

The Polk County Observer

(TWICE-A-WEEK)

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(THE HOME PAPER)

NO. 102

FROM POLK

EVERY PAYS THIS OVER \$100,000.

Hop Yards Ideal for Cannery Could More Evergreens.

The fruit used by the cannery operated by Hunt Brothers in Polk county; 90 per cent of the pears and 75 per cent of the apples, come from this county. The cannery pays \$100,000 a year to Polk growers according to W. G. Hunt Brothers' Sales department. The fruit was harvested Saturday on the cannery's wants

from these figures. The cannery bridge tangle in Polk county, said Mr. Allen, means a great loss to the growers. They cannot run anywhere without Polk county. The cannery will help some, but whether the ferry will handle the vast quantities of fruit transported; then the cannery will materially cut the growers' income.

Special emphasis on the cannery could use more evergreens than all the other crops together, yet the evergreens around Dallas. The reason for the evergreen crop never fails because the blossoms before the yield per acre with irrigation reaches 8 tons and as high as 12." Hunt offering to write 10 year contracts for \$50 per ton and can supply quantity.

and raspberries will be as the hops are dug up, of Mr. Allen. "The of the hop yards are variety of berry," said cannery man.

could sell three times supply of black cap I am willing to write contracts for 150 acres more Mr. Allen. "On the longer, a new variety, the best type to grow; it is less seedy than the American. Last year 180 a ton for these berries

make their season as long as possible, Hunt with gooseberries, most get from West Salem. are prolific growers and there is no big crop, according to Mr. Allen. He also not eat the real tart, 15 days in the year. Still a few more contracts

mentioned against the more loganberries. The established and there is set out in loganberry seems to be ahead of green now. The same is now; production is nearly as much home consumption as there is abroad.

of cherries depends upon ability to find some prevent their cracking according to Mr. Allen. simply because the through the pores of the cells until they open." Mr. Allen believes waterproof spray will which will stop this there a bright future for country. The cherries will ripe and not just to cracking, the season lengthened out and the able if this handicap is Hunt Brothers are not contracts on cherries un- clears up, but they handle from 30 to 40 than they did last year. use 200 tons of sour year but there is no " said Mr. Allen, in talk. "There is al- demand for this fruit and is not as apt to split

EVERY TO PAY TAXES

Every Taking M...

Every Taking M... Paid So Far.

Every Taking M... receipts represent...

The first turnover was made Saturday noon and the amount was \$7463.60 as against \$1588.23 in a longer time, last year.

The tax roll was not turned over to the sheriff until February 13 this year, ten days later than last year, but the amount collected is far in advance. People seem anxious to pay their taxes. Two citizens wanted to pay before Christmas, and inquiries have been coming in frequently during the past six weeks. Although only one half of the taxes have to be paid by April 5, nine out of every ten are paying the full amount—something unusual for this county or any other.

The sheriff's office is a busy place these days; Deputies Hooker and Richter are on the jump collecting taxes and Sheriff Orr is serving papers all over the county.

Good Averages at Gun Shoot.

Averages were higher and the high individual score lower at the La Creole Gun club shoot Friday night. Five out of the six members participating, averaged 88 or better. H. A. Webster again carried off the honors with an average of 92; Oscar Ellis and H. W. Stump shot 90; A. F. Toner, 89; Ben Werner 88; and H. M. Edgar, 77.

PRUNE RETURNS LARGE

POLK GROWERS RECEIVED \$210,000 FOR 1916 CROP.

Sixteen Hundred Acres in County Produced 3,500,000 Pounds of Dried Fruit.

Sixteen hundred acres of producing prune land in Polk county gave a total of 3,500,000 pounds of dried prunes in 1916. This was the largest crop ever produced in the county, and it is conservatively valued at \$210,000.00. This crop gave wage earners of the county over \$50,000 in cash during the past year.

According to figures compiled by a prominent prune raiser of Dallas, the average crop of prune (dried) was 2125 pounds to the acre, or in green fruit about 6200 pounds to the acre, worth \$127.50. The harvesting of Polk's crop cost \$31.60 per acre, cultivation \$10 per acre and taxes \$3 per acre. Figuring the value on an average of \$500 per acre, the interest at 6 per cent amounts to \$30 per acre, leaving an average net profit of \$52.90 for the growers in 1916, and the actual profits after paying all labor costs for the handling of the crop were \$84,640.

Besides the 1600 acres in bearing, there were last year 1600 more acres which had not reached a productive stage. The increase in value on these 16000 acres is figured very conservatively at \$50 per acre per year, so that last year these 16000 unbearing acres increased in value \$80,000. This year's planting has been quite heavy, too, and will add materially to this. It cost \$9,600 to cultivate the unbearing land, and allowing \$3200 more for interest on this acreage there was a net increase of \$67,200.

The packing plant employed a force of 125 people to pack the prunes, 40 men and 85 women. Their payroll was \$15,000. It cost to cultivate last year \$16,000, and to harvest the crop \$50,569, making a total of \$81,569 which went to labor in handling the prune crop of the county.

A typical case of one prune raiser is cited. His orchard produced 4000 pounds of dried fruit to the acre, which was worth \$240. It cost this man \$60 to harvest, \$10 to cultivate (including pruning) \$3 taxes, and he figured interest at 6 per cent on \$500; it left him a net profit of \$103 per acre, or if he would have to pay 6 per cent on a valuation of \$1000 per acre he would have had left \$73 per acre in ready cash.

And the prune industry is just in its infancy in Polk county.

Sells Confectionery Store.

The W. P. Lewis confectionery store on Main street has been sold to Jessie I. Potter of Salem. Mr. Potter took charge of the business last Sunday morning. Mr. Lewis has not decided what business he will engage in, but expects to remain in Dallas for the present.

Sherwood Gets Fine Ranch.

L. C. Sherwood of Rickreall last week purchased the 133-acre farm of the Basket heirs, located about a mile northeast of Rickreall. The farm is located near Mr. Sherwood's holdings and is considered one of the finest farms in that part of the county.

LICENSE FEE REFUNDED WORK ONE DAY EXTRA

COUNCIL DOES NOT COLLECT FROM JOLLY ENTERTAINERS

Routine Business Transacted at Regular Meeting of City Fathers Last Night; Just Quorum Present.

The regular meeting of the city fathers last night was uneventful; only four councilmen were present and routine business was the order of the session.

The council unanimously agreed to refund the license fee which the city was allowed to collect from the "Jolly Entertainers." Cities all along the way have been letting the juvenile musicians put on their show without license.

An ordinance was read for the first time which puts the repairing of buildings within the fire limits at the discretion of the council. The purpose of the ordinance is to allow repairs to wooden residences, which are included in the fire limits and which will probably not be needed for the business district for some time. The ordinance will eliminate all hardships to this class of property.

The budget system was finally adopted last night when all voted aye on the second reading of the ordinance. The law provides that any supplies for the city must be ordered by the chairman of the committee involved. Upon presentation of the order, duly signed, the auditor and police judge shall issue a requisition. Anyone violating the provisions of this ordinance is liable to a fine of not less than \$2 and not more than \$50.

The case of two property holders who took advantage of the bonding act for street improvements but have failed to keep up their yearly payments and interest, was referred to the finance committee with instructions to ascertain just what the delinquents intended to do, so that the council might act accordingly.

Councilman Campbell volunteered to look into the value of the city's engine and boiler at the rock quarry, as Mayor Stone has received inquiries as to what the city would sell them for.

Councilmen Muir, Sweeney and Young were not able to attend last night's meeting.

REHEARSALS BEGUN FOR PLAY.

"Peg O' My Heart" To Be Given By High School Soon.

Rehearsals have begun for the student body play, "Peg O' My Heart," which will be presented early in March, with Miss Elsie Forrette in the title role. Miss Forrette took the leading part in last year's production, "Polly of the Circus," and has returned to school to take the part of Peg, the lovable, madcap, Irish heroine.

The play is a thriller from start to finish and presents many humorously pathetic situations. The student body is putting forth its best efforts to make the play an artistic and financial success. The cast is as follows: Mrs. Chester, a widow...Hallie Smith Ethel Chester, her daughter...Maude Barnes Alarie Chester, her son, Walter Craven Peg O'Connell, their cousin...Elsie Forrette Jerry (Sir Gerald Adair)...Harry Graves Christian Brent...Frank McCann Mr. Hawkes, a lawyer, William Young Jarvis, the butler...Samuel Halsey

The play is under the direction of Miss Gladys Cartwright.

Hawley's Lime Bill Loses Out.

Senator Curtis L. Hawley's bill to create a state lime board to produce agricultural lime by convict labor was reported adversely by the joint ways and means committee. Bean's bill to subsidize a private quarrying company met the same fate. Instead, a resolution was adopted calling upon the bureau of mines to make a thorough investigation and report to the next session of the legislature.

Prominent Masons Visit Here.

William A. Moore, grand master of Oregon Masons, and James F. Robinson, secretary, passed through Dallas Friday enroute to Falls City, where they will spend some time in the interest of the lodge there. The two officers are visiting the smaller Masonic lodges of the state.

Bennett and Gooch Hel' Rickreall.

Elmo Bennett and Fre' Gooch scored most of Rickreall's points against Buena Vista Friday night; Buena Vista won 30 to 25. Gooch played center and Bennett, forward.

LEGISLATURE FORCED TO WHEN BOND BILL HANGS

House Ahead of Senate in Work—No Working Majority in Upper Body; Lobbyists Also Blamed.

Members of the Legislative Assembly of Oregon are one day late, this year, in returning to the bosom of their constituents. The immediate cause of the extra day without pay was the blocking of the \$6,000,000 road bond bill in the senate Saturday. At 10:30 that night both houses agreed to adjourn until 10:30 a. m. Monday.

The prolongation of the session may be traced to a number of other causes, however. Men who have watched legislatures come and go for many years remark that this is the first time within their recollection that in the course of 40 days, 16 or more of the 30 men, constituting the senate, have not gravitated together as a working majority. There is practically no floor organization in the upper body.

Lobbyists have been even more in evidence than ever this session. There has been an unprecedented amount of interference from special interests and individuals who have seemed to imagine that they were specially endowed leaders and circles of public opinion.

The 100 or more bills left over on the calendar may cause some to think that much important legislation still awaited action. As a matter of fact, the two houses had passed nearly all their measures of importance. Indeed, all that was needed to round out a record for real efficiency was adoption of the \$6,000,000 road bonding measure.

Among the bills passed are a dozen that may be considered constructive, but they are constructive only in the sense that they benefit particular lines of industry or particular phases of morality.

Irrigation has been aided with needed code amendments; the insurance code has passed; the military code has been brought into conformity with federal enactments; the grain standard has been adopted; the bill to enforce the bone-dry law has been honestly drafted and passed; rural school terms have been lengthened; streams have been opened to logging; needed revision in the Highway commission law has been provided; cut-throat competition in public utilities has been prevented by passage of the certificate of public convenience bill; sterilization act has passed and the anti-cigarette law has been strengthened.

The rest of the legislation, for the most part, was of minor importance and of local interest. A poem from the St. Louis Globe Democrat, seems to apply to this class of law-making. It follows:

Are your neighbors very bad?
Pass a law!
Do they smoke? Do they chew?
Pass a law!
Are they bothering you?
Don't they do as you would do?
Pass a law!
Are your wages awful low?
Pass a law!
Are the prices much too high?
Do the wife and babies cry
'Cause the turkey's roost so high?
Pass a law!

When M. D. finds new diseases,
Pass a law!
Got the mumps or encephalitis,
Measles, croup or "epertitis"?
Lest we all should fly to pieces,
Pass a law!

Are the light a-burning red?
Pass a law!
Paint 'em green, or paint 'em white,
Close up all them places tight!
My! Our town is such a sight!
Pass a law!

No matter what the trouble is,
Pass a law!
Goodness sakes, but ain't it awful!
My! What are we going to do?
Almost anything ain't lawful.
And the judge is human, too!
Pass a law!

LUMBER DEMAND IS LARGE.

Polk County Timber Men Believe

There is an increased demand for lumber throughout the United States at the present time because of the change in attitude of railroad officials, who for several years past favored all-steel freight carriers, according to J. E. Donohoe, president of the Booth-Kelly Lumber company, which has extensive holdings in the

Willamette valley.

Owners of timber land in Polk county are holding; they expect to realize a large return on investment within the next few years on account of this increased demand for lumber.

"For several years car builders were prejudiced against lumber and favored steel for construction purposes," said Mr. Donohoe. "This feeling has largely disappeared during the past few months, as railroad men have found that freight cars with wooden frames and steel under frames are far more desirable. There are thousands of freight cars under construction at the present time, and as a result of the change in the attitude of the builders the demand for lumber has increased. Then, too, there is a large amount of building in progress in various lines throughout the United States.

New Sign For Gail Hotel.

Chas. Bilyen, proprietor of the Gail hotel, has made arrangements to have a handsome new electric sign installed on the front of the building. The sign will be of the same type as that used at the Oregon Power company's office and will be set in such a way that it can be seen from four directions. The Oregon Power company will install it about the 15th of March.

POLK APPROACH READY

SALEM IS SLOW IN PREPARING FOR FERRY

Only One Ferry Will Operate. Capable of Transferring 80 Passengers and 16 Teams In One Trip.

The Polk county approach for the ferry, which will provide the temporary means of communication between the two counties until the bridge is built, is practically ready for travel but the work on the other side of the Willamette is of a dilatory nature, according to Roadmaster Waldo Finn.

Up to this week the work on the Marion county approach consisted of cutting a few briars and a fir tree but very little dirt has been moved. The Salem Ferry company will have the only ferry on the run; the Marion county court and Salem Commercial club offered a franchise to Ben Mitchell, a Portland ferryman, whose rates would have been about double those of the Salem Ferry company, but he is unable to secure a lease on property on this side of the river for a landing, within the zone desired. E. C. Bushnell, a property owner of West Salem, and G. C. Skinner, of Independence, are the owners of the Salem Ferry company.

Mr. Skinner's gasoline launch, which has been plying between Independence and East Independence, will supply the power for operation. The launch will carry 80 persons and the ferry proper will be 120 feet long and 20 feet wide, capable of carrying 16 teams. The ferry will be operated on a water line cable and will make the round trip inside of 20 minutes.

The rates, which the company will charge for service, will be determined by the Salem Commercial club and the Polk county court, acting jointly. The law requires that notices must be posted 20 days before a license can be granted for traffic and the two bodies will get together as soon as this time is up and fix the rates. The company has a U. S. Marine license, now, and needs only the permission of the Salem Commercial club and the Polk court, both of which have practically been assured. It is believed the ferry will be operating within a week.

The Polk county approach is directly east of the end of the old bridge approach, on a straight line with the Dallas and Salem road. The Salem approach is back of the old gas works, between Court and Cheeketa streets. The ferry will make a great difference to the farmers of West Salem in handling this year's crops; without it they could realize scarcely any return for their work and on their investments.

Salem May Have Paper Mill.

Chas. K. Spaulding returned to Salem recently from San Francisco, where he has been interesting capitalists in the building of a paper and pulp mill in Salem. A company in which Mr. Spaulding is interested recently bought the Salem Flouring mill property and power site on Trade street. Paper manufacturers will be in Salem soon to look over the situation. They feel that Salem offers advantages for the erection of a large mill but wish to make a personal investigation.

DALLAS WINS BIG GAME

MULTNOMAH IS OUTPLAYED IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

Five Hundred People See Local Five Defeat One of Strongest Teams In The State.

(By H. K.)

Dallas completely outplayed Multnomah Saturday night and won 16 to 9 before 500 wildly enthusiastic fans. "Pabo" Shaw was the individual star of the game; he played the fast Dewey to a standstill at all stages and slipped down the floor often enough to shoot three baskets, himself.

The victory was not due to any one factor, however; the best team won. At times Multnomah would show some brilliant floor work and passing, but they were unable to break through the Dallas final defense and were forced to shoot from near the center of the floor with the usual result that Dallas would secure the rebound and start their teamwork, which proved more effective, as the story of field baskets shows: Dallas 7, Multnomah 3.

Multnomah drew first blood when Ira Mix handed a horse-shoe from the middle of the floor. Dewey rivaled his teammate's effort a few minutes later with a beautiful side arm "shove" shot from a difficult angle. Dallas had hard luck the first part of the first half; several shots flirited with the basket rim and seemed almost embraced in the meshes of Mr. Two-Points, but finally escaped, amid a groan from the expectant audience. Shaw broke the ice by eluding the Multnomah star, Dewey, and scoring the first counter for Dallas. Three others followed before the whistle blew; one by Boydston was the result of some pretty passing and one was a "blue-ribbon" shot from the side of the floor by Carl Fenton. Shaw finished the fireworks with a second basket, making the count 9 to 4 at the end of the first half.

Laird Woods broke away from his hoodoo in the second half and scored two field baskets, despite the close guarding of Twining. Multnomah opened up their long shot campaign full blast but none of the efforts were successful. Amid the cannonade Toomey and Edwards had several chances to score short shots but missed by a narrow margin each time. Dallas played a safer game, content with their six-point lead, which they maintained throughout.

The game got a little rougher as it proceeded and Referee Jamieson called more fouls in the second half. Dewey shot three out of four and Boydston two out of as many tries. Clerin substituted for Edwards towards the close of the game.

The armory was filled to capacity with Dallas fans and admirers of the local quintet from the surrounding towns; there were about 500 paid admissions. This game closed the basketball season in Dallas unless the team decides to play Willamette University, which is anxious for a game. Referee Jamieson handled the game in an able manner, being especially efficient at calling out of bounds.

JUVENILE TROUPE ENTERTAINS

Musical Program Makes Hit With Dallas People.

Twenty-four "Jolly Entertainers" pleased an enthusiastic Dallas audience last night with a splendid musical program. Solos by miniature prima donnas, instrumental quintets, songs in costume and last but not least, the big band, full of pep, were all heartily received.

The troupe is in charge of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Draper, who have legally adopted the 24 kiddies and who make a living for themselves and their large family by these entertainments. When not on the road their home is at DeMaines, Washington, not far from Seattle. During the day the young folks go to school, under the instruction of Mrs. Draper, from 10 a. m. until noon and from 1:30 to 4 p. m., much the same as public school children.

The juvenile troupe gave a free concert at the high school yesterday morning and the band was out on the streets advertising the big show. Most of the music is popular; for instance: "In the Valley of the Moon," "Are You From Dixie" and "Yaaka Hula, Hickey Dula." Many of the youngsters were entertained at homes of local people during their stay here. The company is making a tour of the valley.

The Odd Fellows will have work in the initiatory degree on Thursday evening.