

POWER COMPANY TELLS OF INABILITY TO GIVE CONTINUOUS POWER IN 1923

JESSE HAWLEY REPRESENTING COMPANY MAKES STATEMENT THAT COMPANY CAN NOT SECURE FUNDS FOR EXTENSION NEEDED TO SUPPLY DEMAND.

HEARINGS CLOSE SPECTACULAR

Attorney J. M. Lampert for Water Users Declares Company Using Strong Arm Method in Threat—Hawley Denies and Asks For Suggestions

"The company, anticipating the growing demands upon it for power will not be able to give continuous service to its irrigation power users during the season of 1923, and has made the suggestion that power be rotated between the users during the year 1923 and 1924, and that the contracts signed for 1922 contain a clause providing for such rotation," said Jesse Hawley of Boise at the close of the hearing held by Commissioner H. H. Corey Wednesday noon.

"We are making this provision operative for 1923, because if any accident should occur to any of our machines which would reduce our output this year we would not be able to give continuous service, and thus be liable for damages. We can not afford to put our heads in a noose and take that chance.

"We can not get funds, though we have tried, starting in December an effort to borrow money. We were faced with the fact that the financial interests would not loan us money for additional irrigation development while we had unpaid irrigation power bills of \$629,000, which amount to 93 per cent of all our unpaid bills.

"If there is any way of solving this problem which the power users can suggest we will be glad to entertain them, this is but our suggestion."

Mr. Hawley's statement immediately drew fire from Attorney J. M. Lampert of the Power Users who declared that the company was thus holding a club over the irrigation users to compel the payment of back accounts with the threat that they would take the power that they irrigations have had for years to sell to customers paying the higher commercial rates.

"This is a change in the service regulations and rules which I take it is the function of the commission. Here the company sends out this letter threatening to cut off the power not of the company to prescribe, unless the users sign on the dotted line where the company commands them. We want the commission to withhold approval for such a contract until a full and complete hearing when it can for itself determine the justice of the contentions of both parties. Since the company admits that there is little likelihood of a shortage during the 1923 season we can see no reason for this change at this time and we suggest that before the 1923 season a hearing can be had, and the company be prevented from enforcing its arbitrary ruling and regulation of service."

Mr. Lambert's statement drew caustic comment from Mr. Hawley and the respective counsel engaged in a bitter verbal battle. In the midst of which Mr. Corey ruled that in the absence of his colleagues, and the fact that no contract had been signed which was at issue, the commission could not take cognizance of the matter until a formal contract was entered and made the subject of a hearing.

At this stage Messrs. T. W. Claggett and J. R. Brown questioned Mr. Hawley relative to the purpose of the company to divert the power it possesses and asked if it intended to serve other irrigation users with power now sold to its present customers.

Mr. Hawley declared that it was not the purpose of the company to take an additional irrigation customers, that it did not want them, but that if they did apply or if other commercial customers applied for power, under the law they would be compelled to serve them.

At this point L. L. Culbertson suggested that the schedule of dates for the various companies presented for consideration of the commission by the company be entered in the contract, and that thus perhaps the farmers with more knowledge when the power would be shut off could meet the situation. This suggestion was followed by one from Commissioner Corey who urged that the irrigation users and the company get together in an effort to amicably settle the difficulty, and that if in two weeks no settlement was secured that the commission be called upon to referee the matter. This suggestion was accepted.

According to the rotation plan presented by the company the Ontario-Nyssa would be without power on the following days: July 7, 19, and 28; August 11 and 24 and September 7. The Payette Oregon Slope would be cut off on July 3, and 24; August 7, 18, 29 and September 15.

All the other irrigation users using

REDUCTION OF TRAIN SCHEDULE IS OPPOSED

Every Community From Ontario to Burns Protests Against Tri-Weekly Service to Crane and Brogan—Would Defeat Purpose of Road

Declaring that the curtailment of service on the Oregon Eastern from Ontario to Crane would in itself be an obstacle which would defeat the very purpose admitted by the railroad company to be the cause of the branch line's construction representatives of all the interior towns protested against the proposed schedule at a hearing held here yesterday and today by Commissioner H. H. Corey.

With exhibits introduced by General Superintendent F. H. Knickerbocker showing expenses and earnings of the branches, Ontario to Crane and Vale to Brogan for the months of November and December 1921 and January 1922, as well as freight tonnage and passenger traffic revealing the marked slump in the company's business as well as marked losses without adding thereto the overhead costs or taxes. Attorney John O. Moran in his examination of Mr. Knickerbocker opened the case.

Mr. Knickerbocker, in an explanatory statement declared that the company was asking this merely as a temporary relief and that the service would be restored when business warranted it, if permission to make the cut was granted. He discussed at length the possibility of loss of revenue through the growth of auto buses and truck service should the limited service be installed, but declared that it was the experience of the company in other sections that frequency of trains was not a factor in this business, but that where ever suitable highways were built this competition had to be met was growing.

"The line to Crane was built said Mr. Knickerbocker, 'with the idea of having it as an alternate main line. Its construction of grade and its steel and bridges makes it easy to maintain, the maintenance being less than any other branch line on the system. After it was built the directors evidently reached the conclusion that it would be inadvisable to proceed further, for the development which was anticipated did not materialize.

Development Now In Sight—Answering the contention of the company that the development expected when the road was built did not mature. Capt. R. M. Duncan, I. S. Geer, G. N. Stallard, the former of Burns and the later of Drewsey, testified at length concerning the recent activity in the formation of irrigation districts, the voting of bonds which ultimately will finance the irrigation of nearly 200,000 acres of land; while they declared that if the railroad had gone but 40 miles further it would have tapped a body of timber totaling seven billion feet which with the irrigation development will furnish tonnage sufficient for the road.

Postmaster J. R. Gregg told of the growth of the parcel post business from Ontario: J. A. Kennedy and J. E. Hamstreet of Brogan told of the growth of the Willow Creek valley and of their business showing that settlement is generally being made. A. A. Reed of Brogan outlined the growth of the fruit crops of the Brogan-Jamison section as did W. B. Eaton. Bruce Kester, representing Vale, cross examined W. H. Doolittle emphasized the growth of truck and auto stage travel and with Mr. Duncan examined most of the witnesses. Tom Logan gave a comparative statement of the cattle shipments from the Brogan branch and declared that the high freight rates and low market conditions accounted for the falling off of this tonnage. Due to high freight rates he said the stock men of Willow Creek had been driving their stock to Huntington for shipment rather than pay the \$45 per car differential.

Commissioner Corey himself examined many of the witnesses and brought out many facts. He asked that instead of a comparative statement covering but a few months that the company furnish figures for the past year compared with other years, and also a statement showing the total amount of saving that would be accomplished if the application were granted. Mr. Morgan agreed to furnish this information and the attorneys agreed to submit briefs within 20 days so that the matter can be disposed of soon.

The various communities were represented as follows: W. H. Doolittle, E. C. Van Patten, R. W. Swagler, Ontario Commercial Club; J. L. Stallard, Drewsey; J. A. Kennedy, J. E. Hamstreet, A. A. Reed, W. B. Eaton, S. M. Stewart, Brogan; Robert M. Duncan, I. S. Geer, Harnoy County; Bruce R. Kester, A. E. McQuirry, Vale, Geo. B. Gaff, Boise Chamber of Commerce; Jno. O. Moran, Geo. H. Smith Salt Lake City for O. S. L. Ry.; Gerald E. Stanfield, R. N. Stanfield, G. E. Hoppel, traffic.

BOOZE MAKER CONVICTED

In the federal court at Portland Fred Williams arrested here by Marshal H. C. Farmer and Deputy Sheriff Charles Glenn, confessed to manufacturing whiskey and was sentenced to pay a \$500 dollar fine.

Miss Viola Husted is on the sick list.

CANYON COUNTY FARM BUREAU TAKES ISSUE

Interview in Last Week's Argus With U. F. Powell Taken Exception to—Bureau Head Declares Hearing Was Given Mr. Powell.

In the last issue of the Argus, U. F. Powell of Powell & Co. commission merchants of Boise, declared that prior to entering into a contract with the California Vegetable Union, the committee of the Canyon County Farm Bureau did not give him, nor other local concerns a proper hearing and consideration. To this statement by Mr. Powell, exception is taken by W. T. McCall County Agent for Canyon County in the following letter to the Argus, wherein Mr. McCall says:

"You published an interview from Mr. U. F. Powell concerning the matter of marketing head lettuce. In this interview, Mr. Powell intimates that the Canyon County Farm Bureau committee on lettuce marketing had refused to consider his proposition. For the information of your readers, I will state that Mr. U. F. Powell and one of his associates appeared before the committee referred to above on the 2nd day of February and presented to the committee a tentative proposition for the handling of the head lettuce deal. Mr. Powell promised to come back later on if the committee so desired and go into complete details concerning his proposition. Following Mr. Powell's visit, the committee considered the essentials of his proposition carefully and after having done so decided that the deal be offered the committee, while it had some very good features that appealed to some members of the committee very much, was not, as a whole, anything like as good a proposition for our growers as had been made by other companies.

"Among the objections of committee members to Mr. Powell's plan may be mentioned that the deal to be handled here this year, thru the Idaho Producers' Union will probably approximate 1000 cars of lettuce. The cost of handling 1000 cars of lettuce, including providing crates, ice, paper and other packing materials and labor for the packing, will approximate a quarter million dollars, not counting the expense of advertising and selling the commodity. Our committee did not feel that the concern of Mr. U. F. Powell of Boise had a sufficiently strong organization to handle a deal of this volume. Mr. Powell in his statement says that his concern handled only 68 cars of lettuce last year, whereas the California concern we are employing to handle the deal handled hundreds of cars last year.

"Mr. Powell also intimates in his interview that the committee did not listen to propositions from any Idaho concern that cared to make a proposition to the committee was heard in full by the committee and two Idaho concerns besides the one Mr. Powell represents appeared before the committee and made propositions.

"In conclusion I wish to state that we have had the cash buyers with us always and the conditions brought about by the system of buying and selling that these different institutions have been following is the cause today for the necessity of forming cooperative marketing associations throughout the length and breadth of the land. There is no attempt, however, being made by any one to put speculative buyers out of business. They will be here the present year and during the following years, the same as they always have been, and any grower who is satisfied with the deal he has been getting in the past should continue to sell through these concerns. Yours very truly, W. T. McCall, Agent.

K. OF P. GRAND CHANCELLOR VISITS ARMOUR LODGE NO. 69

Grand Chancellor Commander Leif Senfeth of The Dalles, and Walter A. Gleason, Grand Keeper of Records and Seals, of Portland, were guests of Armour Lodge No. 69 K. of P. of Ontario. As a demonstration of the good work the Ontario lodge is doing the local team put thru four initiates. Those who took the first degree were Ceel Embody, Lawrence Monce, A. V. Wilson and Thomas Beam. Besides the grand officers, the local lodge had as guests a number of the Payette lodge.

As part of the entertainment the Pythian Sisters served a banquet at which there were seated over seventy. The banquet committee could not have been surpassed in its efforts in providing a good spread nor in the way it was served.

A number of talks were made. Among those speaking were Judge Dalton Biggs, R. W. Swagler and Mr. Senfeth.

R. A. M. GRAND HIGH PRIEST VISITS WITH LOCAL CHAPTER

Walter Bilyeu of Eugene, grand high priest of the Oregon Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, was the guest of honor at the special session of Zadoc Chapter Monday evening during the course of his trip to the chapters of the state. Degree work was presented by the chapter and a dinner followed at which the visiting official was the principal speaker.

INCREASE IN COST OF GOVERNMENT IN MALHEUR COUNTY SHOWN BY REPORT

DETECTIVES CATCH MAN STEALING COAL FROM CARS

Special agent W. H. Edgler of the O. S. L. while lying in wait under a coal car spotted near the Van Petten Lumber company's yard Wednesday night caught J. B. Johnson, who recently moved here from Washoe, stealing coal from the car. Johnson was taken before Judge C. M. Stearns and admitted having taken coal on several previous occasions. He was charged with grand larceny and held to the grand jury under a \$500 bond which he is attempting to secure.

Although Johnson is held under a state charge, he can also be held under the federal statutes which make the penalty of from 1 to 10 years and a fine of \$5,000, or both. The official declares that a great deal of coal has been taken from the cars here this winter and that prosecutions are to be made to stop the practice.

BUSINESS MEN HEAR OF TOURIST BUREAU

Sidney B. Vincent of Portland and Dean Robbins of University Address Business Men at Luncheon Here Friday

Presenting in detail the work of the Oregon Tourist Bureau Sidney B. Vincent of Portland, executive officer of the bureau told of the efforts on the part of Oregon to attract to this state desirable settlers.

"The bureau has conceived its duty to be not alone to extol the beauties of Oregon scenery but also to present to the tourist the great natural resources of the state and its desirability as a permanent place of residence," said Mr. Vincent.

"We find that four of every ten tourists are in search of a new location and we endeavor to direct them to the section best fitted for them. We want to make the stay of the tourist in Oregon as pleasant as possible without being officious. We want them to gain thorough knowledge and information necessary to a pleasant journey while here. To that end we intend to establish branch headquarters in five Oregon towns, and Ontario is to be one of them.

"We are to sign the roads leading across the state and we are asking the towns where these headquarters are located to place signs on the roads leading to the headquarters." Dean Robbins briefly outlined the work of the department of business administration and the studies the department is making in commercial club activities. He urged that the business men gain a better understanding of the farmers' problems as the essential foundation of a program for development in an agricultural region.

Mr. Vincent told of the formation of the Old Oregon Trail association of which W. H. Doolittle is one of the vice presidents, and of the plan to advertise this route nationally and make it one of the attractive routes for tourists. President E. C. Van Petten presided at the luncheon which was held at the Moore Cafe last Friday and was largely attended.

The Ontario Girls' club met with Mrs. Sam Taylor on Tuesday evening. The evening was spent in reading the play to the members, and in sewing. A very pleasant evening was spent and dainty refreshments served. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 14th, at the home of Mrs. Dalton Biggs. The meeting of March 7 will not be held, but has been turned over to the cast for practicing the play.

Theo. Moore is quite ill with the "flu."

Mrs. C. R. Emison is about again after a week's illness.

O. M. Castlemann is back at the Pharmacy after an enforced vacation of three weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Blackaby returned Monday night from a trip to Silver City. Compared with the Owyhee county seat, Ontario is in the banana belt, says Mr. Blackaby.

Character of tax	Year 1921	Year 1914	Decrease	Increase
State	\$159,257.90	\$40,230.04		\$119,027.86
County	50,523.75	73,145.54	22,611.79	
School General Fund	35,220.49	26,820.02		8,400.46
High School	13,092.17			13,092.17
Road General	61,253.04	41,029.14		20,212.90
Road Market	24,501.22			24,501.22
Library Fund	4,593.98			4,593.98
Sinking Fund	3,062.65			3,062.65
Towns:				
Vale	16,111.52	6,751.85		9,359.67
Ontario	20,943.64	11,721.79		9,221.85
Nyssa	4,993.12	4,752.69		240.43
Jordan Valley	1,575.49	1,090.95		484.54
School Districts:				
Specials Levies	168,201.30	66,807.56		101,393.74
Official Surveys	30.13	133.25	103.12	
Irrigation Districts	113,917.06	42,029.43		71,887.63
Drainage Districts	36,880.07			36,880.07
TOTAL TAXES	\$714,167.53	\$314,521.37	\$22,714.91	\$422,360.07

* Includes both Irrigation and Drainage

COUNTY ASSESSOR ANDREW GRAHAM PRESENTS TABLE WHICH SHOWS WHAT HAS HAPPENED DURING PAST SEVEN YEARS TO TAKE TAXPAYERS MONEY

ONLY DECREASE FOR COUNTY

Reflections Made by County Court in Past Two Years Conspicuous in Long List of Increases—Statement Worth Studying by Taxpayers.

To the additional finances voted by the people for better schools and colleges, for more and better roads; for irrigation and drainage can be laid the blame for the increase in the tax bill of the people of Malheur county.

In 1914, according to a statement prepared from the records by Andrew W. Graham, county assessor the total taxes of all Malheur county's various taxing districts was \$314,521.37, while in 1921 the taxpayers are called upon to pay \$714,167.53; and increase of \$422,360.07 or an increase of 130 per cent over in seven years.

Of the 16 segregations into which the total tax statement has been divided by Mr. Graham, only one, that of county government over which the county court has control shows a decrease, all the others show increases. This is a most significant fact which taxpayers may well ponder. In fairness, credit should be given the county court for this surprising showing.

The decrease in the cost of county government in Malheur county in seven years is from \$78,145.54 to \$36,533.75 or a decrease of \$42,611.79 or practically 30 per cent.

The second largest single increase in the cost of government is that four din the special school district levies which together reached \$168,201.30 for 1921; while in 1914 the special levies were only \$66,807.56 making the increase \$101,393.74 or 160 per cent increase.

The largest increase however is that of state taxes which jumped from \$40,230.04 in 1914 to \$159,257.90 in 1921; and increase of \$119,027.86 or practically 300 per cent. In fairness to the state officials and the legislature, however, it should be noted that this increase is due to the increase in the millage tax for higher education and the two mill tax for elementary schools, the later item coming back to the school districts through the distribution of school funds according to the number of pupils enrolled and teachers employed.

The report also shows that while in 1914 there were no drainage district taxes in 1921 there was a total of \$36,880.07 levied for that purpose; also in 1914 no high school levy was made while in 1921, \$13,092.17 was levied for that purpose. In 1914 there were no market roads, sinking fund nor county library levies, and the general road levy jumped from \$41,029.14 to \$61,253.04.

City Cost Mount, Too

The incorporated cities of the county also demonstrated that government mounted during this period: Ontario raised from \$11,721.79 to \$20,943.64; Vale from \$4,752.69 to \$16,111.52; Nyssa from \$4,752.69 to \$4,993.12 and Jordan Valley from \$1,090.95 to \$1,575.49.

The following is the detail of the study in taxes prepared by Mr. Graham: