

Rebonding Plan Meets Opposition

Medford's city council staged a miniature word war Tuesday night when several of the members locked horns with the backers of the scheme for rebonding the city of Medford for an amount in the neighborhood of a million dollars to postpone the day of judgment on pavement assessments which have put some of the property owners up to their necks in debt. After a considerable discussion which one would deem must have grown quite heated at times from the accounts which appeared in Medford papers, the matter of calling an election for September 28 was tabled. The opponents to the rebonding plan claim that the pavement assessments should be collected under the Bancroft act.

The proposed rebonding plan would throw a portion of the payment onto the owners of land in the unpaved districts in the city and is meeting with much opposition.

Ashland may well consider herself lucky in that the pavement was not greatly overdone here and that with the exception of a few of the main thoroughfares which become seas of mud in the winter and will eventually have to be paved, there is no immediate need for much more paving as the sandy nature of the streets on the hillsides of the city is ideal for gravel drives, insures good drainage, and is adaptable to grading.

Medford may well be proud of her miles of paved side streets and cross stretches, but at the same time she may well be sorry because of them.

New Jail to be An Inside Inn

After thorough investigation of the jail location matter the council found that to build the jail at the first named location back of the present edifice would inconvenience the property owners next door even more than at first apparent. While not acknowledging the lack of legal right to do so, the council decided it would be as well for all concerned if the jail should be built inside the present fire department hall. Plenty of room was found at the rear, and as plans progressed it was found that a considerable saving could be made by using the cement floor and one wall in the fire hall. Plans for the jail are the same as for the outdoor structure. Two cells and plenty of passage room.

Many Matters Occupy Council

The city fathers underwent the usual agony of the reading of the lengthy monthly reports Tuesday evening, after which a paving matter adjacent to the Silsby estate was explained by Mr. Billings and referred to a committee. A project for extending the park sewer for several hundred feet north and south on Granite street was talked over and referred to a committee. The sanitary committee reported finding no reason why the petition of adjacent property owners, asking for condemnation of the blacksmith shop on First street, should be granted. They recommended, however, that the ordinances regarding street obstruction be enforced in connection with this establishment. Investigation of the overflow of the Southern Pacific's sulphur spring, near the Congregational church, was ordered. Property owners down the hill from it complain that its recent walling up with concrete has not altered the old seepage conditions.

Other matters of import and importance were discussed.

Congressman Was Here Yesterday

Congressman Hawley was a visitor in the city yesterday and was shown around town by Representative Fred Wagner and others. While here he conferred with several parties in regard to homestead lands and other matters. Mr. Hawley is a member of the committee on rural credits and is enthusiastic over the possibilities of the proposition. He is in Medford today.

Tell us about "The Gows."

Masterpicture Promises Thrills

"The Darkening Trail," by C. Gardner Sullivan, a Mutual Masterpicture in four parts, is one of those vividly virile western American dramas upon which Thomas H. Ince has so deservedly founded his high claim to recognition as one of the foremost motion picture directors producing today. At the head of the cast interpreting this drama Mr. Ince has placed William S. Hart, who has no equal in the type of role he is called on to play here.

The vivid action of the thrilling and compelling Masterpicture commences in a Chicago department store and carries the watcher into the wilds of Alaska. This picture is said by New York papers to rank as an equal of "The Spoilers." It will be shown Sunday and Monday with special music at the Lyric Theatre.

Ranking on the same high plane with this Mutual Masterpicture are the feature films which will be shown on the week nights this week. Thursday only, "The Wedding Ring," a five-part Schubert feature, promises to be one of the most beautiful releases yet shown here, and on Friday only the most talked of film of the year, "The Lure," will be sure to draw. This latter is also a five-part picture.

Interest In Revival Growing

Unheralded by trumpet blast and without special preparation of any nature on the part of the church, revival services were begun at the Christian church last Sunday by N. J. Reasoner, a former citizen of Ashland who has returned to look after business interests, having entered the ministry since leaving. At the very first service two accepted the invitation and were baptized at 6 o'clock Sunday evening. At the evening service Sunday a good sized audience was present and enjoyed the inspiring music and gave splendid attention. Thus far the sermons have been directed primarily to church members, though last night Mr. Reasoner paid his respects in no uncertain manner to those who cleared Martin of the charge of murdering Hubbard upon the ground of self-defense.

Services tonight, Friday and Saturday at 8 o'clock, but beginning Sunday evening the hour will be 7:30. The subject Friday should interest all young people—"Ten Ashland Girls," Sunday evening, "The Resurrection." This is a subject of tremendous importance, an appeal to the intellect, and all thoughtful people should hear it.

New National Tennis Champion

W. M. Johnston of San Francisco won the United States championship at Forest Hills, N. Y., Tuesday by defeating his fellow townsman, Maurice E. McLoughlin, 1-6, 6-0, 7-5, 10-8. The contest, which developed the most sensational play since the famous meeting between McLoughlin and Brookes on the same strip of turf a year ago, was an exhibition of both racquet skill and court generalship. Another factor, and the winning one, was that of endurance, and in this respect the victor had a decided advantage over the vanquished, especially in the long drawn out fourth set. Johnston's ability to keep McLoughlin in deep or mid-court most of the time while he used his short ground strokes and backhanded cross court slashes gave him the winning points in crucial rallies.

Vaudeville at Vining Delights

One of the best crowds of recent weeks enjoyed the vaudeville presented by the seven members of the Cox family at the Vining Theatre last evening. Every member of the troupe is really clever and their act merited the bursts of applause which greeted each selection. Singing, dancing and lively comedy woven into each other make up an entertainment which will "drive dull care away." Ask some one who was there and then go yourself. Regular pictures in addition to the vaudeville with complete changes of program every night this week.

Offers Solution of Railroad Grant Land Problem in Oregon

Permanent organization of a movement having for its purpose the enforcement by congress of the original terms of the Oregon & California Railroad Company's land grant was effected in this city last Tuesday night at an enthusiastic meeting in Chautauqua tabernacle, over which Bert R. Greer, editor of this paper, presided.

John A. Jeffrey, now of Portland, but for several years prosecuting attorney for the judicial district embracing the counties of Josephine, Jackson, Lake and Klamath, was the principal speaker, although at the close of the meeting there was a general discussion of the issues involved in the final disposition of the lands. Incidentally, Mr. Jeffrey is a native son of Josephine county, having been born and reared in the Applegate country, and has a twin sister residing at Medford, hence is well qualified, both through experience and ability, to handle the subject of his discussion.

After paying an eloquent tribute to the natural resources of this vicinity, and directing special attention to the importance of the improvements hereabouts in connection with the Ashland park project, which he prophesied would operate to attract settlers and investors from every section of the globe, Mr. Jeffrey proceeded to enter into a full and careful diagnosis of conditions surrounding the disposition of the grant lands. That he was indulging in no idle remarks is evidenced from the fact that Mr. Jeffrey was equipped with an authentic copy of the decision of the United States supreme court, rendered June 21 last, besides copies of the government's bill of complaint, and Judge Wolverton's decree of absolute forfeiture of the grant for non-compliance with its terms by the railway corporation, in addition to copies of affidavits from the assessor of each county affected by the grant, showing the extent thereof, its taxable valuation, together with its relation to economic development of the region.

He declared that 441,000 acres are included in the grant in this county alone, and that the amount of unpaid taxes thereon aggregates more than \$90,000, only a small proportion of which can ever be collected for the reason that the decision of the U. S. supreme court imposes on the railroad company but a nominal equity

in the lands, amounting to \$2.50 an acre. If the terms of the original grant are enforced by congress relative to future disposition of the vast area, whereby the lands shall be sold to actual settlers only in quantities not exceeding 169 acres and at a price not more than \$2.50 an acre, for which the speaker contended, in his opinion, all the lands involved would pass into private ownership and become subject to taxation within six months after the passage of such a measure by the national legislative body.

Jeffrey warned his hearers against all attempts to have the grant incorporated within the limits of any reservation, forest or otherwise, and cited glaring instances where there had been abuses of the act of June 11, 1906, permitting homestead entry of lands susceptible to cultivation even though situated within the confines of a forest reserve. In the region north of Hutto Falls, he said, in township 34 south, ranges 2 and 3 east, of the Crater national forest, settlers had gone there for the purpose of creating homes by the exercise of their legal rights under the act of congress noted, but had been driven out in cold-blooded fashion by the Forestry Service on the ground that the tracts of land embraced in their homestead applications were more valuable for timber than agricultural purposes, notwithstanding the fact that positive evidence in the form of sworn testimony was produced before the Department of Agriculture to the effect that all of the land affected was prolific in character, and that some of it was of the "beaver dam" quality. Moreover, he said, the region was deemed capable of supporting such an enterprising community that the erection of a public building was begun for social purposes, the foundations of which are still standing as mute evidence of the fuhuman attitude of the Forestry Service.

According to Mr. Jeffrey, the only logical relief available under the circumstances is for the voters of the district in this state affected by the grant to express their views in no uncertain language, calling for the enactment of national legislation enforcing prompt compliance with the conditions of the grant as it existed originally, which contemplated that

(Continued on Page Eight.)

Taft Passes Through In Dead of Night

Maybe he rolled over in his sleep and maybe he didn't. At any rate ex-President Taft passed through Ashland yesterday morning on the Shasta Limited. He was bound from San Francisco, where he recently had the honor of burning the last debt of the Panama-Pacific exposition, to Seattle, where he will address the American Bankers' Association. None of the old regulars that we know of were down to the station in hopes of hearing our esteemed visitor "deliver a few extemporaneous remarks."

Council Gives Autos Leeway

At Tuesday evening's council meeting the automobile finally was recognized to be almost if not perfectly harmless while standing on well-lighted streets, even though the lights are unlit—meaning the automobile lights, not the street lights. The new concession admits of saving coal oil only when the cars are standing between the library and plaza on Main street. Incidentally the lights must be going full blast before the car is put into motion. In the same district it is now legal to park cars; that is, to back up against the curb at right angles to the sidewalk. This allows of leaving in either direction from the curb.

The Simpson gasoline tank was given permission to stand where it is. No mention was made of whether it needed headlights.

The Commercial Club requests the names and addresses of parties who are considering coming to the coast this summer. We wish to send them literature and give them a good conception of Oregon. 74-1f

Free Rides For Talent Students

At a meeting held Tuesday evening of the school board members of the Talent, Wagner Creek, Anderson Creek and Ashland districts it was decided to send all pupils who finish the tenth grade in the Talent high school to Ashland high school for the rest of the high school course. Ashland has offered free tuition to the Talent young people and their districts will pay the transportation. They will be carried on the Interurban or Stanley Steamer cars at the rate of 7 cents for a single fare.

Ashland Cannery Should be Busy

Under the management of M. C. Linger the Ashland cannery is being operated intermittently until the full co-operation of the growers is secured and a supply of products which will warrant the hiring of a full force is secured. The cannery is owned by Dr. F. G. Swedenburg. The Talent cannery is not running this year and the Medford cannery is enjoying a most successful season. Fruits are going to waste in large quantities in and around Ashland and proper co-operation would provide a booming cannery industry and furnish a market for the fruit which is not shipped.

Another Carload of Fencing via Panama.

Even with prices raising or going up on galvanized goods, I am able to sell fencing at a lower price than ever, as I bought 52,000 pounds before the big advance at the lowest possible market price for cash. 31-1mo. EMIL PEIL.

Have you got "The Gows"?

Government Aid For Irrigation

The aid of the United States and state governments will aid the Rogue River valley in the planned irrigation projects. After the expenditure of much persuasion and the getting of the approval of numerous officials the Water Users' League has secured the promise of a federal survey of the water resources of the valley. The survey will be made immediately by Division Engineer Whistler of Portland in conjunction with State Engineer Lewis, and will be paid for by the state and government from the joint fund set aside for reclamation work.

The object of the survey is to ascertain definitely the area of the valley that can be irrigated, the amount of water available for irrigation from the various sources, the estimated cost of construction and recommendations as to methods of securing the water.

The amount of water that can be developed from each available source, the cost of developing and placing it on land, and the comparative merits of the various irrigation schemes will be definitely ascertained by non-interested and authoritative engineers, whose recommendations will form a definite plan to present to the people to secure needed irrigation.

Increase In School Enrollment

The 1915 school year is now well under way and in another week it will be difficult for the uninitiated to observe any radical difference between an emerald freshman and a sophisticated sophomore. As usual the freshman class is "bigger than ever" and will enroll more than forty members before long. The mid-year freshman class is almost as big, and out of the eighty there really should be several huskies who will develop into football material.

The total enrollment in the Ashland schools is 837 at the present date and of these 211 are in the high school. There were no figures compiled at this time in 1914, but two years ago the enrollment at the end of the first week was 795, of which 160 were in high school.

Several of the classes are being subdivided owing to unlooked for numbers. The pupils are fast making the acquaintance of the new teachers and everything is progressing swimmingly.

Among the new innovations is a music room being fitted up and artistically arranged by Miss Harris, who has charge of music. A victrola and piano form part of the equipment and a music course of paramount attractiveness is being offered and taken advantage of by many.

Famous Player In "Wildflower"

Marguerite Clarke, the dainty, magnetic little queen of the movies who is running a hard race with Mary Pickford for the favor of Ashland film lovers, will appear in "Wildflower" at the Vining Theatre Friday night. This Famous Players four-part feature appeared here once before and so impressed those who had an opportunity to see it that Manager Vining was only too pleased to take advantage of a chance to secure a return engagement of the film.

"Wildflower" is a bewitching characterization, constructed for just such a star as Miss Clarke. The story is a dream of the lights and shadows of the sun-kissed forest, and the depths and shallows of human life.

New Chautauqua Seems Assured

A new Chautauqua building before next summer's session seems assured. The Chautauqua association held a business meeting Tuesday afternoon at which various plans for the building were discussed. Finances for the building are assuming definite proportions and a committee is considering plans.

Not a property in Ashland but that can be sold by Tidings "For Sale" ads in less time and at less cost than through the regular agent channels.

Saw Hooper In Klamath County

Klamath Falls Herald: That Hooper, the gentleman hold-up man and criminal of repute, walked through Klamath county on his way south, was established Monday morning by the sheriff's office, when S. A. Nicholson, a farmer near the fair grounds, reported to the office that he had seen Hooper and talked with him.

He was following the Southern Pacific right of way, inquired the distance to the state line, and went on his way after talking for a few moments.

Nicholson stated that though he had seen the articles appearing in the Herald about Hooper, and that he was being sought by the authorities, he did not think they wanted him very bad.

Hooper was reported last week to have been in the Wood River valley. Word has been received from the sheriff of Grants Pass that he was in the Klamath county, but was believed to have been farther south. He was wanted at Grants Pass for breaking jail and for holding up the depot there. He has a record of a string of hold-ups from Yreka to The Dalles, and is a parole prisoner from San Quentin.

Nicholson said that he was satisfied that the man he saw was Hooper, as he wore glasses, answered Hooper's description as printed in the Herald, had bushy hair, and was wearing a cap which he wore tightly over his head. Hooper told him he had money and could ride, but preferred walking.

Sheriff Lewis was telegraphed this morning of Hooper's presence near here, and that he had gone to California.

Commercial Club Drops Delinquents

The Commercial Club held its regular monthly meeting Monday night and transacted the usual routine business, after which a number of members who lacked the spirit or money to keep their dues paid were dropped. The Commercial Club now has a solid active working body of over 250 members, every one of whom is a live member and a booster.

Several matters were discussed but no important action taken. Committees were reported to be hard at work on the Farum hill grade pavement matter, the Lake of the Woods road and the hotel proposition, and results may be looked for.

Announcement was made that the mineral waters would be flowing in the park by the middle of October.

Klamath Takes Two From Medford Team

Klamath Falls clinched their claim to the amateur championship of southern Oregon and northern California by defeating Medford by the scores of 10 to 1 and 9 to 8 respectively, on Sunday and Monday at Klamath Falls.

The Weed team was the only other contender for championship honors, but has disbanded for the season. Kenneth Lilly of Ashland played with Weed and finished the season with a batting average of over .500. Young Lilly is now attending Stanford University and will no doubt be heard from on the diamond.

The fast Roseburg team will play Medford on each day of the county fair and next Sunday. Roseburg is reputed to have a fast aggregation and Medford is rustling a few extra men to meet the contingencies of the situation.

Citizens Meeting Friday, Sept. 10

A citizens' mass meeting is called at the Commercial Club rooms for Friday evening, September 10, at 8 o'clock. The purpose is to devise steps to enable bona fide settlers to become possessed of the 441,000 acres of land, now held in Jackson county by the Oregon & California Railroad Company, on terms of the original grant. You are earnestly urged to be present at this meeting by the committee.

When are "The Gows" coming?