

CITY ATTORNEY WRITES OF THE ROAD PROBLEM

Gresham, Ore., Jan. 28.

Editor Outlook:—There is nothing to controvert in your editorial of recent date entitled, "Another Promise Made," with reference to hard surfacing for county roads within the town of Gresham; but the same is subject to criticism for its lack of enthusiasm over the final promise made by the county authorities that, if they have their way about it, at least one business street of Gresham will be paved for a mile and one half, and that at the expense of the county. The head lines of the editorial should have been in three-fourths inch type, or, at least, as large as the headline type of the want column, while the hint at "sitting tight and waiting for hard surfacing" suggests an attitude too passive for an enterprising citizenship, and for the town of Gresham that is budding into cityhood. The county commissioners and road master should not be criticized seriously for having made and repudiated promises and orders in connection with such hard surfacing, as they were operating under a new law, which in itself was an experiment.

As soon as the fund of some \$614,000.00 had been created under this law about a year ago, Roadmaster Yeon called and addressed a mass meeting at Gresham, and explained his proposals for the hardsurfacing of county roads in country and town districts, half the expense of which was to be paid from this special fund and the other half by abutting property owners; also advising that, as this fund was limited, and if any such road improvement should be made in the season of 1914, there was no time to be lost, and that only the districts applying, by majority of property owners, first and before the exhausting of the fund, could be favored with participation therein.

Gresham was the first and probably the only district to perfect its application under the law, and in compliance with the aforesaid proposals.

Although the county on its part completed surveys, grades and estimates for hardsurfacing the Gresham county roads and filling the Powell street gulch, it stopped, short never to proceed again on those lines, to the disappointment and dissatisfaction of more than a majority of the Gresham population. The reasons for the halt were never satisfactorily explained by the commissioners, Mr. Holman stating at the time that, "The answer was not in the book." Later, they recorded their decrees to the effect that no hardsurfacing should be done, with county assistance, on county roads in Portland or the towns of the county, except what might be done in connection with paving roads running to or through the towns.

However, they did not repudiate nor ignore their promise to fill and remedy the menacing Powell street gulch, and as announced from the roadmaster's office recently, this work is on the way and will be completed within sixty days.

Three important factors and contingencies contributed to the failure of the 1914 project for hardsurfacing three miles or more of county roads within the town of Gresham: First, the recent act of the legislature, under which it was proposed to operate, cast an inequitable burden on abutting property owners for which reason this experimental legislation proved to be a failure;

Second, when the county districts, whose county roads it was intended to be improved, refused to submit to the operation of the law, it did not appeal to the commissioners as being right, or a proper use of these funds, to spend it all or any portion of it on the county roads within the towns of the county and the city of Portland, so it was devoted largely to the prosecution of work on the Columbia Highway;

Third, the property owners affected within the town of Gresham were hopelessly divided in their support of hardsurfacing of the county roads within the town. The events to date in connection with the whole matter compare favorably with the Gresham east wind which never blew ill enough to do nobody good. The results for Gresham and hardsurfacing therein under the proposed bond issue, if carried, will be larger and less expensive to its prominent tax payers than they would be under the 1914 proposals,

OSBURN LETS CONTRACT FOR FIRST BUILDING

Ground was broken yesterday for the first new building to be erected in the burnt district. It was for the foundation of C. E. Osburn's building which is to be erected on the property where formerly stood Maxwell Schneider's photo studio, Osburn's blacksmith shop and Hessel's farm machinery warehouse.

E. T. Jones & Co. have the contract for the structure which is to be 75 feet fronting on Main street and 65 feet deep on Second.

It will be one story high, built of brick and be divided into two stores, the corner one to have a frontage of 50 feet. This store will be for rent. The other room, 25 feet front, will be occupied by Mr. Osburn with his blacksmith shop.

The building will be of one story only, with walls heavy enough to support another story if it is ever required. There will be no basement and the floor will be of wood. Construction will proceed as rapidly as possible. The building will probably be finished within six weeks.

PROCESS MAN ARRIVES HERE

F. J. Kaster, formerly process man in the Brownsville cannery, is now located in Gresham with his family living in the Helney house on Roberts avenue. He will hold a similar position in Gresham cannery.

Speaking of the removal of Mr. Kaster from Brownsville the Times of that city says:

"Fred Kaster and family went to Gresham Thursday, where Mr. Kaster has accepted the position of process man in the new fruit cannery at that place. When Mr. Kaster's resignation was accepted by the board of directors of the Brownsville Canning and Preserving company recently, the secretary was instructed by unanimous vote of the board to record a vote of thanks and appreciation for Mr. Kaster's faithful and efficient services during the three years he served as processor for the company."

AGRICULTURAL STATION WILL CHANGE ITS NAME

The Powell Valley Agricultural station will cease active operations for a time. The manager will reorganize the affairs and the station will be known as the "Pacific Agricultural station." They will operate an active base both in Washington as well as Oregon. They will introduce some very rare and valuable fruits and grow high grade seeds for the Pacific coast trade.

The art of soil conditioning will be taught in the meantime by the circulation of the "Soils Summary Bulletins," which will be available at this office and at your local banks at all times.

There will be no free vegetable plants to distribute this year, but as soon as they are established the vegetable plants will be distributed each spring as of yore.

J. W. BANHOLSTER, Manager.

provided, of course, the town is united in claiming what is due it.

The turn of events has proved that the minority of leading citizens of Gresham, including John Metzger, Charles Cleveland, Ben Matthews, Dr. Thompson, Mayor Stapleton and others, who refused to petition for hardsurfacing last summer, were unconsciously right in opposing the same; and if that minority will unite its influence, vote and voice with the majority of Gresham voters for the carrying of the bond issue on condition that Gresham and vicinity get their due share of benefits and the paving of one or more of the county roads through the town, where street improvement has been neglected and is needed 100 per cent more than on the roads outside of the town, there will be results for the town of Gresham that will mark an era in its advancement.

MILO C. KING, City Attorney.

Alabama Goes for Prohibition.

By a vote of 74 to 26 in the House and 26 to 9 in the Senate, the Alabama legislature passed a prohibition law to become effective July 1st. It will probably be vetoed, but will certainly be passed over the governor's veto.

Notice!

Gresham Harness Shop, located in former Outlook office, opposite Pulfer Mercantile Co.'s store. If

For Few Days Only.

Bargain offer on Evening Telegram. Telegram alone 1 year, \$3.50, with Outlook, \$4.50. Speak for these quick.

COUNTY FAIR TAX LAW IS REPEALED

With the repeal of all continuing appropriations by the legislature, the county fair funds heretofore available from the state treasury will not be forthcoming this year unless there is renewed legislation on that and similar appropriations.

The fund last year given to Multnomah county amounted to \$10,320, of which \$5000 went to the Portland Livestock show; \$4000 to the Land Products show; and \$1000 to the Multnomah County Fair association. The balance of \$320 has not been used.

With the withdrawal of these sums the two first-named exhibitors will be without any funds whatsoever from the public source. The county fair seems to be more fortunate, as the sum of \$3000 was appropriated by the county budget committee last November and will be set aside by the county commissioners from this year's tax receipts.

If there is to be no further money available this season the fair association will have to make reductions in its premium list offers on some exhibits, especially the grange, farm, livestock and horticultural divisions. Premiums last year amounted to over \$4600, but as the association is in debt it will probably confine its awards this year to the \$3000 appropriated by the county.

It is not known what attitude the other shows will take as they have not been recognized by the county and are left without funds of any kind unless they are able to get money from other sources as they made no application to the budget committee for anything.

The county fair board committee, consisting of President Lewis, the secretary and one other member, appeared before the budget committee two months ago and made a financial showing of the condition of the fair, coupled with a request for \$3000 which was granted. It was thought at that time that a slice of the state fund would also be forthcoming, the same as last year, but the economy wave that struck the state has impelled the legislature to repeal that law along with all others, and unless something is done to relieve the situation the county fairs of Oregon will be in a sorry condition hereafter as far as money for premiums is concerned unless the various counties come to their rescue. Probably some of them will have to go out of business but the Gresham fair seems to be the luckiest one of all at this time, which is gratifying, considering the bad luck it experienced last year.

CLOVER CIRCLE W. O. W., INSTALLS OFFICERS

The public installation of officers of Clover Circle, Women of Woolcraft, was held last Tuesday evening in Odd Fellows hall, a large number being present to enjoy the ceremonies. Mrs. Barney of Portland, assisted by Mrs. J. N. Clanaahan conducted the exercises. The honor work was put on by Mt. Scott degree team.

The officers installed were: guardian neighbor, Mrs. D. D. Jack; past guardian neighbor, Mrs. J. N. Clanaahan; adviser, Mrs. Carrie Powell; clerk, Mrs. Nellie Metzger; banker, Mrs. J. N. Mewhirter; magician, Mrs. L. P. Manning; attendant, Mrs. D. L. Wostell; managers, F. T. Wostell and J. H. Metzger; inner sentinel, Mrs. A. Duncan; outer sentinel, Mrs. G. B. Middleton.

Mrs. Mewhirter was presented with an emblem pin by the Circle. Refreshments were served at the close of the evening. Visiting members of the order spoke very highly of the hospitality shown by the Gresham Circle and expressed a desire to visit here again.

RETURN COMEDY AND MOVING PICTURE REELS

Regner's opera house will open in a new line on Monday evening next. The new electric projector has been installed and will show a four-reel feature entitled "Love, Luck and Gasoline," a thrilling air water and railroad story.

In addition to the pictures to be shown the Willis, Collins & Murray Co. will repeat the entertaining comedy "The Way to Make a Million." Admission for the full performance will be ten cents for adults, 5 cents for children. These prices will prevail for all future shows.

The equipment is complete for moving pictures, with the best films procurable. More will be given for the money than ever seen before in Gresham.

Evening performances will continue hereafter on Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with a change every evening of from four to six reels and other occasional features in drama or vaudeville. There will be no change in prices for acts under the management of the house.—Adv.

Auto Bus Time Card.

The Gresham-Portland Auto service car leaves Belt's confectionery at this end of the route as follows:

Over Base Line road, 9:00 and 11:15 a. m.; 2, 4:15 and 6:40 p. m.
Over Powell Valley road, 8:00 and 10:15 a. m., 1, 3:15 and 5:30 p. m.
These cars will leave Portland, First and Alder streets—
Over Powell Valley road, 8:00 and 11:15 a. m.; 1, 3:15 and 5:30 p. m.
Over Base Line road, 9:00 and 11:15 a. m.; 2, 4:15 and 6:40 p. m.
Sundays the first car will leave both terminals at 8:00 a. m.
Cars are comfortable, commodious and have electric lights and heat.

Fifteen per cent off on all Heating Stoves at Sterling & Kiddler's.

ARCHITECT KRONER GETS HIGH SCHOOL

The High School Board has selected Ernst Kroner as architect and will adopt his plans for the new school building with some modifications which are deemed to be more suitable than those submitted in the specifications.

Mr. Kroner's plans call for an expenditure of about \$20,000 for the first unit, which includes a gymnasium. The school building will be two stories high, built of brick and without a basement. The heating plant will be at the rear of the school rooms, behind which will be the gymnasium.

The type of construction will give the edifice a finished appearance but will allow of a wing on each side, extending far enough back so as to bring the heating plant almost in the center.

The perspective shows an imposing structure of solid masonry, but without any frills or gingerbread work except an ornamental frieze. Every detail will go to make the arrangements suitable for their intended use and fully sanitary. Work will begin on the building as soon as all details are settled, as the bonds have been taken and the money is available.

Mr. Kroner is a Portland architect with several good school buildings to his credit. He is just finishing a high school building at Rainier, and built one last year at McMinnville.

CONTRASTING PRICES IN BRIDGE BUILDING

The Portland Journal pays a high compliment to the efficiency of the Multnomah county commissioners and Roadmaster Yeon in the following comparisons on bridge construction in this county and in Lane county:

The highway bridge across the Sandy river, near the Automobile Club house, is practically finished. The bridge will cost Multnomah county \$21,000.

A bridge of similar size built at Eugene in 1913 cost Lane county \$42,000.

What's the answer? The Sandy river bridge was built under the supervision of the state highway department. The Eugene bridge was not.

Bids for the Sandy river bridge were extensively advertised for and eight contractors competed for the work.

The Eugene bridge was not advertised and there were no competitive bids received.

In the Sandy river bridge there are 155 tons of steel. This steel cost Multnomah county \$10,150, or \$65.50 per ton. The mill price of steel at Pittsburg was \$25 per ton.

In the Eugene bridge there are 148.6 tons of steel. The cost of this to Lane county was \$27,450 or \$184.72 per ton. The mill price of steel at Pittsburg was \$28 per ton. The steel cost the contractor at Eugene \$75 per ton. He made a profit of \$109.72 per ton.

Allowing the contractor a fair profit of 15 per cent, Lane county taxpayers lost the sum of \$14,000 on the transaction.

The Sandy river bridge has a floor of reinforced concrete paved with creosoted wood blocks. The Eugene bridge has a wooden floor.

The object of this comparison is to point out the great saving to taxpayers that could be made by legislation requiring that bridges and culverts of any size be constructed under the supervision of the state highway department. There is no reflection upon county courts which are plainly at a disadvantage in not having the technical knowledge enabling them to deal with contractors.

Revenge.

Postmaster Abbott was not so engrossed in the reports that he was making out that he could not hear the strange conversation between his assistant and the purchaser of a two-cent stamp Tuesday afternoon.

"Don't you care for any postal cards today?" asked the assistant, as he handed the man the stamp.

"No, not today," replied the man. "Or some stamped envelopes? We have some new ones."

"No, thank you."
"Would you like a money order?"

"No."
"Or perhaps you would like to open a postal savings account?"

"Certainly not."
"Let me advise you, at all events, to rent a lock box."

"But the man had fled.
"Who was that man?" the postmaster exclaimed, indignantly, when he recovered from his astonishment.

"What do you mean by asking that man those questions?"

"That man," said the assistant, "is my barber. For years when he has shaved me, he has bothered me to death with recommendations of massages, shampoos, hair cuts, hair tonics, and what not. For once in my life, I am even with him."—Seaside Signal.

Prohibition laws are not sumptuary laws. They do not prescribe what a man shall eat or drink, but what a man shall sell. The only sumptuary laws in this country are the laws which punish a man for drinking too much whisky.

FAIRVIEW CITY COUNCIL DOWN TO HARD WORK

By J. H. SCHRAM.

FAIRVIEW, Jan. 29.—(Special.)

One of the most enthusiastic council meetings ever held in Fairview was held Tuesday evening, the 26th. According to promises made by the mayor work along various lines were started in earnest. Several important ordinances were submitted, and passed second reading. Active steps were taken in conjunction with the grange of this place to re-establish a good circulating library, using one of the rooms of the city hall for library; also in the matter of fixing up for immediate use the store room so that the city could be receiving revenue from same. The floating hobo population proved the necessity of a jail and rockpile at once. The selecting and hiring of C. M. Brown as city attorney was applauded by all present who had congregated to see the new council settle down to work, and facts and figures were thoroughly discussed pro and con regarding a water and sewer system which is at present our greatest want, and all citizens were asked to thoroughly discuss this matter and be free to express themselves at our council meeting. As soon as the weather will permit some substantial street improvements will be made and steps will be taken at once to install three or four more lights in our city, the most important one being installed on the Sandy road on the hill just east of town, lighting up the dangerous curve coming into town from Troutdale.

Mrs. R. D. Sleeper, who has been keeping house for J. H. Schram the past six weeks, was called to St. Johns Thursday by serious illness of her sister-in-law, hence Mr. Schram is still off duty on the rural route and will be for several days yet, as he is having a hard tussel with his carbuncle, but he will come out on top yet.

Suggestion: Owing to the city having no method whatever to fight fire, and as several old buildings in our town are furnishing refuge during this cold weather to tramps, thereby endangering our property most unmercifully, we would like to see some steps taken to condemn or repair these buildings at once. They are of no earthly use to owner or city, and an eye-sore to all coming within our limits, especially to those along the county road, and should they catch fire our little burg is doomed beyond question, especially so during a period of east wind. Most if not all of these time-worn, broken down dilapidated buildings belong to non-residents who have but very little interest in the way of building up and beautifying of our city for fear of taxes. Also, why should we property owners and taxpayers grade our streets and sidewalks then allow them to become obstructed by fallen-down fences, telephone and electric light poles and the building of approaches into buildings, said approaches reaching out the full width of sidewalk? Let us look after the dumping of garbage within our city limits and especially along county roads and within a stones throw of our finest church.

The graduating exercises of our school will be held Friday evening in the city hall. Professor Lent is preparing an appropriate program for the occasion. The following pupils will receive this degree of honor: Louise Loser, Richard Anderson, Jack Luscher, William Butler, Lester McMains.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Robins are returning to Fairview. Mr. Robins is enjoying a vacation from railroad work in eastern Oregon caused by cold weather, the mercury being down to 19 degrees. Mrs. Robins stopped off for a few days at The Dalles to visit and then will join Mr. Robins here. They will return to their work in early spring.

Several cases of chicken pox have made their appearance among the school children here, causing some to remain at home for a few days.

Appreciation Express.

I am paying for this space to take the opportunity to express my appreciation of the prompt and very satisfactory way the California Insurance company of San Francisco adjusted and paid my loss on my buildings destroyed by fire on January 6, full settlement being made inside of twenty days.

W. C. LAWRENCE.