

Cunningham Favors Electric Contract

Editor Tidings: It is with an earnest desire to promote the best interest of the city, present and future, that I ask your indulgence in a limited space in the columns of your paper. I will refer specifically and particularly to the coming election called to ratify or reject an agreement made by the city council with the California-Oregon Electric Light and Power Company.

Council a Unit.

The text of that agreement is published in your paper for the information of the people. It is framed in plain language and not with intent to deceive. I sincerely hope that every voter will read and study it from all points of view. If there is anything that seems to require further explanation, just make inquiry of those who know, so that all doubt may be removed.

The mayor and all members of the city council have approved and strongly recommend the ratification of the agreement. They are all taxpayers, have electric light, and the same interest in city matters that other citizens have—no more, no less.

The city's water and the city's light belong to us citizens and it is our interest to improve and perfect them all we can. This is the one golden opportunity. Do not let it pass by. I say this in full knowledge of the past gained in almost eight years of service on the council. This is, I will repeat, the city's golden opportunity. Do not let the scare of "more bonds" frighten you. Even if our city's population remains the same as now, the net revenue from light and power will be amply sufficient to take up the bonds as well as the interest as it matures, as the city has been doing and is doing now on a much larger amount of bonds.

No Tax Levy.

If there was any probability of these bonds increasing our taxes, I most certainly would not recommend the issue, but I believe—and can almost say I know—that the taxpayer will never be called on or be assessed for their payment. The water fund and electric light fund will "go hand in hand," within time a reduction in rates, and revenue producers.

Had I the time and health I could talk long on the different and separate points of agreement, but what I neglect others may take up. I rely largely on the voters' careful reading of the agreement, and especially on the unbiased opinion of the women, whose favorable opinion and votes will give us more light, and save us from darkness in case of a breakdown in our plant. As a prominent

electrical engineer made remark in my hearing, "You have the model electric light plant on this coast." \$72,000 Margin.

A word as to R. D. Sanford's criticism of the contract. In my opinion if it was his personal and private trade, he could not safeguard his interests better than are the city's by this contract.

As to the \$700 minimum per month. Owing to the more than \$1,000 income per month, the committee could not hammer the company to less than the \$700. It takes two to make a bargain.

While it is true, as Mr. Sanford states, that \$700 a month is \$8,400 per year (for current), it is also true, as he failed to state, that an average margin of \$300 monthly to the city is \$3,600 per year—\$72,000 during the contract life.

These figures are upon present conditions and not on prospective growth, and are conservative.

Originally I opposed a term longer than ten years, but finally accepted the twenty-year basis, as I did not feel justified in opposing what otherwise seemed an agreement favorable to the city, which it certainly is.

Personal Opposition.

Some years ago when this light question was last before the people, in an attempt to secure an increased supply of current by means of another city plant, it was bitterly opposed by a well-known citizen, a voter and taxpayer, said gentleman urging the city buy its current, even advising the city's plant be closed up.

Today he opposes the buying of current, although better prices than then were possible have been secured in the contract.

The less-than-cost rate now furnished to the ice plant by the city, and the fear that the city might discontinue to supply the few at less than cost, if this contract is ratified, may account for the gentleman's present opposition.

Lastly, the responsibility for the result of the electric light election rests with the people; the city council has done its duty after months of careful investigation by its electric light committee.

I hope every voter will attend the polls, and the result be decisive.

C. CUNNINGHAM.

Manufacture of peppermint oil in Linn county under way.

Albany—Site selected for \$1,500,000 paper mill plant.

East Portland getting new bank and business men's club buildings.

Factory blocks are economical. Try them. Carson-Fowler Lumber Co. 23-4t

Outline of Life of Foremost Citizens

A brief outline of the life of S. Benson, lumber millionaire, philanthropist and good roads booster who was chosen as Oregon's representative citizen in whose honor a day was set aside at the Panama-Pacific exposition, may be of especial interest. Last Tuesday was the day set aside in honor of Mr. Benson at the exposition.

Benson was born in Norway about sixty years ago. His parents were none too prosperous and at an early age he was compelled to shift for himself. At the age of 16, through his own efforts, he had acquired sufficient money to bring him to the United States. From Ellis Island he went to Wisconsin, reaching there practically penniless, but filled with boundless energy and ambition.

Unable to speak very good English, Benson was under a severe handicap, but soon found employment with farmers from the land of his birth. His first job paid him \$15 and board.

He married at an early age. In 1879, accompanied by his wife and small son, he started for Oregon. First he went to Columbia county, where he found employment in a logging camp.

For ten years he labored with varying results and then, about 1891, he began to prosper. Buying out the men who in the meantime had been interested with him in logging operations, Benson increased the output of the plant from 30,000 to 300,000 feet of lumber a day. Working almost day and night, Benson continued making money at a rapid rate, reinvesting it in timber lands.

In 1905 he owned 45,000 acres of timber land in Columbia county alone.

Six years ago, believing he was sufficiently possessed of the world's goods, he sold his entire holdings for approximately \$4,000,000.

Mr. Benson has five children.

Since retiring from private business Benson has devoted practically all of his time and energy to matters beneficial to the public.

First he donated forty bronze drinking fountains to the city of Portland. These fountains are to be found on almost every downtown corner in the City of Roses, four streams of water pouring out to assuage the thirst of the passerby.

Intensely interested in good roads from boyhood, having driven ox teams in the wilderness, Benson has spent thousands of dollars in investigating the best methods of highway construction and has given his knowledge without charge for the benefit of the public.

He gave \$10,000 to the state to build a road around Shell Rock on the Columbia river highway, and conducted and financed the campaign for the construction of the famous boulevard itself.

He is chairman of the advisory committee of the state highway commission and is at present fathering a campaign to bond the state for \$10,000,000 to complete and maintain a chain of permanent state highways.

Benson has always been a great lover of children, and realizing that he never during his youth had the opportunities of education, recently gave the city of Portland \$100,000 for the establishment of a trades school for boys and girls.

To Show Scenic Views In East

Henry Berger, Jr., a photographer, and E. T. Ames, both of Portland, arrived in Medford Thursday on their way to Crater Lake to take pictures of the lake and surroundings for the Portland Chamber of Commerce. They were taken to Prospect by R. W. Waters and from there will make the trip on foot in order to secure pictures of the forests and other scenery.

Mr. Berger and his partner, F. I. Jones of Portland, are taking pictures of the Columbia highway, Crater Lake, the Pacific highway over the Siskiyou mountains, Mt. Rainier and Mt. Hood by the new English method, Paget process of natural colored photography. These pictures will be developed in their natural colors on slides and Messrs. Berger and Jones will leave the last of this month for New York and the other leading cities of the east to show the pictures and lecture about the territory in which they are located. The proposition is under the direction of the Portland Chamber of Commerce and the lectures will be given under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce in the cities they visit.

On their return from the lake Messrs. Berger and Ames will take pictures of the Pacific highway as far as the summit of the Siskiyou.

Who are "The Gows"? 22-4t

Shasta Division Wins Safety Banner

The Stockton division, the Shasta division and the Sacramento shops are winners of the 1915 safety banners awarded annually by the Southern Pacific Company for the greatest progress shown during the fiscal year in the furtherance of safety work on the Pacific system. Thus, the Stockton division wins the honors of the southern district, the Shasta ranks highest on the northern, and the Sacramento shops top the list in the general shops competition.

This makes the second banner won by both the Stockton and Shasta divisions and the third by the Sacramento general shops. In 1913 the Coast division won the central district banner, and the San Joaquin the southern district banner. In 1914 the Salt Lake division won the northern district emblem.

During the year ended June 30, 1915, there was a total of 5,228 safety suggestions submitted by employees, 3,768 of which, or 71 per cent, were considered practical and were favorably acted upon by the superintendents. As employees have no doubt noted from the perusal of meetings of the safety committees, these suggestions have covered a wide range of subjects in every department of the railroad, and have resulted in the adoption of safeguards of every description—the correction of defects, and the issuance of instructions looking to the betterment of conditions under which employees work—many at the expense of thousands of dollars.

During the preceding year a total of 4,013 safety suggestions were made, 3,261 of which were held to be practical, or 81 per cent; while during the year ended June 30, 1913, the first year of the company's organized safety committee, 2,670 safety suggestions were made. Of these, 1,798, or 67 per cent, were considered practical, making a grand total of 11,911 safety suggestions made by employees during the last three years, of which 8,737, or 73 per cent, were practical.

From this it will be observed that during the last twelve months a decided increase in interest has been shown by the safety committees and thoughtful employees, there having

been an increase of 30 per cent in the total number as compared with the preceding year, and an increase of 96 per cent over 1913.

Two Fast Amateurs Will Box Tuesday

Brud Shamrock of Seattle, at one time amateur boxing champion of the northwest and who has a well-established reputation on the coast, and Beryl Eaton, acknowledged to be the fastest boxer at his weight in Ashland, will meet in a ten-round boxing exhibition at the armory next Tuesday evening. Young Shamrock has been residing in Ashland for some months past. These two young men are the fastest at their weight in the city if not the valley, and fans may look forward to a clever exhibition next Tuesday evening when the bell sends them together at 8:30 o'clock. They will box at 133 pounds. A four-round preliminary between two local amateur middleweights is being arranged. The boxing contests held at the armory some time ago were well received and were clean and interesting exhibitions of the manly art. The coming event is assured of good patronage.

St. Helens—Columbia River Cannery running stady on vegetables.

Millersburg will vote on erecting \$2,000 school house August 16.

If your watch does not give you satisfaction take it to Johnson the jeweler. 97-4t

When Money Counts

You may not appreciate the real value of money until the immediate need for it is upon you.

Start an account in this strong bank NOW and be prepared for the emergency when it comes.

First National Bank ASHLAND, OREGON.

Oldest National Bank in Jackson County

Automobiles In Yellowstone Park

After several years of agitation automobiles are now allowed in Yellowstone park.

Here are some of the Yellowstone national park regulations, applying to the admission of automobiles after August 1:

Cars must enter the park only by one of the authorized entrances; stops are permitted only on regular schedule at hotels and permanent camps; cars are not permitted to take local trips off the main route, except at certain hours of the day; tickets of passage are necessary; payable in cash only, as follows: For runabout, \$5; seven-passenger car, \$10.

Copies of these regulations, showing the running schedules from place to place, may be had from the touring bureau of the American Automobile Association at either its Washington or New York headquarters, or by sending to the department of the interior at Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges City's Invitation

Visalia Board of Trade, Visalia, Cal., Aug. 17, 1915.

Mr. M. J. Duryea, Ashland Commercial Club, Ashland, Ore.

Dear Sir: I have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter bearing date August 12. I hope before the present year draws to an end to accept your cordial invitation to visit your city—a city that is playing an important part in the development of the great state of Oregon.

I know that Ashland's seat is the front row right near the orchestra. An optimistic army of citizens, the right sort of residents, and an efficient publicity man pointing with pride to his city's importance upon the map, one can easily see prosperity rising upon Ashland. May the brilliancy of its rising never fade.

Very truly yours, JAMES T. BOYER, Sec. Visalia Board of Trade.

Fifty cents invested in a Tidings "For Sale" ad often sells a \$5,000 property. Did you ever try it?



THE "GREATER OREGON"

With new buildings, better equipment, enlarged grounds, and many additions to its faculty, the University of Oregon will begin its fortieth year, Tuesday, September 14, 1915.

Special training in Commerce, Journalism, Architecture, Law, Medicine, Teaching, Library Work, Music, Physical Training and Fine Arts. Large and strong departments of Liberal Education.

Library of more than 55,000 volumes, thirteen buildings fully equipped, two splendid gymnasiums.

Tuition Free. Dormitories for men and for women. Expenses Lowest.

Write for free catalog, addressing Registrar

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
EUGENE, OREGON

JOHNSON HALL
NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, U. OF O.

Excursion Fares

Via the Expositions
To the East

Every day until September 30th
good for return until Oct. 31st.

Why not get the most for your money? Why not take in two wonderful world Expositions at San Francisco and San Diego en route to the East? The world has never before produced the equal of the Panama-Pacific Exposition. The like probably will never be attempted again.

Scenery en route is magnificent.
Automatic Safety Signals guard the way.
Four fine trains a day
Portland to San Francisco, connecting at San Francisco for the south and east.

Let us send you our illustrated folders, "Wayside Notes" and "California and Its Two World Expositions."

SOUTHERN PACIFIC

Our local agent will take pleasure in outlining an itinerary and furnish full information, or you may address

John M. Scott, General Passenger Agent, Portland, Oregon



**Any Time Is
A Good Time For
New
Post Toasties**

Crisp, delicious and better than ever before—they have a body and form that keeps them crisp and firm—they don't mush down in cream as the ordinary corn flakes do.

These Superior Corn Flakes are not only a delightful breakfast food—they make an appetizing lunch at any hour of the day.

And how the kiddies do enjoy them! After playtime—for lunch or supper—the crinkly brown flakes just hit the spot.

Post Toasties are made of the choicest Indian corn; steam cooked, daintily seasoned, rolled and toasted to a delicate golden-brown.

They reach you ready to serve—mighty good with cream or any kind of fruit.

Ask your Grocer for

New Post Toasties

—the Superior Corn Flakes