



Polk County Observer

SEMI-WEEKLY

THE HOME PAPER



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NO. 88

DALLAS WINS FIRST ROUND

THE RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS HAVE DECIDED THAT THEY HAVE JURISDICTION

Water Company to Have Until February 10th to Make Report as Requested.

Mr. G. O. Holman, special attorney for the city of Dallas, who has charge of the water works case for the city, received this morning the good news in a letter from the secretary of the board of railroad commissioners that the board has decided that they had jurisdiction in the matter, and have notified Mr. Gates, owner of the Dallas Water Works to prepare at once an itemized statement of said plant, giving in full its invoice, expenditures, receipts, rates, etc., and to have said itemized statement prepared and delivered to the Board of railroad commissioners not later than February 10th, 1914.

By the above it seems that at last that Dallas will have its unjust and high water rates adjusted, and it is the wish of all the water users that it will be such a rate that the tenants who use less than 50 cents worth of water a month will not have to pay the now minimum rate of \$1.25. With cheap water our lawns will look bright and green the year round and residents can afford to use the sprinklers wherein now the rate makes it prohibitory.

New Officers Elected.

Polk County Poultry Association met last Saturday for the annual election of officers.

The following were elected to serve for the coming year:—J. M. Card, President; E. N. Keeney, Vice-President; Winnie Braden, Secretary and Treasurer; A. G. Rempel, Henry Voht, and A. W. Teats, elective members of the executive board. Clarence Dornheeker, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

The question of score card vs. Comparison was thoroughly thrashed out and a vote taken proving the majority favored score cards.

January 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 1915, were the dates selected for the next exhibition and Judge C. G. Hinds of Oakland, California, was selected to place the awards if his services could be secured.

It was voted more coops be purchased as the present space was inadequate to properly exhibit the number of birds entered this year and our motto for next year is 1,000 birds for the best county poultry show in the state.

Commission May Fix Dallas Water Rates.

The Portland Journal published the following report from Salem last Friday:

Overruling the contentions of H. V. Gates, who is operating the Dallas water plant, under lease with the city, that the railroad commission did not have jurisdiction over the plant, on the ground it is a municipal plant, the commission has decided to take jurisdiction and will at once take steps to obtain a physical valuation of the plant upon which to base rates. Complaint has been made to the commission that the rates being charged are excessive and exorbitant. As the city exercises no authority over the plant, the commission held that it came within the authority of the commission as a public utility.

L. C. Koser.

The funeral services over the remains of L. C. Koser were held at Rickreall, Oregon, January 2nd, 1914, at 11 a. m. by Rev. O. P. Gates of Dallas, officiating, assisted by Rev. M. J. Balantyne. Interment took place at the L. O. O. F. cemetery, Dallas. Mr. Koser was an old resident of Polk County known and honored by many friends. He was born in Milford County, Pa., May 25th, 1839. On September 20th, 1860, he was united in marriage to Miss Laina Amon, who died nearly two years ago. Of this union 6 children were born. Victoria Ogden of Woster, Ohio; Fred Koser of Rickreall; Lois McDaniel, deceased; Estella McKee of Perrydale; Mattie Koser of Rickreall; John Koser of Portland. Mr. Koser came with his family to Oregon in 1885 and located near Dallas. Thence he moved to Rickreall, where he has since resided, and followed his trade of carpentering. He was a member of Gen-

eral Gibson Post G. A. R. of Independence, having served in Co. B, 34 Pa. Infantry. Members of the G. A. R. acted as bearers, were as follows:—T. J. Frazer; C. A. Dick; A. M. Bingman; J. C. Brown of Independence; Peter Cook and H. C. Fox of Dallas.

Changes in Parcels Post Rates.

Cut this out for future reference. Changes in weight limit and postage rates for fourth class matter on and after January 1, 1914. The limit of weight of parcels of fourth class mail for delivery in the first and second zones is increased from twenty to fifty pounds. The rate of postage on parcels exceeding four ounces in weight in the different zones is as follows:

First and second zones, 5c. for the first pound and 1c. for each succeeding pound or fraction thereof.

Third zone, 6c. for the first pound, 2c. for each additional pound.

Fourth zone, 7c. for the first pound, 4c. for each additional pound.

Fifth zone, 8c. for the first pound, 6c. for each additional pound.

Sixth zone, 9c. for the first pound, 8c. for each additional pound.

Seventh zone, 11c. for the first pound, 10c. for each additional pound.

Eighth zone, 12c. for the first pound or additional fraction thereof.

POST OFFICE MAKES INCREASE

DALLAS SHOWS GAIN IN 1913

Largest Increase Was Made in December.

The Dallas post office is growing along with all other branches of business and while the growth is not by leaps and bounds, it is steadily increasing.

Postmaster C. G. Coad was in hopes that this year's increase would bring the office up to the mark where Dallas would be served with carriers, but he informs us that present indications point to another year's wait.

The last year has shown a net gain in its business, and in comparing the receipts it was found that the receipts for December 1912 was \$1081.64 and December 1914, \$1198.40.

It is gratifying to know that we see all around us the evidence of prosperity and the time will not be long until our present rate of growth until your mail will be delivered at your door.

The service here at the post office is splendid and the mails are carefully handled, but we all are anxious to see the time arrive when the office will be extended and we will enjoy a free delivery.

Special Evangelistic Meetings at the Presbyterian Church.

A series of Evangelistic meetings will be inaugurated in the Presbyterian Church on Monday evening, January 12th, at 7:30 p. m. The Rev. A. L. Hutchison, D. D., pastor of the Third Presbyterian Church of Portland will be the Evangelist. Dr. Hutchison is a trusted and trained man, a man of power, an eloquent speaker and a fine expositor of the scriptures. Dr. Hutchison has had considerable experience in the evangelistic field, and at different times, his churches have given him leave of absence to carry on this special work.

He has no fads and fancies and imitates no man. He is considered one of the strongest bible expositors on the coast, and has held meetings in Wenatchee three times with marked success. If you do not want to hear bible preaching do not come to these meetings but if that is what you want, you will surely plan to attend these services.

Song Service.

The song service at the Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening was a marked success. The music rendered by the quartette composed of Miss Elva Lucas, Miss Louise Miles, Miss Lucille Hamilton, Miss Claudia Brown was rendered in a capable manner, as was also the soprano solo rendered by Miss Lucas, and the alto solo rendered by Miss Brown, showed that these young ladies have marked ability and a bright future before them. Although the evening was very inclement, a good audience turned out to hear them. The following was the program quartette:—Miss Lucas, Miss Miles, Miss Hamilton, Miss Brown. Soprano Solo, Miss Lucas; Duet, Miss Lucas, Miss Miles; Chorus by the choir, Alto Solo, Miss Brown.

MONMOUTH PROSPEROUS

HEALTHY GROWTH DURING PAST YEAR

Industries Show Substantial Gain in 1913. City Population Increases.

The following from the Sunday Oregonian gives Monmouth a nice write-up:

The year of 1913 has passed with Monmouth and the surrounding farming district are enjoying a period of prosperity in the various industrial branches. The year has been one of great activity and it is doubtful if any year ever has equaled the present one in its accomplishments. Not only has there been a constant increase in the amount of money brought to this district, but the population of this city has increased.

Monmouth is situated in the southeastern part of Polk County and is the center of a rich agricultural area. Several years ago the farmers and dairymen in the surrounding farming districts met here and promoted plans for a creamery, which was built. This was the second to be erected in Polk County, the first one having been built at Independence. The concern is owned by farmers and dairymen and has twice paid substantial dividends.

Not long after the meeting for a creamery was held, the fruit growers met and organized the Monmouth Evaporating and Canning Company. A cannery and drier were built, and the growing of all kinds of fruit was encouraged. Many acres were set out to various kinds of fruit trees, and each year a large quantity of prunes has been handled. The plant is operated by Monmouth capital.

Grain Grown Extensively. Considerable money has come to this district as a result of extensive grain raising by the farmers. In addition to the regular grain crops, much clover has been planted within the past two years. This crop gives excellent pasture to sheep, produces a good hay crop each year, and a valuable seed crop. New varieties of grain were tried out this year. The greater number proved successful.

Two warehouses are located in Monmouth to care for the grain crops and the stone mill makes the well-known Monmouth brand flour.

One project, which is receiving much attention, is the oil well prospect, two miles north of this city on the Whiteaker farm. The well is more than 1500 feet deep and gases were evident during the last part of the drilling.

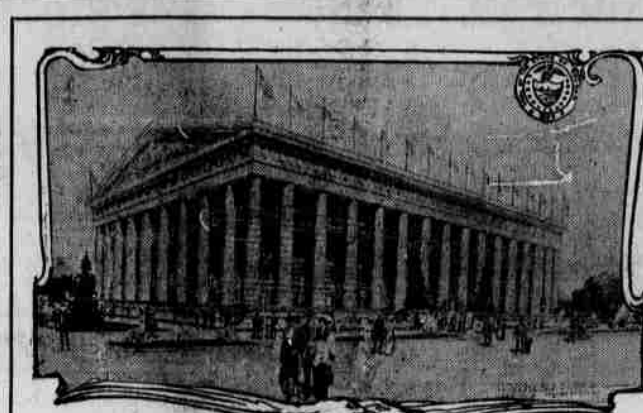
In addition to numerous street and sidewalk improvements in Monmouth, a new garage and brick building were built on Main street. As the result of a complaint filed by the people of the city and adjacent country to the Oregon Railroad Commission against the station here, a new depot was erected at the intersection of the Independence, Dallas & Astoria tracks in this city. The new structure is modern and fully adequate to handle the increased business. The fare between Monmouth and Dallas, a distance of about eight miles, was cut from 30 to 25 cents, and the different branches of railroad service are improved.

City Owns Water Plant. Monmouth owns its own gravity water system, the reservoir of which is located on Cupid's Knoll, west of the city, and is about 110 feet above Main street. Meters are established and a sufficient pressure attained. The city has a superintendent employed.

In a favorite location is situated the Oregon Normal School, the only Oregon state institution for the training of students for teachers. A new girls' dormitory and heating plant were built for the school and a large gymnasium is now in course of construction. The attendance at the school grows yearly. The public grade school, located in a separate building, is used as a training school for the Oregon Normal School, where the students get practice in teaching under the best critics. The Monmouth High School, situated one block east of the Normal building, is an independent school, the enrollment of which is greater this year. Monmouth has no saloons, billiard or pool halls.

Famous throughout the United States are the sheep and Angora goats of the Monmouth farming district. For years the stock has won prizes and shipments have been made to other countries. Monmouth's reputation as the center of the livestock industry in Polk County already has become well established.

This district offers various opportunities for settlers, especially in agriculture. Extensive berry growing has in several instances been made profitable, and some good loganberry yields have been obtained on small acreages. Persons who came here years ago with a willingness to work are now comfortably situated. Farming, dairying and horticulture offer exceptionally good opportunities here, and any of the industries will bear investigation.



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BEAUTIFUL OREGON BUILDING AT THE PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION, SAN FRANCISCO, 1915.

OREGON, the first state to select and dedicate a site at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, was also the first to accept designs for her state building. This very interesting structure, neighbor to New York's great building, has been designed in the chaste spirit of the golden age of Greece's architecture. It will be 150 by 250 feet and designed on the classic line of Ictinus' Parthenon. The columns, which Greece herself modeled in marble from previous exemplars in wood of a more ancient architecture, will revert to the original and be of timber brought from Oregon's forests. They will be five feet in diameter and forty feet in height. Not only will the materials which will be placed within the structure be Oregon's products, but the materials of which the state palace will be constructed will come from Oregon's vast resources.

ROAD LAW IN COURT

CASE TO BE APPEALED

Attorneys in the Case Agree That Decision of Higher Courts is Necessary.

Whether the law passed by the last Legislature regulating the loads that can be hauled over certain roads prescribed by order of the County Court is a valid law, or whether it will not stand the test, will be determined through contempt proceedings brought in the County Court against W. H. Able of Independence. Able appeared in Court Friday and Walter L. Toomey, Jr., was appointed as his attorney.

Able has been hauling wood over a road near Independence, the county court ordering that road to loads of a certain weight, with a certain width tire. An order was served on Able to desist but he continued to haul such loads at certain intervals.

A demurrer to the affidavit in the proceedings was interceded yesterday after the court had overruled a motion to dismiss and on the recommendation of both counsel for defense and for plaintiff, the court sustained the demurrer and District Attorney Upjohn gave notice he would appeal to the Circuit Court.

"I wish to make my standpoint clear in taking the rather unprecedented action of stating to the court that I would have no objection to seeing the remurrer of the defendant sustained," stated the District Attorney. "I believe the law in question is invalid in a number of ways and will not stand the test of the judicial crucible. I believe the legislature has no right to declare that the people of Polk County are prescribed from doing certain things, while the law allows the people of Multnomah County to do those things. This law applies only to counties west of the Cascade mountains, Multnomah County excepted. In addition this law declares that when the county court has prescribed what roads shall not be traveled by loads of certain weights, the Sheriff shall serve a copy of the order on those violating its provisions. This is a manifest absurdity. Anyone, on whom an order has not been served, can travel over the road with impunity. Only those who have been served with such an order can be punished. A man from Yamhill County can drive along the road and be free from fear, while the hard working citizen of Polk County, who is endeavoring to make an honest living for his wife and family on a road which he has assisted to pay for, must bear the consequences of being so rash and displaying such temerity as to drive over that road."

"I am satisfied that the law will never stand the test, but I want to see it tried out once for all, and I believe every farmer in Polk County wishes to see its validity determined. Inasmuch as the State can appeal from the ruling of the court as to a demurrer of this kind, I ask the court to sustain this demurrer so that we can appeal, and that this defendant,

H. E. Dashiell.

Deacons:—C. A. Black; C. H. Morris; H. Morrison; H. C. Seymour; R. F. Van Nortwick; S. T. Jones; E. N. Gilliam; Frank Lane; James Rose; A. N. Newbill; L. A. Dickinson; J. L. Clifford; I. L. Smith; L. J. Ramey; S. J. Gibson; E. E. Tribble; H. E. Dashiell.

Officers:—Moderator, J. F. Driscoll; H. G. Campbell; H. D. McDonald; H. C. Seymour; C. H. Morris; C. J. Gray.

Officers:—Treasurer, A. N. Newbill; Clerk, E. Hayter; Trustee, Geo. W. Myer; Superintendent of Bible School, H. G. Black; Assistant Superintendent, I. J. Ramey.

After the program the ladies of the church served light refreshments in the lower room, to all those present, which constituted a very large percentage of the members of the congregation, which now numbers nearly four hundred.

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who is attempting to earn an honest living and is practically without funds, will not be compelled to be made the 'goat' of a law which is doubtful in its construction, to say the least."

They Were Here.

The Woodburn High School basketball team will go over to Dallas to play the High School team of that place. At the game they are going they ought to be able to win without much trouble. The regular five, composed of Whitman, Sims, Hicks, Harper and Ward, will go.—Woodburn Independent.

The game set by the Dallas team was entirely too fast for the visitors, the score Friday night was 42 to 13 in favor of the Dallas team.

LA CREOLE CLUB ANNUAL MEET

DALLAS SOCIAL CLUB SUCCESSFUL

Membership increased and Finances in Splendid Shape.

The La Creole Club held their annual meeting for the election of officers and other business Sunday. There were about sixty members present and the following is a list of the officers elected for the following year: W. L. Soehren, President; J. M. Grant, Vice-President; F. J. Craven, Secretary; W. G. Vassall, Treasurer.

TRUSTEES: E. Hayter, A. F. Toner, C. Gregory, W. R. Coulter, J. E. Miller.

At this meeting W. V. Fuller retires as president, which office he has filled faithfully for eight years, during this period the club has advanced along every line.

When Mr. Fuller was first elected, the club was in debt and the furnishings were very meagre; now the furnishings are of the best and they have moved to more comfortable quarters where they now enjoy all the luxuries which go to make an up-to-date club home, and are out of debt and have money in the bank, with a membership of about 130.

T. H. Morrison, who we have been informed the most active person in the organization of this club and in its early history, was recognized as its father.

The following were charter members:

E. H. Morrison, J. E. Sibley, C. L. Starr, H. C. Eakin, Tracy Staats, R. E. Williams, E. C. Kirkpatrick, C. G. Coad, W. G. Vassall, Oscar Hayter, D. J. Riley, T. J. Cherrington, G. N. Cherrington, K. L. Chapman, F. J. Chapman.

The first officers were:—C. L. Starr, President; Tracy Staats, Secretary; and H. C. Eakin, Treasurer.

Commercial Club Will Meet.

The Dallas Commercial Club will hold its annual meeting tomorrow evening at the court house. Besides business of importance, there will be held the annual election of officers. A request is made that the members of this live organization will be on hand as the new year promises to be one of great immigration to Oregon and the club is anxious that Polk County will receive their share of the eastern citizens who will be drawn to Oregon in 1914. No state in the Union can make a better showing than Oregon and no County can excel Polk. We have the goods and to those who want to be showmen can deliver.

Written by Dallas Boy.

On page three in this issue the poem entitled "Storming of Copperfield" was written by Dean Collins of this city. When Dean was a small boy his father asked him what was the kind of profession he expected to follow. Dean with his usually quiet voice quickly replied, I want to be a poet. He has made good.

Library Benefit.

The date for the Library Benefit has been made, Friday evening, January 16th. The play to be presented is entitled, "A Family Affair" and will be given by local talent. The benefit will be given at the Armory. Get your tickets early and help out a good cause.

Marriage License.

Marriage license was issued Monday to Cornelius Steingard and Miss Marie H. Friesen, both of Dallas.

NEW TAX LAW NOT LIKED

STATE ACT DECLARED ABUSIVE

Mayor Albee of Portland to Call Special Meeting of Council to Consider Situation.

Many taxpayers no doubt do not fully understand the new tax law which is now in force in Oregon, and the following review given the matter by the Oregonian Monday will give you a correct version of the present law and in what way it is different from the old law.

Resume of Tax Law Provisions. County Treasurer is made collector of all save delinquent taxes; the Sheriff collects on delinquents. No rebate will be paid on any taxes. (Three per cent formerly was allowed if paid before March 1.)

All taxes are due and payable until April 1. They are not delinquent until September 1, penalty of 10 per cent is charged, also interest at 12 per cent per annum from date of delinquency.

Certificates of delinquency, bearing interest at the rate of 15 per cent per annum, shall be issued one month after delinquency. (Formerly six months were allowed.)

Old delinquency charge of 10 per cent for failure to pay taxes by the first Monday in April is eliminated.

Mayor Albee announced yesterday that he will call a special meeting of the City Council immediately to consider the advisability of requesting Governor West to convene the Oregon Legislature in extraordinary session for the purpose of correcting what the Mayor declares are gross abuses in the new tax law, passed at the last regular session of the Legislature Assembly.

City Attorney LaRoche completed a special report, made at Mayor Albee's request, and turned it over to the City Executive yesterday. It revealed a situation considered by the Mayor to be so serious that he decided to call a special meeting of the City Council, at which he will submit the facts to the members and he probably will ask cooperation of it on the basis of making a request of the Governor for an extra legislative session.

C. W. Hodson, a well-known resident of Portland, also has given the measure much study and has found in it many provisions that he says are objectionable.

Although the Legislature so changed the law that, unless all taxes are paid by April 1, stiff penalties will ensue, this fact, it has been found, has not been at all generally known; only the removal of the 3 per cent rebate, allowed under the old law, seems to have been well understood by the tax-paying public.

One feature to which Mayor Albee takes especially sharp exception is that those purchasing delinquent tax titles may charge interest at the rate of 15 per cent a year after one month, whereas, before six months were given the owner of the property.

High Interest Not Liked. Another section of the new law against which the Mayor raises serious objections is that interest at 12 per cent per annum may be charged on all taxes delinquent after September 1 and certificates of delinquency may draw interest at the rate of 15 per cent per annum.

City Attorney LaRoche, in his report to Mayor Albee, gives a review of the old and the new tax laws, in part, as follows:

The laws of 1907 provide that the taxes shall be paid on or before March 15, a rebate of 3 per cent was allowed. Taxpayers were given the option of paying one-half of their taxes on or before the first Monday in April, and upon such payment, the payment of the second half was postponed until the first Monday in October, and if paid at that time no penalty or interest was attached. If the first half was not paid by the first Monday in April, the whole tax became delinquent and was subject to a 10 per cent penalty and interest at the rate of 12 per cent per annum. If the first half was paid on or before the first Monday in April, but the second half thereupon became delinquent, a 10 per cent penalty was imposed and interest computed at 12 per cent per annum from the date of the payment of the first installment.

(Continued on Page Four.)