

The Oregon Mist

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George H. Flagg
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County Official Paper

CELEBRATE THE FOURTH?

The time is drawing near when the business men of this place should decide whether or not they desire to celebrate the Fourth of July this year. The matter should be settled at once, as there is none too much time left even now in which to advertise the celebration and make every arrangement that will help it along.

Last year the national holiday passed without observance here, Rainier holding a celebration. The year before the good time was at St. Helens and Rainier did not do anything out of the ordinary. On both occasions each town helped the other out by a large attendance, and the ball teams of the two places played. This year is our turn to entertain again, and a meeting should be held at once for the purpose of appointing committees and making all the necessary preliminary arrangements.

The difference between a dead town and a good one is never more noticeable than on the Fourth of July. The dead one never or very seldom celebrates. The town in which there is a little life, be it ever so little, now and then stirs up a good time and invites the surrounding country in to take part. St. Helens should this year have the biggest thing of the kind that was ever pulled off on the Columbia river. The city has a fine park and it could be put in first-class condition between now and the Fourth. Motor boat races could be made a feature of the entertainment that would draw large crowds and make a spectacle that would be immensely enjoyed by all. A ball game could be pulled off at the park, commencing late in the afternoon after the races, and the morning entertainment at the park could be the usual exercises of the Fourth of July.

But who will take the initiative in the matter? The Commercial Club would probably be the best organization to handle it. Composed as it is of the leading citizens from its members it should be an easy matter to appoint a first-class committee to have charge and see to the raising of funds. So let's get together on the matter at once.

THE LAND GRANT DECISION

The recent decision of Federal Judge Wolverton in the case between the government and the Southern Pacific Railroad is of considerable moment to the people of this section as there is a good deal of the land involved located in this county. The following editorial taken from the Oregonian pretty well covers the case.

The Southern Pacific has lost the first round in its big fight to retain possession of the immense land grant lying on both sides of its line in Oregon and California. Federal Judge Wolverton, before whom the case was heard, has decided that the holdings of the company, valued at about \$75,000,000, are forfeited to the United States. With such a large prize at stake, it is certain that the decision will not be accepted by the railroad company without a struggle. It is not improbable that it will drag along in court for many years.

The original intention of the

Government to get this land into the hands of bona fide settlers at a maximum price of \$2.50 per acre seems to have been quite clearly brought out in the hearing before Judge Wolverton. The strongest point in favor of the railroad company was based on a certain construction of the law that would have placed the railroad interests in the position of an "innocent purchaser."

The company's right to retain possession of the land was founded on the assumption that the property, after resting four years in the hands of a receiver, had passed into the hands of the present owners free from any cloud on the title. The receivership terminated in 1889, and since that time the property has remained in the hands of the railroad company, which has paid taxes on it and in some cases improved it. The decision of Judge Wolverton also affects the alleged claims of several thousand victims, who, within the past few years, have paid unprincipled land locators large fees for locating them on these contested tracts.

According to Judge Wolverton's views, the latter claimants have no right whatever to the railroad lands. This is in accordance with a prediction and warning issued by The Oregonian when the land sharks first began reaping a harvest by locating victims. It is, of course, but natural that the railroad company should fight this case through to the last tribunal, but, even if it is successful there, it seems hardly probable that the thousands of people who have filed on the lands will have any case in court. If the Wolverton decision is sustained, the land will probably be sold by the government at much higher figures than it would have previously commanded.

In view of the development that has taken place on lands adjacent to those included in the grant, it is highly probable that the railroad company would have been much better off today had it accepted the \$2.50 per acre originally fixed by the government as the price at which the lands should be sold. If these railroad lands were today in the hands of bona fide settlers who had developed them and made homes on them, the owners would have a much better chance of retaining possession than the railroad company will stand.

Public sentiment is overwhelmingly in favor of restoration of the lands to the people. The railroad by refusing to sell to settlers, has retarded the growth of the country and depreciated the value of surrounding property. If the decision is in any way deficient in law, it makes up the shortage with justice.—The Oregonian.

\$10 Saved Is \$10 Made.

Make this \$10 additional by buying one of our choice Railroad Addition Lots at the present prices. After May 1st the prices will be advanced and your opportunity will then be gone to buy at the very low prices of today.

The terms are very easy, \$10 down and \$10 per month. Your profits are certain. Don't delay, but see our sales agent, A. T. Laws, and he will show you these lots. Remember, after May 1st all lots will be advanced.

ST. HELENS IMPROVEMENT CO.

ORDINANCE NO. 107.

An ordinance amending an ordinance entitled "an Ordinance prescribing the duties and fixing the compensation of the Treasurer of the City of St. Helens and declaring an emergency" the same being ordinance No. 96 as passed by the Council of the City of St. Helens on the 11th day of April 1910 and approved by the Mayor of said City on the 11th day of April 1910.

The City of St. Helens, does ordain as follows:

Sec. 1. That section 3 of ordinance No. 96 of the ordinances of the City of St. Helens as approved by the Mayor of said City on the 11th day of April 1910, be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. The Treasurer shall receive as full compensation for his services as Treasurer of the City of St. Helens the

sum of Eight Dollars per month, payable monthly upon warrants duly drawn."

Sec. 2. Inasmuch as it is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety for this act to become effective immediately an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this ordinance shall become effective from and after its approval by the mayor.

Read first time April 17, 1911.

GEO. H. FLAGG,
City Recorder.

Clatskanie Boosting.

The Clatskanie Commercial Club has issued some very neat booster literature lately, and there will be more doing in the lower end of the county in the course of the next few years than was ever dreamed of before. The folder that they got out the other day is in the shape of a postal card and will be very convenient for mailing. It calls special attention to the tide lands being reclaimed by the Columbia Agricultural Company. This work is going on rapidly

and within a short time about 1000 acres will be ready for settlers, while another 1500 acres will be ready next year. Altogether, there are over 12,000 acres of this land that will be put in condition for cultivation.

M. S. Hazen, of Portland, visited with his parents in this city last Sunday.

The dance at the City Hall last Saturday evening was well attended, over sixty couples being present. They came from Ridgefield, Woodland, La Center, Goble, Scappoose, and all the neighborhood around here. Everybody had a good time.

H. O. Howard of Yankton was in town last Sunday with a load of his neighbors in his big Mathieson Silent Six. The number of automobiles around here will increase rapidly from now on on account of the fine condition of the roads.

Miss Tidcomb and Miss Meyers, of Scappoose, were St. Helens visitors last Saturday and Sunday.

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St. Helens, - - - Orgeon

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We have certainly started something and if you want a necktie that is the real thing and at the same time a real value for the money you pay then this is the place you are looking for. Hundreds of new and beautiful ties and there is no two in the whole bunch that are alike. Ties for all, no matter what kind you prefer. Bright colors or otherwise, four in hands, bows or ready tied, at

25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00

MEN'S HATS That are the latest in style, shape and color and real leaders in quality. That's our specialty—giving you quality and at the same time the latest styles.

THOSE SHIRTS

Are certainly making a hit. If you live in St. Helens you have seen several of them for they are worn by half the people in town and the other half should wear them—for when it comes to the real thing in getting your money's worth this line is a world beater. Dozens of patterns, all sizes and prices. Get in the wagon by getting into one of Muckle's shirts. We thought we had lots of them but if they keep going at the present rate we will soon be out so buy one now.

Jas. Muckle & Son

Department Store. St. Helens, Ore.



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