

Shell Rock Work More Than Half Completed

Convicts Make Rapid Progress in Piercing Last Barrier in Transcontinental Highway--Benson Donation of \$10,000 Less Than Half Expended--Road Will Be Finished on Schedule

Construction of the road around Shell Rock, which will pierce the last serious obstruction in the final link of the transcontinental system of highways, is more than half completed and the \$10,000 donation made for the work by S. Benson of Portland is less than half expended. This is the report of Murray Kay of this city, who is the engineer in charge of the work.

It was a little over three months ago that Governor West brushed aside all obstacles and established his camp of honor men from the penitentiary at Shell Rock. Since that time an average of about 20 convicts have been engaged on the work. These men have been in charge of Overseer Adam Shortgren and have conducted themselves in a way which fully vindicates Governor West's policy of employing his best-behaved convicts on good road projects, so Mr. Kay declares.

The road has been constructed more than half way around the rock. Although the building of the road around the peculiar sliding formation at that point was a difficult engineering feat, it is being successfully accomplished and every indication is that the road will be permanent and not susceptible to serious damage from the sliding rock. It has a maximum grade of eight per cent. The maximum width will be 16 feet and the minimum width in places where it was desirable to reduce the rock work is 14 feet.

Adapted for Automobiles The road is being constructed with a view to its making a good automobile as well as wagon road. The minimum width of 14 feet will be sufficient to allow the largest touring cars to pass at any point.

"In Multnomah county," says Mr. Kay, "the roads have a maximum width of 24 feet and a minimum width of 12 feet. The Shell Rock road has not such a great maximum width, but it has a larger minimum width, which means an equally serviceable and convenient road at a considerably less expense."

Convicts Work Splendidly "The convicts have worked just as well as any gang of paid men and the manner in which the work was financed through Mr. Benson's donation has permitted its being done in the most economical fashion. The men have been working slowly through solid rock, but they have given the best results possible with

80-ACRE RANCH IN UPPER VALLEY SOLD

After having thoroughly investigated all the other fruit districts of the Northwest, J. Rollinson Barroll, Jr., of St. Louis and Clarence F. Busch of Long Island, N. Y., returned to Hood River last week and purchased from Hollowell and Becker their 80-acre ranch in the Upper Valley. The deal was made through Ward Ireland Cornell, the Upper Valley real estate man. The price paid was \$16,000.

Messrs. Barroll and Busch came to Hood River earlier in the summer and investigated conditions and opportunities here. They also visited the Rogue River section, Wenatchee, Yakima and several other apple districts. After seeing them all they decided to return to Hood River to locate.

The ranch purchased by them has 14 acres in six-year-old trees of the Newtown and Spitz varieties. Thirty-five acres have been slashed and burned and it is the intention of Messrs. Barroll and Busch to clear it and set out trees this fall. They also plan to build a bungalow and outbuildings and make extensive improvements. Both are enthusiastic about their purchase. They will be welcomed among the young men who are doing things in the Upper Valley. Mr. Busch is a graduate of Cornell.

Mr. Barroll's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Barroll of St. Louis, and his sister, Miss Barroll, were in Hood River Friday and Saturday inspecting the valley.

Another real estate deal just consummated in the Upper Valley is the sale to Captain Tobey by J. F. Thompson of 20 acres, all in orchard,

the smallest expenditure. "In order to build a road around the sliding mountain of rock, which is as much as 3500 feet in height in some places, we have sought to leave this shell rock undisturbed so far as possible. Our observation has been that the rock is not continually sliding towards the river, as has been popularly supposed. It only slides where excavations are made at its base. When undisturbed there is no reason to believe that the slide will ever encroach upon the road.

"We have constructed the road around and abutting upon the slide, rock taken from portions of the mountain which do not abut upon the road being used in the construction."

Railroad's Rights Safeguarded Although the county did not sign the agreement proposed by the railroad governing the location of the road, every effort has been made to recognize and safeguard the railroad's interests. The nearest the road approaches to the railroad is 20 1/2 feet between the center line of the track and the nearest edge of the road. Sufficient room is left so that another track can be laid between the present track and the road, there being the required 13 feet space for the additional track and 7 1/2 feet for clearance between the railroad and the road at all points.

Convicts' Conduct Exemplary So far as the work at Shell Rock is concerned, the Governor's policy of employing convicts on public projects is a great success, according to Mr. Kay, who says:

"Although I am only in charge of the engineering and not directly over the convicts, I have had every opportunity to study the system and can say that my observations from a layman's point of view have convinced me that the Governor's policy as carried out on the Shell Rock work has everything to recommend it. By this I mean that it appears good from every standpoint--good for the state, certainly beneficial for the men and extremely advantageous for the community in which the roads are constructed at the low cost of which this system permits."

"The convicts employed at Shell Rock are exceptionally industrious and well behaved. When one works with them for awhile he forgets that they are convicts. They are happy, sociable and all delighted at the freedom allowed them and the trust imposed in them by Governor West, whom they all admire and to whom they are very loyal."

Mr. Benson stipulated that the \$10,000 should be expended and the work completed within a year. Mr. Kay says that with the progress already made the road should be completed within the schedule time.

DECLINES TO SERVE AS COMMITTEEMAN

With regard to the appointment of John R. Putnam, Republican nominee as county commissioner, as a member of the executive committee of the Progressive party in Hood River county, we are requested to state that Mr. Putnam declined the appointment for the reason that while he is a supporter of Mr. Roosevelt, he is a Republican in state and county politics.

ANNUAL RECEPTION TO SCHOOL TEACHERS FRIDAY

The School and Home Association will begin its series of meetings with the usual informal reception to the teachers. This year the reception will be held at the High School Building this coming Friday evening at 8 o'clock. The citizens of Hood River city and valley are urged to be present to make this a real "get together" meeting. It is the time for election of officers.

Samuel Blythe and Simpson Cople left Friday for Los Angeles, where they will attend the national G. A. R. encampment, which opens this week. Mrs. L. M. Bentley also went to the convention as delegate from the W. R. C. of Oregon. Mrs. Blythe went to Portland to remain during her husband's absence,



NEW \$20,000 SCHOOL IN BARRETT DISTRICT

Handsome building which was opened last year for the first time. This school is one of the finest in the valley and stands as a testimonial to the progressive ideas and civic pride of residents in the Barrett district. The building is attractively constructed both inside and out. It is of brick and includes four large class rooms, office and capacious cement basement. An electrically operated ventilating system is a feature, while the building is heated and lighted according to the most approved methods. The school is surrounded by extensive playgrounds which include two acres. Indian Creek traverses a portion of the grounds. The school, which has just opened for its second year, is a great credit to the entire valley, as well as to the district in which it is located.

JOHN COPPER HAS A NARROW ESCAPE

John H. Copper, who recently resigned his position with the Hood River Banking and Trust Company, to work on the railroad in Eastern Oregon, narrowly escaped death Saturday at La Grande when the car in which he was riding was caught in a rear end collision. Mr. Copper came to Hood River Sunday, his head bound in bandages, and with him came the details of his experience. He was riding as attendant on a stock train and was playing cards with a number of men in the passenger coach which had been attached next to the caboose. The rear of the train had not been pulled clear onto the siding and it was struck by another train. When the men in the car heard the crash some rushed for the rear door and others jumped through the windows. Copper leaped for the rear door just behind Joe Allen, a wealthy stockman of Enterprise. Just as Allen jumped the caboose fell on him, killing him instantly. Copper turned back into the car just in the nick of time. He then jumped through a window. He sustained a number of scalp wounds. Allen was the only one of the ten men to be killed.

"BORROWER" LEAVES A TRAIL OF WHEAT

Attention of the gentleman who helped himself to a sack of wheat and another of oats from C. R. Bone's acreage on the State road Monday evening is called to the fact that he overlooked the fact that there was a sizable leak in the wheat bag. As a result a trail of Forty Fold wheat, the first to be shipped into the valley this season, gave a clue which required no Sherlock Holmes to follow. Mr. Bone says that if the grain is returned he will overlook the portion that was dropped by the wayside and ask no questions, otherwise he will prosecute the acquisitive "borrower."

CHILDREN'S FAIR NEXT SATURDAY

Next Saturday is the date for the school children's industrial fair, to which all school children of the county are eligible. The fair will be held at the courthouse and Superintendent Thompson anticipates that there will be a large number of exhibits, children from nearly every district in the county having been busy preparing entries. The latter will include fruits and vegetables, bread and canned fruit, jelly, flowers, sewing exhibits, mechanical work and chickens. A large list of premiums have been given by local merchants and the prizes are of a kind that should induce a large number to enter.

It is announced that as some children have raised chickens which are not included in the varieties specified, there will be an additional class, with three premiums, for the best exhibits of three chickens not included in the other class.

All children are urged to bring in their entries early Saturday morning in order that they may be put in place for the exhibit.

The fair will be kept open through the afternoon and also in the evening in case conditions warrant it.

PIPE FOR WATER SYSTEM ARRIVES

Four carloads of iron pipe to be used for the reconstruction of the water system has arrived, some on Saturday and the balance the first of this week. This shipment comprises about one-half of the pipe to be used. That which has arrived will be used on State, Twelfth, Eugene and Ninth streets and to the reservoir, the latter pipe being in very bad shape. The pipes inside the proposed paving district are also to be laid at once in order to facilitate the paving of some of the streets before winter.

The News for good printing.

COUNCIL ADOPTS REPORT ON PAVING

At the postponed meeting of the city council last week the report of the paving committee recommending Goldendale pavement on Cascade, State and Oak streets and the same paving on the cross streets, with a strip of macadam in the center, was adopted. The judiciary committee was instructed to bring in an ordinance in accordance with the recommendations of the committee.

In the matter of substituting gravel and oil on Oak street for the proposed macadam, the street committee recommended that the petition be held for further consideration. In the matter of the uncompleted sidewalks on Thirteenth street, the street committee recommended that not only these sidewalks, but all uncompleted walks be advertised at once in accordance with the ordinance requiring their completion.

The committee further recommended that the construction of sidewalks on Columbia street between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets be allowed as petitioned for.

The report of the street committee was adopted by the council.

The city surveyor made a verbal report on the incinerator and recommended that a man be placed in the office of Mr. Otis at Portland and that this man should oversee getting out plans for the incinerator. Mr. Otis himself has so many contracts for the installation of incinerators that he is unable to consider a contract with Hood River, but it is understood that he would be willing to have an engineer adapt his plans to the needs of Hood River.

Mayor Blanchard appointed Albert L. Crocker as a member of the library board to take the place of Dr. F. C. Brostus. H. L. Huggins and Professor McLoughlin were reappointed as members of the board.

ALLEGED SPEEDER IS FINED \$100

Osmun Royal, driver of the Ford Cap Inn automobile stage, was found guilty of speeding by Judge A. C. Buck the last of the week and was fined \$100.

The charge against Royal was that he exceeded the speed limit while passing within 100 yards of a team. The alleged offense took place when Royal's auto struck a rig just west of the steel bridge.

L. C. Baldwin was the principal witness for the state. He testified that he drove his auto across the bridge just in front of Royal and that he (Baldwin) was going about 12 miles an hour. Upon reaching the end of the bridge he said he increased his speed considerably, but that Royal passed him while he was going about three lengths of his own car. It was that that Royal's car struck the team and carriage. The law prohibits an auto from going faster than eight miles an hour when passing within 100 yards of a rig.

Attorney E. C. Smith appeared for Royal and stated that he did not care to put up any defense for his client, declaring that Royal preferred to be tried in the circuit court.

Professor B. B. Pratt, the cold storage expert from Washington who addressed local orchardists a few weeks ago, has returned to Hood River to remain during as much of the packing season as he can in order to study storage problems.

Declares Report of Huge Apple Crop Exaggerated

Reliable Trade Journal Says that Early Estimates Have Been Greatly Reduced by Unfavorable Weather Conditions in East and Middle West and Prospects are More Encouraging

A distinctly encouraging report upon the apple prospects this year is made by the St. Joseph Fruitgrower, one of the best-posted and most reliable fruit papers of the Middle West. This paper declares that the quantity of marketable apples available this year will fall far below the fruit buyers' early estimates and that good prices should be obtained by the growers. The Fruitgrower further declares that the talk of a bumper crop has been made largely for the purpose of depressing prices at the opening of the season. It says:

"All reports concerning the 1912 apple crop agree that the prospective crop, including all sections where apples are grown commercially, has deteriorated since the Fruitgrower's reports for last month were published. The government's reports, as well as those from Fruitgrower's correspondents, agree as to this. It is hard to ascertain to what extent the crop has been injured by drought, by insects and by apple scab or the extent to which the injury will continue."

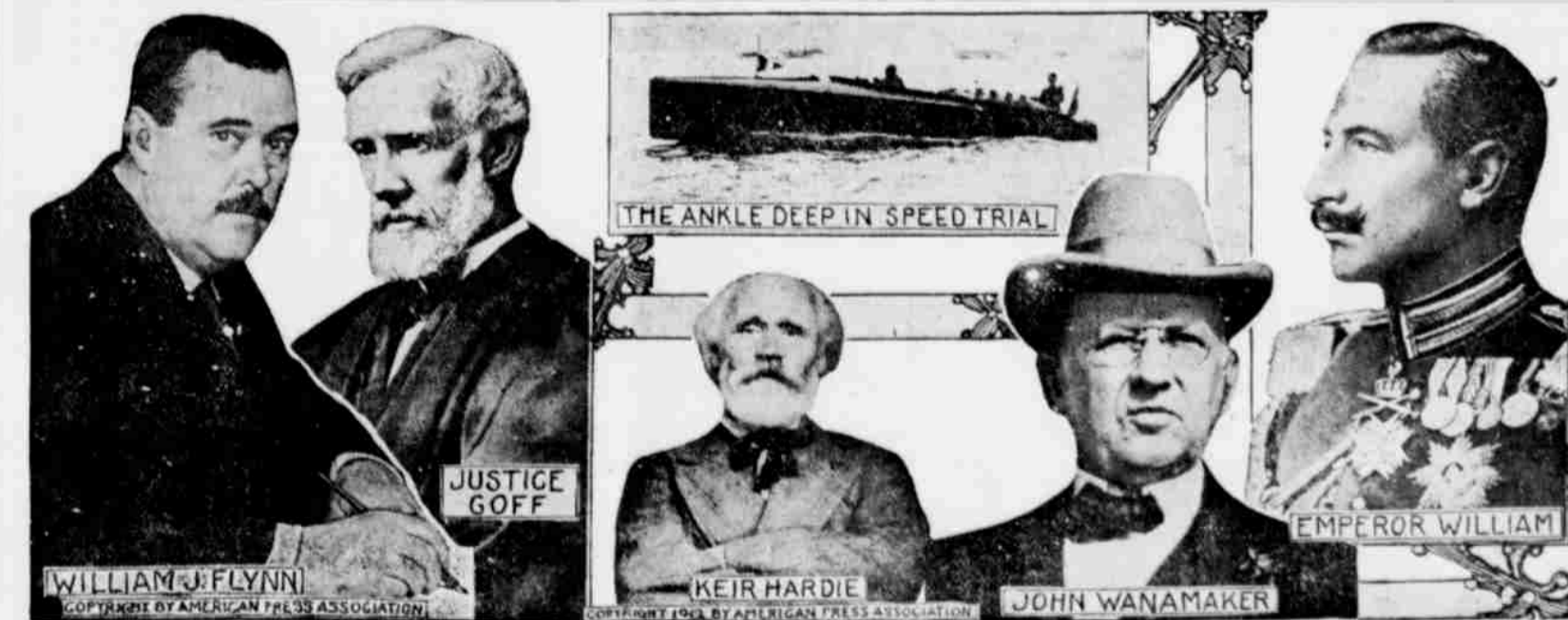
Further Decline Expected "It is generally believed by those who are studying the situation that next month will show still further decline in the condition of the crop. In parts of the country the weather has been very dry and apples have not grown as they should have done; in other sections apple scab is more injurious than usual and conditions have been ideal for the spread of the disease; in still other sections the crop has been over-estimated, for the reason that many trees are too full of fruit and apples will be small at harvest time.

"In sending out crop-report cards this month we asked correspondents if buyers are talking prices. No one reports any prices having been made, but all agree that buyers are talking big crop and correspondingly low prices. Many of them claim that the apple crop for 1912 will be the largest since 1896. While it seems that the crop will be larger than for several years just past, our reports do not

JURY SUMMONED TO DECIDE THE OWNER

In the case of Frank Chandler vs. Paul Hubbard and C. D. Nickelsen, wherein the sheriff had attached an automobile formerly belonging to Hon. A. A. Jayne and claimed by plaintiff as the property of Paul Hubbard, a third party, Silas H. Soule, appeared by his attorney, E. H. Hartwig, and claimed the property before the sheriff's sale was made.

In order to determine the ownership it was necessary for the sheriff to call a jury of six men to decide. Sheriff Johnson presiding as judge at the trial. After hearing and argument, the jury found the automobile to be the property of Silas H. Soule. A decision was reached in five minutes. E. H. Hartwig appeared for Mr. Soule.



News Snapshots Of the Week

Of Germany caused general alarm for his life, and he was forced to postpone several important state visits. Keir Hardie, the English authority on labor questions, came to this country to speak.

The hearing of the Rosenthal murder case was begun before Justice Goff in the criminal branch of the supreme court. William J. Flynn, secret service detective and former police commissioner of New York, was engaged to obtain evidence in the aldermanic graft inquiry. John Wanamaker, former postmaster general, was taken seriously ill following an operation. The power boat Ankle Deep made the best time in the elimination trials for the international races. The sudden illness of the emperor

Indicate a crop equal to those of 1902 or 1904, which were over 45,000,000 barrels per year, nor is it believed the yield will equal the 48,000,000 barrel crop harvested in 1909.

Marketing Is Difficult "It is very evident that the marketing of the 1912 apple crop will be a ticklish business because of the great difference of opinion which seems to exist between the buyers and growers. It is also very evident that conditions are such that what now promises to be a very large apple crop may shrink to a very ordinary crop before harvest time, because of the conditions which exist in many of the best apple-producing sections. By next month a better estimate of the crop can be given and perhaps one can get a line on the prices at that time.

Jonathan Crop Short "One thing seems evident and that is that the Jonathan crop will be light throughout the Middle Western states. Buyers agree that this variety will be short and say that prices should rule strong as compared with prices for other varieties. It is also evident, if statements of buyers are to be believed, that they will not buy at any price a lot of the wormy, scabby apples which are likely to be offered to them at harvest time. If the buyers will persist in this stand, then really good apples should bring fair prices this fall."

MACHINE CLEANS AND GRADES FRUIT

A cleaning and grading machine, which appears to be practical, efficient and rapid, is being shown at the Gilbert Implement Company. This machine is the one invented by O. K. Porter of The Dalles and is being placed on the market by a company composed of The Dalles and Hood River fruit growers who have been impressed with the merits of the new machine.

The apples are fed through revolving brushes which thoroughly clean them, after which they pass through a conveyor which mechanically grades the apples and deposits them in separate racks. The grades can be adjusted to suit. The machine is operated by electricity and has a maximum capacity of about 2500 boxes a day. It is especially adapted for use by co-operative fruit packing and shipping associations.

LOCAL TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE

Recent transfers of real estate have been as follows: E. C. Hurlburt to W. J. Peddford, half interest in 20 acres south of Summit. Solon E. Wood to Harry A. Hackett, lot 10 Dean's subdivision, \$900. A. F. Campbell to F. E. Strang, 55 acres at Odell. F. E. Strang to C. R. Masiker, 33 acres at Odell. Louise F. Kernott to Martin O. Boe, 10 acres in Upper Valley, \$9000. J. G. Arnold to Syndicating Realty Co., half interest in 40 acres near Greenpoint, \$3500. Samuel Woodward to John S. Hoover, 120 acres at Hermann's Lake, \$3900. W. J. Baker to Lucinda Worlow, lots 10 and 20, block 25, Hood River Proper, \$1450. C. R. Masiker to A. J. Lacey, five acres at Odell, \$1700.

PACKING SCHOOL TO OPEN TUESDAY

The Hood River Apple Growers' Union announces that it will open its annual packing school next Tuesday, September 17. This school will be in session until Friday, September 20. Those wanting to take advantage of the school should be on hand promptly at nine o'clock Tuesday morning.

Pete Grant, formerly of this place and now engaged in the tailoring business in Portland, visited friends here over the week end.