

POLITICAL BEES BEGIN TO BUZZ

Candidates Announce Their Intentions. Representative Ballagh Declines to Serve Again. Commissioner Harvey Out of Race.

Although the primary election is months distant the political buzz has begun and several candidates have been named informally that they will seek the approval of the voters. The movement of the few mentioned undoubtedly, be followed by announcements of many to whom the voters appeal, and in the near future, the voters of the county will be presented with a list of candidates, and possibly surprised by the number of candidates. Executive office in the county with the exception of the county judgeship and the commissioner will have to be filled this year and it is expected that the present incumbents, without an exception, will seek re-election and election.

Ballagh for Representative.

Representative Edison I. Ballagh announced informally that he is a candidate to succeed him in the legislature. While not announced his platform, it is understood that he will stand on record in the legislature, the session and the special session, and be sufficient for his re-nomination. In speaking of his candidacy Mr. Ballagh stated that it was his desire to return to the legislature to get through several bills which would be of special benefit to the county. On account of being a man and to an extent not familiar with political workings, he was able, he said, to accomplish all that he wished in the session of the legislature.

With the "newness" work of his committee appointments and his experience in regular and special sessions of the legislature as an asset, he thought he would be in a position to do better service for Columbia county and the people at large.

Ballagh has many friends about the county who appreciate his good work, especially his efforts put through the St. Helens-Pittsburg road as a post road, and it is believed he will make a strong showing.

Wilkerson Announces.

J. B. Wilkerson, superintendent of the St. Helens Schools has announced that he will be a candidate for County School Superintendent. Prof. Wilkerson has lived in the county since 1902 (with the exception of two years spent in a distant city) and is well known throughout the county. He was formerly principal of the St. Helens, and Vernonia high schools, and an educator of recognized ability has many friends throughout the county.

Y. Allen, present incumbent of the office has also announced his intention of seeking re-nomination. Allen has been superintendent of the past six years and has made a valuable reputation in the office. His appointment as County Superintendent, Mr. Allen was principal of the Warren school and years ago was principal of the St. Helens schools. He has lived in this county for the past twelve years and has a wide acquaintance in the county. Both he and Mr. Wilkerson are well known men and it is predicted the race between them will be an interesting one.

Harvey Will Not Run.

Commissioner A. E. Harvey informed the Mist that he will not seek re-nomination for the office of County Commissioner. Mr. Harvey has the agency for Columbia county for the Case tractor and intends to sell in his time selling these farm articles. It is said that T. J. H. road supervisor of Road District No. 6, the Rainier district, will seek the nomination for the position now held by Mr. Harvey. Mr. H. has made no formal announcement of his candidacy, but it is informed parties tell the Mist it can be expected.

W. Blakesley will probably seek nomination for the office he now holds, County Assessor. The Mist is that a Nehalem Valley party also a party who lives in the Rainier district also look with long eyes upon this office. It cannot be earned, however, whether or not he has made up their minds fully to running, so for the present, names are withheld.

The season is a bit young, but in a few weeks it is reasonably sure that announcements will be made for the primary elections, the date of the primary elections, the flock of candidates will be up to normal.

PLANT IS NEAR COMPLETION

Work is progressing rapidly on the distributing plant being built by Standard Oil Co. at the railroad crossing in Railroad Addition. Sidetrack is in, the warehouse and the garage and several smaller buildings are almost completed. The concrete forms for foundations of the oil tanks are almost finished and as soon as this work is done, the tanks will be put in place. It is thought that the distributing plant will be completed and operation before March 1st.

The steamer Klamath is scheduled to sail tonight for San Pedro via San Francisco. The vessel carries a cargo of 1,000,000 feet of lumber and a number of passengers.

EDISON I. BALLAGH



Representative from Columbia county to the State Legislature who announces that he will again seek re-nomination and re-election.

POMONA GRANGE MEETS AT GOBLE

Important Business Transacted. Candidate for Legislature Recommended.

The meeting of the Pomona Grange at Goble Saturday afternoon was attended by more than 200 grange members. The session began at 10:30 o'clock in the morning and lasted until midnight. The Goble grange were hosts and the dinner, supper and midnight luncheon served exemplified their hospitality.

Numerous matters of interest to the former were discussed and acted upon. The members of the grange thought it advisable to nominate a member of the grange as representative and the master, A. H. Tarbell appointed a nominating committee. After deliberation the committee appointed A. H. Tarbell.

A committee was appointed to cooperate with the committee of grangers appointed during Farmers' Week at the O. A. C. to compel the plain labeling of all stock and poultry feed.

The dues of Pomona Grange were raised to \$1 per year and Isaac Link of Goble was elected delegate to the State Grange and C. M. Hyskalli of Warren chosen as alternate.

An interesting program of music, speeches and readings followed and C. E. Spence Master of the State Grange, talked on "Co-operation." The Deer Island Grange will entertain the next Pomona on Saturday, May 1st.

SHOULD REGISTER FOR PRIMARIES

Those people who desire to vote at the primaries in May should see to it that they are properly registered before April 21st.

All who have never registered before must register, else they cannot vote.

Those who have moved from any precinct since the last time they voted, must register else they cannot vote in May.

Those who are in doubt about it in any way, should find out the facts and govern themselves accordingly. County Clerk Hunt will give the desired information and will register any voter. For the convenience of those living distant from St. Helens the county clerk has appointed several registrars in the county. George Conyers at Clatskanie registers those who wish to vote in the Clatskanie and Marshland districts while Fred Herman at Rainier, does the same for those in the Rainier territory, Aplary and Prescott. Those living in Goble and Deer Island have been registering here and Mr. Hunt is endeavoring to secure someone to act as registrar in the Scappoose neighborhood. If it is found necessary, a registrar will be appointed at Vernonia. It will be easy enough to register, but usually there are a number of people who postpone registering until the last minute and then have to be sworn in on election day.

If you are not registered and want to vote, you might as well attend to it now.

MINISTERS TO MEET IN PORTLAND

Ministers from Columbia county will attend the State Pastors' Conference, arranged by the Interchurch World Movement, at the White Temple, Portland, March 3-5.

This is the first Interdenominational State Pastors' Conference held in Oregon and it will include the launching of a great program by the Interchurch World Movement. Some of the strongest denominational leaders of the country will be present to conduct the Conference. An invitation has been issued to every Protestant pastor in the state, and hundreds have already accepted.

Those who have already signified their intention to attend from the county are: Rev. Geo. V. McClure, pastor Congregational church, Scappoose; Rev. A. R. Spearow, pastor Congregational church, St. Helens; Rev. D. M. Higby, pastor Free Methodist church, Houlton; Rev. A. S. Hisey, pastor M. E. church, St. Helens; Rev. H. H. Howe, pastor Rainier M. E. church, and Rev. R. A. Weld, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Clatskanie.

ELECTION LAWS ARE EXPLAINED

Attorney General Rules that City and County Elections are to be Held on Same Day. Same Precinct Officers will Serve.

Section 14A of the Constitution reads, "Incorporated cities and towns shall hold their nominating and regular elections for their several elective offices at the same time that the primary and general biennial elections for state and county officers are held, and the election precincts and officers shall be the same for all elections held at the same time."

This section according to Attorney General Brown, answers the enquiry of Judge Martin White relative to the holding of city and general elections. Mr. Brown said in part, "There is no question but that under the provisions of said Section 14-a of the Constitution as enacted by the people, the population limit was not considered as to the time of holding the election for city officers."

In other words, all incorporated cities and towns, regardless of their size, whether great or small, must hold their election for officers on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November at the time of the regular, general biennial election in Oregon.

State Law Governs.

According to Mr. Brown's letter, the state law takes precedence over all charters and provisions of cities and annuls any conflicting provisions of the charters or ordinances. "All provisions of the charter and ordinances pertaining to the holding of elections continue in force except as they relate to the time of holding such elections," Mr. Brown's letter stated.

The Attorney General's ruling is interpreted to mean that the usual mass meeting which is held in St. Helens for the purpose of nominating candidates will be dispensed with and those who seek city offices will have to announce their candidacy and be put on the state and county ticket. This ruling also applies to all incorporated towns and affects St. Helens, Goble, Rainier, Clatskanie and possibly Scappoose as the election to determine the question of incorporation of that thriving town will be held this month.

Affects Office Holders.

The ruling of the Attorney General means that the present city council of St. Helens will hold office until January 1st, 1921, since the November election will determine who is selected. Mayor Saxon, Councilman Larabee, Councilman Wheeler and Councilman O'Connor would have been relieved of their office, unless re-elected, if the city election had been held at the time provided for in the charter, viz: April, but these officials may now hold office until the first of the year.

The law provides that each incorporated town shall be separate election precincts, and that none living outside of the incorporate limits of such city or town may vote in the town or city. It becomes necessary, therefore, for the county court to make other election precincts.

Heretofore, in general election, people residing in the district of the Columbia County Mill, on the Yankton and Bachelor Flat roads and in and near Columbia City have voted in St. Helens precincts. They can do this no longer, and the court will have to make separate voting precincts. It is possible that the Warren precinct will embrace the "Little Mill" district, Yankton will take care of those living near Houlton who formerly voted in Precinct 3 and Deer Island will take care of the Columbia City voters, or else another voting precinct will be formed.

This matter will come up at the next meeting of the county court, and different boundaries of the voting precincts will be arranged. Under the law, no precinct can contain more than 300 voters.

The decision of Attorney General Brown settled a mooted question and affects all towns and cities in Oregon, if they are incorporated.

The first installment of the steel draw bridge which is to span the Frogmore Slough arrived on the steamer Tahoma Wednesday afternoon. The steamer is now in Portland loading the balance of the bridge and is expected down tomorrow morning.

C. L. Wheeler, manager of the Dock and Terminal Company informs the Mist that he expects to have the bridge in place, rails and ties laid and the road open for traffic within 10 days.

AID PROMISED PITTSBURG ROAD

State Highway Commission Designates St. Helens-Pittsburg Road as Market Road. \$42,000 Will be Available for Road Work this Year.

The St. Helens-Pittsburg road will have \$42,000 available for construction work this year. The road was designated by the county court as a Market Road and in the county budget of expense, there was a two mill levy for this purpose. Under the state law, at least a one mill levy will have to be given by the state to match the funds raised by the county.

The assessed valuation of the county is approximately \$13,000,000, so the 2 mill levy will raise \$26,000 and the one mill levy by the state will give \$13,000 more. There are many counties who did not make a special levy for market roads, but they have to stand for the general one mill levy fixed by the state. This amount brought in to the state treasury by this means, was supposed to be apportioned among the counties which took advantage of the Market Road law. Columbia was one of the 12 or 14 counties in Oregon that took advantage of the law and levied a 2 mill tax.

Commission Apportions \$3000

When Judge White, Commissioner Harvey and L. R. Rutherford and Representative E. I. Ballagh appeared before the State Highway Commission last Friday that honorable body had almost forgotten the St. Helens-Pittsburg road, though the state highway department had been advised of the action of the Columbia county court. The commission however, accepted the survey of the road, designated it as a Market Road and apportioned the magnificent sum of \$3000 for work on the road. Thus there will be available about \$42,000 for work on the road this year, which the court estimates will grade and clear about four miles of the 8 miles of road.

While the court has made no definite plans it is thought that construction work will begin at the end of the "2nd mile" from Pittsburg, coming east, and that the four miles to be cleared and graded will join the old road at a point east of the dead-end Sixteen Mile Hill. If possible, the court will let the entire job in one contract and if work is expedited as they wish, it is possible that by fall, the job would be completed.

It is thought that it will take at least \$40,000 to complete the grading and clearing from the Sixteen Mile Hill, to the Clatskanie River, and possibly this work will be done in 1921. After it is completed, the road will be rocked.

More Should Come From State

It is not thought that the \$3000 apportionment made by the Highway Commission is the just amount which should have been apportioned to Columbia county and there are many who wonder what disposition the commission intend to make of the balance of the Market Road fund. It is stated, and on good authority, that the commission used the post road funds for the work on the highway between Houlton and Deer Island, and it is possible that some of the Market Road funds might be diverted in the same direction. The Mist will endeavor to ascertain from the commissioner their stand in the matter and inform the public.

DEATH TAKES PIONEER OF 1860

George Washington Chapman, a resident of this city for the past four years, died at the home of his son Elmer Chapman in this city on Monday the 9th. The funeral was held from the Methodist church Tuesday afternoon, Rev. A. S. Hisey officiating, and the body taken to Fossil, Oregon, for interment.

Deceased was born in Indiana, June 28th, 1846 and was 73 years, and 7 months of age at the time of his death. With his parents he crossed the plains in 1860 and settled in Polk county on what is now the present site of Dallas. Later the family moved to Eastern Oregon where deceased lived until four years ago when he and his wife came to St. Helens to make their home with their son Elmer.

Mr. Chapman was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ainsworth Aug. 27, 1878 and to the union were born seven children, six of whom survive, and are Archie, of Weiser, Idaho, Guy and Elmer of St. Helens, Ray of Portland, Claud of Fossil and Mrs. Hattie Gilliam, also of Fossil. The wife also survives.

R. N. STANFIELD



Mr. Stanfield announces his candidacy for United States Senator from Oregon, to succeed George E. Chamberlain, democrat, who now occupies that position.

WILL DISCONTINUE STEAM HEAT SERVICE

St. Helens Lumber Company Files Petition With Public Service Commission.

A petition has been filed with the Public Service Commission of Oregon by the St. Helens Lumber Co. asking permission to discontinue the steam heat service furnished a number of patrons in St. Helens.

The petition sets forth that an investigation was held by the Public Service Commission in Feb. 15, 1918 in answer to the company's petition that they be allowed to discontinue the service and that the commission ordered the petitioner to continue to furnish the service to a number of patrons in a certain locality and that the petitioner had complied with the order.

Since the issuance of the order, the petition recites, the company has extended the mill and are using a far greater amount of steam than as of the date of the order, and additional machinery is being installed which will call for additional steam. In order to operate the mill and electric plant and still furnish steam for heating, it would be necessary to install additional boilers.

The petition further sets forth that the operation of the mill is of great benefit to the community than would be the serving of the comparatively few steam customers and that the steam service is not a necessity but merely a convenience. If the service was continued, the steam line would have to be rebuilt and that such replacement is prohibitive on account of its cost and the revenue received would not justify such additional expense. Other good reasons are set forth and a hearing asked for.

The Commission advises that it will grant a hearing, the date of which will be set in the near future.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Cyril Carter, who came to St. Helens recently from San Francisco, has entered the senior class. The class now has twelve members.

About thirty of the high school pupils have been ill during the past three weeks. While the attendance is not yet normal, it has very nearly reached 100 this week.

The Freshmen will give their second party of the year in the school auditorium, on Saturday evening, February 21st.

The debating team is working hard on the question that it will debate with a team from the Gresham high school here on Feb. 20th. The question is "Resolved, That Congress should prohibit all labor immigration for a period of five years."

Practically all of our boys turned out this week for track work. Rev. Spearow will coach the boys and we hope to be able to win over the county, at the annual field meet, which will be held some time in May.

The "community party" has been postponed until the health conditions of St. Helens are better. The program that is being planned for the occasion will be a very interesting and entertaining one.

Judge S. C. Morton spoke in the assembly Thursday afternoon on the life of Abraham Lincoln. The talk was a good one and was appreciated by the pupils.

The two bookkeeping classes are spending ten minutes of each recitation in studying correct pronunciation. The following is a partial list of the words studied during the past week: advertise, acclimate, adobe, albumen, alternately, amateurs, asphalt, aviation, bouquet, bomb, bromine, buoy, cayenne, chauffeur, climatis, cocaine, corral, detour, dahlia, drama, gondola, gape, irate, limousine, menu, pecan, sirup, sesame, solder, suite, strychnine, trio, visor.

The Womens Club met at the Library Tuesday afternoon. Miss Balder of Seattle spoke to the members on the work of the Y. W. C. A. She was here in the interest of the yearly budget of the association.

The club will celebrate Washington's birthday with a social meeting at the home of Mrs. J. L. Storia, Saturday afternoon, Feb. 21st. A silver tea will be given to raise money with which to purchase new books.

COUNCIL LEASES CITY PROPERTY

Ordinance is Passed Giving Lease to J. W. Akin on Property Adjoining City Dock. Casenau Street Improvement Brings up Discussion.

At their meeting Monday night the ordinance leasing to J. W. Akin a strip of land 50 x 100 feet on the north side of the roadway leading to the city dock, was read for the third time and by unanimous vote passed. The ordinance which is published in this issue of the Mist, leases the property for a period of 10 years at an annual rental of \$50 and gives an option for re-leasing at the end of the period, subject to the approval of the council. If such lease is not given the building will be taken over by the city at a price fixed by "appraisal" which the Mist construes to mean that a board of arbitration will be appointed.

Casenau Street Improvement.

J. H. Wellington appeared before the council and complained of the improvement of Casenau street, or that portion of it which is in front of his lots. He stated that the road had been "swung around" the lake and to the east side of the street leaving his property more removed from a roadway than it was before the improvement was started. He had been ordered, he stated, to build a sidewalk in front of his property, but inasmuch as the improvement did not come anywhere near his three lots, he could not see the wisdom of having a roadway on "one side of the street and a sidewalk on the other side of the street" and suggested that the sidewalk be made where the roadway was. It would cost more than \$500 Mr. Wellington stated, to build the sidewalk, and he didn't think he should be called upon to go to this expense when it was impossible for him to reach the roadway. The mayor and council promised to investigate the matter and give Mr. Wellington justice.

Fire Hose Purchased.

A representative of A. G. Long & Co. of Portland submitted to the mayor and council samples of hose carried by his company and sold them 750 feet at a price of \$1.35 per foot with a rebate for the old couplings. A provision in the charter states that any appropriation or purchase of \$500 or over must be done by ordinance so it is thought by some that the action of the council is illegal and that they will have to pass an ordinance in order to buy the \$1000 or \$1050 worth of hose.

The mayor reported that he had examined the placing of light poles in West St. Helens from the postoffice south along the highway to Milton creek and that in his opinion the lights were a necessity and that he had ordered the poles placed.

Upon motion of Councilman Larabee duly seconded and passed it was ordered that two dolphins be driven, one at each end of the city dock, so that boats and vessels could better tie up without injuring the dock.

Several other matters were discussed and acted upon before the council adjourned.

MANY NEW BOOKS RECEIVED BY LIBRARY

The Oregon State Library has just sent to the St. Helens Public Library a Traveling Library. This is one of the state's free lending libraries. It contains interesting books on history, travel, agriculture, cooking, etc., and fiction for grown people and children. Every citizen should know about these books and make use of them. The books are at the library and may be borrowed. Following is a partial list of the books:

Harper's machinery book for boys, Aunt Jo's scrap bag; Cupid and Chow Chow; The Horseman of the Plains; Fairy Tales; A Loyal Traitor, a story of the war; Stories of Norway; The Red Lane; The Iron Mother Goose Village; Two College Girls; Through the Mill; The Mistress of Beech Knoll; Home Life in Woman; The Land of Pluck; Torchy; Fifty Years in Oregon; Grandma; Uncle Remus and His Friends; Shaggycoat; The Sable Lorcha; Patriots and Tyrants; We and Our Children; A Quaker Girl of Nantucket; History of Our Own Times; Glenlock Girls' Club; Neighbors Unknown; A Country Lawyer; A Little Shepherd of Provence; The Life of Napoleon Bonaparte; Turkey; Iceland Fishermen; The Cable Game; The Story of Patsy; The Man Eaters of Reavo; The Story of an Untold Love, and many others.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY IS OBSERVED

The birthday of Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth president of the United States, was observed appropriately in St. Helens. The banks and courthouse offices closed for the day and flags waved from the flag poles on public and private buildings.

Exercises were held in the public schools and in each room teacher and scholar united in paying homage to Lincoln. The members of the Eighth grade and the High School assembled at one o'clock and heard a short talk by S. C. Morton on the life of Lincoln. Appropriate exercises followed.

A. L. Fuller, cashier of the Rainier State Bank and Charles Bross, a prominent business man of St. Helens, transacted business in St. Helens Thursday.

DADDY OF AMERICAN LEGION BUSY ORGANIZER



Colonel Ernest Lester Jones, known as the "father" of the American Legion, is a very busy man as organizer. Here he is at Washington, in conversation with Vice President Marshall.