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OREGON NEWS ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Brief of Resume of Happenings the Week Collected for Our Readers.

Clackamas county has bought a new county farm, to cost \$15,000.

Albert Parker, 34, of Mapleton, was drowned in the Siuslaw river.

Pamela lake, which has been drying up again, has been closed to fishing.

Rev. Joseph Y. Stewart of Albany was elected moderator for 1926-27 at the annual Presbyterian synod at Eugene.

Japanese orchardists of all parts of the Hood River valley have organized a Japanese Parent-Teachers association.

Fire destroyed the hop drier on the A. F. Luther farm in the north Albany district. The loss is estimated at \$3000.

One of the largest prune crops in the history of Yamhill county is assured for this fall, according to a recent survey.

About 2000 3-inch fish in the pools of the Gales Creek hatchery died last week because of a rise of temperature in the water.

Fifty-two laying hens on the poultry farm of Arthur Bryant at Franklin, 17 miles northwest of Eugene, died from the heat.

Frank Menefee, ex-mayor of The Dalles and prominent legal practitioner of Oregon for many years, died at Olympia, Wash., aged 60 years.

Grasshoppers are eating up the potato and hay crops on the farm of Overton Dowell Jr. on Mercer lake in the western part of Lane county.

The city council of McMinnville has authorized an intensive campaign on the European earwig which is said to be spreading through the community.

A huge brown bear, followed by two cubs, after killing the horse of Dewey Nelson, forest patrolman at Larch mountain, chased Mr. Nelson up a tree.

Three women were injured when a rock weighing nine pounds was thrown by a blast through the walls of the home of E. E. Wert in the outskirts of Oakridge.

Tillamook county has awarded A. Guthrie & Co. of Portland the contract to bore a 204-foot highway tunnel on the Neah-kah-nie road. The contract price was \$15,334.40.

Reconstruction work on the entire distribution line of the Pacific Power & Light company in Freewater began last week. The cost of the work is estimated at \$12,000.

The state highway commission at a meeting to be held in Portland July 29 will open bids for the construction of approximately 35 miles of road and a number of bridges.

To vote on creating a Union high school district comprising Canby, Mundorf, Union Hall and six other districts, a special election will be held in Canby on Friday, July 30.

The annual meeting of the Oregon irrigation and drainage congress will be held at Hood River October 14, 15 and 16. The dates were set at a meeting of the directors in Portland.

Applications and inquiries forecasting early construction of a hotel costing at least \$25,000 at Odell lake, accessible from the Natron cutoff railroad, have been received at the forest office at Bend.

An election held Tuesday in Milton to determine whether or not the city should issue bonds of \$30,000 to purchase a new Diesel engine for the city light and power plant resulted in favor of the plan.

Albany's fire department will walk out on a strike August 1 as the result of the dismissal by the city council of Russell Knighten, chief of the department, according to an ultimatum presented to the council.

Fire losses in Oregon, exclusive of Portland, during the month of June, aggregated \$513,690, according to a report prepared by the state fire marshal. There were a total of 69 fires, of which three were of an incendiary origin.

Considerable activity has been shown in the prune market in Douglas county during the last few days. Although buyers have covered every section of the county it is estimated that less than 70 per cent of the crop has been contracted.

R. A. Sawyer of Portland was elected commander of the Spanish War veterans at their annual convention at Baker. For senior vice-commander Lee Hurst of Albany was elected, and R. A. Campbell of Portland was elected junior vice-commander.

The Eastern Oregon Light & Power company has filed application with the state engineer for appropriation of water from the Grand Ronde river for the development of 1364 theoretical horsepower. The cost of the proposed development was estimated at \$120,000.

TAX REFUND TO OVER EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS

Washington, July 15.—Counties of Western Oregon containing lands of the Oregon and California grant will receive about \$8,000,000 and maybe close to \$9,000,000 in advances from the United States treasury to balance taxes lost in the last ten years, instead of the \$5,000,000 which has been commonly used as an estimate of the sum to be paid as a result of approval of the bill recently signed by the president.

The increased amount over the \$5,000,000 is accounted for by the increased rates which have obtained in the land grant counties since 1916. The new law fixes the valuation for purposes of computation at the figures assessed in 1915, but provides that the amount each year shall be ascertained by applying the tax rate of each succeeding year in each county. If the tax rate had remained stationary the sum to be advanced would be approximately \$5,000,000.

However, the tax rates have advanced materially in most, if not all the counties and E. J. Adams, secretary to Senator Stanfield, who has given considerable attention to the working of the bill, believes the sum now due the counties will run well over \$8,000,000.

Another important effect of the legislation which has not perhaps been fully sensed is that the advancing of these sums to the counties, and continued payment to the counties each year of sums equivalent to current taxes on the re-vested lands, will postpone to the distant future the distribution of any funds to the other nominal beneficiaries of the land grant fund that is to the state, the reclamation fund and the United States. At the present rate of timber sales the receipts will hardly equal the sums the government will advance each year to meet future payments to the counties.

Sales will have to be speeded up to accumulate beyond that enough to reimburse to the government the eight or nine millions soon to be advanced and to pay also the million and a half dollars of accrued taxes which the government paid the counties when the revestment act was passed.

Under that act the railroad was first to be paid for its interest in the land, accrued taxes were to be paid and the proceeds after that disbursed in the ratio of 40 per cent to the reclamation fund, 25 per cent to the state and the counties, and 10 per cent to the United States. The railroad has just been paid in full, \$3,901,088. There is in hand in the fund as of June 30, 215,457, which will be applied toward payment of taxes accrued up to 1916, the total of this obligation being \$1,571,044.

If the Stanfield bill had not been passed all hands could look forward to the wiping out of this obligation and the beginning of distribution on the basis of the Chamberlain-Ferris act in another two years or so. The law changes that situation, to the benefit of the counties, which will be saved even the cost of collecting the taxes. To meet the advance of the counties everything that goes into the fund will be required for an indefinite period of years.

Indeed, if the situation runs along another 10 years or so without largely increasing the sales of timber, the land grant fund will be so busy taking care of the counties and the other beneficiaries will see even then no prospect of realizing anything from the proceeds. However, during this time increased value will come to the government's holdings by the increase of growth and of stumpage values. Sales of timber may be speeded, and further legislation to assist in selling may be devised.

Already there is evidence of increased effort to dispose of the timber by the interior department, which is believed due to the president's interest in the matter since he learned that proceeds from sales have lagged so far behind the obligations of the special land grant fund. Total sales to June 30 amounted to 4,116,456, allowing for the receipts on hand and applying them on the reimbursement of taxes paid in 1916, the land grant fund is today \$1,355,586 "in the red." After climbing over this red line, the proceeds will begin to apply on reimbursing the advance to the counties under the new law. It took 10 years to pay the railroads a little more than four million dollars. How long will it take to pay the counties 8 or 9 million, plus another million more of the old accrued taxes, plus payments perhaps of \$700,000 yearly in tax equivalent to be paid the counties as the new law requires, "On or before the first day of October of each year after 1926." The interior department will begin at once the computation of the so-called advance to the

SUMMER TOURIST TRAVEL GREATER THAN EVER

The tide of summer recreation and touring from California north into Oregon, Washington and British Columbia has already become large and promises much to exceed that of any former year. Tourists who cross the continent to California are more and more learning that a motor trip along the entire Pacific Coast offers more of enjoyment and scenic beauties and wonders than are found along any of the routes across the continent.

This knowledge is increasing travel up and down the coast by eastern tourists. Our own people are learning of the enjoyment of such a trip and the number of Californians who motor north in the summer time is increasing. Also more who live in the Pacific Northwest are using the great connecting artery of the Pacific highway to enjoy the beauties and comforts of California.

The Oregon Highway commission made a traffic census June 16 at the key point at Grants Pass where the Pacific highway is joined by the Redwood Highway. This census showed a total of 4419 cars passing that point that day, of which 3670 were on the Pacific Highway and 749 on the Redwood Highway. Of the total of 728 foreign cars, 542 bore California licenses, showing the importance of California travel to the states of the north. This north and south travel along the whole Pacific Coast will undoubtedly be stimulated by the new movement for joint publicity of all the coast states.

How this summer traffic compares with winter travel is shown by the census taken by the California Highway Commission January 18 and 19 last where the two highways cross the state line between California and Oregon. This showed for the two days a total of 656 cars, of which 61 were on the Redwood and 595 on the Pacific, which is the only real winter route. Much of this winter travel is of northern cars going and returning from California.

GRANGE O. K. AT PETTING HIS LEADING LADY AVERS

Hollywood, Cal., July 17.—"Red" Grange's assertion, after four weeks of love-making in the movies, that co-eds are better kissers than the motion picture girls, drew some snappy retorts from Mary McAllister, his pretty leading lady.

Grange quit the movies flat today and tomorrow he leaves for Wheaton, Ill., to pilot his famous ice wagon for the remainder of the summer at \$18 a week. Before checking out of Hollywood, the gridiron star declared he didn't think much of his own ability as a film sheik.

Hollywood accepted "Red's" modest retirement at face value, but when he said the movie girls were "peeps" in their kisses, he aroused a wail of protest.

"Why, that's just horrid of 'Red'," Miss McAllister said. "He knows he doesn't mean it. He just says that because he is going back home to his co-eds."

"I haven't seen any college girls getting by so big in the movies, though there are plenty of them trying to crash the gates."

"And I don't think a co-ed puts any more pep in her kisses than the girls on the screen. I bet 'Red' can show the girls back home some new tricks in lovemaking that he learned out here."

Grange's leading lady thinks the ice man is under-estimating his own love-making prowess. "Red's not a bad lover, himself," she continued. "Believe me I had to make some violent love myself in some of the close-ups to prevent 'Red' from stealing all the scenes."

"He can sure make love and I'll forgive him for what he said about the co-eds being better neckers than the picture girls."

"And I hope that he will get enough of this ice business and return to the screen some day."

Grange threw his powder puff and make-up box away, and he has his baggage packed preparatory to his leave taking.

Oregon's first woman magistrate, Judge Mary Jane Spurlin of Multnomah county's District Court, has been further distinguished by elevation to the position of national treasurer of Phi Delta Delta, women's legal fraternity. Anita V. Robbins of Los Angeles, a deputy city prosecutor, was made vice-president; she and Judge Spurlin, who recently took the bench on appointment by Governor Pierce, were the only westerners honored thus. —Spectator.

Don't forget the street dance this week Saturday night.

counties, and the \$8,000,000 stream will begin to flow as calculations are completed.

BIDS WANTED

The Board of Directors, School District No. 108, will receive bids up to July 23, 1926, board to meet at the high school building, bids to be for painting the grade school building—the building to receive one coat except where old paint is scaled or loose. These places must be scraped and well cleaned and an extra coat put on. The job is to be done in a good and workmanlike manner. The board will furnish the paint. Board also reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
Wm. DALE, Clerk.

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