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THE HOOD RIVER NEWS

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Citizens Protest Against Raise in Phone Rates

Merchants Association Takes Up Matter and Discovers Other Oregon Cities Have Cheaper Rates. Want Better Service

The raise in telephone rates announced by the Home company June 1st, and which will become operative July 1st, is meeting with strong protest from Hood River business men and also private users of phones. A raise in the rate had been anticipated, but it is stated by many subscribers that it was not thought that it would be as sweeping as announced. Many say they would not have objected to a 25 cent raise for the use of residence phones while others believe that the rates were sufficiently high to insure profitable returns to the company if the system was properly managed and operated.

It is shown that the rates which the company proposes to put into effect are higher than most of the towns in the state where systems are being successfully operated and that while residents here are willing to support the company in putting the telephone system on a paying basis, they object strongly to paying a rate that is higher than necessary to do so.

The rates now in use were put into effect when the company had 600 phones. According to its statement it now has 1,220 with about 500 lines in use. It is pointed out that while the number of phones has doubled there has been but little increase in the number of lines and that therefore the company is getting the benefit of a large additional income without a corresponding additional expense.

The circular of the telephone company states that the raise is necessary to put the business on a dividend paying basis and announces the following rates:

Main line business phone.....\$3.25
Party line business phone.....2.25
Main line residence phone.....2.25
Party line residence phone, city 1.50
Extension phone.....1.00
Party line, rural.....1.75
Extension bell......50
Desk phone in residence, extra......25
Extra listing in the directory, 25c a month. 25c a month discount for rural phones if paid quarterly on or before the 15th of the first month of the quarter. Postively no discount after discount date.

Private line in the country by special arrangement, based on distance from exchange.

Mt. Hood rates remain the same until the construction now under way is completed.

According to letters received from four towns in Oregon the proposed rates are from 50 cents to \$1.25 higher than those in effect in these cities. The letters were received in response to requests for information sent out by the Hood River Merchants Association and are as follows:

Oregon City, Oregon, June 4, 1910.—Hood River Merchants Association, Hood River, Oregon.—Gentlemen: In reply to your letter of the 2nd inst., in regard to our service, rates, etc., would say that the service we are giving here is of the best that can be given on a common battery exchange.

In our trouble department we had only seven cases in April and three cases in May, and everything running fine at present. Complaints we seldom ever have.

Our rates are as follows:
Business private line, \$2.50 per month.
Business two party line, \$2.00 per month.
Business four party line, \$1.50 per month.
Residence private line, \$1.75 per month.
Residence two party line, \$1.50 per month.
Residence four party line, \$1.25 per month.
Yours very truly,
T. B. HAYBURST, Manager.

Albany, Oregon, June 3, 1910.—Hood River Merchants Association, Hood River, Oregon.—Dear Sirs: In reply to yours of no date to hand this morning we respectfully report as follows as to telephone rates in Albany. We have both the Bell and Home systems.

Residence phones, party lines, four party, \$1.00; two party, \$1.25.
Residence phones, private lines, \$1.50.
Business phones, \$2.00.

The Home company gives us free service to all points in the county while the Bell company charges for all service outside the city. In other respects the charges of both companies are about the same.

Respectfully yours,
P. D. GILBERT.

The Dalles, Oregon, June 3, 1910.—Hood River Merchants Association, Hood River, Oregon.—Dear Sirs: As per your request I send you the following phone rates as given me by the company here.

Business Phones—One party line, \$2.50 a month; two party line, \$2.00 a month.
Residences—One party line, \$2.00 a month; two party line, \$1.50 a month; four party line, \$1.25 a month.
Extensions, \$1.00 per month.
Yours truly,
J. S. FISHER, Secretary.

Eugene, Oregon, June 4, 1910.—Hood River Merchants Association, Hood River, Oregon.—Gentlemen: I have your letter of inquiry in regard to telephone rates. We are having fairly good service here. It is better than it has been heretofore. We pay on main lines \$2.50 per month for business phones, and \$1.50 for party lines, residents.
C. F. LITTLEFIELD.

It is claimed that with the increase in the business the local company should be in a position to furnish phones cheaper now than when the service was installed and to give a better service. Many state that they would not object to paying some of the increased rate if the service was satisfactory. It is also stated that when the local company was being organized it was loyally supported on the promise of cheaper rates and better service and that on this account the company was given an unlimited franchise in the matter of rates in the expectation that they would not be raised. The original amount of stock was \$45,000. According to the company's statement to the Glacier the amount now invested is \$70,000. It is argued therefore that while the company has not paid any cash dividends the earnings of the plant must have gone into improvements and that subscribers should not be asked to take up a profit making burden by paying higher telephone rates than is paid elsewhere.

The Merchants Association has decided to take action in regard to raising the telephone rates which will come before a meeting to be held next week.

BRINGS SUIT AGAINST COUNTY

A suit against Hood River county has been brought by Chas. W. Wentz assignee of the firm of Hughes & Wentz, who entered into a contract with the county to copy the records of Wasco county pertaining to real property in Hood River county. Mr. Wentz sues to recover \$900 alleged to be the balance due from the county for copying the records. Mr. Wentz alleges that when the work of transcribing the records commenced County Clerk Culbertson explained to the county court that he could not certify to the records unless he or his deputy had compared them, and wanted the court to furnish a deputy to compare the records as they were transcribed so he could certify to them. This the court refused to do, and the copies were delivered as fast as transcribed to the county, who ordered warrants drawn in payment of the same, except about 25 per cent of the copying price, which was retained to identify the county against defective work. When all the records were transcribed and delivered to the county the clerk still refused to certify to them as true and correct copies unless he or his deputies compared the same. The district attorney and attorney general were consulted and advised no certificate could be made until the records had first been compared by either the clerk or his deputies. The court then directed the clerk to employ deputies and compare the records, which he did. During the course of comparison many errors were found in the work of the contractors and corrected as they went on comparing records.

After the records were compared they were certified to by the clerk and accepted by the county. On May 10th Chas. W. Wentz, assignee of the firm of Hughes & Wentz, met with the county court at the court house, and after going over the accounts it was found there was \$900.00

(Continued on Page 10)

Water Company Again Offers Plant to City

At the council meeting held Tuesday, May 31, the Light & Power Co. submitted its option on the water plant, which it offered to the city for \$40,000 accompanied by a letter from the Portland Trust Company, the bond holders, offering to release the plant for that amount.

The option and letter were referred to the fire and water committee. After some deliberation the committee handed in a report prepared by City Attorney Derby as follows:

To the Fire and Water Committee. Gentlemen: I have examined the option tendered the city of Hood River by the Hood River Light and Power Co. of the purchase of the water system belonging to said corporation by the city, and in response to your request for an opinion as to the form of the option, I beg to say that I would suggest that the following formalities be required:

1. That the option be prepared so as to read that the Light & Power Co. will transfer this property, if voted on favorably by the people, free and clear of all encumbrances whatsoever. This is not expressed definitely, though probably intended.

2. That proper assurance be required from the Light & Power Co., that in case this proposition be submitted to the electors of the City of Hood River and favorably acted upon by the electors, the City could enforce the transfer and not be placed in an awkward position if the matter should miscarry in any way without the City's fault.

3. I would suggest that the second paragraph on the second page be required to be in somewhat different form. The wording of it as it now stands leaves more or less option with the Light & Power Co. to cancel the option if the City is not proceeding speedily enough to meet their views. I think ninety days is ample time to act upon the proposition that if the Council so desires, but do not think that the option should be open to be cancelled at the instance of the vendors.

Further than these points enumerated, I find no objection to the form of the instrument.
Yours truly,
A. J. Derby.

A letter was also received from N. C. Evans, the minority stockholder in the old company, who has refused to accept the money offered him for his stock, claiming that the sale was not bona fide. The letter says:

Hood River, Ore., May 27, 1910
To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Hood River. Gentlemen:

You will hereby take notice that I, N. C. Evans, as a stockholder, owning and holding 133 shares of stock in the Hood River Electric Light, Power & Water Co., do hereby

deploring the fact that Minneapolis has nothing to compare with the Republican assembly, of Portland. John Van Nest, president of the Minneapolis city council and a member of that body for eight years; A. W. Armatage, a prominent Minnesota business man, and James Gray, associate editor of the Minneapolis Journal, talked Friday at the Portland Commercial Club of the admirable position a city occupied by nominating officers on the assembly plan.

Mr. Van Nest is spoken of generally as the future Republican mayor of Minneapolis, to succeed Mayor Haynes, the Democrat at present in office.

"As things are," said Mr. Van Nest, "in the Republican primaries we have hosts of candidates for every office. For the minor offices there may be dozens of candidates. Everyone who has a few friends seems to decide he will run for office and there is no way of weeding out in the public mind the hopelessly inefficient ones."

"To do this I can see the assembly is the most effectual way possible. Just as we have a Republican convention for state officers, we ought to have a Republican convention for city officers. Think of the Park and Health boards, for instance, having to be fought out in the primaries by scores of candidates, no one knowing what their qualifications are."

Mr. Van Nest would not discuss

by protest against the purchase of the water plant of aforesaid corporation, from the pretended owners, the Hood River Light & Power Co.

The pretended transfer by the officers of the Hood River Electric Light, Power & Water Co. to the Hood River Light and Power Co. were preceded by a long chain of abuses and frauds committed by the officers and directors of the Hood River Electric Light, Power & Water Co., against my interests as a stockholder in said company, and that they had no authority or right to transfer the property of the company, notice of which I served J. D. Wilcox, Wert Minor, and Robt. Smith April 9, 1910. I also notified them as officers of said Hood River Light & Power Co. on May 12, 1910 not to attempt to transfer any part or all of the property attempted to be transferred to them by the officers of said Hood River Electric Light, Power & Water Co. You will therefore proceed in the purchase of said water plant at your peril as I claim that the Hood River Light & Power Co. do not own and have no authority to sell the water plant to the City.
Yours respectfully,
N. C. Evans.
June 6, '10

To cover the objections set forth above the Light & Power Company has submitted to the city a copy of a letter addressed to the First National Bank as follows:

Hood River, Oregon. Gentlemen: The undersigned, the Hood River Light & Power Co., hands you herewith a warranty deed duly executed by the Hood River Light & Power Co. for the purpose of conveying the water system from which is supplied the city of Hood River, which said property is more particularly described in said deed, and wherein the said city of Hood River is named as grantee. It is respectfully requested that you hold this deed in escrow and deliver the same to said grantee, its officers or agents duly authorized, upon its paying to your bank and to the credit of said undersigned, the sum of \$40,000 cash, or in lieu of cash the duly executed 20-year five or six per cent bonds of the city of Hood River, provided that said sum of \$40,000 or the bonds duly executed, as aforesaid, be delivered on or before 90 days from date.

Respectfully,
Hood River Light & Power Co.,
By Albert S. Hall, Manager.

It has also had prepared and submitted to the council an unconditional option on the plant for a period of 90 days from June 6th, which agrees to deliver to the city all the property of the water company free of encumbrances and to take the responsibility of satisfying the lawful demands of any person or persons against the plant.

He insisted, said Mr. Van Nest, on the insertion of a purchase clause at the end of five years, which, in view of its concessions, the gas company declined to grant. Eventually, after long bickering, the council passed the franchise in the teeth of the mayor.

To avoid such dissensions as this, which had even caused the business men of the city to appoint a committee to urge the mayor to meet the demands of the people, Mr. Van Nest said a Republican mayor was demanded.

"The Democrat was elected," he said, "by Democrats registering as Republicans and getting a very weak Republican elected at the primaries."

Prof. Cordley Allays Fears of Apple Growers

Mass Meeting Called to Discuss Spray Burn Listens to Expert Who Says Burn Injury Preferable to Diseased Fruit

Alarmed by the number of apples that were apparently ruined by being sprayed with lime and sulphur during the hot weather of a week ago apple growers of the east side invited Prof. Cordley of the O. A. C. experiment station, who has been an earnest advocate of this spray as a fungicide, to come to Hood River and make an investigation. Mr. Cordley arrived here Friday and in company with E. H. Shepard made an extensive tour of the east side orchards. In many of them evidence was not lacking that apples that had been sprayed with the lime and sulphur solution previous to the hot days or on those days were badly burned. The investigation also showed however that in every instance the burning was on the side of the tree where the hot afternoon sun struck the fruit. In order to get as much information as possible a mass meeting of growers was held Saturday afternoon at Pine Grove Grange hall. The meeting was attended by 100 or more growers from the east side and several from other sections of the valley. A. I. Mason was chairman and first called on the growers to tell how they had sprayed, what with, and when.

A great deal of testimony was given most of which showed that the burned apples had been sprayed with lime and sulphur, either just previous to or on the excessively hot days. One grower stated that the temperature in his orchard on the day after his trees were sprayed was 116 in the sun. The growers also bore out the findings of Mr. Cordley and Mr. Shepard to the effect that the apples were injured on the side of the tree touched by the afternoon sun. A good many of the opinions were conflicting and a number had varying ideas as to the cause of the damage. Also it was stated that some of the varieties of apples were much more affected than others, Baldwins, Spitzenbergs and Black Twigs being seriously burned while Newtowns, Ortleys and other varieties were harmed very little. Some had used the straight lime and sulphur spray, others in combination with arsenate of lead, a number of brands of the latter having been used. In one or two instances growers reported that they had sprayed with lime and sulphur but found no fruit damaged. They had however noticed some damage to the foliage. Some of the growers thought the injury was due to the spray, others thought it due simply to the extraordinarily hot sun at this season of the year and a good many more evidently didn't know what to attribute it to, August Panach thought it was the lime. L. J. Goodenough who said he had had a great deal of experience with lime in manufacturing paper said he didn't believe this was possible as the lime became neutral after being slacked. Mr. Goodenough said that in his opinion if the burning was done by the spray it must contain an acid and possibly was caused by the arsenate of lead used, depending on whether the lead was an acid or neutral. He asked if the lead used by growers here this year had been analyzed. This question brought out the fact that it had not and Prof. Cordley stated that it would be analyzed as soon as he returned to the experiment station.

The discussions brought out a number of interesting and valuable points among them that the proper way to slack lime was by steam or hot water and also the admission by Mr. Mason who has been experimenting with lye as a fungicide that the latter is a failure.

M. M. Hill and Geo. Sargent gave some interesting information by stating that there were no burned apples in their orchards and no scab. It developed that Mr. Hill had used bordeaux instead of lime and sulphur as a fungicide and had sprayed his

trees thoroughly with this mixture last fall and also this spring. Mr. Sargent's treatment was similar and both orchardists had manufactured the spray themselves. The bordeaux was applied in light strength. Mr. Mason said that Mr. Hill had the cleanest orchard in the valley.

At the end of the discussions Mr. Cordley was given a hearing and said that he had come to Hood River believing that it would be necessary to confront the meeting with a pair of guns, but was glad to discover that this was not necessary. In regard to the injury to the fruit he said that he had no hesitation in saying that it was caused by the spray in conjunction with the hot weather, but that as far as he could discover it was the only case of injury from lime and sulphur on record in the United States. Before coming here he had communicated with a number of places in the Willamette valley where the spray was being used and had examined the orchard at the experiment station. None of these investigations showed any injury. The fact that the spray had injured the fruit he said was very disquieting to him as his principal reason for advocating it was to provide a fungicide that would not be injurious as was so often the case with bordeaux which although a standard remedy for a long time if applied during wet or damp weather invariably caused damage, sometimes running as high as 50 per cent. He stated that the elimination of apple scab as well as other tree diseases through the use of chemicals always contained an element of danger. It was necessary to use something powerful in order to have it efficient and it was simply a case of whether it was not better to lose a small percentage of fruit now and then by the use of spray than to allow a big percentage of it to be ruined by pests that would flourish if the trees were not sprayed. From his examination of the orchards he thought the amount of damage done was comparatively slight and not nearly as great as would have resulted if the trees had not been sprayed. It was also suggested by Mr. Cordley that the advanced growth of the fruit this year might have rendered the apples more susceptible to burn than they would ordinarily be at this season of the year. He promised that the case would be thoroughly investigated and an effort made to determine just how much the spray had assisted in causing the damage.

Another matter that was brought up was that of obtaining an expert to reside permanently in the east side district and also if possible to secure a sub-experiment station here to work in conjunction with the one at Corvallis. Mr. Cordley said that the funds allotted the agricultural college by the government for this purpose were exhausted and that it would not be possible to secure any assistance from the legislature until 1911. The only way to procure immediate results was to secure funds through private subscription. To secure a competent man would cost \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year. The best plan to select a man he thought would be to have a committee appointed consisting of one of the growers here, a member of the college faculty and one of the experts connected with the experiment station.

As it was necessary for Mr. Cordley to catch a train he left the meeting at this juncture, being conveyed to town by W. F. Laraway in his automobile.

A committee to investigate the matter of securing an expert was appointed consisting of P. S. Davidson, G. R. Castner, Geo. Sargent, Frank Cutler, M. M. Hill, E. H. Shepard, Rae Babson, Dr. Stanton Allen and A. W. Peters. Monday night the committee met in the University Club rooms and organized the Hood River Apple Growers' Fellowship for this purpose. A sub-committee was appointed to draft bylaws and another meeting will be held Saturday to perfect the organization. It is then expected to adopt a plan of securing funds which it is probable will be on a basis of assessment according to acreage.

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