

Polk County Observer

SEMI-WEEKLY

DALLAS, OREGON, TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1912

VOL. 24

NO. 6

CALIFORNIA RAINS ARE BOOST FOR BUSINESS

MANAGER GEORGE GERLINGER OF DALLAS LUMBER COMPANY BRINGS CHEERFUL NEWS FROM SOUTH.

CONDITIONS NOW IMPROVE

Tempor is Heavy Throughout the State and Outlook Grows Bright; Material For West Salem Bridge Now Being Sawn; Work on Piers to Begin About May 1.

Declaring that general business conditions in California had improved greatly since the recent rains in that state, which were badly needed, and that the future outlook had materially brightened, George Gerlinger, manager of the Dallas Lumber and Logging company, returned Monday morning from a three weeks' visit in San Francisco and Southern California. Mr. Gerlinger and children remained South for a longer visit and are the guests of relatives and friends in San Francisco but expect to leave today for San Diego, where they will visit relatives for about three weeks before returning North.

Rain Was Needed. California was greatly in need of rain, Mr. Gerlinger yesterday, and although it was thought that moisture, even if it came now, would be too late to be of much help, it is believed that the copious downpours will result in greatly benefitting the crops. It has certainly stimulated confidence in the future outlook and a corresponding strengthening of business conditions has resulted.

Although there is a noticeable increase in the demand for lumber in the South, there is no corresponding increase in price tendencies noted, and mills in the North that depend solely upon rail shipments do not expect to receive the benefit of the better conditions until the rate of freight on cargo shipments shall strengthen. The present low schedules in force for the water routes makes it impossible for rail mills to compete in the territory served by water. But, with an increased demand, cargo rates are expected to advance and thus increase the

(Continued on Page Four)

WORK RESUMED ON OIL WELLS

WHITAKER AND MCBEE PROSPECTS TO BE DEVELOPED.

Drilling Derrick at Former; Drilling to Start at Both Places in Few Days is Report of Managers.

With active work in progress at two oil wells adjacent to Dallas, and with the probability of actual drilling operations beginning this week, prospects in this line of development in Polk county appears bright. At the Whitaker well, in the hills southeast of the city, a force of men under the direction of David Riley is at work building a new derrick and in moving the machinery from the site of the old well to the new one which is about 100 yards distant. Unfavorable weather conditions has delayed work on the derrick but it is expected that drilling will begin the first of the week.

Operations at the McBee well were started Monday with the building of a house and other accommodations for the workmen. Here the company expects to begin drilling in a day or two. They are at present awaiting the arrival of some necessary machinery from Portland.

E-1 and E-2, Navy's Newest Submarines, Burn Crude Oil

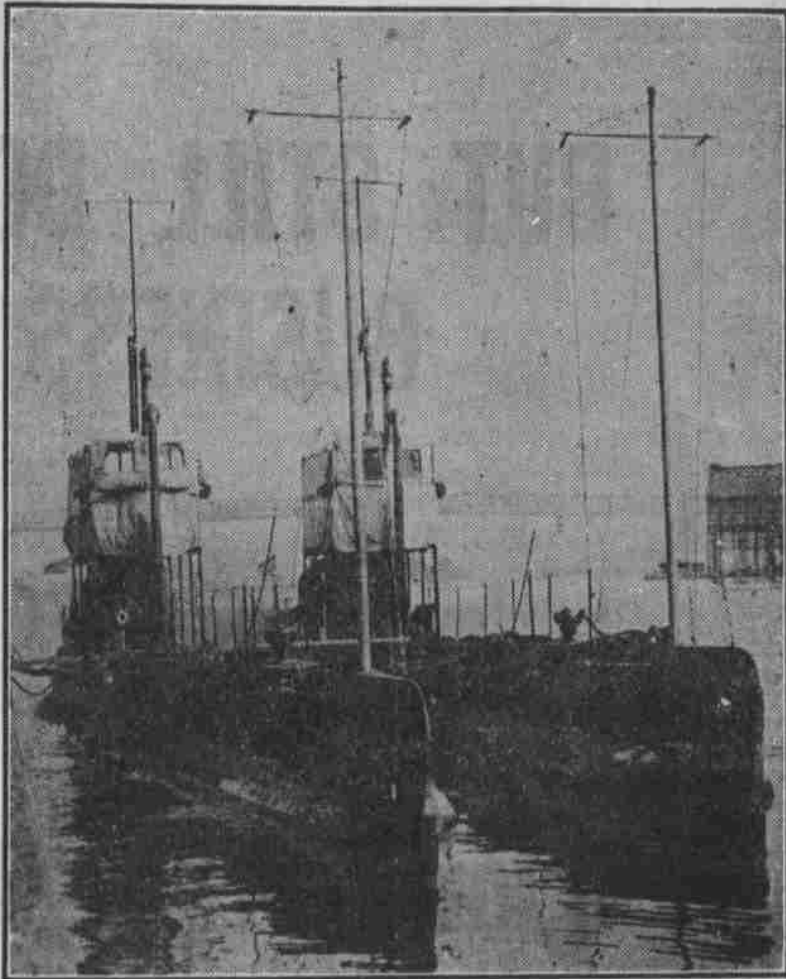


Photo by American Press Association.

SUBMARINES with masts are a new thing in the navy. The E-1 and E-2 are the first so equipped, the masts, which are about thirty feet high, being for wireless use. The two new boats are also the first of their kind to use the crude oil burning engines, which are expected to save money for the navy department, since they burn oil costing 3 cents a gallon instead of the gasoline used in other submarine engines, which costs 10 or 11 cents a gallon. The boats, which are shown as they appeared at the New York navy yard just before they started for Norfolk, are 135 feet long and are equipped with four torpedo tubes each. There is little room inside them for anything but the machinery and the 5,000 gallons of oil which they carry. Each has a crew of eighteen men and a mascot. On ordinary voyages submarines have tenders on which the members of the crew sleep, but the New York-Norfolk trip was made without these. When the boats are sailing on the surface of the water the navigating bridges are surrounded with canvas.

Disposal of Sewage, Knotty Problem Facing City Council

Residents on LaCreole Creek Object to Use of Stream; May be Necessary to Build Septic Tank; Polling Places for City Election Designated and Officers Appointed; Street Improvement Matters Go Over.

That the city of Dallas may soon face the problem of the proper disposal of sewage and the construction of a septic tank rather than the utilization of LaCreole creek, as is now done, was brought out at the regular meeting of the city council Monday night, when a committee of residents residing East of the city appeared and asked the council to take some action in the matter. They said that the state health officer after an examination of the outlet of the city sewers had informed them that possible contagion might ensue following the drinking of the water of the creek by cattle during the dry months when the water is low. The matter was referred to the public health and police committee.

Arrangements For City Election. City Auditor was instructed by motion to arrange for the coming city election to be held on Monday, April 1, and the following polling places were designated and election officers named:

Ward No. 1—Woodman hall. Hardy Holman, judge and chairman; F. M. Collins and J. A. McCann, judges; E. V. Dalton and W. P. Miller, clerks.

Ward No. 2—City hall. T. J. Hayter, judge and chairman; John Lynn and A. J. Martin, judges; W. R. Ellis, and W. L. Soehren, clerks.

Ward No. 3—Madison's store building on Main street. A. B. Muir, judge and chairman; Charles Westover and Andrew Bennett, judges; H. L. Cridder, A. P. Bissler, clerks.

Street Improvements. The matter of the macadamization of the Nunn hill south of the Dallas Lumber company's plant was taken up. It was reported that the property owners had agreed to make the necessary cut on the hill if the city would do the macadam work. The matter was referred to the street committee and the city engineer.

Bids for the improvement of certain streets were opened but action

MOOCH-MOOCH TO BE SHOWN AT CARNIVAL

RARE SPECIMEN FROM CHINA TO BE STELLAR ATTRACTION AT COMING EVENT BY COMPANY G. O. N. G.

CAUGHT BY DR. DONOHUE

After Much Labor and Hardships Specimen is Secured; Sent to Washington by Smithsonian Employee, It Will be Routed via Dallas; Interest Aroused in April Event.

Declaring that the indoor carnival of company G. O. N. G., which will be held in April will become an annual affair, and that arrangements are already under way for the event, Captain Walter L. Tooze, Jr., gave out a statement Monday in which he intimated that this year's carnival will be so far in advance of all others that there will be simply "nothing to it." In order to make the attraction all that it should be, a wonderful "mooch-mooch" a very rare specimen that exists only in darkest China, has been secured, and will be exhibited to Dallas people. Nothing is known regarding it here but its expected arrival is creating considerable interest.

New Features This Year. "The great indoor carnival which caused so much amusement, and gave entertainment to so many persons a year ago," said Captain Tooze, "is to be repeated this year, April 18, 19, and 20, being the dates set. A year ago this carnival was given by company H of the Fourth Infantry, O. N. G., now company G, of the Third, and it proved a great success. It is to be made an annual affair, and for some time, there has been much talk of the coming show. Many new features will be added this year and with the new armory building as the location for the same, a huge success is promised. Poor 'Mumps' died last year, and no one got to see it. Different this year.

"Mooch Mooch" will be there strong, and everyone will get to see it. The greatest mystery of the present century. Imported direct from China for the big carnival. It's capture due to the efforts of Dr. S. T. Donohue, a former resident of this city, now practicing in Pekin, China. A sensation is promised the carnival goes in this wonderful freak. Here is a letter I just received:

Pekin, China, Nov. 16, 1911.

Walter L. Tooze, Dallas, Ore.

"Dear Sir:—Some time ago I read in the Itemizer that you are going to have an indoor carnival in your city and were looking for rare specimens of animal life.

"I left Pekin September 25 to accompany Mr. Chas. Sowerby on one of his annual hunting trips into the heart of this great empire. Mr. Sowerby is in the employ of the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, D. C., and I thought it a good chance to try and get you something worth sending.

"I returned to Pekin yesterday, and brought with me this queer animal that we named 'Mooch Mooch' and am sending it by a fast freight steamer in charge of a keeper.

"Mr. Sowerby says this animal is absolutely unknown so far as the books go. He saw one of these animals four years ago and decided to capture one if possible. He succeeded and you here see the results of his efforts. I had to overcome many difficulties in getting this wild beast to market as we had to travel over terrible roads and we were stopped many times by the rebel and imperial troops.

"You are at liberty to exhibit the brute at your show if you think it safe and will pay the expenses of shipping to Washington.

"I hope your exhibit will be a success and that you take proper care of the animal.

"Very truly yours, Dr. S. T. Donohue."

May be Lost. Though as indicated in the letter

(Continued on Page Five.)

CONFESSES KILLING OF PHILOMATH WOMAN

GEORGE M. HUMPHREYS ARRESTED FOR KILLING MRS. ELIZABETH GRIFFITHS TELLS OF CRIME.

IS WELL KNOWN IN DALLAS

Arrest is Result of Months of Investigation by Detectives; Family Formerly Lived Here; Remains of Mrs. King, Humphreys' Mother, Buried Here March 11.

Charles Humphreys Confesses Still further interest has been injected into the statements made by George Humphreys by the announcement today that Charles, a younger brother, had confessed that he took part with his brother in the murder of Mrs. Elizabeth Griffith near Philomath on June 2, 1911. Charles Humphreys is now in jail in Hillsboro. In his confession he says that they went to the woman's cabin for the purpose of attacking her but that, after they found that she was dead, they also ransacked the house for money believing that the \$1000 received by her that day for the sale of her place, was secreted there. The two brothers then carried the murdered woman to the mill pond.

Charged with the murder of Mrs. Griffith, near Philomath, on June 2, last year, a crime which he confessed a short time after his incarceration, George M. Humphreys, a former resident of Polk county, occupies a cell in the county jail at Corvallis awaiting sentence.

The crime which Humphreys has confessed forms one of the most brutal in the criminal annals of Oregon. Mrs. Griffith lived alone in a small house in Benton county, remote from other neighbors. According to Humphreys' confession, he went to the house on the night of June 2 with the intention of assaulting the woman who was of comely appearance and about 55 years of age. He knocked at the door and when it was opened, he attacked the woman, forcing her against the wall. She seized a butcher knife and attempted to defend herself but he succeeded in tying her hands with a small piece of rope and also tied a handkerchief about her face to prevent an outcry. The woman then collapsed, and fell to the floor, dead. Horrified at what he had done, Humphreys placed the body on the floor and ransacked the place for money, a large amount of which was always supposed to be hidden there. He found but a small sum, however, and picking up the dead body of the woman, he carried it to a shallow pond near by and dropped it in, going on to his home, where he lived with another brother and his aged, invalid mother.

Family Moves Away. Soon thereafter Humphreys disposed of his place for a small amount and, loading the earthly possessions of the family in a wagon, and taking his mother with him, he and his brother left for parts unknown. It afterward developed that they went to the vicinity of Banks, in Washington county, where they purchased an isolated tract of about 100 acres and installed their home in a tumble down shack far from other human habitation. It is charged that the mother, Mrs. King, was unable to receive proper care in this lonely cabin and rapidly grew worse until death came on Friday, March 8.

For months the detectives have been working on the case and first suspected Humphreys when it was learned that he had disposed of his place near Philomath for less than its value and moved away. Then began a quiet investigation which resulted in the accumulation of a mass of evidence and ended in Humphreys' arrest. When confronted with the evidence against him the

(Continued on Page Four)

UGLOW BLOCK FIRE CAUSES SLIGHT DAMAGE

BLAZE MONDAY NOON THREATENS BUILDING BUT IS SOON EXTINGUISHED AFTER A STUBBORN BATTLE.

STARTS IN FURNACE ROOM

Origin in Doubt; Building Damaged and Portion of Fuller Drug Stock Destroyed; Smoke Fills Building and Hallways; \$200 Will Cover Loss It is Believed.

Fire of unknown origin discovered soon after noon on Monday in the furnace room of the Uglow building corner of Main and Mill streets, caused damage approximating \$200 and created considerable excitement for a short time.

When the blaze was first discovered smoke was issuing from crevices between the wainscoting in the rooms on the second floor of the building, and the hallways were filled with it. A door at the rear of the Uglow Clothing store, which leads into the furnace room was opened and the interior of the room found to be in flames. Just over the door in the furnace room was a platform used to store an overflow stock of paper and empty bottles from the Fuller Pharmacy and here several cases of paper were found to be blazing furiously.

Uses Extinguisher. Before the hose companies arrived on the scene some effective work had been done by Robert Van Ordel with an extinguisher, and a stream from the hose soon rendered further progress of the flames impossible. The fire was notable for the huge volume

(Continued on Page Eight)

BEST EVER ARE TAX COLLECTIONS

MORE THAN \$234,000 IS TOTAL PAID TO MARCH 15.

Payments Pass Previous Records Says Collector; \$35,000 is Largest Day's Business.

With a total of more than \$117,000 receipted for in taxes at the office and with probably as much more paid at the banks in the county, the limit on the three per cent rebate on county taxes ended Friday night, March 15, with Tax Collector J. M. Grant and his deputies literally snowed under in the avalanche of letters. It is declared that it will require at least three weeks to catch up with the work of entering the amounts and mailing receipts, therefore, if payees do not receive their receipts promptly they must remember that the delay is only chargeable to the rush of work.

The largest single day's receipts amounted to more than \$25,000. In this total is included the taxes for the Southern Pacific railway which paid \$22,565 on its road bed and rolling stock assessed in Polk county.

"Tax collections have been better this year than ever before since I have had anything to do with the office," said Sheriff J. M. Grant yesterday, "and there remains but a small amount unpaid. Nearly everybody availed themselves of the three per cent rebate, but a few deciding to pay the half allowed by law at this time. During the two or three days immediately preceding last Friday, when the time limit for the rebate expired, we simply could not keep up with the rush and everybody in the office was worked to the ragged edge."