

INDEPENDENCE MONITOR

"THE PAPER THAT EVERYBODY READS"

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INDEPENDENCE GOES "DRY"

GALM AND PEACEFUL

District Attorney and Sheriff Do Not Fear Much Difficulty In Law's Enforcement

Independence accepted prohibition without any great manifestation of joy or disapproval. The great crowd that was to swarm C street and block traffic for several hours failed to appear, and the last night of the old year passed into the past as calm and peaceful as a Sunday school picnic. The saloons sold most of their liquors, many cellars are well stocked, and it will be several weeks before loganberry juice will be very popular.

Polk county officials do not expect much trouble in enforcing prohibition. Says District Attorney Sibley: "I shall use the same efforts to enforce this law fairly and impartially as I do to enforce all other criminal laws of the state. Of course there will be some bootlegging, as there is now in dry parts of the county, but I anticipate no unusual outbreak of lawlessness along this line. I have asked the county court for no extra appropriation to enforce the prohibition law, but shall feel free to draw on the general funds of the county for whatever expense is necessary to conduct my office."

Sheriff John Orr feels about the same for he says: "I do not expect any trouble in enforcing the prohibition law in Polk county, yet I will be vigilant in seeing that it is enforced to the very letter. Most of the early violations I expect will be through ignorance of the provisions of the law, and with this class, of course, we must be somewhat lenient. The wilful violator and bootlegger, however, can expect no mercy at my hands."

TRIBUTE TO "MOTHER" HILL

George H. Himes Praises Her Highly And Gives Her Life's History

With the passing of Mrs. Martha Ann Virgin Hill in Independence on December 26, 1915, Polk county lost one of its best known and most highly beloved pioneer women. She was neighborly and dependable in all the relations of her long and useful life; a woman who has left to her surviving children and grandchildren, as well as to hosts of old friends of more than two generations, a precious heritage and an example of a beautiful life.

Mrs. Hill was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reason Virgin and was born in Greenup County, Kentucky, in 1834, and went with her parents to Missouri in early childhood. Soon afterwards her parents died, leaving her an orphan. Then she was taken into the family of J. W. Burch, who crossed the plains in 1847 and settled on the Ricketts. Upon the death of his wife, Mrs. Samuel F. Burch took the two little motherless children of her son's, together with Martha Ann Virgin, and made a home for them until early in 1851. In 1848-1849 she was a pupil in the "Jefferson institute," as it was called, a school first opened by John M. Lyle, in a log cabin on the Nathaniel Ford place, near Ricketts, on April 13, 1846, the first school in Polk county. While her opportunity for education was exceedingly meager, she made excellent use of the same and came to be recognized as a woman of much more than usual intelligence and culture.

Her marriage to Henry Hill, also a pioneer of 1847, and the founder of Independence, took place in July, 1851. To this union nine children were born, four of whom survive their mother, as follows: L. R. Hill, Homer Hill, Verd Hill and Mrs. Garland Hill Cohrs, all of whom were with their mother in her last hours.

Mrs. Hill was an honored member of the Oregon Historical Society, always being deeply interested in all matters relating to the early history of this State.

Mr. Hill died in 1904 and since then Mrs. Hill, aided by her sons, has managed the estate, for the most part lying just outside this city.

George H. Himes.

NEW COUNCIL IN HARNESS

DIVIDES OVER MARSHAL

Mayor Walker Appoints Parker After Councilmen Had Voted Three Times

Independence's new city council went into action Wednesday night and pulled off an unexpected thriller as an opener. A. W. Lupper, former chief of police, was resurrected and received half of the vote of the body for three ballots, the other three ballots going to Parker. Then Mayor Walker stepped in and gave the plum to Parker who was backed up by a petition signed by a large number of citizens. John Figgles was re-elected night man with five votes, Willis Rickman getting the extra one. The salaries of the police were materially reduced and the chief given some street work. W. S. Kurre was elected city treasurer by acclamation.

But little other business was transacted. The Oregon Power Co. was given permission to install a transformer on Monmouth street, the purpose of this improvement being to provide a cut-off so that in case the power house was destroyed by fire or otherwise that there would be but a short interruption of the light and water service. The street committee was empowered to make a canvass of the city and ascertain how many streets and alleys were fenced or obstructed. It is evidently the intention of the council to open them up or collect rent.

At Monday night's meeting the new officials were sworn in, standing committees appointed by the mayor and W. H. Craven elected president of the council.

V. & S. ACTIVE

People living in the Luckiamute country are enthusiastic and see great prosperity in store for them as a result of the activities of the Valley & Siltz railroad company. Within the last ten days or so the company has delivered about forty carloads of steel along its route, and it is the opinion of those who have been watching the activities that a crew of nearly 200 men will be put to work in a very short time. In fact it is the word given by officials of the company that work will be under way before the end of January. Settlers are constantly coming into the district, along the new railroad, and their coming is rapidly increasing the population of that section of the county. Yesterday steel was unloaded along the railroad right-of-way and L. M. Simpson is one authority for the information that the construction gang will be at it with pick and shovel within a fortnight.—Dallas Observer.

COUNTY BUDGET

The county budget as published, including the county fair "hog", has been approved making a twenty mill levy. This county needs a taxpayer's league.

OUR NEW HIGHWAY PROJECT

The Dallas Observer Tells About It Better Than We Can Do It Ourselves

What will probably prove to be one of the most important road development projects started in Polk county in several years is that by which a new state highway, running on a straight line, will be built between Independence and the Benton county line. Although the matter has been in the minds of some progressive Independence people for some time, action was started not much more than a week ago, and on Tuesday of this week the first six miles of the proposed roadway were surveyed. It is hoped to start construction work with the first good weather of the spring season and to push the road to an early completion. It is known to travelers that the present road from Independence to the Benton county line is the poorest stretch between Portland and Pass Creek canyon below Cottage Grove, and this has been an influence to hurry the plans for the straight line highway. The proposed road leads directly out on Third street of Independence and cuts through several farms, where the owners have been so anxious to see it come that they have donated great tracts of their lands that its progress might not be delayed. The remaining distance between the end of the present survey at Parker and the Benton county line will be surveyed as soon as the necessary details can be arranged, and the entire matter will be laid before the county court for its approval and support at the January meeting.

The Independence people behind the movement for the new road, which is to have a maximum grade of 2 per cent throughout its length, circulated a petition among the farmers last week and secured enough signatures and land donation to assure the roadway. Among the farms which the road will cut in its "crowly" course from Independence to the southern boundary of the county, are those owned by Ernest Zelisch, Mr. King, Percy Dickinson, George Dickinson, S. H. McElmurry, Messrs. Bowers, Osborn, Stapleton and Hill. As an instance of the spirit of the land owners Mr. McElmurry donated a strip through his property that comprises practically seven acres, and has offered to fence the roadway if the state will furnish the material. At that place the only existing grade on the entire route of the new road that must be cut down. The new highway will be a part of the West Side highway, and will be a state road in place of a county road. A committee of sponsors for the project waited upon the governor and the highway commissioner some days ago and received from that group very favorable encouragement.

The present road between Independence and the southern county boundary is one of many grades and slopes. It is never in good repair and is one of many twists and turns. The proposed road will relieve the situation in every way. It will make a shorter, more level route and will be properly built to begin with. By joining the new road with the West Side highway at both ends the poorest piece of that entire system of roads will have been made as good or better than the rest.—Dallas Observer.

There are 3963 bales of hops remaining in Polk county, not controlled by the association.

WHAT A CLEVER CARTOONIST CAN DO



"J. V." POSTPONED

Sickness causes the second postponement of the ever popular "Jimmy Valentine" and it will not take place Saturday night as advertised.

It may be necessary to confine Red and Bill, Jimmy's old crook pals, as the thrill of opening a bank safe is very strong with them. Should a safe be "gophered" in this vicinity, the police would probably run them in on suspicion and would perhaps be justified in doing so. Altho "Jimmy" himself has turned square, he is getting restless and if he gets to loafing around with Red and Bill, he is liable to succumb to their influence and go back to the old life. The presence of Doyle, the detective, in the community, however, holds them in check. Independence police officers have requested that the play be staged as soon as possible so that the crooks belonging to the cast may be ordered out of town. Doyle has "shadowed" both Red and Bill constantly since Sunday night when someone "prowled" the First National Bank.

BIG FARM

Riddell Brothers of Monmouth have purchased another quarter section according to the latest reports. They now farm 1200 acres, using the latest make of machinery. With their 60 horsepower Holt Caterpillar they plow, harrow and sow 15 acres per day. During the past autumn they equipped their tractor with a search-light which enabled them to work all night.—Salem Messenger.

THE MORNING AFTER

We're not superstitious, but—well, when we saw the earth mantled with snow, it occurred to us that superstitious people might say it was the white ribbon of temperance which the Almighty had laid upon the breast of Oregon.—Portland News.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Finance—Craven, Hubbard, Fletcher.
Streets—Fletcher, Sloper, Craven.
Police—Hubbard, Damon, Henkle.
Fire and Water—Sloper, Henkle, Hubbard.
Ordinance—Damon, Fletcher, Sloper.
Health—Henkle, Craven, Damon.

BIRTCHET'S LEAVE

Rev. G. C. Birtchet and wife left Independence today for Eugene where they will stay a few days with relatives before commencing their long journey to South America. They will sail from San Francisco on Jan. 15. Mr. Birtchet will be the pastor of a native church in the city of Bogota and is pledged to remain six years.

The departure of Rev. and Mrs. Birtchet is universally regretted as they were very popular here and made many warm friends.

"DAMON AND PYTHIAS"

When the great spectacular photo drama, "Damon and Pythias," is presented at the Isis Theatre on Monday, Jan. 10, it will be with the full and hearty endorsement of the Supreme Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, for it is upon this beautiful story of the friendship of those Grecian noblemen and warriors that the great and good-influencing order is founded. It is given in six parts and each scene is one of wondrous beauty, the directors having at the greatest expense and after months of research pictured faithfully Greece at this period of its power and pomp. It is at the era when life is filled with the thrill of battle, the games, the chariot races, the grace of the dances, all in scenes of medieval splendor. Prices 10 and 15 cents.

THE GRIM REAPER

Mrs. L. R. Avery passed away at her home in Monmouth Monday morning. She had lived in Monmouth for ten years. There are four surviving children, Walter, Edward and Harney Scott of Monmouth and Mrs. Charles Davis of Eugene.

George M. Murphy, a pioneer resident of Independence, died at his home at Stayton, Jan. 1. Mr. Murphy came to Independence in 1884 where he lived until 1898 when he moved to Stayton. He was married three times, his last wife dying in April of last year. There are nine surviving children, all of whom live at or near Stayton.

GOOD OLD TOWN

"She's a good old town—getting better all the time," sings the river as it ripples in rhythmic waves of rhyme; And the grizzled pilot answers, going up and coming down, As he whistles for the landing, "She's a good old town!"—Robert Rexdale.

PARSONS TO GET JOB

County School Supervisor Parsons will undoubtedly be appointed superintendent to succeed H. C. Seymour. Prof. Crowley of Ricketts will capture the democratic nomination and Parsons and Crowley will fight it out this fall.

The Monitor always leads.

CARRANZA HAS DECIDED TO ESTABLISH BASEBALL AS A SPORT IN MEXICO AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING PEACE.



THE SINS OF THE FATHER.

