

HEPPNER HERALD

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FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1917.

THE FUEL PROBLEM

Among other items connected with the high cost of living in Heppner and one of the most important ones, is that of fuel.

Reports from Portland indicate that a fuel trust has "cornered" the slabwood output from practically every sawmill in Portland and adjacent territory and the prices will continue to be limited only by that old rule, "all the traffic will bear."

The announcement made last week regarding the taking over of the coal mines up Willow creek by H. V. Gates, is therefore welcome to the people of Heppner who have been at the mercy of the Portland fuel trust so long that even to think of buying a load of slab wood is sufficient to make the average citizen "warm" under the collar, at least.

The Herald has also been informed that some Heppner men are considering the proposition of buying stumpage up Willow creek, cutting wood there and bringing it down by auto truck to supply the Heppner market. This plan should also help some as it is believed first-class pine wood can be made and delivered here at a fair profit at a considerably less price than has prevailed here for several months.

This fuel problem is one of sufficient importance that it should attract the attention of our city and county authorities. City officials in other parts of the country have many times taken action to relieve their citizens of oppressive prices for necessities and such action might be taken here. County authorities also could co-operate in having roads leading into the timber kept in the best condition possible to encourage the bringing in of fuel supplies at a minimum of cost for haulage.

GOOD ROADS

If Morrow county is to profit by the Good Roads Bonding proposition passed by the people of Oregon at the June election it is about time the people of this county begin to get busy and come to some understanding as to what they want in the way of roads under the new plan of the State Highway commission and stand pat for what they want.

It will not answer to leave the whole question to the commissioners on the theory that that body will do the right thing by all of the counties regardless of the interest or apathy of the people most directly concerned.

Most of the counties are already organized and are pressing their claims for recognition upon the commissioners and if Morrow county expects to get anywhere in the matter of roads it is time for us to get in the center and make our wishes known.

It is evident that the commission will not have enough money to pave or permanently improve all of the roads designated as State Highways at this time and if Morrow county is to have a look in at the game something should be done at once.

The nine miles of road between Heppner and Lexington could be easily and cheaply prepared for paving. Why not, as a starter, agree on asking the Highway Commission to pave that much in Morrow county this year? It would help some in a practical way and it would form a link in

the only reasonable route for the Columbia highway to pass through this county.

SOLDIERS TO BE INSURED

The proposal of Secretary McAdoo to institute a plan of life insurance for the soldiers and sailors of the U. S. Army and Navy will meet with general approval. The American people are not disposed to be niggardly with the men and boys who are offering the supreme sacrifice for their country and it is only just and right that the assurance shall be given them that, in case they never return from the trenches their loved ones at home will receive some measure of compensation for the loss of their support and protection.

Secretary McAdoo has recently called into conference the heads and managers of all the big life insurance companies for the purpose of discussing the proposition and it is expected a definite plan will soon be evolved that will give assurance of suitable protection to the families and dependents of our national defenders.

Catholic Church Services,
 First Mass, 8:00 a.m.
 Second Mass 10:30 a.m.
 Reverend Father O'Rourke.

The Federated Church
 Supt. Rev. H. O. Perry will hold service Friday evening.

Sunday School 9:45 a. m.
 Topic of the morning sermon: "Thou shalt not Covet."

Christian Endeavor 7:00 p. m.
 Topic "What I would do with a Fortune." Leader, Jeanette Noyes.

Subject of evening sermon, "The Will of God."

H. A. Noyes, Pastor.

Church of Christ

Subject of Morning sermon: "Sons of God."

Subject of Evening sermon, "Wisdom from the Ancients."

Bank Changes Building Plans

Plans for remodeling the First National Bank building have been changed to such an extent that the proposed improvements to the old building will amount practically to a new building. Officials of the bank recently decided to erect a first class two story brick building modern in every respect. The lower floor will be occupied by the banking rooms while the second floor will be finished in several suites of modern office rooms for rent.

The bank expects to move next Sunday into the McNamee building, directly across May street which will be occupied as temporary quarters until the new building is completed.

Professional Column

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land office, at LaGrande, Oregon, June 29, 1917.

Notice is hereby given that Banton W. Fries of Heppner, Oregon, who on May 29, 1913, made Homestead Entry No. 91289, for Lot 4 SW1/4 NW1/4 W1/2 SW1/4 Section 5 Township 4 South, Range 23 East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make commutation proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before C. C. Patterson, United States Commissioner, at his office at Heppner, Oregon, on the 20th day of August, 1917.

Claimant names as witnesses: Sallie A. Lewis, William F. Munkers, and Karl L. Bosch, all of Lexington, Oregon, and Franklin D. Cox, Jr., of Heppner, Oregon.

8414 C. S. DORR, Register.

Mr. Partington's Secret

By ESTHER VANDERVEER

One day a man appeared at Pentonville, a farming village, and opened negotiations for a flour mill and water power that had long stood idle. He was a melancholy looking man, never smiling, never chatting familiarly with those with whom he came in contact and, above all, uncommunicative about himself.

At first his reticence was not noticed, and no one cared who he was or where he came from, but as soon as it was observed that these facts were not forthcoming every one became curious about him. Many a covert move was made to draw from him some information about himself, but he parried them all so adroitly as not to give offense and so skillfully as not to tell anything. The only thing known about him was his name, Albert Partington, and when it became known that he was holding back information about himself it was believed that even that was assumed.

It is a human trait when people are denied a knowledge about other persons' affairs to supply that knowledge by inference. Each person in Pentonville who assumed reasons for Mr. Partington's antecedents did so on his or her account. The women accounted for his mysterious appearance among them on the ground of a love affair. Some of them believed that he had been crossed in love, some that he had wronged some woman and was hiding from the vengeance due him. The men favored a theory that he had married a vixen and was hiding from her or that he had interfered with some man's domestic affairs and was keeping out of the way of the injured husband.

The fitting up of the mill and the business matters connected with it were also kept in the dark.

All of a sudden Partington disappeared from Pentonville, and it was noticed that from the day of his departure all work on his plant stopped. The property was left in charge of one Daggett, Mr. Partington's right hand man, who discharged every workman, and a solemn stillness settled down on what before was busy as a beehive. He resisted all efforts on the part of inquirers for an explanation.

A few days after Partington's departure a handsomely dressed woman appeared in Pentonville and was driven at once to the plant. There was blood in her eye, but her lips were drawn tightly together as if she feared that her ire might lead her to say something it would not be well to reveal. After a long conference with Daggett she was driven away, no one knew where, and the theories of those who had claimed that Partington's reticence was occasioned by complications with a woman seemed to have been confirmed.

That was the last live episode in the Partington affair. Daggett remained awhile longer; then, turning the property over to a watchman, he too departed.


One day the world was shocked by the announcement that Austria had declared war against Serbia, and within a short period there were more such declarations. A week after the first Mr. Partington suddenly appeared in Pentonville, the work of preparation was recommenced, and there was far more chatter than there had been before. There was now no secrecy with regard to the plant, but every one connected with it was so busy that he had no time to answer questions. Indeed, since it appeared that the property was to be used for some kind of manufacture connected with the war in Europe curiosity was allayed.

There were those who remembered the woman who had come to Pentonville immediately after Partington's departure and who claimed that, whether or not he had come to the place primarily on business, he had certainly been anxious to escape an angry woman. These persons received confirmation of their theory on the reappearance of the woman who had been there before, especially since she arrived at 2 p. m. and Partington left at 1:35, thus escaping her by only five minutes.

Meanwhile men were working night and day getting the plant ready for production. Then one day a committee of citizens appeared at Mr. Partington's office and told him that it was being rumored that he was going to manufacture goods that would endanger the lives of the people and property of the town. If so they desired to enter a protest, wherefore Mr. Partington announced to them that the plant was to be a powder mill.

The main part of the secret was out, Mr. Partington having desired to manufacture an explosive in close proximity to the Pentonvillians and, fearing that if they knew what he was about to do they would endeavor to stop him by process of law, had kept his intention secret. Considerable capital had been subscribed by a rich widow. Partington was disappointed in not getting all the money he required to start his works and was compelled to suspend preparations. The woman who had been induced to furnish funds under the representation that there were ample funds, furious at having been deceived, at once sought the man who had deceived her. At her second visit she happened to meet him.

The rest of the explanation was self apparent. The European war having brought a demand for explosives, Partington had no trouble in getting all the capital he needed, and the plant was at once completed.



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