

## BANK DEPOSITS TELL STORY OF PROGRESS

Centralia Rounds Out One of Best Years in History.

### BRIGHT FUTURE IN SIGHT

Many New Store Buildings and Dwellings Indicate Prosperity of Thriving Washington City.

BY ADDISON BENNETT.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Jan. 4.—(Special Correspondence)—It is just a year since my last visit to Centralia. I must confess it has been a year of prosperity for this fine little city and its conditions are to be judged by appearances, observations and painstaking talks with some of the leading citizens. I feel that it never before had as rosy an outlook as it has today. Those who remember the troubles of various kinds that have beset the city during the last six or seven years—diseases, strikes, fever epidemic and bank failures, need not be told that it took a people of courage and stamina to weather those adverse storms. But they were weathered and I will go back and say again that Centralia never before had as rosy an outlook as it has today. That is what it has at the beginning of the year of 1919.

I think one of the speediest ways to show that all of the traces of the financial troubles have been obliterated, will be to give the statements of the three banks as made on the first day of last month. The First National, with the measure of deposits, is the Farmers & Merchants Bank. Its capital and surplus on the date mentioned was \$91,415.11; its deposits were \$870,086.14. The officers of this bank are as follows: H. H. Rhodes, president; B. H. Johnson and W. B. Keir, vice-presidents, and Paul Uhlmann, cashier. This bank houses one of the most stately and commodious banking houses of any city of the size in the West.

#### Guaranty Bank Is Young.

The First Guaranty Bank is second in deposits, with \$322,767.06, capital and surplus \$33,356.89. The president is J. E. Fitzgerald, the vice-president and cashier is Albert Smith. This is rather a new bank, having been organized 27 months ago. It was founded by the purchase of the old Field & Luce Bank, which had deposits of a little more than \$200,000. On November 1, of that year, 1915, the deposits had grown to \$227,093.67.

The guiding hands and minds in this deal were the officials mentioned, but their associates in the direction and ownership at this time are George E. Smith, E. B. Fitzgerald and Ethel L. Beal. Their deposits at the November call were \$322,767.06, the capital and surplus \$33,356.89.

I do not know when I have come across a bank in recent years that has made a finer record than that. The officers pride themselves on their fine quarters and the fact that their hand-some fixtures were made in Centralia of Washington by Centralia workmen. They have \$1,124.26 invested in fixtures and equipment.

The Centralia State Bank has deposits of \$350,679.08, a capital and surplus of \$114,137.72. W. J. Patterson is the president, A. U. Dann, vice-president. This bank owns a very handsome building in a good location in the business district of the main street.

#### Bank Deposits Are Huge.

In justice to all of these banks it should be said that, if the date of the statement were January 1 instead of November 1, the totals would be something like \$75,000 more for each bank. But as it is my record as given does not fully show the strength of the Centralia banks nor does it give their exact financial condition, for we all have to agree cash and exchange until the law calls for. In other words the financial condition of the city may be said to be the very best.

As usual in cases where I have to write about a community, I went here first to the Commercial Club, of which Mr. W. H. Smith, of the First Guaranty Bank, is the president. After an interview with him I went to the secretary, Newell S. Wright, whom I found to be a returned soldier. He just got home the night before my arrival, but he found his former employer out of town. There was a little rust as to the improvements made here during his absence, but he took me around to those who knew and could inform me. Usually this club has occupied very handsome club-rooms, and will probably open up with improved equipment now that their old reliable secretary is on the job again. Mr. Wright is a very popular young man and his friends were glad to welcome him home with no scars upon him.

#### Daily Newspapers Are Asset.

There are two daily evening newspapers in Centralia. The Centralia Chronicle began publication when there was not much on paper or up in the air. That was in 1899. Ray W. Edinger is the business manager. H. L. Bras is editor and Vance H. Noel is city editor. This paper has a finely equipped office, does a big line of job work in an excellent manner, and was well edited and in every way.

You will always find the Centralia Chronicle pushing with its every energy any movement for the upbuilding of Centralia, Lewis County or the state of Washington. It has never been a slacker but always doing more than its duty.

M. E. Cue runs the Hub, which was established in the Fall of 1913, by bringing the equipment up from Kelso, Wash.

It has a well-equipped office and Mr. Cue, who is a brother of Henry Cue, of The Dalles Optimist, and he, that is M. E., worked for many months in the Optimist. Both of the Cues are No. 1 workmen around a printshop. The Hub is published afternoons except Saturdays and Sundays. In place of the Saturday afternoon edition Mr. Cue gets an extra lot of Associated Press news and issues a large morning edition. This seems to take very well with the public. The editor of the Hub is Miss Vera T. Reynolds. She writes some mighty bright things and is adept with the scissors.

#### Many New Buildings Rise.

It would take more time than I have in the way of buildings during the past year. I think I could find 25 stores buildings in the main part of the business district that have been remodeled or reconstructed. Then during the past few months Messrs. Smith, Fitzgerald, Field and others have erected a fine theater, the Liberty. This structure cost \$75,000 and is used as a picture house. It will seat 1,000 people. This house would do credit to any city of Seattle or Portland. It is a perfect gem for a city of the size of Centralia.

Of course, everybody who knows anything at all about Centralia knows it is one of the railway centers of the Northwest. All four of the great transcontinental lines pass through here, the Union Pacific, the Great Northern, the Willapa Harbor Lines, the Tonopah and the Mendota branches—in all there are a

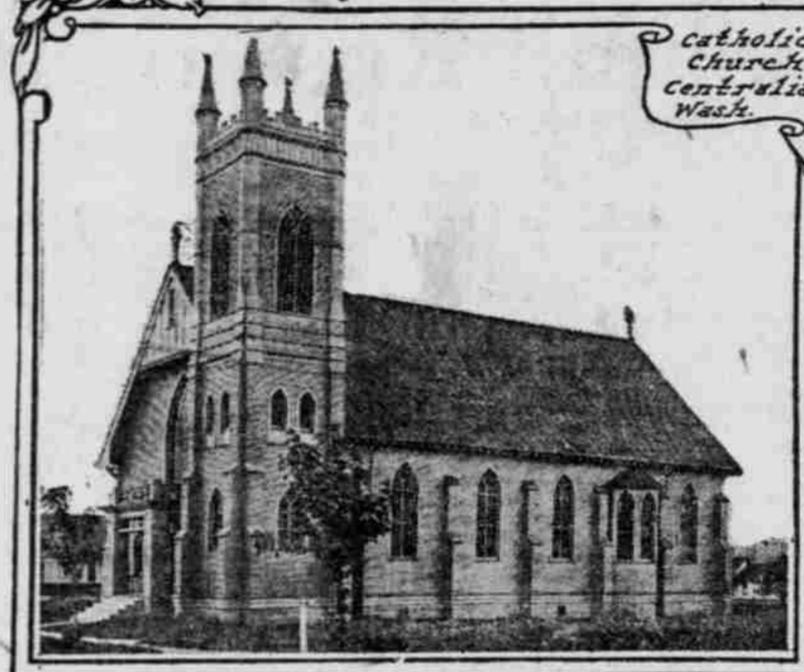
SCENES AT HUSTLING SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON CITY OF CENTRALIA.



Hotel Centralia, Wash.



High School, Centralia, Wash.



Catholic Church, Centralia, Wash.

dozen railways emerging from this busy little city. There are acres and acres of land in the great railway yards, which cover more ground than do the yards of many cities in the country 10 times the size of Centralia. It was to fill a great want of switch room that brought the town into existence. It was primarily a supply of railroad yards and it will be for that truth is like a hub with each of its spokes representing a railway; but you would have to have nearly 20 spokes if each through line was set down as both running in and out of the yards here. Had it not been for the great amount of labor required to bring in the men and other workers during the financial and other troubles of a few years ago Centralia would be now but a memory, but that great payroll saved the day for the town.

**Hospital Under Construction.**  
I started in a page or so back to mention the improvements that have been made here, but stopped before I got fairly started. One of the structures now going up is a large hospital, which will have both surgical and medical departments. Dr. W. J. Patterson is the prime mover in this enterprise. And the city has a school building, the Edison, in course of construction. This building will cost about \$50,000. As to residences I think there are a couple of dozen, anyway, that have been put up since last Spring. Some of them are quite expensive structures.

I might go on and tell of many other improvements of great or minor importance. But I have two subjects, one in fact, to which I am drawn. First, the chances are bright for a state normal school to be built here. There are three such schools now in the state, each sustained by a tax of one-tenth of a mill per annum. These schools are located at Ellensburg, Okanogan and Ellensburg. So it looks like the various legislatures had provided for every section of the state except the southwestern portion, the 14 southwestern counties having to send their pupils at least as far as Astoria. The people of the county are so good that such a school would be a great service to the people themselves; and how could you succeed in such a project with part of the home folk working against you?

**School Soon Is Expected.**  
But now, from the farthest settler in the east end of the county to the farthest west, and from the northernmost to the southernmost, there is unanimity, cordial co-operation, even a

flows through it to be diverted for use upon it. What an opportunity!

#### Fly Claims Two at Cottage Grove.

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Jan. 4.—(Special)—Influenza has claimed but two in this end of the county during the

past two weeks, although two further deaths are thought possible unless there is a quick turn for the better. With these exceptions the epidemic seems to be well under control and the total number of cases has decreased appreciably during the past two weeks. In the city particularly the situation

has greatly improved. The second of the two deaths of the past two weeks occurred today, Rudy Cline, of Mosby Creek, being the victim. He suffered from exposure two weeks ago when a tree fell on his house and demolished the building. He and Mrs. Cline were compelled to seek shelter at a neighbor's and walked a mile in the cold scantly clad.

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