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COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER



PAVED ROADS

The suggestion made at the budget meeting Saturday that the county court buy a paving plant and begin the construction of hard surfaced roads, is a wise suggestion and opportune. There are certain sections of the county, the south end especially, which should have hard surfaced roads. Take around St. Helens, Warren and Scappoose where traffic is very heavy, automobile traffic particularly, and each year and all of each year is required to keep the macadam roads in a fairly good condition. Thousands of dollars are spent each year to keep up the road, and then the results are far from satisfactory. The money expended has purchased nothing which is of permanent nature. For this section, hard surfaced roads are the only logical solution of the road question. It would be far better to build just a little permanent road each year, than to keep on spending money for maintenance, which, in fact, is not a maintenance.

In many other sections of the county, the building of hard surfaced roads is not necessary nor are those sections of the county ready for such roads. In many localities, the roads which lead to the sparsely settled communities, are hardly passable in the winter time and are "rough going" even in the summer time. These communities need passable roads which will be passable the entire year. A farmer is a heavy loser when it takes him all day to make a trip to market when the trip should be made in several hours. He is also, a heavy loser, when the roads are in such condition that he cannot get his produce to market.

It would be good business if the county court would buy a paving plant and in a community which now has fairly good macadam roads, start the laying of a hard surface road. A fair rental for the use of the plant should be charged to each district in which the work is done, and in this manner, the cost of the plant would be gradually absorbed by the districts which the plant has served. It would not be fair to the road districts in which no paving is done, to make them pay (out of the general road fund) a proportion of the cost of a plant which will not serve that district.

The hard surfacing of roads in Columbia county is a good idea, but it is a question which requires deep study, so that justice may be done to all, and at the same time, economy and permanent roads will be linked together. The suggestion, however, shows that the people of the county are awake to the fact that good roads are necessary for the development of the county, and instead of being a tax or expenditure, are an asset and a good investment.

TAKING UP THE SLACK

The council will build a city dock; the school board will let a contract for a new schoolhouse. In coming to these decisions, these two bodies which do so much gratuitous work for the city, have acted wisely. They are looking ahead and taking up the slack which will be caused by the ending of the war.

Each day labor is unemployed there is an economic loss to the community, for every man not employed is either a public charge or an idle producing unit, and since it is certain that a return to a peace basis will take some time and that the after-war period of reconstruction and stability will entail thought and preparation so that no stagnancy in business will occur, it behooves those in charge of public works to lay aside the idea of waiting for a fall in prices of labor and material, start in NOW to make the improvements which are NOW necessary. Even if we have to pay a greater price for the new dock or the new schoolhouse, the placing of and employing of labor, from an economic standpoint, it is far better than to have unemployed labor, which is a loss due to the fact that it is idle manpower.

As demobilization progresses and men who have been in their country's service are once again returned to their homes, preparations should be made to give them employment. Much public work is needed throughout this city, county and state, and there should be no delay in preparing plans and executing the work. Such a course means permanent and substantial returns and the maintenance of men, who after serving in the army or navy, are entitled to remunerative employment when they return home. The Mist congratulates the city government and the school board on the common sense and practicable plan they have adopted. They did right.

The telephone company has had printed and issued to its subscribers a telephone directory of Columbia county. The book is very handy, and a decided improvement over the old one which had Portland, Salem, Astoria, St. Helens and other important towns listed in the one book. The only fault the Mist has to find is that the officials of the company did not give any of the printers in Columbia county an opportunity to bid on the job. It seems that the company is perfectly willing to take all the money possible away from Columbia county, but when it comes to spending money for supplies, etc., in the town or county from which they draw a considerable portion of their income, it is another matter. The phone company should realize that in order to rebuild Portland, it is necessary to rebuild the country in and around Portland. Trading at home with their home patrons, provided competitive prices can be met, is good business. Some of the high officials of the phone company should learn this.

The Mist has received an announcement to the effect "that the first book on reconstruction has just been published, and it is by a western man known all over the world—Dr. David Starr Jordan." * * * There is nothing which savors of "pacifism" in this book * * * the book is courageous from start to finish—sanely optimistic." If the Mist remembers rightly, Dr. David Starr Jordan was an ardent pacifist. As the prospectus of his books states, he is famous, but to our mind, the opening stanza should be changed to "infamous. Jordan was a pacifist, but not so radical as some of the other misguided brethren. If the eminent doctor claims to now be courageous he must have changed considerably since the time he was so outspoken as to the United States entering the war. Dr. Jordan's book should have no more of a place in the American home than he should have had at the time he was working for "peace at any price."

Many a man's originality is due to a defective memory.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

New Year's resolutions are in order. Too often a resolution is made and thought of only at the time it is made. It is not broken, it is only forgotten or made as a resolution and not a resolve.

There is one resolution which every business man and every other man who is interested in the growth of St. Helens and Columbia county should make and keep, and the resolution should be something like this: "I, a business man or a resident of the City of St. Helens, Columbia county, Oregon, do hereby resolve that I will join the St. Helens Chamber of Commerce. That in joining such body, I have resolved that I will put my shoulder to the wheel and do my utmost to further the interests and development of my home town and my home county. That personal grudges and jealousies shall not enter into any consideration of the affairs of the body, but on the other hand they shall be eliminated for community good. I further resolve that when joining this body, that I will take interest in its meetings, its work and its plans, and I will do my part toward making the St. Helens Chamber of Commerce a body which will stand pre-eminently for the good and for the advancement of the interests and development of the community."

If those six Swedes who gave their residences as from Columbia City when they voluntarily gave up their first citizenship papers in order to escape the draft, still live in Columbia City, a delegation should wait on them and politely, but firmly request them to move to another place. If they are not patriotic enough to serve this country, and do not wish to go back to their own country, they do not fit in anywhere or any place. They certainly do not belong in this community and are not wanted here. Their names are published elsewhere in this issue of the Mist.

Superintendent King is to be congratulated on the good work he has done for the St. Helens schools. He has worked under great difficulties, and handicaps which would make most men despair of success. Prof. King, however, notwithstanding the difficulties which confronted him, has kept right on with the work and if he was discouraged, he did not let the fact be known. The schools are now beginning to run on schedule time and do scheduled work and much credit is due Prof. King and his able corps of assistants.

Each and everyone of the Mist's advertisers report exceptionally good Christmas business this season. The American public is quick to follow the advice of the government. When the authorities said "retrench," the public did it, and when they said "buy all you ordinarily would at Christmas time," they did that, too. One hundred per cent efficiency is the American Public.

In biblical days, a man sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Benedict Arnold betrayed his country, but he received a price. Those six Swedes who betrayed both Sweden and America when they gave up their citizenship in order to escape serving in the U. S. army are about on a level with, or possibly lower than was Arnold.

"If you intend to work, there is no better place than right where you are; if you do not intend to go to work you can not get along anywhere. Squirring and crawling from place to place can do no good." —Abraham Lincoln.

The St. Helens Mist is getting along in years—it completed thirty-seven last week. From the start it has been a good local paper and its name—peculiarity of the Columbia Valley—gives it distinction.—Oregonian, December 28th.

France is now producing about one gallon of milk where two and one-half were produced before the war. Available milk in Paris has been lately selling for 32 cents per quart, but its use is limited principally to young children and the sick.

The success of the Chamber of Commerce means success and development of St. Helens and surrounding country.

In the Red Cross membership drive Columbia county is again among the first counties of the state.

HYSKELL WRITES OF RED CROSS

To the Editor:

Regarding the present campaign for Red Cross funds, my remarks in your last week's issue have been taken as personal by a number of people who declined to subscribe, and it seems advisable that I go a bit further in the matter.

I wish to state frankly that I regret having said anything to offend a woman. What I said was not meant as personal to any individual, but to describe a type of slacker. Anyone who may feel that he or she is true to that type will apply my views as they see fit. When a subject like the "Red Cross" is considered what do our personal feelings amount to, anyhow?

The Red Cross, I would like, if possible to get this thought over. The term "Red Cross" really means service to the stricken and the suffering and the destitute. It is synonymous with the Golden Rule, "do unto others as you have them do unto you," if you were the stricken and they the fortunate.

We who have our little farms or stores or shops, as the case may be, here in Columbia county, and who sit by our comfortable firesides, and read the newspapers, should be able to visualize those wretched women and children in Belgium and France, who after four years of war come back to the places that were their homes—places that are now ashes or wreckage, fields that are ragged shell holes half filled with the winter's rains. How many of these women come back with more than the dress on their bodies? How many of these children come back with shoes and stockings? God knows. And manna does not fall from Heaven, nowadays. Somebody or some organization has to supply the need for these horror-stricken people and look after them through the long winter or they will die in the wretched shelters that are now being erected around their ruined hearthstones.

Of what consequence, then, are our personal feelings when we are called out for refusing to give the paltry dollar we are asked to give to keep the Red Cross organization together and continue its work in stricken France, Belgium, Poland, Armenia, Russia, and every land where the Red Cross brings succor to these destitute and suffering people? Under the conditions that we know exist, the honor of a membership in the Red Cross, and the grace of giving a dollar, are privileges that we should strive for. The membership of the Red Cross in Columbia county this winter ought to be the sum total of its population, men, women and children. The campaign is not yet over. The committees are still receiving money. C. M. HYSKELL.

No honest man is truly honest who denies that he ever made a fool of himself.

It Is The Time For Good Wishes



when everybody is turning over a new leaf, or thinking of doing so. If you are making any new resolutions let one of them be to deal with us in the future, for that is one of the surest ways to have cause for gratitude at the end of the coming year. Here we give you the best values obtainable, the most superior service and charge the lowest prices.

ST. HELENS-PORTLAND AUTO LINE

FRANK SHEPARD, Prop.

SCHEDULE

	A. M.	P. M.
Lv. St. Helens	7:30	1:30
Warren	7:45	1:45
Scappoose	8:00	2:00
Ar. Portland	9:20	3:20
Lv. Portland	10:00	4:00
Ar. St. Helens	11:50	6:50

Saturdays and Sundays
 Special trip leaving St. Helens 6 p. m.
 Leave Portland 11 p. m.

The Mist is still \$1.50 per year.

All Buses Call at Hotel
 Courteous Treatment
 STOP AT
ORCADIA HOTEL
 THOS. ISBISTER, Prop.
 Chicken Dinner, 50 cents
 Rates—\$1.25 per day and up
 Special Rates to Regular Boarders



A Clean Slate

WIPE off the worries and cares of 1918 and start anew. 1919 is going to be just what we all can make it. Let's get together and keep together here in St. Helens—just as we've been doing so long.

With your initiative—plus the incentive the Columbia County Bank lends—we wager the New Year will be Prosperous—as well as Happy.

SHERMAN M. MILES, President
 MARTIN WHITE, Vice-President
 A. L. STONE, Cashier
 G. MOECKS, Assistant Cashier



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Everyone's favorite in the medium priced car I can give quick delivery on any of the above mentioned cars

SEVERAL USED FORDS AT A BARGAIN

J. H. FLYNN

ST. HELENS, OREGON



Clean-Up Sale on Heaters

FLASH UNIVERSAL

This is the time of year that you need a good heater. We have several of those good UNIVERSAL HEATERS in stock, and we are going to sell them to you at a special price, and just at the time when you need a heater most.

Special Prices

Regular \$20 Heater, Special price \$18.00
 Regular \$18 Heater, Special price \$16.00
 Regular \$16 Heater, Special price \$14.00

You can't afford to be without one of these heaters. They are economical on fuel consumption and make the house warm and cheery. We have only a few of these in stock, so and make the home comfortable.

you had better take advantage of the reduction in price

E. G. DITTO
 EVERYTHING IN HARDWARE

The Coming Year

JUST THE SAME AS THE PAST YEAR

MASON'S

—FOR—

—LUNCHES
 —SOFT DRINKS
 —TOBACCOS
 —CIGARS

FOUNTAIN DELICACIES

Mason's
 St. Helens, Oregon

CREAM PUFFS
 RAISIN BREAD
 DOUGHNUTS

Ramsey's BREAD

We carry a nice line of CANDIES and LIGHT GROCERIES

Drop in any time and try a cup of our GOOD COFFEE

Thank You