

LIGHT WAR IS BITTERLY FOUGHT

Past Week Sees Some Lively Developments in Clash Between Two Corporations for Control of Field Here--Local Interests of Pacific Company Transferred to Hood River Gas & Electric Company and Sweeping Reduction Made--City Council Calls Election Petitioned for by Referendum for March 2 to Vote on Wiring Ordinance--Injunction Suit Against City Heard.

Developments in the fight between the two power companies for control of the local field have come thick and fast during the past week. On Friday the Pacific company effected a reorganization, transferring its local interests to the Hood River Gas & Electric Company. This was followed by the announcement of sweeping reductions in rates. On the same day Judge Bradshaw, sitting at The Dalles, heard the injunction suit brought by J. F. Batchelder to restrain the city from making a contract for street lighting with the Hydro Electric Company. At the council meeting Monday night the light war again occupied the center of the stage. A petition signed by four hundred persons asking that the special election on the wiring ordinance be called as soon as possible was read. The election was then called for March 2, which was the earliest date possible.

The petition submitted to the council Monday followed the one filed with that body at their previous meeting petitioning for the submission to the people through the referendum of the ordinance compelling the Pacific company to lower its high tension wires and affecting the telephone company in a similar manner. The petition asked that the matter be submitted to the people at the regular election next December. The opposing faction then circulated the second petition asking that the election be not delayed, but that it be held at the earliest possible moment.

The fire and water committee submitted a report in which it failed to agree with Mayor Wright, who stated in his message that he did not favor passing an ordinance compelling the placing of all wires underground in the business streets. The committee, which is made up of Councilmen Robertson, Brosius and Huggins, submitted its recommendation as follows:

"The fire and water committee does not coincide with the mayor in the matter of putting wires underground. We would recommend that

an ordinance be drawn requiring all telephone and power wires to go underground within the fire limits. We also recommend that an ordinance be passed requiring all electric light wires to be placed on the same line of poles and all telephone wires the same, but on opposite sides of the streets."

The light and power matter cropped out once more when the fire and water committee reported that it had a contract from the Hood River Gas & Electric Company offering to make a material reduction in its charge for power supplied the pumping station. In reply to this the committee gave it its opinion that the offer was worthy of consideration, but recommended that the city should not enter into such a contract before the injunction suit and other litigation is decided and until the city knows whether it is to get the plant or not. The committee said further:

"Referring to the mayor's message in the matter of street lighting, we recommend that the contract given the Hydro Electric Company be carried out. It is now held up by injunction, which was argued before Judge Bradshaw last Friday and we hope it will be dissolved, so that this contract can be entered into at once."

Judges for the March election were named as follows: A. C. Buck, chairman, J. H. Gill and O. H. Baker. H. T. DeWitt and J. M. Culbertson were appointed clerks.

Judge W. L. Bradshaw, sitting at The Dalles on Friday, heard arguments in the injunction suit brought by J. F. Batchelder to restrain the city from entering into a contract for street lighting with the Hydro Electric Company. Mr. Batchelder's attorneys argued that the city council did not have the legal right to make such a contract with the Hydro Company without giving the Pacific Company the right to bid. The city was represented by A. J. Derby and Jesse Stearns, while George R. Wilbur and Attorney Strong argued the

matter in behalf of Mr. Batchelder. After hearing the arguments, Judge Bradshaw announced that he would take the matter under advisement.

With a capital stock of \$50,000, the Hood River Gas and Electric Company has been incorporated and has acquired all the local light and power properties of the Pacific Power and Light Company. The transfer was made Friday. Having acquired the Pacific's light and power system, the new company has announced a general reduction of rates.

Officers of the new company are C. N. McArthur of Portland, president; B. P. Hewitt of Portland, vice-president; Frank P. Longeneau of Portland, secretary-treasurer, and Albert S. Hall of this city, general manager. Mr. McArthur and Mr. Longeneau are well-known Portland lawyers and business men. Mr. Hall has been local manager of the Pacific Power and Light Company for the past two years. He is a graduate of the Oregon Agricultural College and before coming to Hood River was manager of the Hillsboro Electric Light Company. The office force of the Pacific Company has been retained and several additions have been made to it to perfect a complete reorganization.

Mr. McArthur, president of the company, was in Hood River Saturday and held a lengthy conference with Manager Hall, during which the policies of the new company were outlined. He stated that the new company is a separate and distinct organization and denied that it was a "dummy" for the old company, as has been alleged. "If business warrants it, we shall put in a gas plant later on," he said.

It is understood that the local plant which has been acquired by the new company will be thoroughly renovated and used to supply "juice" for Hood River and vicinity. It is also stated that a connection will be maintained with the plant of the Pacific Power and Light Company on the White River in case of emergency, and that the local company will purchase current from that source if needed.

WATER BONDS SOLD TO PORTLAND FIRM

At a special meeting of the council held Thursday evening the water bonds, amounting to \$37,250, were sold to the Merchants Savings and Trust Company of Portland.

Eight bids had been received on the bonds. These were tabulated by the fire and water committee and it was determined that the bid of the Portland bank was the most satisfactory. This bank offered ninety-four per cent of the face value of the bonds at five per cent interest. Although others of the bidders offered a larger price, the interest charged was correspondingly greater. Members of the fire and water committee went to Portland Wednesday and took the matter up with the Merchants Savings and Trust Bank. After reporting favorably at the special meeting Thursday and the matter being settled, a telegram was sent to the bank Friday morning informing them that their bid had been accepted.

OVER TWO TO ONE IN FAVOR OF DOCK

In contradiction of statements which have been circulated that little interest is being taken in the public dock proposition and that a majority of the voters in the county are opposed to it, postal card replies which continue to pour in to the county court show that already 335 voters have expressed themselves on the matter and more than two-thirds of this number are in favor of building the dock. The replies show that opposition is strongest in the Upper Valley, where the taxpayers feel that they will reap less benefit. An actual count of the 335 replies shows that 230 are in favor of the proposition and 105 opposed to it. The first two hundred, when counted, showed 154 for and 46 against. The replies received more recently were more from the Upper Valley and were more evenly divided on the two sides. As about one thousand postal cards were sent out, one-third have already been answered.

Proper Care Will Save Trees Injured by Storm

In Reply to Many Inquiries, Professor Lawrence Gives Detailed Information As to How Orchardists Can Repair Damage Sustained by Young Trees--All Except Those Totally Stripped Can Be Saved.

In reply to inquiries received from many orchardists as to how young trees which were damaged by the recent storm should be cared for, Prof. Lawrence urges that the repair work be done at once and gives the following directions:

The settling of the deep snow has done considerable injury to fruit trees, especially the one and two-year-olds, in breaking off the tops of branches or badly splitting the branches in the crotches. The repairing of these trees should be done at once.

The branches which are split in the crotches can be saved, unless so nearly torn off that the growing tissues of the bark are so badly injured that they will not start a new growth, by bringing them back in place and tying them firmly to other branches in such a manner as to support them. It is advisable in most cases to fasten the branch more securely in place and to draw the injured surfaces as tightly together as possible by using a nail or preferably a bolt of convenient size.

For the smaller trees a slender galvanized shingle nail with a large head is most serviceable. In all cases where the nail is of sufficient length to protrude on the opposite side of the stem the point should be bent downward lengthwise with the stem so that it will not act as a girder, as will be the case when bent sideways and clinched. In all cases where the limb is of sufficient size to admit using a bolt the same should be used. The advantage in using a bolt over the nail is in drawing the injured surfaces tightly together, in which position they must remain, since the bolt will not pull loose as sometimes occurs when a nail is used.

In using a bolt the best results may be had by removing a ring of bark on either side of the stem the size of

the head of the bolt so that when the bolt is in place the head and nut both rest against the wood. The hole through the stem should be the same size as the bolt. The nut should be placed on without a washer, with the rounding side toward the wood. Cut off the end of the bolt in all cases where it is long enough to extend past the nut. A bolt with a round, flat head is much more desirable than a square-headed one.

After the branches have been put back in place and securely fastened, wax or paint the injured surfaces to protect them from air and moisture. In case there is a large amount of repair work to be done it is perhaps best to use a very thick white lead paint, since the same may be used readily at low temperatures. The paint is only recommended as a temporary covering, since it is tedious work to use the grafting wax at this time.

All wounds should receive an application of grafting wax during early spring and before drying weather occurs. The wax provides a coat of some thickness which will exclude the air and moisture, prevent the surface from drying and checking, thus excluding the spores of fungi which so frequently gain entrance through wounds and induce heart rots which ultimately kill or weaken the trees so that they do not produce profitable crops.

Young trees when stripped of their branches may be cut off at the lowest point of injury and a new top grown from a dormant bud of the stem or at the crown below the surface of the soil. To insure the growth of a new top it is an excellent plan to graft the trunk with a scion taken from a healthy tree of known variety that is known to

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Business Men Hear of New Marketing Plan

Meeting at Commercial Club Is Addressed by Manager Gwinn of Northwestern Fruit Exchange and Others--Speakers Make Favorable Impression--Mosier Fruitgrowers Endorse the Proposition.

At a meeting of business men Monday evening addresses were given in explanation of the proposed combination of the "Big Four" fruit districts in a central agency. The meeting was held for the purpose of giving information on this matter, which will be presented to local fruit growers and members of the Union at a public meeting to be held Saturday.

K. S. Miller, manager of the Medford Fruit and Produce Association, and W. F. Gwinn, manager of the Northwestern Fruit Exchange, which it is proposed to purchase, gave addresses, as did also President Bateham of the Oregon State Horticultural Society and Frank Cutler of this city.

Mr. Bateham is strongly in favor of the proposition and so expressed himself. He declared that a favorable attitude is also taken by the Mosier fruitgrowers and read resolutions to that effect adopted by them at a recent meeting.

Secretary Kauffman introduced Mr. Miller. The latter gave a comprehensive talk on the proposed consolidation. He said that the Rogue River valley is strongly in favor of the proposition. He also declared that newspaper reports to the effect that Yakima and Wenatchee were against it are untrue and that a majority of fruitgrowers in those sections are in favor of it. He further declared that such a combination is necessary in order to protect the fruitgrowers' interests and to regulate the supplies that are turned loose on the market.

Mr. Gwinn was then introduced. He gave a detailed address on all the methods used by the Northwestern Fruit Exchange. He said they had agents in many different sections of the United States and that they have perfected an extensive marketing system. He quoted figures to show that extra good prices have been obtained for fruits handled through the exchange. A point particularly emphasized by him was the fact that the output of apples in the northwest is increasing so rapidly that in order to obtain profitable prices in the future it will be absolutely necessary for the fruitgrowers to combine to regulate the supply.

The methods of the company as outlined by Mr. Gwinn were enthusiastically endorsed by almost the entire meeting, although no formal action was taken. In the audience there were many of the valley's prominent fruit growers. Every de-

tail of the plan was explained and many questions were asked Mr. Gwinn, which were answered satisfactorily. It was explained by him that the Northwestern Fruit Growers' Exchange does not handle any fruit except that of the associations and that each association is positively allowed to maintain its identity and the identity of its fruit growers, the exchange simply being a marketing machine, for which it receives ten cents a box for handling the fruit.

Mr. Gwinn estimated that the output of the northwest this year would probably be 15,000,000 boxes of apples and that therefore the matter of wide distribution is the most important problem before the growers of the northwest, and that the exchange with its 206 branch offices located all over the United States could render growers and associations a service that could not be obtained in any other way. The integrity of these branch offices is guaranteed by their being forced to furnish a bond for faithful performance of their contracts.

A feature was the talk made by Frank Cutler, who with his brother has been in Portland for two days, personally investigating the affairs of the exchange. Mr. Cutler stated that he had found Mr. Gwinn's statements verified in every particular by an examination of the books of the company and heartily recommended that the plan be adopted at Hood River.

It was shown by Mr. Miller that with one or two exceptions the directors of the Northwestern Fruit Growers' Exchange are large fruit growers and that their interest in the organization was not in having it placed on a dividend paying basis but to get a better price for their fruit and to handle it under the very best system possible. In order to get the support of the fruit growers, Mr. Miller said that the directors of the exchange are willing to turn over the control of the organization to the associations from the three districts--Wenatchee, Hood River and Rogue River--absolutely by the payment of a comparatively small amount of money for which they would receive stock. Their idea in doing this is to have the northwest box apple men try out the exchange for one year.

Meetings will be held this week to explain the plan in the various sections of the valley. Those already arranged for are to be held at Pine Grove and Oak Grove.

SPECIAL TRAIN TO CARRY SNOWSHOERS

When the Portland Snowshoe Club makes its second trip up Mt. Hood the first of next month, it will do so with all the style befitting such an intrepid organization. J. Wesley Ladd, president of the club, has communicated with Superintendent Early of the Mt. Hood Railroad Company and has ordered a special train to carry the club from this city to Parkdale, where they will commence their ascent to the club house, which is located near Cloud Cap Inn. It was suggested that a private car attached to a regular train might serve the purpose, but the club wants to enjoy the distinction of riding in a private train and arrangements are now being made to that end.

Mr. Ladd is an enthusiastic mountain climber and declares that the club enjoyed every minute of the trip up the mountain which they took a few weeks ago. They had some trouble in locating their clubhouse, to which they had to tunnel an entrance through the drifts, but once inside they were as snug as the proverbial bugs in the rug.

Buyers Harness Company

R. G. Yowell and wife have bought the entire business of the Davenport Harness Co. Mr. Yowell has managed the business for the past five years. The firm assumes all outstanding accounts. On account of lack of room for their business, they intend moving across the street into the new Bell building. In about two weeks the stock will be enlarged to include everything in their line.

We make stamps, also post cards, one dollar per dozen. Hood River Studio. 32t

BELIEVES THAT AIRSHIP WILL TAKE FERRY'S PLACE

Editor Dunninghoff of the White Salmon Enterprise sees the time not so very distant when residents of that place and Hood River will be flitting across the Columbia in their own aeroplanes and exchanging afternoon calls without ever having to be late for supper. He says: "The ferry was held up by floating ice and anyone going to Hood River

had the option of crossing from Stevenson to Cascade Locks or going around by Portland, but at this writing it is again running. It is high time this place had an air ship. The day will come, too, when Hood River will be reached in just that way. Great progress is being made in the manufacture of aeroplanes and the next year will see much done in making them safe for travel as well as reducing the cost."

Neat and natty job printing quick-executed at the News office.

EVENTS OF WORLD WIDE INTEREST PICTURED FOR BUSY READERS



Interior and exterior of the Equitable Building.



News Snapshots Of the Week

The \$14,000,000 building of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York was totally destroyed by a fire which also caused eight deaths. The severe weather greatly hindered the firemen and made their work doubly hazardous. Ollie James of Kentucky was elevated from the house of representatives to the senate by the state legislature. He will succeed Thomas H. Paynter, whose term expires in March. George Curry and H. B. Ferguson, who represent New Mexico in congress, began their official duties at Washington. Andrew Carnegie testified before the steel investigating committee, of which Representative Stanley is the chairman.

SCOUTS SPECTER OF OVERPRODUCTION

G. W. R. Peaslee, who as president presided at the recent meeting at Clarkston of the Washington State Horticultural Association, reviewed apple conditions in his annual address to the delegates. He said in part:

"In spite of an off year throughout the Northwest the horticultural interests have fared remarkably well. Prices have been up to the average and the demand for apples and other fruit has been as good, and in some instances better, than in previous years. With less than 180 carloads of apples reported unsold in Washington a week ago, the long-looked-for glut in the market did not come this year, and I am inclined to think that this specter of overproduction will not prove the disaster predicted.

"The short crop in nearly all sections has been responsible in a great degree in evening the annual prices of our products, and I believe that we may safely expect similar influences in different sections of the country to do so in the future.

"Fourteen years ago the annual production of apples was 69,000,000 barrels. This decreased up to three years ago to 23,000,000 barrels and under, when it increased to 25,000,000 barrels and again declined, until this year the production was only 22,000,000 barrels. While this condition of overproduction may or may not be as important as we are inclined to feel that it is, we should now prepare to so handle our products and so perfect our organization that there may be no danger of losing our crops because of a surplus and a lack of proper distributing facilities."

LOCAL TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE

Deeds filed for record during the past week have been as follows:

Porter Pride and wife to James F. Carnes and wife 1.925 acres in Paradise farm, consideration \$8500.

Allen Jackson and wife and Nelson W. Jackson to H. Montague Sidney, 80 acres south of Pine Grove, consideration \$12,000.

A. E. Lathrop and wife to Everett O. Hall, 10 acres west of town.

Hood River Orchard Land Company to M. E. Lozier, lot 22, Glenhurst Orchards, consideration \$1500, and lot 59 for the same consideration.

W. Ross Whitman and wife to Fred S. Holsten, 40 acres near Whitman station.

James R. Hamblet and wife to Frederick L. H. von Lubken and wife, eight acres on Shepard road.

Georgianna Smith to E. L. Smith, half of lots 3 and 4 and south half of lots 5, 6, 7 and 8, block E, Hood River.

Mark Cameron and wife to Sumner D. Cameron half of tract 50x165 feet at Odell.

Mark Cameron and wife and Sumner Cameron and wife to Thomas B. Cameron, tract 124x165 feet at Odell, consideration \$750.

C. D. Roberts to T. J. C. Gillespie, 10 acres on east side.

T. H. Williams to Minnie Williams, his wife, undivided half lots 6, 7, 8, 9, block B, Cass addition.

Fred Erskens and wife to J. M. Leiter, tract, 120 acres on the east side.

Carolyn Ross to J. M. Leiter, trustee, 40 acres on the east side, consideration \$375.

S. J. Chapman and wife to L. F. Morris, lot 50x150, being part of lots 3 and 4 block 4 Pleasantview.

L. F. Morris to Mayme Morris, tract 50x100 feet, being part of lots 3 and 4, Pleasantview addition.