

CONSOLIDATION BEING PLANNED

Four Local Shipping Concerns Recommend That Marketing Interests of the Valley Should be United and Agree upon a Proposition for Accomplishing This End

A general massmeeting of all the growers of the valley has been called for next Wednesday morning, March 19, at 10:30 o'clock at Heilbronner Hall for the purpose of organizing a central selling and shipping association with a view to properly distributing all the products of the valley.

Plans for uniting the selling interests of the valley were undertaken at a meeting held Saturday afternoon at the Commercial Club when representatives of the shipping organizations and others who are particularly interested, including all of the local bankers, met to consider a proposition for effecting unity in time to eliminate local competition as far as possible in harvesting this year's crop.

The meeting was an informal one. It was originally planned to have it include only the directors and representatives of the shipping organizations, but a few others were invited and nearly a hundred were present.

The meeting was the outcome of a number of conferences which have been held recently between the four organizations. All of these are now agreed that the competition which was this year established in the marketing of the local crop has been disastrous to the interests of Hood River and to every grower in the valley.

The action towards unity does not originate with any one of the organizations. It is rather the consensus of opinion which they have all been compelled to accept following this year's experience and all are agreed that the move is imperative for the future welfare of the apple industry in this valley.

As a result of the conferences that have been held between the associations it is now proposed that an organization be formed to market the product of the entire valley. This organization would be formed by coalition of the Hood River Apple Growers' Union and the Davidson Fruit Company.

The organization thus formed would purchase the cold storage plants and other marketing facilities of the National Apple Company and the Hood River Apple and Storage Company. Both the Union and the Davidson Fruit Company would retain their identity as corporations, but would lease their property for a number of years, probably ten, with the understanding that an option to either renew the

lease or to purchase would be included. This plan is only tentative, but it is the one to which all of the four organizations have agreed as being the most feasible and the one which they believe it would be practical to work out with the least delay and with the smallest percentage of risk.

As now planned, the affairs of the larger organization would be administered by a board of nine directors, four of whom would represent the interests of the Davidson Fruit Company and five to represent the Union. Mr. Sieg and Mr. Davidson would be associate managers of the new organization.

Plan Meets With Favor All afternoon was spent in a discussion of the proposition and there was a unanimity of opinion that it was advisable to submit it to a massmeeting of local orchardists. Charles Hall made the motion at the conclusion of the discussion that it was the sense of the meeting that the plan be endorsed and also that a tentative constitution and by-laws be prepared by those who have had the preliminary plans in hand and that they be submitted to a massmeeting of all the growers of the valley. Chairman Dickerson put the motion and it was unanimously carried.

A. I. Mason did not agree with the proposition as submitted. He declared that the identity of all existing corporations should be merged into the new and larger organization and that both the Union and Davidson should be dissolved as corporations. He suggested that the larger organization should purchase all the other plants by means of a bond issue. His argument was that all possible factional feeling would thereby be wiped out and that the overhead expense of conducting the separate corporations would be materially decreased.

Mr. Mason's suggestion prompted considerable discussion. It was the opinion of all those who spoke that Mr. Mason's idea was a good one towards which to work in case the proposition first submitted proved successful, but that it would be much more difficult if not impossible to effect, the bonding proposition being deemed impractical at this time, while both the Union and Davidson Fruit company would thereby be burning all bridges behind them and also abandoning the brands which it has taken many years to establish in the markets of the world.

Would Retain Brands Mr. Sieg took up the matter of the brands. He said that the advantage of maintaining the established brands of the Union and of the Davidson Fruit Company was fully realized and that it was the purpose of the larger organization to retain these brands until they could be abandoned for the

Dairying to Be Subject of Discussion Saturday

If the cow can be made to cooperate with the hen in supplying the farmer's larder and providing "mother" with some pin money the condition of the local ranchers will be more enviable than ever, according to not a few members of the Commercial Club. With a view to bringing the cow into her own here in Hood River an open meeting will be held at the club next Saturday for the discussion of this subject.

Not long ago the Commercial Club investigated the opportunities which await Mrs. Cow here by finding out how much butter is shipped into Hood River. Statistics were secured from the grocers, hotels and largest handlers and it was found that the figure ran well up towards 2500 pounds a week.

With these figures before them the directors of the club went over the matter a few days ago with Professor Kent, the dairy expert at the O. A. C. They say that he left in their minds some very valuable information which they are willing to pass along for the benefit of all.

"It's going to be an 'experience meeting,'" says Secretary Scott. "Everybody that's got a cow or more than one will be made welcome, while those who haven't will be duly initiated into the mysteries of the cow game. Those who would like to own a cow or two and don't know how to get them will also be welcome. The directors have an idea that it is possible to get cows for those who wish them and who don't know how to get them, perhaps from a lack of ready money."

When Dr. Withycomb of the O. A. C. spoke at the horticultural chalet last summer he was high in his praise of the cow and strongly recommended the keeping of small herds by the orchardists, not only because of the value but also on account of the valuable fertilizer thus secured.

All are invited to the meeting Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Marsh of Underwood were guests over the week end of Mr. and Mrs. George I. Sargent at Oak Grove.

TAKE IRRIGATION SYSTEM ON OPTION

Directors of the East Side Irrigation District met Saturday and received an option which the East Fork Irrigation Company gave to purchase the system for the par value of the capital stock plus the indebtedness, but the figure shall not exceed \$110,000.

This option gives the district immediate possession of the entire system. Not to exceed a year's time is given in which to consider the option to buy. The system is turned over to the district to operate in the meantime without any cost except for maintenance. The district has taken possession. J. W. MacDonald was employed as superintendent and he is now engaged with a crew of men in cleaning out the ditches and flumes in order to have the system in readiness for operation April 1.

The district does not obligate itself to buy the system and whether this will take place or not depends upon the success with which the issuance of bonds meets. The directors expect to call a special election to vote on the issuance of these bonds in the near future. Attorney George R. Wilbur is now acting as secretary and legal adviser for the district.

HYDRO FORFEITS DALLES FRANCHISE

The Dalles Chronicle of Friday had the following to say about the proposed invasion of that city by the Hydro Electric Company:

According to all appearances, the Hydro Electric Company of Hood River or will not furnish electric power and light to The Dalles, its franchise having expired Wednesday.

An ordinance which passed the council December 5, 1911, gave the Hydro Company the right and privilege to operate in this city. The company was given the franchise with the provision that an acceptance be made within 90 days, the sum of \$1000 to accompany the acceptance. This much the company complied with.

The ordinance further provided that work should begin within nine months after the date of the passage of the ordinance, and that the plant should be in operation six months later. It was stipulated that should the company fail to comply with the provisions of the ordinance it would lose its franchise and forfeit the \$1000 filed with the acceptance.

W. G. Chaffin was arrested in Mosier the last of the week by Sheriff Levi Chrisman on a charge of assisting with a dangerous weapon. The charge was made by D. D. Hall. Chaffin states that Hall owes him wages and it is over this that the trouble started.

Will Have an Election on the Library Proposition

A special election is to be called by the city council to vote on the library proposition. At the meeting Monday Councilman Staten made the motion that the judiciary committee be directed to take the necessary steps towards calling such an election to give the council authority to purchase a library site. At the present time the charter places strict limitations upon the council's power and it has no authority to purchase such a site.

No conclusion has been reached as to the exact amount of additional land which would be purchased, but 40 to 50 feet will probably be necessary in order to provide a suitable site for the library and this would also give room for a small city park.

A petition was circulated Monday

ARMED REBELS NEAR BORDER

Douglas, Ariz.—Encamped within striking distance of several border towns, are 8500 constitutionist troops while insurgents among federal garrisons have strengthened materially the rebel forces.

The last word received from the beleaguered city of Naco was from the telegraph operator, who flashed "too hot for me here," and left his key before all wires between Douglas and Naco were cut.

Open revolt and scenes of disorder have occurred among the 250 federal defenders of Agua Prieta, and the military officials there gave warning to all Americans to leave the town.

The best citizens of Agua Prieta generally fled to Douglas, while the drunken and rebellious soldiers paraded the streets crying "Viva Madero!" "Viva Maytorena!" and "Viva Diaz!" Brawls between politically estranged companions in arms added to the confusion and terror which held the town in its grip.

Opium Will Be Burned

Pekin.—The National Anti-Opium congress, with a view to assisting China to suppress the opium trade, will appeal to the Young Men's Christian association and missionary societies throughout the world to open funds for the purchase of as large a portion as possible of the opium stock at the treaty ports. The stocks will be burned.

Annexation of Isle of Pines Desired

Pittsburg.—Announcement has been made by Thomas J. Keenan, president of the American association of the Isle of Pines, that a petition directed to President Wilson and the senate, requesting annexation of the island will be put in circulation in this country and the Isle of Pines.

Mrs. F. M. Norris of Mason City, Iowa, arrived Saturday to visit Mr. and Mrs. George I. Sargent. She is enroute home from a stay in Southern California.

BODY OF UNKNOWN MAN IS DISCOVERED

Section hands working a couple of miles east of town Friday discovered the remains of a man lying beside the tracks. The body was much the worse for exposure to the elements and the man had probably been dead for two or three years. A revolver lying beside his body told the tale of how he met his death. His identity has not yet been discovered and there are few clues to follow.

Th man wore link cuff buttons which bore the initial "H". This gave rise to the belief that he might be John Hammond of White Salmon. Hammond came to Hood River with his wife about three years ago. He left the hotel in the evening and has never been heard of since. Friends of Mr. Hammond's were called from across the river Saturday to see the remains but they stated positively that it was not he. The head was gone from the body and only the lower jaw remained. There was a stickpin found and the revolver was a 38-calibre. These remain so far as the only clues.

The body was found in a fir thicket just south of the tracks about half way to Mosier. Coroner Dumble took charge of them and they were taken to Bartmess' undertaking parlors.

E. R. Moller has wired to friends here that his father died in Brooklyn before Mr. and Mrs. Moller were able to reach his bedside.

Stranahan Explains the Local Measures Passed

Schedule of County Salaries under New Bill Is Given --Treasurer Will Hereafter Be Tax Collector-- Neat Income Assured for Experiment Station-- Game Protected from Aliens.

Hon. C. H. Stranahan returned the last of the week from Salem, where he represented this district in the Legislature. Mr. Stranahan, upon his return, conferred with the county court. On account of having been in close touch with the situation, he was able to explain the exact nature of the legislation which was enacted in behalf of Hood River county.

The bill raising the salaries of local county officials was passed by the Legislature over the Governor's veto. The schedule of salaries as passed for this county is somewhat smaller than those of the Governor's equal salary bill. The latter measure was known as the Gill bill.

The present salaries of local county officials, those of the bill which was passed and those of the Gill bill, which was defeated, are given as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Position, At Present, New, Gill. Rows include Clerk, Sheriff, Assessor, Judge, School Supt., Treasurer.

At the present time the county commissioners receive \$3 a day and their traveling expenses. Under the new bill they will receive \$4 a day and traveling expenses. Under the Gill bill they would have received \$4 a day with no provision for traveling expense money.

So far as the duties of the various officials are concerned only one change is made by the new law. Beginning with 1914 the county treasurer will also be the tax collector, the sheriff being relieved of this duty, although he will continue to collect the delinquent taxes.

Alien Hunters Barred

Mr. Stranahan, at the request of local sportsmen, introduced a bill to protect fish and game from the depredations of alien hunters, by which is meant all those who are not citizens of the United States. This measure was passed. It provides that all persons not citizens must pay a hunting and fishing license of \$25.

Mr. Stranahan had also been requested to introduce a measure protecting gray squirrels here. He found, however, that a special act had been enacted several years ago providing protection for these animals. The same is true of native and China pheasants, which are already protected.

The bill for an experiment station here was the only one of 13 similar

measures which was passed, Mr. Stranahan making a strong fight for this measure. It provides \$3000 a year for two years. This money will be payable quarterly and dates from the first of the present year. The fund will be administered by the Board of Regents of the O. A. C. and the local county court.

Soldiers' Home Investigated

Representative Stranahan also took a leading part in the investigation of the Old Soldiers' Home at Roseburg. He introduced the resolution calling for an investigation of the institution and was made chairman of the investigating committee. They found that there was but one building, which would accommodate only 156 persons. There were 189 actually registered and nine applications which could not be considered. There were 35 of the old soldiers, most of them very feeble, arbitrarily furloughed for 30 days in order to make room and on their return 35 more are furloughed.

The committee reported these conditions and Mr. Stranahan was requested by Governor West to get an estimate of the cost of a new building. With this report he went before the ways and means committee with a bill providing an appropriation sufficient to build a home that would accommodate 100 more. An appropriation of \$25,000 was made for this building.

Mr. Stranahan, in commenting on the session, said: "All the measures introduced in behalf of Hood River county were passed and I was much pleased at what I was able to accomplish for my constituents. So far as the county salary bill was concerned I was not personally interested, but I received a strong petition signed by about 100 of the large taxpayers of the county and so used my best efforts to get the measure through. I believe it places the salaries of local officials upon an equitable basis."

"The Legislature decided to place upon the ballot next year the proposition of extending the legislative session from 40 to 60 days and after my experience during the present session I hope the measure will meet with general support. A 40-day session was sufficient before Oregon grew to her present magnitude, but it is altogether inadequate now. It is proposed that under the new law no bills could be introduced after the 20th day and the balance of the session could then be devoted to a thorough consideration of all measures submitted."

Thinks Hood River Will Be Mecca for Tourists

That Hood River has all the attractions which are bound to make it a Mecca for tourists and the summer home of hundreds of Portland residents, is the belief of J. H. Heilbronner, and he also believes that there is an exceptional opportunity for one or more up-to-date summer hotels in the valley.

"From my own acquaintanceship with Portland people," said Mr. Heilbronner, "I know that there are many Portland people who would welcome the opportunity to spend some time every year at a summer hotel located on one of the many beautiful sites in the valley. At present they must go to the seashore with practically no other alternative, but there are many who would prefer to seek recreation amid the beautiful surroundings Hood River can offer. Here we have the beautiful scenery, good roads for riding and driving, bracing mountain air and all sorts of places to which delightful outings can be taken. At the same time the people of the valley furnish a congenial society with which the tourists and summer visitors could mingle."

"Conditions in the fruit business, as in every other, are bound to vary. There will be good years and poor ones, but with Hood River established as a Mecca for tourists and a famous summer resort, as she well can be, there will be an income which will never fall. Portland people realize this. William McMurray, general passenger agent of the O-W. R. & N., has often remarked that Hood River

people have not yet come to appreciate their opportunities in this line and he declares that his own friends would provide many guests for a good summer hotel here."

Mr. Heilbronner has been going over the matter for some time and he believes that the time will come when there will not be one but many such hostleries in this valley, some in the more settled portions and others secluded in the sylvan retreats of the hills and valleys where those who enjoy nature in the rough can find rest and recreation.

"It will also be a distinct benefit to the orchardists," he continued, "because the building of summer homes here by well-to-do Portlanders will follow and there will be a demand for small tracts for this purpose. Portland people are enthusiastic about the Hood River Valley and many who prefer country to city life would maintain their families here a part if not all of the year. This will be especially true when the Columbia River road is opened, but we do not have to wait for that with the good train service between this city and Portland. When Hood River awakens to her opportunities in this line she is bound to become a Mecca for vacationists."

W. C. and D. L. Emry arrived Saturday from Fort Collins, Colorado, with their families to visit their brother, M. L. Emry. It had been nearly 20 years since they had met. They may locate here.