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Do St. Francois County Citizens Really Want Good Road System?

From the standpoint of The Times, the efforts that are being made by the citizens in different parts of St. Francois county—practically all over the county—to secure road improvement, is what suggested the question with which this article is headed. The fact is very apparent that the citizens of this county are most desirous of securing good roads, or at least an improvement of the present roads. But the efforts that have thus far been made, we believe, are absolutely not in the right direction.

Instead of appearing before the County Court in person, or by petitions, asking for road work to be done which lack of funds under the control of the Court for such purposes, makes absolutely impossible for the Court to have done, why don't some enterprising citizens, in different parts of the county pass petitions in their respective neighborhoods for signers, asking the Court to call for a special election to vote bonds for road building? This the Court would be pleased to do, when a petition, or petitions, with an aggregate of only 200 names are presented to them.

Under the present system, which gives to the County Court an altogether insufficient amount of money to keep all the roads in the county even in a fair condition, conditions will move along, just as they always have in the past, with many roads almost impassable, at certain seasons of the year, until all the people who are now living will be in their graves, and their children will have identically the same bad roads to contend with.

Why not vote a good road bond issue of \$1,000,000—or even more—for the building of permanent good roads throughout the county, so that the people who are now living will be able to enjoy them, and at the same time hand them down to their descendants as a worthy heritage? As has before been demonstrated by The Times, on several occasions, such a plan is not only practical, but it would be the best possible business on the part of the county, not only for the present, but for all time. This county could have a perfect system of good roads throughout the county, without a cent of additional cost to the taxpayers. The money that is now spent for such road work as is done is sufficient, from year to year, to pay the interest and keep up the sinking fund on a \$1,000,000 bond issue, and then have a little surplus.

Why not look at this overshadowing question in a bigger and broader light than you have in the past? The most forward and progressive counties in the State are those who have voted bond issues for good roads, and the bigger bond issue that has been voted the more progressive is the county. Look around over the State and you will find it so. It is said that an absolutely perfect asphalt road-

way, eighteen feet wide, and guaranteed to stand a minimum of wear, can be constructed for \$7,000 per mile. The Times is fully aware that the proposition we are now about to make will seem unreasonable to many who have not been thinking of this question along more advanced lines, but it is a positive fact. It is this: A million dollar good road bond issue would build practically 142 miles of this new and best road that is now known. It would pay this county the greatest possible dividends if a bond issue sufficient for putting in such roadway over every foot of public road in the county, let the bond issue amount to \$2,000,000, \$5,000,000, or whatever it may.

Is anyone so blind that they cannot see the results that would immediately follow? It would result at once in the filling up of St. Francois county with the very best class of citizenship. At the same time it would at least double the price of every foot of real estate in the county. It would cause St. Francois county, Missouri, to stand forth most prominent among all the counties of this great State, as well as the entire nation. Can you suggest an investment that would be half as productive in profitable investment, or in lasting good as that, even if the cost would reach \$5,000,000, which it would not. However, it would seem to many like pressing down entirely too hard to expect the people to vote any such a bond issue to begin with. But The Times fails absolutely to see or to understand why every citizen of this county would not vote for a good road bond, to the amount at least of \$1,000,000, if they really want genuine road improvement. That is the only way they will ever obtain a system of good roads throughout the county. Were we convinced that the present "system" of road work was satisfactory to the majority of our people, then The Times would have nothing more to say in regard to this greatest of all questions. Otherwise it will be impossible for this paper to "shut up" along this line until a system of good roads is obtained.

But small effort, among a few enterprising citizens, along proper lines—circulating and presenting to the County Court petitions calling for a good road bond issue—is all that is necessary to start the ball rolling. Are there a few men in the county, living in different localities, sufficiently interested in good roads to pass a petition and get a few signers? Or would they rather continue to come before the County Court, in large delegations, asking those officers to do road work for which there is absolutely no money to do such work? The Times has here given an outline of the best way to get results in improved roads. It is up to the citizens of St. Francois county to take their choice of the course they will pursue.

Arrested on Murder Charge

W. A. Bullock on Sunday brought in from the Lead Belt John Griffin, who was lodged in jail on the charge of having killed Chris Stegall, who was shot in the back while driving home in his wagon, near Bonne Terre, a few months ago. Any real facts in the case have been difficult to secure, as neither Prosecuting Attorney Mathews nor Sheriff Chas. Adams had received any information as to the contemplated arrest of Griffin until he was brought in by Constable Bullock, of Perry township.

The Sheriff questioned Griffin after he was placed in jail in an attempt to get some idea as to the merits of the arrest. Griffin told the Sheriff that a week ago last Saturday Sam Doss and a lieutenant in the company of U. S. troops that is still stationed on Federal hill in Flat River, arrested him about ten miles north of Irondale, which is in Washington county, where Griffin was working, though he said they presented no warrant, so he did not know for what he was wanted.

They brought him to the soldiers' camp, where he said he worked under guard for a week. Then Constable Bullock appeared on the scene, having a warrant, and brought him to Farmington and lodged him in jail. Sam Doss is working for the Federal Lead Co., and The Times is informed that he does not now hold an official commission of any kind, so a quantity has arisen in the minds of those who have given the matter any attention as to just what right he and a lieutenant in the U. S. army service could go into another county (even without a warrant) make an arrest, and bring the prisoner back with them.

Prosecuting Attorney Mathews vigorously denied any knowledge of the proposed arrest until after the prisoner was actually behind the bars in this city. The Sheriff also denied any previous knowledge of the matter. The Prosecutor thinks there is something "under cover" in the whole matter and proposes to investigate it thoroughly. He does not approve of such conduct, especially on the part of those having no legal authority in the matter, without consulting, or even of notifying him, of their actions. We understand there is a reward offered by the county—perhaps also by the State—for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of Stegall, which may possibly figure rather largely in such apparently irregular proceedings.

State Hospital No. 4 Patriotic

A large American flag waves daily in front of the Administration Building at State Hospital No. 4, by order of the Superintendent, Dr. J. L. Eaton. The splendid flag which is thus displayed was donated to that institution by Dr. Wm. F. Huhn, of Kansas City, a former Superintendent of No. 4.

The Stars and Stripes there waving emphasizes the patriotic spirit that is prevalent in that institution. Many of the inmates there would doubtless be pleased if they were permitted to enlist for service at the front in their country's cause. Under the efficient and able management of Dr. Eaton that institution is keeping abreast of the times, and everyone and everything there appears to have taken on new life and interest. The State can now find every possible justification in feeling truly proud of the splendid work that is being done for its inmates at State Hospital No. 4.

The northern lights were seen distinctly here last evening.

ANOTHER GREAT CROWD TO TELL BOYS GOOD-BYE

Practically as Much Enthusiasm as on Previous Monday to Say Farewell to Departing Contingent

The gathering in Farmington Monday to do honor to the ninety soldier boys who left that day for Camp Funston was practically as large as was that of the preceding Monday, to perform a similar duty and privilege. The duty lay in heartening and encouraging them on, and the privilege was in the fact that St. Francois county was able to send so many boys to prepare for taking their places on the firing line in the war that is each day becoming more and more apparent must be won for the liberation of the human race.

The Times last week dwelt on the exceptionally fine appearance of the 134 that went in that contingent. But the appearance of the company which left Monday was every whit as good. Even as raw recruits it appeared that they would be able to keep up their part of the line on the double-quick right into Berlin. After they have undergone a course of hardening and training, it does not seem that anything mortal will be able to withstand their progress.

Roll call developed the fact that several had failed to appear, mostly foreigners. They are: Arthur Allen Grantham, Geo. Anderson Wann, Tony Gabanska, John Intitotot, Dregot Dalegata, Teny Martunuk, George Duncan, John Bragg and James Caddick were excused for forty-eight hours, for valid reasons, and they departed Wednesday to join the contingent at Camp Funston.

The Local Draft Board selected Willard A. Turley, of Desloge, to head the company. The leaders of the different squads, of eight each, were: Fred Leabig, Kossuth William Blomeyer, Emmett Alonzo Sutterfield, Fred William Fuhrmeister, William Earl Beaudin, Gentry White Keith, Clarence Henry Heitman, Lawrence Milton Shields, Frederick Henry Halter, John B. Hoehn, and George Earl Hart. After the organization had been completed, the company was dismissed for dinner and to pose for a picture with orders to again assemble at 1 o'clock to board the street cars for DeLassus, for entrainment.

Again did the ladies' clubs and church societies appear on the scene to furnish the necessary reinforcements, under the leadership of Mrs. M. P. Cayce, with an appetizing and substantial dinner, splendidly served. That it was fully appreciated was demonstrated by the manner in which the soldier boys annihilated the good things set before them—until they could no longer charge or attack, and were compelled to call for a truce.

As on the previous Monday, thousands of relatives and friends accompanied the boys to DeLassus in autos and street cars, where final adieus were said as the two cars in which the St. Francois county contingent were entrained were attached to the regular train, and the boys were speeded on their way. While there was hardly a dry eye as the final farewells were waved, there was also a feeling of thankfulness in the hearts of all that they had a husband, son, brother, sweetheart or friend who was physically fit to fight for humanity's uplift in the frightful war that is now devastating a large part of the world.

Following is a correct list of names of the men who left for Camp Funston Monday:

- Irving T. Ray.
- Roy McClurg.
- Fred Leabig.
- Clarence Robert McClannahan.
- James H. Thurman.
- John Coate Ruddock.
- William Lewis Taylor.
- William Umfleet.
- Kossuth William Blomeyer.
- Arch Walter Bequette.
- Charles Edgar West.
- Stanley Haynes.
- Francis A. Gilbert Politte.
- Emory Smith.
- Emmett Arthur Smith.
- William Ernest Campbell.
- Philip Samuel Cole, Jr.
- Emmett Alonzo Sutterfield.
- Edward Allen Oelsen.
- John F. Williams.
- Charley Zone.
- William A. Turley.
- Lambreth Bequette.
- John William Denton.
- Newt. Huff.
- Edward Joseph Klob.
- Martie Cruse.
- George F. Simpson.
- Elmer Rosemore Pratte.
- Branford Joseph Politte.
- Edward Dalton.
- Fred William Fuhrmeister.
- Lee Edward Hightower.
- Dennis Joseph Pratte.
- Elmer Ray Short.
- Oscar Felix Bequette.
- Thomas Henry Denton.
- McDowell Bayless.
- Claude Martin.
- Henry Nash.
- William Earl Beaudin.
- John Emet Key.
- Harry Arthur Strayhorn.
- James Benjamin Harris.
- Benedetto Rosillo.
- Alvin August McDonnell.
- William Roy Price.
- John Vargo.
- Frank Mark.
- Leonard Albert Meesey.
- Gentry White Keith.
- Clarence Henry Heitman.
- Ernest Johnson.
- Homer Lee Barton.
- Ignace Michalski.
- James R. Crawford.
- John Robinson Doss.
- Fred Lee Miller.
- Union Gentry Bailey.
- James Peter McLaren.
- Lee Elser.
- Luigi Brambilla.
- Charley Louis Buscher.
- Jeff Davis Poston.
- Lawrence Milton Shields.
- Ollie Gallagher.
- Millard Lawrence.
- Reuben Henry Tangye.
- Alonzo R. Bloom.
- James Marvin Denton.
- Will Edgar Canterberry.
- Robert Allen Britten.
- John Ezera Son.
- Otto Hill.
- Grover C. Lowe.
- Samuel W. Thurman.
- Amos Lester Morris.
- Frederick Henry Halter.
- Claud Raymond Hale.
- Joseph Gorda.
- John B. Hoehn.
- Sam Nicholls Turley.
- John Tamasauk.
- Francis Anthony Hunold.
- Samuel L. Turley.
- James Edward Leigh.
- Sidney Ed Griffard.
- Joseph Chris Herbst.

Clarence Clark.
Roy H. Akins.
George Earl Hart.
Otto Byron Johnson.
Ed Marler.
Benjamin Franklin Baldwin.
Sam Vernse.
The Local Board is ready to accept volunteers for the following calls:
"No. 35 for 150 (State) general, engine, and other special automobile mechanics or repair men, to be inducted for the Aviation Section Signal Corps, and sent to Kellyfield, San Antonio, Texas."
"No. 36 for 250 (State) gunsmiths, typewriting mechanics and other instrument makers or repairmen, or general machinists to be inducted for Aviation Section Signal Corps, and sent to Kellyfield, San Antonio, Texas."
"No. 45 for 75 (State) electricians, to be inducted for the Aviation Section Signal Corps and sent to Kellyfield, San Antonio, Texas."
Only white men and men physically qualified for general military service may be inducted under the above calls.

Another Good Roads Delegation

A large delegation of enterprising Bismarck citizens appeared Wednesday before the County Court for the purpose of presenting road conditions which exist in that part of the county, and to ask for county aid in putting such roads in condition for convenient travel over them. Speeches were made by Messrs. Steele, Ward, Goeltz and others, all of which bore out in a forcible manner the correctness of the contention of the delegation. The road on which the greatest stress was laid, as being in need of much improvement, is the one between Bismarck and Elvins, which is one of the most important in the county, and the one over which the mail into the Lead Belt, as well as to Farmington, must daily pass if it reaches its destination.

It was conclusively shown that such road is now in very bad condition for ordinary travel, to say nothing of its being such an important mail route. It is not only full of kinks and turns that should be straightened, but is also crossed by several unbridged streams which are often unfordable after rains. Several other roads in that locality, which are now in a pitiable, if not dangerous condition, were also mentioned. The presentments by the delegation for the improvement of such roads were unanswerable, and is another illustration of the "crying need" for a suitable bond issue for the permanent improvement of the roads in all parts of St. Francois county.

That the Court will give all the aid in their power for needed improvements of the roads that were mentioned, there is no doubt. But that body is also laboring under insurmountable handicaps, in the fact that the road funds at hand are altogether inadequate for the demands on it for road improvement throughout the county. Why not lift the county up out of the mud at once and for all time by voting a suitable bond issue? That is the one practical, tangible and only way to accomplish this great work, which should be of overwhelming importance to every citizen of the county.

Car Collides With Telephone Post

Wednesday afternoon, while two negro boys were making a delivery to DeLassus in the Henderson Store Co. motor truck, hitting up a pretty good clip, so it is said, near the old Pratt residence on the DeLassus road, the machine skidded to the side of the road, hit a telephone post, broke the post off and otherwise damaged the post. It also stove up the car considerably, the damage being estimated at \$60. Neither of the boys were hurt, though they were sent hurrying through the air and landed rather abruptly.

Some say the boys were racing with the street car. We hope this isn't so. This speed-demon thing has gone about far enough—whether in town, or on the roads leading into and out of town—to try the patience of decent people. We understand orders have lately been issued to the City Marshal to see to it that all those who go through town with their cut-outs popping, be "pinched." Why not extend this to include the wild and reckless drivers—of delivery trucks or any other kind of vehicle—who mistake the public highways for a motordrome and think even the pokey old street cars are putting on a race?

Births Greatly Outnumber Deaths

According to the report of the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, which was received the past week at the office of the County Clerk, the information is obtained that the births in St. Francois county for the year 1917 exceeded the deaths almost 200—to be exact, 189.

The figures given in such statistics are: Births, 824; deaths, 365. Such figures indicate not only a splendid climate, but a healthy people, with a splendid increase in population of almost one-fourth. Such a showing is rather remarkable and unusual, when it is also considered that this is one of the oldest communities in the entire State.

Dr. and Mrs. Lee Rariden will go to St. Louis today to attend the Follies.

An Exclusive Farm Paper

The "Farm Bureau News", which will be edited by the members of the St. Francois County Farm Bureau, and will be published monthly, will make its initial appearance next week. Its entire contents will be prepared with the special intention of interest to the farmers, among whom it will exclusively circulate. It will be sent regularly to each and every member of the Farm Bureau, now numbering about 300, and sample copies will perhaps occasionally be sent to prospective members of that organization, which is now growing rapidly, with ever-increasing vigor.

The Farm Bureau News will be most pleasing in appearance, with well balanced pages of news and advertising matter, printed on a splendid book paper. The advertising in the first number will be composed entirely of enterprising firms in Farmington, but the columns of subsequent issues will be opened to advertisers in every part of the county, and all desiring representation in the Farm Bureau News should address or call at The Times office, where this paper will be printed. There will be 500 of the first number of this paper circulated among the most enterprising and successful farmers in St. Francois county, and that number will never grow less, as the Farm Bureau is constantly taking in new members.

W. A. Buhlinger, of Paducah, Ky., secretary and treasurer of the Hill—Karnes Brick Co., manufacturers of brick, came in last week on a visit for a couple of days with old friends and relatives in Farmington, and incidentally looking up some business matters here. "Billy" was reared in Farmington, has hosts of friends here, all of whom are delighted to know of his rapid rise in the business world and his success. Yes, Billy is married.

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PRODUCE FOOD AT HOME, SAVE SHIPPING, FEDERAL PROGRAM

Gardeners, fall in! A call for more food from America's gardens, both the commercial and the home plots, is contained in the Department of Agriculture's agricultural program for 1918, recently announced. This is what the program says to the gardeners:

Market gardens near large consuming centers should be increased so as to meet as nearly as possible the needs of the community and in order to obviate the necessity of transporting such products from distant points. It is important to do all that is possible to relieve the strain upon transportation facilities.

The planting of home gardens, especially for family needs and for preserving foods for future use, again should be emphasized.

The commercial production of perishables generally should be increased above normal wherever it is reasonably clear that transportation and marketing facilities will be available.

Last year the production of perishables is estimated to have been 50 per cent greater than normal. Notwithstanding the large output, the marketing difficulties were relatively less than in former years because of the effective efforts of the people throughout the country, assisted by Federal and State agencies, to conserve these products for future use by canning, preserving, pickling and drying. The Department again will actively assist in the conservation of perishables, as it did last summer, and will be able to render more effective assistance with its largely increased staff. It will co-operate with all State agencies, especially the State agricultural colleges, to bring about the planting of more war gardens, to see that they are maintained throughout the season, and to insure the prompt consumption or preservation for future use of all perishables produced in these gardens or otherwise. More effective assistance also will be rendered in the marketing of perishable products through the greatly extended daily market news service of the Bureau of Markets and the weekly reports of truck crop production prepared by the Bureau of Crop Estimates.

New Subscribers

The following new subscriptions to The Times have been received the past week:
Mrs. J. H. Short of Route 2, J. J. Roberts, B. H. Boyer, and Giessing Milling Co., of Farmington; Tom Parks and A. J. Bone of Flat River; Miss Augusta Schilling of St. Louis, F. A. Tillman of Nokomis, Ill.

Showing What We Can Do When We Try Note These SPECIAL PRICES At BETHEL'S CASH MEAT MARKET For Saturday, March 9, 1918:

Pork Chops	- - 30c	Hamburger	- - 18c
Pure Lard	- - 32c	Chuck Roast	- - 20c
Sausage	- - 20c	Beef Brains	- - 18c
Round Steak	- - 25c	Soup Meat	- - 17c
Loin Steak	- - 25c	Short Ribs	- - 18c
Chuck Steak	- - 23c	Lamb Chops and Leg of Lamb	- - 30c
Dry Salt Jowls	- - 30c	Whole Smoked Hams	35c
Dry Salt Bacon	- - 35c	Creamery Butter	- 55c
Weiners	- - 24c	Rib Roast	- - 21c
Frankfurters	- - 22c	Best Breakfast Bacon	50c
Boiled Ham	- - 48c	Veal Loaf	- - 20c
Minced Ham	- - 25c	Mincemeat	- - 17c

Prompt, Careful Delivery - Phone 239