

THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

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SPRINGFIELD, LANE COUNTY, OREGON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1915.

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HEARING ON LUMBER RATES IS CONCLUDED

Portland, Nov. 21.—The Telegram last evening said:

Sawmill men of the Willamette valley, then on a parity of rates with Portland, were promised a rate by high officials of the Southern Pacific after a series of conferences in 1913. The present new rate, which discriminates against Portland and favors the valley mills, is a fulfillment of the promise of the officials, according to A. C. Dixon, manager of the Booth-Kelly company and first witness for the defense in the hearing of Portland mills against the Southern-Pacific before Examiner Butler for the interstate commerce commission.

The last of the testimony was concluded at noon today. Briefs are to be submitted in January and argument made in Washington, D. C., at the convenience of the interstate commerce commission. Portland mill men believe they have made a strong case, and are surprised at the poor showing made for the railroad.

Corroborating Dixon, J. H. Mulkey, assistant general freight agent, testified in recounting the history of rates in this section of the country, that in 1912 leading officials of the railroad came to Oregon to see what was wrong with the lumber industry and subsequently sent two special representatives to investigate. The new discriminatory rate against Portland, which took effect last month, is an outcome.

Mr. Dixon said that the present rate, which Portland mills are protesting, is a result of the Southern Pacific investigation in 1913, when Sproule, Luce and a few other high officials consulted with Valley millmen to learn where the lumber industry had gone. They said they had to have more traffic and depended on the mills north of Ashland, stated Dixon. The Springfield mill of the Booth-Kelly company was rebuilt on the understanding there would be a new rate. The rate, explained Dixon, is to develop traffic on the Southern Pacific—he said, in reply to a query, he did not think the rate was intended to encourage settlement on logged-off lands, as he never heard of the railroad offering such encouragement.

Less than half the mills in the valley are running, testified Dixon, and there has been a steady decrease in the last five years. He explained the cause as a lack of market, chiefly, and declared that the Valley was discriminated against in every direction. On cross-examination he admitted that many Portland mills are closed and the output has been cut in two.

Statistics of the lumber business in Portland were provided by H. B. Van Duzer, manager of the Inman-Poulsen company, in his evidence, being supplemented by other Portland mill men. Into the territory affected by the new rate, Inman-Poulsen Co., shipped 148 cars in 1912, 110 in 1913 and 56 cars in 1914. This mill cut 113,000,000 feet of lumber in 1913. The mills in Portland district cut 655,000,000 feet in 1913, and 523,000,000 feet in 1914. The valley mills cut from two-fifths to one-half as much as the Portland output. From Portland district there was 41,500,000 feet shipped to San Francisco and bay points in 1913 and 37,199,000 feet in 1914. Van Duzer explained that Portland's output is decreasing and the valley, if not increasing, is at least not decreasing. He announced that Portland mills could not compete with the valley on account of the difference between 17½ and 21½, the four cents difference absolutely preventing shipment. In conclusion, Van Duzer said Portland business has dropped practically 1,000,000 feet a day, figuring a 10-hour run, but meanwhile the

Booth-Kelly people rebuilt a mill and a mill was built at Schofield—but none in Portland.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 19.—Conflicting testimony featured the hearing conducted here today by Plusses Butler examiner for the Interstate Commerce commission on the petition of Portland lumbermen for a readjustment of rates to California. The petition declared Willamette valley points in Oregon were favored by four cents a hundred pounds and held it up as one of the reasons why the lumber business in the Portland district was "bad."

Willamette valley dealers responded by testifying their belief that the Portland trade was better than the valley trade, notwithstanding the rates. The hearing brought out testimony from A. C. Dixon, general manager of the Booth-Kelly plant in Eugene, that before granting the valley points the favorable differential, the Southern Pacific company had canvassed the valley, seeking the cause for shrinkage of lumber shipments.

Mr. Dixon testified that the canvasser learned that the valley mills had strong competition; that the valley points are at natural disadvantages because they cannot ship by water and that rates in territory reached exclusively by rail will not permit them to compete with Portland mills effectively.

Mr. Dixon said he believed the findings resulted in the railroad company granting lower rates to the valley.

On cross-examination Mr. Dixon admitted several Portland mills had suspended operations the last year. Testimony of Portland millmen brought out this feature also. They testified that valley points could ship to Portland, then to California, cheaper than Portland millmen could ship direct. They held the output of the Portland mills is decreasing and the valley points increasing.

Johan Poulsen, of the Inman-Poulsen Lumber company, and C. B. Duffey, secretary of the Eastern and Western Lumber company, testified that Willamette valley points can ship lumber to Portland and then to California over the Southern Pacific lines cheaper than Portland can ship direct.

Mr. Duffey's testimony showed how the railroad is willing to haul cars as far away from Portland as West Timber, bring the car to Portland and then send it out, yet making the long haul for less than the rate granted Portland mills. On the electric branch of the Southern Pacific in the Carlton and Newberg country, Mr. Duffey testified all shipments this side of St. Joseph, or 50 per cent of the shipments, are brought into Portland and weighed at Brooklyn yards and sent south. From St. Joseph via Portland to California destination the rate is 17½ cents; but for freight to originate in Portland for the same destination the rate is 21½ cents.

Mills in the valley, continued Mr. Duffey, are given a very low rate to Portland when shipments are destined by water for San Pedro and the Atlantic coast via the Panama canal. The greater part of the producing mills in the valley, continued the witness, are located on the branch lines of the Southern Pacific and not on the main line.

When the hearing opened Examiner Butler found on his desk resolutions objecting to any change in the new rate, sent by the commercial clubs of Oregon City, Albany and Corvallis. James G. Wilson, representing the Portland mills, objected to the resolutions, as they contained statements not made under oath. Examiner Butler allowed the resolutions to stand.

FOREST NOTES

Canada and Mexico also take the lead in the amount of shingles received from the United States. Australia and the Oceanic Islands rank next in the amount of this material received from the United States.

Of the total amount of railroad ties exported during 1914 (over five million,) the State of Washington alone furnished nearly half a million.

STUDENT WRITES OF CONDITIONS AT HIGH SCHOOL

To the Patrons of Dist. No. 19:

Monday, Nov. 15, it rained. In room 9 at the High school building it leaked so, that by 3:15 large puddles of water were standing all over the room. This water leaked down through the floor into the assembly room. Flower vases, wash basins and tin pails were used to catch the water that did not go through cracks to the ground below. But these pails did not keep the water from splashing on the nearby students. It caused a great deal of confusion because some of the pupils had to move their books to keep them from getting wet. This is one among the many incidents that occur which impress upon us the fact that the High School building should be replaced by a larger and more modern structure. When a visitor comes to town and inquires for the High School building, is it not pointed out with pride? No, it invariably is not. The following reasons will readily prove that it is imperative that we have a new structure or else extensive repairs to the one now standing.

The present building is too small, for there is not enough room for all the classes, so the pedagogy, manual training and domestic science classes have to recite at the Lincoln school. The assembly room is too small to allow for a platform large enough for the graduating class and another building has to be obtained for commencement exercises. When a program is given a temporary platform has to be constructed. There is not any good place to hang the wraps, for it is inconvenient to use the halls for that purpose because the wraps often fall down and get soiled. There is no place where the students can get exercise on rainy days, no rest room and no good place for students to eat their lunches.

The building is dangerous, for it is not constructed of fire proof material and there are no fire escapes whatever. Stoves are used to furnish heat and these entail a large number of chimneys which are dangerous, for they keep the walls heated, causing them to become very dry, so that if any defect in the chimney should occur they would immediately ignite. The floors have been oiled so many times that they have become saturated with oil. This adds to the danger of fire for live coals dropping on the floor would cause a blaze.

The present building has no adequate system of heating and ventilating. Heat is furnished by a wood stove in the room. It is often too cold for there are not enough stoves. The assembly room was formerly two separate rooms with a stove in each. Now it is heated by one stove and that is in the very back part of the room. Those students sitting in the front part of the room have to move back by the stove to keep warm. This causes a loss of time both for the student who is moving and for the one already near the fire. Two or three trips are usually made to get the necessary books, pens, etc.

UNION SERVICES THURSDAY AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Thanksgiving day will be observed in Springfield by union services at the Baptist church at 10:30 a. m. Rev. H. S. Wilkinson of the First Methodist church of Eugene is expected to preach the sermon here. The public is invited to attend the services.

The matter of closing the stores part of the day on Thursday was being discussed among the merchants this morning, but no definite hour had been set at press time.

causing a disturbance. Then, too, the students are inclined to talk rather than to study when they are close together. It is hot enough fire were built to heat the entire room, those sitting near the fire would have to move. Owing to the shape of the room it is very difficult to heat it. Ventilation is obtained by an open window, but this is not desirable, for it causes draughts and makes the room too cold. It endangers the pupils' health, for even by wearing their wraps continually it is impossible to keep warm.

The building is unsightly, for three additions have been put on to the original structure, causing it to be very unevenly shaped. It is painted an unsightly gray color which detracts from its attractiveness. The interior is far less inviting than the exterior, for there is not a thing in the assembly room that harmonizes. The walls are painted a gray color with patches of sky-blue here and there, none of which adds to the beauty of the room. The blackboards are cracked; part of them are black and part of them are green. There are no decorations whatever unless you count electric wires strung in lattice work across a dull gray ceiling.

The district is financially able to construct a new building. We are as prosperous as many other towns which are now building high schools. For instance, we are richer than Cottage Grove, for she has an assessed valuation of \$912,801 against Springfield's \$1,091,333. Eugene, which has just built a \$100,000 high school was assessed at \$9,248,110. Springfield and Cottage Grove have practically the same number of inhabitants. The last census showed that Springfield had a population of 1838 and Cottage Grove had 1834.

Springfield has property in the school district that is not included in the town. This outlying territory nearly doubles the amount which is received from the property in Springfield. For instance, there is the Booth-Kelly sawmill, which is in the school district but not in the town. Their plant alone cost \$780,000, besides the lumber they have on hand. The Fischer-Boutin sawmill is also included, which is worth about \$100,000. Besides these there is also the planing mill and a farm which recently sold for \$30,000, all of which are included in the school district. Cottage Grove's school district does not include any land outside the city limits. So we have an advantage there. It is the school district that builds

the school buildings, not the town. It is true that the town of Springfield has a debt, but it is not so large as that of some towns. In Eugene the city pays for the paving and macadamizing of the intersections of the streets; in Springfield the property owners pay for it. They also pay for the macadamizing of the streets, for example the A, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th street paving funds are not a city debt. Main street paving is a city debt, but not the other streets. The city pays the expense of repairs, but that fund, for all the streets is only about \$5000. Last year a school tax levy of eight mills was needed to maintain the schools. This was lowered to seven mills. Last year a suggestion was made that the outlying districts like the Chase district and the one northeast of town be consolidated with the one here. All of the children ready for high school attend the Springfield High school and that means we have to support them too. Undoubtedly it is only a matter of time until they will be annexed to the high school anyway.

Heretofore, the people of Springfield have been inclined to think this is just a small town, not destined to grow, so when erecting school buildings they do not allow for the future. The Lincoln school was not large enough to accommodate the children of Springfield when built, but now it is far too small and part of the grades have to go to the high school building.

It is simply postponing the inevitable to construct small buildings for manual training and domestic science because we will absolutely have to have a high school building within a few years, then these smaller buildings will be practically useless. There is considerable talk of spending \$1000 or \$1200 for a manual training and domestic science building. About \$1000 will be needed for repairs on the present high school building. It is doubtful if \$1000 will be enough for the whole west end of the structure will have to be re-shingled and new floors put in, and when new floors are put in it may be necessary to have new sills, because last fall the janitor started to put in some new boards on the porch and he found the sills so rotten that it was necessary to replace them with new ones. The money that would be spent on a small building for manual training and domestic science would pay the interest on a \$40,000 high school for two or three years. Therefore it would be cheaper in the end to construct a new building. No money would have to be spent on new grounds, for the old grounds are large enough. Why can't Springfield have a larger and better High school building?

BERTTIE BRUCE.

Portland—First unit \$40,000 KeKenny school completed.

Alisky estate, California, will rebuild burned block in Portland.

The lumber industry, like railroading, has been legislated to death.

State authorities plan to abolish tubercular institution. Will save \$50,000.

Home Telephone Co. asks to be allowed switching charges in Yamhill County—doing business at a loss.

RAPID PROGRESS BEING MADE ON LUMBER CRANE

Rapid progress is being made on the piling foundations for the new monorail system being installed at the Booth-Kelly mill. Two rows of piling have been placed from the western end of the dock eastward as far as the driveway, at the office, and this morning work was begun on the last row—the one along the north side of the race. This will be completed in two or three days.

The crew worked Sunday on the space between the bridge and the blacksmith shop, and will finish this part of the pile-driving next Sunday. Work has to be done Sundays on this part of the work because the wood wagons have to use the driveway there during the weekdays.

Carpenters are now engaged in making the forms for the concrete footings which will be put under the south side of the structure.

The Booth-Kelly mill was shut down Thursday afternoon by the breaking of a shaft, and shut down Saturday afternoon because so many of the men wanted to go to the football game.

COUNCIL WILL MEET TOMORROW EVENING

The first meeting of the town council under the administration of Mayor E. E. Morrison will be held tomorrow evening, when the mayor will read his first annual message to the council, and make his appointments.

The council will meet again on Monday evening, November 29, for the purpose of considering the budget for the coming year, and for making the necessary tax levy. Items necessary to be raised are enumerated in a notice published in this issue of The News.

PROF. PITTMAN TO VISIT COUNTY SCHOOLS

The county superintendent has completed plans for having Prof. M. S. Pittman who is head of the Department of Rural Education at the State Normal with Supervisor O'Reilly during the week beginning with Nov. 29th.

Mr. Pittman is one of the ablest speakers and educators in the state and is always greeted with large audiences in Lane county.

Plans are complete for the following schedule during his visit in Lane county: Monday evening, Nov. 29, at Divide; Nov. 30, at Dorena; Dec. 1, at London; Dec. 2, at Deerhorn; Dec. 3, at the Dunn school.

During the day time Prof. Pittman and the supervisor will visit the various schools within range of the places where the evening meetings will be held. The purpose of their visits will be to aid the rural teachers in their work. It is hoped that the teachers will make good use of Mr. Pittman while he is visiting their schools.

Additional Local

Miss Gladys Wagner of Junction City is expected in Springfield tonight. She will attend the teachers institute being held in Eugene and also visit her aunt Mrs. Wm. Donaldson in Springfield.

L. E. Scrivner and Mrs. A. P. McKinzy will begin tomorrow taking the annual school census under the direction of School Clerk McKinzy. The work must be completed and in the hands of the county school superintendent by December 1.

Mrs. S. D. Lane writes to Chief Staniger asking his assistance in the recovery of a photograph given to an agent for enlargement. The agent was un-

der arrest in Eugene in connection with his picture operations.

Claud Washburne came up from Junction City Saturday to see the Oregon-O. A. C. game, and he spent Saturday evening and Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Washburne, of Springfield.

Mrs. John, H. Burgard of Portland, sister of Mrs. B. A. Washburne, spent Sunday in Springfield visiting the Washburnes. Two of her sons are attending the University, and she came up to see the game.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clover of Coburg spent the week-end with their daughter, Mrs. H. J. Cox.



EVEN THE THANKS-GIVING DINNER

tastes a little better if the dining room has a cheerful and attractive paper on the walls. It is wonderful how just the right kind of paper will brighten up the room. Our line of dining room papers is especially attractive, and if you are hard to suit we think you will find what you want at our store.

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