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Entered as second class mail matter July, 1888, at the post office at Tillamook, Ore., under the act of March 3, 1879.

The Tillamook Headlight.
A "COME BACK."
Farmers Partly Responsible for Need of More Road Tax.

"We, the undersigned, tax payers of Tillamook County, Oregon, fearing that the present agitation of the question of taxation for road purposes within Tillamook County, Oregon, might lead your honorable body to believe or conclude that it is the wish of the people of this county that the levy for such purposes be made sufficiently large to put the county practically out of debt, and believing that our taxes at the present time are about all that the taxpayers are able to pay, hereby most respectfully protest against the levy for the coming year being made any greater than the levy for the present year."

Above is a copy of the petitions which are being circulated, to be presented to the County Court, which is now open for discussion, pro and con. The petitioners claim their taxes are about all they are able to pay, consequently they are opposed to the road levy being raised more than last year to place the county on a cash basis. It will be interesting to know the amount of land and the amount of taxes these petitioners own and pay taxes on, as well as the value they place on their farms. We want to say this for a starter, with only a limited amount of money, it is impossible to wipe out the indebtedness and do much road work next year. Everybody will admit this. So what is the right course to pursue for the best interest of the entire county? We believe the first thing to do is to place the county on a cash basis, because the local banks are not capitalized with sufficient capital to handle warrants or able to dispose of them to other banks, so warrants have gone below par for the first time in 12 years. But wiping off the indebtedness should be extended over a few years, otherwise there will be little road work with only a six mill road levy. With the great demand for good roads from all parts of the county, a ten mill tax for the next four years will not be sufficient to do the necessary work and keep abreast with the progress of the county for the next few years. With all due respect to the opinions of those who differ with us, we think it is to the best interest of the county that a ten mill road tax be levied. And for another reason if there is but little road work next year and the roads get in bad condition, there will be a strong sentiment for bonding the county for \$500,000 or \$1,000,000. Quite a number of men have paid but small sums of money for high priced farms, and they have obligated themselves to pay the balance, and in figuring this out they expect to do some road work to help them out and to pay their taxes. Curtail the road work next year quite a number in that predicament will not be able to make good. We do not want to see the county bonded for road work, for the interest on that amount of money makes quite a road fund. So by showing a more magnanimous spirit, it will probably overcome any sentiment in favor of bonding the county. There is a tendency to go either to one extreme or the other, but as the county will make rapid progress the next few years, it is our judgment that any niggardly policy in road building will be a great mistake. There are two other ways of discussing this matter. The first is that the timber owners pay about 75 per cent of the taxes, which make considerable of a pay roll distributed every year amongst the farmers, who work on the roads and receive a large proportion of the road tax money. Cut this pay roll off, with roads getting in bad shape, there would be a bigger howl than about taxes than there is now, for quite a number of farmers depend on road work to help them out and to pay their taxes. Now the Headlight is going to raise a protest, and we hope our readers will pardon us for doing so. The road work of the county have been done principally by farmers, and we want to raise our

protest against farmers putting in only a part of a day's time and drawing a full day's pay. Whether any of that class have signed the above petition we do not know or care, but it is surprising the number of farmers who have come to this office of their own free will and told us of certain instances where men did comparatively little work for the pay they received, and in raising this protest we want to say this that the road money expended in previous years should and would have built far better roads had all the farmers put in an honest day's work. We do not intend to enter into any personalities. Here is one instance, however. A farmer in the vicinity of Fairview was tardy in getting to work one morning with his team, so was sent to the city to get a few tools, the weight of which any small boy could have easily packed. The farmer spent most of the day chewing the rag on the street and visiting certain places. In the middle of the afternoon he pulled out, and doing no other work that day, drew full pay for a man and team. We expect to find this man's name on the petition with other's who haven't given the county a square deal in road work. These instances are so common and numerous that it is no surprise to us that taxes are high and will become much higher if farmers are allowed to waste the road taxes in the future as in the past. This is our protest, and what the Headlight has repeatedly protested against and its advocacy of a system that would cut out this leakage and construct roads on scientific, economical plans. Weighing the matter carefully, and taking into consideration the different points we have raised, we think it is to the best interest of the county that a ten mill road tax be levied. We do not want to influence the County Court one way or another, but it cannot close its eyes to the needs of the county, and that in putting a stop to expending \$100,000 annually on roads and getting only about \$65,000 worth of work. The farmers who have done an honest day's work will take no exceptions to what we have said, for they know that what we have said hits the nail squarely on the head. The County Court will have to take into consideration the needs of a progressive and wide-awake county and govern itself accordingly. Heretofore, a large proportion of the taxes have gone to build roads and schools for the farmers, but the timber men, factories and seaside resorts, who are all big taxpayers, will justly demand and should have money expended on good roads which will benefit them as well as the entire county. The farmers have done much to improve the county, and it was proper that they should have good roads and good schools, but it will not be long before other interests will predominate and want a big share of the road fund.

Editorial Snap Shots.

Who said that it was the Tillamookers who hoodooed the weather at the state fair?

Nearly all the summer visitors to Tillamook have flown, leaving the beautiful weather.

The agitation for and against a 10 mill tax is a good thing if it will bring about better results in road work.

The Bay City Examiner says "Let us pray." Surely Bro. W. Trombley's conscience must be troubling him badly. It is fitting that he should atone for the articles he published about the fishermen's trouble. Will someone please send us a photo of the mayor-editor down on his marrow bones offering up the prayer of the self-righteous Pharisee.

We like I. B. Potter's style in wanting to go ahead and do something with bar and harbor improvements. We have been chewing the rag without any results and waiting on the government long enough. It is time to do something. The Port of Nehalem took the bull by the horns and Nehalem bar will be improved and a great factor in the up-building of that part of the county before work is commenced on the Tillamook bar.

One of the fool laws passed on account of the freak system of legislation in Oregon, was

the sovereign will of the people depriving the people of voting for four presidential electors, no matter which party a person belongs. The law only allows a voter to vote for one although four are to be elected. This is only another instance where the people of Oregon have been fool by the politicians. It is about time the people got next

The Bourne newspapers have started in to roast President Taft and to boost for LaFollett. In a poll of the United States senate 156 senators were in favor of Taft and 26 for LaFollett. The fight is now on between the progressive republicans, which Taft represents, and the insurgent republicans, who, with LaFollett and a combination of democrats, attempted to put Taft 'in a hole,' but fell in themselves, hence the Bourne newspapers are now endeavoring to make light of the prostitution of the insurgent republicans and the democrats to defeat the republican party.

We have received word from the American Press Association that it will send up one page of Folk plates. We receive the same amount of plate matter to boost Wilson for the presidency. It was not used because it was another scheme to make the country editors do work for nothing. This page of plate matter will be treated in the same way. The Missourian will have to "Show Me" there is some thing in it for the country editors as well as for the American Press Association, the railroad and the express company, all of whom are paid for their services. Some of the cheap guy editors will probably bite.

Those who advocate the single tax admit that it will double the taxes on land. That ought not to phase those who advocate what is known as the Oregon system, for this is only another of the fool laws which is to be forced on the people and is part of the system. No wonder that farmers are getting scared when they see the Oregon system is going to rope them into paying double the taxation. The people wanted this system advocated by a freak politicians and would not listen to the sober judgment of men who saw what a muss and confusion it would end in. The little difference of opinion in this county whether there is to be a ten instead of a six mill road levy will sink into insignificance when the Oregon system double the farmers' taxes. Gee! There will be just cause to make a roar, but it is part of the system and those who advocate it should not get clod feet because of a little thing like that.

It will be noticed that the good roads committee, appointed by Governor West, has prepared several bills and is wanting a special session of the state legislature. What the committee did was disappointing. Instead of simplifying the road laws, placing the road work in each county in the hands of a practical engineer and experienced road builder, it proposes to make another political office with a \$5,000 annually salary, to say nothing of office and other expenses traveling over Oregon looking wise, and the state getting into road work, with another 14 mill added to state taxes. We do not want to see tax money collected in this county go towards state roads in other parts of Oregon, nor do we think it fair to tax other counties for a state road in Tillamook county. What money is raised in this county for road purposes should be kept at home and expended at home, not under the supervision of somebody holding down a fat job at Salem. Governor West vetoed all road bills passed by the last state legislature, and now it is proposed to call a special session of the legislature to pass similar bills prepared by the committee.

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