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PORTLAND, OREGON

TELEPHONE PATRONS PROTEST VIGOROUSLY

(Continued From Page 1)

If occasion demanded it. He didn't believe the raise in rates was a just one; he knew by his own and his neighbors' experiences that the service is inefficient, and that if the business men of Hood River would stand with them in the matter he knew that the people would win, as they ought to. He believed that the telephone system should be owned by the people, the same as the schools and other public service utilities.

He was satisfied that the people could own the phone system and get good service and he personally was ready to subscribe \$75 or \$150, as he had two phones, if it was decided to organize a mutual company or to buy out the present company and operate it on a mutual basis.

On the suggestion that some of the Hood River business men be heard from there was nothing stirring and Mr. Mason then paid his respects to the merchant princes, intimating they were afraid of their own shadow and could not be induced to take a decided stand on any proposition for fear of losing a few dollar's worth of trade. He couldn't say, he remarked, that he blamed them. One of them, however, had asked him if it came to a show down if he would refuse to trade with a merchant who would not take out his phone in case of a fight, and Mr. Mason had told the storekeeper that he would, and that he wouldn't give him a dollar's worth of trade.

"Why," said Mason, "the farmer is the only independent man. He can say what he likes. He can get up and shoot off his mouth all he likes with no fear of injury. We don't expect the business men to get out in the open and do the fighting in this matter, we'll do that, but we do expect them to do some thinking and to cooperate with us in this and other matters that are for the good of the valley. We don't want two phone systems, either; nobody does who has a grain of sense, but we do want good service and fair rates and want the cooperation of all the people to get them. We have no quarrel with Mr. Hall, personally. We're kicking against the present system as a company. For one," he added, "can't understand why this raise is necessary or just. The company claims it is necessary because it isn't paying any dividends. Neither did

my orchard pay any dividends for six or eight years," interpolated the speaker, "but it is paying big now. I can't see why the telephone business isn't on the same basis. I don't believe the people of the valley ought to be asked to practically finance the company until it does pay dividends, a fact which may be due to bad management or expenditures to increase the size of the plant."

Mr. Mason also made a protest against the rural users of phones being compelled to pay three months in advance for their service in order to get the benefit of the discount while no such provision was required from residents of the city. This he said, was an injustice.

Mr. Hall then made a brief talk, answering Mr. Mason's statement in regard to the fact that his orchard did not pay any returns for several years, by saying that the orchard was appreciating in value while the telephone system was depreciating. Mr. Hall also said that the telephone system here gave a wider range of service without charging tolls than any service in the state, and in fact covered an area as big as some of the largest cities. You could, he said, telephone from the Columbia river to Cloud Cap Inn without an extra charge of any kind. He admitted that many of the lines were overloaded but said that the company was trying to remedy this as fast as possible. It had been handicapped for want of funds while the business had largely increased. He said the company was doing a good deal in the construction line this summer to relieve the congestion of business and it hoped to give patrons better service in the near future. He didn't think the rates were excessive compared to other cities. Mr. Hall also said in reference to Mr. Mason's statement regarding the discount on rural phones, that city residents were allowed no discount. The rule was put into effect in the country to save mailing bills which he said was expensive.

When he concluded a valley resident said that the farmers had been waiting for better service a good while; the line he was on had ten phones on it. The service was a constant annoyance and the raise in rates was not justified.

John Mohr entered a protest against the raise and cited several instances of poor service when the matter was a serious one. He advocated taking the question up with the company before taking other action. Mr. Hardinger gave some statistics

to show that the rural telephone service in many districts that had mutual companies was operated at extremely low rates. At Oregon City the farmers paid but \$5.40 per year, Corvallis \$3, Albany a small amount and at Yakima \$8. The charge for city phones at Yakima, which has 1,900 phones, was also less than here.

Mason then moved to appoint a committee to confer with the advocates of the mutual phone proposition. On the suggestion of Lee Morse an amendment was carried instructing the committee to confer with the Home company and also to investigate the proposed mutual system and report back to a meeting to be called by the chairman. The committee appointed by President Vaughan is J. A. Mohr, J. M. Schmeltzer, W. H. Taft, W. H. Walton and Dr. R. A. Jayne.

NEW FIRM TO HAVE OLD BANK BUILDING

L. J. Wyeth and A. T. Allen have just formed a partnership to conduct a real estate business under the firm name of Wyeth & Allen. The new firm is occupying office rooms in the Smith block temporarily until the quarters occupied by the First National Bank are vacated when it will have its office there.

Mr. Allen is well known here having been with the John Leland Henderson Company for some time and a resident of the valley for several years.

Mr. Wyeth recently came here from Washington, D. C., where he has lived for a number of years and has a wide circle of friends. He is interested in the valley and expects later to invest in a fruit farm. The firm will do a general real estate business in orchard lands and city property and expect to get into their permanent quarters in September.

THE MEGAPHONE MAN.

How J. Henry Smythe, Jr., Shouted His Way to Fame.

One of the most novel methods of winning fame is that adopted by J. Henry Smythe, Jr., of Philadelphia, who has megaphoned his way up in the limelight until he is known the country over as "the megaphone man." When Colonel Roosevelt returned from abroad of course "the chap who leads the cheering" was on hand to assist in the welcome, and he has been one of the most talked of visitors to the metropolis.

It was at the 1904 Republican national convention that Mr. Smythe won his title. He reached the front

of the platform just after the nomination speech, and, waving the stars



J. HENRY SMYTHE, JR.

and stripes and using a megaphone, he began with: "All together, now! Three cheers for the president! Hip, hip, hurrah, hurrah, hurrah!" Then he started the call "Roose-e-veh!" It was taken up by the throng, and the cry rolled over the hall in volume so great and so terrific that the screeching of a hundred steam whistles would have been dwarfed in comparison.

Four years later Mr. Smythe led the delegates in "Three cheers for Taft and Sherman!" In the campaign he took the stump and made scores of speeches.

POLITICAL COLUMN

Candidate's Announcement

I hereby announce my candidacy as a republican for nomination for county clerk of Hood River county, Oregon, before the primary nominating election. Having had several years experience, elsewhere in a like office, I believe that I am justified in announcing my candidacy. July 11, 1910.—Jay P. Lucas.—Adv.

County Surveyor

John Leland Henderson announces himself as a candidate on the Republican ticket for the nomination as surveyor of Hood River county, subject to the will of the people at the primary election to be held September 24th, A. D. 1910.—John Leland Henderson.—Adv.

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Oregon Oak, splendid quality. Will buy them at Very Low Prices.

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