

THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

W. A. DILL

Editor and Manager

Published Every Monday and Thursday by the Lane County Publishing Association.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.
One Year - \$1.50 | Six Months - .75 | Three Months - .50
Advertising Rates Furnished on Application.

Member of the State Editorial Association.
Member of the Willamette Valley Editorial Association.



And Remember to Get a Stop-Over for Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1915.

PORTLAND DEMANDING EVERYTHING

The Portland Telegram is making quite a fight, with cartoons, front-page editorials, and interviews, in an effort to induce the Portland Chamber of Commerce to take up the fight of a few of the lumber mills in Portland over lumber rates recently put into effect by the Southern Pacific company. These new rates, it seems, give a price of 17 1-2 cents per hundred pounds on lumber shipped from any point in the Willamette valley, south of Portland, to points in California as far as Sacramento. The rate from Portland to these California points is 21 1-4 cents, and the Telegram is howling at the "discrimination" of the railroad company.

The claims of the valley mills, however, are not without merit, and the "unfairness" of the railroad company exists largely in the mind of the Telegram. As a matter of fact, the Interstate Commerce commission has sanctioned a differential of 7 1-2 cents in favor of the valley mills, whereas the new rates give a differential of only four cents.

As a matter of justice, the Valley mills are entitled to a differential in freight rates into this northern California territory, for it is the only territory in which the Valley mills have a clear right, based on nearness to point of production. Portland mills can ship by water to San Francisco bay points, and the Valley mills can not expect a rail rate by which they can compete with the coastwise shipping. They can and should, however, be given advantage to seek the northern California territory reached exclusively by rail.

Portland mills enjoy a differential of from five to ten cents a hundred on lumber shipped east out of Portland, as far as Pocatello, Idaho, distant from Portland about as far as is Sacramento. They have the advantage of water rates to San Francisco and southern California points, and the markets of the Orient reached by the big steamers. And yet they emit a howl because the Valley mills ask for a chance to get the business of one small territory.

Portland should wake up. She is not the whole state—not by several thousand people, and several hundred industries. Should Portland lumbermen monopolize the coast lumber business, and give the Valley mills a hard run in the eastern markets, until the Valley mills were compelled to close down, not only would the Portland supply houses lose valuable customers in the lumber camps, but Portland generally would feel the blight inflicted on a broad valley by the injury to one of its big industries.

TIME TO DO SOMETHING

"The importance of devising some plan for disposing of the Oregon & California grant lands that can be presented to Congress with such weight of approval behind it that it will command the favorable attention of the national law-making body may be judged from a statement of conditions in Lane county," says the Register. "In this county there are approximately 300,000 acres of this land, and at a very conservative estimate it is worth ten dollars an acre above the railroad's total legitimate interest in it. If the lands were sold at their actual value and the excess above the railroad's interest were

returned to the county—as it should be—it would amount to nearly \$3,000,000.

"Three million dollars to be used for public purposes would in some degree compensate Lane county for the blight that reservation of land has laid upon her development and would lighten the heavy tax burden that is made necessary by withdrawal of large areas of land from taxation.

"Nor is it unreasonable to assert that the amount to be realized from these lands after the railroad's legitimate share has been deducted, or at least a very large part of it, should go to the counties in which the lands are located. It is these counties whose development had been held back by the policy under which the lands have been administered, and they are the ones that should receive the larger share of such benefits as may accrue from the sale of the remainder of the grant. This position is made stronger by the fact that these counties are the ones that suffer most because of non-taxable land in forest reserves.

"The best way to bring about an advantageous settlement of the land grant problem is by agreement between the people of the interested counties and the railroad. The railroad company has certain rights and powers that cannot be ignored. It owns the land, and if it continues to pay its taxes it cannot be compelled to sell until it gets ready, and if it chooses to delay proceedings it can doubtless do so for some time. But in bringing about a prompt settlement the interest of the railroad and the people should be mutual. An effort should be made to unite on a plan that can be presented to Congress with the approval of both parties to the controversy."

How this land grant may best be made of value to the state will be one of the phases of the subject discussed by Judge Colvig before the Springfield Business Men's Club tomorrow night.

WHAT A COMMERCIAL CLUB MAY DO

Sixteen ways in which he said a commercial club might help its tributary territory were outlined in a talk to University of Oregon commerce students this week by George E. Hardy, the new executive secretary of the Portland Chamber of Commerce. These were the 16 ways:

1. By inviting every farmer within 15 miles to become a member, and by seeing that as many as possible of them participate in the club's social affairs. This plan as worked out by the Trenton (Mo.) Commercial Club resulted in mail-order business being practically driven from the Trenton locality. Mr. Hardy said.
2. By initiating through county representatives legislation that will help agricultural development.
3. By getting neighboring towns to exchange visits.
4. By systematically looking up newcomers and making them feel at home.
5. By offering cash prizes for the best gardens and lawns in the territory.
6. By seeing that newcomers may have upon request an accurate appraisal of the value of any piece of land in the district.
8. By co-operating with the tributary farmers in getting soil analyses.
9. By initiating movements for drainage and irrigation districts.
10. By promoting co-operation in marketing among the producers.
11. By conducting seed testing campaigns, to insure farmers of both quality and freedom from weed seeds.
12. By promoting campaigns to make the roads leading to the town easier to travel.
13. By assigning speakers to schools of the district, who will inform the youngsters how to get community results from letters written East.
14. By checking freight rates from the town and starting a fight if discrimination seems to be shown.
15. By making it possible for new industries to come in, and by going after the industries.
16. By seeing that absolute truth marks all publicity that goes out from the community.

Mr. Hardy added that each Commercial club had a state duty: to be ready to join other sections in any legitimate enterprise; of state scope that would not benefit one district at the expense of another.

The motto of the Trenton (Mo.) Commercial club is commended to the towns of this state: "Get to know your neighbor—you might like him."

Florence has sold \$10,000 bonds for city water system. Grants Pass—Contract for bridge across Sucker Creek has been let.

Marshfield—Bids for paving on Front street were awarded to the Warren Const. Co.

Florence will spend \$5,000 on plank road to North Fork. Surveyors are laying out new road from Comstock to Canyonville.

The fare from Vancouver to Portland has been reduced from 20 cents to 25 cents by the P. R. L. & P. Co.

Silverton—New drain and tile factory has started. It is announced that Redmond will have new fireproof warehouses for handling farm products size 60 by 150.

J. I. Ellinger has cut the fourth crop of alfalfa this season from his farm near Redmond.

The big Rainier mill has been completely destroyed by fire, loss \$150,000.

Woodburn wants merger of all the telephone lines.

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From 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 little pines, firs and spruces are planted every year on the national forests, and also several tons of tree seed are sown.

Classified Ads

For Sale, Rent, Wanted, Etc.

LOST—Elk scarf pin. Finder please return to News office.

WANTED—A second hand bicycle with clincher tires. Must be in good condition. D. S. Jordan. Phone 130W3.

FOUND—Child's muff. Call at News office. 75

FOR TRADE—Eugene residence property for Springfield Residence. Address News.75

WANTED—A gentle saddle pony for a lady to ride this winter for its keeping. Address P. O. Box 55, or call at 167 Mill and B street. 11*

GOOD RANGE for sale at bargain. Inquire at News office.

FOR SALE—A good motorcycle or will trade for a good horse also spring oats. Inquire at News Office.

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Lawyer.
Phone 1221
831 Willamette St. Eugene, Oregon

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FOR SALE—Wagon and harness cheap. Call at News office.

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HORSES FOR SALE—If you want a bargain, don't fail to see them. Must sell this week. Also household goods for sale. J. F. Martin, 645 A street. 68*

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