ONE-CENT POSTAGE MERCHANTS' CRY

Portland Business Men Join Nation-Wide Movement for Lower Postal Rate.

BIG SAVING IS SOUGHT

Government Officials Agree That Two-Cent Letter Rate Should Be Reduced—Bill to Be Presented Before Congress.

Portland business men are expressing satisfaction over progress being made in the campaign for one-cent letter postage. A number of firms already have joined the National One-Cent Letter Postage Association and are supporting the propaganda for the lower postage rate.

Energetic efforts are being made by the association to secure the passage of a bill in Congress providing for one-cent letter postage. Active work of educational character has been in progress for the past year, and not only have the business men of Portland been informed as to the advantages of one-cent letter postage, but a membership of several thousand leading business firms in every state in the Union has been built up.

H. J. Frank, of the Blumauer-Frank Drug Company, is taking an active part in the campaign and is urging local business men to give their support to the movement. Mr. Frank declares that the business men of Portland have been entitled to a lower postage rate on letters for many years, and that only a concerted effort, such as that being made by the National One-Cent Letter Postage Association, will bring about the reform.

Reduction Is Urged.

"I consider this fight for lower postage one of the most important ever waged by American business men," declared Mr. Frank. "At the present time the Postoffice Department is making in excess of $62,000,000 a year profit on letter mail. At this rate, the Department receives on first-class mail a revenue of $1680 a ton. First-class mail supplies under 14 per cent of the total tonnage of the Department, yet it is required to pay over 75 per cent of the total revenue. This is manifestly unfair, and business men should resent this unjust tax.

"In this city there are hundreds of firms spending all the way from $200 to $10,000 a year for letter postage. It can easily be seen that these firms would be benefited to the extent of many thousands of dollars were a one-cent letter rate inaugurated by Congress.

"It has always been the policy of the Postoffice Department to furnish service at cost. In the earliest days when high postage rates were charged, that was the sole purpose. Now, with the country thickly populated, the volume of mail has grown and consequently an immense profit is being made, so it is only reasonable that letters should be carried at cost. Every time a business man uses a two-cent postage stamp, he is paying a bonus of one cent to the Government.

"Government officials, including those in charge of the Postoffice Department who have grown expert in the handling of huge volumes of mail matter, agree that a one-cent letter rate should be established at once and are working heartily towards this end. Were it left with them to determine the question, a one-cent letter rate would doubtless be instituted at once. It is necessary, however, for Congress to take prompt action before the lower rate can be inaugurated. To persuade Congressmen of the necessity for this reform, it will be necessary for the business men of this city as well as the country at large to get together and make a concerted effort to impress officials with the necessity for this legislation. This can only be done through such an organization as the National One-Cent Letter Postage Association.

Movement Gains in Favor.

"I hope that the business men of Portland will take steps at once to affiliate their interests with this work, which is a matter of dollars and cents with them and not mere sentiment.

"Exorbitant prices are now being charged for mailing letters. Americans intuitively reject any proposition that tends to charge an unfair rate, and that is what the present postage rate certainly is.

"The postage association is now making an effort to secure support for this movement in Portland. Many business men here are already affiliated, but I hope that many more will join as soon as they learn about the conditions now existing in connection with the carriage of letters by the Government. Personally, I urge every business man in Portland to join this movement. It means that letter postage will be cut in two as soon as the Congressional battle for one-cent letter postage is won. We have everything in our favor and there is no reason why we should not secure a one-cent letter rate at an early datet."

APPLE YIELD INCREASING

White Salmon Valley Will Harvest Big Crop This Year.

HUSUM, Wash., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—Indications point to a heavy apple crop in the White Salmon Valley this year. It is estimated that the yield will be 50 per cent better than last year.

Paying strict atatention to spraying, combined with the climatic conditions thus far, the quality of apples raised this year in this section of the Pacific Northwest will be above the average. A few orchardists are experimenting this season in turning water on a small portion of their orchard tracts in an opportune time during the dry season. The results of irrigated, compared with non-irrigated fruit, will be watched with interest.

It is estimated that 15,000 acres were planted to fruit trees in the White Salmon Valley during the past six years. Although there are now but few bearing commercial orchards in the valley, the yield two years from now will be enormous. Conservative fruit growers predict that by 1915 there will be an increase of 500,000 boxes of apples in the valley. In the county at large there has been an average annual planting of 100,000 fruit trees during the past four years.

In the Trout Lake region, an irrigated district in the upper White Salmon Valley, the grass and grain crop will be heavy this year. The estimated yield of wheat is 50 bushels to the acre, while oats will reach as high as 80 bushels to the acre. The raising of alfalfa in that locality is becoming a prominent feature among the ranchers, experiments demonstrating that this forage will ultimately be the leading hay product. Top notch prices are always received for hay and dairy products in the Trout Lake country.

TYPES OF NEW ENGINE-HOUSES BUILT ON EAST SIDE.

FIRE APPARATUS HOUSE AT THIRTY-THIRD AND FRANCIS STREETS.

ENGINE-HOUSE AT BELMONT AND EAST THIRTY-FIFTH STREETS.

FIRE STATIONS RISE

Two Modern Engine Houses on East Side Completed.

FOUR OTHERS PLANNED

Rapid Growth of City East of River Creates Demand for Better Fire Protection--Auto Apparatus to Be Installed.

The city has completed two modern fire engine houses—one in Kenilworth and one at Sunnyside—at a cost of about $30,000. At Kern Park a $3000 frame fire station has been erected and is ready for the apparatus. Erection of fire stations is under way at Rose City Park, East Fifty-seventh street and Sandy boulevard, at Woodlawn and Kenton, all three being according to the same plans as prepared by Battalion Chief Holden.

Work will start on the Montavilla fire station probably this week. All these buildings are adapted for horse or auto apparatus and probably will be the last erected for the next five or ten years to come, except that a fire station will be built in Waverly-Richmond this year.

From the Sunnyside station at Belmont and East Thirty-fifth streets, it is estimated that an auto fire engine could reach into all the adjacent territory. The general plan is to place auto apparatus in all these stations. The auto company in the fire station on the Sandy boulevard will be able to cover a great territory as soon as the Sandy boulevard is paved, and can reach the City Hall in six or seven minutes. With Alameda avenue paved, the fire company on Sandy boulevard can reach any part of Beaumont, Olmstead and Alameda Park and even Vernon by a few minutes' run. The auto company at Kenton will be able to cover a large district when the 12 streets, now under contract, are paved. The same is true in Montavilla and Woodlawn, where the fire stations will be for auto and horse-drawn apparatus.

Hard-surface pavements all over a large territory on the East Side is solving the question of fire protection. Within a year practically all the great districts—Peninsula, Rose City Park, Mount Tabor, Westmoreland, Eastmoreland, Waverly-Richmond, South Mount Tabor, Division street and Hawthorne avenue and Kenilworth — may be reached on solid pavements from these stations. Firemen estimate that horse-driven apparatus can cover only a mile territory, where the runs are not up hill, but an auto fire company can cover about five times that distance.

There is a remarkable growth taking place on the East Side. Settlements have extended seven miles back from the river on the Base Line road, Foster road, Sandy boulevard, Powell Valley and nearly nine miles down on the Peninsula. Nearly all these districts are asking for fire protection. It is figured that by installing auto-drawn apparatus ample protection can be given these sections, as they will be able to cover the long distances with such speed that it will not be necessary to erect more fire stations for several years to come.

Work has been started on plans for an engine house to be built in Irvington district. It will be of bungalow style of construction, in keeping with the buildings of that section.

OREGON GREAT STATE

C. C. CHAPMAN TELLS OF RECENT 2000-MILE TRIP.

In Address Before Realty Salesmen Speaker Shows How They Can Aid Settlers.

C. C. Chapman, publicity manager of the Portland Commercial Club, in an address at a get-together dinner given by the Chapin-Herlow Mortgage & Trust Company last week, reviewed his experiences in a 2000-mile trip through Central and Eastern Oregon.

"We found four valleys over in that country that have more level land than our own Willamette Valley," said Mr. Chapman. "Add to these valleys many small valleys with rich soil and you get a superficial idea of the greatness of our state. For 60 miles we would cross fine lands and see nothing but jackrabbits and coyotes, then we would come into great stretches of newly homesteaded country dotted with the settlers' humble cabins, inhabited with real men who are building an empire.

"I saw men, whose families had been cooped up in Portland, happy as kings in that section. They were beginning to feel that they were amounting to something in this world. Let me tell you real estate salesmen that there is more than the commission to be gained by selling Oregon land. Place the man right, energize him with your own enthusiastic upbuilding spirt, and you will do things for Portland. You can, through your own well-directed efforts, make the land double and treble in its crop production."

FIRE DANGERS REDUCED

SYSTEMATIC PATROL IN LINN COUNTY CONDUCTED.

Wells Gilbert, Secretary of Association, Reports Forest Situation Better Than Usual.

Wells Gilbert, secretary of the Linn County Fire Patrol Association, who returned last week from a trip of inspection of the timber belt of Linn County, says more precaution is being taken against fires this season than ever before.

"Since May 1 the association has constructed about 40 miles of telephone lines and many miles of trails connecting lookout stations with the local lines and roads," said Mr. Gilbert. "These stations are Cleveland Rock, east of Lacomb; Bald Peter, north of Foster, and Horse Rock, south of Crawfordsville. In all, 19 wardens are employed and in addition to over 250,000 acres represented in the association, they really protect much more, as they have instructions to put out fires irrespective of ownerships. In addition to these men are the Forest Service patrols in the east the state wardens on the west and several men employed by the road grant.

"While we place our main reliance upon patrols, we feel that the lookout stations, commanding, as they do, views of the whole timbered area, are indispensable. As a concrete illustration, I may say that upon July 14 the watchmen whom some of us have installed upon Black Butte, near Sisters, in Crook County, discovered a fire on the reserve line and reported it by telephone to the Government rangers, who had a crew of 14 men there within two hours and easily extinguished the fire.

"Last year a fire in the same vicinity ran nearly a day before it was discovered and a crew of 24 men spent three days in extinguishing it, with a loss, I am told, of over 3,000,000 feet of pine timber. Anyone familiar with the great fire hazard of fir timber will realize how important it is to reach fires quickly. Someone has said that the way to put out a fire is to put it out. What he means to say, and it is very true, is that the great majority of forest fires can be extinguished if they can be reached within a few hours. Of course, there are exceptions to all cases. Once a fire gets into tree tops it will spread if there is a high wind, and no human agency can check it. We have faithful, experienced men in our employ and we look for no serious loss by forest fires in Linn County this season."

LEASING BILL BAD

Effect Will Be to Retard Development of West.

PINCHOT POLICY ATTACKED

L. D. Mahone Urges Ad Club to Aid in Defeating Measure So That Oregon's Natural Resources May Not Be Bottled Up.

In an address before the Portland Ad Club last week, L. D. Mahone, of Portland, pointed out the need of the development of the geological resources of the state and referred to the proposed law to place control of all natural resources on public lands in the hands of the Department of Agriculture as unwise and impracticable.

"We have four great industries—agriculture, mining, timber and fishing," said Mr. Mahone. "All others are a part of these great basic industries. The second greatest industry is mining.

"The mineral wealth of the West was recognized more than a half century ago by our leading statesmen. The first great constructive measure looking toward the development of the West was when Abraham Lincoln signed the homestead law of 1862. Through his work the law of 1866 was enacted, throwing open the public domain to mineral location. This was followed by other important legislation which made it possible for private capital to be consolidated and enter into the Western country by the construction of great transcontinental railway systems. Thus the East was connected with the West. It gave the Nation the greatest railway system of the age. It increased property for taxation to the amount of over $2,600,000,000, and this for the benefit of all the people. It opened up the forests, extended our fisheries, gave employment to thousands of men and made possible the creation of great states. All these acquisitions cost the Government less than five cents an acre.

Eastern Theorists Scored.

"These laws were followed by the public land laws. Then came the Carey Act, or Reclamation Act. All of these were constructive in their nature and enabled the Nation to throw off her swaddling clothes and start on a period of her greatest prosperity.

"In these latter days we have a class of statesmen who are clamoring for, and have introduced in Congress, bills that will work a radical change, one of which will be greatly deplored in Oregon when the nature of it is learned. Recently Gifford Pinchot said:

"'As to our minerals, those still remaining in Government ownership should not be sold but should be leased.'

"This doctrine is unwise, un-American and against the very principles of an enlightened people. This question was fought out many years ago. Some of our Eastern statesmen today have forgotten this history. Now that they have wasted their resources, they desire that we share ours with them. Finding that the leasing laws were not giving satisfactory results, Congress repealed the laws many years ago. Nothing has been heard of them until comparatively recently, when a school of theorists and faddists rose up in the East and demanded that we go back to the same policy. The result of this doctrine would be to build up a bureaucratic form of government which will send its agents out here to harass and impede the development of our great mineral wealth. We should oppose it with all the power we have. We should go a step farther and insist that all of the public lands in the respective 13 public land states be ceded to those individual states.

Oregon's Resources Immense.

"We have more than 16,000,000 acres of land in the forest reserve and 17,580,573 acres in public unappropriated lands. The greater part of our mineral wealth is on these lands. Leased to and controlled by the National Government the state is deprived of its revenue. It is a policy that was never intended by the founders of our Government. It was their desire to get away from the paternalistic policy of the European countries. Such a system will bottle up the state and deprive us from the opening of our great mineral resources.

"We have in this state minerals in commercial quantities of gold, silver, copper, borax, salt, platinum, lime, quicksilver, zinc, clays, gypsum, cement, iron, sands, building stone, agates, coal and a number of others. No state in the Union can compare in diversity of her mineral wealth. It has not been touched as yet. The immediate future will see a great production of gold in the metal mine districts of Eastern and Southern Oregon. The construction of cement, gypsum and other plants will tend to keep our money at home.

"It is time that we were giving some consideration to the development of our geological resources. We are shipping goods into the state at the rate of more than a million of dollars per month when every bit of it could be produced at home. We need to keep our money here. Let our laborers be employed. Defeat the lease bills. Demand that the theory and practice of our National Government be carried out—that of putting the public land into the hands of our people as fast as it can be taken up for homes. This was the interpretation given by the Supreme Court of the United States more than 75 years ago. In this work we can all have a part and share in the great development of our commonwealth."

BIG SALES ARE CLOSED

REALTY WORTH $800,000 SOLD BY ONE FIRM THIS YEAR.

Columbia Trust Company Negotiates Fourth-Street Deal Involving Consideration of $350,000.

Since the first of the year the Columbia Trust Company has closed realty sales representing a total consideration of over $800,000. The most recent of the large deals was the sale of the Blake-McFall Company property at the southwest corner of Fourth and Ankeny streets to S. F. Wilson, a banker of Umatilla County. The property brought $350,000. The sale was negotiated by W. C. Becktell for the Columbia Trust Company. The property consists of two and one-half lots and is improved with a six-story fireproof building.

The company also sold recently a 200-acre alfalfa farm near Walla Walla for E. A. Dudley, of Athena, to C. D. Brunn, of Portland, the consideration being $110,000. The farm is considered one of the best in the Walla Walla country. It contains an immense artesian well, which throws a stream of water from an eight-inch pipe 200 feet in the air.

In addition to these deals, the company reports a number of sales in residence property and building sites in Alameda Park, Beaumont and other districts. Since Beaumont was placed on the market last year a large number of lots have been sold, the major portion to homebuilders. Many fine homes have been built in this addition this year. A marked activity in Alameda Park is noted since work was started in installing hard-surface pavement.

Exchange Is Made.

Henry Meister has exchanged his property at East Twelfth and East Ankeny streets, including a lot 40x100 feet and a two-story frame building, for a 40-acre farm near Sheridan, which was the property of John McConnell. The crop and everything about the place was included in the transaction.

Residence Sales Made.

In Irvington the Mautz Building & Investment Company sold a house and lot to Edna H. Petzel for $7440. The same company sold a house and lot in Irvington to Blanche E. Irwin for $7375. In Overlook G. L. Lindsey sold a house and lot to Permelia C. Tucker for $5500.

New Factory for Kenton.

The Palmer Cement, Brick & Stone Company has purchased a factory site, near Kenton, adjoining the Coast Culvert Flume Company's tract, and soon will start the erection of a building at a cost of about $50,000. A number of men will be employed in the concern.

Astoria's July Rainfall 1.23 Inches.

ASTORIA, Or., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—According to the records in Weather Observer Gilmore's office, the rainfall in Astoria during the month of July amounted to 1.23 inches, or .18 of an inch in excess of the average for the corresponding month of previous years. The greatest precipitation during any 24 hours was .39 inches, July 1. The highest temperature for the month was 87 degrees, and the lowest was 50 degrees. There were 17 clear, four partly cloudy and 10 cloudy days.

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NEW TRACT IMPROVED

EAST SIDE PLATTING IS BUILDING UP RAPIDLY.

Ten Residences Now Under Way and Several Others Planned--Completed Homes Purchased.

Ten modern residences have been started on the five-acre tract recently purchased by George T. Ross, lying between East Forty-seventh, East Fiftieth, East Mill and East Harrison streets. The tract has been platted as Rosedale. In the addition are 39 lots, and it is intended to erect a residence on each of the lots. Of the ten residences under construction five have been sold in their unfinished condition.

Chapin Wadsworth, of the Oregon Transfer Company, has bought a home on East Forty-ninth, near East Harrison street, for $3500. The lot is 36x115, and the house contains seven rooms. William Kimsey purchased a bungalow in the same locality for $3300, and has taken possession of the property. Robert Doble has purchased a six-room home near by for $3300.

Charles W. Schneider, of Buffum & Pendleton, purchased a bungalow built on East Forty-seventh, near East Morrison street, for $3300. J. Rheinhard, of the Columbia Necktie Manufacturing Company, recently of Los Angeles, Cal., bought a seven-room home on East Forty-ninth street for $3500.

It is considered certain that the remaining five of the ten residences will be disposed of by the time they are finished. The entire ten residences will represent an expenditure of about $40,000.

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