

# ST. HELENS MIST

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THE COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

## THE ROAD LEVY.

Judging from the expressions of the people from various parts of the county it is safe to say that the majority of the taxpayers of Columbia County are opposed to a 10 mill tax levy for general road purposes. At a meeting of the advisory board and the Court this week it was decided that a 10 mill levy was necessary to do the road work proposed for the coming year. All of which is probably true, or it may be that a 20 mill levy would be more satisfactory for road purposes if it was not such a burden to the taxpayers. But a 10 mill levy this year following on the exceedingly high levy last year and the voting of bonds too, will work a great hardship on every taxpayer in Columbia County. We hear of one lady who owns a farm for which she receives in rent \$900 per year. Her taxes on that farm last year were \$1100 or \$200 more than was her income. Other instances of a like character are numerous. Such levies of taxes for road purposes may be all right once in a while but to come one year after another is too much and should not be forced on the people.

There is another reason why a smaller levy should be made this year. At the time of the bond election last February the promise was made to the people that if the bonds were voted, sufficient money would be raised together with the 9 1-2 mill road levy to put the county roads in such condition as would permit of a much smaller levy this year. The then County Court made a promise that the levy this year would not exceed 6 mills. True, a recall election has taken place since that time and there are new officers now to make the levy who perhaps made no such pledges, but the people were acting in good faith when they voted bonds with assurances that the levy this year would be much less. The Court should keep faith with the people, even though they did not make the promises directly. It matters not that the money received from the sale of bonds has not given the results expected of it nor that the people have not received value for the money spent on the roads this year, the fact that every taxpayer was willing to make the sacrifice for one year in order to build roads and did strain every point to pay an exceedingly high tax last year, should be of itself sufficient to cause the levying of a lower tax this year. It was a hard task for the people to pay the taxes last year. It will be doubly hard this year. Money is hard to get. Work is scarce. In fact hard times are staring us in the face and an exceedingly high levy this year will almost bankrupt many people.

A 10 mill levy will not finish the roads already started by a good deal. It will only put them in such a condition that another high levy will be necessary next year. A smaller levy will put the roads, perhaps, in a passable condition, which is all we can hope for this year, and it would be only just and right that we should be given a smaller dose this year.

The completion of roads already started is very much desired, and would be a great improvement for the county, but if it takes all the money that can be raised by the farmer to pay his taxes and all the money that the business man can spare from his business to do it, there will not be much use of a road, unless it be to take a walk on it. It certainly would seem that the best plan this year would be to make the levy less than 10 mills and not to exceed 6 mills. It would meet the necessary requirements and would be a blessing to the taxpayers, large and small.

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## THE SPEAKERSHIP.

Ben Selling has been selected as the Multnomah candidate for Speaker of the House of Representatives at the coming session. A caucus of the delegation from that county has decided upon him as the choice for the position. The delegation from Multnomah County to the House of Representatives this year is by far the strongest that has represented the big county for a number of years. The men composing the House members from Multnomah County are all heavy taxpayers and men of ability. Most of them have had legislative experience. They are broad minded business men, as a rule. They are familiar with the needs of the state as well as their particular county. On account of that experi-

ence and knowledge of affairs, together with the number of them, there is no doubt but that these 12 men will very largely dictate the organization and work for that body of the legislature. If they work together there is no question but that they can control, and to judge from the character of the men, they will work together on all matters of importance to their county and to the state. Much is expected of the Multnomah members of the House of Representatives. But the selection of Ben Selling as the candidate for Speaker does not meet with the hearty approval of the outside members, as would the selection of some other from that delegation. Mr. Selling is recognized as one of the successful business men of the state. He has had much legislative experience. He would be a dignified and clean speaker. But he has already been honored by the people of his county and the state until it would seem that some other man should be entitled to the position. Mr. Selling has been President of the Senate. He was acting Governor for a short time. He was the Republican candidate for United States Senator. He has had all the honor and glory that a party could bestow upon him, with the exception of electing him to the United States Senate. There are other men in the Multnomah delegation of equal ability and political standing. Multnomah county would have stood a better chance to land the Speakership if some other than Mr. Selling had been the choice. The members from the outside counties will not take so kindly to a man who has already been honored so much, as they would to a man of equal ability and standing who had not been before them asking for higher honors for years. The choice of the Multnomah County delegation is not a popular one.

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## "MUTTS."

The word "Mutt" or "Mut" has a sort of uncanny sound when uttered and does not impress a person as being anything of particular refinement. A careful search through the dictionary fails to disclose the word spelled either way. It was first brought into prominence by Bud Fisher, the cartoonist, several years ago, and through him the character has become world famous. It was no doubt an abbreviation for muttonhead, or a person of simple mind. However during the past year the meaning of the word has changed very considerably. Through the efforts of the charitably inclined people of a number of the cities, the word now is a synonym for "Good Fellow." A Mut is a good fellow. A good fellow in this sense is one who takes an interest in his fellow man and does his duty toward helping the needy and the worthy poor.

While the character of Bud Fisher will go on for a long time to please the humorous side of human nature, the real word and character have evolved from that of a person of simple mind to a person of broad and charitable mind.

The real object of the present day Muts is to help the poor and needy. It spells charity. It is becoming more dignified. It means much today. The organization of these societies is a most commendable thing for the communities. Through them there will be organized effort to aid the needy instead of individual effort. Organized effort will accomplish much more than individual effort. Long Live the Muts. May their tribe increase.

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## WOMEN AND GOWNS.

And now the women of America are up against it. They must design their own gowns. France is war-ridden and the masters of fashion in Paris can no longer supply the demand. France has our sympathy in its troubles, but we hail the day when American women must depend upon their own initiative in the matter of dress, for when American women undertake to do a thing it is done. We have depended upon Paris too long. We have accepted the hideous creations that have been handed us without a murmur, simply because they bore the French label. This is an opportune time for the women of this country to use their own brains, and use them to good purpose. They need no coaching from other countries. It is safe to predict that when they do begin the designing of their gowns we will have a revelation in the matter of feminine attire. Common sense will return, and it will not be at the expense of personal appearance or style.

The future gowns to be designed by American women will be just as smart and just as stylish as any they have ever worn, with the added advantage of radiating refinement and gentility. American women are the most beautiful on earth, are noted for their intellectual attainments, and are possessed of an indomitable spirit which knows no failure. The designing of their own gowns will be but an incident in their brilliant careers, for even now the world is prostrate at the feet of American womanhood.

## HUMOROUS COMMENT

Even a train of thought isn't always on time.

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This is the happiest country in the world today.

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Instead of imagining trouble why not imagine joy?

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Better an ounce of did than a pound of going to do.

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Marriage has deadly storms, but far deadlier calms.

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No downing man was ever saved by grabbing the straw.

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We have always strength enough to bear the ills of others.

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When the cat's away it is just as well to set the mouse trap.

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The face behind it is often as plain as the nose on a man's face.

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This is the closed season for title hunting by American heiresses.

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When might and right dissolve partnership peace becomes unpopular.

\*\*\*  
Belgium can never complain that she doesn't have enough iron in her soil.

\*\*\*  
Most of the leading Christian nations seem to have mislaid the other cheek.

\*\*\*  
Where one man is pushed to the front a thousand are pushed out of the way.

\*\*\*  
This is the banner year for crops, and the crop of rumors is the greatest ever.

\*\*\*  
Don't worry over spilled milk. Remember that it might have been cream.

\*\*\*  
A bore is a man who is always telling what a great salesman he used to be.

\*\*\*  
The ultimate consumer is now bearing the expense of the high cost of fighting.

\*\*\*  
It sounds paradoxical, but the manager of a health resort is seldom there for his health.

\*\*\*  
Education is said to be slower here than abroad. Especially in the "School of the Soldier."

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There are times when the Nobel peace prize takes on the semblance of a hollow mockery.

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It is going to be a long time before the peace palace at The Hague will do a paying business.

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A dye famine is feared. And so the cost of dying is to be added to the high cost of living.

\*\*\*  
When the war is over there will be a rush of American tourists to see the battlefields and ruins.

\*\*\*  
Life is one continuous hurdle race to the people who acquire the habit of jumping at conclusions.

\*\*\*  
A great many people think that it is either the end of the world or the beginning of the millennium.

\*\*\*  
Treaties of neutrality should hereafter be packed in pink cotton and labeled "Handle with care."

\*\*\*  
In youth a man is careful of the parting of his hair; in after years he is regretful over the parting with it.

\*\*\*  
According to some of the old pictures, the patriachs wore robes a long time before baths were invented.

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Nearly every nation in Europe appears to feel that its neighbors are not up to the mark for self government.

\*\*\*  
In this mundane sphere it is not the woman alone who reserves the right to change her mind with or without provocation.

\*\*\*  
"What makes us so high strung?" is the query propounded by a New York psychologist. It must be because we're strung so often.

## OREGON BUILDING STONE.

Near Brownville a large deposit of splendid building stone, of a rare buff color, has been found, and the quarry will be opened as soon as the necessary machinery can be installed. This particular variety of stone is much sought after by architects, and the industry will undoubtedly reach large proportions. The machinery now on the way to the quarry will give a capacity of three carloads per day.

## KODAKS

Eastman Photographic Supplies

Developing and Printing

DEMING'S DRUG STORE

Rexall and Nyal Goods

DO YOUR

# CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY

This advice at this particular time is addressed to the

## MERCHANTS

An important part of a merchant's shopping is

# ADVERTISING

The columns of the

## St. Helens Mist

Offer to the wide awake merchants the best methods of reaching the people of this community. Tell them about your goods and your prices.

Let the intending purchaser know what you have to sell and that your prices are

## MONEY SAVERS

Advertising pays when it reaches the people. That's what the Mist does. Everybody reads the

## ST. HELENS MIST

Let us know what you want and we will help you

BETTER RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW.

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# Oregon Poultry and Pet Livestock Show

PORTLAND, DECEMBER 7 TO 12.

Make Your Headquarters at the

## New Perkins Hotel

RATES WITH BATH, \$1.50.  
POPULAR PRICE RESTAURANT.

JUST A LITTLE WAY FROM THE SHOW ROOM