Oregon Historical Society
Vault 207 Second St

THE TIDINGS PREDICTION: Before December 31, 1918, Ashland will have a population exceeding TWELVE THOUSAND. It will be brought about by proper and complete utilization of her best resource—Mineral Waters

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

ASHLAND TIDINGS

Ashland, Oregon, Lithia Springs
"Oregon's Famous Spa"

VOL. XLI | ASHLAND, OREGON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1917 | NUMBER 79

State to Vote on $6,000,000 Bonds

Features of Road Bond Bill.

Provides for a $6,000,000 bond issue to construct a system of highways.

Bonds to carry 4 per cent interest and to be refunded by throwing all automobile license taxes into a fund for that purpose.

The bonds will finance themselves through a capitalization of the waste on tires, mileage cost, depreciation and overhead charges on automobiles.

The highways will extend into and through every county of the state, giving Oregon one of the most comprehensive road systems of any of the states.

Administration of the funds and construction of the highways will be under the supervision of the state highway commission and state highway engineer, provided for in the new road code which has passed both houses of the legislature.

A special election will be held in the state of Oregon on Monday, June 4, at which the voters of the state will have an opportunity to express their will in regard to the issuance of state bonds for $6,000,000 for the purpose of constructing a series of highways in the state.

The highways enumerated in the proposed construction code include the Pacific Highway, Crater Lake road, the Green Springs Mountain road connecting Ashland and Klamath Falls, in Jackson county. Passage of the bill would probably mean the ultimate hard-surfacing of these. The bill placing the proposition before the people at a special election was passed by the state legislature Monday night.

The special election on June 4 will carry on the ballot the other measures referred by the legislature to the people with the exception of the bill establishing a normal at Ashland and in eastern Oregon and the bill providing for the establishment of a home for delinquent and dependent children, which will not be voted upon until the general election in 1918.

The provision in the bonding bill excluding Multnomah county from its benefits is an element that appealed to the upstate members.

The system of roads that are to be built under this plan are enumerated in the bill. Every county in the state excepting Curry county will be served.

The bill, as amended by the roads and highways committee and the committee of the whole of the senate, provides for an election on Monday, June 4, of this year; carries an emergency clause as far as the special election is concerned to avoid having the bill referred and carried over to November, 1918, and provides that out of the $6,000,000 bond issue, $600,000 worth of the bonds shall be issued in denominations of $500 or less.

It also is provided that whenever any specific present highway is designated in the bill, such as the Pacific Highway, that the state highway commission shall be empowered to deviate the route of such highway in a local way only to meet engineering or other problems which might arise over the present routing of such highways.

Jury Disagrees in Hobbs Murder Trial

A jury disagreement was the result of the trial of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hobbs at Klamath Falls on a charge of murdering E. C. Way, at the Algoma lumber camp October 14 last. Judge Kuykendall discharged the jurors at 8 o'clock Saturday night. They had deliberated since 4 o'clock Friday afternoon.

The case was begun February 1. It is reported a great effort was made by the jury to agree upon a verdict because of the great expense the county has incurred.

The defense offered was that Way had forced his attentions upon Mrs. Hobbs and had mistreated her.

S. P. will build large floating dock at Reedsport.

Charges Against Asylum Baseless

The report that David Kilgore, a Klamath county pioneer, who died last week at the state hospital for the insane at Salem, had been subjected to ill treatment, was declared absolutely unfounded as the result of an investigation by a board of local doctors, city officials and relatives, who attended an autopsy made Wednesday morning at Stock's undertaking parlors by Superintendent R. E. Lee Steiner and Dr. L. F. Griffith of the state hospital in the presence of three local doctors, two ministers, several city officials and relatives of the deceased. Relatives and physicians here demanded an examination when bruises were found on the face and head of the body, which was shipped here from Salem for burial. The asylum officials explained that an attendant had overlooked reporting the fall from a bed of the patient. That fall had caused the bruises. Kilgore was a very heavy man.

Death was found to have resulted from heart disease in an advanced stage, hastened by the shock of the fall. The autopsy failed to show any fractures of bones or the skull, which had been rumored. Superintendent Steiner insisted that, for the sake of the relatives of other inmates of the state institution, every rumor be investigated.

The county attorney of Marion county made an investigation there and his findings corresponded with the findings here, and they completely exonerated asylum officials and attendants from all blame, other than carelessness in not informing relatives here of the fall which had caused the bruises. Kilgore has a sister, Mrs. Squares, of Portland, and a brother in Sacramento and two nephews, George and Charley Hargadine, here.

The finding of the bruises on the face of the deceased here, without any word from Salem as to their cause, was the real cause of all the trouble. Had the Salem attendant reported the fall, the relatives and doctors here would have had no cause for the action taken, but under the circumstances they cannot be blamed for wishing an investigation.

All kinds of wild rumors were circulated in the city. By the time the state officials had arrived, the details in street talk had grown to such proportions that the few bruises, which

(Continued on Page Sixteen.)

Two Important Committees Named

The two following committees, which must be rated as among the most important of the celebration committees, have been named by the general committee:

Parade Committee—J. Edw. Thornton, chairman, he to select the other members. As to the number of parades and the character of same will be left entirely with this committee, and the success will probably rest with a greater number of Ashland's citizens than any other single attraction.

Information and Accommodation Committee—F. H. Walker, chairman, he to select the other members. The importance of the work of this committe is not realized by the citizens of Ashland generally. It ought to be named the satisfaction committee, because its duty is to see that none go away disastisfied, that all are provided with the best of sleeping accommodations, that there is a place for a man to hitch his team, where campers with teams or autos are provided with clean camping grounds, etc. This committee last year did excellent work and none went away but with a feeling that they would like to visit us again this year. There will be a house to house canvass made in the near future to list all places of residence that are willing to rent a room or two to strangers who will be the city's guests. The experience Mr. Walker had on last year's committee particularly qualifies him for the duties connected with this work.

Charles Peter Stooks died at the home of his son, corner Fourth and C streets, Tuesday night, aged 49. He came recently from Albany and the body was shipped there for burial.

Special Election On March 3rd To Vote On Chautauqua Matter

The city council has issued a call for a special election to be held on Saturday, March 3, to vote on the proposition of issuing bonds for $15,000 to purchase the six and three-quarters acres of Chautauqua park, the money to be used in the construction of a new Chautauqua auditorium which will be built this spring if the election carries.

Two Other Amendments.

Two other charter amendments will be on the ballot at the special election. One would repeal the clause of the city charter which makes it imperative upon the city to pay the Chautauqua $300 per year for upkeep of the Chautauqua park. This amount would be saved to the city if the bonds carry.

The other amendment is the reassessment amendment which gives the city council power to re-assess property where a mispelled word or other technical error has rendered an assessment void. This amendment was voted down once before, because of lack of understanding on the part of the voters of its meaning, but the council deems it imperative to safeguard the city and is asking that the people give it more careful consideration.

Snowfall Heavy But No Freeze

About eighteen inches of snow has fallen in Ashland in the past two days, but owing to the fact that the thermometer has not dropped below freezing except for a few hours Tuesday night, the snow has melted fast and only about eight inches stays on the ground. The snow is welcomed by the farmers, who proclaim it the best thing in the world that could have happened for the benefit of this season's crops.

The street department and a number of volunteer snowshovelers have kept the sidewalks cleaned up in good shape in the business section. A one-horse snowplow operated by the street department has kept the walks cleared.

The municipal electric light plant has managed to keep all customers supplied with current in the short periods that both the Prospect and Fall creek power lines were down.

The high school was closed Tuesday and Wednesday owing to lack of power to operate the big motors of the heating system.

The teachers of the high school took advantage of their enforced vacation Tuesday and yesterday to visit the Medford schools. The blower system which forces the hot air through the local building was out of commission, due to current failure.

Hugh Gillette, night yardmaster, has been promoted to the day job along similar lines, in place of Walter Bevington, who will be detailed on another S. P. position.

First Ward Polls Again On Fourth St.

The polls for the First ward for the coming special election to vote on the Chautauqua proposition will be located at the Fourth street city building which used to be used as a fire station. The front portion of the station has been fitted up for voting purposes and voters will not be subject to the conditions which existed in former days, when they were asked to cast their ballots in the same room that was used to harbor hoboes at night. By vote of the city council the voting place will be known as the Fourth street police station hereafter. At Tuesday's council meeting C. B. Wolf voiced objections against the change back to the city building, on the grounds that people living in the Laurel street section would have to walk many blocks farther. He advocated redistricting the city and complained against the "long, lanky wards" such as the First, which includes all the land below Main street. No action was taken on his suggestions.

Indian Lands to be Opened For Sale

Ten thousand acres of timber and grazing lands, some under irrigation, in 120 different tracts, are to be advertised for sale soon by William B. Freer, Klamath Indian reservation agent, according to H. H. Hincks of the Indian reclamation service.

These lands belonged to deceased Indians and to aged Indians who need the funds for their support. They are first appraised and then offered for bids for equal or above their approximate value. They usually sell for about $10 an acre.

The Klamath Indian reclamation service serves 11,000 acres of land, and there are 140,000 acres of land in the reservation. Each Indian on the reservation is worth approximately $29,000.

The Oregon Agricultural College basketball team lost two games to the University of California at Berkeley this week.

Celebration Com. Gets Busy Early

The Commercial Club committee appointed to arrange for the celebration to be held in Ashland next summer held their first meeting in the Commercial Club office last Friday evening and a great many of the preliminary arrangements were disposed of in a businesslike manner.

Those in charge of the celebration are H. O. Frohbach, chairman, Frank Jordan, secretary, Louis Dodge, Harry Hosler and A. E. Kinney. Most of the members have had experience in celebration matters and the newer members, Louis Dodge and A. E. Kinney, were appointed for their qualifications and enthusiasm along these lines.

It was definitely decided that July 3, 4 and 5 would be the most suitable dates this year, and it is up to the citizens of Ashland to keep them in mind. A preliminary circular will be prepared by the publicity committee as soon as more definite information is obtained as to attractions that will be offered, and it is the desire of this committee that not a letter will leave Ashland without one, in order to give the event the greatest amount of publicity and as early as possible.

The selection of a suitable name for the entire three days' festivity was not decided upon, but a prize of $2.50 cash to the school children of Ashland for the best name will be awarded as noted elsewhere in the columns of this issue.

G. G. Eubanks was selected to act as treasurer this year, and all subscriptions will be payable to him. Letter paper, envelopes and subscription blanks were ordered printed, and in a very short time the solicitation of funds will begin.

The chairman was instructed to communicate with various fireworks manufacturers and request that the Ashland school board grant the committee the use of the baseball grounds during the celebration period. A call will shortly be made to give a hearing to the jitney drivers in regard to the ordinance regulating jitney service between the city and the roundup grounds. It was voted to ask the common council to enact the same ordinances covering permit for fireworks and concessions the same as last year with but slight changes.

City Seeks To Eliminate Interest

City Attorney Moore Tuesday night read a lengthy opinion to the council quoting from numerous legal authorities, dealing with the matter of the transfer of amounts from city sinking funds in order to pay off debts on which the city is now paying higher interest. The city is getting 2 per cent from the local banks on money which is being set aside to pay off the electric light and water bonds when they come due some years later and cannot be paid until they come due. At the same time debts against other departments which could be paid at any time are drawing 6 per cent and in some cases 8 per cent from the city. The city council has been endeavoring to ascertain if it could legally make use of the sinking funds to save interest, and it was Mr. Moore's opinion that the money from the light funds might be so used but that the water fund must be kept inviolate because of a provision in the charter amendment which created them. The council took no definite action and is studying the matter from every angle. At the next meeting a decision will probably be made. If a legal way can be found, a saving of no small proportions to the taxpayers will be made.

Normal Saved At Session's Close

An incident of the last night of the legislative session had a large significance to the Ashland normal school.

By way of protecting the legislation put through at the session, much of which was important, the Moser-Stanfield organizations determined to call a special election at which any piece of legislation on which the referendum was involved should be submitted to the people. Thus a year and a half in time could be saved in putting the acts into effect. The road bonding measure was the principal factor in bringing this about.

A special bill, S. B. No. 318, was put through the senate late Monday night, after it was known that the road bond bill would pass with a referendum clause attached. This bill provided that "all measures referred to the people by the twenty-ninth legislative assembly and all acts on which the referendum was invoked" should be preesnted at a special election to be held next June.

It went over to the house about midnight. Representative Sheldon had been over in the senate looking after the appropriation bill in which was included an item of $420 for repairing the roof on Ashland's normal school. He returned to the house as S. B. No. 318 was being read, and caught the fact that all measures, including his resolution for two more normal schools, were to go on the ballot at a special election in June, which would mean its certain defeat (with no time for a campaign). Sheldon promptly got the floor, but instead of speaking, went up to the speaker's desk and began explaining the necessity of putting the normal school matter over to the 1918 election. Representatives Forbes, Callan and Burdick, organization leaders, followed him to the speaker and put in a vigorous protest against any change, as it would require the reenrollment of the entire bill—a rather long one—by the enrollment committee, already worn out by the heavy grind of the day and night. The senate was turning off the last of the appropriation bills and the conference committee on the road bond bill was ready to report. A change meant keeping both houses in session at least one extra half hour. The speaker decided against Sheldon and insisted that the bill, No. 318, be put through without change and at once. Forbes got the floor, spoke for the bill and moved the previous question. The steam roller was in motion.

Sheldon demanded recognition and was ruled out of order. He persisted so vigorously and sharply, ignoring the raps of the speaker's gavel that a general confusion resulted, the members crowding up about the chairs of Sheldon and Forbes, both of which were well to the front and in the center of the house. In a lull, and without recognition by the chair, Sheldon started such a plea for his normal school measure that in a few minutes he had member after member shouting "yes" and "that's right." Forbes, realizing his bill would be beaten unless he conceded Sheldon's point, changed his motion to one for a "committee of the whole to amend," and the bill was amended so as to except from its provisions the normal school measure and one other.

Had this change not been secured, the measure would have doubtless gone down to defeat, which would prove a barrier to further effort for more normals for at least four years. As it is, the measure is in better shape than before, as the many other measures referred to the people will be disposed of at the June election, leaving the ballot comparatively clear for the normal measure at the 1918 election. A large number of measures mitigates against each one, as a general disposition to vote "no" develops.

Snow sliding off the roof of the Citizens Bank building broke the glass out of the canopies over the entrance to the bank and the stairway this morning. A young man has been busy with a long-handled arrangement pushing snow off of permanent awnings.

Mrs. C. F. Tilton was taken home from Granite City Hospital Tuesday after a lengthy stay. She is reported to be much improved.