

EMPIRE WAKING UP

Coos County Town Again Shows Signs of Life.

HOUSES ARE IN DEMAND

Shipbuilders Come From North Bend to Find Homes—Southern Oregon Company's Spruce Holdings to Be Logged Over Soon.

NORTH BEND, Or., Feb. 23.—(Special.)—Long regarded as Coos County's "deserted village," the town of Empire is at last on its way toward justifying the prophecies of its old residents that it "would some day come into its own." Formerly the county seat of Coos, Empire will always be able to boast that it was the starting point of the pioneers, whose work is reflected today in the prosperous towns of the county.

At one period Empire supported a population of upwards of 2000 people, and its old residents still derive much satisfaction in recalling the days when the once-thriving city was "wide open, with the sky the limit."

Town Has Degenerated.
Low ebb in the tide of its prosperity, however, came when the Southern Oregon Company's big mill on the water front closed down 17 years ago, since which period the city has degenerated into an almost forgotten town, occupied by a few who had passed beyond the stage where work is a necessity, several old-time crab and clam fishers and the feeding ground of innumerable gulls and herons.

With the rapid development of the neighboring city of North Bend and the coming of the boom in shipbuilding, the shortage of desirable houses in the more prosperous bay city caused workers who owned autos to turn their attention to the possibilities of Empire as a residential district. To their surprise they found that they were able to secure really desirable homes at one-third the rent asked in North Bend, with the added advantage of as much land as they could require for gardens, with the result that a large number of the better houses were eagerly rented.

Spruce Tract to Be Logged.
The climax has now come in the announcement that the Southern Oregon Company's big spruce holdings, two miles south of Empire, are to be logged over, and with the rapid formation of the McDonald & Vaughan logging camp there has been a great demand for houses in Empire. Today there are very few houses to rent in the city, and with the projected opening of several stores this beautifully situated city will once more emerge from its long sleep and make a bid to lessen the great gap in the march toward progress which the neighboring bay cities opened up, while the old residents of Empire lingered to indulge in the dreams of the "good old days," which left the city with nothing in the shape of permanency unless it be the reputation of being "a wild one."

TWO ELEVATORS TO RISE

Structure Will Have Combined Capacity of 100,000 Bushels.

LEWISTON, Idaho, Feb. 23.—(Special.)—Harry Carson, of Spokane, has been engaged to superintend the construction of two grain elevators, one to be built at Grangeville, and the other at Fenn, Idaho, according to announcement by officials of the Farmers' Union Warehouse Company.

The elevator at Grangeville will have a capacity of 110,000 bushels, while the present plans call for an elevator of 80,000 bushels capacity at Fenn. It may be decided to increase the capacity of the Fenn elevators. The combined cost of the two elevators will total \$45,000, it is said.

Erection of the elevators is necessary because of the scarcity and high cost of grain, and is being used by farmers on the Camas Prairie for the marketing of their grain.

LODGES WILL CELEBRATE

Hood River Knights of Pythias to Observe Anniversary of Order.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Feb. 23.—(Special.)—At an open meeting Tuesday evening Wauna Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and Wauna Temple of Pythian Sisters, will celebrate the 54th anniversary of the founding of the Pythian order and the 28th birthday of the local Pythian lodge. A feature of the meeting will be the unveiling by the officers of the lodge of the roll of honor, including 11 members of the organization, who are now in the service of their country.

The patriotic celebration will be attended by delegations of Knights of Pythias, Cascade Locks and The Dalles. Judge Fred W. Wilson, of The Dalles, and H. C. Calkins, formerly grand chancellor for the state of California, will deliver addresses.

DEPOSED SERGEANT ANGRY

Alleged Spy Protests Against Detainment in Tacoma Jail.

TACOMA, Wash., Feb. 23.—(Special.)—As had as he hated the guardhouse at Camp Lewis, Thomas Helmut Ritter, deposed sergeant major of the 91st Division, finds the Pierce County jail less to his liking.

"I had nothing to do with Germany," he said. "I have no use for Germany. My mother is there and she has denounced me as a traitor to Germany. What kind of treatment am I receiving from this country, after five years' service in the Army? How can they charge me with being an enemy alien when I have my citizenship papers and have a good record as a soldier? If I am a spy I should be shot and not kept in this hole."

Bend Red Cross Moves.

BEND, Or., Feb. 23.—(Special.)—After occupying crowded quarters for the past six months, the Bend Red Cross chapter has just moved into new rooms in the rear of the Pringle building, which are better suited to the kind and amount of work being done. New sewing machines have been loaned and storage cupboards will be built to hold the finished work until shipment is made. A new box of finished garments will be shipped this week.

Whitman Student Body Elects.

WHITMAN COLLEGE, Walla Walla, Wash., Feb. 23.—(Special.)—At the Associated Students' election the following officers were elected: Lloyd Gensel, president; Frances Pentrose, vice-president; Orville Douglas, secretary, and Frank Busch, editor of the Pioneer.



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THESE NIGHTS will be joy nights when you find out about the Portland Hotel's Dinner Dances.

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COLLEGES WILL AID

Training of Army Men to Be Undertaken at Corvallis.

MANY COURSES OUTLINED

Actual Military Work Will Commence as Soon as President Kerr Receives Detailed Instructions From War Department.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Feb. 23.—(Special.)—Large numbers of Army men will be trained in technical colleges and schools throughout the country. Within the next six months from 75,000 to 100,000 men will be assigned to classes for technical training along many lines, according to advice received from the educational committee of the War Department. Oregon Agricultural College has announced that it will undertake the training of from 1200 to 2400 men if the Government desires.

Ordinance, signal corps and engineering branches of technical training will be specially emphasized in the six months' training provided by the National committee.

The present plan of selecting men for the schools most suited to them will be to use information in questionnaires, college records and classification of men in training camps.

The question of housing men at Corvallis probably will determine the number the college can care for. About 1200 could be accommodated in the laboratories at one time. If work is divided into military training and laboratory work, twice the number could be accommodated, and if still more divisions should be made as in the introduction of lectures and instructional work, still more men could be trained at Oregon Agricultural College this Summer.

The college is prepared to offer classes in gas engines, auto repairing, civil, mechanical, electrical highway, mining engineering, blacksmithing, woodwork, concrete, clerking, stenography and typewriting, accounting, steamfitting, switchboard work, foundry work, radio service, photography, lumber specialties and many other lines of study.

Dr. Kerr is now awaiting particulars from Washington, that the college may be made ready for Federal service.

Castle Rock Knights Celebrate.

CASTLE ROCK, Wash., Feb. 23.—(Special.)—The Knights of Pythias celebrated the anniversary of the founding of the order at last night's meeting. The Knights and their families enjoyed a good programme, prominent speakers being Mayor O. K. Wolf, subject, "Our Country"; County Attorney Delos Spaulding, on "K. of P. Fraternity"; Jack Loring, on "Insurance"; The name of Ruben Brower, now with the Navy, was inscribed on the roll.

Drain Boys Prove Patriotic.

DRAIN, Or., Feb. 23.—(Special.)—Earl Miller, "Jeff" Enley and Hiram Turner, class 1 men, who passed physical examination at Roseburg, left yesterday for Vancouver, Wash., to join signal division of the spruce service. All but one of the boys in class 1 in this vicinity passed for general military service.

Whitman Y. W. C. A. Elects.

WHITMAN COLLEGE, Walla Walla, Wash., Feb. 23.—(Special.)—The Whitman College Y. W. C. A. elected these officers at their regular semi-annual election: Nina May, president; Miriam Hayner, vice-president; Marjorie Wray, secretary, and Ruth Osgood, treasurer.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

SUNDAY NOON CONCERT

- 1—(a) "My Wild Irish Rose," (b) "Ben Bolt," requested.
- 2—"Polonaise Militaire," F. Chopin.
- 3—Meditation, from "Thais," J. Massenet.
- 4—Selection from "La Tosca," G. Puccini.
- 5—(a) "Chorale in F" (b) "Menuet," A. H. Malotte.
- 6—National hymns of Great Britain, Canada, France, U. S. A.

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