

"Ashland Grows While Lithia Flows"
City of Sunshine and Flowers

ASHLAND TIDINGS

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Oregon Second in New R. R. Mileage

Fewer miles of railroad were built in the United States during 1915 than in any other year since 1864, and more miles of railroads were in receivers' hands during the year than ever before, according to railway statistics compiled from official sources by the Railway Age Gazette. There have been only three other years since 1858 in which the increase in railway mileage was less than 1,000 miles, and those were the Civil War years 1861, 1862 and 1864.

In 1915 the total miles of new railroad constructed in the United States were 933 as compared with 1,532 in 1914 and 3,071 in 1913. The largest mileage of new road in one state was built in Pennsylvania, which constructed 98 miles. Oregon was second with 83 miles, and Washington third with 71 miles. Eleven states built no new road at all. Canadian roads built 718 miles of new track as compared with 1,978 in 1914, while in Mexico 36.5 miles were built as against none recorded for 1914.

Oregon makes a good showing for the past year, but should far eclipse the amount of 83 miles of newly constructed railroad, in 1916. The Coos Bay road will be completed, the Grants Pass-Coast railroad will add a few miles of track, the Roseburg railroad to the proposed sawmills will probably be well along, and there is an imminent possibility of the Strahorn eastern Oregon railroad being partly built during the year.

Fewer Rod and Gun Licenses in 1915

For one or some of several reasons the sportsman with rod and reel and gun did not pay in the usual amount of license money during the year 1915 for hunting and fishing licenses. Either many have been too busy trying to make ends meet, or doing nothing, to hunt or fish, or have not had the required dollar, or the Hubbard shooting episode and other occurrences have satisfied the hunters and fishermen that a license is unnecessary.

Despite the open seasons on pheasants and gray squirrels and the consequent increase in the number of gunners, the number of licenses fell off.

County Clerk Gardner has a record of 2,595 licenses issued to gunners, 2,031 to fishermen, three to non-residents and 249 combination licenses. The fees paid in for those purposes amount to \$5,154. This total shows a decrease of \$1,211 from last year's receipts. It is \$1,447 less than for the year 1913.

There were 83 old soldiers' licenses issued during the year. On them no charge is made.

The great decrease in fishing licenses is easily explainable in that the Rogue river, the principal fishing stream of the county, which is usually a fisherman's delight, was almost devoid of fish this year. The fishermen state that this is due to the commercial fishing at the mouth of the Rogue. The commercial fishermen get practically all of the fish which come into the river. The sportsmen of this part of the state are up in arms against the commercial fishermen and expect to secure legislation which will give the upper valley one of its best assets, an accessible river with the best fishing on the coast.

Proclaim Stock Show Success

We have received from the officials of the recent Portland Livestock show the official catalogue of the recent exposition. According to the livestock men, this is the first time a catalogue showing awards has ever been issued by any livestock show and received the thorough appreciation of breeders and exhibitors.

Attendance this year approached 50,000, every one of whom was there with the idea of getting something out of the show. The next year's show will be open December 4-9, and already the directors are planning to make it even better than the past exposition.

A number of valley cattlemen attended the show and brought back glowing reports of the high class of exhibits and the completeness of the arrangements. Numerous purchases of high grade stock were made.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AND WHAT YOU CAN'T UNDER "DRY" LAWS OF THREE STATES.

WASHINGTON.

If you want to get liquor you must go to the office of the county clerk in person, swear to an affidavit and secure a permit.

You must send the permit to a liquor dealer outside the state and he must paste it on the package of liquor which he ships you.

You must not have shipped to you more than two quarts of strong liquor nor more than 24 quarts of beer in any period of 30 days.

OREGON.

You must order liquor from outside the state and it must be delivered to you in person.

On delivery you must sign an affidavit which is later kept on file in the county clerk's office.

You must not receive more than two quarts of strong liquor nor more than 24 quarts of beer in any period of four weeks.

IDAHO.

This is the only "dry-as-a-bone" state of the three. The Idaho law prohibits the manufacture and sale, and also the receipt in the state of any intoxicating liquor.

Electric Company Rushes Work on Dam

The California-Oregon Electric Power Company, who are supplying electric current, wholesale, to the city of Ashland, has a force of men working night and day on its dam at Copco, Cal., on the Klamath river, in an endeavor to get all of the work above the high water mark before the spring rains cause the river to rise.

This dam will be an important piece of engineering and will form an immense lake of hundreds of acres, covering some valuable farms the company purchased from the residents. It is estimated the entire cost of the work will be in the neighborhood of a million dollars.

The company is going into the wholesale manufacture of current on an immense scale and intends to enlarge their plant to meet the demands of all of northern California and southern Oregon as necessary. Electric motors are fast taking over the burden of pumping water for irrigation, running mills and all of the other labors formerly performed by steam.

Must Use Scissors On Magazines

Newsdealers and magazine dealers in Ashland will have to spend several merry hours with the scissors or face chances of a heavy fine. The selling of publications carrying liquor advertisements will make the seller liable to a fine of from \$100 to \$500, and throughout the state newsdealers are preparing to carefully clip all liquor ads from the papers and periodicals which they handle. Oregon must not only "cut out the booze," but must cut out the booze ads.

That part of the Oregon law that affects the newsdealers is found in section 8, which reads:

"If any person shall advertise or give notice by signs, billboards, newspapers, periodicals, or otherwise, for himself or another of the sale or keeping for sale of liquors, or shall circulate or distribute any price lists, circulars or order blanks advertising liquors, or publish any newspaper, magazine, periodical or other written or printed papers in which such advertisements or notices are given, or shall permit any such notices, or any advertisements of liquors (including billboards) to be posted upon his premises, or premises under his control, or shall permit the same to so remain upon such premises, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500."

A movement has been initiated with the publishers to send special prohibition editions to this state and Washington.

It is planned to oil the roads around Echo, Ore.

County Court Fixes 1915 Tax Levy At 14 Mills After Making Changes

A committee from the Jackson County Taxpayers' League formulated a report regarding the proposed county court's budget, submitted their report to the directors of the league, who in turn presented it to the county court. The report is printed herewith. A number of citizens and members of the league appeared before the meeting of the county court Thursday and pressed changes in the proposed budget. The court received all suggestions with good grace, and whenever the reductions or changes were deemed feasible, made them. The total levy remains at 14 mills as advertised, but several funds were reduced and the amounts put in the road fund, which was raised from \$39,000 to \$70,000, but which is still short of the amount raised for roads last year. Investigation of the taxpayers' committee revealed the fact that many of the county expenditures are fixed by state law and out of control of the county court.

Medford, Ore., Dec. 28, 1915.
To the Taxpayers' League of Jackson County, Ore.:

Gentlemen: Your special committee of nine appointed to consider and investigate the published budget upon which the proposed 14-mill county tax levy for the next year is based, reports as follows:

Your committee, after carefully reviewing the budget, invited the county officials to meet with the committee in order to furnish such information as might be desired by the committee upon any items of the budget. With the exception of the county court, each county official responded to the invitation and very frankly, courteously and satisfactorily gave facts and details in reply to every inquiry made by the committee.

Your special committee, as far as it now understands the facts, calls attention to certain items in the budget, and makes recommendations in connection therewith, as follows:

County Indigents.

The county farm expense, estimated in budget, is:
Superintendent (physician and health officer) and assistant \$2,800.00
Maintenance of farm and hospital 6,000.00
Tubercular poor 150.00
Total \$8,950.00

For indigents not at poor farm \$9,000.00

The law requires a county health officer with a salary of about \$400. It is necessary to have a county physician, and the salary until recently has been \$35 or \$40 per month. This committee approves the decision of the county court in consolidating the officers of county physician and county health officer in one individual, but the committee objects to said person being superintendent of the county farm. It is recommended that the salary of said physician-health officer be fixed at not more than \$50 per month, as a very proper compensation for services your committee understand are ordinarily rendered by such physician-health officer. Douglas county is paying \$25 for the same service.

It is further recommended that the present efficient assistant superintendent (Mr. Wells) or some one equally competent be made superintendent of the farm at a salary of \$1,000, thus effecting a saving of over \$1,000 on the present plan.

The information furnished is that the number of inmates in the county home ranges from 27 to 31. On the basis of 30 the total expense of the farm averages \$200 per inmate per year, being \$25 per month, whereas the state expense, we understand, averages approximately \$13 per month, while in Douglas county \$15 per month and no county farm. The maintenance costs in money \$200 per year per inmate, not including the salary list.

The present farm is said to comprise about 27 acres, the greater portion being fertile, of which over half is bottom land, rich and well watered.

The committee believes a practical superintendent can raise much more of the food products needed for the inmates of the county home and save correspondingly of present outlay for maintenance—the \$200 per inmate.

Therefore, your committee specifically suggests that this matter be urged upon the county court with a view of more reasonable economy in the handling of county funds in connection with the county farm.

In the absence of an opportunity to take up with the county court matters relating to county expenditure, your committee has no additional information over common knowledge, as to the care of indigents outside the

Ashland and Valley Developments During the Year Nineteen Fifteen

ASHLAND.

Mobilization of lithia, soda, sulphur and natural gas in Lithia Park and at depot fountains practically completed at cost of \$100,000.

Magnificent new Lithia Park, a great part of which was purchased, beautified. Tennis courts, gardens, fountains, hundreds of rustic seats and bridges, waterfalls, springs, bandstand and, of course, complete children's playgrounds, lake and many other features, at cost of \$75,000.

Auto camp, which has become the most talked of feature of its kind on the coast.

Wonderful scenic drive completed on east of canyon. Drive on west under way.

Remodelling of Hotel Oregon to extent of \$15,000 assured by citizens raising bonus of \$1,800.

Ashland Roller Mills, with fifty-barrel capacity, built by Morton & North. \$10,000.

Improvements in water system, new pipe, etc., to extent of several thousand dollars.

New city jail of latest design completed.

Schools install several new departments.

School census shows increased population.

California-Oregon Power Company erects \$20,000 sub-station.

Plans laid for new Chautauqua building.

General improvement in appearance of streets and residences and beautification of parks as a result of activities of Ladies' Civic Improvement Club.

Several new private residences of bungalow type and costing from \$1,800 to \$3,000 built and many residences improved and additions built.

VALLEY.

Pompador Mineral Springs Company incorporated with backing of valley capitalists to develop lithia springs near Ashland lithia springs.

Federal building and hotel in Medford. Considerable building in all towns of county.

Establishment of Ashland-Talent irrigation district under way. Government survey completed of valley's water resources for irrigation work.

Cement plant at Gold Hill.

Fish Lake dam of Rogue River Canal Company and valley irrigation development \$150,000.

Grants Pass-Coast railroad practically completed to Hays Hill. Sugar beet factory for valley assured by signing of 5,000 acres for sugar beets. \$600,000 and \$400,000 per year.

Phoenix ditch to irrigate 1,000 acres well under way.

General revival of mining development throughout southern Oregon.

Council Expresses Its Appreciation

Resolutions and thanks to the various councilmen and city officials were offered at the final 1915 meeting of the city council last Thursday as follows:

"Resolved, that we, in this the final meeting of this council, hereby express our appreciation of the long term of service which has been rendered by Mr. Cunningham covering eight years of hard and faithful work in the city's behalf.

"He has at all times used his high ability and his best efforts in forwarding the city's welfare, and we wish him those valuable blessings of health and friendship so desirable to all.

"We hereby pledge our friendship to our official associate, Mr. Cunningham."

Mr. Ware moved that "the mayor be thanked by this council for the ever fair and impartial manner in which he has at all times generously ruled over the members of this council, as presiding officer, during the past year, and we hereby extend our sincerest best wishes to him for his future years."

It was moved by Mr. Ware that the council herewith express to Recorder Gillette its appreciation of the courtesy and kindness shown at all times by him, not only to the council members but to the public, and sincerely thank him for the same; and further, that the council expresses its hearty approval and gratification of the loyalty shown by all the city's regular employees, and the active interest each has taken in the performance of duties, and in the efficiency resulting.

Mr. Cunningham offered the following motion: That the members of the council extend to Mr. Ware their thanks and hearty appreciation of his untiring zeal and active work in behalf of the interests of the city of Ashland during his term of office as councilman from the third ward.

county home; but, based upon expenditures in the several localities of the members of this sub-committee, it is suspected that, after paying \$7,500 for widows' pensions and \$2,000 for the county home, it may not require \$9,000 more to care for indigents outside of the home.

Therefore, it is recommended that the county court be urged to again consider this item of \$9,000. Your sub-committee also believes the keeping by or for the county court of a list of items expended for indigents (with names) outside of the home, and by municipalities and districts, so that municipal and district officials or proper representatives of taxpayers might easily ascertain who are receiving county help in their respective localities, would prove very advantageous in several ways, and result in saving to the county a considerable part of said \$9,000.

Jailor and Janitor.

This committee believes the jailor has sufficient time to properly care for the county buildings, as janitor. The law is said to fix the salary of jailor at \$50 per month. For years both jail and janitor work was done by one person, and up to some two or three years ago. Douglas county has this plan and salary is \$70 per month. Therefore, it is recommended that the offices of jailor and janitor be consolidated, and that the county pay a salary of \$75 per month to the jailor for jail and janitor work.

Fruit Inspectors.

Your committee is not satisfied that the county is receiving proper value for the expenditure of \$6,000 for fruit inspectors. It is essential to properly safeguard the fruit interests of this county, but unnecessary or improper expense items are believed to have been frequently allowed in this department during past years. It also appears to this committee that a lack of intelligent planning of the work and a reasonable energy and economy in doing the work may in all fairness be made against this department. Furthermore, your committee is inclined to believe that some items of expense in this department, at least, have been approved without sufficient care, resulting in unnecessarily large expenditures. It is suggested by this committee that greater efficiency be exacted in the expenditure of the fruit inspection fund.

Schools and Supervisors.

In connection with the school superintendent's department, while it may not be proper for this sub-com-

Governor Praises Ashland Girls

The publicity department sent marked copies of the issue of the Tidings that contained reproductions of the letters written by the winners in the high school contest to Governor Withycombe, J. A. Churchill, state superintendent of instruction, editors of the Portland papers, Southern Pacific officials and other prominent men. Governor Withycombe acknowledged receipt of the paper by writing the following splendid letter to the manager of the department, in which he sends his personal congratulations to the winners of the three prizes offered in the contest:

"My Dear Mr. Duryea: I note in a copy of the Ashland Tidings the very excellent letters written by the winners of the letter-writing contest recently held in your high school. It speaks well for the intelligence and enterprise of your girls that three of them should carry off the first prizes, and I desire to congratulate Miss Mil-lion, Miss Mathes and Miss De Carlo. This is splendid advertising for any community, and on the other hand it is extremely worth while for the boys and girls of our towns to learn to express themselves and to have some intimate knowledge of the resources and attractions of our communities.

"Very truly yours,
"JAMES WITHYCOMBE,
"Governor."

Bid Farewell To Year and Saloons

The new year was ushered in very quietly in Ashland. Only two church bells were rung and the railroad whistles, which generally awaken the echoes with discordant blasts, were silent. Several watch parties were held, but the streets were quiet. Someone shot off a couple of bunches of firecrackers and another welcomed the baby year with a six-shooter.

No small proportion of the male population journeyed to Medford Friday evening and bid farewell to the saloons and the year 1915 together.

Medford witnessed quite a joyous time, all of the liquor houses doing a rushing business and cleaning up most of their stocks. A celebration at the Medford hotel claimed most of the elite of Medford and a number of the claxhammer set from Ashland.

Throughout Oregon the going of the saloons was marked with hilarity, but everyone is too busy studying out the intricacies of the so-called prohibition law to have many regrets over the departure of the demon rum.

All of the banks, the postoffice and most of the business houses were closed Saturday, it being New Year's day. The postoffice was open for an hour in the morning.

mittee to express any disapproval of certain appointments made by the superintendent, it certainly is proper for the committee to state that it is impressed with the idea that two supervisors at a cost of \$2,500 in the budget are inadvisable. This conclusion is based on two reasons, among others:

First, that the superintendent deems it unnecessary for him to visit the schools in his fixed field, even though required by law so to do, because of these two supervisors, and so does not give his personal attention to them.

Second, because your committee is not convinced the practical work done by the supervisors is really worth \$2,500 more to the county than could be done by the superintendent himself if he would personally keep in touch with those teachers whom he deems specially in need of counsel and advice in their school work.

The committee hastens to express its satisfaction that Superintendent Wells has planned to conduct his county school work with but one supervisor after July next. The committee believes \$2,500 to be too large an item for supervisors and urges a reduction.

Attention is called to the law which requires the appointment by the superintendent of at least one supervisor; which law also provides that if a supervisor is undesired, the county districts may, by petition of the trustees of a majority of such districts, secure the discontinuance

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