

St. Helens Herald

OFFICIAL PAPER OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

CLIMAX REACHED HIGHWAY SITUATION

CONTRACT BETWEEN COLUMBIA COUNTY AND CONSOLIDATED CONTRACT CO. ABROGATED.

No Propositions Offered

Meeting of the Advisory Board and Other Citizens Called by Court. Action Follows Discussion.

The abrogation of the contract between Columbia county and the Consolidated Contract Company for the construction of Columbia highway, in Columbia county, is a fitting climax to the long drawn out controversy of highway matters in this county. The attitude of the contracting company has been one of inconsistency throughout the entire proceeding. It sought to take advantage of differences existing between the county court and the former highway engineer, hoping to recover an amount for services performed which he never really earned, and to which it had no lawful or honorable claim.

The situation is now such as to enable the court, in conjunction with the state highway engineer, to have better hold on the situation, as carefully be understood by reference to invitation to contractors which appears in another column of this issue.

The Consolidated Contract Company finally submitted two proposals to the county court as a basis upon which it would settle. These proposals are printed in full below.

Proposition No. 1. That the county pay at once the sum of \$72,000, in full for all claims against the county, and the dry rock walls, which are to be settled by a suit at law. The county to protect the company against any damages that may be awarded sub-contractors by the court, damages arising from suspension of the work last fall. This proposition carries with it the understanding that all claims against the county will be paid when the justice of the claims are established.

Proposition No. 2. County and contractor to arbitrate the whole matter in dispute, the contractor to pay the cost of arbitration.

Advice Requested.

The county court sought the advice of its advisory board and other citizens of the county, a meeting having been held last Saturday at St. Helens, to take final action upon the proposals of the contracting company. At a meeting the propositions of the contractors were refused.

The opinions of the members of the advisory board are printed in full below, to show the sentiment of that body.

Following are the views of the board:

County Court Advisory Board meeting, May 29th, 1915. State minutes, motions and opinions of the following members of the Advisory Board, in regard to the question of claims of the Consolidated Contract Co., and as to the settlement of same.

Mr. Norman Merrill gave his opinion as follows:

"I should like to see the court go ahead and settle with this Consolidated Contract Company according to the estimate that the state highway engineer made. I don't see why they shouldn't settle that way. They made this contract and if they don't agree to have this engineer as the arbitrator we could not have settled that they do this. As I understand it, the engineer is the whole thing in this matter. It looks to me, Mr. Malarkey has gone over it and says that the Consolidated Contract Company is bound by this, I should like to see what we can do about it in this line. The county court can afford to wait until they do something, keep their money, and let them go ahead and get on with it."

Mr. Evenson made a motion, as follows:

"I move that we approve of the course taken by the county court up to the present time and vote a vote of confidence in them; that we recommend that they settle the matter on the basis of the contract only."

Above motion seconded by Mr. Lovelace and Mr. Bishop.

Mr. Yount: "I don't understand just what the proposition was."

Judge Clark: "The action of the county court was this, that through our attorney, Mr. Malarkey, we abrogated the contract with the Consolidated Contract Company, and ordered them in a legal manner off the work, and have advertised for bids to complete the contract under the terms of the contract with the Consolidated Contract Company."

Q. "What would be our standing in case the new bids exceed this?"

A. "We have their fifty-four thousand to cover that."

All members of the board were then requested to state which way they wanted to vote upon the motion. Mr. Tandy of Marshland: "I think that as far as I know about contracts, we should follow the contract as far as we can, and I am in favor of the county judge and his advisors and the engineer to settle his matter, and my people, the ones that I spoke to about it at Marshland, add that they were in favor of what the county court was doing. I am not much posted on the road work, but we sure need a road down our way, and we hope this will be settled as quickly as possible and I am willing to abide by their judgment. I vote yes."

Mr. Merrill of Clatskanie: "I vote yes, because I don't know of any way that it could be settled by the contract, and I hope it will be successfully carried out. I believe it will. As to the feeling of the people to the county court in my vicinity, they are glad that they hired the best attorneys in the state and are following their advice, and hope they will continue to follow it."

Mr. Schunesen of Rainier: "I always understood that whenever a man made a contract and expected litigation about this contract, it was always good policy to adhere strictly to the contract and not admit any weak points about this. It appears to me that I do not think any compromise or any offer that Columbia county could make the Consolidated Contract Company, a litigation would still issue, hence my word will be yes, stand for the county."

Mr. Harry West of Scappoose: "I have talked to several up there and they seem all to be in favor of standing back of the court, and I think that the court has done a wise thing in getting Mr. Malarkey for an attorney. When I was on the board here, we had a little difficulty with the timbermen, we employed Mr. Malarkey and we found he was a great help. The only thing we can do is to stand by the court and the court stand back of the contract, and I vote yes on the motion."

Mr. Van of Mist: "I think likely it would be the best for the court to try to settle. As far as I am concerned, I am willing to leave it to you men and I have confidence that you will do the best you can. You had lots of worry over it and I think the quicker you can get it settled the better it would be and get to work, even if it costs a little more. We all have confidence in you. I vote yes on the resolution."

Mr. Evenson of Clatskanie: "It is my experience that a contract represents an agreement between parties and as a rule stipulates all the understandings, and for that reason I made this motion. I vote yes on it."

Mr. Keolan of Deer Island: "I believe that the people as a whole agree with the county court, and I am sure they will not lose confidence in them as long as they work with the engineer and counsel. Leave it to the court and engineer and counsel. I vote yes."

Mr. Bishop of Goble: "What I have heard at Goble, they are all in favor of what the court has done. They think we should settle by the counsel and the state engineer. I vote yes."

Mr. Stewart:

COMMERCIAL CLUB NOW ORGANIZED

HEADED BY SIX DEPARTMENTS, PLANS ARE FORMULATED FOR REAL WORK.

100 Members Thirty Days

Large and Enthusiastic Crowd Present—Business Men and Citizens Fall Into Line.

That St. Helens has a well-organized and live Commercial Club is attested by the action of an enthusiastic gathering of citizens at the City Hall last Thursday night. A large number of those present added to the increasing membership roll, and strenuous efforts are to be made to enroll every citizen possible. Several who were not in attendance at the meeting have voiced their interest and determination to fall right into line at once, and take their place in the club's activities.

Mr. Brewer of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, who has charge of the Chamber of Commerce work outside of the city of Portland, was present and delivered a very timely and appropriate address, outlining the general purposes of such an organization, touching on the forms and manner of perfecting such. The principal point of his address, which he stressed very heavily, was unity for strength and harmony of effort. He slashed the knockers and pronounced a woe upon city progressiveness when discord entered the community. He said that the one thing which would alone keep the club alive would be continuous work. Too many organizations, he said, were alive today and dead tomorrow. He made many helpful suggestions for making plans and working them.

The committee appointed at the previous meeting to draft a constitution, made their report and the paper was adopted, which thereupon became the foundation of the organization. The organization embraces six departments, each headed by a vice president elected by the club. The six departments are as follows: Retail Merchants, Industries and Manufactures, Columbia County Development, Legislation and Taxation, Advertising and Publicity, and Membership. A board of governors of the club is composed of the president and the several vice presidents. Membership in the organization was not limited to city residents, but to non-residents also who are interested in the development and upbuilding of St. Helens, its vicinity and Columbia county.

Mr. M. E. Miller was elected to the first presidency of the club. This honor was conferred by unanimous vote, there being no other nomination. Mr. Miller's efforts and energies expended in times past in behalf of the community and commercial welfare, together with his ability and fitness for such a position, makes him a leader hard to beat. In his remarks following his election, he declared his intentions of doing his utmost to make the St. Helens Commercial Club "a live organization." The other officers elected were: first vice president, L. C. Chase, merchants' retail department; second vice president, H. F. McCormick, industries and manufactures department; third vice president, John Phillip, Columbia Co. development department; fourth vice president, A. L. Stone, legislation and taxation department; fifth vice president, Ernest G. Coan, advertising and publicity department; sixth vice president, L. R. Rutherford, membership department; treasurer, Wm. Ross; secretary, S. R. Sonneland.

Since the meeting Thursday night President Miller expressed himself very optimistically. He thinks the outlook for doing things is exceedingly bright. Among other statements he made the following: "The feeling of enthusiasm manifested by the membership of the new Commercial Club spells success. With a membership of nearly 70 at present and the assurances of enough more

to make an active list of 100 citizens all working for the interests of the city and community, cannot but be of inestimable value to St. Helens and Columbia county. There seems to be a different feeling among the citizens of the community towards this club than that of any that has heretofore been organized. Everybody is interested and is showing that interest in an open and sincere manner. Truly the St. Helens Commercial Club has an excellent beginning and will no doubt be a great power and influence for the development and growth of our city and county. Every person interested should become a member and take an active part in the work."

ELLISON-WHITE CHAUTAUQUA AT RAINIER

Rainier, Ore. (Special to Mist, June 3)—Bills are out announcing the program and dates of the big Ellison-White Chautauqua, which is scheduled to appear here from July 4 to 9. One whole week of the best entertainment, by the best entertainers the world has ever known.

Arrangements have all been completed and are backed by 65 of Rainier's business men, who have pledged themselves to make the event one of the greatest weeks in the history of Rainier.

The programs and other features that will appear during the week's entertainment are headed by the world's celebrated musicians, cartoonists, impersonators, singers and lecturers, and it is enough to say in all sincerity that the programs are very strong and well balanced.

In planning a celebration, one could not do better than to arrange to spend a part of their time at Rainier during Chautauqua week. It will be different from the regular Fourth of July celebration. Few communities ever have such opportunities to listen to such celebrated artists as will appear there during that week.

COUNCIL MEETS FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION

On Monday night the members of the city council met, principally for the purpose of discussing the new city charter. A full attendance of the members was present. No official business was transacted, and only a few reports were heard.

A report concerning the repairs of the bridge on Winter street was referred to the street committee.

The city marshal reported that there was a quantity of dynamite stored in Godfrey park, and he was accordingly authorized to inform the County Construction Company, whose property it was, to remove it from that place, as it was considered a menace.

The matter of the new city charter was taken up and read and discussed at quite a length. It was finally referred to City Attorney Muller and Attorney J. W. Day for modifications and corrections where necessary.

SOME FISH.

Two of the largest sturgeons which have been landed for over a year, were put ashore this week. On Monday Geo. S. Scott of Columbia City, brought in one which weighed 385 pounds, with a length of 10 feet. This one was taken over by the Columbia River Packers Association, with whom Mr. Scott is employed.

On Wednesday, Frank Hull brought in by far the largest fish caught for many months from this section. A little over 10 feet long, with a weight of about 550 pounds. The fish was handled by J. A. Sheldon, local representative of the Warren Packing Company. Mr. Sheldon estimated that the fish contained 75 pounds of caviar, which is worth 25 cents per pound.

SHERMAN MILL STARTS SHIPPING TIMBERS

Mining timbers from the Sherman mills began to arrive the first of the week for shipment. For some time there has been a cessation of operations along this line. The mining timber from the Sherman mill is being handled and shipped by the St. Helens Mill Company, as formerly.

CANNERY READY FOR PRODUCTS

Foreign Shippers Have Already Engaged Large Quantities of the First Output.

Five Tons Beans Daily

MACHINERY ALL INSTALLED—15,000 CANS CAPACITY OF THE NEW PLANT.

The new Columbia River Cannery, located at this place, has just completed the installation of all new, modern and up-to-date machinery for handling fruit and vegetable products. All growers, whether large or small, will now find a ready market for all their garden, orchard and berry produce. Such an opportunity is a great boon to every local grower, and especially for the many small growers of this section. With such a large capacity, which the manager states is 15,000 cans daily, none need fear that the market will be crowded or overrun when their produce is ready to be placed. 15,000 cans means about five tons of beans per day or all other fruits and vegetables a similar output.

Manager Rosasco states that they expect the first beans to begin coming in about the 15th to the 20th of the month. The company is now, and has been during the season, buying all the strawberries available, but so far have not been able to secure sufficient quantities to pay canning; however, they have been placing them for the growers at good prices. For canning purposes they could handle 100 crates daily, but so far have been unable to procure sufficient amounts.

The company has some 75 acres of beans already contracted, which will yield from 4 to 5 tons per acre. Various wholesalers are anxiously awaiting their output, several carloads having been engaged already. Large quantities of cherries, pears, apples and other products have also been engaged. With a force of about 30 persons employed they will be able to handle the season's large yields nicely.

BODY OF MISSING MAN IS FOUND

The body of Moses Tufts, who disappeared last August, was found in the woods about three miles back of Rainier. His disappearance caused no great alarm at that time, as his brother, with whom he had been staying, supposed that he had gone off to work and would show up later.

The body was found on Mr. Porcher's place, who had bought the land some time since from the brother, Alex Tufts. While walking in the timber he stumbled over the body, covered with leaves, and in a very decomposed state. Authorities and his brother from Kalama were notified and the body taken up for burial, which took place Wednesday.

The missing man was afflicted with periodical aberrations of the heart, and it is supposed that he went to sleep and never awoke. He had been known to have slept at times for extended periods.

Alex Tufts identified the body by a gold watch and money pouches. No foul play was in evidence.

FIRE OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN BURNS BARN

The large barn belonging to Wilbur Muckle, just across from the school yard, was burned almost to the ground Wednesday night. The entire roof was ablaze when the alarm was sounded, but quick work on the part of the volunteer fire boys saved the building from being a total loss. Three horses which had been in the stalls just a few minutes before, were taken out after the barn was blazing high. The auto which was often kept in one part of the barn, fortunately had been taken out to the garage by one of the boys. The Williams & Hall delivery wagon was burned, but their horses and harness were saved.

The cause of the fire is unknown. Hobos have been known to sleep in the hay in the loft, as the barn was usually unlocked.

The loss was estimated to be about \$1000, covered by \$400 insurance.

The conflagration lit the entire town for awhile and attracted large crowds. The fire had gained much headway before the alarm was given. Two streams of water soon extinguished the flames, and the charred remains look much like the landscape scenes we receive of the Belgian frontier.

SCHOOL REPORT.

The following is the annual school report of the Yankton school, in District No. 30, for the year ending May 29, 1915.

No. of days taught 173; whole number of days attendance 11,935.5; whole number of days absence 664; whole number of times late 145; average number of pupils neither absent nor late 41.9; total number enrolled 92; average number belonging 72.7; average daily attendance 68.8; average per cent of attendance 94.6; number of books in library 219; number of visits by parents 25; number of visits by members of school board 5.

Most pupils made their grades and many did excellent work. The school has been made standard. Eight pupils received certificates of perfect attendance, showing that they were neither absent nor tardy during the year. The general school program, held in the Grange hall, Friday night, May 28, and the Tenth grade graduation exercises held Saturday night, May 29, were well attended.

Miss Merritt and Mr. Owen gave a dinner to the Tenth grade class, at Mr. Geo. Hyde's, Saturday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock. The dining room was suitably decorated with the class colors, pink and white, and with the colors of a former class, represented by Miss Olive Hyde. Those attending were: Supt. J. W. Allen, Mrs. Effie Wilson, Miss Olive Hyde, the three teachers, Miss Merritt, Miss Gallup and Mr. Owen; the Ninth grade class; Miss Iris Griffin—who was class marshal, and Jess Stewart—and the Tenth grade class: Mary Griffin, Marie Walker, George Walker, Marie Anderson and Irene Marshall.

Supt. J. W. Allen presented the diplomas at the close of the commencement exercises.

DEER ISLAND SCHOOL.

The Deer Island school closed Friday, May 28th, after a very successful term, with Miss Helen Buckley as principal, and Miss Mary McGregor, assistant.

Deer Island school has long been noted for its splendid location, beautiful building and grounds and teachers. Having met all the standard requirements, it now proudly bears the name "Standard," and while probably the last in the county to receive the distinction, they hope and feel sure it is not by any means the least.

The following pupils won their way to the roll of honor: Roscoe Loyd, Harvey Francis, Nelson Francis, Pauline Hammer, Vera Gaitens, Clyde Stewart, and Hartwell Cooper.

An interesting program was given Friday evening, which was well attended by parents and friends. The following program was rendered: Opening address, Lewis Meehan; song by school, Come to the Greenwood; recitation, Sam Butler; recitation, Audrey McConnell; dramatization, Sleeping Beauty, Primary pupils; Santa Lucia, by 14 girls; Days of the Week, 8 children; recitation, "National Flag," Mary Keelan; song, "I'm a Merry Sailor Lad," 14 boys; recitation, Zella Mattoon; owl song, 10 children; school march, 4 girls; dialogue, "Our Aunt From California," 6 girls; "I'm Off for California and the Fair," Hartwell Cooper; song by school, "Wave Our Bonny Flag High"; presentation of diplomas, Prof. J. W. Allen.

Four pupils received eighth grade diplomas: Mildred Loyd, Carl Hammer, Bert Seffert and Edward McConnell.

Everyone went home feeling a pardonable pride in each of the children who had helped make the evening a success.