

THE ST. HELENS MIST

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WHEELER REPLIES TO EVENSON

Claims Statements of Timberowner Are Untrue—Timberman's Opposition to Measure From Selfish Standpoint.

Editor St. Helens Mist:

At the meeting held in Rainier last Tuesday evening to discuss the Port of Columbia county, O. J. Evenson, of the Evenson Timber company, stated in the presence of the hundred people present, that the port commissioners could issue port bonds up to ten per cent of the assessed valuation without being first authorized so to do by the people of the county, and that the voters in the county could not prevent them from doing it. He further stated that the port commissioners were not subject to recall, the same as other public officials.

No reply was made to this argument as it was desired to get the exact law on these questions, and now after investigation having been made, I find the facts to be contrary to what Mr. Evenson stated.

Chapter 301, Laws of 1919, specifically provides that the voters in a port district (as the Port of Columbia County) can order a referendum against one or more items, sections or parts of any act or law adopted or passed by the port commissioners. This, therefore, places it in the hands of the voters of Columbia county as to whether or not any proposed bond issue shall be accepted.

There is a further provision in the laws of 1919, contained in Chapter 319, which permits the port commissioners to act on their own initiative and submit to the voters the question of whether or not the measures adopted by them shall be accepted by the people.

The constitution of the state of Oregon, in Article IV, Section 19, provides for the recall of every public officer by the legal voters of the state or of the electoral district from which he is elected. There is no question but what the recall could be used against any port commissioner. The recall, initiative and referendum applies with full force and effect in a port organization the same as in other municipal corporations, such as a city or county.

The port commissioners are not a law unto themselves; they have not been given such autocratic powers as to permit them to act contrary to the expressed will of the people. If the laws or ordinances approved by the port commissioners are obnoxious to the voters they can take a vote on the question, and if that does not seem to be going far enough, they can order the recall.

If Mr. Evenson will take the trouble to interview dozens of business men in Astoria, he will not find one of them against the Port of Astoria or the bonds issued to carry on the work, unless perhaps, it might be some timbermen who represent non-resident timber owners and stockholders, such as Mr. Evenson. Of course it is to be expected that the non-resident timber owners and stockholders will be opposed to the port proposition, because they are primarily interested in getting the quickest possible returns from their timber without benefitting the county in which their timber stands.

Although there was a marked change in the feeling of the people present at the Rainier meeting, and many who formerly were vigorously opposed to a port of Columbia county, are now in favor of the port, Mr. Evenson is more earnest than ever in his opposition. The reason is not far to seek. It is the same opposition that comes from practically all timbermen who represent non-resident timber owners and stockholders. It is to be regretted that we have a few of the type of business men that are so selfish that they have no desire to develop the community or the county wherein they live.

While the people of Columbia county have no wish or need for a million dollar flour mill or docks, the people of Astoria got just what they most wanted when they constructed their big flour mill and docks, and if they had not so desired they could easily have stopped it, as it was in their power to do. Each county can build according to the desires and needs as expressed by its own people.

Very truly yours,
CHARLES L. WHEELER,
President.
The above letter states the facts plainly. Mr. Wheeler has, without using words, placed his construction on the statements of Mr. Evenson. In view of the fact that Mr. Wheeler is so emphatic in his remarks, it appears that Mr. Evenson should substantiate or modify his remarks. The columns of the Mist are at his disposal for this purpose.

PYTHIAN SISTERS TO GIVE DANCE

In order to raise funds for the building fund, the Pythian Sisters will give a big dance at the city hall tomorrow night. Those who enjoy dancing are assured of a pleasant evening as one of the best orchestras available has been secured for the occasion. The Pythian Sisters wish to extend a cordial invitation to every one to come and have a good time. The tickets are only \$1.10, the cents going to the government as war tax.

Condon—Road contracts let; work on both Columbia and John Day highways ordered.

CORNERSTONE OF CHURCH IN PLACE

In the presence of a large gathering of people from St. Helens and other points of Columbia county, the cornerstone of the new Catholic church was slipped into place Sunday afternoon.

His Grace, Archbishop Christie, presided and gave a benediction. Father Clancy of the local church and Father Thomas of Portland assisted in the ceremonies.

At five o'clock a banquet, attended by one hundred or more people, was given at the St. Helens hotel. John Dowd, toastmaster, called on Father Clancy, who gave a brief history of the work here, and stated that to a great extent the building of the church was made possible by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Morgus. The toastmaster called on John L. Storia, S. C. Morton and J. H. Hutchinson and they responded with short talks. Archbishop Christie made the principal address of the evening. It was full of logic and well received by those so fortunate as to hear him.

REV. W. A. M. BRECK DIES SUDDENLY

Rev. W. A. M. Breck, vicar of Christ church at St. Helens and chaplain of St. Helens hall at Portland succumbed to an attack of heart disease Sunday afternoon. Rev. Breck was in the sacristy adjoining the chapel at St. Helens hall when the attack occurred.

He had been connected with the diocese of Oregon since 1901 and was 67 years old at the time of his death.

For a number of years deceased had been vicar of the local Episcopal church and was well known in St. Helens. He was a man of sterling character, always ready to minister to those who needed him, and his services in the high calling in which he was engaged resulted in much good. He was of a gentle and kind nature and much beloved. The news of his death was sorrowfully received by his many friends in St. Helens.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Blakesley, who have been living in West St. Helens for some time, have moved back to their home on Casemat. street.

PORT PROBLEMS AGAIN DISCUSSED

Large Gathering at Rainier Hears Arguments For and Against Proposed Port of Columbia Project—Congressman Hawley Speaks.

As announced in the last issue of the Mist, another meeting of those in favor of the Port of Columbia measure and those opposed, was held at Rainier Tuesday night. There were about 100 present at the dinner which was given by the ladies of the Methodist church of Rainier.

The principal speaker of the evening was Hon. W. C. Hawley, representative to Congress. He did not go into the merits of the proposed measure, but told how the ports along the Pacific coast had been benefited by having port organizations. The government, he said, preferred to deal with a port organization instead of a commercial club or a chamber of commerce because the port organization was an organized and legal body while the personnel of the commercial bodies changed and oftentimes such commercial body went out of existence altogether. An organized port body received more recognition from the government and could accomplish more.

B. F. Jones, senator from Lincoln county was much in favor of the measure and cited what had been accomplished in Lincoln county. The farmers for forty miles back of Toledo were in favor of a port because they realized the benefits they would receive.

Senator Chamberlain made a short address and Charles L. Wheeler, president of the St. Helens chamber of commerce brought forth additional facts and figures in favor of the port measure.

Mayor Reid of Rainier spoke at some length. He was more favorably impressed with the proposition than before. Judge A. L. Clark was still opposed to the measure as was J. O. Evenson of Clatskanie. That the opposition in Clatskanie was not unanimous, was expressed by R. B. Magruder who was much in favor of the measure. G. R. Metaker was also one of the speakers.

About twenty five people from St. Helens attended the meeting.

PAVING WORK SOON FINISHED

If old Sol continues to favor the residents of this locality, especially the Warren Construction company, the with his smiling countenance, the paving between Warren and Honeyman will be completed by Tuesday night, or possibly earlier. Only a small stretch of paving remained to be laid when the heavy rains started in and the rains continuing, it was impossible to do any paving work. As soon as the sun began to shine, the big trucks of the company got busy carrying the "hot stuff" from the plant and they are making up for lost time.

In the meantime the detour road back of Warren is being used, and it is reported that it is getting in a very bad condition on account of the heavy traffic it had to bear.



You can hardly blame your Uncle for not wanting to let the place to them

FLOUR MILL WILL RESUME OPERATION

J. Hodges, Experienced Mill Man, Buys St. Helens Mill and Will Start Operation Monday—Will Also Install Feed Mill.

The St. Helens flour mill which has been idle for a number of months will resume operations Monday. J. Hodges of Portland, an experienced flour mill man, has bought the controlling interest in the property and he and family arrived in St. Helens Tuesday.

Mr. Hodges states that in addition to the former equipment at the mill, he will have an outside feed mill and therefore be in a position to supply the needs of the community both in flour and feed.

It is his intention to continue the brand of flour "St. Helens Best", and he assures the Mist that the quality of the flour will bear out its name.

The capacity of the mill is twenty-five barrels per day, but the mill was built with the idea of a larger daily capacity, and in the near future, Mr. Hodges expects that he will be turning out fifty barrels per day. The flour mill is quite an important part of the industrial life of St. Helens and the citizens of the town and surrounding country are pleased that the mill will again operate.

LITTLE BUSINESS AT COUNCIL MEET

The city fathers were not overburdened with business at their meeting Monday night only routine matters were taken care of and there were few of them.

H. A. Colt, representing the St. Helens Creamery association, appeared before the council and again asked permission to build a woodshed in the rear of the creamery building. When the company first asked for a permit, it was voted that a letter be sent them stating that if they would pay their proportion of the street improvement of Strand street the permit would be granted. Mr. Colt stated that the premises had been leased by the city to the creamery company for a period of 20 years and so far as he could see there was nothing in the lease which spoke of the company standing any pavement cost. Furthermore, he did not see what paving had to do with building a woodshed.

A motion was made that the permit be granted, but the mayor informed Mr. Colt that no paving would be done in front of the creamery building unless the creamery paid for it, and that is just where the matter stands now, although it appears that preparation is being made to pave in front of the property.

COUNTY CLERK BUSY ON BALLOTS

It falls to the lot of County Clerk J. W. Hunt and his assistants, the pleasant(?) duty of sending out the ballots and the various election supplies, and the force at the clerk's office are busy on this job just at this particular time. Everything will be in shape to mail out a few days before the time required by law, as Jimmy always makes it a rule to take time by the forelock, and this was the reason he rushed the Mist force in delivering the 15,000 ballots. The ballot this year, on account of the number of candidates and the various measures to be submitted to the voters, resembles a blanket. To print the ballots required 600 pounds of paper and several pounds of ink and it will require several more pounds of ink to place the proper X when the voters go into the booths, and perhaps after he has made his X, there will be some candidates who will think the X was placed in the wrong place.

REPUBLICANS LEAD IN REGISTRATION

Out of Total Registration Practically Two-Thirds Registered as Republicans—Independents Third and Non-Partisan Last.

The registration books disclosed the fact that 4872 residents of Columbia county are registered as voters. It is evident that Columbia county is strongly republican because of the fact that 3497 have registered as republicans. Of this number 2297 are males and 1200 females.

The democratic registration is 984. The males outnumber the females by more than two to one, for those of the masculine gender number 664 while the females number only 320.

There are a number who class themselves as independent. The males number 109 and the females 48, bringing the total of independents to 157.

Notwithstanding the fact that there is no prohibition ticket, that prohibition is in effect and probably always will be, thirty-two males registered as advocates of that party and the females number fifty. This, however, is not taken as an indication that the males have forgotten prohibition, but that the females remember it.

According to the registration, there are 79 male and 37 female socialists in the county and the progressives number 10, six males and four females.

The registration of non-partisans is 5, all males, which shows that the good women of the county have not been inveigled into the Townley alliance.

Those who refused to give their party allegiance number 21, eighteen males and three females.

As stated the total registration is 4872.

RAPID PROGRESS MADE ON NEW MILL

E. C. Stanwood, who has charge of the construction of the mill of the St. Helens Tie and Timber company, reports that good progress is being made on the building of the mill. The frame work has been completed, the structure is roofed in and some of the machinery has been installed. If the work can be continued as rapidly as it has been, Mr. Stanwood thinks that the mill will be operating on or before December 1st.

RECEIVED TOO LATE TO PUBLISH

The Mist received very interesting school notes from the Yankton and Beaver Homes schools this week, but they came a little too late to get in this issue of The Mist. The Mist and its hundreds of readers are interested in Columbia county schools and are always glad to receive school notes.

The St. Helens High School football team is scheduled to leave for Astoria tomorrow morning and will try conclusions with the Astoria High. The team goes by train and if any young ladies wish to make the trip, Professor G. A. Spies requests that they call at the office of the school superintendent in the school building at 3 o'clock this afternoon, so that arrangements may be made to have a chaperone. The St. Helens team defeated Franklin High Saturday afternoon in a well-played game. The score was 6-0.

Mrs. J. L. Williams went to Portland Thursday to spend the day with her husband who is in the Good Samaritan hospital recovering from an operation. Jim underwent a minor operation recently and came home, but the old trouble returned, and he was forced to again seek surgical and hospital treatment. Mrs. Williams reports that the patient is getting along nicely and is in hopes that he will soon be back in St. Helens.

RETURN FROM LONG EASTERN TRIP

Mr. and Mrs. John Sten returned last week from an extended visit to eastern states. Leaving St. Helens August 19th, they went to Marinette, Wisconsin, going by the scenic Canadian Pacific railway. They visited several Wisconsin towns and were also in Chicago for a number of days. Returning they came west via the Denver & Rio Grande and stopped in Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco. At Exeter, California, they visited with R. C. Merryman, who is one of the officials of the St. Helens Lumber company.

Mr. Sten, who is assistant manager of the St. Helens Lumber company, stated that in the east building is not near so active as on the Pacific coast. He attributes this partly to the high freight rates on lumber and the general high prices for building material of all kinds. In California building activity was very noticeable, especially in Southern California and in San Francisco.

Mr. and Mrs. Sten thoroughly enjoyed their visit back east and to their old home, but both of them were glad to get back to St. Helens.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE CLOSURES TODAY

The annual teachers' institute will come to a close this afternoon after a three-day program, which was filled with matters of interest to the teachers.

Wednesday there were two fine talks by R. O. Colman of the O. A. C., and State Superintendent Churchill. In the evening there was a public reception to the teachers.

Thursday, Prof. Reed of the O. A. C., Prof. Powers of the U. of O. and President Ackerman of the Monmouth Normal, gave instructive lectures. Thursday evening a musical program was rendered in the school auditorium, and a large number of our people were present and were delighted with the violin, piano and vocal selections.

This morning's session of the institute will be taken up largely in discussion of school matters and the institute will come to a close this afternoon.

County School Superintendent Wilkerson has been congratulated in the excellent program he arranged and in turn he is pleased with the hearty co-operation of the teachers and the people of St. Helens.

SHORT INTERVIEWS ON VARIOUS TOPICS

Interesting Little Talks by St. Helens People and Others on Subjects of Varying Interest to the Public.

George Wilson—I shipped a car load of good cattle to Portland Sunday and they went by steamer, but if you say anything about it, I would rather you would say that I shipped the cattle on Monday." All right, George, Monday goes.

Magnus Saxon—I have lived in Columbia county for thirty-seven years. I have sailed the seven seas and I am no spring chicken. I have seen storms at sea and on land and the ships I have sailed on and commanded have weathered the most severe gales, but in all my experience I have never experienced more disagreeable weather than we have had the last forty days.

Father Clancy—I was delighted with the success attendant on the laying of the cornerstone at the new Catholic church and I am sure Archbishop Christie and others connected with our church appreciate the cordial feeling and the spirit of co-operation shown by citizens of St. Helens and surrounding country.

John Philip—I am in hopes that the block making industry will again become an industry. It has been proven that the Belgian blocks, as they are called, make the best and most durable pavement and in the St. Helens vicinity there are thousands of tons of rock suitable for making blocks.

E. E. Quick—When I saw the sun come out from behind the cloud Monday forenoon, it reminded me of a story a neighbor in Washington county told me. The sun hadn't made its appearance for a number of days and my neighbor came over to my place and said, "I thought my dog had gone plumb crazy this morning; he went out behind the barn and began to bark like there was a bear or some varmint in sight. I took my gun and rushed out and the only thing I could see was the sun just rising over the hills, and I didn't blame the dog for barking, because it was an unusual sight."

Mrs. Bertha Smith, who teaches the Natal school, district No. 22, out in the Nehalem valley, said: "I have been anticipating a pleasant visit and instructive session of the teachers' institute and I didn't waste any time getting to St. Helens because I had the toothache. Both the tooth and the ache are gone and I am enjoying myself more than I did a few days ago."

Professor Edwin T. Reed, Oregon Agricultural College: "Since my last visit to St. Helens, I notice a marked improvement in the town. The streets look better and I see that you contemplate further street work. I have always been interested in St. Helens and have watched with interest the growth and development of your city."

"The St. Helens and Columbia county boys at the O. A. C. are all well and progressing nicely. Columbia has sent us some mighty good students, who have made excellent records at our college."

REPUBLICAN RALLY HERE TONIGHT

Ex-Representative Cousins of Iowa Principal Speaker—Issues of Campaign to be Discussed—Large Crowd is Expected.

The opening gun of the campaign will be fired in St. Helens tonight. Under the auspices of the Harding-Stanfield club and the republican county central committee a big meeting will be held at the city hall.

Robert G. Cousins, ex-representative from Iowa, who has the reputation of being one of the best platform speakers in the country, will make the principal address. Mr. Cousins represented his district for a dozen years and is known as one of the stalwart protectionists and sound money men. He was always a leader and is still that when it comes to sound and substantial discussion of living issues.

The county central committee feel that they are extremely fortunate in having Mr. Cousins assigned to St. Helens inasmuch as he is to make only three speeches in Oregon, Astoria, Seaside and St. Helens. Large Crowd Expected.

Those in charge of the meeting expect that the city hall will be crowded to its capacity. Advice from Scappoose, Warren, Yankton and Deer Island state that many expect to come from those places and from the interest manifest, it is sure that a number of the men and women of St. Helens will be present to hear the noted speaker.

Other meetings are being arranged for in several districts in the county and the speakers are to be chosen from the leading local lights and from prominent speakers of the state, according to advice received by Charles Graham, chairman of the committee.

STATE DIRECTOR VISITS ST. HELENS

Robert W. Osborn, state director of the December sale of Christmas tuberculosis seals, was in St. Helens yesterday organizing for the sale. The annual seal sale is the sole support of the Oregon Tuberculosis association in preventative work throughout the state.

The St. Helens Woman's Organization, whose president is Mrs. John Storia, will consider at its next meeting the chairmanship of the sales for this community." Mr. Osborn announced. "I am sure that the club will do the job up big, aided as it will be by the commercial association, schools and other organizations. Every community in the county will be organized with the acceptance of the local club. Mrs. Grant Watts will handle the Scappoose sales, Supt. W. C. Gaunt is the Rainier chairman and the P. E. O. of Clatskanie have taken the work there.

"There is no reason why Columbia county should not get direct return from the 1920 seal sale. The Oregon Tuberculosis association stands ready to pay all the expenses of a public health nurse for a period of three months or longer, providing the county will take her over after that period. Then with the formation of a branch public health association in the county, the state association will allow a fourth of the seal funds to remain in the county.

"The proximity of Columbia county to Portland is apt to cause it to lose out on community needs."

LAST MINUTE LOCAL PICK-UPS

Christ Matheson, the Sauvie Island dairyman, was a business visitor in Portland Monday.

Miss Beth Perry came up from Fern Hill, where she is teaching school, to attend the institute.

Laden with 700,000 feet of lumber for delivery at San Francisco, the steamer Daley is scheduled to sail tonight.

After a year's stay in sunny Tennessee, Mrs. Edwin Ross and son returned to St. Helens Tuesday. Dr. Edwin Ross remained in Tennessee to close up some business matters and expects to come west within a short time.

Vernonia schools were well represented at the teachers' institute. Coming from the old-west metropolis of the Nehalem Valley were, Prof. G. W. Brown, Miss Fannie Cooper, Mrs. Maude E. Duncan, Miss Pearl Rogers and Mrs. Ethel Ray.

Judge and Mrs. M. F. Hason celebrated the forty-fifth anniversary of their wedding Tuesday night. They were married in Smith county Kansas, Oct. 19th, 1875. A number of friends called at the Hason residence during the evening to tender congratulations.

Rev. K. K. Clark of Russell, Kansas, has accepted a call to the pastorate of Plymouth Congregational church of this city and will probably occupy the pulpit on Nov. 14. Preaching services will be discontinued until that time, but Sunday school will be held as usual in the schoolhouse.

"The road up Bunker Hill, especially at Eight Mile Spring, is so steep and so badly washed out that with two good horses hitched to my wagon, I cannot pull more than 500 pounds," said Carl Hummolt, who was in St. Helens Thursday. The settlers in the Bunker Hill country are planning to get a road through to Chapman and if such be done, St. Helens will lose the trade that now comes from Bunker Hill.