

Work on Power Plant Was Started Thursday

Camps Are Being Laid Out Near Pacific Company's Old Plant--Large Gang of Men Will Be Put to Work in a Few Days--Hopes Entertained That Project May Be Completed by September.

Active work was started Thursday on the big power plant which the Pacific Power & Light Company will construct on the lower Hood River. N. L. Pierce, who arrived here Wednesday from New York, has been placed in charge of the work.

consideration by the company but to get a full crew a large number of laborers will have to be imported and applications are being received by many of the men who have been employed on the Northwestern plant on the White Salmon River.

HOSPITAL ENJOYS PROSPEROUS YEAR

Reports submitted at the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Cottage Hospital Association held recently showed that it has enjoyed the most prosperous year in its history. The volume of business in 1912 was approximately 25 per cent greater than in 1911 and after all operating expenses were paid a substantial balance remained.

ROADS ARE TO BE UP FOR DISCUSSION

Good roads are to be the subject of a public meeting to be held at the Commercial Club Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. The discussion will be prefaced by a short talk by O. P. Dabney. Mr. Dabney toured Europe a few months ago and made some special observations of the roads and bridges.

ABOUT THE RATE HEARING

In its last issue the News printed an item relative to the hearing to be given by the State Railroad Commission in the matter of the complaint of O. M. Bailey against the Mt. Hood Railroad. It was stated that approximately 97 per cent of the Upper Valley people have signed a petition expressing their satisfaction with the railroad.

LENT BEGINS TODAY; BISHOP TO PREACH

"Old Nick" goes into retirement today for 40 days, this being Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent. Social functions will be suspended to some extent at least and an opportunity will be given to take inventory of the spiritual stock in trade, while those who have broken their New Year's resolutions can turn over another new leaf.

Recent bright and balmy weather makes Spring seem near.

LEAP YEAR IS PAST; CUPID IS LOAFING

Now that Leap Year is past little Dan Cupid is loafing on the job. At least such is the case as far as Hood River county is concerned. The little winged god has paid only one visit to Hood River so far this year and County Clerk Hanson foresees a startling shrinkage in the receipts of the marriage license bureau if some of the young bachelors hereabouts don't get busy and co-operate with Mr. Cupid.

That the fair sex made the most of their opportunities last year is the conclusion drawn from a comparison of the business in the marriage license department for January of the two years. In 1912 Mr. Hanson had assisted in making half a dozen couples happy ere the initial month had passed. Compared with the solitary couple which has appeared so far this year, the record of 1912 bids fair to surpass anything of the kind this year and it is already being suggested that the heart of the god must be yearning for another Leap Year.

WATER PIPE NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED

During the past few days several teams have been kept busy distributing the iron water pipes which will form part of the new system to be laid this summer. There remain about 400 tons of this pipe to be received and laid. Last summer approximately 150 tons were laid. Most of the work was done in the business section and the mains which now remain to be laid are mostly on the Heights. Thirty additional fire hydrants are also to be placed. Thirteen were installed last year. The large pipe to conduct the water from the reservoir on the Heights to connect with the lower system at the corner of State and Ninth streets will also be laid.

The Reliance Construction Company of Portland, which secured the entire contract, shipped their equipment here the last of the week. They intend to start work as soon as all of their material is on hand. It is expected that this will be soon after the middle of the month.

LOCAL TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE

Edwin J. Meyers to H. D. McCabe, 20 acres in Barrett district. J. T. Holman and L. T. Holman to Clifton C. Glaze, lot 29, block 2, Stranahan's First Addition, \$1300. Harbake Land & Development Company to David D. Brewster, 7 acres on East Side. E. T. Folts to Mary Morse, 20 acres on Willow Flat, \$1500. J. Adrian Epping to E. F. Heath, 80 acres east of Lenx Station. W. H. Absher to Mrs. Jessie P. Cates, undivided one-half interest in west 54 acres of tract at Fir. Charles Steinhauser to Otto Magnus, north 30 acres of tract in Upper Valley. Otto Magnus to Charles Steinhauser and wife, same property, to each an undivided half as tenants in common. J. J. Krummenacher to Hydro Electric Company, all river bank between high and low water mark at Tucker's Bridge, with all riparian rights except pumping plant now in operation. A. E. Chisholm to Portland Trust Company, 7 acres north of Tucker's. W. H. Gray to C. L. Swope, undivided one-half interest in 45 acres on East Side. Edwin J. Myers to H. D. McCabe, 10 acres in Barrett district. Joe C. Knight to M. M. Davenport, right of way for road in Barrett district. J. H. Holman and L. F. Holman to Clifton C. George, lot 29, block 2, Stranahan's First Addition, \$1300. J. C. Foreman to A. A. McLeod, 25 acres at Oak Grove.

Falls 120 Feet from Cliff and Escapes with His Life

William Laycock of White Salmon can thank his lucky stars that Fate favored him Sunday afternoon when he fell 120 feet from the top of a cliff overlooking the Northwestern Company's dam. He is now at the local hospital recuperating from injuries which might well have been fatal had not a kind Providence performed for him what was hardly short of a miracle.

Laycock is night timekeeper at the works. Sunday afternoon he decided to take advantage of the bright sunshine to snap some pictures of the works. In looking about for a favorable point he espied the point high up above the works and jutting out over it. The supporting earth and rock had been excavated to a considerable extent but the "colgn of vantage" remained, making it possible to take almost a birdseye view of the dam.

Laycock did not take into consideration the fact that the warm sun was also getting in its work on the frozen earth which supported the point. He ventured to the farthest spot that gave

a foothold and was engaged in focusing his camera when the landslide occurred. With the loosened rock and earth he plunged to the bottom of the gorge. There he was picked up by some workmen, who feared that he had been fatally injured. He was rushed to the hospital here and an examination was made. It was found that he had escaped with a fractured wrist and leg, some severe scalp wounds and minor injuries.

SENATOR BUTLER ASKS FOR INQUIRY

To solve if possible the difficulties which have arisen over the construction of the Shellrock road along the Columbia River in Hood River county, Senator Butler of Hood River and Wasco introduced a resolution Monday calling upon the Governor or some other authoritative person or body to investigate and determine by what right the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company can keep the county from constructing a county road.

The difficulty arose last year between the company and the county and Governor West also was involved in the difficulty from the interest he had taken in the construction of the road and from the fact that the state had a large band of convicts working there.

The railroad company enjoined the county from doing further work, under the claim that it would interfere with the operation of their trains. The county desired the railroad company, as did the Governor, to move over a portion of its tracks to allow the road to go around a certain point but the company refused.

Governor West called off his convicts and the road work was held up. Senator Butler declares that he wishes to see a searching investigation made into the question.

Hood River not only has a new clothing store, but is about to have a new restaurant.

PROTEST AGAINST ENCROACHMENT MADE

In behalf of this county, W. L. Clarke, president of the Commercial Club, has lodged a protest with the Portland Park Board against encroachment on the water shed from which Hood River receives its water.

This letter was prompted by a report recently made by Engineer D. D. Clarke of the Portland Water Department to the effect that Portland's water supply could be greatly increased by taking the water from a stream within the Bull Run Reserve, but outside of the Bull Run watershed and piping the water to the Bull Run conduit.

At the meeting when this report was read Commissioner T. B. Wilcox of the Portland board said he did not desire to become implicated in any fight with the Hood River people and suggested a conference with the officials of this city relative to the rights on the territory in dispute between the two municipalities. Superintendent Dodge will arrange such a conference and in all probability a junketing trip will be taken for the purpose of going over the territory in question.

TO DISCUSS HOW TO KEEP LAWRENCE

There will be a meeting at the Commercial Club following the good roads meeting next Saturday, February 8, at about 3 o'clock, for the purpose of discussing ways and means for retaining Professor W. H. Lawrence to continue the research work which he has been carrying on for the last two years, and to employ him to act as consulting horticulturist for the benefit of the fruit growers of the valley.

Sieg Optimistic Over Prospects Next Year

Union Manager, Just Returned from Extended Trip, Doubtful Whether Prices for Apples Will be Greatly Affected by Orange Freeze, but Says Present Supply Will Be Cleaned Up.

Wilmer Sieg, manager of the Union, who returned Saturday from an extended trip through the Central West and South, is encouraged by the fact that apples are now moving more freely into the markets. Although he does not foresee any material raise in the prices to be secured this season, he is optimistic over the improved outlook for prospects next year. He said: "From advices we have received since the freeze in California there is as yet no indication that prices have been materially affected for the better. However, apples are moving more freely into the markets, the demand has been strengthened and the chances are strong that the present holdings, large though they are, will be pretty well cleaned up in readiness for next fall's crop. Those who have fruit that will hold up until June or July may get higher prices than prevail at the present, but it is now assured that the fancy stuff will bring fair prices and the poorer stuff low prices, as was to have been expected in view of the big crop all over the country."

So far as the Northwest Distributors' Association is concerned, I am of the opinion that it will be a big task and one requiring some time to get it successfully organized and operating. In the meantime we have an even more important task to perform here in uniting the community interests so far as the packing and marketing of apples are concerned.

"At this time it might not be amiss to say that this year's experience has brought home to us once more the fact that the money lies in the fancy fruit of the standard varieties. Quotations from the Eastern market show that the miscellaneous varieties are bringing very low prices. At the same time the returns for fancy stuff are and will probably always be satisfactory, even though not as high as they have been in the past."

Charles T. Early Promoted Charles T. Early, superintendent of the Mt. Hood Railroad, has been made a member of the board of directors of the Eccles interests. He succeeds the late David Eccles, Sr. Mr. Early is now manager of all the Eccles interests in Western Oregon.

Wants 2000 Carloads of Extra Fancy Box Apples

That the market for extra fancy apples during the remainder of the season will be much stronger is indicated by the recent action of Steinhardt & Kelly, the big New York commission men, who have just completed arrangements for handling approximately 2000 carloads of the best fruit that the Northwest produced last season. A considerable portion of this fruit has been ordered from Hood River.

In its issue of January 27 the Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin of New York said:

What is believed to be an efficient working plan for marketing their product has been entered into by a number of box apple growing organizations of the Northwest. The movement involves a big deal in extra fancy apples exclusively, since that grade will constitute the bulk of shipments to Eastern markets for the remainder of the season. The chief medium for the metropolitan distribution of extra fancy stock under the plan will be the fruit firm of Steinhardt & Kelly of New York.

Commenting on the conditions generally, Mr. Steinhardt said that so far, in the deal for the 1912 crop, the box apple situation had been deplorable. The production was phenomenal and there is no denying the fact that the supply of all grades has exceeded the ordinary requirement by such a margin as to make movement of the fruit slow, and in attempts to accelerate business there has been considerable price cutting. Weak markets and low prices were bound to attend such facts but the general situation has been very much aggravated by the policy of retailers the country over in trying to hold their prices at the same level as could be maintained when the wholesale cost was about twice as much as it is now. This he declared to be a notorious fact, and illustrating it he said that in previous years such grades of fruit as are retailed by the average grocer or fruiterer sold at \$2 to \$3 per box wholesale. These same grades have been selling at from \$1 to \$1.50 during the current season, which means actual heavy loss to growers, since freight charges to the East amount to 60c, and picking and packing costs are at least 40c, but the retailers have demanded about the same price as in former years and this has operated to check consumption to a great extent.

Some change is probable along this line, because facts have become known by many consumers and the intelligence is rapidly spreading. Also such facts are becoming to be considered "notorious." If not something else, and it is within the probabilities that this may result in some revision by retailers of their policy and a consequent increase in consumption by the millions who purchase in small quantities. As a whole new working plan, together with good fruit at easy prices, give a better outlook for the box apple trade than there has been for some time past.

While the purpose of the general plan is to concentrate effort in selection and shipping, it is in no sense proposed to undertake to fix prices. If the inclination to do this existed it would be impossible to make it effective on account of the general apple situation. The supply the country over is too great and the intent to sell is too strong to permit anything like a market monopoly. It is not to be understood that the apple house mentioned will handle all the Eastern shipments of the organizations named. Its particular undertaking is to find the best possible outlet for a supply of ex-



News Snapshots Of the Week Natin Pasha, generalissimo of the Turkish army, was shot and killed by Enver Bey, leader of the Young Turks, during a riot in the streets of Constantinople. The United States cruiser Wheeling sailed for Vera Cruz to protect American citizens from the ravages of the Mexican rebels. William Rockefeller was notified that he would have to appear before the Pujio money trust investigating committee in spite of the statement of his physician that it would hasten his death. The marriage of Miss Helen Miller Gould and Finley J. Shepard took place at Tarrytown, N. Y. Thomas W. Lamont of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. testified before the Pujio committee. Walter L. Fisher, secretary of the Interior, was called to the witness stand by the house committee on Indian affairs.