

OLSON SAYS OIL HAS BEEN STRUCK AT EUGENE

Hurries Back From His Unfinished Trip to East to Predict 1925 Dividends.

"We have hit oil and we are going to keep our promise to pay a substantial dividend during this year." That is the statement made by David E. Olson, president of the Guaranty Oil company, to a representative of The Sentinel who visited the well at Eugene Tuesday. Mr. Olson had been called back while on his way east. The telegram announcing that the Eugene well had blown in reached him while he was on his way through Wyoming. He decided that the important business in the east could wait while he returned to superintend the actual bringing in of the oil. Mr. Olson will make no prediction as to the quantity.

To the uninitiated there seems no doubt that the Eugene well has actually blown in and Mr. Olson himself has no doubt whatsoever upon the subject. A rumbling like some buried giant struggling to reach the surface continues almost incessantly and the unpleasant odor which is permitted to escape through the cap in order to relieve the pressure that might send the derrick into the air is convincing enough for anyone.

No lights of any kind are permitted in or near the derrick and visitors, who have visited the well by the thousands, are warned by large red signs that they enter the derrick at their own risk.

President Olson states that the well is acting exactly as it should and that soon after the necessary additional equipment arrives the actual presence of oil will be demonstrated in a manner to convince the most skeptical. A reducer, to be attached to the cap, to be used in drawing off the oil, is coming and arrangements have been made for tanks to hold the oil when that is allowed to come to the surface.

Whether or not oil has been struck, there can be no doubt that there is a great pressure of gas that did not expend its force when water was hurled into the air a hundred feet or more above the 90-foot derrick. When the valve in the cap is opened a visible gas escapes in quantities. Visible gas, Olson explained, is a certain indication of oil. When the valve is opened slightly the gas blows through the opening like escaping steam.

C. A. Olson, brother of President Olson, who has been in charge of the general operations of the oil company, has stated that the flow of gas probably is sufficient to supply the city of Eugene. He has estimated it at a million cubic feet a day.

In the opinion of President Olson nothing saved the wrecking of the drilling outfit at Eugene except the fact that the bottom of the whole plugged with sand. That usually happens, as he has several times explained, with all wells that blow in. The drillers were expecting the well to blow in at any time and were prepared. Olson predicts that the Cottage Grove well will soon put on the same kind of a performance as the Eugene well has.

Visitors at the well are not permitted to stand too close to the escaping gas, which is said to be ether, always found in crude oil in its natural state. The gas pressure is reported as growing stronger and the valve in the cap has to be slightly opened at frequent intervals to prevent the blowing out of the whole works and the destruction of the casing, which is yet in perfect condition.

That the escaping gas is only vegetable gas is the opinion expressed by those not yet convinced. The Eugene and Cottage Grove operations are, so far as stockholders are concerned, one and the same operation. Cottage Grove stockholders will participate in any profit that may accrue from the Eugene operations.

Whether or not oil has been struck at Eugene and, if struck, in what quantity, will be made known within a brief time.

Musical Instructor Comes.
W. E. Nickerson, recently of Portland, who is conducting classes in instruction on band and orchestra wind instruments at several points in this section, will make Cottage Grove his headquarters and plans to organize classes here. For the present he will have his office with the Owl cleaners.

Owl Cleaners Install Equipment.
The Owl cleaners have installed a large boiler and the plant will now be operated entirely by steam. Heretofore the dry-air process has been used.

Nation's Press Tells of Hatless Women Of Grove.

When women of the Cottage Grove Christian church determined to defy the men and attend church on Easter minus their hats they little dreamed that their action would bring them nation-wide fame, but that has happened.

Immediately following the Easter Sunday services the local Associated Press correspondent put the story on the wire that started it to all parts of the country. On Monday morning the daily press carried the news that the women had gone through with the stunt. Clippings are coming back from over the country.

Fred Wright has received a postal card from his brother, Riley E. Wright, of Baltimore, to which is pasted the clipping of the item as it appeared in the Baltimore News on Monday morning. A copy of the twice-a-week St. Louis Globe-Dispatch received by F. L. Hoekett carries the same item, which probably has appeared in thousands of papers.

SOLID MATERIALS NEEDED TO BUILD COMMUNITY

Cottage Grove Business Interests Deliver Their Sixth Message to Citizens.

It takes so much cement, so many bricks, so much lumber and other materials and the concentrated effort of so much labor to construct a building that will stand through the years. While those are not the same materials of which great communities are built—the same concentration of elements and effort is necessary.

Four essential elements enter into the making of a greater, more prosperous and progressive Cottage Grove. What these four are we don't propose to tell you here because—well, we couldn't name and explain them for you half so well as our business and professional interests have enumerated them in the sixth of their educational broadsides to be found in this issue.

This we do know, however, that the interests sponsoring this campaign are out to make you and your neighbor more contented as Cottage Grove residents. They want you to know that they take more than a business interest in you and our lively city and that they're unceasingly working and determined to make you feel proud you are one of us.

Read their message and cooperate with Cottage Grove's merchants by doing what they urge. You'll be paid back tenfold in Contentment, Prosperity and Happiness.

The seventh broadside in this interesting educational campaign will appear during May.

Better Home Week in May.

Better home week will be held from May 3 to 10 and will be sponsored by the Elmarts club. Other clubs have promised to take charge one day each. Essays are to be written by eighth grade and high school students. The Elmarts club is offering four prizes, one for the best essay by an eighth grade boy, one for best essay by an eighth grade girl, one for best essay by a high school boy and one for best essay by a high school girl. A prize will also be given for the best looking yard in the city. Both home and school demonstrations will be given and lectures will be delivered by well-known speakers.

The match to have been held last night in Portland between Ralph Hand and Tom Ray was called off because Ray was unable to reach Portland.

First Timbers Are Placed in Mammoth Drying Plant of Standard Bridge Co.

Half a Dozen Men Will Operate Industry That Will Turn Out Four and a Half Millions of Feet of Lumber Every Sixty Days

The first timber has been placed in the drying lofts of the mammoth plant being erected by the Standard Bridge company, of Omaha, for preparing timber for market by a new process of air-drying developed by R. Z. Drake, owner of the bridge company.

The first section of the first unit only has been erected. It is 40x300 feet. Piling is already being driven for the second section of the first unit, which will be 40x400 feet, making the size of the entire unit 40x700.

Two more units of the same size are yet to be erected and also a planing mill to finish the dried product. The total investment in buildings and equipment will not be less than a quarter of a million of dollars.

Each unit will hold close to a million and a half feet of lumber, so that the total capacity of the completed plant will be close to four and a half millions. This quantity, it is believed, can be treated every 60 days.

Five months has been required to get the first section ready for operation but the additional section and the additional units will be erected with greater speed since the method of doing the work has been standardized. It was said that in the construction work the speed at the completion of the first section was ten times that at the start.

The method of treating the timber is simple and is not an experiment. Experiments were carried on for a number of years at Lincoln, Neb., by Mr. Drake and the process perfected to such a point that he was ready to invest a fortune in installing the process in the heart of the greatest stand of timber in the world, and that stand of timber was found here.

The method of handling the timber in the plant, as well as the process itself, is Mr. Drake's own invention. Briefly it is as follows:

The timbers to be treated are received at the north end of the plant on cars—or will be as soon as the first unit is completed—and from that point until they leave the

south end of the plant they are handled entirely by machinery at a slight expense for labor. It is said that not over half a dozen men will be required to keep the mammoth plant in operation, not including the planing mill.

The timbers at the receiving end are dropped onto endless cables which carry them to the point where they are to be elevated into the loft of the drying shed. An engineer is required to operate the elevator but the timbers, by a simple mechanical arrangement, load themselves onto the elevator. The timbers after being elevated are held in position by a stop that operates automatically. One of the secrets of the process is that the planks are on edge and when they are elevated into the hangers both full sides of every timber are left exposed, the hangers themselves providing the space between the walls of planks. One plank is elevated under the other, the under plank forcing the others upward into the loft until there is a wall of 25 feet. Through the operation of the laws of nature the air rushes up through the open spaces which are provided by the hangers which both hold and separate the walls of timbers. After a set of hangers has been loaded, it is locked by the stops which hold the lumber in the hangers until the process of drying has been completed. The hangers are 26 feet in height, about six inches wide and about two inches in thickness, being strengthened by iron strips on the edges. They are suspended from the roof of the building, which is left open in order to provide for the draft between the walls of timber. A hanger is necessary at each end of each wall of timber. In the section which has been completed there are 35 sections of hangers, each section having 40 sets of hangers. When not filled with timbers the long hangers are kept from warping by the use of separators, which are timbers which reach across a set of hangers and are pushed up out of the way by the timber that is being loaded. There are three of these for each set of hangers and by an ingenious but simple arrangement, while all can be pushed upward to the top of the hangers in order to let the timbers in, each can only drop to the position provided for it.

After the process of drying has been completed, the hangers are emptied by the simple process of removing the stops and letting the walls of lumber slide down onto the endless cable, upon which they are carried to the south end of the unit for loading direct onto the cars or will be automatically transferred to carrier chains which will deliver the lumber or timbers at the planer.

It has been demonstrated that the hangers can be loaded at the rate of 15,000 feet the hour, which means that the complete plant, to hold four and a half million feet, can be loaded in 300 hours. The loading mechanism moves backward or forward to the section or hanger which it is desired to load and any section can be loaded without regard to what its position may be in the building or regardless of whether or not other sections in the building are full. Likewise one section or hanger can be unloaded independently of any other hanger or section.

Not only does this process greatly reduce the cost of drying timbers and lumber, thereby making a saving of several dollars the thousand in freight to eastern points, but it is claimed that

timbers and lumber are actually greatly strengthened by the process.

In the method of drying by heat, it is claimed that the heat injures the lumber to a certain extent, while large timbers can not be successfully treated. The forced heat process, it is said, has a tendency to dry the outside of the lumber, causing what is sometimes referred to as a case-hardening of the lumber. The moisture in the center of the lumber remains and must sometime come out through the case-hardened surface, resulting in a cracking of the lumber, especially of timbers of any size. Drying in the open usually causes a checking that makes the lumber undesirable for fine work.

With this new process, bursting and checking of the lumber or timbers are entirely done away with. The sides of the lumber are exposed to the draft, whereas in other methods of drying only the edges are exposed. This gives several times the amount of surface through which the moisture can escape, and this being done naturally there is neither case-hardening nor checking. Possibly not quite so much moisture is removed by this process but the finished lumber is of such a quality that it is believed that it will command a higher price upon the market.

In order that the drying may be natural and may be at the same rate at all times, air ducts are provided under each shed, with wet dry air and some with wet air. By the opening or closing of these the humidity is controlled. After the completed plant is in operation, there will be almost no expense except interest upon investment, but that missed in the increased market provided for Cottage Grove timber.

Mr. Drake has been here personally a large part of the time in direct charge of construction, with J. E. Withrow as superintendent of construction. The operation of the plant is in charge of Ben Koehler. All came here from Nebraska.

LORANE RESIDENTS DIVIDE ON NEW ROAD ROUTE

Petition Presented to County Court Asking Adoption of Engineer's Recommendation.

Fifty residents of Lorane and vicinity want the new highway, planned to be built this summer, to extend along the creek at the bottom of the hill instead of following the route of the old road, according to a petition presented to the county court by a delegation of men and women from that section.

The petition states that the petitioners favor the lower route in order to get a grade as required by law, that it would be necessary to make a deep cut through the main part of the village if the old road is followed, and that it would create a blind corner and create a hazard for school pupils.

Engineer Morse said that the lower road would be 200 feet lower than the upper road for persons entering Lorane, but for through traffic going from the north to Cottage Grove it would be shorter.

An opposing delegation visited the court yesterday asking that the old road be followed. The court set May 6 as the day upon which a hearing upon both petitions will be held and a decision reached.

Saving Jackknife Axel Berggren Hoisted By Dynamite

London, April 22.—(Special.)—Because Axel Berggren did not wish to lose a jackknife which he had left near a stump under which he had set a charge of dynamite and thought he had time to recover it before the fuse would set off the dynamite, he sustained a number of cuts on the face and neck. The charge exploded as he stooped over to pick up the knife. Fortunately the charge was a light one and, while Berggren was lifted into the air, his injuries were not severe. He recovered the knife. Berggren was blasting the stump to clear a site at Walter Woodard's mill B.

WATER BOND ISSUE COMES UP MAY 12

City Reaches Limit to Which It Can Go in Its Street Improvements.

A special election to vote upon a bond issue of \$25,000, to be used in the construction of a million-gallon water storage reservoir, has been called for Tuesday, May 12. The site selected is the two acres of ground immediately south of the present reservoir east of the city. The council has determined that other issues will not be put on the ballot at this election.

The council has passed an ordinance for the paving of east Adams avenue from Tenth street east to the city limits, but it is probable that the city finances are in such shape that the work can not be carried forward. The demand for street work has been such this year that the budgeted amount for intersections may be exhausted upon other street work which has been ordered.

Two hours were consumed in oratory over the dispute between Contractor Keating and City Engineer Townsend over allowances for extra excavation upon the construction of new trunk sewers. W. S. Rogers, of Corvallis, consulting engineer, submitted a report which was adopted by the council in which he recommended the payment of an amount several hundred dollars less than that claimed by the contractor. Keating has since stated that he intends suing the city for the amount claimed.

The committee on city property recommended the construction of a shed on the city's property on old south Pacific highway for the housing of the city's machinery and equipment.

Swinehart Funeral Held.

The funeral of Mrs. George N. Swinehart, who died Monday forenoon as the result of an automobile accident here, was held Wednesday in Eugene. The body was taken to Portland for interment. Mrs. Swinehart, who was acting postmaster at Black Butte at the time of the accident, was a resident of Eugene before she and her husband moved to Black Butte and was at one time a nurse in the Mercy hospital there.

Logging Cars Received.

The Anderson & Middleton company have received 11 new flat cars for use in bringing their logs in from their Culp creek and Rujada camps. The company has been for some time short of sufficient equipment to properly handle the number of logs required for their two mills and bringing sufficient logs for the proposed cold deck would have been difficult without the additional equipment.

Ernest Johnson, of Culp Creek, is in a Eugene hospital receiving medical treatment for an infected wound on his right knee.

COMMERCIAL COURSE IS TO GO INTO HIGH SCHOOL

Spirited Talks Made in Which Distressed Condition of District Is Stressed.

By a vote of 53 to 8, which was a small one for the district, a commercial course was voted for the Cottage Grove high school at the budget meeting held Tuesday night. This item in the district is over \$50,000, of which \$26,000 is to be raised by a direct tax upon the district.

The discussion on the commercial course items was spirited. Superintendent Hays and director Umphrey explained that an additional teacher would not be necessary but that an expenditure of \$700 would be required to start the course, the larger part of this being for typewriters and an adding machine.

O. M. Kem, who probably never before has opposed an addition of any tax for school purposes, made a vigorous talk in which he stated that the time had come when the people must cease adding to the tax burden or else cease kicking about high taxes. He was strongly of the belief that the district is not in shape to at this time shoulder any additional expense.

Director Shinn explained that the school had practically reached the limit to which it can go, that the bond burden is now at the highest point to which it can go, that the school tax is the highest that it has ever been, while the demands upon the district to take care of increased attendance are likely to cause embarrassment.

Following the adoption of the items for the commercial course the complete budget was adopted unanimously.

Salary Inadequacy Explained.

There has been some slight misunderstanding as to the reason why Ralph Spearow has found it necessary to resign his position as pastor of the Presbyterian church here. As already stated, the inadequacy of a pastor's salary is the reason, but that should not be taken to mean that the Presbyterian church here has not been liberal. Mr. Spearow has no fault to find with the salary offered him for next year, but the presbytery would not let him remain longer than this year and made the requirement that to continue teaching in this presbytery he must attend a seminary for three years. This requirement he felt he could not meet in view of the fact that the salary he could hope for afterwards would not be larger than the one now being received.

Nearly \$223 Given Park Fund.

The fund to provide a playground at the city park has been enriched to the amount of \$223.45 through the movement sponsored by the Keepers of the Den. This organization has been assisted by the several clubs of the city and their contributions have been as follows: Tuesday Bridge club, \$31; Toujours Prete club, \$45.20; Tuesday Study club, \$17.10; Social Twelve, \$6; M. P. G., \$36.65; Elmarts club, \$18.50; American Legion auxiliary, \$20; Utopia club, \$23; Commercial club, \$25.

Wright Brothers Lived in Eugene.

University of Oregon, Eugene, April 21.—The Wright brothers, inventors of the heavier-than-air flying machine, once lived in Eugene, John Straub, dean emeritus of men of the University of Oregon, recalled today. "Recently M. S. Barker, owner of a music store here, told me that these boys had come to him 30 years ago and talked over the flying machine idea. Mr. Barker took an interest in the idea and frequently worked with the boys."

WHAT'S THE USE



By L. F. Van Zeln

Taking No Chances

VAN ZELN