

# The Independence Enterprise

## FIVE BUSINESS HOUSES ARE CONSUMED

### EARLY MORNING BLAZE CAUSES TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR LOSS

#### Fire Spreads Rapidly Over the Frame Structures on C Street and Wipes Out Five Buildings.

Fire originating in the rear of A. Nelson's meat market, which was located in the J. S. Cooper building on the north side of C street, between Main and First streets, consumed the building and contents and spread to the adjoining buildings on either side with like results. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is supposed to have started from the furnace used in the back room, for rendering lard etc. Mr. Nelson had a fire in the furnace during the early part of the evening, and when he went home the fire is said to have been still burning. The furnace had been used for a number of years, and it was supposed to be perfectly safe, but by some defect in the flue or the brick walls of the furnace the fire evidently broke out. Before the star was turned in the building was entirely enveloped in flames and it looked as if both sides of the street would be destroyed, but by diligent efforts on the part of the fire department a serious conflagration was averted. The total loss is unknown, but it is estimated that it will exceed \$10,000.

It required but little time for the wind to haul the angry flames into other buildings which were quickly consumed.

According to a statement made by the night watch he discovered the fire at about 1:30 when it was no larger than a water pail. A. Anderson, who owned the building just east of the meat market, and occupied a room close to where the fire originated, was awakened by an unusual noise and made the discovery that the entire back end of the building was enveloped in flames. Before himself and wife could dress, the fire reached the building they occupied. When Mr. Anderson went out on the street he saw no one but the night watch. The alarm was immediately turned in and people living in that immediate vicinity hurried to the scene, but the flames had reached beyond human control and were fast sweeping over the roof of other buildings, supported by a strong wind from the northeast, which made the situation look serious indeed.

Mr. Anderson lost nearly everything. He conducted a bicycle shop in the front part of the building and resided in the rear, and nearly every piece of property he owned was destroyed. No insurance was carried on the stock or building and his loss is total.

Working its way rapidly through the little vacant building west of where it originated, the fire penetrated the walls of the second-hand store owned by A. M. Brown, and the building and contents, except a few articles carried out by willing hands, were soon consumed. Another store was considerably damaged, but the fire department prevented the flames from proceeding farther in this direction and the bakery suffered only slight damage by reason of water and the sudden removal of goods from the building.

On the east side of the meat market the two story building owned by Ben Whiteaker and occupied by J. M. McCaleb as a photograph gallery, was entirely consumed. Mr. McCaleb's loss is estimated at \$1500 and was covered by \$500 insurance. A. M. Brown's loss was total, as he carried no insurance whatever, and it is understood that Mr. Nelson, proprietor of the meat market, also was without insurance. The Odd Fellows building caught fire several times, as did buildings on the opposite side of the street, but the firemen were on the alert and prevented losses other than what has been mentioned, except that windows were broken out of buildings on the south and east sides of the fire caused by the intense heat.

To Al Whitney is due the credit of saving the buildings on the south side of C street. At a period of the exciting hour when the flames had reached the roof-tops of Fluke & Johnson's store and J. R. Cooper's saloon, and the Independence Hotel was in danger, the water pressure seemed to give out and there was not sufficient force to get a stream upon the buildings. Mr. Whitney jumped into his automobile and rushed to the power house with great speed to find that the pumps were being operated, but no water was coming forth. He, having had considerable experience in that department, immediately started a stream of water with considerable force, and it came just in time to prevent further losses.

One discouraging feature of the conflagration was seen in the number of able men who stood around on the street without offering the least assistance in removing goods from the burning buildings, while frail women and children seemed to over-exert themselves in efforts to save property for the unfortunate. The fire company, however, did excellent work from the moment they arrived until the fire had been subdued.

The buildings consumed were all frame structures and had stood for many years. When the fire spread over the top of the buildings it took but a short time for the flames to work through the walls and in a little more than an hour from the time the fire was started, only a huge pile of ashes and debris marked the place where the old land marks stood.

Mrs. Bascoe, who occupies a room in the Odd Fellows building with her millinery store, suffered slight loss by water.

J. S. Cooper, after he went home from the fire, went to sleep and dreamed the property owners commenced clearing away the debris before the fire had hardly become extinct, preparatory to the erection of fire proof buildings. He said the next morning, that he intended to do his part to make that dream real. He intends to erect a concrete building on the lot made vacant by the fire, and it is probable that others will make a move in that direction in the near future. This is a good business section of the city and the lots are more valuable than the buildings were. With a new fire proof block on the north side of C street, Independence will be a much better city than before.

A. M. Brown moved what furniture he saved from the fire into H. Hirschberg's building and will probably continue business there until he can make arrangements for another location, or rebuild.

A. Anderson is as yet undecided as to what he will pursue in the future. His capital is limited, having lost everything he owned and it is difficult at present for him to form much of an idea how to proceed in his business. Mr. McCaleb will probably become established in the photograph business in some other location in the near future. He has conducted a photograph gallery in Independence for a great many years and will undoubtedly continue. It is rumored also that a meat market will be started in some other part of the city, but whether Mr. Nelson will be identified in the enterprise or not is undecided.

The fire ended without a single accident of any importance. One or two persons were slightly bruised by falling timbers, and others were slightly burned, but nothing of a serious nature occurred.

The Home Telephone was also quite a heavy loser on account of the fire, and for a couple of days the city was without the service given by that company.

While our fire chief was sleeping, flames over our beautiful town were leaping. As the buildings were going down to fry graves; no one thought of poor "Mark Grimes." The flames swept over a half a block, but our fire chief never awoke 'til one o'clock.—Contributed.

### SALEM BANQUETS THE PRESIDENT

#### Business Men from Independence and Dallas Join Mr. Hirschberg at Lunch.

To show their appreciation of the improved train service between Independence and Salem and Dallas and Salem, provided by H. Hirschberg, president of the Independence & Monmouth Railway Co., the Salem Business Men's League and Board of Trade arranged to banquet a delegation from Independence and Dallas at the Hotel Marion in this city upon the arrival of the first train Monday morning. The coach left Independence at 8:25 with a party of invited guests of the president of the road and at the S. P. crossing a delegation from Dallas were waiting to join the Independence party. Upon reaching the station at West Salem the Polk county delegation was met by representatives of the Board of Trade who had provided automobiles for their conveyance to the Marion Hotel.

At the noon hour a banquet was given by the Salem people who did everything possible to make it pleasant for their guests during the day. Words can scarcely express the appreciation of Independence people on account of the reception tendered them upon this occasion. It is unfortunate that a larger representation from this city did not attend. Those who represented Independence were H. Hirschberg, J. S. Cooper, president of the Independence Commercial Club, J. G. McIntosh, secretary of the club, H. E. Browne and Verd Hill.

At the banquet Rozel K. Page, an attorney of Salem, and formerly superintendent of the Oregon Electric Ry. Co., acted as toast master and for more than an hour during the lunch, toasts were given bringing out new thoughts along the line of railroad development and the development of this Valley in general. More than 100 people attended the business men's lunch, and nearly as many responses were made to the invitation of the toastmaster.

Before the lunch was served three cheers were given for H. Hirschberg, president of the Independence & Monmouth road, who had been the means of making Independence a great railroad center and who installed the new service between this city, Dallas, and Monmouth and the Capital of Oregon.

Mr. Hinshaw, manager of the Salem Falls City & Western Ry., responded for his company and stated that they would do their best to make a first-class service and that a bridge would be built across the river for their trains during the coming summer. This will land west side passengers in the shopping district of the Cherry City instead of West Salem, the present destination of that road.

Other railroad officials, representing different companies, were present and responded at the toast, among whom were John M. Scott, General Passenger agent of the S. P. Road, S. T. Jones, of the Salem, Falls City & Western line, Mr. Field, superintendent of the Southern Pacific Ry., and Mr. Jenkins, traveling passenger agent of the last named company. All responded to the invitation of the toastmaster, and every suggestion indicated that the development of railroads in the valley has by no means reached a climax.

P. H. D'Arcy's was the last response made, and it was by no means the least in importance. Mr. D'Arcy was right to the point on the necessities of further development and his speech was exceedingly interesting.

#### Church of Christ News.

Everyone in Independence is invited to attend our services next Lordsday. The morning subject will be "The Cost of Our Redemption," and the evening subject is "Can we Believe the Words of the Apostle Paul?" We stand on the word of God and nothing else. We accept only the doctrine of Christ and place no reliance on man traditions. Come and hear the gospel.—H. Campbell Clark, Minister.

### DALLAS FARMER MEETS DEATH

#### Team Runs Away and Causes Almost Instant Death.—Another Injured.

#### Frightened Horses Bolt When They Are Hitched With New Harness. Kill One Man.

P. A. Odom, for many years Chief of Police of Dallas, was almost instantly killed and Joe Trent, a prosperous farmer living near Dallas, was perhaps fatally injured as the result of a runaway Monday.

Odom, who resigned as Chief of Police about two months ago to take up farming, had just bought a new wagon, horses and harness. He hitched the horses, using the new harness and buggy for the first time in Collins' feed shed in Dallas. The horses immediately upon leaving the feed stable broke into a run. Half a block from the stable they turned the corner and, the tugs being too long, the wagon tongue dropped to the ground and was driven into the cement curb.

The horses were going at a great speed and when the wagon tongue came in contact with the curb, Odom and Trent who were sitting on the wagon seat, were hurled with great force forward. Odom struck the ground upon his head 40 feet from the wagon, and Trent struck upon his shoulders 20 feet from the wagon, which was practically demolished. The horses were uninjured.

Odom's skull was crushed and he was carried practically lifeless to the hospital where he died in 15 minutes later. Trent also was taken to the hospital. It was found that his collar bone and several ribs had been broken and that he had received internal injuries. He has a chance of recovery, though the surgeons in attendance do not hold out much hope.

#### REPELS ATTACK OF DEATH

"Five years ago two doctors told me I had only two years to live." This startling statement was made by Stillman Green, Malachite, Col. "They told me I would die with consumption. It was up to me to try the best lung medicine and I began to use Dr. King's New Discovery. It was well I did for today I am working and believe I owe my life to this great throat and lung cure that has cheated the grave of another victim." Its folly to suffer with coughs, colds or other throat and lung troubles now. Take the cure that's safest. Price 50cents and \$1.00. Trial bottle free at all druggists.

### WOMEN ATTEND COUNCIL MEETING

#### City Fathers Fix Tax on the Dogs and May License Pop-corn Vendors.

#### Oregon Power Co. Contemplates Immediate Improvements in its Water Plant.

An unusual feature of the council meeting Wednesday evening was the appearance of a half dozen women who came to enter a protest against a proposed ordinance dealing with the sidewalk question on G. street, but the matter was not introduced and no protests were filed.

Mayor Eldridge called the meeting to order in the usual manner and Messrs. Mix, Bohannon, Sperling and Dixon were in their proper places.

Under reports of committees councilman Mix made a brief report relative to the work of improving G street, and councilman Dixon, of the fire and water committee made a report on the result of the conflagration Tuesday morning in which he confessed negligence.

An ordinance known as the "dog ordinance," intended to regulate and tax members of the canine family was reloaded through on the emergency clause, and an ordinance intended to regulate and license popcorn vendors on the streets went as far as second reading. Bills and claims aggregating \$279.55 were presented and ordered paid. A claim of A. M. Brown, J. M. McCaleb and A. Anderson, for damages on account of fire, was rejected. Their claim is based on the alleged neglect of the city to provide adequate fire protection.

The recorder was instructed to draw warrants on the treasury in payment of bonds, thus saving interest.

Mayor Eldridge appointed a board of control for the public library as follows: Mrs. S. B. Wacker, Mrs. G. Conkey, Mrs. L. L. Hewitt, Mrs. P. I. Kirkland, A. C. Moore and J. S. Bohannon. Councilman Mix volunteered the information that he is opposed to the city having anything to do with the library, believing that it was going to terminate in an exorbitant expense.

It is respectfully, H. C. Seymour

When councilman Bohannon said it was time for the city to demand a more adequate fire protection, he evidently started something, and his remarks were followed by heated discussions on the part of the council and members of the company.

Mr. White, local superintendent of the Oregon Power company, stated that the company intended to make improvements in the plant and he manifested a disposition to do the right thing by his patrons.

#### OUT FOR SHERIFF

#### J. W. Orr of Rickreall, Asks for the Support of Republican Voters in the Present Campaign.

John W. Orr of Rickreall, was in the city Friday and made this office a pleasant call. Mr. Orr has lived in Polk county all his life and fought the battles of his republican friends in every campaign since he reached maturity, without even intimating that he would some time like to be recognized in a political way. This year, however, he has decided, after considerable persuasion on the part of his many friends in the county, to become a candidate before the republican primary next month for the office of county sheriff. Mr. Orr is deserving of the hearty support of Polk county people both in the primary and state elections. He is a man who will conduct the affairs of that office on business principles, if he is successful in the campaign, and there is every reason to believe that he will be.

Born a little way from Independence, he is known by nearly everyone in the county, and admired by as many.

#### To The Republican Voters, Polk County, Oregon.

I hereby announce my candidacy for the nomination for the office of School Superintendent of Polk County Oregon, for a second term, subject to the will of the Republican voters at the nominating primary, April 19, 1912.

I wish to say that when a candidate for my first term as School Superintendent, I promised that I would give my best work for the schools of the county. I have spent my whole time in working for the betterment of the schools and ask a nomination on the record I have made. If I am nominated and elected for the second term, I will follow the same policy as in the past and will give my best work for the schools of the county.

Respectfully,  
H. C. Seymour

Before going to bed take a Dr. Miles' Laxative Tablet.

## Springtime is Near and We are Here

To show you the latest in Spring Goods. Our line of Ladies' Wool Suiting are up to the moment in the color, style and quality, and in gingham, percales, galatias and wash goods, say: we have one of the largest and best assorted patterns to be found anywhere and at prices that everyone can afford a new Spring Wash Dress.

Drop in and see our new line of men's Dress Shoes, Hats, and shirts: the late things for Spring Wear. When you want anything in the latest—come to us.

## Conkey, Walker & Lehman

The Two Leading Stores of Independence.