

## RECOMMENDS PAINT FOR STEEL BRIDGES

County Engineer McCaw Tells Commissioners 33 County Bridges Should Be Painted

County Engineer John M. McCaw has recommended to the county commissioners that 33 steel bridges in the county be painted at least one coat. The Commissioners will take up the matter at the meeting on September 7.

In his recommendation Mr. McCaw says:

The paint on several of these bridges is in very good shape, but it would be advisable to give all at least one coat. This will put all in first class condition.

The paint used should be some first class paint, especially adapted for steel bridge painting, of which there are several good brands on the market. If the job of painting is let on a contract, close supervision should be had over the workmanship to see that a first class job is done. If the work is done by force account some first class painter should be employed as foreman and held strictly accountable for all defective work. Every bridge should be carefully inspected after being painted and the condition of such bridge reported.

There are several combination bridges that should be overhauled and retimbered this fall. If the steel members of these combination bridges be properly painted there is no reason why such steel members should not serve through the life of several sets of wooden members.

There is one bridge which I wish to call attention to again and that is the makeshift of a combination bridge at Rye station. This bridge has been in such a condition for years as to make traffic over it hazardous. The only thing at the present time that prevents its collapse under a heavy load is a couple of poorly constructed wooden bents under the floor beams. A more substantial structure should replace the present one at an early date.

The following is a list of the steel bridges of this county, showing the name, stream over which they are constructed, length and date of construction:

- Codd, South Palouse, Colfax, 102 feet, 1910.
- Cooper Lake, South Palouse, Colfax, 114 feet, 1910.
- Fair Ground, North Palouse, Colfax, 140 feet, 1910.
- Stipes, North Palouse, Diamond, 130 feet, 1909.
- Torrance, North Palouse, Diamond, 114 feet, 1909.
- Matlock, North Palouse, 130 feet, 1910.
- Fisher, North Palouse, 114 feet, 1910.
- Winona, North Palouse, Winona, 140 feet, 1910.
- Palouse Falls, Palouse, Palouse Falls, 140 feet, 1911.
- Shawnee, South Palouse, 90 feet, 1909.
- Armstrong Siding, South Palouse, 75 feet, 1909.
- Grand Street, South Palouse, Pullman, 116 feet, 1910.
- City Hall, South Palouse, Pullman, 80 feet, 1910.
- Elberton, North Palouse, Elberton, 114 feet, 1910.
- Powers, North Palouse, Palouse, 160 feet, 1892.
- Main Street, North Palouse, Palouse, 170 feet.
- Bridge Street, North Palouse, Palouse, 100 feet, 1908.
- Flour Mill, North Palouse, Palouse, 140 feet.
- Colton, Union Flat, 50 feet, 1907.
- Hately, Union Flat, 60 feet, 1910.
- Hamilton, Union Flat, 120 feet, 1910.
- Dowling, Union Flat, 60 feet, 1910.
- Wilcox, Union Flat, 70 feet, 1912.
- Rock Lake, Rock Creek, 135 feet, 1910.
- Pine City, Pine Creek, 130 feet, 1910.
- Malden, Pine Creek, 114 feet, 1909.
- Donahue, Pine Creek, 50 feet, 1908.
- Horiacher, Pine Creek, 75 feet, 1909.
- McLean, Pine Creek, 60 feet, 1909.
- North Latah, Latah Creek, 60 feet, 1909.
- Oakesdale, Br. Pine Creek, 28 feet, 1909.
- Albion, South Palouse, 60 feet, 1908.
- Court House, South Palouse, 80 feet, 1910.
- Total length steel truss bridges, 2877 feet.
- Total length steel girder bridges, 108 feet, or a total of more than half a mile of steel bridges.

## STATE GETS LAND

(By Clark V. Savidge, commissioner of public lands.)

In writing this article setting forth the necessity for, and giving the details of the exchange of lands now taking place between the state of Washington and the federal government, I have purposely avoided the use of legal terms or phrases or the discussion of the legal points, believing that what is desired is a statement in as plain and simple language as possible.

The enabling act which admitted Washington to the Union granted to the state for the use of its common schools sections 16 and 36 in every township. Much of this land was unsurveyed. The state could not obtain possession of the unsurveyed sections until they had been located and surveyed by the federal government. In 1897 the federal government began to establish forest reserves in the State of Washington. The establishing of these reserves has continued until at this present time approximately one-third of the state of Washington is within the boundaries of the forest reserves. By far the larger portion of the territory embraced within the boundaries of the forest reserves was unsurveyed. The federal government has steadfastly maintained that the establishing of a reserve extinguished whatever claim the state had to unsurveyed sections within its boundaries. The state has as stoutly maintained that it did not. Be that as it may, the government holds the key to the situation in that it is not obliged to survey these lands. The state has sustained a further loss of its lands by settlement, that is, where a settler has squatted upon lands prior to survey and upon survey it is found to be either section 16 or 36 and thus a part of the school grant. In such cases the government has always ruled that the settler had a prior claim and has issued a patent for the land.

The federal government offered to recognize the claim of the state to the extent of permitting it to select an equal amount of land from the unappropriated government land outside the forest reserves, under a federal statute providing for the selection of lieu land by the state. The state declined to do this for the simple reason that it would be impossible to find among the unappropriated government lands a tract that even approximated in value that lost by the state. In the summer of 1913, accompanied by Attorney General Tanner, I visited Washington, D. C. Numerous conferences were had with the federal officials, at which this matter was thoroughly considered. The result of these conferences is an agreement between the state of Washington and the federal government, which is substantially as follows:

The government recognizes the loss by the state of its unsurveyed lands within the boundaries of the forest reserves and also the loss by settlement within its reserves. It is provided that the federal government, through the secretary of agriculture, will appoint a representative, and the state of Washington, through the board of state land commissioners, a representative, these two representatives to make, with such assistance as may be necessary, an examination of all school sections within the forest reserves that were unsurveyed at the time of the establishing of such reserves, and also an examination of all school sections within the boundaries of the forest reserves upon which settlers had squatted prior to survey and inclusion within such forest reserves, for the purpose of determining the area and value thereof. The representatives shall then locate tracts of land equal in area and value to those lost by the state, such tracts to lie inside the boundaries of the forest reserves, but near their exterior boundaries, so that the boundaries of the reserves may be contracted and the tracts agreed upon be eliminated from the forest reserves, the state obtaining title to these tracts in exchange for relinquishing its claim to the scattered sections throughout the reserves.

The agreement further provides that the expenses incident to the exchange shall be borne equally by the state and federal government.

In accordance with the terms of the agreement the federal government has designated Mr. Stanton G. Smith as its representative and the board of state land commissioners, the commissioner of public lands, Clark V. Savidge, as the representative of the state, he to serve without pay, thus saving the salary that would otherwise have attached to the appointment.

The working plan agreed upon by the representatives of the state and federal government is, I believe, as simple, effective and economical as could possibly be. Under its pro-

visions about 20 parties, each consisting of a timber cruiser, compassman and packer, have been appointed by the joint commission. These men had to be acceptable to both parties to the agreement, each side having the power to reject any man proposed by the other. These parties will cruise the timber and report upon the character of the soil, etc., on the tracts of land affected by the exchange. I desire to call special attention to the above provision that these appointments were made jointly, each man to be acceptable to both sides, and no man was appointed until his record in his particular line of work had been carefully looked up. The above method of appointing the force, together with the fact that the administration of the federal government is democratic, while that portion of the state government representing the state in this matter is republican, seems to be a strong guarantee to the people of our state that partisan politics will not be allowed to interfere with efficiency and economy in handling this great project. In addition to the force mentioned above, the state and federal governments have each appointed an expert timber cruiser as an inspector. These men will represent the state and government respectively in going from one crew to another and checking up their work. Up to the present no clerical help has been employed, that work being taken care of by the regular office forces of the state land office and the United States forest service.

Aside from securing possession of its property, advantages will come to the state by making this exchange as follows: Its lands will be brought nearer transportation; it will have its holdings in large enough blocks to commend competitive bids when timber is offered for sale, instead of in scattered sections, as is now the case; it will have large enough tracts of land to establish forests of its own if found desirable; it will be much easier to protect its timber from fire.

I desire to express my personal gratification at the consummation of this agreement, which brings the state into possession of approximately a half million acres of land which, at the average price received for state lands sold since statehood, will be worth approximately \$12,000,000. On behalf of the joint commission I ask the co-operation of the people of our state in handling this great work, which it is estimated will take two years to complete.

### Order to Show Cause Why Mortgage or Sale of Real Estate Should Not Be Made

In the Superior Court of Whitman County, State of Washington. In the Matter of the Estate of Eva A. Hill, deceased.

It appearing to the said court by the petition this day presented and filed by W. B. Hill, the administrator of the estate of Eva A. Hill, deceased, praying for an order for mortgage or sale of real estate; that it is necessary to mortgage or sell the whole of the real estate belonging to said estate in order to raise funds to pay the debts of said estate and the costs and expenses of administration thereof.

It is therefore ordered by the said court that all persons interested in the estate of said deceased appear before the said Superior Court on the 11th day of September, 1915, at 10 o'clock a. m., of said day, at the court room of said Superior Court at Colfax, in said county and state, to show cause why an order should not be granted to the said W. B. Hill as administrator of said estate, to mortgage or sell so much of the real estate of said deceased as shall be necessary; and that a copy of this order be published at least four successive weeks in The Pullman Herald, a newspaper printed and published in Whitman County, State of Washington.

Dated August 10, 1915.

R. L. McCROSKEY, Superior Judge.

D. C. Dow, attorney for estate.

State of Washington, County of Whitman, ss.: I, B. F. Manring, clerk of the Superior Court of Whitman County, State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of an order duly made and entered upon the minutes of the said Superior Court.

Witness my hand and seal of said court this 10th day of August, 1915.

B. F. MANRING, County Clerk.

By M. P. Bellinger, Deputy.

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