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HYDRO DISTRICTS

**"No," Say Power Companies,
Who Favor Right to Distribute,
Only; "Yes," Says Commissioner.**

Whether hydro electric districts in Oregon should have power to bond themselves for generation of electricity or merely for distribution of it was an issue before the commonwealth conference at the University of Oregon, Dec. 10-11-12.

Representatives of power companies argued that distribution was the principal problem in electric development and that actual generation should be left to private companies.

H. B. Miller, director of the University school of commerce, a member of the hydro-electric commission, and chairman of the meeting agreed that distribution was the principal problem but held that no hydro-electric district would be likely to undertake the expense of developing power when a private company was already in the field, but that such districts should have the safeguard of a law that would permit district development if necessary. Then Mr. Miller said fair treatment from the private companies would be more assured.

The conference did not pass recommendations to the legislature. It did add three members to the hydro-electric commission, however, these three to assist the commission in preparing the bill that is to be submitted to the proper committee in the legislature. The bill will call for hydro-electric districts with power to arrange distribution of electricity and probably with power to generate it also.

Our Opportunity

As the war abroad progresses, the mighty opportunity for our country to assume and hold its place, the foremost of nations grows more apparent all the time. Ex-Ambassador Herrick fresh from Europe says the determination among the fighting people there is to wage war to the death. This means that all are determined to continue the war until one side is utterly undone, that peace shall mean peace indeed, not an armed truce. If this spirit rules to the end, then when one side is utterly exhausted, the other, though victors, will really be in about the same situation, their countries wrecked, their treasures exhausted,

their young men dead, the wrecks of their homes all in mourning their hopes perished and all the glory won shadowed by grief and that shame which their acts have brought upon progress, upon civilization and Christianity.

By that the world will look upon the United States as a last hope if we can but have the sagacity to see what is needed and use the means at hand wisely. Then to keep the peace, falacy, no matter what may come, should be discarded; the rule should be to be just but at the same time be ready to enforce justice. Ours is a commercial nation; the springing of the European war has at last shown those who have for a generation prevented our adoption of the needed means to make ours an independent commercial nation, admit their folly now, but have not the courage or acumen to fully cure the wrong, which in the curing would supply places for the honest poor to work in.—Goodwin's Weekly

Forest Notes

Only one modern sawmill is operated in the territory of Hawaii.

In district 4 of the forest service, with headquarters at Ogden, Utah, lightning caused 36% of this year's fires and campers 27%.

As showing the possibilities for tree growth in regions where irrigation has to be depended upon, it is pointed out that Boise, Idaho, has as many as 94 different kinds of ornamental and shade trees.

The Laurentide company of Quebec, producers of pulp and pulpwood, is reforesting its non-agricultural out-overs lands. It is also importing reindeer from Newfoundland, to see if they can take the place of dogs in winter woods work.

A small railroad operating an oil-burning locomotive on the Tahoe national forest, California, had a breakdown during the past summer and burned wood instead of oil for one day. On this day fifteen fires started along the right of way. During the proceeding year, only one fire occurred near the railroad and it was not thought that the engine was responsible for that one.

Reserve Bank Rates Cut

Washington, Dec. 28—The Federal Reserve Board today approved rediscount rates of 4½% on maturities up to 30 days and 5 percent on maturities between 30 and 90 days for the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank. This is the first bank to reestablish a rate below 5%.

WHEAT SOARS HIGHER

Entire List Gains and Prices Break All Oregon Records.

Portland, — December 29th, — New altitudes were reached in the local wheat market this noon, when 5000 bushels of bluestem for February delivery were sold on the Merchants' Exchange, at \$1.32 and 5000 bushels of February Club were disposed of at \$1.30 a bushel. In both instances these prices are the highest ever recorded in the history of the business in Oregon and are near the top price ever paid in the Pacific Northwest. These were the only sales made today, but they are taken as showing the extraordinary strength of the market. On December 22, 10,000 bushels of February bluestem sold at \$1.29, and 5000 bu. of February Club at \$1.27.

Bids were lifted here today on club, Red Russian and Red Fife, the former gaining 1 cent and the others a half-cent each. Today \$1.27 was offered for spot club. In Pendleton Saturday \$1.17 was offered for club, but holders refused to sell. This is equivalent to \$1.27 delivered in Portland, and indicates the strength of the interior markets.

Allies Buy War Steel

Pittsburg, Dec. 23—Orders for 65,000 tons of highly carbonized steel rounds appeared in the Pittsburg district today, 50,000 tons for France and 15,000 tons for Russia. Recently 25,000 tons of this grade of steel used in making shrapnel shells were shipped to Europe. It is understood Charles McKnight, president of the Caron Steel Co., is now in Europe in connection with orders for similar material.

It is estimated that fully \$6,000,000 worth of trenching tools, galvanized sheets, wire and projectile steel have been bought in Pittsburg for the European belligerents in the past two months.

Farnum's Second Trial Begins

Roseburg, Or., Dec. 28—The second trial of Roy Farnum began today, the first having resulted in a disagreement in which three jurors are reported to have favored conviction and nine acquittal. Farnum was a highly respected youth of 25 years before his trouble, and a few months ago was elected Justice of the Peace.

INDUSTRIAL REVIEW

Manufactures Enterprises and Improvements Providing Payrolls and Promoting Development of Oregon

Wanted—a remedy for football and mouth disease in colleges.

The Heppner Semi-Weekly Herald devoted 24 pages to Morrow county interests in a very well-constructed promotion number Dec. 15.

Douglas county tax levy reduced half a mill.

The route for the Columbia-Clatsop canal has been surveyed.

North Bend—Improvements and maintenance cost for 1914 \$146,864.

The S. P. Co. claims to have spent ten millions on the coast this year in betterments and new lines.

After donating \$450,000 to the Tumalo project, Oregon is to be generously given the same amount out of \$12,000,000 collected from sales of Oregon public lands.

Wallawa—has a new electric feed chopping plant.

The Stettler Box factory of Portland will build a large additional plant on the east side to cost \$50,000.

Pendleton gets 16,000 feet of six foot concrete walk from the Northern Pacific.

Eugene—The brick industry objects to competing with prison brick.

Florence wants a hotel and a cannery.

A fishway has been completed around the falls of the Illinois river.

Woman's Federation will try to establish a hospital for crippled children with state aid.

While millions have been added to investments by public service corporations in Clatsop county, the total assessed valuations this year are \$20,000 less than last year.

Another fight is to be made to develop the Oregon Stone industry and stop importing substitutes.

The Swope Mill Co. have purchased and will operate a sawmill at Downs. Grant county tax levy reduced four mills.

Coos Bay is leading all points on the coast for lumber shipments.

Bandon water plant has been acquired by the city.

Marshfield—the Noble estate will erect a business building 50x100.

Gresham—cannery plant of Fruit Growers Association completed.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Metz have established a glove factory at Eugene.

Exporting county records by Portland accountants has doubled the cost to nearly every county.

Plumbing industry boomed all over Oregon by the cold spell.

Workingmen's Compensation law like all commissions to take the place of private enterprise double the cost of the service.

Marion county tax levy is reduced three and seven tenths mills.

Baker commercial club has a big campaign on pushing the local cigar industry.

Ontario—railroad from Grangeville, Ida., to Nevada to pass through here.

Logging operations will continue all winter on South Inlet, Coos Bay.

The Estabrook Co. at Bandon has large contracts for getting out cedar ties this winter.

National Forest Fires

(From the Forest Service, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Portland office.)

The season of 1914, according to the officials of the Forest Service, carried greater danger from fire to the National Forests than any year since the establishment of the Forests. A long dry season, sustained periods of high temperature, recurring hard and steady winds, and, in some places, unusually hot, dry nights, rendered the forests exceedingly inflammable. In fact the weather conditions were said to be worse than in 1910, when the disastrous Idaho fires occurred.

The total number of fires during the season of 1914 which threatened the National Forests and had to be handled by the protective organization of the Forest Service were 6,112, or 1,000 more than in 1910. Of this 6,112 fires, 81 percent were extinguished before they had covered 10 acres. The percentage that burned over more than 10 acres was smaller than in any previous year.

The most serious of these fires occurred in western Montana, northern Idaho, and the Pacific slope. In the central and southern Rocky Mountains conditions were more normal, and only 15 percent of the total number of fires occurred in this region. A preliminary estimate shows that the total loss of merchantable timber will probably not exceed \$400,000. In 1910 the corresponding estimate was nearly \$15,000,000, although later estimates materially reduced this amount.

It is estimated that the value of the timber threatened and saved in Idaho and Montana alone aggregates over \$59,000,000. In Oregon and Washington, experts estimate the value of timber saved at \$24,000,000. This not does include the value of non-merchantable timber, young growth on about five million acres of land, or several million dollars worth of ranch and other private property which lay in the path of the threatening conflagrations.

The figures given represent the number of fires reported up to December 1. When the complete figures are in, it is expected that they will add large amounts to the total value of property threatened and saved.

Electric Sparks

The fruits of Victory are sometime very bitter.

Mr. Hryan addressed a convention of "Elks." This is quite different from a "Bull Moose" convention.

While the guns are roaring throughout Europe, the American Christmas Ship Jarron is quietly proceeding on her errand of mercy from port to port.

Washington welcomes Congress with gloomy skies, perhaps out of consideration for those members who since Nov. 3rd have had no cause for rejoicing.

It may be that the only way to get a larger navy will be to establish a merchant marine.

What the nations need is submarines that can undermine the mines.

Jim Ham Lewis furnishes words for defense, but not one cent for battle-ships.

No doubt armament causes war for the same reason that vaccination produces smallpox.

Current Banquet remarks indicate that there's something that didn't agree with the orators.

In appealing to the diet, it is hoped that Japan's emperor didn't begin by reading one of his war poems.

Recent developments are said to have drawn the Balkans closer together. This gives promise of real fighting.

If one of the belligerent nations could mobilize its spies the resultant onslaught would be irresistible.

If Charley Schwab were to make a few submarines for home consumption would it be infringing the neutrality regulations?

Cutting the name out of the scene of important military operations is like the play of Hamlet, with the barnstormer in the chief role.

When a "best selling" book on the subject of marriage takes a slump the enterprising author usually has a divorce to fall back on.

The refusal to grant extra holidays to Government clerks will not interfere with the more important closing hours of 1 A. M.

The Massachusetts poisoner who wept because she killed only 31 out of 32 intended victims almost knows how Alexander felt.

One reason for believing that Carranza never paid any one \$75,000 for the excavation of Vera Cruz is that Huerta wouldn't have overlooked that much in the treasury when he skipped.

Won't Sell Nags

Fairbury, Neb., Dec. 29—"No horses for sale at any price for war purposes," is the declaration of Jefferson County farmers, who were met here today by a buyer from Kansas, who said he was willing to pay the top figures for animals suited for cavalry and artillery purposes in the European war.

The farmers admitted they had some horses for sale, but said they were too much attached to the animals to have them sent to a far-off country, probably to be killed on the battlefields.

Pearl P. Hassler, formerly one of the publishers of the Central Point Herald was in town Tuesday. Mr. Hassler is trying for a job at Salem, during the coming session of the legislature.

LIST OF LANDS

Furnished by State Immigration Commission To Incoming Settlers

Notwithstanding the unfavorable conditions which have existed for the past two years both in this country and abroad, the settling up of the hitherto unpeopled lands in Oregon has gone on steadily although perhaps not as rapidly as during previous years when the railroads made a strong point of their home-seekers excursions each recurring Spring and Fall.

Due to the quiet but efficient activities of the Oregon State Immigration Commission, which has been in operation for the past three years, the opportunities and attractions of this state from the settlers' standpoint, have been given the widest possible publicity, thousands of prospective homeseekers have been supplied with detailed information, the reliability of which has been guaranteed by the State itself, and, in co-operation with the State Bankers' Association and the Oregon Development League, steps have been taken to protect newcomers from being swindled by unscrupulous real estate dealers and land speculators.

A land listing system has been established by means of which the bona fide owner of available farm land may be brought in touch with the would-be purchaser, permitting direct dealing without the intervention of any third party. For this service the Commission receives no commissions or fees of any kind, the lists being furnished promptly and free of charge to any one interested, each sheet giving accurate information as to character of soil, adaptability and location of the lands offered, also the price at which it will be sold, the reasonableness of this price being affirmed by the local banker or some other responsible party having a knowledge of the facts.

Will Build Highway

Eugene, Or., Dec. 31—E. T. Johnson of Portland, who has recently completed a contract to build several miles of the grade of a new logging railway for the Booth-Kelly Lumber Co. above Wendling has been awarded the contract to build the grade of about 20 miles of the Pacific Highway between Hornbrook and Yreka, Cal., and is shipping his outfit from Wendling through Eugene to the scene of operations. Herman M. Johnson who had charge of the Wendling job and who will be in charge of the road contract left last night for Hornbrook. He says he will establish five or six camps and that there will be 40 to 50 men in each. He estimates that it will require eight months to finish the work.

Spent Life in Lafayette

Lafayette, Or., Dec. 31—George Moar, one of the oldest residents of this place and pioneer of Yamhill County died at this place at the home of his sister Mrs. H. Nugent, on Tuesday, Dec. 29. He was born in Lafayette on Dec. 26 1851, and has been a continuous resident of Lafayette the whole 63 years of his life. He was the son of Oliver and Hester Moar, pioneers of 1845, and one of nine children. He is survived by one sister and two brothers, Mrs. Nugent of Lafayette; William Moar of Newburg and James Moar of Spokane Wash.

Pioneer Woman is Buried

Roseburg, Or., Dec. 28—Mrs. Sarah Mahoney, a pioneer, and mother of a very large family in Douglas County, was buried yesterday at Oakland. She was 69 years of age. She died at her home near Oakland last Friday.

At The Churches

METHODIST

Sunday School every Sunday at 10 o'clock W. G. Caudill Supt. Public worship at 11 a. m. each second and fourth Sunday of the month and at 7:30 every Sunday evening. Class meeting every first and third Sunday 11 a. m. H. C. Gallup leader. Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7:30. The public is invited to attend these services. A. Coslet Pastor

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