

City Charter Revision Discussed by Citizens

Three Propositions Are Presented, Including Commission Form of Government, Business Manager Arrangement and Revision of Present Charter—Committee of Ten Works on Matter.

That a keen interest is being taken by Hood River citizens in the question of revising the city charter to meet the present and future needs of the city, was demonstrated Friday evening when many of the leading business and professional men gathered at the Commercial Club on the invitation of the committee which had this matter in hand.

Intelligence among the citizens of this community to devise and carry into successful operation a model form of city government. Continuing, he declared that here is an opportunity to make a reputation for Hood River aside from and in addition to that which she now enjoys as the producer of the best apples in the world.

City Attorney Derby was asked to explain some of the inadequacies of the present charter and to point out the respects in which the revision is necessary. He was incapacitated, however, by a severe cold and suggested that H. B. Langille, the former city recorder, be called upon to do this.

Mayor Wright presided at the meeting and briefly stated the object. Before the meeting had proceeded far an inquiry was made as to whether it was open to discussion of other methods besides revision of the present charter. The motion was then made to throw the meeting open to a general discussion.

Dr. Brosius, president of the council and a member of the judiciary committee, spoke in behalf of the committee which has in charge the matter of charter revision. He said that the committee's object in calling the meeting had been successfully accomplished inasmuch as it had drawn forth the ideas of those present in the matter of city government.

Prof. L. B. Gibson, who has made a study of the commission form of city government, was then called upon. He spoke of the advantages which this system has. Admitting that it had been voted down in most of the Oregon cities where it has been submitted to the people, he said that in most instances this was because supporters of the commission form had been divided and that it had never been given a fair trial in this state.

The special committee of three appointed at Friday's meeting will undertake to sound out public sentiment on the forms of city government suggested by them and after coming to some conclusion, either individually or collectively, will be heard from at the next meeting, which will probably be held in the near future.

Dr. Justin Waugh was given a hearty second by those present when he declared that in framing a new charter Hood River has an opportunity to make a name for herself as one of the best governed cities in Oregon. He said that there is enough

APPROPRIATION IS WANTED FOR ROAD

County Judge Culbertson of Hood River county called on the county commissioners and County Judge Cleeton Wednesday and succeeded in interesting them in a plan to arouse popular enthusiasm in behalf of the Hood River-Multnomah road, the object being to obtain an appropriation to assist the project at the next session of the legislature. It is proposed to call public meetings in both counties and to interest candidates for state representative and state senator in the project.

It is proposed to extend the road in question along a gorge noted for scenic beauty, which lies partly in the eastern half of Multnomah county and the western part of Hood River county. It is estimated that \$150,000 would be necessary to complete the road as desired, and that of this amount \$100,000 would be spent in Multnomah county and the balance in Hood River county.

"Multnomah county has already done some work on its end of the road," said County Judge Cleeton. "By this fall we will have two miles of the 12 within this county ready for traffic. If we ever get this road through we will have a most beautiful scenic highway."

LOAN FUND DAY IS OBSERVED BY CLUB

Wednesday, Jan. 31, was Scholarship Loan Fund Day on the Woman's Club calendar, when a silver offering amounting to \$27 was taken. Two new members were also added to the club.

Mrs. H. F. Davidson explained the purpose of the collection and how much good is being done by this fund, which is used to assist young women and girls in obtaining an education. These girls are not in any way objects of charity, but repay their loans as soon as the education which they have been enabled to acquire puts them in a position to do so.

This was followed by a most enjoyable vocal selection by Mrs. Ralph Root, who very kindly responded to an encore.

Mrs. Doolittle of Portland then gave an address on artistic home decoration which was attentively listened to and many notes taken by the ladies present.

Delicious refreshments and a general good time closed one of the most enjoyable club afternoons of the year. When expenses were paid there remained \$20.

Cash to Loan We have cash to loan upon improved ranch property. HOOD RIVER BANKING & TRUST CO.

O. A. C. CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Hood River O. A. C. Club was held Saturday afternoon. The old grads were filled with their old time college spirit and many things pertaining to the welfare of their Alma Mater were discussed.

The officers elected for the coming year were C. C. Thompson, president; Miss Horning, vice president; R. A. McCully, secretary-treasurer.

Resolutions were adopted desiring athletic relations to be resumed with the University of Oregon.

The club is making preparations for a reception and dance for the Glee and Mandolin Clubs after their performance of Feb. 16.

The O. A. C. Club was organized just one year ago. The members are: V. C. Brock, C. D. Thompson, A. S. Hall, Earl Bartness, Miss Horning, C. F. Galligan, Roy Brock, Ralph Hinrichs, R. A. McCully, Mrs. C. D. Thompson, Mrs. V. C. Brock, Mrs. Roy Brock, Miss Edith Sprout, Miss Marlon Sprout, L. O. Rhodes, L. M. Gerdes, Joy Mason, Wm. Clark, B. L. Clark, H. G. Humphrey, Mrs. A. S. Hall, Edna Groves, Mrs. Wilcox, S. H. Boddingshouse, W. A. Davidson, Mrs. E. O. Dutro, C. C. Thompson, Clay Brock.

TWO LOCAL TEAMS ARE VICTORIOUS

Hood River high school won two decisive victories Friday evening when the H. R. H. S. second team won from Mosier high school by a score of 25 to 5 and the first team won from Stevenson.

The first game was interesting throughout, although the Hood River team had the Mosier boys bested for speed and form.

The second game between the H. R. H. S. first team and Stevenson was slightly more closely contested. Franz, Shay and Lewis especially distinguished themselves. Franz made 17 points, Lewis 6 and Shay 2, but Shay made up by spectacular and effective playing.

Much enthusiasm was shown by the high school both before and at the game. There was a better attendance than at any other time this year.

This still leaves Hood River high school at the head of the league with Goldendale a close second.

The line-up: Hood River c Hazard f Melander f Shultz g Lewis k Sheppard k Referee—Crites. Score, 24-11.

LOCAL TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE

Real estate transfers of the past week have been as follows: Helen Ingelse to Pearl Neale, 25 acres east of Dee.

Wm. C. Adams to Ada B. Kirkpatrick, lot 2 R, Hood River, consideration \$4500.

W. H. Owsley to J. W. Hurley, 199 acres near Green Point.

George H. Steinhoff and wife to Harry B. Fenstermaker, five acres on Avalon Way, \$8000.

Albert B. Shelley and wife and Ralph S. Shelley and wife to T. Hirasawa, 29 acres south of Pine Grove \$1500.

Katy M. Frederick and husband to Henry Stead, lot 4 block 2, Blowers addition.

Henry Stead to Katy M. Frederick and husband, as an estate, same property.

Thorstein B. Veblen and wife to Edward F. Fitzpatrick, 120 acres on extreme east side.

Edward F. Fitzpatrick and wife to Ellen R. Veblen, same property.

John Lehnd Henderson and wife to Marlon I. Henderson, 26.85 acres north of O. W. R. & N. track.

Rozella Clark and husband to I. O. O. F. No. 104, Cascade Locks, 5.04 acres at Cascade Locks.

H. T. DeWitt and wife to Christian Dethman, lot 4 block 2, Riverview.

Eleanor La France to Sherman J. Frank, lot 3 and east one-half lot 4, block 4 Hood River, consideration \$7,100.

Edna E. Thomas and husband to C. P. Gould, 199 acres on extreme east side.

Orson H. Rhodes and wife to Frank Menefee undivided one-half interest in 11 acres south of Pine Grove \$2500.

Albert B. Shelley and wife and Ralph S. Shelley and wife to T. Nakagawa, 29 acres south of Pine Grove \$2500.

BULLET ENDS LIFE OF MATT DOUGLAS

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Douglas of this city received a telegram from Lone Rock, Ore., Friday evening stating that their son Matthew had been shot in the head and could not live more than a couple of hours. On Saturday morning Mr. Douglas left for Lone Rock. That evening another telegram was received stating that the youth was dead.

Complete details have not yet been received. The young man went to Lone Rock the first of last month intending to conduct a cigar and confectionery store. So far as news of the tragedy has been received, it is understood that his body was found in his bedroom early Friday morning with a bullet wound behind the ear and a note on the table explaining the act. The family, however, state that they do not yet know whether it was murder or suicide.

The body will arrive here this afternoon for burial.

The deceased sustained a severe injury to one of his arms about a year ago when a tree fell on him as he was driving along the road. He recovered damages from the county.

When her child is in danger a woman will risk her life to protect it. No great act of heroism or risk of life is necessary to protect a child from croup. Give Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and all danger is avoided. For sale by all dealers.\*

East Side Grade Riddle May Be Solved at Last

Merchants Unite in Order to Assist City in Having Work Started at Once and Considerable Improvement Done, After Which Special Election May Be Held with View to Incorporating That Section.

That the problem of the east side grade may at last be solved was indicated by action taken at a meeting of local merchants Thursday evening. The matter of making much-needed improvements to the road was the subject of considerable discussion and a solution was reached which it is hoped may prove for the best interests of both city and county by bringing about the improvement of the grade without further delay.

The primary object in calling the meeting was to arrange so that work can be started on the grade immediately. The city council has appropriated \$2000 for the purpose, but this will not be available until the tax money is received. The plan was to have the merchants raise a guarantee fund or else secure the payment of city warrants issued for this road work, to be reimbursed when the money is available.

City Engineer Morse submitted figures showing that it would take close to \$4000 to properly improve the grade. Councilman Brosius reported that only \$2000 will be available this year on account of other expenses for improvement work. This suggested the possibility that if the city did this much of the work the county might do the rest. This in turn brought home anew the fact that the city made a gross error when it took over the territory embracing the road, which, it was pointed out, should have remained outside the city limits.

The upshot of the matter was that two committees were appointed by

Chairman C. N. Clarke. One of them, which includes J. H. Hellbrunner, H. F. Davidson and Frank Carr, will confer with the local banks in regard to the best way of raising the \$2000 or its equivalent. The second committee, which is composed of C. H. Vaughan, P. S. Davidson, J. M. Schmelzer, George Thompson and W. G. McGuire, will prepare and circulate an initiative petition calling for an election to vote on the question of incorporating that part of the city which is located east of the Hood River. It is pointed out that the river is the logical western boundary of the city.

This action was not taken until after a number of those present reported that it was the sentiment of orchardists on the east side that the road should be improved and that they would be willing that the county should take it back, especially after the city had shown its good will by investing \$2000 in repairs on the road. This would leave only an equal amount to be appropriated by the county in order to complete the improvement.

That the business men are urging that work be started at once is due to the fact that there are now many idle men who would welcome the opportunity to work, while later in the season it will be difficult to obtain workmen.

Musk lovers will be given a treat at the Gem Theatre tomorrow evening, when Vogel's orchestra will furnish a musical program.\*

EVENTS OF WORLD WIDE INTEREST PICTURED FOR BUSY READERS



News Snapshots Of the Week

New York society for the first time in years paid homage to royalty when the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, with their daughter, the Princess Patricia, were guests of Whitelaw Reid. The royal visitors were very much impressed by the city. James T. Harahan, former head of the Illinois Central railroad, and three companions were instantly killed when the Panama limited crashed into the private car in which they were sleeping. Dr. Harvey W. Wiley was exonerated of the charge of conspiracy made against him last August in connection with the hiring of Dr. Rusby as a government expert. Count Oku, for many years chief of the general staff of the Japanese army, retired to private life. Charles A. Lindbergh, one of the representatives from Minnesota, pushed his resolution providing for an inquiry into the alleged money trust. Asbury F. Lever, congressman from South Carolina, declared war on the so-called butter trust.

Land Values Here Are Highest in the State

Wonderful Productivity of Hood River Soil Is Reflected in Census Figures Just Made Public—Average Value of Farm Land Is \$340 an Acre—Is Approached by No Other County Except Multnomah.

That the average value of farm land in Hood River county is greater by far than in any other county in the state, Multnomah included, is shown by agricultural statistics of the state which have just been made public by the bureau of the census. In this county the average value of farm land is \$340 per acre. In Multnomah county the average value is \$230 per acre. In only three counties do the values rise to between \$75 and \$100 per acre. In the four which form a group in the northwestern part of the state the average is between \$50 and \$75 per acre and the others show a decreasing ratio down to Wheeler county, which has an average of less than \$10 per acre.

The report shows that the average number of acres to a farm in this county is 51.1. The average number of improved acres per farm is 19.2. All farm property in the county is given a valuation of \$14,408,138, which is about \$2000 greater than the assessed valuation given by County Assessor Wickham and about \$4000 greater than the valuation as assessed by the state.

Of this amount \$12,937,812 is in land, \$969,484 in buildings, \$203,572 in implements, and \$267,270 in domestic animals. This shows that 88.8 per cent of the value of all property in the county is in land.

The average value per farm in this county is given as \$19,366.

An interesting fact shown by the report is that property in Hood River county is carrying less mortgaged indebtedness in proportion to its valuation than six-sevenths of the counties of the state. Of all farms operated in this county by owners, 249 are free from mortgage debt and 379 carry mortgages. Of farms consisting of owned land only, 333 reported debt. The value of their land and buildings is \$6,181,400 and the total indebtedness \$1,258,425, making the per cent of value mortgaged 20.4. Only four counties in the

state have a smaller mortgaged indebtedness when reckoned on the same basis. Of these the lowest is Harney with a mortgaged indebtedness of 20.4 of the value of the farms mortgaged.

There are 744 farms in this county, of which 631 are operated by native whites, 106 by foreign born whites and only seven by negroes or non white farmers.

Most of the farms are between 20 and 49 acres in size. One is under three acres; 91 are from three to nine acres; 240 are from 10 to 49 acres; 107 from 50 to 99 acres; 84 from 100 to 174 acres; 10 from 175 to 259 acres; eight from 260 to 499 acres and three of 1000 acres or over.

The per centage of the county's land area in farms is 10.9. The total acreage is 347,520 and of this 38,949 is in farms. There are 14,284 acres of improved land in the county and 12,213 acres of woodland in farms.

In the state the average value of farm land per acre is \$35.3. This has increased from \$11.23 in 1900, an increase of 213.7 per cent.

The total wealth of the state in the form of farm property is \$528,244,000, of which 86.2 per cent is represented by land and buildings, 11.3 by live stock, and 1.5 per cent by implements and machinery. The total increase in value during the last 10 years was \$355,482,000, or more than eleven times as great as during the decade immediately preceding, and more than double that of the whole period from 1850 to 1900. Of this increase \$23,239,000 was contributed by land and buildings, \$25,545,000 by live stock, \$6,699,000 by implements and machinery.

The average value per acre of land and buildings was \$38.99 in 1910, compared with \$13.14 in 1900 and \$16.76 in 1890. In 1850 the average was but \$6.58, since which time, with the exception of the period between 1890 and 1900, it has continuously increased.

Big Storage Plant to Be Built at Van Horn

Largest Structure of Its Kind in the Valley Will Be Erected This Spring and Will Be in Readiness to Accommodate Big Crop This Fall—Dimensions to Be 80 x 285 Feet. Has Huge Capacity.

In order to meet one of the valley's greatest needs, fruitgrowers of the Van Horn section have combined and are to build a huge storage house.

This structure will be 80x285 in dimension and will include a capacious cement basement, main storage floor packing room and facilities for cold storage.

Plans have already been prepared for the big structure and work will

be started as soon as weather conditions permit. This will insure the building's being in readiness to accommodate the bumper crop which is expected this fall.

The building will be located about half a mile north of the station at Van Horn, thus being centrally located for the orchardists and at the same time convenient to shipping facilities.

Plans for the structure were seen this week at the office of R. R. Bartlett, the architect by whom they have been prepared. It is to be thoroughly insulated throughout in order to fit it for cold storage purposes.

ROBLEY MALE QUARTET IS TO APPEAR HERE TONIGHT

This evening the Robley Male Quartet will give the fourth number on the Hood River Lyceum course at Hellbrunner's hall. This course is given under the auspices of the Brotherhood and Ladies Aid Society of the United Brethren church. The program given by the quartet is said to be full of vivacity and life. In addition to the usual program of quartet songs and solos, they present a melo-phonograph quartet and a one-act sketch, "The Trials of a College Poet." Bayard T. Robley, the manager, is a reader and impersonator of unusual ability.

Single admission will be thirty cents or \$1.40 for the remaining three numbers, which includes reserved seats. Instead of the Barnhardt company, which had been scheduled to appear here, the Bellamy Entertainers will give an entertainment on March 12.

The News for good printing.