

THE HOOD RIVER NEWS

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W. H. WALTON, PRESIDENT
E. P. MICHELL, VICE PRESIDENT
C. P. SONNICHSEN, SECRETARY-TREASURER
W. H. WALTON, EDITOR
C. P. SONNICHSEN, MANAGER

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The Box Apple Situation

We publish this week an article written by Mr. Nick Gibson in reply to statements in connection with marketing the box apple crop. While Mr. Gibson's presentment of his views of the situation are interspersed with some caustic remarks for the purpose of getting back at some of his detractors, and also a few jabs at those who are disposed toward the pessimistic, it contains a good deal of sound reasoning and is worth reading and considering.

It is admitted that the marketing of the box apple crop so far this year has not been as satisfactory as in former years, and this admission not only applies to Hood River, but to the entire Northwest. A close following of marketing operations, however, demonstrates that Hood River's products have obtained advantages over competing districts. It is not necessary to make any comparisons with these districts, for conditions that affect one of them are, to a certain extent, felt in all. The situation should not cause any apprehension as to the future prosperity of the apple raising industry, for we find that staple products, such as wool and wheat, are occupying a somewhat similar position this year in the marts of trade as are apples. In apple raising, like everything else that is governed by supply and demand and the shifting of money and industrial conditions, a lean year succeeds several fat ones no matter how carefully it may be guarded against.

Even in the best of years, with increasing crops, it will require eternal vigilance to place apples at the right price at the right time. Therefore when conditions are off, the pulse of trade must be felt quickly and conditions anticipated.

There are a number of conditions that the box apple industry had to contend with this year, both local and foreign. Some of the local problems were that the crop was much larger than was anticipated, the fruit matured earlier, transportation was in some instances lacking and storage capacity inadequate. In addition to this, no experienced corps of fruit handlers or established system was available for marketing the enlarged crop, a large part of which, for the first time, had to be consigned. In fact the great bulk of the box apples, not only here, but throughout the box apple raising area, were shipped for sale in this way. A great part of the fruit was placed in storage and a good deal of it is there yet, to be worked off after the inferior apples are off the market.

Outside features which mitigated against western fruit this year show that the New York banks refused for the first time to lend money for advance payments on apples, and also that Eastern barrel stock was of a superior grade and plentiful. Some of the operators have no doubt taken advantage of the box trade through getting such a big proportion of it on consignment, and it is apparent that, in some instances, they are controlling the situation to suit themselves.

The outcome may result in growers not getting what they anticipated for their apples, but in the main it should prove a valuable experience for the future. In short, it brings the matter down to employing new methods, one of which might be to take a less price on a cash basis.

With fewer apples on the mar-

ket at this time than there were last year, and several months to dispose of them in, the outlook is not by any means calamitous and the result, although it may prove costly, will undoubtedly be beneficial in the end.

The Water Plant Purchase.

In commenting editorially on the proposed election to vote on the question of buying the water system the Glacier makes the query "Is It Worth the Price?" According to an engineer employed by the city to appraise the value of the present water system several years ago, it was at that time worth \$42,000. As public utilities do not decrease in value where population increases and also where improvements and extensions have to be made from year to year, the answer to this question is obvious.

The statement that the water has "practically been condemned" is wide of the truth and can not be taken as an argument against the purchase of the plant if it is considered purchasable at all.

The matter of the physical value of the water plant to the city is not, however, the most important one. If the Glacier will drift back two years and recall what has taken place since that time, if it is sincere, we believe it will say that the water plant would have been worth much more than the price toward a continuance of community peace and progress that then existed.

Reference to the columns of the News will show that the situation in which the city is now in, was predicted if the policy adopted was pursued. The situation now is very much as it was at the beginning of those two years of turmoil, but the citizens have an opportunity to change it. The benefit to the community can not be reckoned in dollars and cents. It has become a matter of far more importance to secure unobstructed municipal development and the control and enlargement of a public utility.

These are, we believe, the things that should be considered rather than haggling over "the price" unless it can be proven that it is extortionate, a contingency that is not borne out by previous investigation or the earnings of the plant as stated publicly by its owners. If the citizens decide against buying the plant, it is presumed that the matter will be ended, but it would seem to be the part of wisdom to consider the matter from a wide standpoint rather than a narrow one.

The Business Outlook.

The financial and business outlook for the coming year while not as satisfactory as it might be, is not discouraging. As is usual at this season of the year, the calling in of big loans and re-adjustment of financial conditions has caused a temporary tightening in the money market; but comparisons of interest rates the first of the present year with those of 1910 shows money to have been a little easier during that period this year than last. Generally speaking, however, money seeking investment is limited and bank statements show a decrease in deposits over the corresponding quarter in 1910.

Expenditures for railroad and other development show an inclination to be limited during the year and manufacturing industries are planning for a decrease in their outputs. The proposed revision of the tariff is given as cause for the latter, while the railroads are claiming retrenchments necessary, owing to unfavorable legislation already in effect and pending. Delay in marketing crops has caused a temporary contracted circulation of money in agricultural districts while people generally appear to be observing more caution in their expenditures.

The tendency is evidently to strengthen reserve funds in

banking institutions and to look forward to a year of more limited and possibly more normal business activity.

The Mayor's Message

Mayor Hartwig's message containing suggestions for city legislation and the conduct of its affairs for the coming year, covers all its departments and is a business-like document. He calls attention to what he believes are the things necessary for a bigger and better city in language that is moderate, but sufficiently obvious.

The health of the community, street improvements and lighting, sewers, the water problem and other matters of importance, including the policing of the city, are taken up separately and enlarged upon intelligently. It is evident from its perusal that he is prompted by motives that he believes will lead to development and good government. To secure this end, he asks the cooperation of the council and also the citizens generally. The document will undoubtedly be read with interest and approval.

Gems In Verse

COLUMBUS.
The bright air brings strange whiffs—
Over the unknown ocean, which
Had scanned with visions of new
continents—
Fragrance of clove and sandal and the
balm
With which the heavy tropic forest
teems
And murmur as of wind among the palms.
They breathe across the high deck, where
he stands
With far set eyes as one who dreams
awake.
Waiting sure dawn of undiscovered lands,
Till on the slow lift of the purple sails
The golden radiance of the morning
breaks
Lighting the embazoned sails of caravels,
That from the foremost sounds a sudden
cry—
The old world's started greeting to the
new—
For, lo! the land across the western sky!
The exultant land! Oh, long starved hopes,
Seedlings of courtiers, mutinies of crew,
Answered forever as that shore appears!
Great master dreamer, grander than
Cathay,
Richer than India, that new western
world
Shall flourish when Castile has passed
away!
Not even thy gigantic vision spanned
Its future as, with cross and flag un-
furled,
Thy deep "Te Deum" sounded on the
strand!
By this still outpost of the unbounded
shore,
This small, bright island slumbering in
the sea,
A long, restless tide of life shall pour,
Loosed from its long worn fetters, joyous,
free,
Leaping to heights none ever touched be-
fore
And hurrying on to greater things to be.
The end is larger than thy largest plan,
Nobler than golden fleets of galleons
The land and life new opening to man,
Within the womb of this mysterious morn-
Quicken vast cities, mighty destinies,
Ideals and empires, waiting to be born.
—Charles Buxton Goring.

THE RECORD BREAKER.

SIT at the wheel of an automobile.
For a daredevil chauffeur am I.
Whenever a record is up to be smashed
You will certainly find me near by.
A round the clock race is my favorite
pastime—
I hate to be second like sin—
And I'm willing to break every bone that
I own
The eighth of a second to win.
I am not in the game for the medals or
fame,
But the fever of speed in my blood;
It carries me through in the dust with
Death,
Who rides with me perched on the hood.
A telegraph pole brings no fear to my
soul,
Though to climb it I often may try.
So away with a roar to the oval once
more.
For a daredevil chauffeur am I!
—Mina Irving.

HOW IT HAPPENED.

YOU'VE heard that ancient story
The tortoise ran a race
And grabbed a lot of glory.
A most unusual case.
THE maddest hare or hatter
Has evidently guessed
That details of the matter
Were partially suppressed.
THE old yarn is misleading.
Here's how the trick was done:
The hare was pinched for speeding,
And so the tortoise won.
—Louisville Courier-Journal.

HIS MAJESTY.

I'm king of the road; I gather
My toll on the world's highways.
They pass the street for my royal feet.
And the man in the wagon pays.
With my sturdy heels I laugh at wheels.
I hurry at no man's will.
For the rich who ride my meals provide:
They must feed the king to his fill.
I'm king of the road; Before me
My way lies over the meadow and
lane
And the hall of a song bird band.
They are slaves who team by wagon or
steam.
The footman carries the crown.
What cares the tramp whose supper and
camp
Are waiting in every town?
I'm king of the road all summer.
In winter I still go free.
Let the snow-laden cone, in a nook I'll
churn
With a gypsy crew like me.
Vil ask no shares with home proud heirs.
They're the scorn of my soul while I
Can tread the floors of the great outdoors
And nobody ask me why.
—Theron Brown.

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Phone—Office 102. Residence 102-B.
Hood River, Oregon

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Office, Hall Building, over Butler Banking Co.
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Office over First National Bank
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Hood River, Oregon

DR. E. L. SCOBEE
Dentist
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Rooms 6 and 7, Brosius Building, Phone 300
Hood River, Oregon

M. E. WELCH
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DERBY & WILBUR
Lawyers
Rooms 3 and 4, First National Bank Building
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E. H. HARTWIG
Attorney at Law
Smith Block, over First National Bank
Phone 168 Hood River, Oregon

JOHN LELAND HENDERSON
Attorney at Law
Hood River, Oregon

JAYNE & WATSON
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J. W. MORTON
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Room 5, Ellet Building
Hood River, Oregon

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LAWYER
Rooms 14 and 15, Hall Building
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SAMUEL W. STARK
Attorney at Law
Ellet Building, Phone 308M
Hood River, Oregon

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