

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

AND COTTAGE GROVE LEADER

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\$100,000 IS LOSS IN BROWN SAW MILL FIRE

Flames Spread as if Shot From Cannon, Endangering Lives of the Fire Fighters

Incendiary Origin at First Suspected But That Idea Is Flouted by Manager Hill, His Foreman and Watchman

Fire, the worst in the city's history and the origin of which remains a mystery, completely destroyed the mill of the Brown Lumber company Monday evening and burned probably a million feet of finished lumber on the docks at the north end of the mill. A large amount of lumber on the docks at the south end of the mill was saved. All that remains of the mill is the slab burner. Manager L. S. Hill estimates the loss at \$100,000. There was \$40,000 insurance.

The entire city was in danger for an hour or more but through efficient work upon the part of the fire department the only other loss of consequence was the round house of the Oregon Pacific & Eastern railway. The hose cart house belonging to the city was a complete loss. The railway and the city had no insurance.

For an hour or more the plant of the Cottage Grove Electric company seemed doomed. Several times the north and west sides of the building were in flames. Only the fact that a large pile of sawwood cut off the flames from the north side of the building, at the same time furnishing the fire fighters protection from the terrific heat, and the fact that the light wind blowing kept the flames back from the west side of the building, saved the city's electric lighting and power system. The poles carrying the feed wires were in flames many times and because of possible danger from falling wires the service was cut off for two hours, although the company maintained its reputation for continuous service by keeping up service even while the building was afire and resumed service as soon as it found the wires were intact despite the fact that the insulation had burned off. Fire continued to smolder in the shaving chute and shaving bin of the electric light plant until early Tuesday morning.

For some time there was fear that the flames would spread to the large tank of the Standard Oil company.

It was at first the opinion of Fire Chief Woodruff and his fire fighters as well as that of nearly all spectators, that the fire was of incendiary origin. With the lighting system out of operation and the city in darkness and all fire fighting apparatus, as well as a large part of the residents of the city, at the fire, the opportunity for firebugs to work in other parts of the city was most propitious, for which reason a careful guard was kept at the J. H. Chambers mill and at the plant of the Cottage Grove Manufacturing company, while a dozen or more citizens patrolled the business section of the city. Fire Chief Woodruff was suspicious from the fact that a few weeks before the hydrant wrench had disappeared from the hose cart kept at the mill, and had asked mill employees to keep their eyes open for anyone attempting to tamper with the apparatus. No apparatus was missing, however, the night of the fire.

The fire started in the roof of the dry kiln and was immediately discovered by Watchman Charles Ferguson and E. C. Shay, who were within a few feet of the flames. The watchman ran to sound the fire whistle, while Mr. Shay endeavored to play a stream of water on the blaze. Mr. Ferguson says that it was hardly a minute from the time he saw the flames until the whole mill was a mass of flames, but he maintains that it was impossible for anyone to have set the fire. Mr. Shay had a narrow escape from burning in attempting to save his carpenter tools, and the back of his neck was badly scorched.

It happened that the firemen had just gathered for their regular drill when the fire whistle sounded, so that they were on the scene and had streams of water playing on the fire almost before the whistle had completed blowing the warning. Those who first arrived thought that they would be able to handle the situation but narrowly escaped being caught in the flames which burst out in every direction. Fire Chief Woodruff, S. R. Smith, J. R. Ford and Mark Garoutte, the latter foreman of the mill, were among those who had narrow escapes. A hose cart was deserted by the fleeing firemen but was recovered.

The flames ran along underneath the roof of the planer shed and mill proper, all the fire at first being overhead, and in what seemed less than two minutes after the discovery of a blaze that might have been quenched with a few bucketfuls of water, the mill was doomed beyond hope and the entire city seemed in danger. Many of those living on the opposite side of the street carried out their furniture, but what little wind there was carried the flames towards the right-of-way of the Southern Pacific railway, where there was nothing upon which the flames could feed.

The engine crew of the Oregon Pacific & Eastern railway got up steam as quickly as possible and saved a number of cars belonging to that road, as well as a half dozen loaded cars, which were

(Continued on second page)

WITH SIX SONS AS CREW HE HAS NO FEAR OF I. W. W. TROUBLE

There will be no labor troubles or I. W. W. strikes in the logging camp or at the sawmill owned by George Lammers, of Oregon City, who is erecting a mill on a tract of timber owned by him two miles west of Cottage Grove.

Mr. Lammers has six grown sons, all experienced loggers and mill men. They will constitute his entire force, and as all of them are loyal to their employer, Mr. Lammers says he fears no labor troubles while he is operating his plant. Mr. Lammers has between 5,000,000 and 7,000,000 feet of timber on his place and all of it will be converted into lumber if the market keeps up.

SIXTH COMPANY IS WINNER OF BASE BALL GAME

Cottage Grove Boys Maintain Reputation of Always Carrying Off the Honors

Fort Stevens, Ore., Aug. 29.—(Special to The Sentinel.)—Wherever placed, sixth company carries off the honors, and again demonstrated that fact when, in an inter-company base ball match, it defeated the Fourth company, of Roseburg, Monday by a score of 8 to 2.

The lineup was as follows: Sixth Company—Kohlman, ss; V. Powell, cf; Henderson, lf; Tickell, 3b; Boyer, 1b; D. Woods, 2b; McCargar, rf; J. Gentile, p; Witherwax, c.

Fourth Company—Jewett, 1b; Trumbo, 2b; Brown, 3b; Masopust, ss; Watson, lf; Lahey, cf; Caskey, rf; Smith, p; Mead, c.

Athletics will take up a large part of the leisure time of the soldier boys. The athletics committee has already scheduled an inter-company base ball series, and have induced Wright & Ditson to donate a silver trophy cup.

The winners of the inter-company series at each fort will contest with the winners at the other forts for the championship of the coast defenses. The three forts are Stevens, Columbia and Canby.

The Cottage Grove team is out for all the honors.

After the completion of the base ball series a foot ball series will be arranged and following that there will be a basketball series.

Sergeant Lee Roy Woods is athletic representative for Sixth company.

BOVINE FREEZES WHILE WEATHER IS SCORCHING

Those who have been complaining because of the heated condition of the atmosphere for the past two months probably will be surprised to learn that a cow has been literally frozen to death outdoors in the weather about which they have complained. The cow belonged to Lew Bender. She became mired in a bog fed by a spring and was not discovered for a day. When extricated from her position she had lost the use of her limbs and it was quite apparent that some of her internal organs had been chilled until they were paralyzed. Mr. Bender said that while trying to extricate the cow he could hold his hand in the bog only a few moments before it became numb. The cow died the next day.

Dan Parker Arrives in France.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Parker have received word that their son Dan has arrived safely in France with the Eighteenth engineering corps, of which he is a member. He sent a cablegram immediately upon his arrival.

One of Mr. Parker's grandfathers was German and the other English. He also has Irish blood in his veins and is red-headed, which makes a tough combination for the kaiser to back up against.

Patronize those who advertise in The Sentinel.

BOHEMIA LUMBER CO. IS SHIPPING ITS PRODUCTS

Record Is Made in Overhauling Machinery and Getting the Plant into Operation

With a full crew in the woods and at the mill, the Bohemia Lumber company started operations Monday and has already shipped some finished lumber. This mill, in which L. S. Hill and W. W. Brown, of the Brown Lumber company, whose mill was destroyed by fire Monday, are interested, is handling some of the orders which the Brown mill had on hand, among these orders being one for bridge timbers between 54 and 60 feet in length. No other mill in this section is able to get out timbers of that extreme length.

The Bohemia Lumber company's mill is the plant formerly operated by the Row River Lumber company, which shut down two years ago. A record was made in putting the plant in shape for operations. The saws did not arrive until Sunday and the mill started operations the next morning.

Go, Thou, and Do Likewise

THE incident here related might have taken place in any one of a thousand cities of America.

Mr. and Mrs. Complacent Selfishness had just returned home from doing their week-end shopping. In the goods bought were sweaters, warm stockings, mittens, warm underclothing, mufflers, and other things for themselves for the approaching winter, together with a blanket for the dog. There were but the two and the dog to buy for. There were no children in the home.

Before retiring for the night, they read the evening paper, which contained an account of a magnificent victory of American troops on French soil during an early snow storm. Both commented upon the bravery of the American soldier boys who were slowly but surely turning the tide in favor of the allies.

Then they ate a lunch and retired between woolen blankets and upon a mattress of down.

The lunch had been a rather heavy one and their slumbers were fitful.

They dreamed that they were so proud of the performances of the American soldier boys that they went to France to witness the next victory of American arms. By the time they arrived the winter season had set in. The American boys had won another brilliant victory and through the courtesy of the commanding officers they were permitted to go to the front to greet the men and boys who were carrying on the fight for liberty and humanity.

Clad in furs and warm clothes they enjoyed the ride to the trenches and were greatly interested in the stories told by their conductor of the brave conduct of the American khaki-clad boys, and his account of how the different places they passed were wrested from the enemy. Their hearts welled with pride. Soon they reached the zone where the fighting had been done. Snow-covered trenches extended in every direction. They were permitted to shake the hands of many of the soldier boys and to congratulate them upon their great accomplishments.

But they did not receive from the boys the cordial greeting they had expected from their own countrymen. The weather was bitter and the soldiers, as soon as they were relieved from duty, hurriedly sought their barracks. They appeared to be suffering greatly from the cold.

Mr. and Mrs. Complacent Selfishness were taken to some of the front line trenches. There they found men marching up and down in their cramped quarters, slapping their arms and hands and stamping their feet, while shivering despite their efforts to keep warm.

The men did not seem to have the clothing necessary to keep them warm and the visitors became more and more indignant as they were shown from trench to trench to find the soldier boys from America so poorly provided for.

They were introduced to a battalion major and they could no longer restrain their feelings.

"Why is it," they asked, "that these brave men and boys who are offering their lives for their country are not provided with clothing that will keep them warm? What does the government mean by allowing them to suffer so? We have seen men whose ears have been frozen and whose hands are so cold they can scarcely hold their guns. Why, they are so uncomfortable that boys from our own town hardly greeted us civilly. Such treatment of our soldiers is disgraceful. What are we to tell the mothers and fathers, sisters and wives of these men when we return home?"

"I'll tell you, friends," the major replied, "your criticism may be partly justified. It is certain that the comforts of the men have not been looked after in the way they should have been, but the truth of the matter is that we were promised by the Red Cross that they would receive as Christmas gifts the things that they now lack to make them comfortable. Yesterday was Christmas, but, instead of receiving the presents we expected, we received word that so few had come to the aid of local Red Cross branches with their membership fees, and so few had been willing to give their time in making the things which the Red Cross had promised to make, that it was impossible to send the things which had been promised.

"And so the boys must shiver and suffer discomforts while those they are fighting for sit at home surrounded by every comfort and blessing.

"The reason your home boys were not civil to you was not because they were suffering discomforts; they would suffer them without complaining if they thought it necessary, but they know that it was because of the selfishness of such as you that they must suffer, while you go about in furs and woollens. What shall you tell the relatives of these men and boys when you go home? I think you know now what to tell them."

Mr. and Mrs. Complacent Selfishness were cut to the quick by the major's remark. They resolved that they would see that the things the soldier boys needed were quickly provided. They did what they could at once by giving their furs and wraps and were themselves almost frozen when they reached home. Throwing their arms to try to keep the blood circulating they awoke one another and found that they had thrown off their blankets.

The next day the Red Cross branch received two membership fees they had not expected and the mystery of how Mrs. Complacent Selfishness became the most faithful worker in the Red Cross has never been explained.

TWO PARTIES ARE RUDELY INTERRUPTED BY FIRE AT BROWN MILL

Two dinner parties were rudely interrupted by the fire Monday evening which destroyed the Brown mill, and by a peculiar coincidence there were guests at both parties who were deeply interested in the fire.

Mrs. L. S. Hill and daughter, Miss Esther, were guests at a party at the Oregon hotel given by Mr. and Mrs. Bartell in honor of the birthday anniversary of Mrs. Bartell's mother, Mrs. R. E. Porter. L. S. Hill, manager of the lumber company, is the husband of Mrs. Hill and the father of Miss Hill.

At a party given by Mrs. A. W. Kime in honor of her husband's birthday anniversary, Mark Garoutte, foreman of the mill, and Miss Ruby Ferguson, daughter of the night watchman who discovered the blaze, were guests.

DROUGHT IS CAUSE OF FAILURE OF MANY CROPS

Wheat Is Better Than Expected and High Prices Will Offset the Short Yield

Reports from correspondents of The Sentinel throughout the Cottage Grove country indicate that nearly all grain crops and the hay crop are partial failures, although in many instances the wheat yield, in particular, has turned out better than expected. With prices high, the returns will be fairly good despite the light yield.

Suk Creek—Owing to the drought, crops are very light, some hay going but one ton to the acre. J. Moran and J. C. Underdave have irrigation and their gardens are doing well.

Dorena—The condition of the crops in this vicinity is much better than was at first estimated. The grain has not all been threshed but so far there is an average of 15 bushels of wheat to the acre and 25 bushels of oats. James Reardon, who had one of the largest crops, had 280 bushels of wheat averaging 15 bushels to the acre, and 140 bushels of oats averaging 30 bushels to the acre. His crop was larger than he anticipated. John Kirk's wheat went 22 bushels to the acre and his oats 36 bushels to the acre. Albert Elliott threshed over a ton of beans from a five-acre tract.

Divide—The yield here is about one-half. The oat yield, generally from 25 to 30 bushels to the acre, is running 15 to 20 bushels. Wheat that usually yields 20 to 25 bushels is running 15 to 20 bushels. A great many farmers did not raise any grain at all on account of the drought.

Walker—Threshing has not been completed here. Some wheat that has been threshed went 20 bushels to the acre, and oats 20 to 25 bushels. These yields are larger than was expected.

Mount View—Reidler Bros. threshed 664 bushels of wheat from 45 acres, and 2236 bushels of oats from 70 acres.

C. W. Bears had 7 acres of wheat which yielded 104 bushels. Oats averaged about 30 bushels to the acre.

Waldo Miller, from a 4-acre tract of black oats, realized 207 bushels; from a 7-acre field of white oats, 144 bushels; an eighth of an acre of rye yielded 7 bushels.

Claude Arne threshed an average of 31 bushels of oats to the acre, although some acres yielded as high as 50 bushels. Two acres of wheat yielded 69 bushels.

Other farmers got an average of from 12 to 15 bushels of wheat and from 30 to 35 bushels of oats to the acre.

Potatoes will be a fair crop, although not of a large size, as far as can be determined before digging.

Tomatoes will be very good if all ripen that are on the vines now.

Beans will hardly return the seed in most places.

Delight Valley—Grain turned out a fairly good quality, although the yield was light.

J. A. Joll's fall wheat went 30 bushels to the acre; spring wheat, poor.

C. H. Haight's fall wheat went 15 to 25 bushels to the acre; barley a failure.

W. A. Keene's fall wheat averaged 20 bushels to the acre.

The oat crop was about half the usual yield.

Postoffice Moved.

The postoffice was moved Saturday night to its new location in the Cooper building. The removal was accomplished with very little inconvenience to patrons, there being but 10 hours' interruption in the distribution of mail.

The new quarters are much more commodious than the old ones.

School Opens September 17.

The Cottage Grove public schools will open Monday, September 17. This date is a little later than usual. All teachers have been engaged except for the manual training department, Mr. Purvance, who was elected, having resigned.

Hunting Season Closed.

The hunting season has been formally closed by Governor Withycombe because of danger of forest fires being set by hunters and the danger to the hunters themselves. It will open September 1 if there has been no rain by that time. If there has been no rain by that time it will open automatically with the first heavy rain.

Try the want ad. way.

CUT OUT FRILLS SAY PAYERS OF SCHOOL TAX

Manual Training and Domestic Arts Departments Likely to Be Eliminated

Addition of \$17,000 to \$18,000 to War-rant Indebtedness of District Is Barely Averted by Majority of Eight Votes.

The annual tax budget meeting Monday afternoon was a rather spirited affair. A lively debate followed the introduction of a resolution to do away with the manual training and domestic arts and science departments. Those opposed to the resolution took the position that no binding action could be taken at this meeting, which was called for a vote upon the budget only and that the consideration of rearranging the courses of study should come up at the annual meeting and before the election of teachers. Those responsible for the resolution then explained that the resolution was meant for the guidance of the directors in arranging the course of study for next year. The resolution also contained the recommendation to the directors that the expense of conducting the schools be kept, if possible, within an amount equivalent to a 10-mill assessment. This provision of the resolution seemed to meet with favor upon the part of all and it was found upon examination that the actual expense of conducting the schools, including the departments which the resolution would eliminate, was within that amount.

The resolution, including the recommendation to discontinue the manual training and domestic arts and sciences departments, prevailed by a vote of 32 to 28, and if there is not a change of sentiment between now and next year, these departments will be eliminated. The saving would be slightly less than \$2 on a valuation of \$1000.

No saving could have been made by eliminating the domestic arts and science department this year, as the teacher had already been engaged, but the manual training department could have been eliminated and the expense of that department saved, as the teacher had resigned. Those conducting the campaign against these departments let that chance go by, for it is certain that they could have carried their point.

Several of those who spoke against the resolution advocated eliminating the teaching of languages other than English, and other forms of higher education, of which few graduates make any use after leaving school, and in favor of retaining the manual training and domestic arts and sciences departments, which teach things which every pupil will use in daily life after leaving school and which prepare them for their battle with the world.

A peculiar part of the proceedings was that those opposed to the departments referred to gave as their reason for such opposition the heavy indebtedness of the district and advocated cutting out frills until after the liquidation of the indebtedness has been liquidated, especially during these war times, when the paying of a heavy tax is harder than ever before, yet, when the budget came up for a vote, it carried by a bare majority, the vote being 39 to 27. Had the budget failed to pass, no school tax would have been collected next year and the warrant indebtedness would have been increased between \$17,000 and \$18,000. Presuming that those who voted for the resolution also voted against the budget, they in the first instance voted to decrease the indebtedness and in the second instance to add to the indebtedness.

The exact amount carried by the budget was \$17,812.

TELEPHONE SERVICE IS ENDANGERED BY FIRES

Wires Will Be Laid Upon the Ground While Repairs Are Being Made

Forest fires in the Steamboat country southeast of here have been the cause of great expense and annoyance to the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company, whose main lines between Portland and San Francisco run through that section. The company has had a crew there for weeks and only by strenuous efforts have they been able to keep the lines in working order.

C. H. Corson, Cottage Grove manager for the telephone company, has spent much of his time during the past few weeks directing the efforts to keep the service intact. He is now certain that the poles carrying the leads are doomed and a large supply of insulated wire has been taken to that section to be laid on the ground to keep up the service while repair work is being done.

Cannery Getting Lots of Berries.

The cannery has been receiving large quantities of berries the past week. Hustlers among the boys and girls are starting nice bank accounts with the money received for picking wild berries.