master has said that he will project a measure for the abolishment of the state senate. Some of the Portland clubs would go a little further. They would establish a state commission form of government. In place of the present form. It is declared that the state senate does not represent the people in any respect. State Master Spence maintains that it is an obstructive body, and that it prevents much legislation for the good of the people.

Friends, let us be frank on this most important question. How far shall we swing this country toward a centralized form of government? How far shall we leave behind a representative form of government and substitute a centralized form which has always been considered antagonistic to our free institutions? In cities it has been proposed to engage a business manager and let him run the government. About 300 cities have adopted commission form and yet the principle is still an experiment. I think that we should hesitate before we undertake to do away with a co-ordinate branch of the state government. We should, in my judgment, consider with great care and deliberation such a revolutionary movement. I have great respect for State Master Spence and consider him a patriotic citizen. He sees the weaknesses of our representative form of government and suggests abolishment of the state senate. I think that such a movement at this time is not ripe and would not correct the evils he and others see. I am under the impression that the remedy lies in the hands of the voters. It is their duty to send able and patriotic men to the state senate. They have the votes and power to do this. I do not think that it would be safe to centralize the powers of the state government in a few people. If we do this why not have a king or dictator and be done with it. It is my duty and your duty to vote only for able and clean men for the state senate, and in that lies the remedy which may change an obstructing senate into a progressive body. This is one of the problems the granges in this state will be called on to face in the near future.

Lime and sulphur spray at Sterling & Kidder's.

### PUBLIC CONTROL GREAT PROBLEM

Another great problem that will challenge the voters of this country, is that of public ownership.

Public ownership is being rushed upon our consideration from all directions. It is the great issue. Only last week the secretary of the Interior at Washington declared for the public ownership of the telegraph and telephone lines in this country, and said it is bound to come. May I ask the question, did it ever occur to you what it would mean for the federal government to assume control of only the telegraph lines of this country. It would mean an army of men, a million strong, under the control of the general government. Can your imagination picture a more powerful political machine that such an array of men and women might be built up to that would threaten the very existence of the free institutions of this country? I am not arguing against public ownership as a principle, but I am looking at the practical side of the question and pointing out what it might mean to this country. And to this army add another million of employees of the telephone lines and you have 2,000,000 under the control of the federal government! We are likewise confronted with the question whether we should get as good service through the public ownership of the telegraph and telephone lines as we do now. I have never been able to understand why the people cannot regulate the charges for public service corporations, and make the charges reasonable and fair to the company and to the public. I believe in the regulation of these corporations, and already much has been accomplished toward regulation. Of course, we all know that the telephone rates are all the way from 25 to 50 per cent higher than they should be, but we are confronted with the question, would public ownership with its tremendous menace of centralization be advisable? The grange is a great factor in this country, and will be a great factor in deciding the question of public ownership. It is an order that stands for constructive and progressive legislation. And as an order it should study these problems with care before it takes a decided stand. It is an order that has never taken any back steps. The student of grange work will not find any policy of the national grange that has ever been retracted. Many measures it has urged have been enacted into laws, and others are pending. It has been the aim of the grange never to advocate any measure until it is satisfied that its enactment would be for the public good. It is true that the grange in Oregon stands for progressive and constructive legislation, and it is this attitude toward all public questions that have made it a power for good in this country. In constructive measures it should be at the front and it is at the front. It will continue to be alert to the interest of the public. For this reason I believe that when it decides what stand it will take on the question of public ownership will be taken only after careful deliberation and there will be no backward steps once its stand has been taken.

### ELECTRIC LIGHTS COMING EASTWARD

It is reported that the Northwestern Electric company is preparing to invade the Base Line territory in the event that the road is improved by a hard surface roadway. The company looks for an increase of settlers along the road and is said to be ready to run a line out from Portland in the expectation of getting business enough to justify the expense. Perhaps the line would not all be built at once, but it will come to Montavilla in a short time and could easily be extended eastward as rapidly as business could be secured to warrant the outlay.

The Melrose Dramatic club gave its first entertainment last Saturday evening in the Melrose schoolhouse. The play was a one act farce comedy, the Dressing Gown, and was played by six people. The club consists of pupils from Melrose and Victory schools under the direction of the teachers, Miss Mabel Wood and Miss Leota Smith.

### GARDEN TALK WAS POPULAR

R. W. Gill gave a fine talk on the preparation of hot beds and cold frames and the selection of seed for early planting of vegetables and flowers. Mr. Gill received the closest attention during his talk and it was observed that many were using note books and pencils and would put to practical use the suggestions which he made. Mr. Gill recommended that the hot bed be made by piling stable manure on the level ground which should be covered with frames 6x6 or larger not to exceed 6x18. Good rich soil containing plenty of humus should be sifted into these to the depth of 5 or 6 inches. Glass is recommended rather than cloth for a covering. This preparation should be made in plenty of time to give the soil a week or ten days to warm up before sowing the seed. Seeds for early transplanting may be put in any time within the next month. Plants should be transplanted after the first or second leaves have formed in order to give them more room for development and to strengthen the stock. Mr. Gill advised the use of small paper boxes for this purpose as they can be set in the ground later without disturbing the roots. Definite information was given as to the best varieties of tomatoes, peppers, cabbage and cauliflower to plant for the home garden or the market, and also of the proper management of these plants in the seed beds. Many other conditions of good gardening were touched upon and were of especial interest as they came from one who has made a marked success as a market gardener and seedman. Among other things it was said that quite a start could be made by planting corn, melons and cucumbers for the home garden in the paper pots and later transplanting them to the garden.

The best varieties of seeds for open planting were mentioned and some of the troubles which the gardener will encounter were treated. For snails and some insect pests it was recommended to scatter lime about the plants. For the tomato or potato flea or the maggots which troubles cabbage, cauliflower and radishes and turnips, Mr. Gill uses a mixture of coal oil and creosote and dust which he places about the plants with good results. It is a good plan to plant a few cabbage seeds in the early fall which will winter over and make hardy plants for early use. "Don't forget the flowers" said Mr. Gill. "Such as asters and pansies may be sown in the hot bed and sweet peas may be sown almost any time now in the open if they are not covered too deeply." Do not work the ground too wet. Much harm will result by so doing. Mr. Gill does not take seriously to planting by the moon. Soil condition is the paramount thing.

### O. F. R. PRESIDENT VISITS GRESHAM

B. F. Rhodes, president of the Oregon Fire Relief association, of McMinnville was in Gresham on Friday last looking over the territory in charge of John Brown, resident agent. He found things very satisfactory and congratulated Mr. Brown on his successful efforts for the company during the past fourteen years.

This is the first time during Mr. Brown's control of the company's affairs in this section that an officer of the association has called upon him, which fact he takes to mean that everything has been satisfactory. Mr. Rhodes took dinner with the Brown family, and was favorably impressed with Gresham and its surroundings. This has been one of the best insurance fields under the jurisdiction of the O. F. R. which holds a high rank in the insurance business of the state.

**Builders' Attention!**  
The Sandy Fir Lumber Company of Sandy, Oregon, is filling all lumber orders and invites your inquiries and orders. Martin Lennartz, manager. Phone 446.

Little Alta, the 2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Whilon, is ill with complications following measles. She has serious bronchial trouble, also a gathering in her ear.

It must be admitted that Huerta is a surprising stayer.

## NEW SYSTEM OF ELECTION

Each Subordinate will Choose its Own Delegate to the State Grange

All the grangers in the state are being notified that an amendment to the by-laws recently adopted by a referendum vote of the subordinate granges, relative to the election of state grange representatives has gone into effect, and that the convention system has been abolished.

The new plan provides that the secretary of the state grange shall certify to a list that have been longest without representation. They alone this year and each succeeding year shall have representation in regular order. The granges thus selected in a regular three-year order will elect their delegates to the state grange at the first regular meeting in March.

Rockwood grange, following the old plan, had already made a choice of delegates to the county convention, only to find itself mistaken. There will be no convention.

Of the ten granges in Multnomah county only three may send delegates to the state grange each year. Two years ago, at the Roseburg session, Evening Star, Gresham and Woodlawn were represented; last year the granges sending delegates to Albany were Columbia, Lents, and Pleasant Valley; for this year's session at Monmouth there are Fairview, Multnomah Rockwood and Russellville granges to chose from by the state executive committee, one of which will have to wait until next year. It will then take precedence over the three first-named granges, leaving one of them to await until another year to take its place at the head of the second trio.

This plan has been followed in the county convention of this county for ten years, but it was not followed very closely in other counties and there was much dissatisfaction in consequence.

### PARKING STRIPS FOR THE WHOLE ADDITION

A petition for beautifying the streets of Regner's addition is ready for the city council, asking for parking strips on each side of every street in the addition. It was circulated by Frank Gibbs and W. L. Stockton, who have had the work in hand for nearly a year. They have succeeded in getting the signatures of every property owner in the addition to their petition, which should insure its consideration by the city council.

The plan calls for a sidewalk and parking strip of twelve feet, which will make attractive streets and lessen the cost of improvement. As the addition has no business houses and will probably never have any, the parking idea, if carried out, will make that part of the city one of the most attractive for residence locations and considerably enhance valuations for home sites.

**Pleasant Valley Ladies' Aid.**  
The Pleasant Valley Ladies' Aid will meet with Mrs. J. Nash next Thursday afternoon, not Wednesday evening as was erroneously stated in the last Outlook. All members and friends are invited.

**Milk, Cream and Buttermilk.**  
Delivered anywhere in Gresham by the green milk wagon from Rockwood Dairy. Milk bottled and prepared under sanitary conditions. Investigation invited. Phone 161.

## Basket Ball Games

The Boys' Teams of G. H. S. and Orient School

The Girls' Teams of G. H. S. and Hood River H. S.

FRIDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 20

At the Skating Rink

Girls will play by Girls' Rules