

City Tax Levy Fixed At Nine Mills

Tax Will Raise About \$18,000--Light and Power Company Offers Water Plant for \$38,900 and Will Guarantee Title to Property.

At a meeting of the common council held Thursday afternoon the city tax levy for the ensuing year was fixed according to valuations furnished by the county assessor. For all purposes the city tax for 1911 will be 9 mills, apportioned as follows: 5% for general, 2 for roads and 1% for the first six months' interest on the water bonds in case they are sold. Altogether the tax will give the city in the neighborhood of \$17,500 which with about \$1,000 added revenues from licenses will make the amount the city will have at its disposal for conducting its financial affairs about \$18,500. With \$2,500, the amount necessary to take care of the interest on the water bonds deducted the city will have about \$16,000 for defraying its expenses during the coming year.

According to the county assessor's figures the assessed valuation on the real property in the city is \$1,712,825. Added to this is \$85,890 of taxable property belonging to public service corporations which may be increased to \$100,000, making a possible amount subject to taxation of \$1,812,825.

In fixing the levy the matter was discussed to some length, Councilman Wright suggesting the levy be made 7 mills for general purposes and 2 mills for roads. This left no provision for paying the six months' interest on the water bonds which Mayor McDonald said was necessary in order to insure the sale of the bonds.

Councilman Brosius said that he didn't want the tax to be any higher than was necessary, and that if the bonds were sold \$6,000, which had been expended from the general fund on the proposed water system, would be returned to it, making provision for the interest and leaving a margin which could be refunded or used for other purposes if necessary. He therefore, amended Mr. Wright's motion to have the levy made 5% for general, 2 for roads and 1% for interest. The amendment was accepted.

by Mr. Wright and carried. As had been anticipated A. Welch, president of the Hood River Light & Power company, under proposition to the council by letter to sell the water plant to the city. The first stipulation being that the company would sell the system with all its property, real and otherwise, for \$38,900, and guarantee a clear title, or it would agree to arbitrate the sale by having the council select a competent man to represent the city, the company would select one and the other two to choose the third, with the understanding that the appraisal of the value of the plant was to be accepted by the parties concerned. On motion of Councilman Brosius the proposal was referred to the city attorney to ascertain if the company was in a position to give title to the property.

A petition was received from the property owners along the O. R. & N. Railroad, asking the council to reconsider the opening of a street along the south side of the track. The petition was referred to the street committee.

A letter was read from the Hood River Apple Fair Association, asking permission to allow the wooden fair building to remain until April, as the association had been given an opportunity to rent it. No action was taken, as City Marshal Lewis reported that the building was being removed.

A warrant was ordered drawn to refund \$45.70 to Councilman Huggins, that he had been overcharged on his assessments for street improvements. An ordinance making it unlawful to sound a false fire alarm or to obstruct the passage of fire apparatus on the way to a fire, passed the first reading. A sewer ordinance in the Cascade avenue district was read for the first time, and provision made to pay W. G. Aldred, contractor for State street, moneys that he claimed were due. The election returns at the recent

MOSIER APPLES THAT WERE SENT TO KAISER WILHELM OF GERMANY



SPITZENBURGS 34 TO THE BOX THAT WERE GIVEN SPECIAL PRIZE

Five boxes of Spitzenburg apples, shown above, selected from the Mosier exhibit at the Portland Apple Show, to be sent to Emperor William I of Germany, by express. The Mosier exhibit was withdrawn from the sweepstake contest, owing to the ruling of the presiding judge that the apples were too large to meet the requirements of the American Pomological Society. The apples were three-tier, 34 to the box, a size phenomenal for this variety. In color they were of a deep red, with the typical shape of the Spitzenburg, and attracted wide attention at the show.

city election were canvassed and declared correct, and E. H. Hartwig, H. C. Smith, F. C. Brosius, L. H. Huggins, E. O. Blanchard and H. B. Langille stated to be the properly elected candidates.

Councilman Wright asked for early action on sewer districts 6 and 7, located on the Heights, saying that he believed that sewers in these districts were imperative for proper sanitary conditions. He also called attention to the fact that the Farmers Irrigating Company, which had promised a year ago to pipe its water where it ran through city streets, had not complied with its agreement, and asked the council to take action ordering the company to do so. A motion was carried instructing the recorder to notify the company of the council's action.

COUNTY CAN HAVE SCHOOL PROPERTY

The taxpayers' election held at the Park street school Thursday to vote on the matter of buying the school property on State in this county, resulted in favor of disposing of it by a vote of 71 to 19. The amount asked for the property by the school district is \$10,500, a sum which is said by realty men to be very reasonable.

The result allows the county to take steps to purchase the property for a site for the court house, should the county commissioners decide to place it in its present location. It is stated that there is no question but what the commissioners will approve of the present location for the court house and that they will soon close with the school board for its purchase.

PROMINENT WRITER VISITS HOOD RIVER

Emerson Hough, author and magazine writer, arrived here Thursday in search of data for a series of articles which he will write for the Saturday Evening Post. Mr. Hough has visited a number of the apple growing and agricultural districts of the west, irrigated and unirrigated, and is seeking the facts in regard to its productiveness rather than for boom purposes. Hough, whose home is in Chicago, is widely traveled. He knows the west and is bluntly in search of truth in all things. Tireless in his efforts to get all the

information possible on any subject he demonstrated this fact when here by probing into the apple industry from 8 o'clock Thursday morning until 1 the next morning and then took it up again the next day, until his train left.

His story will not be confined to any one district but will be a general summary of conditions in the apple industry as he finds them in the northwest. He frankly stated that he was more pleased with Hood River than any other fruit growing section he had visited. In fact he is a little bit bitten with the idea of owning an apple orchard himself and said so. It is possible he may return here for the purpose of looking over the country with a view to investing.

Mr. Hough was a classmate in college with Dick Montague, George Sargent's brother-in-law, and came here at Montague's request. While in Portland a number of prominent land holders and real estate men from various sections of the northwest tried to load him up with hot air, but there was nothing doing.

Thursday he was given an informal luncheon by Truman Butler. Afterward he met E. H. Shepard, of Better Fruit, P. S. Davidson, J. C. Skinner and several others for the purpose of getting data and was taken for a short ride out in the valley.

Foresters Gaining Members
Last Thursday night the local Court held their regular meeting and initiated another large list of candidates into the order. The regular election of officers was completed and installation will be held at their next regular meeting, Thursday, January 13th. The Hood River Court will soon be one of the strongest in the state.

O. R. & N. Co. Gives Way To New Organization

Change Takes Place Saturday at Midnight-- J. P. O'Brien Made Vice-President and Manager of New Road and Also Southern Pacific.

Promptly at 11:59 o'clock Friday night, the O. R. & N. Company, the pioneer railroad of the Pacific Northwest, together with all its subsidiary lines, passed out of existence, so far as the names are concerned, and the newly organized Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company became operative.

Under the plans of the new organization, the territory embraced by the Hartman lines in the northwest will be divided into three districts, each of which will have separate heads. These positions will be known as vice-presidents and general managers and for the purpose of simplifying the directing powers of each division, the two offices will be held by one individual.

In accordance with the directions received at the local offices from Julius Kruttschnitt, director of the maintenance and operation departments of the Harriman system, with headquarters in Chicago, the three districts with their respective heads will be as follows:

The first district will embrace the lines south and east of the Columbia river and will be under the jurisdiction of J. P. O'Brien, vice-president and general manager. This arrangement means that Mr. O'Brien will be the absolute directing head in Oregon. In addition to this territory, Mr. O'Brien will have jurisdiction of the Iwaco Railroad Company, which, previous to the reorganization, had been operated as an independent line. This road operates between Megler and Nahcotta, by way of Iwaco, and the Washington side of the Columbia river. In connection with this branch, a boat line is in operation between Nahcotta and Astoria.

The various lines in Oregon which will be under the supervision of Mr. O'Brien are O. R. & N., Columbia Southern, Joseph Branch, Heppner Branch, Deschutes railroad, Corvallis & Eastern, Pendleton-Walla Walla line as far as Milton; Pendleton-Pilot

Rock line, Oregon & Eastern from Klamath Falls to Odell. Mr. O'Brien will be in charge of the Southern Pacific lines in Oregon.

The second district includes all lines north of the Columbia river and west of the Cascade mountains, of which the principal road is the Oregon & Washington, operating between Seattle and Portland. J. D. Farrell, with headquarters at Seattle, will continue as the head of this division.

The third district will be in charge of Robert E. Strahorn, who will have headquarters in Spokane. The lines embraced in this district operate east and west of the Cascade mountains and connect with the lines of the first district at Astoria, in Walla Walla county, Washington.

The projected new freight and passenger terminals in Spokane and the line under construction from Spokane to Ayer, as well as the lines in Central Idaho, will be under the management of Mr. Strahorn.

Mr. Kruttschnitt announces that no change will be made in the management of the company's branch, the Oregon Short Line, now under the jurisdiction of W. H. Bancroft, whose headquarters are at Salt Lake City.

While the reorganization of the Harriman system in the northwest involves only the formal transfer of properties, it will mean a great expenditure in working out the general details. Thousands of tons of new literature will have to be issued to conform with the name of the new company. This includes the various schedules, forms, advertising matter and promotion literature.

The thousands of cars and locomotives will have to be relettered. This work alone will take a large force of men several months to complete. Signs at the ticket offices in all the towns and cities will have to be changed and new supplies of tickets bearing the new name of the company must be issued.

May Connect Hood River With North Bank Road

Crossing Would Be Made by Ferry From Koberg Place to Bingen--Proposed Electric Railroad Included in Project by Promoters.

Promoters of an electric road, to connect Hood River with the North Bank road, were looking over the situation Friday. The proposition, roughly outlined, is to run a track from Bingen to the Columbia river, crossing the river by ferry at the Koberg Rock, and then follow the county road into Hood River, connecting with the Hood River electric road, which, it is said, is a "sure go" in the spring.

The object of the connection, it is claimed, is to relieve Hood River from being at the mercy of only one railroad. Cars from the North Bank could then be run right into the

Hood River Valley and the apples could be shipped by competing lines, which will be the only solution to overcome a car shortage like there was this season, and besides that, a shipment of fruit to some portions of the east would reach its destination from 12 to 24 hours earlier.

The scheme is a feasible one. The Columbia river at the Koberg Rock is only 2200 feet wide, with good, deep water on both sides of the river, and a stern ferry could transfer a train of thirty cars in less than an hour. The ferry now used for transferring cars from the North Bank to the Oregon bank at the mouth of the Deschutes, will probably be used for that purpose here after the bridge at Celilo is completed.

Eastern Man Discovers Fall Producing Berry

From Five Hundred Plants Picks Four Hundred Quarts That Sell For 25 to 40 Cents--Plants Set in 1910 Produce Berries in 1911.

The time is coming, according to L. J. Farmer of Pulaski, N. Y., when the American people will be able to get strawberries the year around. His statement is based on his own experiments, which have resulted in his producing strawberry plants that bear fruit from the last of August to the middle of November, and which, moreover, bear prolifically. From 500 plants he picked nearly 400 quarts of berries last fall. What the plants are now and how they were developed are best told in his own language.

He says "I have been experimenting for 10 years to find a variety of strawberry that would bear a satisfactory crop of fruit in the fall. I have never been able to get what I wanted until this year. Freak second crops are not to be depended upon and the French ever-bearing kinds are unsatisfactory. So in reality are the Pan-American and its seedling, Autumn. However, these latter kinds are parents of varieties that are profitable fall bearers and destined to revolutionize strawberry culture.

"I had some seedlings from the Pan-American and Autumn this year that all through the season averaged 20 times as much fruit to the plant as did the Pan-American. These varieties are now known as the Francis and Americus. I set 250 plants of each in May, 1910, and from these 500 plants and their young runner plants we picked nearly 400 quarts of fresh strawberries this fall. The first berries were gathered Aug. 22 and the last on Nov. 11. The plants were set in rows 3 1/2 feet apart, and one foot in the row, thus occupying just about one-twenty-fifth of an acre. The largest single picking was 48 quarts on Sept. 28. During the week of Sept. 12 to 17 we gathered about 100 quarts, 60 of which were shown at

the New York state fair, where they attracted great attention. On Oct. 11 we took 23 quarts to the Grange at Pulaski, it being the annual harvest supper, and 150 of my fellow grangers sat down to eat strawberry shortcake in October--for the first time in their history. To see how the berries would sell I sent shipments to three large cities. We received 25 cents per quart wholesale and the berries retailed at from 40 to 50 cents a quart. In every case we received orders for more, and did not have nearly enough to supply the demand.

"The color of the berries depends largely upon the amount of sunshine they receive. With plenty of sunshine they are even better colored than are the berries of early summer, but when the weather is rainy and cloudy they lack color. The fruit is not quite as large as that of ordinary varieties, but the flavor is fine. They bear a crop in the fall of the first year, a crop the next spring and another crop in the fall of the second year. Thus we get three crops of fruit in the same space of time in which ordinary varieties bear one crop. They may require a little more care than ordinary strawberries, but nothing in comparison to the enhanced receipts. Ours bore at the rate of over 8,000 quarts to the acre this year, which production, at 25 cents per quart, would amount to \$2,000 to the acre. I do not advise the shiftless man to try them, but anyone who is willing to give them a little extra care and pains will be well rewarded."

Box Apple Trade Active

A steady apple trade is reported at Boston with prices of barrel stock about the same as last week. Box apples are more active. Jonathans and Spitz have the call, the prices ranging generally from \$2.50 to \$3.50, according to quality.

COLD WEATHER PREDICTED FOR PACIFIC COAST TODAY

With the exception of a cold spell on Monday in the eastern states, moderate temperatures will prevail everywhere during Christmas week, according to the weather bureau bulletin today.

A disturbance of moderate intensity now in the southwest will reach the Atlantic seaboard by Tuesday and will be attended by unsettled weather with rain or snow in northern and central states east of the Rocky mountains.

The principal disturbance of the week, which will reach the Pacific coast on Tuesday or Wednesday and the Atlantic coast by Friday or Saturday, will be attended by general precipitation and a pronounced change to colder weather.

Events of World Wide Interest Pictured For Busy Readers



News Snapshots Of the Week

The death of Chief Justice Fuller and two other members of the United States supreme court left three vacancies in that body, which have been filled by President Taft as follows: Chief justice, Edward Douglas White; associate justices, Willis Van Devanter and Joseph Rucker Lamar. George W. Perkins withdraws from his partnership with the firm of J. Pierpont Morgan & Co. and enters the Equitable Life Assurance society in an advisory capacity. Ten million dollars has been set aside as a permanent fund for the advancement of universal peace by Andrew Carnegie, making his total gifts up to date \$187,000,000. The expected arrival of a stranger in the household of King George V. and Queen Mary may delay the coronation of the English royal couple.

CLUB BILLIARD PLAYERS WANT ADDITIONAL TABLES

A petition to the board of directors of the Commercial Club was circulated last week in behalf of billiard playing members of the organization asking that twenty feet be taken off the assembly hall and added to the billiard room. The billiard room of the club has become one of its most popular features and the number of players has outgrown the number of tables. The petition was liberally signed and will be presented to the board at its next meeting.

Testified in Salem Injunction Suit

J. W. Morton made a short trip to the capital city of Oregon last week on a visit to his mother, Caroline Morton, who lives at Fair Grounds, and while there he was called on the witness stand in the circuit court to testify in an injunction suit against the city of Salem, pertaining to the construction of a sewer in the north part of the city.

Mr. Morton says that the city of Salem bought the water plant there last summer and now has a clear way to put in a system of its own.