

THE BEAVERTON TIMES
Beaverton, Oregon.

A Weekly Newspaper, issued Fridays
R. P. Jonas, Editor and Publisher

Entered at the Beaverton (Oregon)
Postoffice as second-class mail mat-
ter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In advance except by arrangement
with the publisher.

One year by mail..... \$1.00
Six months by mail..... .60

Advertising rates on application.

When it comes to train service, Beaverton has certainly got the worst of it from the federal railroad administration of late. Some months ago when the Oregon Electric depot was closed, it was announced that the move was made in the interests of conserving man power and that the business would be cared for at the S. P. station. But weeks have passed and you cannot get so much as a time card on the O. E. from the S. P. station. The dozens of commuters are forced to buy their tickets in Portland and those who buy a ticket at a time are still paying cash fares.

But this is not all. The latter part of October the helper was taken off. This was supposedly because he was needed at other work and men could not be had, but that trouble has long since passed and the returning soldiers are needing jobs, but still one man must tend to all the needs of the public at Beaverton.

In spite of the fact that there is more business offered than cars can be had to care for, the hampering orders and regulations multiply and yet one man must tend to all. No matter to what extent the employees of the station may desire to be courteous and obliging to the public, the conditions under which they work render common courtesy even almost out of the question.

Imagine yourself the lone and busy guardian of the public welfare at the S. P. station at an hour in the busy rush of the forenoon. It is ten minutes to train time. The depot is full of travelers, many of whom want to purchase tickets; the wires are buzzing with train orders; the mail must be brought from the post office; there are men in line waiting to get freight. Now as nearly as we can recall the

rule book says that wire business must come first; Mr. Burleson's orders are that the mail must take precedence (there's a fine for the agent if the mail misses its train); Mr. Scott demands that no ticket sales be missed; the freight department insists that the freight house be kept under lock and key and that no freight go out unless personally checked out by the man in charge; add a few commercial telegrams to this array and allow for the common curiosity seeker and kindly tell us how you would spread out one man and make him cover it all if you were that man.

Try as they may, employees cannot make their dealings with the public as courteous as one neighbor would like to be with another and the service is worse than in the old public-be-damned days. Men in such positions are not to be blamed if they speak short and curtly to the public at times.

Now what has this all to do with readers of The Times?

Just this. Back in Washington, D. C., there is a commission formed for the sole purpose of bettering the service on the government-controlled railroads. At times they do a little investigating when a kick reaches them and if the kick is loud enough and long enough they might be induced to improve the service in even a town like Beaverton.

Now it is largely up to the people who transact business at the Beaverton depot. There is enough business transacted here to warrant a helper on the day shift and there is a lot more business that would come here if the facilities for handling it are provided.

If you are satisfied with the service provided here, if you are content to have the ticket window closed in your face while the agent goes over and carries a mailbag to the train. If you want to wait for your freight until the agent can find time between trains to get it for you, in short if you are content with things as they are, let them alone and rest assured that they will get worse. But if you want service here that is equal to that of the past and up to what we pay for, then it's time to start something and to start it in a way that will be heard and felt

in Portland, in Salem and in Washington.

Willis Cady received an extension of his furlough and accompanied his sister, Miss Ruth, to her school at Turner Sunday evening. School closed on account of the flu and they returned to Beaverton Tuesday. Willis went

back to Goat Island this evening.

Mrs. D. C. Tallman was called to Sherwood Monday afternoon by the illness of her daughter, Mrs. Frank Saylor, who is ill with the flu. Mr. Tallman received word from her yesterday that Mr. Saylor is also down with the same disease.

PHOTOGRAPHS

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Portrait Photographer

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Father Kettenhofen will go to Portland tomorrow to attend the funeral of John Abadie of Cedar Mills who died in St. Vincent's hospital. The funeral will be held from St. Mary's cathedral and interment will be at Mount Calvary.

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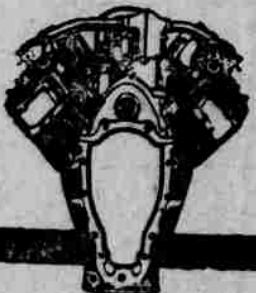
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