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# THE HOOD RIVER NEWS

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## Rev. Dr. Ford Makes Sweeping Statement

Christianity and the Church, He Says Do Not Receive the Recognition and Support At Hood River They Should and Asks Why

Believing that Christianity and the church do not receive the recognition and support at Hood River they should, and that they are looked upon by many as something akin to a necessary evil Rev. T. B. Ford makes a statement to the public that should be read with interest. The reverend doctor says:

After careful study of conditions in Hood River, and consultation with men associated with me in Christian and church work I have decided to turn my pulpit into an open forum for a series of Sunday evening platform meetings for the discussion of Christianity, churches and ministers, and have invited a number of gentlemen other than of my own faith and profession to do the speaking.

I find that Christianity does not receive the recognition and support by laboring, business and professional men of the community it should if it stands for what we suppose it stands for. I see that all kinds of business—real estate, horticulture, building, merchandise, banking, fraternalism and education have larger, but not too great, recognition and consideration.

It seems to me the churches as the supposed representatives of Christianity, though by no means the exclusive exponents and expressions of Christian truth, life and philanthropy, have not kept pace with the growth of our population, schools, lodges and business enterprises, nor with the material development of the town and vicinity. They do not have the strong hold on the thought, confidence and life of the men of the community they should have if they stand for what they are alleged to stand for. They have to struggle for an existence, and a few "elect women" have to "serve tables" and run "bazaars," and their ministers must act the part of a lackey in order to make a little money with which to meet the necessary expenses, and "carry on church work." They continue to worship in inferior edifices, with inadequate equipment for wide awake churches.

And ministers—what of them? They are looked upon as a sort of well, hardly a necessary evil, a something to be tolerated, as having little or nothing to do with the affairs of men in a world of red blood, activity and progress—a kind of third sex, whose business is one of ease and luxury, having nothing in common with the men and women who are doing things worth while; with no care for mundane interests, singing only of their "heavenly home, bright and fair," and regarded by some as an intolerable nuisance, a burden upon society whose support is to be charged up to charity.

I have therefore made up my mind to try to find out where the trouble lies. Is it in Christianity? Is it in the churches? Is it in the ministers? Do not our men believe in Christianity? Do our churches fail to justify their claims? Are ministers exclusive, "buttoned up," and show no interest in the things of the kingdom of this world? Do they deal in abstractions that have little or no connection at all with present day problems with which the laboring man, the business man, the professional man and the man of science are grappling? Is the preacher "behind the times," and trying to feed the people on "old straw"? Is he lacking in ability to speak clearly, correctly and entertainingly? He ought to know something about everything, and everything about something. Or is it because men are so taken up with their own secular affairs that they have no time to give to the consideration of the claims of Christianity, and the work of the churches? Or, because their methods of business cannot be brought to the light?

I am unwilling, with my present light, to express an opinion on these questions. I might "light into" them and "pass them up" as "backsliders," "renegades," "men of the baser sort," "given to hardness of heart," and "reprobity of mind," with "consciences seared," but I do not feel warranted in doing so, and will not. I prefer to hear from others, and have not only requested prominent gentlemen in professional and busi-

ness circles to speak, but to speak freely and fully, and let the "chips fall where they may." I want to know what the laboring, business and professional men of this community think of Christianity, the churches and ministers. Christianity is entitled to recognition, or it is not. Churches are worthy of support, or they are not. Ministers merit respect and confidence, or they do not. Let us see. Let us go to the bottom of this business. Let us have the full truth wherever the reflection may be. Christianity must stand the severest test, or it cannot stand at all. The churches must stand the severest test, or they must go out of business. The preachers must stand the severest test, or go into some other pursuit or "take to the woods." Come, let us reason together.

I invite the general public, and laboring, business and professional men in particular, to bear the gentlemen who have kindly consented to speak. We ought not to be afraid of the truth nor of the truth.

The particular topics and the names of the speakers will be announced in special bulletin and through the local press from week to week.

## OREGON LUMBER CO. CHARGED WITH FRAUD

A story in the Oregonian states that the Oregon Lumber company is to be investigated by the federal grand jury for alleged timber frauds. The grand jury met yesterday in Portland. It is stated that there are seventy witnesses in the case.

"These witnesses," says the Oregonian, "are from the employees of the Sumpter Valley Railway company and the Oregon Lumber company, operating out of Hood River and Baker City, and from the evidence he has, United States District Attorney McCourt expects he will be able to penetrate the mystery which for many years has surrounded certain of the timber entries of which the defendant companies and their officers have acquired possession.

"Much of this evidence has been gathered through the efforts of Special Agent Good, of the Interior Department, after months of labor in the field.

"The Eccles family is said to be leading spirits in an alleged conspiracy, which it is asserted followed the lines of procedure introduced into Oregon with the advent of Michigan and Minnesota experts in the art of using "dummies." These, it is claimed, were paid stipulated sums of money for the entry and patenting of timber claims and were under contract to turn these claims over to the men behind the scenes. In the case now under investigation it is alleged by the government officers that the "dummy" entries were brought from Utah and Idaho in carload lots, given employment by the railway and lumber companies and were assured by David C. Eccles, W. H. Eccles and David Eccles that the investigation of timber frauds in this state was only a passing fever which would soon blow over.

"Many of the filings thought to be fraudulent have become outlawed so far as criminal prosecutions will be. They may, it is stated by District Attorney McCourt, become the basis of suits to cancel title, however, many of which are expected to follow the disposal of the present case. The grand jury was brought together when knowledge of one overt act was obtained, and the indictment will have to be returned within ten days in order to keep that alive. Since the jury was drawn information is said to have come to the land inspectors upon which the prosecution can base other overt acts, and it is expected that others will develop as the case progresses."

**Irrigating Company Meeting**  
The East Fork Irrigating company will hold its annual meeting of stockholders at the Commercial club rooms Saturday evening, March 12, at 2 p. m.—R. H. Waugh, secretary.

## Impressions of Hood River In Bacon - Flapjack Days

A paper read by R. E. Harbison at a meeting of the Neighbor Trust recently is of interest in comparing the early days with those of the present. Mr. Harbison says:

"The fact that I have been a resident of this valley since the autumn of 1886 gave occasion to our hostess to ask me to tell you something concerning past events in Hood River valley.

"Free scope was given me in the choice of a subject excepting that I was enjoined to not bore the guests with dry statistics or Munchausen tales. This injunction limited the field more than might be imagined at first thought, and I can think of little else to tell about except the weather, and other matters which are easily attributable to the influences of the weather.

"Now the weather in Hood River continues 365 days in the year and no two days are alike, and of the 24 years of my life which I have spent here no two years have been alike. So, to compile a true history of the weather during that time several large volumes would be required.

"It might be inferred that such vicissitudes in matters climatic might have some unusual influence over the inhabitants and, to tell the truth, I am inclined to the belief that the weather deserves far more credit for the remarkable developments which have taken place in the valley than have usually been given it.

"When I landed here from the hurricane deck of a glass eyed cayuse, after two years' sojourn on the dry plains of eastern Washington, I was greatly charmed by the weather. Particularly so because of the attractiveness which it had given to a certain damsel whom I met under the towering pines and with whom I soon afterward entered into a partnership which exists unto this day.

"At that early date Hood River fruits had a reputation more than local. Hood River peaches grown along the Columbia benches had been sold to passing steamers and their high quality was known in

many parts of the big inland Empire.

"We predicted at that time that land would some day sell as high as \$100 per acre. It was selling then at from \$5 to \$25 per acre and for several years there was but little advance. It is safe to say that if we could have foreseen such an advance as has taken place in recent years it would have been strange if a few of us had not tried to corral the entire valley.

"For many years this exhilarating climate gave everyone wonderful powers of endurance and the amount of hard work that we accomplished in the way of land clearing, road making and tilling of the soil was hard to duplicate.

"It is plain that the climate has much to do with the beauty and high quality of our famous apples, because the returns which we got in those days from grain and corn growing spoke very little for the high quality of the soil for general farming purposes. Wheat would produce about 20 bushels per acre and corn would hardly give back the seed.

"We lived simple lives and one dollar would yield as much fun as ten will give now. Electric lights, daily mail, telephones, new hats four times a year and many other present day nuisances were unknown.

"The snow flakes which are now tumbling about our ears are not the first that have fallen in this favored valley, and unless Halley's comet's tail knocks us all into kingdom come they will probably not be the last.

"Severe winters, too, are nothing unusual. I think it was in the winter of 1887-1888 that ice over a foot thick was taken out of Hood river under the wagon bridge in the east part of town, and another time it was so cold that the gables were frozen off the roof of a man's house over on the east side. But I am getting on dangerous ground and as a rebuke from our hostess is in order I will yield the floor to the next on the program."

## ONE OF WIFE DESERTING TRIO AT HOOD RIVER

Unknown to Hood River people Albert E. Young, one of a trio of brothers who are all said to be guilty of bigamy, was a resident here for a few days, leaving February 12th. The story of the Young brothers' misdeeds as told by the Oregonian is as follows:

"When Albert E. Young deserted his young wife and twin babies last Thursday afternoon he completed a series of misdeeds in which three brothers played the leading roles. Within six weeks three wives have been left to provide for themselves, while the three husbands have fled, accompanied, it is believed, by affiliates. District Attorney Cameron is now preparing papers for the arrest of the three men on a variety of charges, running from that of obtaining money under false pretenses to wife desertion.

"The three men concerned are Albert E. Young, Rolla R. Young and Peter L. Young, all natives of Iowa and all doing business in Portland under the name of Young Brothers, at 512 Gerlinger building. Here they maintained a real estate and publicity office, also managed circulation contests for various out of town newspapers.

"Peter L. Young, the youngest of the three, deserted his wife, to whom he had been married three years, on December 26 of last year, leaving her in apartments at the Wheelon, on Park street, and going to San Francisco with a young woman from Vancouver, Wash. He left a note saying his "spiritual affinity" had called him "to do God's work" and that he was bound for Salt Lake City. Mrs. Young, however, had her suspicions aroused some time before this, and soon discovered the true status of affairs.

"Two days later Rolla R. Young, who had been married six years, sent his wife back to her home in Missouri on a visit and also left suddenly for the south, leaving the office in charge of the oldest brother, Albert. Rolla Young is also believed to have had the company on his trip of a young lady from a southern Oregon town.

"The third desertion in the family

came last Thursday when Albert went away, presumably accompanied by a young woman from Silverton, Ore. Albert is believed to have gone from Portland to Vancouver, Wash., on the street car and then to have taken a train for Seattle, where it is supposed he took a boat for either Victoria or Vancouver, B. C. His two brothers at present are in Los Angeles, according to the authorities who are keeping track of their movements."

## CROSS-EXAMINED CHRISTIANITY

An audience that filled the Methodist church to overflowing was present Sunday evening to hear Christianity discussed from the standpoint of the lawyer. The subject was ably handled by Deputy District Attorney Hartwig and County Judge Derby who gave their ideas on the question from different points of view.

Mr. Hartwig dwelt on the temptations of the members of the bar and good influence that Christianity exerted in overcoming them, and on its uplifting influence on all mankind. Judge Derby spoke of the great men of the legal fraternity who had believed in and espoused the cause of Christianity. A belief in Christianity and the generic love of God, he believed, was inherent in every civilized person, dependent largely upon the direction of its development. The truest form of Christianity he thought found its expression in "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

In addition to the speakers J. C. Skinner sang a solo that very much pleased his hearers.

The addresses are attracting a great deal of attention and the next subject scheduled is "Christianity and Civic Improvement," which will be discussed by Rev. W. C. Gilmore, (Chas. Hall, J. C. Skinner and T. B. Ford.

**Upper Valley Sales**  
R. K. McGuffey has bought the A. O. Johnson piece of twenty-five acres, paying for the same \$9000. The sale was made through W. H. Marshall.

## Valley Electric Railway Seems Close at Hand

Deeds Filed for Right of Way and Workers Pushing Ahead--Capitalists in Portland Also Busy With Plans for Electric Line

Information secured at Hood River and in Portland shows that the promoters of the electric railway up the valley are busy and that considerable progress is being made. Ten deeds for right of way were filed with the county clerk last week calling for a 40 foot strip through sections 28 and 21, township 1 and also part of section 34 township 2 both in range 19 east.

It is understood that secretary Langile and other active workers in the Valley Electric Railway Company are pushing this matter as fast as possible, and are meeting with considerable encouragement. The board of directors of the company state

that their main object is to secure the road for the benefit it will give to the whole valley and are not inclined to hold up any legitimate effort that will be made to capitalize and complete it and are willing to co-operate in every way with a company formed for such purpose.

In Portland it is stated by those who have seen the maps made for the use of the party of capitalists who are pushing it there that a complete system of transportation is planned for the west side district apart from the main line to the Upper Valley and that if a consolidation of interests that are contemplated can be brought about there will be no question as to the building of the electric line.

It is also claimed that the O. R. & N. is favorable to the project and would give it any reasonable assistance such as a traffic agreement, terminal point, and yardage room for its freight service.

## BUILDING BOOM STRIKES PARKDALE

Plans have been approved by R. J. McIsaac for a new store building at Parkdale the terminus of the Mt. Hood railroad, that will be one of the largest in the valley. The structure will be 36x80 feet two stories high. The ground floor will be occupied by the store and the upper floor made into a hall for meetings and other purposes. The contract for the new building has already been let to Gassman & Klein, the material ordered and work will be commenced on it just as soon as the weather permits. Mr. McIsaac is associated in the enterprise by his brother-in-law Walter Gregory. A large stock of general merchandise and hardware will be kept and it is expected that Parkdale will become the center of a big trade when the railroad opens for business.

It is stated that application for a postoffice has been made to be established at that point and several persons have been looking over the ground from out of town with a view to erecting a hotel and livery stable there. It is said that several are likewise expecting to open real estate offices at Parkdale and that a church is one of the things in the near future. Believing that there is an opening for a blacksmith, a Willemette valley man was at Parkdale last week looking over the country with the idea of purchasing land and starting a shop.

A project that has interested others in that vicinity is a summer boarding house. The projectors of this institution think that if it could be established on one of the numerous slightly points along the rivers that many who prefer the mountains to the sea air would take advantage of the fact and spend the summer amid the scenic beauties and salubrious climate of the upper valley.

The extension of the Mt. Hood Railroad, which was completed to Parkdale last fall is being gotten into shape for business and just as soon as the weather allows it is expected to ballast the track and put a train schedule into effect.

## HOOD RIVER ENTERS BASE BALL LEAGUE

At a meeting of representatives of several nearby towns interested in baseball, held at White Salmon Saturday, it was decided to form a local amateur base ball league for the purpose of promoting interest in the game and giving residents an opportunity to enjoy regular contests of the national game.

The towns that will be represented are Hood River, White Salmon, The Dalles and Goldendale, and the opening game will be played here Sunday, April 10th, between Hood River and The Dalles. The officers of the organization are Attorney Brooks of Goldendale, president; W. H. Meyers of Hood River, vice president; Milton VanVorst of White Salmon, secretary; Paul McCoy of The Dalles, treasurer.

A great deal of interest has already developed in the announcement of the coming season of base ball and it is expected that the local management will be loyally supported in providing Hood River with interesting contests during the season.

## EAST SIDE TWENTY BRINGS \$12,500.00

Edwin Pilson, who has been here some time looking over the valley, Monday purchased the 20 acre place of Wm. Stewart on the East Side for \$12,500. The sale was made through Geo. D. Culbertson & Co. Mr. Pilson whose wife is here with him is from Washington, D. C., and they are friends of the Peters family who also bought on the East Side. Another sale reported by the Culbertson company is a lot on the Heights to J. H. Shields.

## Trust Still Flourishing

The Get Acquainted with Your Neighbor Trust continues with unabated interest. Neither rain, mud, snow or ice prevents the friendly meetings and each evening is a round up of sociability and goodfellowship. The meeting Friday night at F. A. Bishop's was a series of surprises.

The first was a contest in reading twenty-five picture advertisements, which was won by Mrs. Schlosser for which she received a useful prize. Next came several trips to Jericho in which but few could travel at first, but at last all succeeded in catching on. Then came a memory test of forty-one articles, in which Mrs. G. A. Littlefield led by scoring thirty-eight, for which she was given a looking glass. A guitar solo by Miss Helen Howe; recitation by Margie Campbell and Helen Hershner and a Bubble song by Miss Mary Harbison. Mrs. Campbell was ringmaster and kept things going lively. The preparations involved considerable effort on the part of the host and hostess, in which they were ably assisted by the father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, and by the sister, Mrs. Campbell, who is a "Johnny on the spot." It is a family that will bear acquaintance. The lunch was not the least part of the entertainment.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, the 24 day of March, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. R. Wilbur on Prospect avenue, once the Galligan strawberry ranch, now a nice residence section with a grand view of the Columbia and Mt. Adams in the distance.

## Missionary Convention

The third annual convention of the Christian and Missionary Alliance beginning Wednesday, the 23d, closed Sunday evening with a missionary address by Miss Emma Krater of Khamngan, India. Rev. C. H. Christian, district superintendent, was present and gave able and instructive messages. Rev. C. E. Perry, resident pastor, gave a missionary address on Sunday morning and discussed the duties of the church as regards to taking the gospel to the millions in heathen lands.

Miss Krater spoke at 2:30 p. m. on the women and girls of India and told of the orphanage of over 200 girls, also the home for widows. The offering received at the convention amounted to \$620.50, including the support of six orphans for one year.

**St. Mark's Episcopal**  
Service every Sunday at 11 a. m. Sunday school at 10 a. m.