

MAYOR'S MESSAGE IS OPTIMISTIC

Report Is Made of City's Condition and Recommendations Are Offered As to How Improvements Can Best Be Accomplished--Municipality's Debt Is Reduced About \$5,900 In 1911--Would Hasten Street Paving and Does Not Favor Underground Wires--Charter Revision Urged and Construction of Waterworks System Is Discussed--Would Improve East Side Grade.

At the first meeting of the new council Monday evening Mayor Wright submitted his message as follows:

"Taking up the financial department of our work for the year 1912, I find an indebtedness of approximately \$4700. On January 1, 1911, the council had overdrawn its debt limit about \$5000, making a total indebtedness of its road and general funds of about \$10,000, which shows that our city debt has been reduced since Jan. 1, last year, about \$5000. However, you will please bear in mind that we have only about \$300 available for the next three months' expenses. This amount will no doubt be replenished slightly by money collected from fines, licenses, etc., during the next three months, at which time we will begin to realize from our 1911 tax levy. Having so little to draw from for these three months, it is necessary that you hold the expenses down as close as possible as we have no authority to issue warrants against the general and road funds to exceed a \$5000 debt, except for actual emergencies.

"Receipts for the year 1911 amounted to about \$15,350. Warrants have been issued against these funds to about \$9000. Since Jan. 1, 1911, our tax money and other receipts this year, according to our December levy, will be about \$18,000. During the years 1909 and 1910 about \$8000 of general fund money was used for purchase of the Tucker Spring and sites, rights-of-way, etc. This money will be returned to the general fund as soon as the \$90,000 bonded bonds has been sold, which will in all probability be done within the next four or five months. This will give us a total of about \$25,000 available for general use this year.

"I would recommend that a sufficient amount of this money be used on the east side grade to make a safe double track roadway. This work is badly needed for the safety and convenience of our citizens in town and in the country.

"There has been a great deal said recently about changing the east line of the city limits to the Hood river, leaving the east side grade for the county to improve. This I do not believe would be good policy. If we are permitted to proceed we are simply able to take care of our improvements, and will do it.

"We have a greater work before us this year than at any time in the history of the town. If the fire and water committee's work is continued with the same effective diligence as in the past year, the city will soon be able to claim its water system clear of litigation and without competition. We should then surely have no trouble to dispose of the \$90,000 bond issue and proceed at once with the construction of the new waterworks system. This will open the way for the long-sought and badly-needed improvement of our streets, street lights, and a closer co-operation between the citizens of Hood River.

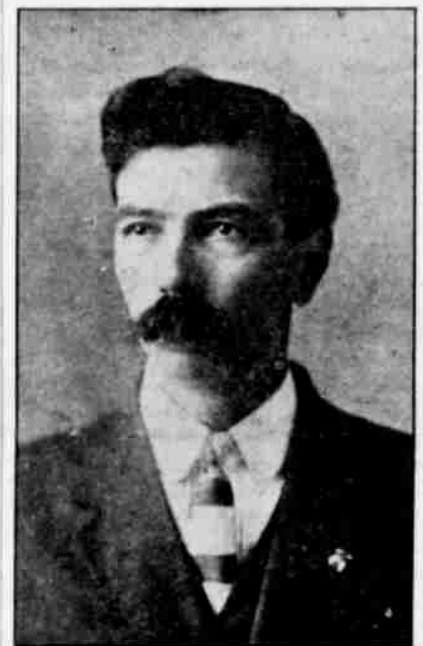
"Street paving in the fire limits has been provided for by ordinance and should be taken up in early spring and pushed vigorously to completion. I would suggest also that the following named streets be added by either hard surface paving or macadam: State street from the east line of Front street to Ninth; Ninth from Oak to Eugene; Eugene from Ninth to Twelfth; Oak from Ninth to Fifth, all of which should be provided with concrete sidewalks where not in place. Sherman and Cascade avenues should be improved this year. This will divide the west side traffic, which is now thrown entirely on State street. There are numerous other streets which should be provided with concrete sidewalks, more especially those leading to the school buildings.

"It is an embarrassing fact that it is necessary to go into the country to find a road which is in proper condition for traffic, and if we are not held up too often this year with in-

junctions, let us improve this condition, especially those streets leading to the surrounding country.

"I believe we are all agreed that if the price of lights should be reduced to a rate within our means we will provide a few lights along our streets. The proposition of lighting the streets by power from the city spring might be worth consideration by the committee in charge of that work.

"Shall the wires within the fire limits be ordered under ground? This is a question which should be settled immediately, as it would be a very difficult and expensive job after the hard surface paving is done. Personally, I think the heavy expense of making the change is too



Mayor J. M. Wright

great for the small benefits to be derived from it. I would recommend, however, the passage of an ordinance requiring all electric light wires to be placed on the same line of poles, and that the same be done with all telephone lines, but on opposite sides of the streets.

"A few months ago a committee was appointed for the purpose of revising our city charter. This committee so far has failed to report. I would suggest that a new committee be appointed and that this work be taken up at once. The charter under which we are working was approved by the governor of the state on February 28, 1901, when the population of the town was about 500 people. It is now nearly 3000, and the conditions of the town have undergone a decided change. It is necessary, therefore, that the charter

be brought up to date, and to the demands of the present conditions.

"The problem of how we are to handle the old water system, as well as the new one, is one which should have careful attention. To continue the management of the old system as has been arranged by the council of the past year should prove satisfactory. There has been considerable discussion during the past year as to the feasibility of constructing the new system according to the plans and specifications prepared by the firm of Newell, Cossett & Walsh; or should we secure the services of an expert waterworks engineer? Having given this matter considerable thought, I have reached the conclusion that while the best is none too good, we may spend a great deal more money for the expert and get no better services in the end than to use the plans drawn by Mr. Newell. There has been a warrant drawn in favor of Mr. Newell for \$500 for his services as consulting engineer which will be sacrificed if these plans are not used. A good, practical man employed to superintend the construction of the system will cost probably \$500, including such help as he would require. The expert would cost, according to the figures already submitted, more than \$4000. This figure would include new plans and specifications and his services for superintending.

"So far the city has enjoyed the services and protection of a volunteer fire company which has rendered valuable services in many cases and I would ask that the fire and water committee secure if possible a report from the fire company of their stock of equipment, enrolled membership financial condition, etc., and if in the judgment of the council and fire company the council can assist them in their work, it should be done.

"There are a few streets in the city where sidewalks have been ordered in on which owners of property have refused to obey the ordinances. These people, in all fairness to their neighbors, should be forced to comply with the laws.

"And while it is not reasonable to expect the approval of all, it is to be hoped that the city's work will be conducted in such a way this year as to have the approval of the business-like, thinking citizen, and to create a more friendly feeling among the citizens who are striving for a cleaner, better and more prosperous city.

"Respectfully submitted,
"J. M. WRIGHT, Mayor."

Rev. J. B. Parsons will preach and conduct evangelistic service in Holman hall next Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock.

EVENTFUL CAREER OF J. B. MASON ENDS

Jerome B. Mason, father of A. I. Mason, died Monday morning, death coming from the infirmities of old age and an attack of pneumonia. In the passing of Mr. Mason an eventful life was ended. When hardly more than a boy he enlisted as a member of the Second Missouri Cavalry and served with distinction throughout the Civil War. At the time of his enlistment he was barely old enough to shoulder a musket. At the conclusion of his three-years' enlistment he re-enlisted and saw the bitter struggle end. He was wounded in a saber fight in the course of the struggle. Afterwards he became a painter and later joined the St. Louis police force, serving for forty-one years. He resigned his position there two years ago in order to spend his declining years with his son here. During the entire period of his service as a police officer he was retained by the successive administrations, who recognized his worth. This, too, although he was at all times a consistent Republican.

The funeral will be held this afternoon at two o'clock from the Pine Grove church. Rev. C. M. Carson will officiate and the local G. A. R. will have charge of the services.

TRAMPS SUSPECTED OF FIRING HOUSE

Supposed to have caught from a fire built by vagrants in the basement, a five-room vacant cottage, the property of Drew Taylor, on Taylor street in the heights portion of this city, burned to the ground at about 5 o'clock Sunday morning. A number of people of the neighborhood have found that their henroosts were entered Saturday night, and it is thought tramps stealing the chickens built a fire in an old stove in the basement of the building to cook them.

The flames were first discovered by Frank Smith, whose home is nearest to the burned cottage. The reflection of the flames as they shot from the basement windows shone upon the walls of his bedroom and awoke him. The whole structure was a mass of flames before the volunteer fire department could respond, and the firemen used their endeavors in saving adjoining property.

Is Mount Hood Moving? Probably not, but it would be about as easy to move Mt. Hood as it would to move goods without advertising. Even a little reader like this will oftentimes work wonders. Try one.

Heavy Masses of Snow Crush Many Buildings

Couple at Mitchell's Point Are Buried Under Tons of Snow in Big Slide--Woman Is Injured--In Upper Valley Barns Collapse--Captain McCan's Barn Destroyed--Farm Animals Have Narrow Escapes.

The heavy fall of snow, followed the last of the week by rain and warmer weather, resulted in a number of barns and packing houses in the valley collapsing beneath the weight of the water soaked snow. One of the most serious accidents was reported from Mitchell's Point where Mr. and Mrs. Bruggeman were awakened Sunday night to find their home buried beneath an avalanche of snow and earth. The structure was partially crushed and Mrs. Bruggeman sustained injuries from falling timbers. Aside from minor bruises Mr. Bruggeman escaped unharmed.

Captain McCan's garage on Tip-Top Ranch was one of the buildings which gave in under the strain. The roof was a flat one and carried tons of weight. It collapsed, falling on four automobiles which were stored there for the winter. Captain McCan dug them out Monday and found the machines were not damaged.

The large packing house owned by the Apple Land and Orchard Company and located on their ranch in the Willow Flat section was crushed. The building was about 40x80 and was comparatively new. It was empty at the time.

Jasper Wickham was also one of the victims. His ranch barn, containing four horses and two hogs, besides a quantity of hay and farm implements, was crushed. Two of the horses extricated themselves before morning. The other two were buried under the haymow and were unharmed, while the two hogs, although

buried alive for a few hours, were unscathed.

In the Upper Valley a number of buildings went down. Among them was the Mount Hood hall. Barns belonging to Wm. H. Edick and Messrs. Woodworth and Helmers went down, as well as a small packing house belonging to D. E. Miller. Most of the buildings can be easily replaced, so that the damage was not considerable.

A barn on the property belonging to Mrs. W. G. Bond, south of the Lutheran church on Davidson hill, was caved in.

Across the river the roof of the barn owned by the White Salmon Dressed Meat Company, situated near the slaughter house on the bank of the river, at Bingen, gave way under the weight of snow. The barn contained several head of stock and some hay in the loft. It was found that while some boards and considerable quantity of hay rested on the backs of two of the horses, none of the animals were hurt in the least. This is remarkable as the roof was 30x40 feet.

Orchardists were alarmed for a time Friday morning when conditions were favorable for a silver thaw. In the afternoon, however, it grew warmer and the ice on the trees melted. Little damage has been done to the orchards, only a few limbs being stripped from the yearling trees.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Castner returned Monday from a short visit to Portland.

Wenatchee Refuses to Consider Selling Plan

Proposition Now Under Consideration Here of Combining "Big Four" Fruit Districts Meets Little Favor--Hood River Men Investigated Northwest Exchange in Portland Last Week--Soon to Report

At a meeting of Wenatchee fruit-growers and business men held the last of the week the plan of uniting the "Big Four" fruit districts of the Northwest in a co-operative selling agency was rejected. This is the plan which is now under consideration by the local Fruitgrowers' Union, representatives of which were in Portland the latter part of the week investigating the Northwest Fruit Exchange which it is proposed be purchased. The local committee will report its findings and recommendations to the stockholders of the union at the meeting to be held on the 27th.

At the meeting of the Wenatchee growers K. S. Miller, manager of the Rogue River Fruit & Produce Association, explained the plans of the Northwest Fruit Exchange for marketing the fruit of the four big fruit sections of the Pacific Northwest, the Wenatchee Valley, Yakima Valley, Hood River and Rogue River. Some twenty-five of the most prominent growers and merchants of Wenatchee listened to the plans of the Rogue River man, and, one after the other, informed him that the system would not meet the needs of the Wenatchee Valley.

Judge C. Victor Martin, A. Z. Wells, George R. Fisher and other speakers found many flaws in Mr. Miller's plan. H. W. Otis, the Pelestin grower, was the only individual present who favored marketing through the Northwest Fruit Exchange.

Mr. Miller declared that the Yakima Valley growers stood ready to join with the Hood River and Rogue River growers in the purchase of a controlling interest in the Northwest Fruit Exchange. He asked that a committee from the Wenatchee Valley visit the Portland office of the Northwest Fruit Exchange and satisfy itself by inspection of the exchange's books that it was doing business and could market the crop.

To this request the Wenatchee Valley growers practically turned a deaf ear. In the opinion of several speakers, an inspection of the ex-

change's books would leave them no wiser than at present.

To the request that Wenatchee Valley should put up some \$8,000 as its share in the purchase money for a controlling interest in the exchange, more vigorous objections were made.

The meeting seemed to leave the Wenatchee orchardists convinced, as they have been for some time, that organization for the purpose of marketing fruit was an imperative measure awaiting action very soon, but that this section would fare better by perfecting its own organization and doing its own marketing than it could fare by joining with any organization seeking to embrace four fruit sections widely separated both geographically and in interests.

Those who were in Portland last week representing the local union were C. H. Sprout, P. S. Davidson, A. I. Mason and W. B. Dickerson of Corvallis.

Referendum Is Invoked On Electric Ordinance

Petitioners Seek to Have Law Compelling Extensive Changes in Wires Referred to the People--Council Will Hasten Election--Eight Bids Received On Waterworks Bonds--Other Business Transacted.

The new council met and organized Monday evening. Councilmen Stranahan and Staten took their seats and Mr. Howe assumed the duties of recorder. Mayor Wright submitted his message and announced his appointment of committees as given in another column. A feature of the meeting was the receipt by the council of a referendum petition asking that the ordinance recently passed and ordering changes made in the stringing of electric and telephone wires be referred to the people at the next city election to be held December 3.

The companies affected by the ordinance--the Pacific Power and Light Company and Home Telephone Company--would otherwise have been liable for the payment of a large fine by non-compliance with the ordinance. Thirty days were allowed by the council in which the changes could be made. This period will expire tomorrow. The referendum having been invoked, however, will hold up the ordinance until the vote has been taken.

Sixty names appeared on the petition, this number constituting considerably more than the ten per cent of the legal voters required. By request, all the names were read. Several of the councilmen discussed the matter, some declaring that in their opinion thirty days was too short a time in which to demand the change, while others stated that the companies should have shown some intention of complying by starting work. Councilman Brosius moved that the matter be referred to the judiciary committee with instructions to bring it before the people as soon as possible,

not waiting until the December election.

Eight bids on the \$37,250 water improvement bonds were received and opened. Par, accrued interest and substantial premiums were offered by several of the bidders. These bids were referred to the fire and water committee with instructions that they be tabulated and submitted at a special meeting to be held this week.

Councilman Robertson, in behalf of the retiring fire and water committee, read a concise and comprehensive report showing the receipts and expenditures in the water department during the three months preceding January 1. The committee recommended that the system be placed under the direction of a water commission. The report showed that the profits accruing from the system during the three months averaged \$340 per month.

After the mayor had announced his appointments, the council selected Councilman Brosius president of the body. The mayor's message was distributed among the various committees with instructions that they bring in reports on the recommendations referring to their departments at the next meeting.

Arthur Clarke appeared in behalf of the firemen. He stated that the membership had dwindled for the reason that they did not have any room in which to meet. He reported that the equipment of the old athletic association had been purchased and asked that the council provide a room in which members can meet. This matter was referred to the fire and water committee with instructions to use their best endeavors to comply with the request.

EVENTS OF WORLD WIDE INTEREST PICTURED FOR BUSY READERS



Photos of Taft and Nagel by American Press Association.

News Snapshots Of the Week

Mme. Curie, the famous French scientist and recipient of the Nobel prize for chemistry, was stricken with appendicitis. President Taft declared that he was in the fight for the presidential nomination "to the death." Congressman Lafferty of Oregon introduced a bill in the house urging nation wide woman's suffrage. Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, the hero of many engagements and known the world over as "Fighting Bob," died suddenly of indigestion. Judge Swayze of New Jersey was named as a possible successor to the late Justice Harlan of the supreme court, and Charles Nagel was also considered by Taft for the position. Chinese children in many American cities acknowledged the new republic of China by saluting the flag.