

ALSEA ROAD TO SEA
IMPORTANT HIGHWAY

Benton and Lincoln County
Folk Seek Improvement.

STATE OFFICIALS INSPECT

Tremendous Traffic Passing on
Route Held to Require 16-Foot
Width for All Sections.

BY JOHN W. KELLY.

ALSEA, Or., July 16.—(Special.)—Next to the Pacific highway, which runs north and south, the most important road in Benton county is the Alsea road. There is available \$250,000 for improving this artery from Corvallis to Waldport, in Lincoln county. For the purpose of canvassing the situation in Alsea, the highway commission, State Highway Engineer Nunn, County Judge W. H. Malone of Benton county and A. Booth, former commissioner of Lincoln county, have been traveling the section.

So important do the Benton county people consider the Alsea road that they have authorized the issue of \$220,000 bond bonds recently voted shall be used on this route to the Pacific coast. So far as population is concerned, there is relatively little along the Alsea road, but the people, realizing the commercial value of the Alsea route, were willing to apply practically half of the bond issue to this one project, while the remaining \$120,000 is to be distributed over various roads.

The Alsea road begins at Corvallis, runs through Philomath and heads westerly to the coast range to Alsea town, and on to the Lincoln county line. From that point the road proceeds toward the coast until it merges on Waldport bay, skirting the southern edge of the town. Thus two counties are interested in the opening of the Alsea-Waldport route.

Government Will Aid. Government officials are anxious to have access to the forest reserve in Lincoln county and the Waldport end of the Alsea road will be a cooperative project. The forestry service contributes \$12,000, the state \$72,000 and Lincoln county \$12,000. This totals \$96,000 for the mileage in Lincoln county. For the Benton county end of the Alsea road the state contributes nothing. The forestry service, however, was so anxious to open up the thoroughfare to connect with the forest road in Lincoln county that the government proposed to match the county money for Benton, thus giving \$200,000 for the Alsea road in Benton.

Alsea mountain is the main obstacle between Corvallis and the town of Alsea. It is in the summit of the Coast range and the road twists and climbs to the top of this pass. Probably half of the money available will be needed to solve the problem of this mountain. Engineer Nunn says that with steam shovels and tractors the mountain section presents no serious obstacle, and that a 16-foot highway on a 5 or 6 percent grade may be developed with ease. At times the grade is now 18 or 20 percent.

In Benton county, save for the Alsea mountain section, the road is in splendid condition and the present alignment is retained to a large extent. The county has installed concrete culverts and made fills, so that aside from the mountain section, the Alsea road is generally good.

Much Business Done. Apparently, to look at the Alsea-Corvallis road, it is scarcely worth giving much important attention. This is where the casual observer is deceived. There are two little stores in Alsea which do a business of \$50,000 a year. One creamery alone did \$100,000 worth of business last year. There is a large amount of poultry, livestock, produce and similar goods flowing out of the mountain range to Corvallis daily.

Not long ago a six-team freight wagon could only pull 1700 pounds over the road. The present condition of the Benton county road enables motor trucks to make a round trip in four hours, which formerly required three days. The freight wagon, which is the elimination of the Alsea mountain grades will vastly improve the possibilities of the road.

At a point between Alsea and Waldport the Lincoln-Benton county boundary is met. In Lincoln county there is a twisting mountain road, barely wide enough for a machine to get over. This road is passing all day long most of the time in low gear on account of grades that are so steep that the Lincoln county line the present traffic road goes by way of the Missouri bend.

Shorter Route Planned. The government people prefer improving the bigger mountain road, which will be a saving of several miles over the present route. The Digger mountain road is now in service, but the grades are so steep that most drivers avoid it, preferring the longer Missouri bend route.

At a point beyond Alsea, County Judge Malone would like to see a 1200-foot tunnel bored through the mountains, as two miles would be saved by such a project. A tunnel of that length involves ventilation and lighting problems which will probably offset the advantage gained in distance. Also, the tunnel would be wet and slimy in such a moist climate. Mr. Hurt also favors a tunnel at another spot which would cut distance by a mile or more.

Striking the forest in Lincoln county, where the road crosses the Alsea river on a bridge. From this point on to Waldport, there is vast room for improvement in alignment, grade and width.

People at Waldport are very anxious for the development of the route to Corvallis. The town is a bit worked up just now over two oil companies which are boring near by, one rig being down on the beach. Evidence of oil are abundant. The main excitement in Waldport on the arrival of the party was the news that the two big canneries pay 8 cents for fish.

SPOKANE MAN TO APPEAL

Charge of Having Liquor in Possession to Be Fought Out.

SPOKANE, July 16.—(Special.)—Notice of appeal to superior court has been given in the case of Maurice Oppenheimer, son of the late Moss Oppenheimer, convicted in police court yesterday on city and state charges of having liquor in his possession. He was fined \$250 and sentenced to four months in jail after charges of selling liquor had been changed to the lesser charges on motion of the prosecutor.

BANKING BUSINESS GAINS

Portland Deposits Show Big Increase Over June, 1918.

Business transacted by banking institutions of Portland during the month of June, 1919, made a big increase over the total for the corresponding month of last year, according to the report of Will H. Bennett of Salem, superintendent of banks. Deposits amounted to \$121,628,012.47, or a gain of \$27,848,272.57, and a decrease of \$8,471,955.72, as compared with the total for May, 1919.

HERMAN CREEK FIRE NOW UNDER CONTROL

Blaze Hard to Fight Because of Wind-Swept Location.

SCAPPOOSE FIRE CHECKED

Entire Force of 125 Men of Nehalem Timber and Logging Company Helps to Battle Flames.

Favorable winds which tended to drive the flames back into the burned area greatly aided the fire fighters yesterday in bringing the Herman creek fire under control, according to reports received late yesterday by the district headquarters of the forestry service.

Unless unforeseen circumstances change the situation it is expected that the blaze will be completely out inside of two days. During the strong headwinds Tuesday, the fire, which had been practically under control, swept out again, crossed a wide fire trench and entered green timber for the first time. Sam Lehman, one of the city rangers in the Bull Run watershed, who served in Portland yesterday afternoon after having been engaged in fighting the fire since Friday. He gave the details of the camp burning when one of the crews lost its supplies and most of its equipment. Lyle Bain, one of the men from the city reserve, lost his way inside the fire area and had to fight his path through the underbrush to the Columbia highway and safety.

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FAMOUS FIGHTER TO SPEAK IN PORTLAND



Lieutenant-Colonel Theodore Roosevelt Jr.

Portland will have its first opportunity to hear Theodore Roosevelt Jr. when he comes to Portland September 17 to address ex-service men and citizens of this city on the purposes of the American Legion, which he helped organize. Colonel Roosevelt yesterday accepted the republican nomination for the state assembly of New York. Word that he would be in Portland was received by Eugene E. Leonard, chairman of the speakers' bureau of the American Legion in Oregon. Colonel Roosevelt will be in the state of Washington on September 18 and 19.

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FEDERAL AID ACT SAVED

Assistant Attorney-General Corrects Faulty Law.

Bean-Barrett Measure Rescued by Van Winkle From Annulment by \$10,000,000 Bond Bill.

SALEM, Or., July 16.—(Special.)—The ever-watchful eye of Assistant Attorney-General Van Winkle not only saved complete annulment of the so-called Bean-Barrett federal aid act, but prevented Oregon from losing approximately \$1,400,000 of government road money, according to an announcement made here this afternoon following exchange of telegrams between H. B. Goodin, secretary of the state board of control, and a firm of Boston bonding attorneys.

Mr. Goodin yesterday telegraphed to the attorneys asking them if the transcript furnished in the sale of \$400,000 worth of highway bonds in the year 1917 applied in the sale of \$300,000 worth of bonds made yesterday to Henry Teal of Portland.

This morning Mr. Goodin received a reply from Boston to the effect that the Oregon legislature in passing the \$10,000,000 bond bill at the last session nullified the Bean-Barrett act.

Consultations between the officials were hastily arranged and Mr. Van Winkle was solicited for information on the subject. He readily detected the significance of the telegram and informed Mr. Goodin that he discovered after it had been introduced and prepared a corrective clause which, upon its passage by the legislature, held the sale of bonds in co-operation with the federal government.

Mr. Goodin tonight telegraphed the bonding attorney regarding the corrective clause, and it is believed yesterday's sale will be approved without delay.

PORTLAND GIRL SELECTED

Lula L. May to Teach Household Arts at Corvallis.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, July 16.—(Special.)—Miss Lula L. May of Portland has been appointed instructor of household arts at the college, according to an announcement made by the college. She was graduated from the college in 1915 with senior honors and was a member of the Forum, the junior-senior honor society. She was also a member of the college dramatic club. She made designs for the O. A. C. Barometer, Oregon Countryman and the Beaver and other magazines.

Last school year she taught at Castle Rock, Wash. This summer she is employed at the Babcock & Vogt furnishing establishment in Portland.

CAPTIVE SUED FOR DIVORCE

Eugene Man, Jailed for Alleged Theft of Wool, Has Troubles.

EUGENE, Or., July 16.—(Special.)—To add to his troubles, William Brotherton of Eugene, who is in the Lincoln county jail charged with the theft of some wool at Albany, is defendant in a divorce suit. Mrs. Genevieve Brotherton began suit yesterday in court here to annul their marriage on the ground of cruel and inhuman treatment.

She alleges that he has failed to support her properly, that he has spent most of his time around pool halls and cigar stores and that his latest act of cruelty is that he is in jail for the alleged theft of wool, that he escaped once and that he was rearrested.

CONCILIATION WILSON'S AIM

Monious Relations Between the Executive and the Oregon Senator.

Senator Chamberlain said after leaving the White House that while there he had discussed the president's itinerary for the "swing around the circle," adding that it was quite certain that Mr. Wilson would speak in at least three places in Oregon, including Portland.

Phone your want ads to The Oregonian. Main 7979. A 6025.

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Fire is Hard to Fight. The fire line is a little more than a mile and a half in side, according to Mr. Lehman. It has been a dangerous one and a hard one to fight because of the high altitude, and open, wind-swept position. It is located on the Herman creek trail, about three miles from the Columbia highway. The fire at Ames spread yesterday to an area of about 45 acres, but it is believed to be under control. It has been throwing up considerable smoke, due to the heavy green foliage condition of the region. The smoke has been seen from the Columbia highway by many persons who thought the fire was directly in back of Larch mountain, favorite retreat of many Portland people. Ames is located near the end of the Bull Run car line. The fire has done little damage.

Scapoose Fire Checked. The fire which started in the Nehalem Timber & Logging company's operations about 12 miles west of Scapoose, is reported as being practically checked. The fire started from a donkey engine during the noon hour and made considerable headway before it was discovered. The entire force of the company, comprising about 125 men, was put to work fighting the fire. It is stated that little damage has been done, as the fire has been confined largely to underbrush and dead logs. It has covered about 150 acres.

It was reported last night that a fire had broken out in Blind slough in Clatsop county in timber owned by the Larkin & Green company. Its extent has not been learned.

NORTHWEST IN FIRES' GRASP

Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana Conflagrations Serious.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 16.—Forestry officials and fire wardens view the forest fire prospects in Washington with apprehension. G. C. Joy, chief fire warden of the Washington Forest Fire association, said today. A fire of threatening proportions broke out in Clallam county west of Lake Crescent last night, but fire fighters today were making good headway against the flames. A force of men daily was organized to battle a new fire near Milton, Skagit county. Several small fires in King county were said to be under control.

MISSOULA, Mont., July 16.—Four large fires burning through the West, south and Lolo national forests in western Montana and a number of smaller fires in the Selway forest of northern Idaho today caused forestry officials at district headquarters here the most concern.

The situation in other forests of this vicinity, although exceedingly critical, was considered fairly satisfactory. Several large blazes were reported from the Selway forest, although three fires there which previously were considered dangerous were said to be under control.

SPOKANE, July 16.—Forest fires in northern Idaho today were reported burning over considerable areas, and in one instance valuable timber was threatened.

A fire between the town of Priest River and Priest lake, believed under control yesterday, broke out again today, and another on Jordan creek, near the headwaters of the Coeur d'Alene river, was burning over 200 to 300 acres. It was reported.

A fire in heavy timber on Steamboat creek was burning over 50 acres and was said to be threatening a large area of government and private timber.

BOISE, Idaho, July 15.—Governor Davis today received word from Secretary of the Interior Lane advising that \$10,000 has been set aside for expense of fighting a forest fire that has destroyed approximately 30,000 acres of timber in the yellow pine section of the Thermo mountain region. The fire has been raging about three weeks, but efforts to combat it have been meager because of lack of an appropriation by the department of the interior for fighting fires on the public domain.

No loss of life has occurred in the fire, but hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of valuable timber has been destroyed and a quarter of a million sheep are in danger.

MEDFORD, Or., July 15.—(Special.)—Under forcing a broke out last night on the middle fork of the Pole Applegate and today Forest Supervisor Rankin and George H. Cecil of Portland federal forest ranger, for that place to supervise a corps of fire fighters. The forest fire on Anderson was burning, but is reported under control. Several ranches are located in the fire area and the interior for fighting fires on the public domain.

WIND FANS BLAZE IN POLK
Fire Fighters Keep Blaze From Spreading to Adjacent Farms.

DALLAS, Or., July 16.—(Special.)—Fanned by a high northeasterly wind the fire in the timber several miles west of Dallas sprang up with renewed vigor Tuesday afternoon. At an early hour this morning a corps of fire fighters kept the flames from spreading to nearby farms. The flames many times leaped 100 feet into the air.

The origin of the fire is a mystery, as no logging operations are being carried on in the woods near that point. The fire already has burned over a large territory. Several ranches are located within a short distance from the fire and damage to crops is feared.

Grays Harbor Fires Controlled. HOQUIAM, Wash., July 16.—(Special.)—Forest fires, which have been raging in the vicinity of Grays Harbor City and Grass creek for the past few days on logged-off land owned by the Northwestern Lumber company, are now fully under control. The flames of the fire at Ames spread yesterday to an area of about 45 acres, but it is believed to be under control. It has been throwing up considerable smoke, due to the heavy green foliage condition of the region. The smoke has been seen from the Columbia highway by many persons who thought the fire was directly in back of Larch mountain, favorite retreat of many Portland people. Ames is located near the end of the Bull Run car line. The fire has done little damage.

ASHLAND JOINS LEGION
Theodore Roosevelt Jr. to Be Asked to Speak Before New Chapter.

ASHLAND, Or., July 16.—(Special.)—A large and enthusiastic group of ex-service men gathered on an hour's notice here last night to hear State Chairman Elvers of Portland explain the purpose and ideals of the American Legion of World War Veterans. Immediately following his speech the force of the company, comprising about 125 men, was put to work fighting the fire. It is stated that little damage has been done, as the fire has been confined largely to underbrush and dead logs. It has covered about 150 acres.

The Ashland Post is determined to have Theodore Roosevelt Jr. speak in the new Ashland auditorium when he visits the state in September on behalf of the legion.

WOUNDED MEN CALL FOR SILVER BADGES

Many Westerners Visit Army Office With Honor Scars.

FIGHTERS TELL OF FRAY

John Sumoy, Who Lost Arm in Argonne, Among Soldiers to Whom Victory Buttons Are Given.

The ragged scar of a shrapnel wound, the mark of a bayonet, or the trace of gas burn is a common sight at the army recruiting station, where discharged wounded soldiers are calling for their silver victory buttons; but a sudden hush fell upon officers and men yesterday afternoon and eliciting typewriters stopped for a moment to pay silent homage to an empty sleeve.

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Hillsboro Lad Shot. Edwin Bartlett, formerly a private in company B, 162d infantry, 22d division, was wounded at flames by German snipers who fired into the backs of a party of Americans which had passed their position. His home is in Hillsboro.

Carl M. Mack of 1724 East Eleventh street, formerly a corporal in the headquarters company, 23d infantry, was wounded by shrapnel while on intelligence work in the front lines. He was carried to the dressing station by a detail of German prisoners, who, he says, aid all in their power to make him comfortable.

Allen R. Jay Jr. of 410 Harrison street was gassed while fighting in the St. Mihiel sector. Second Lieutenant C. M. O'Connell of Bonanza, Or., was wounded by shrapnel in the same part of the line.

Group of Wounded Here. Russell Hogan of 95 1/2 Russell street, Arthur W. Peterson of 825 Haight avenue, Nelson W. Reese of 985 Market street, Harry F. Halverson of Dallas city, N. D., Lewis T. McMahon of 428 Harrison street, Nick Williams of 194 Tenth street, Loring C. Robertson of 119 1/2 Killingsworth avenue and William E. Biers of 726 Alberta street were all wounded or gassed during the Meuse-Arnonne offensive.

Other wounded soldiers who received their silver buttons yesterday were Adolph Grass, 424 Second street; Ralph E. Alvord, 247 East Forty-seventh street; Eugene Menzener, 6019 Seventh street southeast; Waino Kraxep, 245 East Broadway; Andrew Arnack, 172 East Seventeenth street, and George J. Mezes, 36 North Fourth street.

Court Limits Market of Union But Opens it to Members. SALEM, Or., July 16.—(Special.)—The Salem Fruit union is restrained from delivering loganberries elsewhere than the Phez company by action of the circuit court here today overruling a demurrer of the union to the petition of the Phez company.

It is believed, however, that the ruling of the court will prove of little benefit to the Phez company, for the reason that the demurrer filed by the growers who were defendants with the fruit union was sustained. As a result of this ruling the growers are free to sell their berries in open market.

In the action of J. R. Lima, Louis Lachmund and H. M. Endicott against the fruit union to compel the union to force delivery of berries to the union by the growers, the court sustained a demurrer of the union on grounds that there is a remedy in equity. The contempt case brought by the Phez company against the fruit union was dismissed on motion of plaintiffs.

Medford Has First Sing. MEDFORD, Or., July 16.—(Special.)—Medford held its first community "sing" in the City park tonight under the direction of Walter Jenkins of Portland. Several thousand persons joined in the choruses of popular songs, accompanied by the Medford band. It is planned to hold several community sings during the summer.

SALEM Third Ward Elected. SALEM, Or., July 16.—(Special.)—At a meeting of the Salem council held last night Walter W. Schuchter was elected to represent the 3d ward to succeed O. J. Wilson, who has been shifted to the headquarters of George E. Halverson, who was elected to succeed O. J. Roberts, who has resigned as alderman from the 5th ward.

SALEM, Or., July 16.—(Special.)—The state highway commission has asked for bids for \$1,000,000 worth of bonds, bearing rate of August 1, 1919, and drawing 4 1/2 per cent interest. The bids will be opened at the offices of the commission in Portland on August 5, at 11 o'clock A. M. The bonds will mature serially, \$25,000 October 1, 1924, and a like amount each April 1 and October 1 thereafter until the full amount is paid.

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