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St. Helens Register

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TELEPHONE RATES ARE DISCUSSED BY COUNCIL

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

The most important matter coming to the attention of the city council Monday night was the raise in telephone rates. At the time the council discussed the prospective raise, they were not informed that the raise had already gone into effect. Probably, had this been known, Allen would not have blocked McDonald's motion to have the city attorney prepare an ordinance to revoke the franchise of the phone company.

McDonald had quite a tale of woe to unfold to the council. The phone service was anything but good; in fact, it was below the standard which any town of the size of St. Helens could and should expect. The installation of phones, also, was a sore point with McDonald. The company had been exceedingly dilatory in installing phones. McDonald spoke from his own personal experience, as his order for a phone has been on file since September, 1917, and even up to and including Monday night, November 18, the phone had not been installed in McDonald's residence.

City Attorney has Grievance
J. W. Day, city attorney, had a grievance similar to McDonald's. It was not of so long standing, but nevertheless it was a grievance. For some months there has been an order on file for a phone for the attorney's office, but on Monday night, November 18, 1918, the city attorney could not speak to anyone from his office unless he threw up the window and yelled to the passerby, Councilman Chapman, also, had something to say about the phone service. Evidently he thought of his boyhood days back in the hilly section of Eastern Oregon, for he compared the ring of his phone with the gentle dripping of a summertime stream as it dropped from rock to rock on its way to the mighty Columbia.

Walter Blakesley, also, took part in the discussion, and his speech must have excited the long pent up wrath of McDonald, for the councilman who sits in the honor seat, the first chair to the right of the mayor, advocated the revoking of the phone company's franchise. Councilman Allen sits next to McDonald and a little further away from Blakesley and Day, so he kept his balance and disposed of the phone matter by suggesting that the mayor see the manager of the phone company and see when the raise, if there was to be a raise, would go into effect. The mayor cheerfully assumed this duty, not knowing that the raise was already in effect. In this manner the phone question was disposed of until the mayor makes his report.

Library Committee Calls
The council was busy figuring up the budget when a committee from the Library, or Woman's Club, called. Just previous to their entrance into the council chambers, a motion had been made and carried that the monthly warrant for \$25 for the maintenance of the library, be cancelled on account of the fact that the library has been closed since October 14. Mrs. Ellison spoke for the ladies and said they wanted \$350 for the maintenance of the library for the ensuing year. The mayor and each of the councilmen listened with wrapt attention to the request of the ladies, and the mayor assured them that their request for funds had been taken care of even before they visited the sanctum of the city dads, but the amusing part of the proceedings was that neither the mayor nor any of the councilmen had the nerve to tell the ladies that \$25 had been lopped from their allowance. Even Walter Blakesley kept quiet on this matter, and the ladies left thinking the council was just about alright. The warrant, however, was cancelled a few moments before they entered the council room.

Sidewalk Question Up
Walter Blakesley reported that several sidewalks were in an unsafe condition and thought the council should take some action regarding them. The city ordinance book and charter were thoroughly read and it was discovered that some time ago an ordinance was passed which would apply to the situation and Blakesley and Porter were instructed to get busy and see that the owners of property adjacent to the defective sidewalks, repaired and put in good condition the sidewalks.

Dock Question Is Up
Councilman Chapman again brought to the attention of the council and the mayor that the city dock had not yet been built and suggested advertising for bids. The matter was discussed at some length and the old plans for the dock were called for. It then developed that the plans had been loaned to somebody whose present whereabouts

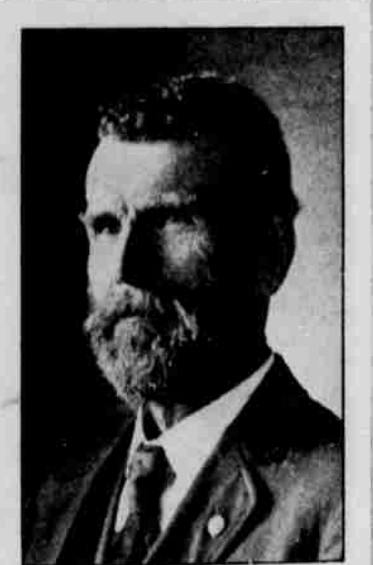
PHONE RATE RAISE TO BE FOUGHT

Rates in St. Helens Not to be Raised Without Protest

Under the arbitrary ruling of Postmaster General Burleson, the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company was given permission to raise their rates in Oregon, and St. Helens, being one of their important stations and located in the state which the postmaster general seems to have a grudge against, will have its rates raised.

The schedule of raises, according to Manager Scott of the local exchange, calls for a horizontal raise of 25 cents on business and residence phones. This is not as bad as it might be, but the farmers are the ones who get all that is coming to them. Their rate, heretofore, has been \$1.00 per month, but owing to the increased cost of operation of the phone lines, the postmaster general in conjunction with the well paid officials of the phone company, have determined that the farmer should pay a little more for the privilege of talking over the phone. They are raised from \$1.00 per month to \$1.25 per month. This does not apply where the farmers own their own lines and telephones. If they are charged in this respect, a switching charge of \$5.00 per year is assessed against them. The suburban lines, according to Mr. Scott, extend in the direction of Warren and Bachelor Flat, and there are about 60 subscribers on this system. The raise will, therefore, bring another \$120 per month into the coffers of the phone company or the postmaster general or whoever is running the phone company.

City Rates Raised
The phone subscribers in the city fare better than their farmer neighbors. The rate on business phones has been \$2.75. It will be raised to \$3.00. The rate on residence phones has been \$2.00. It will be raised to \$2.25. There are about 250 phones in the city, so the increased rate will bring about \$62.50 per month additional. Adding this to the farmers' increase, we have close to \$200 per month which St. Helens and nearby territory will have to surrender to the phone company upon the Columbia.



JUDSON WEED
Re-elected County Commissioner

Mr. Weed is a pioneer of Columbia county and lives in the Nehalem Valley, where he settled 40 years ago. He was county clerk for two terms and also represented the county in the legislature.

say-so of Postmaster General Burleson.

City Attorney Investigates
Upon instruction of the council, City Attorney J. W. Day is looking up an ordinance which granted J. L. Zipperer the franchise and other proceedings in connection with the franchise and setting of the poles. The Mist understands that several vital points were left out of the proceedings, which might invalidate the franchise and that the city officials have in mind proceedings which will make matters uncomfortable to the phone company.

THURSDAY, NOV. 28 THANKSGIVING DAY

President Wilson has proclaimed Thursday, November 28th as Thanksgiving Day. Governor Withycombe followed this proclamation by issuing one calling on the people of Oregon to cease from their labors and business pursuits and join in giving thanks for this most glorious day of all Thanksgiving days. Mayor Saxon, it is understood, will issue a proclamation, requesting the people of St. Helens to observe the day of thanks. It is probable the churches will hold the customary Thanksgiving day services and the stores and all manufacturing establishments will close for the day.



Lieut. Roy Price Lloyd Price Watts Price
THREE BROTHERS IN U. S. SERVICE

They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Price of Scappoose. All three of them enlisted. Roy attended the officers' training school at Camp Jackson and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He is now in France. Lloyd is in the marine corps. He was wounded in one of the big engagements in which the Yanks took a prominent part. Watts is at Cholic Heights radio station at Lemon Grove, California. Each of the three soldiers have many friends in St. Helens.

QUOTA IS RAISED IN WAR WORK DRIVE

TOTAL IS \$16,512.22

Full Reports Not Yet Received and Amount to be Increased

Columbia county's quota for the United War Work campaign was \$10,350. This amount has been raised and \$5,262.00 thrown in for good measure, just to show how Columbia county people feel towards those who are serving our sailor and soldier boys.

Chairman C. L. Wheeler states that final reports have not yet been received and he is confident when such reports come to hand, that the total subscriptions will be at least \$20,000.

The amount raised by districts is as follows:
Rainier, \$2716.50.
St. Helens, \$4000.00.
Columbia City, \$2050.00.
Goble, \$755.00.
Deer Island, \$766.00.
Yankton, \$400.00
Scappoose, \$1650.00.
Lower Nehalem, \$2500.00.
Warren, \$733.40.
Delena, \$701.00.

NOTICE IS SENT TO REGISTRANTS

Those Who Have Reached 37th Birthday Return Questionnaires

Acting upon advice received from the adjutant general's office, Clerk LeBare of the local board has sent out the following bulletin to registrants:
To registrants who on September 12, 1918, had reached their 37th birthday: The president directs that registrants who on September 12, 1918, had attained their 37th birthday and who have received their questionnaires, need not fill out such questionnaires, but they are to immediately return such document to the local board.

No charge for delinquency will be entered against such registrant for failure to fill out and return the questionnaire even though the time set for the return is now passed, and all charges for delinquency heretofore enforced against such registrants of such ages who have failed to return their questionnaire within the time limit set therefor, will be cancelled and made of no effect.

LAUNCHED SATURDAY GOVERNMENT BOAT IS

Saturday the government steamer, Colinda was launched at the yards of the St. Helens Shipbuilding Company. Several hundred people witnessed the launching which was successful. Mrs. Carl Christensen, wife of the superintendent of the yard, christened the vessel. The Colinda is of the Ferris type, 285 feet long, 45 feet beam and has a carrying capacity of 8500 tons.

CANDIDATES FILE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Running for Office is Expensive to Some—Others Spend Nil

A majority of the candidates who ran for county offices, have filed their expense accounts with the county clerk. The judgeship was the most sought for and consequently more money was expended in campaign expenses by the three candidates. W. J. Fullerton, the democratic candidate and the man who landed the plum, spent \$58.55 in order to tell the voters he was the best man for the job. George Conyers turned loose of \$92.50 in the effort to be the winning man, while Martin White, the republican candidate, expended \$34.50.

Although J. W. Hunt, candidate for county clerk, had no opposition, he spent \$20. He had no cards printed nor carried an announcement, so it is presumed he contributed a big \$20 bill to the republican campaign fund.

It cost Stanwood just about one-fourth of his month's wages to be elected as sheriff. His expense account filed showed that he separated himself from \$33.35 in order to come out first over his democratic opponent, J. H. Bunting, and it cost this same Bunting \$31.85 for the pleasure of running against Stanwood.

Bessie Hattan, candidate for treasurer and L. J. VanOrshoven, candidate for surveyor, had no opposition, so they, of course, felt safe, and did not spend any campaign money, showing they did not expend one cent in order to obtain a favorable expression from the voters.

M. F. Hazen, the successful candidate for justice of the peace in Justice of the Peace District No. 1, must have become a little skeptical as to his chances against Mayor Magnus Saxon, for he loosened up to the extent of \$3.00 for campaign expenses. He landed the job, so the money must have been used advantageously.

No other candidates have filed expense accounts, so it is reasonable to suppose that they incurred no expense.



T. S. WHITE
Re-elected County Coroner

Mr. White has been a resident of Columbia county for the past 12 years. He has served as councilman and president of the council of the City of St. Helens.

COUNTY VALUATION THIRTEEN MILLION

Assessor Blakesley has completed the task of compiling the valuation of the property in Columbia county and has kindly furnished the Mist with the data which is approximately correct. The state tax commission has not furnished the assessor with their figures, which cover the valuation of public utilities and the assessor's figures are based on last year's valuation. There is very little likelihood, however, that any material change will be made.

District No. 9 Has Most

Road District No. 9, which comprises the upper Nehalem country, is first in valuation, having \$1,794,580 to its credit. District No. 16, which is the City of Vernonia, is the lowest with a valuation of \$27,565. Road District No. 12, which is the City of St. Helens, has a valuation of \$792,020.00.

The valuations by districts are as follows:

1	\$ 1,029,200
2	559,595
3	1,392,680
4	1,136,840
5	1,101,345
6	1,463,995
7	1,659,610
8	1,391,785
9	1,794,580
10	296,110
11	186,855
12	792,020
13	53,780
14	595,230
15	178,295
16	27,565
Total	\$13,659,485

YANK ARTILLERY DOES GREAT WORK

SHELL HOLES THICK

Stuart McKie Visits St. Mihiel and Sees Work of American Guns

That the American artillery was a most important factor in driving the Huns from their quarters, is indicated in a letter received by Mrs. J. H. McKie, from her son Stuart, who recently visited a sector which had been under the fire of the American guns. Stuart says in his letter, which is dated October 21st:

"The Germans are on the run everywhere and there will be no let up until they are put out of existence or surrender."

"The weather has been quite rainy and wet and there has been very little flying, and this gave us a chance to see some of the country."

Visits St. Mihiel
"I took a trip to old St. Mihiel sector. The trip was very interesting and well worth my while. All along the road were long lines of trenches and big bunches of barbed wire entanglements. Entering some of the trenches we found large dug-outs, some of them, especially the officers' quarters, were walled with cement and were fixed up like palaces. The surrounding country is a mass of shell holes made by the American artillery. On a little further are some high hills where the German artillery and batteries were stationed. These hills were pitted with shell holes, and the tops of some of them were completely torn away. Back of the first hills, were more hills and on them a number of summer resorts, built with lattice work and fitted up in great style. A little further on is the Mont sector, commanding a view of hundreds of miles in every direction."

A Net Work of Tunnels
"There is a net work of tunnels, running from top to bottom. The tunnels are about five feet high and three feet wide and lead from one lookout post to another. Down in the center of the mountain were the living quarters and magazine stores. We entered a tunnel near the bottom of the mountain and walked until we were at a lookout post on top. Going back to the main tunnel, we entered another which took us to a machine gun nest, and so on all through the mountain."

"The top of the mountain was pitted with shell holes and showed the destructive work of our artillery. The little towns in the neighborhood were flattened out as though a huge steam roller had passed over them. Once in a while I saw a lone wall standing, or a wall and a roof. The buildings in this country are all made of stone so you can imagine what it looks like after the constant bombardment."

"My captain recently brought down a German plane and I am sending you a picture of it, also some lines, from one of the wings. In one of the pictures he is seen standing with his hands on the machine gun mountings near the rearcock."

"I will have to close for this time. I am well and you need not worry about me."

"Your affectionate son,
"STUART MCKIE."
M. S. E. Aero Squad.
A. E. F., France."

St. Helens Boy at Chateau-Thierry

Justin Wilkins writes from a hospital station in France, saying that he is now getting along nicely and expected to soon be sent to a rest camp to recuperate from his wounds. While his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilkins have heard from him several times since he was wounded, his last letter was the only one which gave any particulars. Justin said he was wounded at the battle of Chateau-Thierry. That his company of engineers was in the thick of the fight and that the Huns, realizing the importance of repulsing the Franco-American troops, had great fleets of airplanes constantly bombarding the soldiers. A big German bombing plane came along and let loose several big bombs which fell uncomfortably near him. Another plane following close behind the first one, also turned loose several bombs and at this time, Justin was not so lucky, as the flying shrapnel struck him and put him out. A hole large enough to hide a big goose egg, was made in his hip, and he was unable to do more fighting.

He describes the fighting of the French and Americans as being particularly fierce and the German opposition as being especially obstinate. Before being wounded, however, he had the opportunity to play an important part in the great victory, for which he is very thankful.

Brothers Meet by Chance

Mrs. J. R. Williams has received a letter from her son, Glenn, telling of his safe arrival overseas. Glenn, a few months ago, enlisted and was sent to the Benson Polytechnic for training. He was assigned to the quartermaster department and sent east.

At the place of embarkation on the

(Continued on page eight)

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