

**THE HOOD RIVER NEWS**

PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY MORNING BY  
HOOD RIVER NEWS COMPANY, Inc.  
HOOD RIVER, OREGON

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Subscription, \$1.50 a Year in Advance

Entered as second-class matter, Feb. 10, 1909, at the post office at Hood River, Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

**A Moral Obligation**

It appears that a year or more ago a number of the citizens of Hood River and vicinity thought it wise to investigate conditions, locally, relative to the illicit sale of liquor by the drug stores, and to this end the sheriff and city marshal were detailed to look after the matter and secure evidence of any infraction of the law that might exist. It is stated that the county court and members of the city council at that date made a verbal agreement to each pay one-half of the expense for securing detectives to trap the local drug men in "booze" selling if such was done.

It will be remembered that the strange sleuths were on the ground and exercised themselves more or less in an effort to secure the necessary testimony to convict, but that the drug store proprietors were never brought into court to plead. This must be construed to mean that they found no evidence against them.

However, in due time the detectives rendered their bill for the sum of \$275 which, we understand, was paid by the sheriff and marshal who would be reimbursed by the city and county.

To date the two officials have not received the sum they expended in good faith, and while it is true that the county court and city council have changed their personnel since the days of sleuthing for "booze" the moral obligation upon the county and city to make good its promise to these men remains in full force and effect, and while the matter was considered at a recent city council meeting and sidetracked without action these men should have their money if it was promised them.

It has been urged that this is a foolish manner for the city to spend money, and this may be wholly true. However, the city may have spent money in other ways that have been foolish, but this does not cancel the moral obligation.

**The Struggle Is Over**

A dozen bond buyers on the ground eager to grab the small issue of \$36,000 worth of Hood River municipal bonds looks pretty good—and that at premium figures that run up pretty well. A premium of \$1051 and accrued interest based on a 5 1/2 per cent interest basis is not so slow. The bid of Causey & Foster who offered a \$28 premium and accrued interest on a five per cent bond would have been a more attractive proposition by about \$777 than the bid that was accepted. However, the fact that the representative of the latter house failed to insert the rate of interest in his bid rendered it null and void.

The splendid bids made for the bond issue is the direct result of natural causes. The water fight is over; pending litigation has been wiped off the slate; there will be no competitive water system in Hood River, and for these reasons bond buyers are falling over themselves to take a dip in the pond. How different these bids from former submissions made when a few measly bids were offered to take the bonds at a discount.

The water plant for which the money derived from the bond sale is to be used for the payment of shows a net revenue this year of \$6000. This plant could have been secured 5 years ago for \$40,000 which is about the price the city paid for it counting the several election expenses, advertising expenses, attorneys fees and other expenses. In other words it can be plainly

seen that Hood River city would have been at least \$30,000 ahead of where it is now if the deal had been closed for the water plant at that time, to say nothing about the irreparable damage done by advertising to "Boil the water."

The News at that time and later favored the purchase of the water plant at the figure named and advocated a speedy settlement of the water question.

However, to one man more than to any other single individual belongs the credit of securing an ultimate settlement of the water issue in Hood River. Councilman C. T. Early's indefatigable efforts while a member of the recent council to have the matter brought to an issue where the city could secure the local water plant is fully appreciated by the citizens.

The struggle is over.

**The Speed Limit**

Portland is waging an aggressive warfare against auto speeding in the city and last week the violators were brought in by the wholesale. Some received rockpile sentences and others heavy fines. Preachers, lawyers and doctors were caught along with the common bunch and brought face to face with penalty.

The auto club of Hood River has asked the council to pass an ordinance increasing the limit from 10 to 15 miles per hour. However, the matter was submitted to the council as a committee as a whole and it will probably remain there for an indefinite time as is the usual rule followed in matters that are thus submitted.

It appears that 10 miles per hour is fast enough down these steep hills and a 15-mile rate would almost place the car beyond control around sharp curves and grades. However, 15 miles per hour up grade would be perfectly safe from the standpoint of control.

**The Revolver**

For several years the Oregon Journal has given much space to the subject of the reckless selling of firearms, especially revolvers, in the city of Portland, to every Tom, Dick and Harry who had the money to pay for the same. The fruits of the campaign waged by the paper is plainly seen in the fact that the council has raised the fine from \$5 to \$50 for carrying concealed weapons.

The measure makes it unlawful to carry concealed weapons of any character without a permit from the chief of police and prohibits the sale of any revolver, dirk or other dangerous weapon without a complete record of the sale being made and transmitted to the police headquarters.

Dealers are required by the ordinance to secure the names of all purchasers of such weapons and to send a list of all sales to the chief of police every day before 12 o'clock noon.

Undoubtedly this measure will greatly reduce the crime attributed to the deadly revolver within the city of Portland.

The Bull Moosers have turned loose and intend to make a head-on attack on the regulars. Teddy better be careful or the impact with Taft may result in the loss of those ivory credentials that are his fame and fortune in provoking the crowds to cheer as they glisten and glimmer from underneath the "roughriders" facial hairline.

Oz West and his little black mare are making fine progress toward Boise to attend the Governors' convention. They have been ticketed out of Burns. While absent from the state some of the "honor boys" working on the rockpile at Shellrock mountain have taken a vacation. Three have escaped.

Well, with Selling, Mulkey and Bourne in the field for United States senator, Harry Lane will have easy picking.

**What About Our Apples?**

The Oregon Journal reprints an editorial from the last issue of the News, in Sunday's edition on the subject of the Hood River apple, and prefaces the article by the following statements:

"Hood River apple growers have decided that every apple they send forward this season will be true to grade and honest in every particular.

"For two years the premier apple growing district of the United States has suffered because of the lack of foresight of some of the growers there who persisted in sending out fruit that fell considerably below the standard.

"On many occasions attention was called to these facts by The Journal but no heed was paid until after the closing of the 1911 season. Then seemingly everyone began to realize all at once that an injustice was being done the district by the growers themselves.

"There are many sections of the Pacific northwest that produce good apples and for that reason buyers soon discovered that a shipper who would cheat once would do so again. This resulted in the product of the better known districts going a begging while fruit from other sections was in demand."

Now, before leaving the subject, the News desires to state that the Journal is correct in its statements and we just as well take our medicine and never repeat the history of the past in sending out faulty fruit under a fancy and extra fancy brand.

Put the goods in the box and Portland will not sell 50 boxes of Wenatchee and Yakima apples to 1 of Hood Rivers this season. Portland should be Hood River's market for all of the fancy fruit that it consumes, by every rule of the game.

**Where Does He Stand?**

The citizens of Hood River county are anxious to know where Hon. N. J. Sinnott of The Dalles, candidate for United States representative, stands since the Bull Moose party has been called into existence by the fiat of the ivory-toothed leader, Theodore Roosevelt.

It has been thought that Mr. Sinnott was closely affiliated with Johnathan Bourne in the last primary campaign, and Johnie must now be an avowed Bull Mooser as he is a progressive of the radical type, and it is reasoned, therefore, that Mr. Sinnott must belong to the same party.

The News has been asked by many of the leading politicians of Hood River county where Mr. Sinnott stands. Whether he is a republican and will run on the regular republican ticket or whether he is a Bull Mooser and will run on a progressive ticket?

The News shall be glad to inform its readers where Mr. Sinnott stands and it will gladly give Mr. Sinnott space through its columns to state to the voters of Hood River county to which branch of the republican party he now belongs.

Debs in a public speech has stated that Teddy has stolen the Socialists' platform. If this is actually true, the Moosers ought to "ditch" Teddy and take in Debs.

**OREGON THIRD IN COLLEGE PERCENT**

State Superintendent of Schools L. R. Alderman states that this state stands third in rank of those that have the highest percentage of students attending colleges according to population. Kansas is first, with one college student to every 112 inhabitants, Utah second with one to every 121 inhabitants, Oregon third with one to 150, Nebraska fourth with one to 155, Indiana next with one to 162, Iowa one to 184, and Illinois with one to 199, while Missouri is at the bottom of the column.

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