

NEW YEAR'S PROSPECTS BRIGHT

Promises to Be a Banner Season for Hood River City and Valley---Bonding of County for Half Million in Order to Construct Permanent Roads Is Advocated as Well as Building of Public Dock---City Will Build New Water System and Pave Principal Streets---Other Splendid Improvements Are Planned for 1912.

From the standpoint of both city and county 1912 promises to be a banner year for Hood River. Unless all signs fail, the long contemplated improvement of the city water system and the paving of the principal streets will have become an accomplished fact before another year is ushered in, while in the valley an improvement of greatest moment is contemplated in the proposed bonding of the county for about \$500,000 in order to construct a system of permanent highways. Judging from present indications, the New Year will spell progress in big letters for Hood River.

County Judge Culbertson is enthusiastic over the probability of the county acquiring a system of permanent highways. As there is an overwhelming sentiment throughout the county in favor of such action, the judge says, he feels little doubt but what the project can be carried through to a successful conclusion in case the supreme court sustains the decision of Judge Calkins in the matter of the \$1,500,000 bond issue for a similar purpose in Jackson county. Judge Culbertson has been informed by Judge Moreland, clerk of the supreme court, that a decision in this important matter can be expected probably within the next week or ten days. If the decision of the lower court is affirmed, Judge Culbertson says it is the purpose of the local county court to at once post notice of an election to be held on a similar proposition in this county. This will be done without delay in order that the bonds, if authorized, may be available for sale at once and the road work be started this summer.

In order to place the proposition plainly before the people, in case an election is called, the county court proposes to place on the ballot the names of the roads for the improvement of which the money will be used, in case it is appropriated. These roads will include the principal trunk lines in the valley, extending both north and south and east and west. Materials to be used in the construction of the roads would depend upon the supply most conveniently available. It is estimated that \$500,000 would build about 75 miles of road and this would mean a system which would enable every rancher in the valley to bring his apples and other products to a shipping point over hard surface roads.

In connection with the system of county roads, the county court is contemplating the building of the

public dock on the Columbia river, just east of the city, and it is proposed to extend the county road to the dock, thus greatly improving the shipping facilities of the city, and placing it in a position to reap the benefits from the shipping through the Panama canal, also giving it a leverage by which lower rates may be obtained from the railroads. The county judge is now sending to all taxpayers in the county circulars asking their opinion on the matter of such a public dock.

Nor will the city fall behind the county in the matter of public improvements unless present plans go "awry." The settlement of the water question will remove the obstacle which has retarded improvements for the past two years. Speaking of improvements which the present year should see accomplished, President Brosius of the Council said:

"With the water question removed from entangling litigation, the city will at once proceed to sell the \$90,000 water improvement bonds and go ahead as soon as possible next spring with the improvement of the distributing system, first within the fire limits and then throughout the city. When this is done the city can also at once proceed with the paving in the original district, which included sixteen blocks. It is also proposed to pave Cascade Avenue to the city limits, Oak street to Ninth street, Ninth street to Eugene street and Eugene street to Twelfth street. "Material improvements will also be made on the east side grade from the bridge to the city limits. The road will be made full two-track width."

Probably there is no better assurance that prosperity lies ahead for Hood River during the coming year than the fact that the depression which has been felt in the real estate business in many other sections has apparently had little if any effect on the transfers here or upon local real estate values. One indication of this is the fact that when County Clerk Hanson finished his year's business Saturday he found that the total amount received in recording fees last year was \$2732.29 as compared to \$2881.75 in 1910. Mr. Schmeltzer of the Hood River Abstract Company also reported that the year had been a very active one in real estate business. Records in the county clerk's office further carry out this assertion, nearly 800 deeds having been recorded.

While it is yet too early to predict

what kind of an apple year it will be, growers are encouraged by the fact that a great many fruit buds are in evidence and, judging from precedents, there should be a bumper crop.

The ladies of the city, or at least so many of them as are interested in the work of the Woman's Club, have their hearts set on getting the donation from Carnegie so as to prepare for the erection of the library this year. The new year will also see the completion of Mr. Bell's store and apartment block, which is one of the largest business blocks in the city. The handsome new Congregational church is also nearing completion. Everything considered, residents in both city and valley have every reason to be both optimists and boosters in 1912.

LOCAL COUPLE ON STEAMER ROANOKE

Col. and Mrs. S. F. Blythe of this city were passengers on the Steamer Roanoke which was swept by a giant wave and nearly sunk while crossing the Columbia river last Thursday morning. News of the terrible experience of the passengers was wired from San Francisco upon the arrival of the steamer there.

Col. Blythe, who is past commander of the Department of Oregon, Grand Army of the Republic, and Mrs. Blythe were in their stateroom on the starboard side when the heavy seas were shipped. The door of their stateroom was battered in. They were drenched and thrown violently from their berths.

"I served four years during the Civil war," said the veteran. "I was at Donaldson, Shiloh and Corinth, but I am free to confess that I was never so frightened as I was during that terrible hour aboard the Roanoke."

One life was lost and several passengers and members of the crew were injured. One passenger, Robert Stevens, 23 years old, a Canadian electrician, who forced his way from the social hall to the afterdeck, against the orders of the ship's officers, was washed overboard and drowned. His body was not recovered.

There were five women and six children among the Roanoke's passengers.

The great wave which struck the Roanoke not only stove in woodwork along the rail, carried away doors and flooded the decks, but it broke steam pipes and hissing steam filled the dining room, galley and social hall and added to the terror of the panic-stricken passengers, who feared the vessel was about to be swamped.

Nearly 13,000 Acres of Orchards in the Valley

County Assessor Wickham Compiles Figures Showing That Total Acreage Last Year Was Five Times That of 1904--2,444 Acres Were Set Out During 1910--Annual Increase Is Shown.

That there are at present 10,354 acres of land in the county planted to orchards that are a year or more old, has just been determined by County Assessor Wickham, who has compiled this amount from the assessment rolls. The figures show that 2,444 acres were set out last year and, if the percentage of increase this year was correspondingly large, the total orchard acreage in the county today is close to the 13,000 mark.

Mr. Wickham has segregated the orchard acreage according to the age of the trees. There are 2,444 acres of one-year-old trees, 1,478 acres of two-year-olds, 1,564 acres of three-year-olds, 1,256 acres of four-year-olds, 941 acres of five-year-olds, 737 that have six-year-old trees, 514 acres that have seven-year-old trees, and

the total acreage of orchards that are eight years old or older is 1,420.

The figures show that the acreage planted last year was five times that planted in 1904 and that the amount planted has increased very substantially each year except in 1909, when it decreased slightly.

The annual percentage of increase since 1903 has been as follows: In 1904, 36 per cent; 1905, 38 per cent; 1906, 35 per cent; 1907, 35 per cent; 1908, 32 per cent; 1909, 23 per cent; 1910, 31 per cent.

Arranged so as to show most plainly how rapidly the amount of land set to orchards has increased each year, the number of acres planted annually, beginning with 1904, follows: 514, 737, 941, 1,256, 1,564, 1,478 and 2,444.

County Has Remarkably Dense Rural Population

Census Statistics Just Announced Show That Only Six Others in the State Have More Farmers Per Square Mile Than Hood River--Ranchers Here Have More Than Doubled in Last Decade.

Additional census figures, which have just been made public by Director E. Dana Durand, emphasize the splendid growth which has been made in the Hood River valley during the past decade. A new and interesting feature introduced into this report is the discussion of the relative rate of the growth of urban and rural population in the different counties and the density of population.

Hood River valley, considering that its development has been almost entirely a matter of the past few years, shows a remarkably dense rural population. The report shows that there are 543 square miles in the county and the rural population per square mile last year was 14.8. Compared with other and older counties in the state, this is extraordinary. Twenty-eight counties show a density that is less than that of Hood River county, and only six exceed it. The latter are: Columbia, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill.

It was impossible to give the decennial increase of Hood River county on account of its separation from the two counties combined are given as follows: Total population in 1910, 24,332; in 1900, 13,139; increase, 1900-1910, 11,193; per cent of increase, 84.5.

That the tendency in this section is "back to the soil," is shown by a shown by a comparison of the increase of urban and rural population. The urban population of the two counties in 1910 was 4,880. The same places in 1900 had 3,542. The per cent increase in urban population was therefore 37.8. On the other

hand, the rural population in 1910 was 19,452 as compared to 9,597 in the same territory in 1900. Thus the per cent increase in rural population in the decade was 101.6, or nearly three times that of the urban increase.

The population of Oregon is 672,765. Compared with a population of 413,539 in 1900, this represents an increase during the last decade of 259,226, or 62.7 per cent. During the same period the total population of continental United States increased 21 per cent. The growth of the state was a little more than twice as rapid as during the preceding decade, 1890-1900, when the rate of increase was 30.2 per cent.

ONLY 250 CARLOADS OF APPLES IN WASHINGTON

The total available supply of apples in Washington is estimated at 250 carloads by William Meister, the well-known Western avenue commission merchant of Seattle. Mr. Meister says that the supply of apples of all grades and varieties in all districts, including what are held in Seattle, will not, in his judgment, exceed 250 carloads. He predicts that the apple market will remain steady for about two months, or until the stocks held by dealers and speculators have been cut down. Mr. Meister looks for no further recession in prices.

The Franz Co.'s announcement on page 3 should interest every housewife in Hood River.

\$35,000 Alienation Suit Filed In Circuit Court

F. Howard Isenberg Starts Action Against Dr. M. F. Shaw, Alleging That the Latter Had Been Responsible for Mrs. Isenberg Having Left Her Home in This City.

Charging that he has been damaged to the extent of \$35,000 through the alleged alienation of his wife's affections, F. Howard Isenberg brought suit in the circuit court last of the week through his attorney, S. W. Stark, against Dr. M. F. Shaw.

Mr. Isenberg makes allegations as follows: That he and Zella F. Isenberg were united in marriage at Cascade Locks April 28, 1901; that he is a resident of Hood River county at the present time and has been for more than twenty years. He says that from the time of his marriage until the alleged interference of the defendant he was deeply attached to his wife and that they lived happily together as husband and wife. He complains that, but for the "wrongful and malicious acts" of the defendant, they would have continued so to live together.

The plaintiff sets forth that on or about the 10th day of June, 1906, Dr. Shaw became acquainted with Mrs. Isenberg and that shortly afterward, "with intent to injure the plaintiff and to deprive him of the affections, comfort, society and assistance of his said wife," the defendant commenced to acquire an improper and undue influence over her "by wrongfully and wickedly enticing and inducing her to come daily to the office of the defendant in Hood River to balance his books and accounts, and by frequently and at many times between the first of September, 1906, and the first of June 1910, inducing and enticing plaintiff's wife to go out riding with him in his automobile; all of which was without the knowledge and consent of plaintiff, and for the purpose of alienating the affections of the plaintiff's wife."

"That for the further purpose of alienating her affections from the plaintiff the defendant influenced, en-

ticed and persuaded her, about the second day of June, 1910, to desert and abandon plaintiff and their home in Hood River and to go on a trip to Edgerton, Wis., and other points in the east on a visit, and after staying in the east for thirty or forty days to return to Spokane, Wash., and there remain and not to return to Mr. Isenberg and their home in this city."

Mr. Isenberg continues by alleging that soon after his wife returned to Spokane and on or about August 20, 1910, Dr. Shaw visited Mrs. Isenberg in that city. The complaint further alleges that all of the time Mrs. Isenberg was visiting in the east and while she has been staying in Spokane the defendant has continuously corresponded with her.

By reason of the alleged alienation of his wife's affections, Mr. Isenberg declares that he suffered great distress in body and mind and that in consequence thereof he has been damaged in the sum of \$35,000.

Dr. Shaw, who has been a resident of Hood River for 17 years and is county health officer, says:

"This suit is instituted largely by personal enemies to damage my professional reputation. The allegations in the complaint are for the most part without foundation, as I think will be proven. I have placed my defense in the hands of Attorneys W. H. Wilson and the Clarks of Portland, to whom I refer any further seekers for information."

Mrs. Isenberg has not been a resident of Hood River for more than a year, and is said to be living at present in Spokane. She is a bookkeeper and stenographer and for several years was employed here in the offices of the Hood River Fruitgrowers' Union and Better Fruit. Her husband is a school teacher by profession, but retired from active work two years ago, owing to ill health.

Funds For Purchasing Water System Assured

Local Banks Offer to Advance Necessary Money in Case Bids on Bonds to Be Opened on the Fifteenth Are Not Satisfactory--Pacific Company Grants Extension of Time.

Positive assurances that the money with which to buy the water system will be forthcoming were given by the fire and water committee at a meeting of the city council held Thursday evening. Chairman Early of the committee, to which the matter of financing the deal had been referred, reported that the local banks stood ready to advance the money in case satisfactory bids for the bonds are not received on the 15th of this month.

Mr. Early reported that since the previous meeting members of the committee had taken a trip to Portland and had asked representatives of the Pacific Power and Light Company for an extension of time within which the deal might be consummated from January 20 to March 1. This extension was granted. With this extension of time and the assurance that the necessary funds will be forthcoming, no further obstacle remains to prevent the city from acquiring the water system.

The matter of fire escapes on public buildings was brought up and Councilman Early made the motion that the city marshal be instructed to summon before the city recorder those persons who have failed to erect fire escapes, so that the recorder may fully explain the meaning of the ordinance on this subject. In order to have a still more specific ordinance and one which would designate exactly what kind of an escape must be constructed, the Portland ordinance was submitted. This passed its first reading. It was recommended by the city engineer and met the approval of the council.

An ordinance providing for the meeting of the council in the county courthouse was passed.

A communication was read from the recorder in which he stated that here had been for several months a balance of about \$80 in the fund of al-

vision No. 1, sewer district No. 4 which includes Cascade Avenue. He recommended that it be refunded to the property owners. On motion, the matter was referred to the judiciary committee with instructions to make the refund and to make the same disposal of balances on hand in other funds.

Mr. Langille requested that, as he is retiring from the office of recorder, the books be audited. The finance committee was therefore instructed to get such experts as they may see fit to audit the books.

The report of Dr. Bronson, city health officer, which is given in another column, was read and placed on file.

The recorder read a communication from the Security, Savings and Trust Company of Toledo, O. In which they stated that as the form of bonds submitted there was unsatisfactory and the council not being willing to have new bonds reprinted at the city's expense, the company had returned the bonds, which are for \$9,204.40. On motion, this matter was referred to the finance committee with instructions to try to correct the present bonds so as to comply with the company's demands. These bonds were for improvements in sewer district No. 6.

NEW RAILROAD STATION AT THE DALLS EXPECTED

The Dalls Chronicle is authority for the statement that the O. W. R. & N. Company, in the very near future, will begin work on the construction of a new depot in that city. It is stated that the station will be placed opposite Hotel Dalls on the Mill creek "fill." It has been rumored that Twoby Brothers, the Harriman railroad contractors, have been awarded the contract for making an additional fill. In that case the depot will be erected at a spot directly opposite the hotel.

SEES MOUNT HOOD HAVE AN ERUPTION

After having partaken too freely of plum pudding and brandy sauce, the Journal's correspondent at Lyle witnessed an eruption of Mt. Hood last Thursday evening and immediately wired in the sensational details. They were as follows:

"At sunset, Thursday, there were apparent signs of volcanic activity on Mt. Hood. The mountain showed clearly in the sunlight against a calm and cloudless sky. At intervals a thin streak of smoke or steam issued from the peak, apparently too slight in volume and too irregular in its appearance for drifting snow. There was no fog hanging about the mountain. On December 22, about 10 o'clock at night, with a strong west wind blowing and gusts of rain, a glow of light was observed in the direction of Mt. Hood and one vivid flash of light, like sheet lightning, or an explosion, was seen."

Buys Millinery Store
Miss M. B. Lamb of Portland has bought the Misses Hawley's millinery store. She is an experienced and expert milliner and is prepared to do high class work. She solicits your patronage.

Regular Sunday excursion to Parkdale. Pleasant trip for yourself and friends.

EVENTS OF WORLD WIDE INTEREST PICTURED FOR BUSY READERS



News Snapshots Of the Week

John Bigelow, America's "grand old man," died at his home in New York, aged ninety-four. He was well known as a diplomat, author and journalist. Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt and Mrs. Margaret Emerson McKim were married in Belgrave, a small English village near London. The Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson, charged with the murder of his former sweetheart, Avis Linnell, nearly ended his life by slashing himself with a piece of tin in the jail at Boston. Curtis Guild, Jr., the American ambassador to Russia, requested the Russian minister of the interior to alter the passport regulations as to Jews. The request was refused. The Moros on the island of Jolo, in the Philippines, defied the disarmament order of General John J. Pershing and retreated to the peak of Bud Dajo, where they were surrounded by American troops.