

COUNTY ROAD CODE ABOLISHES ROAD SUPERVISORS

The new county road code (B. B. 519), passed by the recent legislature, abolishes all county road supervisors after January 1, 1918.

The establishment, improvement and maintenance of all county roads are under the jurisdiction of the county court, which may employ a competent engineer or practical road builder, who shall be known as county roadmaster, whose compensation shall be fixed by the county court.

The duties of the county road master and his deputies are as follows:

Road Master's Duties.

- (a) To assist the county in preparing the specifications for road work or bridges.
(b) To superintend all road work and bridge work done in the county.
(c) To recommend to the county court the methods to be adopted for road improvement and maintenance.
(d) To keep a record of work done and make report to the county court.
(e) To investigate petitions for road improvements and make recommendations to the county court.
(f) To supervise and examine and accept work done on the county roads and bridges under contract.
(g) To lay out, construct and maintain county roads.
(h) To establish and maintain sign boards at all crossroads, giving the distance and direction to the next town.
(i) To perform all duties imposed on the county road supervisor by any state law.
(j) He shall have charge of all county road tools and equipment.

The county court is to furnish the material and to furnish suitable office quarters and transportation facilities for the county road master.

The county road master and his deputies are authorized and empowered to enter upon any piece of land and take away stone, gravel or dirt for the purpose of constructing roads; they are also authorized to open and construct drains leading out from the road into adjoining properties. In case any damage is done to the property owner, he can petition the county for payment of the same.

The county shall be divided into road districts. Upon petition from twelve resident freeholders of any district for a change or improvement of a road, the county road master shall investigate it, and make surveys and estimates and report to the county court. If the county court sees fit it shall grant the petition, and have the desired improvements made.

Three freeholders of any road district may petition the county court at any time for the purpose of having the county court call a meeting of the legal voters of such district, the petition shall state the object of such a meeting. Any person 21 years old and paying taxes in the district shall have the right to vote. The resident taxpayers in any district may have the right to vote an additional tax not to exceed 10 mills for the purpose of road improvement in that district, a meeting for voting such tax is to be held during the month of November.

Letting Road Contracts. Any job or project in road improvement or bridge construction costing \$2000 or more shall be let by contract to the highest bidder. Jobs costing less may be constructed by day labor under the direction of the county road master. Specifications for such construction work or improvement or bridge work shall be prepared by the county road master or some other competent person. The county court may supply the material, or part of the material, and receive bids for the labor alone.

The county court is empowered to levy an annual county road tax not to exceed 10 mills. The county court is also empowered to co-operate with the federal government in maintaining state highways, and in constructing and maintaining secondary highways. Seventy per cent of the taxes levied in a road district shall be expended in that district.

Helena (Mont.) Independent: President Wilson could not have asked for less than he did before congress. The fact is that Germany has declared war on us already whether some people believe it or not.

BILL PROVIDES \$100,000,000 TO ARM U. S. SHIPS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The text of the Flood bill is as follows:

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled that the president of the United States be and is hereby authorized and empowered to supply merchant ships, the property of citizens of the United States and hearing American registry, with defensive arms should it in his judgement become necessary for him to do so, and also with the necessary ammunition and means of making use of them in defense against unlawful attack; and that he be and is hereby authorized and empowered to employ such other instrumentalities and methods as may in his judgment and discretion seem necessary and adequate to protect such ships and the citizens of the United States in their lawful and peaceful pursuits on the high seas.

"Section 2: The sum of one hundred million dollars is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated to be expended by the president of the United States for the purpose herein stated, the said sum to be available until the first day of January, 1918; and the president is authorized to transfer so much thereof as he may deem necessary to the bureau of war risk insurance, created by act of congress, approved September 24, 1914 for the purpose of insuring vessels, their freight, passage moneys and cargoes against loss or damage for the present risks of war.

"Section 3: For the purpose of meeting the expenditures herein authorized the secretary of the treasury under the direction of the president, is hereby authorized to borrow on the credit of the United States and to issue therefor bonds of the United States not exceeding in the aggregate \$100,000,000, said bonds to be in such form and subject to such terms and conditions as the secretary of the treasury may prescribe, and to bear interest at the rate not exceeding three per centum per annum; provided, that such bonds shall be sold at not less than par, shall not carry the circulating privilege and that all citizens of the United States shall be given an equal opportunity to subscribe therefor, but no commission shall be allowed or paid thereon; that both principal and interest shall be payable in United States gold coin of the present standard of value, and be exempt from all taxation and duties of the United States as well as from taxation in any form of all state, national, or local authorities; that any bonds issued hereunder may, under such conditions, as the secretary of the treasury may prescribe, be convertible into bonds bearing a higher rate of interest than three per centum per annum, if any bonds shall be issued by the United States at a higher rate than three per centum per annum by virtue of any act passed on or before December 31, 1915.

"Section 4: In order to pay the necessary expenses connected with the said issue of bonds, or any conversion thereof, a sum not exceeding one-fifth of one per centum of the amount of bonds herein authorized to be issued, or which may be converted, is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated to be expended as the secretary of the treasury may direct."

U. S. WANTS GUNNERS FOR U-BOAT CAMPAIGN WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Guns and mounts sufficient to arm any reasonable number of American merchant ships are now stored at navy yards, it was stated officially at the navy department today following President Wilson's appearance before congress to ask authority to provide weapons and men should the need arise. Efficient gunners are lacking, however, unless they are to be taken from active ships which can ill spare them.

Naval officers pointed out that men of special skill, trained to the minute, would be required as gun pointers for anti-submarine work. At best a U-boat is difficult to hit as there is little exposed. Often a periscope hardly is visible at more than a few thousand yards is the gunner's only target.

Recent figures show that 250 ships under American registry are engaged in trans-Atlantic trade but it is estimated that not more than 120 would apply for guns and take the risk of crossing the German submarine zones. There will be no difficulty in furnishing that number of vessels with weapons, but supplying trained gun pointers for 100 guns would take just that many valuable men away from fighting ships.

With Medford trade in Medford as a bill.

"HAIL COLUMBIA" UP-TO-DATE



26 AMERICANS ON TORPEDO LAGOONIA

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Twenty-six Americans, six of whom were cabin passengers and twenty members of the crew, were on board the Cunard liner Lagonia, from New York, February 18 for Liverpool with 75 passengers and a crew of 216. When the vessel was sunk by a German submarine Sunday night, one casualty, as yet unidentified, was officially reported by the Liverpool office of the line to officials here.

The names of the American passengers and their addresses as given by the line here, and confirmed in part by relatives in the United States are: Floyd P. Gibbons, of the Chicago Tribune. Mrs. F. E. Harris, wife of Lieutenant Colonel Frank E. Harris, United States coast artillery corps stationed at Fort Du Pont, near Philadelphia. Arthur T. Kirby, Bainbridge, N. Y. Mrs. Mary E. Hoy, Chicago. Mrs. Elizabeth Hoy, Chicago. The Rev. James Warelius, registered from New York but said to be from Norfolk, Va.

The Americans among the crew were signed here to take the places of others whose terms of service had expired or who had failed to appear when the ship was ready to sail. The men were recruited mostly from shipping offices and gave New York and Brooklyn as their places of residence. They were stokers, coal trimmers, wipers and seamen.

RECOUNTS LOSS OF GERMAN SUBMARINE

BOSTON, Feb. 27.—The sinking of a German submarine in the harbor of St. Vincent, Cape De Verde Islands, by two Portuguese torpedo boats on the night of January 1, was described here by Arthur J. Jeffs of New York, a member of the crew of the steamer Eddie.

One shot apparently pierced the submarine's hull, Jeffs said and prevented her from submerging. The underwater craft then circled the Eddie several times, maneuvering for an opportunity to launch a torpedo, but the torpedo boats finally caught the submarine between them. They opened up with their rapid fire, and the U-boat, with her hull riddled, sank suddenly.

The Eddie left the islands while Jeffs was on shore leave and he was tossed away on the Fagerness. He was detained temporarily by the immigration authorities.

BILL TO REGULATE MORALS APPLIES BOTH SEXES ALIKE

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 27.—The house today passed the public morals bill, championed by Mrs. Ina P. Williams, representative from Yakima county. The bill raises the age of consent to 18 years and is applicable equally to men and women. It eliminates from the present law the phrase "persons of chaste character." Notice was given that a motion would be made tomorrow to reconsider the bill.

GREAT FALLS GROCER CLERKS LOCKED OUT

GREAT FALLS, Mont., Feb. 27.—All retail grocery clerks in Great Falls will be locked out tomorrow morning, according to an announcement tonight by the operating committee of the Great Falls Employers' association. The stores will be opened as usual but no employees will be permitted to work. The proprietors will serve customers who go to the stores but no deliveries will be made. Wholesale grocery houses, fruit and commission houses and all lumber yards will be closed.

The lockout was decided upon by the employers, it was said, because of the clerks' refusal to handle the products of the Royal Milling company, which has been voted "unfair" by the Central Labor Council. Eighty of the eighty-five grocery stores in Great Falls were closed two days in January because of a similar dispute involving the Royal Milling company. A settlement was effected but subsequently the labor leaders asserted that the milling company had not complied with the terms of the agreement and the "unfair" order was re-issued.

FRENCH TO GREET AMERICAN SAILORS

BORDEAUX, Feb. 27.—A program of entertainment for the officers and crew of the Orleans at Bordeaux includes a reception tomorrow of the vessel upon its arrival at the wharf here. A procession in honor of the American sailors will pass through the various important streets to the city hall where the officers will be received by the municipal authorities and tendered a luncheon. The Bordeaux chamber of commerce will give them a dinner in the evening, after which they will be guests at a gala performance at the French theater to which all the members of the crew are invited.

Wednesday the chambers of commerce will give a luncheon to the crew of the Orleans, at which delegations of sailors from all the navigation companies whose lines touch at Bordeaux will be present.

VILLA LOSES POWER AFTER RECENT DEFEATS

CHIHUAHUA CITY, Mex., Feb. 27.—General Francisco Murguía on his return today from his campaign against Villa in the south announced that the Villa movement, following successive defeats, had lost its military significance and the only task remaining would be to police the state and clean up the scattered individual bands.

Villa's whereabouts have not yet been discovered, General Murguía stated, although Carranza cavalry parties have searched his old haunts and hiding places. Most of the rebels were reported to have gone south and to be short of food and ammunition. General Murguía said that his efforts now would be devoted to restoring normal conditions in the state.

POOR OF NEW YORK TO GET RELIEF SOON

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Mayor Mitchell announced tonight after the resumption of rioting on the East Side, which resulted in the police reserves making several arrests that a bill would be introduced in the legislature tomorrow to empower the city to purchase food supplies and sell them at cost as a means of ameliorating suffering among the poor people during the present high cost of living.

Governor Whitman, prior to his departure for Albany earlier in the day, asserted that he did not expect to send any emergency measure to the legislature, as he was "convinced the situation was not critical." Joseph Hartigan, city commissioner of weights and measures predicted a material drop in the prices of potatoes and onions before the end of the week.

PETITION TO PROVE HARRY THAW LUNATIC

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 27.—A petition for the appointment of a lunacy commission to determine the sanity of Harry K. Thaw, continued in a hospital here as the result of self-inflicted wounds when he was about to be arrested on a New York indictment charging him with assault on 19-year-old Frederick Gump, Jr. of Kansas City, Mo., was filed in common pleas court here today by counsel on behalf of Thaw's mother. The proceedings, it was announced, were instituted in an effort to have Thaw adjudged insane and his personal estate brought under control of the judicial authorities of Pennsylvania. The petition is made returnable the first week in April.

"If Thaw's lunacy is settled anywhere, it will be in New York," according to District Attorney Swann, of New York, when informed of the latest move of Thaw's counsel. "It is our intention to use every legal means to have Thaw taken to New York to answer the charges on which he has been indicted."

STEEL NETS AND MINES TO GUARD CITY OF SEATTLE

SEATTLE, Feb. 27.—Steel nets and mines are to be spread across the entrance of the Strait of Juan De Fuca as a means of guarding Puget Sound against attack from German submarines should possible hostilities ensue, according to an order received here today. A gate wide enough to permit the largest steamers to pass through will be open during the day, but at night this will be closed, and the mines will be operated from Port Worden. The nets and mines are already at Fort Worden, having been used before and will be lowered into the water and stretched across the strait, a distance of about six miles.

FAMINE THREATENS WORLD AS WHEAT CROP TWICE FAILS

By BASHIL M. MANLY WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 27.—

Reports from every part of the world indicate grave danger of a short wheat crop for the coming year. On top of the great wheat failure of last year, this would bring the entire world close to famine.

In Russia, next to the United States the greatest wheat growing country, cold weather prevails with only a light snow covering to protect the seed. As a result, the outlook for winter crops there is not good, and at the same time the stocks on hand are only moderate and the consumption for food has been unusually heavy.

In France, the fourth largest wheat producer, the winter is said to be the severest since 1863, with only light snow covering for the crops, as the present low temperatures followed recent rains. The smallest crop in years is therefore expected.

No Surplus Grain.

The Balkan States will certainly produce no surplus grain this year, for not only are these countries ravaged by war and crippled by a scarcity of labor, but cold weather has been delayed by wet, cold weather.

In Italy the weather has been bad—cold and wet, with little snow, and the national stocks are so small that foreign buying is very heavy.

In Australia, where the seasons are the reverse of ours, harvesting is said to be slow, and it is wet over a very large area. As a result, the crop estimates are being reduced millions of bushels.

In the United States extreme cold has endangered the winter wheat, which throughout the great wheat belt has had only a very light or no snow covering. The crop experts are unanimous in predicting the American winter wheat crop will be below normal, although a greater area was planted this year than ever before.

This situation is rendered perilous because the failure of last year in practically all crops all over the world will bring us and other countries up to the harvest with practically no wheat in storage, while in normal years there is a surplus on hand at the beginning of the harvest of 250,000,000 bushels or more. The United States alone ordinarily comes to the harvest with 75,000,000 bushels in the storage elevators or in the farmers' barns.

Danger Increased.

And the danger is being daily increased by the submarine campaign. Every grain ship that is sunk carries down with it thousands of tons of wheat, which is lost forever. No one can estimate even how much wheat is being lost in this way, but there is no question that it is great enough to reduce appreciably the meager supply now on hand.

Fortunately there is a way out, if the agricultural population can be aroused to the gravity of the situation. The spring wheat is still to be planted, and if all the available area is planted there will be enough to save the day.

Every farmer that cares anything about his country, and incidentally about the chance of big profits which this almost certain failure of the winter wheat crop opens to him—will plant in wheat every acre of ground that is tillable. He will plant close to the fences and in the corners, in order that not a foot of ground that can raise wheat will be idle. Plant wheat is the slogan that ought to go out to every farm in the United States. Within six months, unless all signs fail, the whole world will be calling for wheat in the anguish of impending famine in their voices.

BOSTON, Feb. 27.—Investigation of the sugar shortage of last week, when the price soared to 15, 20 and 25 cents a pound in some places, has disclosed, United States Attorney George W. Anderson announced tonight that it "was about nine-tenths artificial and promoted, and about one-tenth due to temporary inadequacy in transportation facilities."

STOP CATARRH! OPEN NOSTRILS AND HEAD

Stop Catarrh! Open Nostrils and Head. Saks Cream Applied in Nostrils Relieves Head-Colds at Once. If your nostrils are plugged and your head is stuffed and you can't breathe freely because of a cold or catarrh, just get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Baln at any drug store. Apply a little of this fragrant, antiseptic cream into your nostrils and let it penetrate through every air passage of your head, soothing and healing the inflamed, swollen mucous membrane and you get instant relief. Ah! how good it feels. Your nostrils are open, your head is clear, no more howling, sneezing, blowing, no more headache, dizziness or struggling for breath. Ely's Cream Baln is just what suffers from head-colds and catarrh need. It's a delight.

WEST RESIGNS AS FEDERAL AGENT O. & C. GRANT LAND

PORTLAND, Feb. 27.—Former Governor Oswald West has announced his resignation as agent for the government in the settlement of taxes on the Oregon & California grant lands.

Obstacles and difficulties thrown in the way of early adjudication of these claims through the so-called Bean bill, recently passed by the legislature, have induced Mr. West to forward his resignation to the secretary of the interior. This bill authorizes county assessors to restore these lands to the tax rolls, and Mr. West feels that adjustment of the counties' claims will now be held up until the courts pass on the right of the state to tax the lands. In view of this situation, he cannot devote any more time as tax agent, although practically all of the work that was entrusted to him has been accomplished.

S. P. Did Not Pay 1913-15 Taxes.

Following the decision of the federal court, July 1, 1913, the Southern Pacific company did not pay its taxes on the O. & C. grant lands for the years 1913, 1914 and 1915. The Chamberlain-Ferris bill, passed in June of last year, appropriated money to pay the back taxes on the lands (which the railroad had not paid) pending the final settlement of the controversy between the company and the government. Some \$1,700,000 is due, and Governor West has examined claims on 2,300,000 acres.

This act also vested title in the lands in the government, and it is well known the government pays no taxes. The Bean bill compels the county assessors to put the lands on the tax roll for 1916, although county sheriffs have full power to add to the roll at any time, says ex-Governor West.

Offered Speedy Plan.

As tax agent, Mr. West met with county officials and advised them that it would be a better policy to leave the lands off the rolls, believing that speedy settlement of the claims of 1913, 1914 and 1915 would result.

The Bean bill, however, forces counties to put the lands on the roll and ties up 1916 with the other years. Mr. West feels that until the question of whether the state has a right to tax these lands for 1916 is settled in the courts, the payment of the other valid claims will be held up. The Bean bill was referred to the people and will be voted upon June 4.

If approved by the voters, the bill will complicate matters still more, says West, as the lands are now being classified and are to be thrown open to entry.

Counties' Rights Protected.

Pending settlement of the three years' claims the rights of the counties for 1916 are fully protected, believes Mr. West, in the right of the sheriff to assess the lands at any time.

Mr. West feels that the state should assume that the Chamberlain-Ferris bill which vests title in the O. & C. lands in the government should be deemed constitutional until the courts decide otherwise, and that no complication, such as the Bean bill, should be injected into the matter so as to delay payment of the claims which are due.

AN EXPERT ON COLDS

Comparatively few people realize that a cold is a signal of physical weakness. To treat a cold with weakening physics, alcoholic syrups or dragged pills, may soothe the cold but they reduce the body power still further and invite more serious sickness. Scott's Emulsion has always been an expert on colds, because it peculiarly enriches the blood, quickly tones up the forces and strengthens both throat and chest. Try Scott's, Refuse Substitutes. Scott & Borne, Bloomfield, N. J.

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