

MASS MEETING HEARS REPORT

Committee Appointed to Investigate Rogue River Plan Submits Unfavorable Findings, but Announces That Co-operation With Wenatchee and Yakima May Be Accomplished and So Recommends.

That the Rogue River plan of purchasing the Northwestern Fruit Exchange is not applicable to the needs of Hood River at this time and that there is strong possibility that Hood River may be able to ally itself in a marketing arrangement with Yakima and Wenatchee, was the gist of a report submitted to the local fruit growers yesterday afternoon at a mass meeting held at Heilbronner hall.

It was shown that if the Rogue River plan were adopted the so called combine would control only about half the Rogue River output of 1000 cars, three-quarters of the Hood River output of about 2000 cars and only one-twelfth of the Wenatchee output of about 4000 cars. In other words only about one-fifth of the total output of the Northwest would be handled through the exchange.

Under the arrangement which now appears possible—that Hood River may combine with Wenatchee and Yakima—practically four-fifths of the crop would be handled under the cooperative method and the sections which are now in competition would be working in harmony.

The local committee submitted a report showing clearly that such a plan would be much more to the advantage of Hood River than the adoption of the Rogue River plan.

The facts in the case, as determined by the local committee, are as follows: When Manager Gwin of the exchange addressed the local growers in this city he made a number of clear cut representations. Basing their opinion upon these representations the growers present were enthusiastic in their endorsement of the plan. In the report made by the

board of directors of the union at that time, however, it was strongly recommended that a local committee make a careful investigation, it being recalled that all the information to date had been received from the selling party.

One of the most important points in the minds of the local committee was the matter of the connection between the Northwestern Fruit Exchange and its selling agent—the North American Fruit Exchange. The impression had been given that the North American Fruit Exchange was purely and simply a co-operative selling agency organized and conducted in the interests of non-competing fruit districts and not allied with any special commission interests. In order to determine the exact status of the matter the local committee selected the exchange's salaried A-1 salesman. From reliable informants (in most cases banking institutions) in each city the committee learned what the connections of the local agents were. In a large number of cases the reply was that the agent of the North American Fruit Exchange was also the agent of Crutcheff and Woolfolk, the Pittsburg commission men whose names have been frequently linked with that of the Northwestern Fruit Exchange. In so large a number of instances was this found to be the case that the local committee was forced to conclude that the North American Fruit Exchange was in reality only a selling agency organized and controlled by Crutcheff and Woolfolk.

At the meeting held between representatives of the Rogue River Valley, Cashmere and Hood River Valley in

Portland recently it is a fact that the representatives from Rogue River Cashmere and Mosler were prepared to take favorable action upon the proposition which had been made by the Northwestern Fruit Exchange. When the local committee inquired whether those sections had made any further investigation except through the exchange's office in Portland a negative reply was received. The local committee then made known its findings.

It was agreed that the exact findings of the committees should not be made public. With this in view resolutions were adopted in which the name of the exchange did not appear and which conveyed only by implication that the committees did not see fit to carry on further negotiations with it.

It having been agreed that it would be best for all concerned if the matter were quietly dropped, and the conclusion being that the matter of obtaining the cooperation of all the fruit districts in a marketing arrangement should be approached in a different manner, it came as a surprise when the exchange made its unwarranted and unprovoked appeal directly to the growers of the Hood River Valley over the heads of the duly appointed local representatives with the evident intention of creating ill-feeling and, if possible, a stampede in favor of the exchange. Under these circumstances, the local committee thought it best to call the mass meeting held yesterday afternoon in order that the growers here might not be misled by the insinuating and misleading letter sent out by the exchange.

UNITED BOOST IS MADE FOR HIGHWAY

Letters from private individuals, county officials and the board of directors of the Commercial Club have been sent this week to Oregon's representatives in Congress asking their support for the appropriation of \$150,000 which was asked for the purpose of completing the road surveyed by the National Government last summer through the forest reserve from near Lost Lake in the southern part of this county to the headwaters of the Sandy river. The route was opened up for forest rangers last summer, when an appropriation of \$10,000 was spent in cutting a six-foot trail the entire distance. A crew of about eighty men passed the summer removing the trees and cutting the grade.

The route, passing through a virgin forest for the most of the way and at the base of the wonderful mountain, offers one of the most scenic locations for a highway in the state. All who have seen it state that an excellent grade may be had and that the cost of construction will be surprisingly cheap. In no place is the grade over seven per cent. Hood River county will build a connecting link to bring the highway in from the Lost Lake country.

With the building of this highway and the Columbia River road an ideal boulevard for a day's automobile journey will add to the zest of the state's motorists.

NELSON TO HELP DEVELOP TRACT

O. J. Nelson, formerly a minister in this city and son-in-law of E. L. Smith, has been selected by a Portland syndicate to develop a big tract of land which they have purchased in the Klickitat valley. The idea is to demonstrate that money can be made in raising livestock, particularly cattle and hogs. Mr. Nelson, who is now a scientific farmer and large landowner of Goldendale, will have complete management. Of them the Oregonian says:

Nelson, who has been notably successful in the development of his own farm land, will be general manager of the property. He has been in the Klickitat Valley for more than three years and owns about 2500 acres of fertile land in that section. He has had much experience also in the development of the Hood River district, being one of the pioneer orchard men there. He is a son-in-law of E. L. Smith founder of the Hood River apple industry.

The chief work of the company will be to present a concrete demonstration of the economic practicability of intensive farming and stockraising in the vicinity of Portland. The land already acquired consists of one 240-acre tract, purchased from O. J. Nelson and wife, N. B. Brooks and A. E. Caley, and another 320-acre tract, bought from the Lyle Trading Company. The two pieces adjoin. They are situated six miles northwest of Goldendale in the heart of the Spring Creek country.

Market for Box Apples Shows Big Improvement

Local Stock, Amounting to Less Than Fifteen Cars, Will Be Exhausted in Two or Three Weeks and Supply in Northwest Does Not Exceed Twenty Cars—Eastern Market Crowding in Strength.

Only about fifteen cars of apples are left in storage here, and as several carloads are being shipped out every week, the entire local stock will be cleaned out within the next two or three weeks. In other districts of the Northwest only about twenty cars are left and indications are that these will be exhausted in the very near future. Eastern markets are reported to be firmer and an early advance in prices is expected.

The local union had about ten cars left at the end of last week and Manager Sprout reported that they are being moved rapidly, four or five cars being shipped each week. These apples were mostly five tier, the fancy stock having been marketed early in the season.

The Davidson Fruit Company reported only about five cars left the last of the week. This included the odds and ends of the different varieties and they are being rapidly shipped to a cash market, no consignments being made. The local market is brisk.

Apple stocks throughout the Northwest are being cut down rapidly. A conservative estimate of the supply left in all hands in the Northwest at the end of last week did not exceed thirty-five cars. Five cars remained at Cove and a little was left at Cashmere and Chelan. There are no apples at Wenatchee except what are owned by Seattle and Tacoma dealers.

Reports state that the apple market is firmer in nearly all points in the East and Middle West, particularly Cleveland, St. Louis and Chicago. Dealers in the latter city predict an early advance. Mail advices received from New York say of conditions there:

"While a good deal of irregularity is reported in the quality of many apples now on the market, there has been a freer distribution to the con-

suming trade and the trend is upward on best stock in all varieties. As a matter of fact, at the close there was a slightly higher level of values reported on cold storage stock in Sptzenburgs, Spys and Kings, and these varieties moved out a good deal more rapidly, based on the general quotation of \$2.75 to \$4 per barrel as to quality on the No. 1 stock. This range of prices covered all the varieties noted. There was a good deal of fruit, however, that would not grade above a No. 2 and this stock sold lower. In some cases at the stores small lots in the several offerings sold at above the figures mentioned.

It is said that the holdings of apples in the principal sections are on a moderate scale and prices are firmer up among the principal holders. The belief is that with an early Spring, as now seems likely, there is certain to be a higher market. For the week arrivals have covered a total of 35,659 barrels, compared with 21,727 barrels in the same period last year. The total receipts since January 1 have been 172,065 barrels in the same period a year ago. The heavier arrivals this year are said to be accounted for by the fact that a good many more apples have gone for export and to interior points than last year. There has been, however, a good deal of poor stock shipped in for quick sale. The outlook seems to favor a better movement on all good apples.

"Box apples are moving out well, not only to the local, but out-of-town trade, and business is done on a large-sized Spitz at \$3.50 a box and on small at \$3 to \$3.25, with large-sized Rome Beauties selling at \$2.75 to \$3 and small \$2.25 to \$2.50."

Apple exports to Europe for the season to date have been 2,417,744 barrels, as compared with 1,567,224 barrels in the same period last year.

WINS LONG FIGHT FOR LIFE AND LEGS

For exactly one year George Watson, whose legs were crushed almost to a pulp in an accident here, has battled in the local hospital for his life and limbs. Sunday was the first anniversary of the misfortune and Watson was able to take a few steps upon the limbs which had been saved through what was almost a miracle of surgery. Not the least among the elements which have brought Watson victory in his long fight has been his unflinching cheerfulness and optimism. Watson was brought to the hospital on February 25, 1911. He had been struck by the pole of a stump-puller and the bones of both legs were shattered in numerous places. It was decided that there was a fighting chance to patch together the broken fragments of bone. Repeated operations were necessary, but Watson bore them with unflinching courage. There is today an excellent chance that after the long untried tendons are rendered pliable he may be able to walk with comparative ease.

OFFER PRIZES FOR BEAUTIFUL YARDS

The Civic Committee of the Hood River Woman's Club has made arrangements to give substantial cash prizes for improvements in unimproved yards in the city, knowing that the co-operation of residents means a city beautiful.

Anyone having an unimproved yard is eligible to enter the contest on March 15, when the first inspection will be made by the committee. The contest closes September 1, when prizes will be awarded to those securing the greatest number of points. These will be given for the most improvement in lawns, flowers, walks, back yards, shrubbery, trees, general appearance, parking and tree planting between sidewalk and curb wherever street-grading has been done.

Anyone desirous of entering the contest will please notify Mrs. Chase Castner, phone 156 M, or any member of the Civic Committee, who will be glad to enter the name and inspect present condition of premises or give information required concerning the plan.

WEST BOOSTS FOR ROAD TO PORTLAND

Appreciating the great importance of constructing the wagon road which will link Hood River and Multnomah counties, as well as eastern and western Oregon, Governor West made a special trip to this city last evening to address a gathering of citizens at the Commercial Club and discuss plans for building that portion of the road around Shell Rock.

The governor was accompanied here by Attorney E. E. Covert of Portland. Mr. Covert represents S. Benson, who has offered to contribute \$10,000 for the work.

The purpose of the meeting here was to come to some arrangement whereby the donation may be expended to the best possible advantage. It has been suggested that the governor might put a gang of convicts at work on the road and also that the railroad may cooperate.

Local citizens are ready to give their help in any way possible and it is believed that the governor's interest in the matter will insure favorable action at an early date.

HOOD RIVER BOY WINS AIR CONTEST

A world's record for model aeroplanes not propelled by an engine was made at Portland Saturday by George L. Batchelder of this city, who has proved himself a mechanical genius of high order.

Batchelder, who is seventeen years old, sent his model aeroplane through the air for a distance of 631 feet, winning the special Y. M. C. A. membership prize in the Meier & Frank third annual amateur aviation contest.

This was followed a few minutes later in the flight of another of Batchelder's entries, which won the grand prize. This model made a splendid flight, alighting on the post-office building.

After several attempts Batchelder sent his first entry spinning like a bird in the direction of the Y. M. C. A. building at Seventh and Taylor streets, gliding gracefully downward, it finally alighted on a portico of the Hellig theatre, a horizontally measured distance of 631 feet. The grand prize in last year's contest was won by Batchelder's entry, when it went 250 feet. Saturday's flight is conceded by aeroplane experts to be the world's record for model aeroplanes not propelled by an engine.

IMPROVEMENT WORK IS RECOMMENDED

Additional street improvement was recommended by the street committee of the council at the meeting Monday evening as follows:

"We recommend that cement sidewalks and curbs be ordered on Cascade Avenue from Fifth street to Fourteenth street, on Oak street from Fifth street to Tenth street and on Sherman Avenue from Sixth street to Ninth street.

"We recommend that Sherman Avenue be graded from Sixth street to Ninth street and that the Serpentine Way be graded from State and Sixth streets to its intersection with Eugene street extended east, thence on Eugene street west to connect with Ninth street, also that Thirteenth street from Taylor street to the county road and Twelfth street south from the county road to Wilson street, and the streets connecting with Twelfth street be graded and cement sidewalks and curbs laid at the earliest date, also that Adams street from Thirteenth street to Cascade Avenue be graded.

"We recommend that Second street from Cascade Avenue to the railroad right of way be included in the paving district."

STRANAHAN URGED TO BE A CANDIDATE

Friends of C. H. Stranahan are urging him to become a candidate for state senator from Wasco and Hood river counties. While Mr. Stranahan has not yet committed himself, it is said to be possible that he will consent to enter the race.

Mr. Stranahan is an old settler and successful business man, and it would be gratifying, not only to Hood River and Wasco counties, but to the entire state, to have men like Mr. Stranahan in the legislature to protect the interests of the taxpayers from extravagant appropriations as well as to represent them in other important legislation.

Want Cascade Avenue Widened

At the meeting of the council Monday evening a petition was received signed by a number of property owners on Cascade Avenue, asking that the street be widened from thirty to thirty-six feet. The petition was referred to the Street Committee.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT WHO ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

W. J. SMITH CRUSHED TO DEATH IN SHAFT

W. J. Smith, who was born and reared here and who operated the box factory at one time, was instantly killed Saturday in a sawmill at Raymond, Wash.

Mr. Smith was a half planer foreman at the Crum Lumber Company's plant in Raymond. While working as usual Saturday an overcoat he was wearing became entangled in a belt on one of the machines, winding the unfortunate man around the shaft and crushing out life.

The funeral was held at Portland Sunday. Mrs. A. J. Parker and Mrs. Alma Howe, who had been friends of the Smith family, attended. Those who survive include an invalid wife and four grown children.

Mr. Smith's father was one of the pioneer settlers in the Hood River valley and owned the present Ordway place on the West Side.

"CAN'T RUN, I'M TOO BUSY"—A. I. MASON

Editor News—Many of my friends have requested me to accept the nomination for Republican representative in the next legislature, but owing to my interest in the coming state campaign for the state grange initiative road bills and also because of my too frequent absence from my own interests at home I feel it my duty to decline in favor of some good live Republican who believes in the Oregon system and will not falter in its defense.

We need more LaFollettes and Dolivers and fewer Lorimers and Montana Clarkes in the Republican party. With thanks to my friends and good-will to my enemies, I am Yours respectfully, A. I. Mason.

Waldo J. Emerson, formerly of this city and more recently of Primeville, returned this week to work for the Bridal Veil Lumber Company.

INTEREST IN PAPER MILL IS AROUSED

W. H. Goodenough, at the request of the business men of Hood River, will deliver a lecture on "The Art of Paper-making and Why So Called," at the Commercial Club next Tuesday evening.

This lecture will be free to all and will be illustrated by stereopticon views of one of the best mills of the American Writing Paper Company. Mr. Goodenough will make a sheet of paper by hand and will also explain the modern methods of making fine writing paper. Through the stereopticon views, he will take the audience through a real paper mill, a tour of inspection which will be full of interest and information.

As stated recently in the News, Mr. Goodenough believes that Hood River, with her abundance of pure mountain water, both for power and manufacturing purposes, as well as her rail and river transportation, is splendidly equipped for the making of fine papers.

All who are interested in the possibility of getting a manufacturing concern of this kind in Hood River are invited.

FIRE ESCAPES ARE ORDERED INSTALLED

A list of fourteen buildings which should have fire escapes, according to the decision of the council, has been placed in the hands of Marshal Lewis with instructions to enforce the new fire escape ordinance. The list, which follows, includes some buildings which already have fire escapes, but which the committee has decided should have additional means for escape. The list includes Mt. Hood hotel, Oregon Hotel, Heilbronner building, McDonald building, Armory, Jack Morrison building, J. H. Gerdes' house, McCan-Jackson building, First National Bank, Monroe building, Ramona hotel, K. of P. hall and the Cottage hospital.

Schubert Trio Concert

The fourth and last of this series of concerts is to be given next Tuesday March 12, in the Unitarian church at 8 o'clock. Admission 25c.

HOOD RIVER FRUIT SCORES A POINT

Oregon apples and their superior keeping qualities have scored another point, says the Telegram.

Two boxes of fine Hood River Spitzburgs that were shipped October 30 by M. L. Gumbert to his daughter, the wife of Ensign R. R. Smith on the U. S. S. gunboat Monterey, reached her in Amoy, China, after having been in transit for two months and a half, part of the time in the fierce heat of the tropics. They arrived in perfect condition and were pronounced by the captain and officers, who were permitted to share them, the finest apples they had ever seen.

Mr. Gumbert received a letter this week from his daughter, dated January 18, which told of the arrival of the apples the day before.

"Every apple," said she, "was perfect; and such beautiful! We gave some to the captain and he said they were the most gorgeous he had ever tasted. Every one is surprised that they kept so well after having encountered the heat of the Philippines."

OAK GROVE SCHOOL WILL BE A BEAUTY

At a meeting of the Oak Grove school board Monday evening Albert Sutton was appointed architect of the new building. Plans prepared by Mr. Sutton show a handsome structure equipped with all modern conveniences. It will be of brick and will have one floor and a basement, all above ground. A modern heating system will be installed and a fan ventilating system. Sanitary drinking fountains, maple floors and plate glass windows will be some of the features. The building will be in Renaissance style. It will cost between \$16,000 and \$18,000.

Episcopal Church

At St. Mark's Episcopal church, corner Eugene and Eleventh streets, services will be held on ten Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent as follows: Wednesdays, 7:30 p. m.; Fridays, 4 p. m. Services as usual on Sundays, 11 a. m. and 4:30 p. m. E. T. Simpson.