

State Press Flashlight.

Russia has imposed a war income tax. Russia has a right to do this, because Russia is at war. Over here we already have one "war tax" and another is threatened. But we are at peace. What's the answer?—Gervais Star.

The bill board menace has invaded Forest Grove. They came without permission, against the wishes of our people, and with the determination to do about as they please. They put the question squarely up to you, "what are you going to do about it?"—News-Times.

Amidst the short cuts different editors take in their personals of the movement of buzz wagon drivers the Carlton Sentinel sagely inquires "If 'Forded in Portland' is good form, why not 'Studebakered in Portland' (or any other place)?"—Hillsboro Independent.

Multnomah county farmers are kicking on the new hard surface roads because their youngsters immediately demand roller skates when the hard surface is done. Roller skating on county roads is going some and will be good dope for next year's tourist literature.—Hillsboro Independent.

The report of the various banks of the country at the last call of the controller shows a grave situation. For instance one of the large banks of Portland is carrying a sixty per cent reserve. It's no wonder there are idle men when in one city alone more than fifteen million dollars are uninvested. What is wrong, anyway?—Amity Standard.

Approximately eight million people in this country are now enjoying the advantages of automobiles. How long will it be until the motor car is regarded as an obsolete, as old Dobbin today, and the ferocious public will be contented with nothing slower than air craft? Then after the air ship, what next? Will some Burbankia biologist succeed in grafting wings upon the shoulders of the human race producing a people that is scarcely lower than the angels?—Itemizer.

The decision of the Supreme Court holding that it is unlawful for cigar stores, grocery, or other retail stores to remain open on Sunday and exempting drug stores, theaters, doctor's offices, etc., is certainly a most unjust law. There are a large percentage of people who for various and valid reasons cannot make necessary purchases during the week, on the day of the Sunday closing law. Oregon is known all over the United States as the freak law state.—Coos Bay Harbor.

When you see someone doing good work say so and say it so some one will hear it. Don't be afraid it will produce the big head; that it will upset the judgment; that it will be taken for flattery; that it will be misunderstood. If you sincerely believe that good work has been done there will be none of these dangers in saying so. Probably one thing in the world's history has contributed more to final success, maybe after years of more down than ups, than the helpful words uttered by some one who admired the untiring zeal and pertinacity that preceded final success.—St. Helens Mist.

The moonshiners of North Carolina have invented a new drink called "monkey rum" that is 100 proof and causes a man to see all kinds of extinct animals and snakes quicker than any concoction dispensed by the bootleggers of Oregon. It is said to be made of steeped tobacco water, moon basses and stewed devils and a saucer full will burn for five minutes when lighted. The monkey rum, jag lasts three times as long as a whiskey drink, and ends with a frightful delirium tremens. As a text for a prohibition sermon it obscures all the logic of a silver-tongued orator.—Seminan Sun.

When Democrats sought power they pursued the trusts and promised punishment for those responsible for them and the high cost of living. Mr. Bryan passionately advocated the punishment for malefactors of this class, but the democratic administration is rapidly approaching its close and we cannot recall a single instance wherein trust magnates have been given anything more severe than a coat of whitewash. Mr. Bryan makes a fine figure on the Chautauqu platform, and he leaks language just as a sieve leaks water, but when it comes to carrying platform pledges into execution Bryan would rather resign.—Lebanon Criterion.

If the city would only put in proper equipment and do its own paving work, what a lot more old streets would come in, how much money it would save to the property owners, and what a lot more work it would do.

There isn't a single good reason why the city should do its own paving, and there are all the reasons why they should. These Portland paving companies don't come down here and make these streets at cost. They make good money on them, and take it home with them, and they don't do a thing at Corvallis can't do itself.

We ought to encourage street paving and road building in every possible way, and the biggest possible encouragement is low cost. Why not save these contractors' profit? Isn't the city of Corvallis doing such work? Isn't it as big a paving contractor?—Benton County Courier.

Sam Rogers, director of the census, has up with a handful of figures to prove that under the democratic administration there are fewer deaf and dumb persons than existed in republican times. Sam says the republican census of 1900 reported a total of 708 deaf and dumb people.

blames this to improper returns. Evidently he believes the republicans exaggerated the facts in order to retain themselves in power. According to Mr. Rogers' system of addition there are 19,154 deaf and dumb persons in the United States. However, the reason for this difference of 25,554 is easily accounted for: They are former mutes who have been shocked into profane lingual activity by the devilish antics of the democratic party, and who are aurally alert to the prospect of the republican administration in 1917. The president once said that the country was "vocal in spots". Sam has put his finger on one of the spots.—Astorian.

Many of the editors of the small papers refuse to give their readers editorials on the ground that editorials are for large city papers and the public does not care for the views of the country editor. As a matter of fact, the rural population are really reflected by the large editorials of the large city papers, which glean them from the country papers which run editorials.

The sound thought of the country is to be found in the rural districts. Here, in the more or less quiet of the country, men and women read and study and gather data which results in conclusions founded on the solid basis. Sometimes this thought may be biased by the enthusiasm aroused by the impractical reformer or selfish politician who runs off at a tangent with some new fad or "ism," but generally such fads are short lived and the sensible thinker of the country returns to the sane and solid conservative attitude which has always distinguished him. The editor of the country paper, therefore, has a duty to perform in crystallizing this thought and sending it out to the world as the contribution of this section of the country to the agitation of the day. The country editor, usually is a comparatively poor man, but he has sand and independence and a pride of work usually found in professions and he is brought into closer personal contact with his constituency than the editor of the big city papers. It is safe to say that never before in the history of Journalism have editorials been more widely read, not perhaps as in the old days, to base an opinion on the views of the editor, but for the purpose of getting all sides of the question.—Ione Journal.

Save the Lumber Industry.

The lumber industry is Oregon's greatest commercial asset; when the industry is sick, the state is in poor financial health. In the number of employees, the lumber business ranks first in the United States. In our saw mill plants and their accessories—wholly exclusive of standing timber and raw material—over one billion dollars, the amount that Great Britain and France need to finance their war, is invested. There is invested in the standing timber and raw material \$1,500,000,000. Nearly three quarters of a million men are employed in the lumber business. The condition of the business most disheartening to those engaged in it; it has had a depressing effect on practically all other industries. Under normal conditions, it is the largest purchaser of farm products. It uses the largest number of freight cars, and is second only to coal in the actual tonnage given to the railroads. The lumber freight bill—to the railroads alone—is \$200,000,000 annually. Eighty per cent of the gross price of lumber delivered to any one of the large consuming centers of the United States goes for transportation, farm products, and labor.

The business is in a bad way. It is sick from over production and uncontrolled competition and from a failure of demand. Our beneficent government, which passes laws permitting unions to continue to destroy property without fear of prosecution, has also passed laws that prohibit the lumbermen from combining to save their property. According to the laws passed by the politicians for the regulation of business, the lumbermen may not agree to limit the output, which would be considered an act in restraint of trade. But, in their application to the lumber trade, these laws are not just, nor is the interpretation of them wise. The lumbermen are not trying to limit the output to destroy the business, but to save it. Their purpose is not to raise the price to the consumer, but to reduce the expense of manufacture to themselves. They are not trying to kill competition, but are trying to prevent unions and unregulated competition from killing them. The Sherman law was enacted to restrain the strong from destroying the weak; the lumbermen are looking for a means of keeping the law from ruining the weak and strong alike.

Sunday Closing Law.

Following is the Sunday Closing Law which the courts of Oregon have upheld and which is the cause of stores closing on Sunday: Section 2125 of Lord's Oregon laws, passed in 1864, amended in 1903, reads as follows: "If any person shall keep open any store, shop, grocery, bowling alley, billiard room, or tipping house, for the purpose of labor or traffic, or any place of amusement, on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday or the Lord's Day, such person, upon conviction thereof, will be punished by a fine not less than \$5 nor more than \$50; provided, however, that the above provisions shall not apply to theaters, the keepers of drug stores, doctor shops, undertakers, livery stable keepers, butchers and bakers; and also circumstances of necessity and mercy may be pleaded in defense, which shall be treated as questions of fact for the jury to determine when the offense is tried by jury."

Building New Roads.

Illinois is planning to spend nearly \$200,000,000 to improve the roads of the state. It is proposed to build these roads of the most durable materials known—that is, of solid concrete, or of brick embedded in concrete. The State Highway Commission promises that the tax on farm property for the pavement of these roads will not exceed 8 cents per acre, per year, at least 60 per cent of the cost being imposed on corporations and municipalities.

If the tax on farms is thus kept down to a reasonable figure, these durable roads will be a fine investment for all country property. Good roads always increase the value of land.

It is said that the cost of keeping up a concrete road is less than \$30 per mile per year, while the cost of building may run from \$7,000 to \$12,000 per mile. The roads are passable at all seasons, and are free from mud and dust. Automobiles do not tear

them to pieces, and when properly constructed, with flat crowns and gritty surface texture, there is little danger of horses and motors slipping. In the long run the best road is always the cheapest, and if it is built economically and the farmer is not required to pay more than his just share of taxes it is sure to prove a good investment.—Farm Life.

SUIT AIMS TO DEFINE ROAD DISTRICT LAWS.

Conflicting Requirements of Legislation result in Embarrassing Expenditure Conditions—Senate Bill Expected to Prevail.

To reconcile conflicting legislation adopted by the last legislature relative to the districts in counties, a friendly mandamus suit will be started next week by District Attorney Evans, as an officer of the State of Oregon, against the Board of Commissioners for Multnomah County.

E. E. Covert, as attorney for Roadmaster Yeon and a friend of the good roads movement, will handle the Board's interests. The object is to have the case determined by the Supreme Court with as much expedition as possible in order that the boards of the various counties of the state may have clear legal ground on which to work in the matter of road districts.

The trouble arises through conflict between house bill 91 and Senate bill 198, the former of which passed both houses just a few hours prior to the latter.

Senate Bill Expected to Prevail. The House bill provides that "every incorporated city and town shall constitute a separate road district, and the County Court shall not have authority to divide such territory or include any of it in any other road district," while the Senate bill provides for restricting annually at the option of the courts, but does not require that incorporated cities and towns be made separate districts.

Mr. Covert contends that the Senate bill, the last expression of the legislature on the subject, undoubtedly will be held to prevail, and in this District Attorney Evans agrees, but in order to eliminate the possibility of illegal action on the part of the County Board in road expenditures it is necessary to have an expression from the courts.

Expenditure Embarrassment Caused. When considered in conjunction with the fact that the law also requires 70 per cent of the road money raised in a district to be expended within that district, the embarrassing nature of the bill as far as Multnomah County is concerned becomes apparent.

Taxpayers resident within the City of Portland alone pay 94 per cent of the road tax of the county. Thus, for illustration, if \$100,000 in road revenue was raised, \$95,800 of it would have to be spent in the city, leaving only \$4,200 to be expended in the rest of the county.

Of this latter amount a large proportion would have to be spent within the corporate limits of Gresham, Troutdale and Fairview, all incorporated, and therefore, separate road districts, if this legislation were to prevail.

Disproportionate Taxes Loom.

This result would be that to provide suitable roads for the rural districts of the country the farming community would have to be taxed exorbitantly, while the city would either get off with little or no tax for road purpose or have a large surplus of money.

Officers of several counties have made inquiries of Secretary of State Olcott regarding this conflicting legislation. The test case to be brought in Multnomah County will do away with necessity of similar friendly suits being brought for the individual counties.

As far as Multnomah County is concerned, the Board is satisfied with the present road districts and does not wish to redistrict. House bill 91 was introduced by Representative Hunt, of Clackamas County, a resident of the City of Estacada.

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When there are 400,000,000 people in a nation it is helpless. Look upon China and India.

Germany efficiency would do good applied to the Russians; but East is East and West is West; and Russia is Oriental.

The British censor occasionally shows gleams of intelligence. He was wise in trying to suppress the toast about King George proposing a toast to President Wilson.

Don't suppose those packers who lost \$15,000,000 worth of meat to the British Government will turn their bank deposits over to the billion dollar loan; and they have some weight in Chicago.

After all the talk of regulating the fitneys, they finally regulated themselves. There is just as many as there is demand for, and no more.

These street cars which pull the hole in after them, are to be thanked. Not so many people make a spectacle of themselves chasing one.

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