

THE HOOD RIVER NEWS

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R. B. BENNETT, Editor
L. S. BENNETT, BUSINESS MANAGER

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**SPUR O.-W.R. & N.
TO ACTION ON ROAD**

Multnomah county is dissatisfied with the delay of the O.-W. R. & N. Company in connection with the right of way for the Portland-Hood River scenic highway. More than \$100,000 has been appropriated for that purpose by Multnomah county and they are anxious to secure the necessary concessions from the railroad without further delay. They have finally insisted that the railroad give them a definite answer this week.

For more than a month County Judge Cleeton and Commissioners Hart and Lightner have attempted to procure a satisfactory answer, but each time they have been put off. Several calls have been made and company officials have repeatedly promised to submit a tentative contract. Their failure to do so is creating a feeling among those interested in the highway, that the railroad is not anxious to enter into a contract and may even decline to do so.

Must Make Time
If work is to be done on the highway this year, negotiations must be completed soon, according to Judge Cleeton, who added:

"Hood River has been at the road at its end and we are prepared to start construction as soon as we are assured that the several strips of land we want on property within the railroad's right of way will be granted us. The company's officials have repeatedly postponed entering into negotiations on this matter and we must have an answer soon. If the company refuses to allow us to use lands on their right of way where we cannot pass along the river valley otherwise we will be compelled to give up the idea of building the road immediately as we planned and follow another program which we have already mapped out in case negotiations fail.

"According to our surveys the proposed road must encroach upon the O.-W. R. & N. rights of way and properties several places along the line if we are to get the best grade and scenic advantages. These surveys show that we will in no way hamper the railroad or cause any inconvenience. The whole question virtually hangs in the balance, and we are anxious that it be decided."

The Multnomah county court took the question up with the railroad more than a month ago and asked their representatives to submit a contract covering the use of railway property at the several points in question. The matter was put up to the company in such a way that it is in position to concede what points it is willing to. Officials of the O.-W. R. & N. explain the delay by saying it has not been possible for those in authority to meet and decide upon what action to take.

**NORTHWEST FRUIT
MEN MEET FRIDAY**

H. F. Davidson will attend the meeting of the board of directors of the Northwest Distributors' Association to be held at North Yakima Friday. He is a director of the association, representing Hood River.

The first meeting was held in Spokane immediately following the National Apple Show. A preliminary organization was then made. A board of directors was elected and they subsequently chose their officers and incorporated. Of Hood River's relation toward this Northwest Distributors' Association Mr. Davidson said:

"The Northwest Distributors' Association would be of no value to Hood River unless we become organized among ourselves upon some co-operative basis. Its greatest value, so far as Hood River is concerned, will be that the organization will market through the proper channels much Northwest fruit that would otherwise be thrown on the auction market, because all sections do not have marketing associations of their own. Practically no Hood River apples are ever placed on the auction market, but we do feel the effect of the demoralization that results when boxed apples from other sections are so sacrificed.

"Great value will also come from the better marketing methods that would be employed by such an organization. Hood River can afford to make a concerted effort towards supporting it. This would not necessarily mean that Hood River would market all of her apples through the or-

ganization. However, there are some of our varieties which might be marketed to better advantage through such an organization. We can market our Spitzenbergs, Newtowns, and Ortleys ourselves because they are special varieties of this valley, but the other varieties might very likely be handled better through a general distributing organization."

Sieg is Misquoted
Wilmer Sieg, manager of the Union, said: "I was quoted by the Glacier last week as saying that Hood River does not need such an organization. Not only was the supposed interview unauthorized, but I never made any such statement. On the contrary I fell as Mr. Davidson does that Hood River can well join in the organization of a general distributing association for the Northwest."

**MASON GIVES VIEW
OF CONSOLIDATION**

Editor, the News: In your last issue you state my views upon consolidating the four selling organizations in a manner that might be misleading to your readers, especially in regard to removing any possibility of the Sherman Anti-Trust Law making us trouble. In the first place I want to say that no man in the valley wants to see all of us in one organization more than I, but if we are going to get together let us begin with the spirit of "get together," not start out with a double-headed affair with a ratio of five to four control twice delegated from the people. This means a factional fight which will put all others in this valley to shame before it is over. If we buy out two of the organizations and lease the other two we have in the eyes of the law the only two organizations in the valley merged into one under a lease, which is just as much in violation of the Sherman Law as was the Wholesale Merchants' Central Organization in Portland and covers a larger territory than their organization.

Now, I am willing to admit that my plan will do the same thing, yet it removes any possibility of interference with the Sherman Law and also puts us in a position whereby factional differences will be held down to the minimum. Besides this the new consolidated organization will then be under direct control of its shareholders, who are the growers of the valley.

Under the proposed plan described in your last issue, we will have a double-delegated power, which is too often abused. We should not desire to have so much political tactics used to manage our only co-operative selling machine. I will admit it is absolutely necessary to use delegated power to some extent, but to have one set of delegates elect another set does not look good to me in Oregon. It might have been all right in Oregon several years ago, but that day is passing away.

In order that your readers may know just what I want I will state it briefly: Organize the Hood River Apple Growers' Association or Exchange, or whatever you desire to call it. Buy out all of the four present organizations at their real value, squeezing out all water. If each of them desires to get together no difficulty will be too great to overcome in accomplishing the desired result. Of course some one will always say when a great problem is to be solved "It can't be done." But if these organizations desire to consolidate as strongly as us poor apple growers who pay all the expenses the job could be done perfectly satisfactory to all.

But someone says "Would you sell out the Apple Growers' Union?" Just as well sell it as to leave it in violation of the law. Of what use is the Davidson Fruit Company or the Hood River Apple Growers' Union if this new organization is to take the place of all four present organizations? Only one organization is necessary and let that organization be owned and controlled by the fruit growers of the valley. The selling of the Apple Growers' Union under my plan, by transferring all shares and stock to the new organization, is simply selling it back to the growers. Then ask each shareholder in the other three organizations to take not to exceed 25 shares in the new organization. We now have about 350 members or shareholders, holding \$47,000 worth of stock in the Apple Growers' Union, and the other three organizations combined would not have to exceed 40 shareholders and if each of them would hold 25 shares in the new organization they would only hold \$10,000 worth of stock, which is about one-fifth of the stock held by the members of the Apple Growers' Union. This would leave the control where it is now and should always be—in the hands of the growers. I would also limit the number of shares to be sold to any one person to 25, and then have the by-laws so worded as to prohibit the re-selling of any share until first offered for sale to the or-

ganization. This will prohibit any faction buying shares and finally controlling the organization.

In conclusion, let me urge of you to do a little thinking on this subject. If we are going to get together, let us "GET TOGETHER." Kill all organizations but one. Hire Mr. Sieg and Mr. Davidson to run it. Take away from both of them any organization upon which a faction may be built. We want but one organization. So let us take over all of the property where we will have absolute control of it. Leave no buildings to be obtained by any faction under any circumstances. Burn all bridges behind us. Leave nothing over which an enemy may cross. If this article does not seem plain common sense to you, I will be pleased to exchange further ideas.

Yours for getting together that means "GET TOGETHER AND STAY TOGETHER."

Yours respectfully,
A. I. MASON.

Read the News—it tells it all.

TELEPHONE HEARING MARCH 31

The Railroad Commission of Oregon has given notice that in the matter of the application of the Home Telephone Company to advance certain rates there will be a hearing and investigation before the Commission at the Courthouse on Monday, the 31st day of March, at the hour of 10:30 o'clock, a. m. at which time and place all parties to the said proceeding will be heard thereon.

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