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COLUMBIA COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

EXIT MAJOR BOWLBY.

Expected has happened. Major Bowlby, State Highway Engineer has been requested to resign by the State Highway Commission, which is just a polite way of saying he was "fired." At a meeting of a committee of the Senate held last Monday night, where the records and figures of the year were shown up and which proved so conclusively that his work had been anything but satisfactory to the people in any county in the state, and further that his work as State Highway Engineer of Washington had been done by the same extravagance and ineptness, it was a foregone conclusion that he would lose his job. The showing made by Major Bowlby at that meeting where charges and counter charges were made by citizens from all counties of the state all tending to show his unfitness for the position, was really conclusive. He was afraid to answer any question put to him other than by evasion because at that time he did make an answer it only put him deeper in the mire of confusion. So apparently everybody who heard the questions and answers was the truth of the charges against Major Bowlby that there could possibly be no result other than his removal. When the State Highway Engineer admitted to the Senate Committee that he had never been on the road in Columbia County during the year that he had directed the expenditure of half a million dollars, he admitted that he was not the man for the place. When the records submitted by him and of record in this county were compared with the figures contained in his annual report, the difference was so great that it was conclusive proof that he had not acted for the best interests of the taxpayers.

Governor Withycombe was right when he said that Major Bowlby as State Highway Engineer was the main obstacle in the way of legislation by the present Legislature. The fact has been apparent for several months. The State Grange has been on the ground every day of the session fighting any legislation that would mean a repetition of the extravagant expenditures of public road funds in the counties of Oregon under the administration of the State Highway Engineer. Columbia was only one of several counties where a great deal of money was spent and where the taxpayers failed to get value received for their money. It may be that Major Bowlby had the very best of intentions, although his actions would not warrant this statement, but in doing that he did, he demonstrated that his method of absent treatment, so to speak, was not satisfactory to the people at large. The removing of Major Bowlby as State Highway Engineer is the greatest step towards securing good road legislation that should have been taken. The only thing lacking to have made such legislation assured was a delay in that removal, and it may be too late now to get that much needed legislation. This is a big obstacle out of the way. Columbia County can now go to work on real road construction where the taxpayers can get value received for the money expended, even though the most of the money is gone. Exit Major Bowlby. Exit Captain Griswold. Exit the entire crew. Quick curtain. Great applause by the taxpayers.

THE TAXPAYERS LEAGUE.

This paper will be found the constitution of the Taxpayers League of the Columbia County Taxpayers League. The objects and aims of the organization are fully set forth in these laws, there should be no objection on the part of any taxpayer to becoming a member. The objects of the members and organizers is to make this league a county organization with district organizations. It is the desire to have the membership include taxpayers from every section of the county. In such a membership there can be no objection but that much good will be accomplished for the taxpayers of the county. No great benefit could result to the people than a public gathering from all over the county at three or four times a year to talk over matters and discuss the affairs of the county. It could be of more use and could accomplish more than any advisory board consisting of one man from a community. District organizations could have their meetings regularly and come to the county meetings with a definite idea of making recommendations and taking such action as

would be of interest to all the people. There would be a chance to get together and have a more complete and better understanding of public affairs. A live county organization in which every community was represented would do more towards promoting harmony and good feeling, as well as a unanimity of purpose than could any other agency.

The Columbia County Taxpayers League should by all means be continued. Each and every community and locality should take an interest in it. It would be a power for good and a most desirable organization for working in conjunction with the officers who have the administering of county government in their hands. It is to be hoped that the different communities will take an interest in the organization and make of it what it is intended it should be, an organization of the entire county for the betterment of conditions generally.

THE PROHIBITION LAW.

The prohibition law has been signed by the Governor, and from expressions of the people who seem to be most interested in the question it is a most satisfactory law. The "drys" seem to be well pleased and the other side has expressed no objection so far as can be learned here. Without a study of the new law and from a smattering knowledge of the provisions of it, especially in relation to the allowance of 2 quarts of whisky and 24 quarts of beer to each person every 30 days, provided the same shall be purchased in some other state than Oregon, it would seem that those persons who have been leading the fight for prohibition in Oregon, are easily satisfied. With that amount of wet goods to each person it is rather hard to figure out where the prohibition law will accomplish its prime object of extinguishing the appetite for strong drink and putting a stop to drunkenness. If, as contended by some people, it would be contrary to law or unconstitutional for the Legislature to say that people should not have liquor in their own homes, it certainly would be equally unconstitutional for the Legislature to say that a limit should be placed on the amount each person could drink. To a disinterested person and one to whom liquor has never become a curse, it would seem that the argument of Senator Dimick of Clackamas County, had much merit when he made the statement that the new law would only transfer the bar room from the saloon to the home.

It may be that the new law will accomplish all that its friends claim for it, but a little study of the general characteristics of that law would lead one to conclude that it will surely fail in its purpose. The provisions relating to illicit sale and manufacture of liquors in Oregon are stringent and will no doubt, with proper enforcement, actually end such practices, but when it comes to putting an end to the use of intoxicating liquors it certainly looks like the prohibition law will be a failure.

PAVING BLOCKS.

In last Sunday's Journal appeared a letter from St. Helens regarding the Block Making industry. This letter was of especial importance to St. Helens, and we print it in this issue of the Mist. The arguments and facts set forth in that letter furnish food for thought for the officials of Portland and Oregon, and give much information about an industry that should receive more encouragement. For some streets and roads there is no other pavement just as good as the paving blocks. They are in a class by themselves which has been demonstrated already. The life of the paving block is unlimited and the initial cost is very little more than some of the paving materials which have to be renewed every few years. For streets and roads over which heavy traffic runs there is nothing like the paving block. There are in the City of Portland several such streets and roads and taking into consideration the quality of the paving, it should not require much argument to induce the officials of that city to use this Oregon product instead of patent pavements of inferior quality.

The paving block business in St. Helens a few years ago was in a flourishing condition. Many men, skilled in the trade, were earning their livelihood at this trade. But something happened about two or three years ago which put a stop to activities along this line. The demand for paving blocks ceased with the result that many men were thrown out of employment and streets and roads were finished with a pavement that will not stand the wear. To St. Helens it means considerable to have the block industry continue. The product of the quarries have real merit so the citizens and commercial organizations should do a little systematic advertising and take steps looking towards re-establishing a market for these products. It is a live question and should receive serious consideration. A little united effort will do much. Unless there is effort put forth the industry will not flourish.

AT THE M. E. CHURCH.
Sunday school 10:30 a. m.
Public worship 11 a. m.
The third anniversary of the Cradle Roll organization will be celebrated at this time.
Epworth League 6:30 p. m. Dr. L. G. Ross is leader. Topic, "Samuel the Benediction of a Spiritual House"
Evening sermon 7:30 p. m. Theme, "The Temptation of Jesus." Good music and a very cordial welcome to all are features at this church.
F. N. SANDIFUR, Pastor.

FOR SALE.
Household furniture for sale, cheap. Also one 3 1/4 Millburn wagon. Must be sold at once. J. A. Hill, St. Helens. 2t

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Adds tone to any man. That's why we are so busy and there are so many tony people in this town.
15 Cents a Tone.
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St. Helens, Oregon

THE HOUSEHOLD ACCOUNT
We all of us hear a great deal about the increase in the cost of living. There's a great deal to it. It does cost more to live today than it formerly did. But a good deal of what is known as the increased cost of living is due to the increased carelessness in spending. Government statistics show that of the money we spend for what we call living expenses only 14 per cent. is expended for necessities. There's a big leak in the household purse. But turn that purse into a Household Bank Account at the Columbia County Bank, and you will stop that leak. It will go a long way toward solving the problem of living properly within your income.
Columbia County Bank
OLDEST IN THE COUNTY
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We pay 4 per cent. interest in our Savings Department.

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will be necessary for the farmers with the opening of spring. We carry a complete line and invite your inspection. Also full line of hardware.

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ST. HELENS, ORE.

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respond quickly and inexpensively to our treatment. If your car rattles, or does not run smoothly, or jars, or makes too much noise, IT IS TIME TO BRING IT TO US if you want it to last. A dollar or two spent on that car today may save you ten tomorrow, and that is an INDISPUTABLE FACT.
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C. H. SHAFER, Manager.

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