

Electric Rates Threshed Out Before Commission

An agreement was reached at a conference Thursday evening as to what shall constitute an equitable schedule of rates to be charged by the two local electric companies.

Both of the companies made concessions to the committee and their rates will be practically upon a par after May 1, when it is believed that the increased schedule will go into effect.

The most substantial concessions were made in regard to the rates for residential lighting and cooking service. Manager Hall declares that these are now the lowest obtained in any city of the state and considerably below the average charged throughout the country.

In its original schedule the Hood River Gas & Electric Company proposed to charge 10 cents per kilowatt hour for all residences using up to 30 kilowatt hours per month.

One meter will be used for both lighting and heating and there will be a minimum monthly charge of \$2 if current is used for both lighting and cooking or heating.

Schedule B, covering commercial lighting, was changed so that the 10-cent charge will be made only for the first 45 kilowatt hours instead of the first 60.

After an agreement was reached a communication was directed to the State Railroad Commission stating that the conferees signified their approval of and acquiescence in the proposed schedules of rates proffered by the Hood River Gas & Electric Company with the exceptions mentioned and recommended the adoption of these schedules by both companies.

They agreed to the proposed rates and schedules with the understanding that should such rates hereafter prove inadequate or insufficient the matter may again be brought before the Railroad Commission for investigation and adjustment.

The recommendation was as follows: To the Railroad Commission of Oregon, Salem, Oregon.

The undersigned being a committee appointed by the Hood River Commercial Club to represent the people of the City of Hood River and county in the matter of the applications of Hood River Gas & Electric Company and Hydro Electric Company for authority to file new and increased schedules of rates for electric service to be

effective May 1st, 1913, do hereby signify our approval of and acquiescence in the proposed schedules of rates proffered by the Hood River Gas & Electric Company with the exceptions hereinafter mentioned, and recommend the adoption of said schedules by both companies with the following suggested amendments:

In lieu of proposed Schedule "A" (residential rate) the following: Residential—Cooking and Heating rate—One meter.

Based on connected load—Flat irons, toasters, sewing machine motors, or any electric domestic appliances not included in connected load—no load to be considered at less than one kilowatt.

First 15 kilowatt hours per kilowatt of connected load at 10c.

Second 15 kilowatt hours per kilowatt of connected load at 8c.

Third 15 kilowatt hours per kilowatt of connected load at 5c.

Balance kilowatt hours per kilowatt of connected load at 3c.

Minimum monthly charge for lighting, \$1.00. If cooking range is used \$1.00 additional.

And, that Schedule "B" (commercial rate) be changed so that the first 45 kilowatt hours per kilowatt of connected load be charged at 10c instead of the first 60 kilowatt hours—the balance of the use at 6c per kilowatt hour; the schedule otherwise to remain unchanged.

Signed M. E. McCARTY, H. F. DAVIDSON, C. K. MARSHALL, R. E. SCOTT, Secretary.

For the Hood River Commercial Club. We hereby agree to the foregoing proposed rates and schedules with the understanding that should such rates hereafter prove inadequate or insufficient the matters above mentioned may again be brought before the railroad Commission for investigation and adjustment.

HOOD RIVER GAS & ELECTRIC CO. By Albert S. Hall, Manager. HYDRO ELECTRIC CO. By N. C. Evans, President.

Agreement is Contested. Clyde B. Aitchison alone of the commissioners came up Monday for the hearing as it was supposed that there would be no contest, the agreement having been reached as above stated. However, when the hearing opened Attorneys Stearns and Derby announced that they represented certain clients and S. W. Stark stated that he represented himself and clients. Both protested against the agreement.

As a result of the protests the hearing was held and officers of the two companies were cross-examined for several hours by the protesting attorneys.

The end towards which all appeared to be working was to discover exactly what the proposed rates meant and how much of a concession the Commercial Club agreement embodied. This was made clear when Commissioner Aitchison produced one of his bills for light which he had brought from Portland. It was for \$3.

He then had the bill for the same amount of service computed on the basis of rates as applied for by the two companies. This showed a charge of approximately \$3.55. He then had the same bill computed upon the basis of the rates agreed upon between the companies and Commercial Club. This showed a result of about \$3.25, proving that the agreement entered into meant substantial concessions for residential lighting. The same was true of the rates for commercial lighting.

The rates were also compared with those in effect in other cities of the state. It was the understanding that the cost of production is not so great a factor in determining the rates as is the comparison with other rates in effect throughout the state. The hearing continued from 10:30 a. m. until about four in the afternoon, when Commissioner Aitchison took the case under advisement.

One of the principal points made clear at the hearing was that the present contracts will be of no effect as soon as the railroad commission make known its decision. A section of the public utilities law passed by the recent legislature provides that all existing contracts are void under such circumstances.

Commissioner Clyde B. Aitchison, who was here Monday in charge of the rate hearing, left that evening for Washington, D. C., to represent the state in a case appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE LIBRARY

So many are the expressions of interest on the part of the citizens of the valley and city that the library committee of the Woman's Club hopes soon to announce the purchase of 25 feet additional land on the E. L. Smith property. All that remains is to transfer the good will of the citizens into dollars and cents and this is being done this week by many determined women.

A most generous gift has already been made of \$800 which consists of \$200 apiece from Mrs. W. M. Stewart, Mrs. J. F. Watt, Mrs. O. J. Nelson, and Mrs. Elmer Rand, given in honor of their father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Smith. This assures immediate success. This money is given with the expectation that the Woman's Club will raise no less than \$1200, which together with the \$800 will make possible the purchase of the 25 feet.

The hope is that as many as possible will give \$25 or \$10 or \$5, but it ought to be remembered that smaller amounts are as essential to success as the larger sums. We wish every man, woman and child in the county might have a share in the library site if only to the amount of 25 cents. Any sum is welcome. Those wishing to help are asked to bring or send their contributions to the library and obtain receipts. The campaign closes May first.

In a letter sent by Judge Castner to the Woman's Club the statement is made that the county commissioners agree to place the Carnegie Library Building on the present site of 40 feet or any additional adjacent ground that may be purchased.

Here is a splendid project nearly completed and it awaits only the prompt action of interested citizens.

COMMITTEE OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB.

PORTLAND NOW HAS SOME "BIG SISTERS"

Any young woman planning to go to Portland will be interested to know that Portland has a "Big Sisterhood" which invites the interest and co-operation of mothers and daughters and other members of families throughout the state of Oregon. This society is quite informal in its organization, its aim being to give friendly aid and counsel to girls who are alone in Portland or who for any reason are in need of a "Big Sister."

So many girls going to the city from the country or small town have fallen into misfortune through the want of a friend, or in some cases have been utterly lost to their home people, that these Portland women have associated themselves to extend the friendly hand to girls and women who need any kind of help whatever.

If girls, or the parents of girls, who are going to Portland will write to the "Big Sisterhood," care of the People's Institute, arrangements will be made to give them such attention as they may wish on reaching the city and their welfare will be looked after by "Big Sisters" who will take pleasure in knowing them and helping them. So many sad things happen every day to girls who come to Portland from small towns and the country that the importance of this acquaintance with the "Big Sisters" is urged upon mothers and daughters throughout the state.

MUNICIPAL PLANT IS BEING PROPOSED

Representative C. H. Stranahan is among the local business men who are proposing that a municipal lighting plant may prove to be the ultimate solution of the problem here.

"It was noted by quite a number at the hearing Monday," said Mr. Stranahan, "that the commission bases its findings upon a comparison with the rates prevailing in other cities of the state. Apparently no notice is taken of the fact that Hood River has limitless water power within a short distance of the city. This fact should certainly be taken into consideration and I believe we have a right to expect lower rates than prevail in other cities."

"The city now has available an abundant supply of water for power purposes from the old Coe Spring. Now that we are going out to the Tucker Spring for our city water there will be an abundant supply from this spring going to waste and it might readily be used by the city for this purpose. I believe that a plant to serve the city could be installed with distributing system complete for about \$20,000, whereas now we are supposed to pay rates that will provide interest and profit on two plants with a capitalization of more than half a million."

Mrs. Robert Tazwell of Rutherford sustained a broken shoulder the last of the week. She was driving to town and in passing another rig the wheels of the two carriages became locked and Mrs. Tazwell was thrown out. She was brought to the hospital where the fracture was reduced.

LOCAL TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE

Oregon Lumber Company to H. Morioka, lot 22 and 27, First Addition to Riverside Park.

H. Morioka to H. Ogata, lot 22 as above.

H. Morioka to G. Harashima, lot 27 as above.

Thomas H. Larwood to J. B. Doggett, 20 acres at Mt. Hood, \$4000.

Charles I. Thomas to Clara I. Darr and Margaret N. Quigley, west 20 acres of tract at Trout Creek.

Otto E. Reade to Elisha F. Booker, 25 1/2 acres in Upper Valley.

Jesse W. Rigby to Samuel E. Douglas, lots 16 and 17, block 32, Hood River Proper.

James M. Kiser to Thomas D. Tweedy, lot 3, block C, Barrett-Simpson Addition.

Wilson O. Billings to B. F. Wall, 80 acres at Fir.

CLEANUP NEXT WEEK

Hood River is to have a clean up week, beginning next Monday and lasting the entire week. The city council and the Woman's Club are to co-operate and the few whose yards and vacant lots are not in apple-pie order are to be given the opportunity to have them so.

Teams will be provided the last three days of the week to haul away all rubbish that cannot be burned. It is urged that rubbish be ready on Thursday morning.

Many citizens keep their rubbish cleaned up and hauled away at their own expense. Each party having rubbish hauled next week will be charged a nominal fee by the driver, which will be much cheaper than if done by individual order.

Any rubbish that is left at the end of the week which is unsightly or unsanitary will be cleaned up by the city authorities at the expense of the property owner.

Signed E. O. BLANCHARD, Mayor.

ELOCUTIONARY RECITAL FRIDAY

Mrs. William Basil Young will give a recital under the auspices of the young people of the Asbury Methodist Episcopal church, Friday evening, May 2. Mrs. Young will be assisted by some of the best musical talent of the city.

M. E. Church Services. Sunday School at 10 a. m. Preaching services at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Themes: morning, "Neither Left nor Forsaken;" evening, "The Print of the Nails;" or "The Burden of the Cross. Epworth League at 7:00 p. m. Prayer meeting on Thursday evening at 8:00 o'clock. All are cordially invited. W. B. Young, pastor.

Christian Science

Christian Science services are held in the Reading Room, Room 2, Davidson Building, Sunday at 11 a. m. Subject, "Probation After Death." Sunday School will be held as usual at 10 a. m. Wednesday meeting at 8 p. m. The reading room is open daily from 2 to 5 p. m.

GANG OF BOYS IS CAUGHT THIEVING

A gang of eight boys who have been breaking into business houses for the past several weeks were caught Friday night by Deputy Marshal Hart in the vinegar factory. They had made frequent visits there, breaking into the building and carrying off bottles of pop. They also entered the office of the Taft Transfer Company and opened the cash drawer. An entrance was forced at a side window of the Star Grocery and the cash register broken. They only secured a couple of dollars at these places, however. The same gang had broken into one or two other places. They were brought before County Judge Castner and County Attorney Wilbur Saturday and given a severe talking to. Their ages ranged from 11 to 16. Upon the promise of their parents to control them, they were given another chance.

STATE GIVES \$688 FOR FAIR HERE

Under a law passed at the recent legislature Hood River will receive \$688.43 from the state towards the expense of holding a county fair, or if it is not used for this purpose it will be available for county road work.

Secretary of State Olcott says that it is true that the last Legislative Assembly repealed all the existing laws providing for the holding of district fairs and appropriating money in aid thereof, but at the same time and in the same law authorized the several counties in the state to hold county agricultural fairs and empowered the County Court of each county to appoint a county fair board consisting of three resident taxpaying citizens of the county, except in such counties where there is already organized a county fair board or an agricultural county the said board shall be considered the county fair board of that county.

An annual appropriation for the support of such fairs in the county equal to a tax of 1-20th of a mill upon the taxable property thereof is also provided for, so that in lieu of an annual appropriation for the aid of the district fairs, as in the past, the new law apportions a certain sum annually to each county for the holding of a fair in that county.

The secretary of state will therefore issue warrants in favor of the county treasurers of the respective counties on June 15, 1913, for the amounts provided in said House Bills 428 and 633, for the holding of county fairs in the year 1913.

BEAT STEVENSON; LOSE TO DALLES

In the two first baseball games of the season played Friday and Saturday of last week the Hood River High School team broke even, defeating Stevenson Friday and coming off second best in the game with The Dalles Saturday.

The game with Stevenson was played on the local diamond and resulted in the score of six to nothing in favor of the locals. On Saturday the game with The Dalles was closely contested, but a lead which the Dalles boys secured in the first inning, when they scored three runs on an error, was too great to be overcome. It looked as though the local boys might save their laurels in the last of the ninth when they had three men on bases and two out, but the third out was called before the men on bases could be brought home and the final score was nine to six in favor of The Dalles.

These were the first games in the series to be played by the teams constituting the Mid-Columbia Baseball League, which includes Stevenson, Hood River, White Salmon and The Dalles. The local boys will cross bats with White Salmon Friday.

Henry Blagg is captain of the team this year and the line-up Saturday was as follows: Husbands catch, Blagg pitch, Shrum first, McGuire second, Swartout third, Thomas short, Jones left field, Art Johnson center and J. Johnson right.

SMELT REACH CASCADE LOCKS

Smelt have been running in the river below Cascade Locks in vast quantities the past week and many people from nearby towns have gone down and brought back loads of them. This is the first time in seven years that the little fish have gotten this far up the river. In fact they seem to get up the rapids just about once every seven years.

Many Districts Favor Co-operative Marketing

H. F. Davidson left yesterday to attend a meeting of the board of directors of the North Pacific Distributors at Spokane.

The meeting will discuss particularly the extent to which the association would handle products other than apples. Some of the associations in the Milton district declare that they are strongly in favor of the association enlarging its scope so as to market vegetables and other products as well as apples and other fruits.

Mr. Davidson as director of the association has been receiving favorable reports during the past week from other districts of the northwest and he is hopeful that enough of the districts will join this year so as to make the action practically unanimous and to include all of the larger districts of the Northwest.

Yakima is now ready and willing to proceed towards perfecting the marketing machine. Full authority to take final action has been lodged in the executive committee and that committee stands ready to sign up with the association at any time that a sufficient number of other prominent factors have expressed their willingness to join so as to insure the success of the undertaking.

Wenatchee growers are said to be heartily in favor of the movement but in Walla Walla action has already been taken that is favorable to the new, co-operative organization and plans are being actively pushed by the executive committee in an effort to perfect an organization as early this season as possible. It is the opinion of the board that the assurance of success is as great now as it ever can be. They are greatly encouraged by the attitude taken towards the movement by fruit districts of the Northwest.

CHILDREN'S FAIR PRIZES ANNOUNCED

County Superintendent C.D. Thompson has announced the premiums to be given the successful contestants in the children's industrial fair, the date for which has been set for September 13.

All school children of Hood River County are eligible to enter. Pupils can seek information and advice, but must do the work themselves. This is imperative. Pupils will be divided into two classes: Class A, all over 12 years of age on September 13; Class B, all under 12. Classes are as follows:

Best packed box of apples, both Class A and B together.

Best trio of large breed of chickens; best trio of small breed of chickens; best trio of bantams, Class B only; best pair rabbits, Class B only; best 5 carrots; best 5 potatoes; best 5 onions; best 5 parsnips; best five ears pop corn; largest pumpkin by weight; largest head of cabbage by weight; best loaf bread; best apple pie; best 5 glasses jelly, at least three varieties; best 5 jars canned fruit, at least three varieties; best display asters; best display sweet peas; best display dahlias.

Best hand-made apron, made for and by the pupil entering the same. To be of any kind of material and any color. Mechanism to count rather than material or trimmings.

Best piece of darning or patching. Darn to be not less than two and one-half square inches and patch to be not less than four square inches.

Best piece of mechanical work (hand made).

First, second and third prizes to be given of \$3, \$2 and \$1 respectively.

No pupil shall enter for more than four prizes.

STREET LIGHTING SYSTEM "HOOKED UP"

Last Wednesday the Hydro Electric Company "hooked up" onto its new street lighting system and as a result the city is better lighted than ever before. The new system would have been completed sooner but supplies were slow in arriving and the work was held up. The Hood River Gas & Electric Company has been lighting the city pending the completion of the Hydro's system.

The street lights are mounted on brackets extending from the poles and are equipped with Mazda lights. The reflectors, instead of directing a stream of light perpendicularly downward, are supplied with reflectors which diffuse the rays in a horizontal direction.

In accordance with the city's contract entered into with the Hydro Company, a large number of additional lights have been installed, especially in the outskirts of the city. The poles of the Hood River Gas & Electric Company are used in accordance with a leasing agreement entered into between the two companies for common use of the poles.

they do not hold their annual meeting until May third. In the meantime it is understood that they are awaiting action by other districts and that if a sufficient number join the association they stand ready to also take final and favorable action.

The Rogue River Valley Fruit Association has signed up for another season with the Northwest Fruit Exchange of Portland. The former association, however, controls only about one-fifth of the Rogue River crop.

In Southern Idaho fruit districts an active campaign is being made to organize them all into the sub-central and good success is reported. It is said that all of the districts are unanimous in favor of joining the distributors.

In Montana, also, the sentiment is reported to be practically unanimous and assurances have already been received that solid support may be counted upon there for the new marketing organization.

In Walla Walla action has already been taken that is favorable to the new, co-operative organization and plans are being actively pushed by the executive committee in an effort to perfect an organization as early this season as possible. It is the opinion of the board that the assurance of success is as great now as it ever can be. They are greatly encouraged by the attitude taken towards the movement by fruit districts of the Northwest.

In Hood River the growers have unanimously expressed themselves in favor of the Distributors and are willing to give their support to the organization as far as possible. Authority to take further action is now vested in the board of directors of the Hood River Apple Growers' Association.

THOMSENS LEAVE TO VISIT OLD HOME

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Thomsen, who have been residents of the Columbia region of Oregon for the last 20 years, and who have amassed a fortune from the sale of orchard lands in the Hood River Valley and in the box factory business at The Dalles, left Tuesday for New York and Wednesday will sail for Hamburg, going thence to Copenhagen, where they will spend several months visiting the scenes of their childhood. For years Mr. Thomsen was one of the largest landholders in the valley, but a few years ago he began to dispose of his property at high prices.

Nineteen years ago Mr. Thomsen began purchasing cheap Hood River Valley land. He invested all of his money in real estate, and for a time found it hard to pay taxes and support his family. At The Dalles he became interested in a box factory. The business grew and he was able to hold his orchard land and make improvements occasionally.

Four years ago the box factory was disposed of at a profit of \$12,000 and he came here to devote all of his time to the improvement of his land. Since then he has disposed of several hundred acres, the last tract of 200 acres having been purchased last fall by Clayton Fletcher, who will operate a dairy there. Mr. Thomsen still owns more than 100 acres of valley land and is one of the wealthiest citizens in the district—Oregonian.

Who wouldn't like to be a farmer now?

TOLL CHARGE TO UPPER VALLEY CUT

On Saturday the State Railroad Commission made an order cutting in two the toll charge for telephone service between the upper and lower valleys. The order fixes the switching charge at five cents instead of 10 as at present and continues the present charge of \$6 per quarter for business party lines and \$3.75 for residence party lines in the Upper Valley. A discount of 75 cents is allowed where the rate is paid in advance quarterly.

The commission recently held a hearing here and some of the Upper Valley people asked that the toll charge be reduced if possible in order to lessen their expense during berry and apple shipping time when it is necessary to make frequent calls to the shipping concerns in this city.

WILL ENCOURAGE PUPILS TO GARDEN

Great importance is to be laid by the state department of education this year upon work in agriculture carried on by pupils in the schools. County Superintendent of Schools Thompson has just received from Superintendent Alderman a communication stating that creditable practical work in agriculture will entitle a pupil to credit in the eighth grade examinations. The letter follows:

"Please announce to the teachers that the following plan will govern in the eighth grade examinations in agriculture:

"1 Twelve questions will be submitted from which the pupils may choose ten.

"2 If the pupil has a garden or has done any creditable work in agriculture, the teacher may give 30 per cent for such work. In this case the pupil need answer only seven questions out of the twelve submitted.

"3 If a pupil falls low in this subject the county superintendent may add not more than 25 for a creditable exhibit at a county, district or state fair."