

THE FIRE FIGHTING APPARATUS OF HEPPNER IS IN BAD CONDITION

The need of an organized fire department in Heppner, which was so clearly demonstrated last week at the two fires, has been considerably talked over by the people of late. The action of the Herald in giving an account of the fires and offering a few suggestions for the betterment of the department have been met in various ways. But the general opinion seem to be strongly in favor of improvement. Heppner has been lucky in regard to fires. It has been a long time since a really bad fire has burned here. About twenty-five years ago, at which time Heppner had a better fire fighting department than it now has and equipment then was in about as good condition, a large building occupied as a hotel burned to the ground. Several years ago a hot fire burned in the building in which Phil Cohn's store is located but it was headed. Two years ago the roof of the Star Theatre burned off and considerable damage was done to the entire building. These seem to be the worst fires in Heppner in many years. Good pressure and two or three exceptionally good nozzle men have saved lots of dollars worth of property in Heppner. But take into consideration if a fire would start in the block occupied by the Heppner Herald, Otto's Music Store and the Eastern Hotel. Have a strong south wind blowing and let the fire get into the roof. Then let every man who comes bring a cart as long as they last and run all the lines to the fire. It is possible that they would be able to confine the fire to one building, but it might jump. Burning shingles would undoubtedly fly in the wind and the business section would be endangered. With no better organization in the fire department than at present the town would be in a state of chaos for a day. Business would be stopped and petty vandalism would have an opportunity to go unmolested. The police force, consisting of one man, would have charge of the fire system, and would not be able to give any police protection. Of course these things are not liable to happen in Heppner, but they did happen in Sheridan, Oregon, only a few years ago. Sheridan was much better prepared both in situation and equipment to combat the fire than Heppner is today. Twelve blocks, including the entire business section, was burned to the ground. The editor of the Herald in company with Mr. Currier, who has recently entered business here, and who has been chief of the fire department in The Dalles for several years, inspected the apparatus in the three central stations Thursday. No. 1 station, located at the City Hall, is equipped with one hose cart. It is a racing cart, bought by the Heppner Fire Department in 1901. It was never intended to be used in fire service, but probably answers the needs as well as would any service cart. A good hose is on this cart. At the station across from the Federated church is a cart equipped with a rubber hose said to be twenty years old, from which the water is not drained, and practically of no value whatever in fighting fire. The cart at the upper end of Main street across from Stewart's Livery is a good cart and well equipped. The hose on all three of the carts is dirty,

wet in places, and plainly shows that proper care has not been taken of it.

It is joined in poor fashion. The ribs on the joints are not put together even and are often left sticking toward the side. This is very dangerous to the men holding the hose coming from the reel. If a rib caught on the reel hub, with the cart under motion, he would be heavily thrown. It is impossible to break most of the joints without using a wrench. On each of the carts the hydrant wrench was snapped to the front frame of the carts. The only proper place for it is on the hose next to the hydrant connection. On these three carts we saw only one good hydrant wrench. It seems that these wrenches have been lost and home made ones provided to take their places. These wrenches slip and bruise the brass taps on the big stands. The department has two first-class nozzles. At No. 1 station is a good straight stream nozzle in good condition. At the No. 3 station a straight stream and spray nozzle is in good condition. This is the nozzle that was used on the south side of the Slocum building. We were mistaken in our statement last week that the nozzle would not shut off. The men who handled it simply did not understand it. Another point in favor of a few trained men.

One point we want definitely understood. We are not blaming any person for this. It seems to be a condition that exists because we have all allowed it to reach this stage. Officer Frye called on us one day following the publication of our article last week, very wrathful, and demanded that certain statements made in our former article be corrected, claiming that the Herald was "knocking" him. We have endeavored to correct former misstatements, but we are not "knocking" Frye. When we have anything to say about any person we will say them in terms that will in no way be ambiguous. This article is printed so that all will be informed of the condition of the fire fighting system in Heppner. If the people want it improved it is now up to them. The Herald suggests that the Fire Department be separated from the Police Department, a chief appointed by the council, and a few much needed improvements made.

D. E. Gillman made a business visit to Ione Friday.

Geo. Choquette, violinist of the Star Theatre Orchestra, went to Olex Friday, to play at the Masked Ball which was enjoyed there that night.

Miss Mlanie Crow of Pendleton, who has been visiting at the J. B. Sparks home, went to Ione Friday to visit friends there.

J. H. Gibbons of Castle Rock was in Heppner Thursday.

Earl Cramer of Boardman, was a business visitor in this city the latter part of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Buschke of Ione, were in Heppner Thursday and Friday.

Andrew Road, Sr., left Friday morning for Pendleton, where he will spend several days transacting business.

District Attorney S. E. Notson was a passenger Saturday morning for a three or four days business visit in Portland.

M. L. Case was called to Gladstone Saturday, on account of severe illness of his mother.

Wm. Haylor was a business visitor for Portland Saturday. While there Mr. Haylor expects to take in the Portland Automobile Show.

Miss Bertha Cason left Saturday morning for a two weeks visit in Portland.

Leo Hill, who has been spending several weeks in Portland and in Ariel, Washington, with relatives, returned home Thursday and will begin operating his auto livery at once.

Billie Heath, representative for Allen and Lewis of Portland, made his regular visit to Heppner the latter part of last week.

Earl Shaue of Arlington, who has been visiting here for several days, went to Cecil Friday. He expects to work there for several weeks.

EVANGELIST FAGAN TAKES EXCEPTION TO COMMUNICATION FROM FATHER O'ROURKE

Heppner, Oregon
Jan. 26, 1917
To The Editor Herald,
Dear Sir,

Kindly allow me space in your valuable columns to make reply to a letter appearing in your issue of Jan. 23, in which "Father" O'Rourke takes exception to a statement made by me in a sermon at the Christian Church, and reported in your issue of Jan. 16, in which I referred to Martin Luther as a "Mighty Man of God." I have no desire for a newspaper controversy, but since the Father by his insinuations as to my ignorance and his bitter attack upon Luther, invites discussion, I accept the invitation.

One cannot help but ask just what be the motive that prompts the father to attack so vigorously the character of a man who has been dead for over 350 years; especially, since my statement was in no way an attack on Romanism, nor was the purpose of the sermon to extol Luther. Perhaps it was the same motive that in 1422 prompted the opening of the grave of John Wiclif, (who had been dead for over forty years,) the burning of his bones and the casting of his ashes in the Swift. And this man's chief heresy was his contention that "The Bible is the only book of authority in religion, and that the people have a right to study it for themselves." The Roman Catholic Church has always stood opposed to the contention of Wiclif.

I do not accept all the teachings of Luther, nor do I contend that his life was always exemplary. I am willing to admit that at times there was a coarser vein in his character. Never the less he was not the bad man that the "Father's" letter would indicate. Judged by the standards of his time and by the characters of those with whom he associated, who were mostly monks and priests, Luther was a moral giant, and stood head and shoulders above his associates.

Martin Luther was raised under the teachings of the Roman Catholic church; was educated for the practice of law; but decided to become a priest. (His moral degeneracy does not speak very well for the influence of Romanism.) In 1505 he entered the Augustian convent at Erfurt where he "submitted patiently to all the penance and humiliation which the superiors of the order imposed upon the novices." Perhaps his sojourn in this convent accounts for his "vile taste." He was ordained to the priesthood in 1507, in which capacity he served for a number of years. Why was such a fellow, "so lustful," and "an enemy of Christ," ever consecrated to the priesthood of Rome?

In 1510 he made a visit to Rome. In referring to his visit the Standard American Encyclopaedia says, "This journey revealed to him the irreligion and corruption of the clergy at Rome, and destroyed his reverence for the sanctity of the pope." Now if it be true, as the "Father" contends, that Luther was "an enemy of Christ;" that he "hated God;" that his heart was "so corrupt, so coarse, so boastful, so spiteful and proud as to revolt and horrify," then let me ask, what must have been the

awful state of corruption of the Roman Catholic Church that it disgusted this moral degenerate? Think of it! A man with a character such as the "Father" contends Luther had, becoming so disgusted with the corruption that he finds among his brother priests, that he undertakes to clean up the whole thing!

Soon after his visit to Rome Luther came in contact with John Tetzel, a seller of indulgences. "The selling of these pardons had become an organized part of the papal system, money was largely needed at Rome to feed the extravagance of the papal court; and its emissaries sought elsewhere to raise funds by the sale of indulgences, as they were called, for the sins of humanity." Chambers Enc. Art. Luther. "Tetzel told the people that as soon as their money clinked in the bottom of the chest the souls of the deceased friends forthwith went up to heaven." History Christian Church by Fisher P. 292.

Luther was so struck with the enormity of this traffic that he determined to stop it. On Oct. 31, 1517, appeared his famous Ninety Five Theses in which he denied the power of the pope to remove any penalties other than those he had himself imposed; and affirmed that these do not reach beyond death. When Pope Leo heard of Luther's theses and was urged to punish the author he said, "Brother Martin is a man of fine genius; all that is said against him is monkish jealousy." Now let me ask who is right. "Father" O'Rourke who says Luther was a man of corrupt heart, coarse, boastful, spiteful and proud; or an infallible pope who says he was a man of fine genius, and all that is said against him is MONKISH JEALOUSY?

No wonder jealous priests are opposed to Luther! No wonder his character is assailed by Catholic biographers! His sledge hammer blows against the corruptions of the priesthood and the power of the pope were more than they could stand. The more Luther investigated, the more he became convinced, as will anybody else who studies the scriptures, that the papacy is nothing but the usurpation of authority. He opposed the law of celibacy among priests and showed that such restrictions were unnatural, unscriptural, and that they tend toward corruption among priests. He took the position that the Scriptures are the supreme authority in religion, and showed that the Church is built upon Christ and not Peter. He contended for the universal priesthood of believers, and for justification of faith. All of these contentions are directly opposed to the teachings of Romanism.

I claim, sir, that a man of such fearless courage, of such greatness of soul, of such noble purpose, of such unwearied activity against corruption, of such unswerving determination to follow the guidance of the Scriptures and the dictates of his conscience even though his life were endangered and he were threatened with excommunication by the iron hand of Rome, is worthy of the praise, "A mighty man of God."

FAMOUS PICTURE, THE BATTLE CRY OF PEACE TO BE SHOWN IN HEPPNER

Extract from the Preface of the story, by J. Stuart Blackwell.

Awake, America! Do We Want War?
"And God made man in his own image."
Five million men in the flower of their vigorous young manhood, maimed and crippled for life; legless, armless, blinded, shattered; hopelessly destroyed beyond repair.
Five million more; luckier, perhaps, than their broken comrades, rotting in shallow charnel pits or on the war-torn, blood-soaked soil between miles and miles of hostile trenches.
Ten million men! Half of them dead, the other half—worse than dead.
Five million families, each burdened with a helpless human wreck until death removes the burden.
Five million more families deprived forever of the breadwinner.
Ten to twenty million women—mothers, wives, sisters—saddened, suffering, despairing.
Millions of children, fatherless; destined to know only a life of cruel hardships.
Millions again—peaceful, innocent non-combatants—old men, women, little children; starving, homeless, outraged, outcast.
This is Europe's war-tax on humanity during a little over one year.
Once in a generation or so a book finds its way into history. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was a book of this kind. By crystallizing the scattered elements of a great problem it moved a nation.
Today there is another problem no less vital to our country's welfare than the one that inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe. Slavery threatened our unity; today our very existence is threatened by our defenselessness.
The solution of the one involved us in war; the solution of the other will prevent war.
To bring this great problem home to the millions of American people, J. Stuart Blackton conceived a great idea.
To carry out this idea he produced a wonderful picture; from it he has written a wonderful book.
He took the facts and statistics in Hudson Maxim's "Defenseless America" and around them wove an absorbing story. With the unlimited resources of the Vitagraph Company of America at his command he translated this story into motion pictures.

The result is "The Battle Cry of Peace."

"The Battle Cry of Peace" is the first motion picture to be used to exploit an important, nation-wide propaganda. Its object is to bring to the notice of the greatest number of people in the shortest possible time the defenselessness of our country; not only to make the American people realize our condition as a nation, but to show them also the consequences to which this condition may lead, and finally to show them how to remedy this condition.

"The Battle Cry of Peace" is a call to arms—not for war, but for peace. It will be shown in motion picture theatres, schools, colleges and in churches throughout the length and breadth of this country. It will arouse in the heart of every American citizen a realization of his strict accountability to his country in time of need.

Scores of prominent Americans—in army, navy and administrative circles of our government—have contributed to this great production. Notable among its sponsors and endorsers are Dr. Lyman Abbott, the Honorable Lindley M. Garrison, Major General Leonard Wood and the late Admiral George Dewey, representing the church, the state, the army and the navy.

"The Battle Cry of Peace" will appear in book form simultaneously with the release of the film, thus for the first time linking definitely the publication of a work through two different media—literature and the motion picture.

Ed Moore was in from Butter creek Tuesday and took out a load of shingles.

Creston Maddock will arrive within the next few days from the University of Oregon, to accept a position with the Palace hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. M. Luper left Sunday morning for the Willamette Valley. They will visit in Salem with their son Rhea and family. There is a youngster there which neither of the grand parents have seen yet. Following this, they will visit in Portland for a short time with relatives. They expect to be gone about two weeks.

WINTER FUEL.



—Hodge in Spokane Spokesman Review.