

COLUMBIA HIGHWAY TRIP IS ON TODAY

County Judges and Commissioners Make Many Legislative Recommendations.

ONE-MILL ROAD TAX URGED

Edwin C. Judd, of Clatsop, Elected President for Next Term—Treasurers and Clerks Organize State Associations.

After making recommendations to the coming Legislature on matters of legislation and electing officers for the ensuing year the fifth annual convention of the Oregon State Association of County Judges and Commissioners adjourned yesterday to meet again December 19, at 10 A. M. at the Multnomah County Courthouse in Portland. The delegates representing the various counties of the state will leave the Union Depot in a special train at 9 o'clock this morning for a trip to the Columbia River Highway as guests of the highway association. The inspection of the highway will be made under the personal guidance of Roadmaster Yeon, S. Benson, Amos Benson and others. Dinner will be served at LaSalle and the train will arrive in Portland on the return at 5:45 o'clock. The following officers were elected unanimously to head the association during the coming year: President, Edwin C. Judd, Judge of Clatsop County; vice-president, Helms W. Thompson, Judge of Lane County; secretary, Philo Holbrook, Commissioner of Multnomah County, re-elected; treasurer, W. H. Maloney, Commissioner of Clatsop County, re-elected. A vote of thanks was extended by the convention to Rufus C. Holman, Commissioner of Multnomah County, retiring president.

One-Mill State Tax Urged.

That the 1915 Legislature should levy a one-mill tax for permanent state road purposes was the sense of the convention expressed in a resolution adopted unanimously. J. W. Maloney, W. H. Maloney and Edwin C. Judd, committee on road legislation, in framing the resolution pointed out that the state of Washington has provided a two and one-half mill levy for state roads and that California has passed a bond law of \$10,000,000 for road purposes, whereas Oregon has only one-fourth of a mill for state roads. The resolution also asks that the Legislature delegate to the County Courts the right to say what sort of traffic is injurious to the roads. Recommendations to the next Legislature were in part as follows: That the present law regulating the payment of widows' pension be so amended that no money shall be expended unless approved by the County Judge and Commissioners. That the Legislature be urged to revise, simplify and systematize the road law. That the law requiring the several counties to take the census every 10 years be repealed.

Mr. Billner in Speaker.

The feature on the afternoon programme yesterday was an address upon "Bridge and Culvert Construction and Maintenance" by E. P. Billner, designer and engineer in charge of reinforced concrete bridge construction on the Columbia River Highway. Speeches advocating good roads and setting forth their advantages were made by Frank Terrace, of Oregonia, Wash.; E. B. Heald, of Clatsop County; P. M. Hall-Lewis, roadmaster, Clatsop County; W. C. Leever, Commissioner of Jackson County; H. B. Chapman, former roadmaster of Multnomah County; Philo Holbrook, of Multnomah County, and Judge Springer, of Crook County.

At the first permanent organization of the Oregon County Clerks' Association the following officers were elected: President, John R. Coffey, of Multnomah County; secretary, Max Galtner, of Marion County. The delegates were banqueted at the Benson Hotel last night by County Clerk Coffey. The Oregon State Association of County Treasurers was organized yesterday with the following officers: President, W. W. Francis, of Clatsop County; vice-president, E. B. Gearhart, of Clatsop County; secretary, G. B. McCuskey, of Lincoln County, and treasurer, J. E. Sawyers, of Douglas County.

WIREMEN LINE UP TODAY

Small Contractors to Fight Bond in Electrical Code.

Electrical wiremen and small contractors will line up against the larger electrical contracting concerns this afternoon at a meeting called by City Commissioner Deek at the City Hall at 2 o'clock, to consider the provisions of a proposed new electrical code drafted by a revision committee. It is expected the meeting will be lively. The chief point of difference is in regard to a provision to require each contractor, big or little, to put up a cash bond of \$100 in addition to a surety bond of \$500 to guarantee strict compliance with the provisions of the code by any contractor installing electrical wiring, fixtures or apparatus.

CLASSES WILL ASSEMBLE

University of Oregon Extension Bodies Meet Here This Week.

The full quota of University of Oregon extension classes will assemble this week in Portland, with one class in addition, that of Professor R. W. Prescott, in beginning public speaking, which meets tonight instead of next Friday, in the East Side Library auditorium, at 7 o'clock.

The classes in literary appreciation and short story, which have become popular under the direction of Mrs. Mable Holmes Parsons, will meet in room B, Central Library, at 7:30, Friday and Saturday nights respectively.

Professor A. F. Reddie, after an absence from his class of several weeks, owing to illness, will again meet the members of the advanced public speaking group, Saturday night at 7 o'clock in room H, Central Library.

BANK LETTER OPTIMISTIC

Merchants' National Declares Confidence Prime Need.

"The principal need of the moment is individual confidence backed up by initiative and action," says the current letter on trade conditions issued by the Merchants' National Bank.

"But there will be no boom," it adds, after cautioning investors to reduce their assets to as liquid a form as possible so that they may be able to take advantage of promising upward movements. The letter says in part: "The influence of the Federal Reserve banks should be influential in this upward movement. The situation is too young yet

to judge of its ultimate usefulness. The opening of the various stock exchanges throughout the country two weeks ago, for bond trading only, was accomplished without unfavorable incident. The sphere of trading has already been extended to a limited number of stocks. It will not be long before it will be safe to open up the London stock exchange. We may be assured that it is essential to London's interest to safeguard itself against reckless trading in American securities and possible depreciation.

Incomplete returns of bank clearings for the entire United States for November clearly indicate an improvement in conditions. Our foreign trade is enjoying a surprising development. The Secretary of Commerce says the total exports for November will be \$63,000,000 greater than for the same period of last year in spite of the small amount of cotton being sent abroad.

Three of the railroads having their entire mileage in Oregon show a betterment in their revenue for the year ending September 30, while three of them make adverse showings. Only one, however, shows an increase in revenue. The betterment in revenue being due principally to decrease in operating or other expenses. Of the lines having terminals in Oregon, three of the five list an improvement in their net revenue, but none in the gross revenue. Each one records a heavy loss in operating expense. It is of interest in this connection to note the earnings record of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company for August and September, 1914 and 1915, and the respective years to the dates named. The loss in gross revenues for August, 1914, was \$65,853, and for September, \$64,123. For the eight months the loss in gross was \$148,218, and for nine months the loss was \$148,218. For September the loss was \$47,894, and for the nine months \$232,761. The loss in surplus was \$55,412 in September and \$274,008 for the nine months.

The Northwest grain market is almost entirely in the hands of dealers. Export business is good because of ample tonnage arriving. The situation is considered a strong one. While a noticeable demand and better general tone in the apple market prevailed during the past three weeks this was largely due to shortage of stocks in dealers' hands, and anticipation of needs for the holiday season.

The outlook for the future of certain of the staple products of the Pacific Northwest is good. Hops are said to be cleaned up within 15 per cent of the total crop.

There is a healthy feature shown in the November building record for Portland. The number of permits issued was 351 as against 342 for the preceding month. This indicates home building and great activity on a small scale.

SHOW TO LAST SUNDAY

PUBLIC WILL BE GIVEN FURTHER CHANCE TO SEE FINE POULTRY.

Northwest White Leghorn Association Formed—Many Attend Banquet for Bird Fanatics.

The exhibition of the Oregon Poultry and Pet Stock Association will be continued Sunday on the second floor of the Pittock block. This was decided yesterday by those in charge of the show, on account of the interest the public is showing in the feathered aristocracy that have been assembled for an annual competition for blue ribbons.

The Northwest White Leghorn Association held its election of officers yesterday, as follows: President, R. H. Brown; vice-president, R. J. Kenney; secretary-treasurer, Coe McKenna.

Secretary McKenna was instructed to communicate with White Leghorn breeders throughout the Pacific Northwest, telling them of the organization, and inviting them to become members. An effort will be made to organize a separate association for every popular breed of chicken, four of the principal breeds now being included in the list.

The annual banquet of the Poultry and Pet Stock Association was held at the Union Grill last night, with E. H. Brown, one of the leading White Leghorn growers, as toastmaster. The Portland Union Stock Yards, but now director of livestock for the Panama Pacific Exposition, was the principal speaker. The toastmaster announced that are being made to make the great fair at San Francisco include in its multitude of "greatest" attractions the greatest livestock show ever assembled. Among the other speakers were E. H. Bauer, John M. Mann, William M. Foster, J. L. Hartman, B. F. Kenney, E. J. Loda, W. L. Purdy, C. M. Inman, R. Ringhouse, E. J. McClanahan, P. W. Harrison, E. Lee Paget, C. F. Wilkins, C. D. Minton, E. F. Hartman, W. L. Fulmer and F. G. Bettendorf.

DRY BANQUET IS TONIGHT

Event at Y. M. C. A. Is to Wind Up Conference of Prohibitionists.

The annual banquet of the Prohibition party, to be held in the Y. M. C. A. assembly-room tonight at 7 o'clock, will be a make-me-windup to the party conference scheduled for earlier in the day. More than 175 reservations for the supper, at which nothing stronger than water and coffee will be served, have been made. T. S. McDaniel will be the toastmaster. Delegates to the convention, representing every section of the state, are gathering in Portland to celebrate the recent "dry" victory. The conference will begin at 9:30 o'clock this morning with an address by State Chairman J. P. Newell, then prominent men also will be heard.

Ahavah Shalom Services Tonight.

Services will be held at Congregation Ahavah Shalom, Park and Clay streets, tonight at 8 o'clock, with tomorrow morning at 8:30. Chanuka, the Feast of Dedication, one of the most interesting half-holidays in the Jewish calendar, begins this year, on Friday night, December 12, and lasts for eight days. The Sunday school pupils will celebrate the feast of Dedication Sunday night, December 13 at 8 o'clock. A splendid programme has been arranged. Rabbi R. Abrahamson will officiate.

GIRL WHO SAYS SUITOR THREATENED HER LIFE.

Steve Parin, a native of Austria, 25 years old, must answer to the grand jury on a charge of threatening to commit a felony because of his alleged advances toward Effie Krels, 18 years old. In her statement in Municipal Court and in swearing out a warrant for Parin's arrest, Effie Krels said Parin told her he would "give her the same as Fred Tronson gave Emma Ulrich."

VISITORS SAVE FURNITURE

Six Guests Carry Out Goods When Mrs. Carmela's Home Burns.

While Mrs. Christie Carmela was helping Carmela Sirtini, her boarder, to entertain half a dozen men visitors in the front rooms of 645 Fifth street, the overheated cook stove in the kitchen caused a blaze which destroyed the entire rear of the house. Each carrying a goodly share of family property, the occupants reached safety without difficulty, and fire engines Nos. 4 and 5 responded to the alarm and checked the blaze before the front of the house was materially

BRIDGE MEN'S NOE ON YEON IS CHANGED

Action Taken to Confine Roadmaster's Work to Columbia Highway Only.

STEP OPPOSED BY TEAL

Committee Suddenly Shifts After Recommending Retention of Road Manager—S. Benson Says Fund-Wasting Will Follow.

Following a vote of confidence in J. B. Yeon, roadmaster, and the unanimous recommendation that he be continued as the head of Multnomah County's system of highways in its report last Saturday, the county advisory budget committee yesterday reconsidered its action and recommended to the County Commissioners that they retain Mr. Yeon as head of the construction of the Columbia Highway. No mention was made of other road work in the county.

Mr. Yeon, who appeared before the committee, said the responsibility for the county road work should not be divided, as efficiency would be impaired. It is known that he will refuse to accept supervision of the Columbia Highway work alone if the county road work is intrusted to other hands.

Report Has Opposition.

Members of the budget committee met yesterday to close their work and adjourn. Objections were made to signing the report agreed upon because of the recommendation that had been made that Mr. Yeon be retained at the head of the county road department. Robert H. Strong said he did not want to go on record for Mr. Yeon, feeling it would tend to tie the hands of the County Commissioners. E. B. MacNaughton and Frank Kiernan said they felt the same way about it. N. Teal resisted, but his only support in the committee was a proxy held by Chairman LeGarde for George Lawrence. Mr. Friede was authorized to cast the absent vote in support of the original recommendation of the committee and did so. A minority report objecting to yesterday's action was drawn up and signed by Mr. Teal and Mr. Lawrence. It will apply for it to the County Commissioners today.

First Stand Maintained.

Mr. Teal dictated his minority report as follows: "We, the undersigned members of the advisory committee on county budget, herewith submit a minority report. We concur in all recommendations of the majority report except the retention of Mr. Yeon as county roadmaster. We appreciate that at best what the budget committee may say on this subject is merely a recommendation and is not binding on the Commissioners, but under the existing conditions of road building in this county we felt this peculiar situation will justify a recommendation. On December 5 the following motion was unanimously adopted by members of the budget committee present, one, however, being absent: 'We recommend that the services of Mr. Yeon as county roadmaster be retained.' The report of the committee contained the following statement: 'We recommend that Mr. Yeon be retained as head of the county road work.'

"A further meeting of the committee was held Thursday, December 10. At this meeting the report of the committee was passed upon and the recommendation was modified by a majority vote of the committee to read as follows: 'We recommend that the services of Mr. Yeon be retained to complete the Columbia Highway from the city limits to the county line.'

"We do not question the right of those who disagree with us to express their opinions. In a matter of such grave importance to the county we feel we should express ourselves with equal plainness and we therefore adhere to our first conclusion and recommend Mr. Yeon be retained as head of the county road work. To us it seems obvious that this is the prudent and businesslike course for the county to pursue."

The change of front of budget committee members in regard to the recommendation on the roadmaster was considerable speculation yesterday. It was supposed that the move was in the interest of the appointment of Mr. Yeon as head of the county road work. County Commissioners of H. B. Chapman to the position of roadmaster.

"Bad Effect Forecast. S. Benson, who has been among the most active in work for better roads in this county, said:

"Mr. Yeon will not accept the divided responsibility for county road work. If he is given charge of the Columbia Highway alone, the taxpayers know that the money to be spent on other roads will be wasted as hereafter. They will not support the bond issue for roads, knowing it will leave \$1,000,000 to be spent in the old wasteful system if Mr. Yeon is out of the position of roadmaster."

The County Commissioners will meet Saturday morning at 8:30 o'clock to receive the report of the budget committee. Prompt action is necessary, as they were advised yesterday by District Attorney Evans that the latest dates of publication of estimates of expenditures for Multnomah County for 1915 and notice of a meeting of taxpayers preliminary to the adoption of the budget, are December 13 and 22.

Commissioner Holman expressed his disapproval last night of the advisory budget committee's action in recommending that Roadmaster Yeon be deprived of authority on road work in the county exclusive of that on the Columbia Highway.

"If only hope that the committee showed more intelligence and mental independence in the rest of its work than they have shown in this case," he said.

Commissioner Hart declined to make a statement, saying his term of office is almost concluded and that he does not care to mix in the controversy.

It is understood that Commissioner Lightner will vote to adopt the recommendation of the committee relative to the roadmaster question when it comes up before the County Board.

Thousands of Pairs of HIGH TOPS

Less Than Factory Price

Boys' \$2.50 Hi-Tops, with buckles, now, per pair... \$1.98
Big Boys' \$3 and \$3.50 Hi-Tops, all with buckles, per pair... \$2.48
Men's \$4 and \$4.50 Black and Tan Hi-Tops, at pair... \$2.98

affected or the fire had spread to surrounding buildings. The house was of two stories, owned by A. Luciano, of 667 Fifth street, and was damaged to an extent of about \$1000, fully covered by insurance.

NARROWER STREET ASKED

Alberta Property Owners Want Slice Cut by Council.

That Alberta street, in Northeast Portland, may be made of uniform width throughout, property owners at the east end of the street have petitioned the City Council to pass an ordinance vacating a part of the street. For 800 feet the street is on an average of 23 feet wider than along the rest of its course. As a result the building line is far back from the street and sidewalk.

The irregular shape was brought about in the original dedication. Members of the City Commission went over the ground yesterday. An ordinance for the vacation of the surplus strip will be considered at the next Council meeting.

TRADE INVESTIGATOR HERE

Edward A. Brand Stops in Portland En Route to San Francisco.

Edward A. Brand, of Washington, D. C., assistant chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, was in Portland yesterday en route from Seattle to San Francisco.

The bureau has eight district offices in four geographical locations, and Mr. Brand proposes to divide the country into eight zones, each office to study the industries of its region.

The bureau gets reports from more than 300 Consuls, ten commercial attaches and specialists sent abroad to study specific lines. The information is distributed to firms that apply for it. Mr. Brand said there was a market in Australia for practically everything.

MAN WANTED, GIVES UP

Albert Porter Would Fight New Hampshire Embezzlement Charge.

So that he might go back to Franklin, N. H., and fight a charge of embezzlement, Albert Porter, a contractor and builder, surrendered himself to Captain Bate and Detectives Hill and Hammerley yesterday. He is wanted for embezzling \$360. He admits taking the money, but says that he left outstanding accounts which more than squared his balance.

Porter left his home with his sister-in-law and has traveled with her since. He explained taking her on the ground that he expected to go to a hospital and wanted company.

Vernon Pupil Wins.

Douglas Young, an eighth grade pupil in Vernon School, is the winner of the prize offered by the management of the National Theater for the best article of 500 words written on Julius Caesar as seen from the screen of the theater last week. Douglas' article is especially lucid and well written. His English is clear and his sentences well balanced. A handsome set of Shakespeare will be presented to him at the theater Saturday afternoon.

President Heeds Suggestions.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce received a letter from Secretary of Commerce Redfield, saying that its suggestions regarding a survey of Alaska had been given to President Wilson and that he had followed them almost verbatim.

Drama League May Give Play.

The Drama League of America met in room 13 of the Central Library last night at 8 o'clock to discuss the feasibility of giving a play later in the season. The question of the play was discussed and the president, Douglas Young, of the play committee, presided.

Stow B. Smith, of Pittsburgh, National President of the Phi Kappa Psi

Fraternity, arrived in Portland Thursday. He will be the guest of his old college friend, Rev. William Wallace Youngson, of Rose City Park. The local Phi Psi men will tender him luncheon at the University Club today at 12 o'clock. Tonight he and Dr. Youngson and other local alumni will leave for Seattle to participate in the constitution of Washington Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi in the University of Washington. The chapter will take place in the new Elks' Hall at 2 o'clock, followed by a banquet at 7 at the Hotel Washington, at which Dr. Youngson speaks on "The Spirit of the Phi Kappa Psi." A. B. Winfree

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Man Sues for \$15,000, Gets \$962.

E. H. Clark, a painter, who sued the jewelry firm of A. and C. Feldenheimer for \$15,000 damages for a fall and resultant injuries while working in the store, due, it was charged, to the fault of an employee of the company, was awarded \$962 damages by a jury in Judge Davis' court yesterday.

Sidney, Australia, is to have a daily labor newspaper.

European Cheque Service Resumed.

Through the treasurer's office of the American Express Company, it was announced yesterday that they are mailing notices to their agents and correspondents to resume the sale of American Express travelers' cheques for European use.

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The Priceless Gift of Personally Producing Music