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INSPECT COAL MINE AND WATER SUPPLY

Through the courtesy of H. V. Gates and A. L. Ayres the Herald man enjoyed a trip to the Heppner coal mines last Sunday and spent several hours looking over the old workings at the camp and sizing up the general contour of the country. O. V. Gates, of Hillsboro, was also a member of the party.

As the readers of the Herald well know H. V. Gates secured a lease on the coal property about a year ago and since that time has had a large amount of prospecting and development work done at the camp the result being that a large body of fine coal is within reach if sufficient amount of development work is done to penetrate the main deposit. He has demonstrated, however, that to properly prosecute the work, a considerable amount of money must be expended and as his lease has only three year life he now feels that he cannot afford to incur the expense necessary to develop the mine and place it on a producing basis without first securing an extension of his lease to at least eight years.

The Herald understands that Mr. Gates has asked for an extension of the lease but it is not yet determined whether the owners of the property will grant the extension.

The road from Heppner to the coal mine is now in good condition and the expenditure of a comparatively small amount of money would eliminate the two or three steep pitches now existing and give practically a water grade from the mine to this city. With the mine developed and in operation and the road put in proper condition Heppner's present alarming fuel situation would be solved, it being estimated that one big truck, with trailers, could bring down at least ten tons of coal every trip.

With license to be the very best town of its size on the Pacific Coast Heppner has for years been held back by many handicaps not the least of which is the fuel situation—that expensive haul of coal and wood 200 miles, all up hill at more or less exorbitant freight rates.

The proper development of the coal mine and a good trucking road to the mine and the timber would solve this problem and keep many thousands of dollars of Morrow county money in this county that is now sent out every year to enrich Portland slabwood dealers, W. J. & N. Co.

An interesting development of the trip Sunday was the very lively interest. Mr. Gates, who by the way is president and principal owner of the Heppner Light & Water Co., evidenced in the flow of water in the upper reaches of Willow creek, some distance above the Slocum mill. So lively was this interest that, at a point on the creek where narrowing banks made dam construction easy, Mr. Gates called a halt, fished a battery of shovels and some planks from the car and put the entire party to work building a dam with a weir to give him an opportunity to measure the flow of water in the stream. The crew of shovellers soon completed, the reading taken and the trip resumed and while Mr. Gates did not give out any indication of his intentions it did leak out that he has been taking such readings at that point for the last two or three years. The Herald doesn't know just what it all means but if it should develop that the Heppner Light & Water Company is figuring on bringing in a gravity water system from the cold, sparkling waters of upper Willow creek, it would be a mighty fine thing for Heppner—even more so than the development of a coal mine. Such a system, whether built by Mr. Gates' company, or by any other firm or individual, seen by the city of Heppner herself, would put Heppner on the map right.

Dr. Winnard reports having discovered several cases of smallpox in the Eight Mile neighborhood recently and has placed the Batty and Young homes under quarantine. The disease is said to have been carried from The Dalles to the Batty home and several cases developed there before it was reported. Ray Young is also suffering from the disease but all cases are now being properly cared for.

O. M. P. Hosts to Speakers Tuesday.

Members of the Oregon Military Police detail under Sergeant Chas. Little, who have their quarters in the school building, entertained at a mess dinner Tuesday evening the three speakers who addressed the meeting of drafted men the same evening. The menu was plain and substantial but strictly up to present military standards and quite different from the fare served Spanish-American war troops twenty years ago as described by Col. Hibbard later in the evening.

Those present at the feed were: Capt. Russell, U. S. A., Col. John Hibbard, Oregon Home Guards, Hon. John Kollock, State Council of Defense, Sam E. VanVactor, chairman County Council of Defense, C. L. Sweek, adjutant-general Morrow County Homeguards, Sergeant Little, Corporal H. J. Cummings, and Privates Lewis F. Brown, Wm. Malcolm, Thos. B. Riggs, Luttie M. Shadley, Oregon Military Police.

The visiting speakers complimented the Heppner detail with having the neatest and best appointed quarters they have visited during a 2000 mile tour of the state.

Vawter Crawford, editor of The Gazette-Times, left yesterday for Portland. There he will join other editors of the state for a trip to Coos Bay, where the meeting of the State Editorial Association will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. His promises to be one of the most interesting and profitable meetings of the Association yet held, and the people of the Coos Bay country are arranging royal entertainment for Oregon's pencil pushers. One important feature of the entertainment will be a reception tendered the entire delegation at the palatial home of L. J. Simpson on Shoreacres, on the bluffs overlooking the broad Pacific. And for a royal entertainer, Louis J. Simpson does not have to take second place to any citizen of the state.

M. D. Clark, who with his family has been spending a few weeks at Vancouver, B. C., visiting relatives, returned to Heppner Wednesday evening. Mrs. Clark and Misses Mary and Marjorie stopped over in Portland to visit for a week or so before returning home.

SERVICE COMMISSION HEARING HELD HERE

H. H. Corey and F. L. Miller, members of the Public Service commission of Oregon, held a hearing in this city last Saturday on a recent application of the Heppner Light & Water Co., for permission to increase the rates for light, power and water service.

The company was represented at the hearing by Sam E. VanVactor, their attorney while the interests of the city and the public was looked after by J. J. Nys, city attorney, assisted by C. E. Woodson. H. V. Gates, president of the company, and his son, O. V. Gates, of Hillsboro, who is also interested, were present as was their civil engineer, J. L. Stannard, of Portland. Mr. Kephart, civil engineer in the employ of the commission, was also present.

The principal issue in the entire matter seems to be a question of values of the plant, equipment, franchise, etc., and exhaustive reports were submitted as evidence by both of the engineers.

The city had also employed T. A. Garrow, C. E., of Portland, to check up the work of Messrs. Stannard and Kephart but his report not being completed at the time of the hearing to give time for his report to be submitted the case was left open for ten days to give time for his report to be completed and filed.

A number of witnesses were put on by the city for the purpose of showing that the pressure was inadequate at the time of both recent disastrous fires and that unnecessary delay occurred in getting sufficient pressure.

On the other hand counsel for the company introduced testimony to show there was plenty of water to meet all needs, and that the lack of pressure was due to lack of organization of a fire department and the laying of three lines of fire hose from 2 3/4 inch water main.

The entire matter was pretty thoroughly threshed out and the final decision of the commission will be awaited with interest.

Father O'Rourke went to Condon Thursday for a short visit.

Sam Stephens Wounded.

Word has been received here that Sam Stephens, Heppner boy who enlisted in the Marines just after the United States entered the war, was wounded some time ago in one of the engagements in France. Sam received a Boche bullet through the hip and has been laid up in the hospital ever since. He is now getting along fine but expects to be confined in the hospital for about eleven weeks yet. He was one of the first boys from Heppner to go across the water, and no doubt saw a great deal of fighting before being wounded.

Conducting Canning Demonstrations.

Miss Helen Cowgill, of the Oregon Agricultural College, Mrs. Lena Snell Shurte, county school superintendent, and P. R. Brown, county agent are spending the latter part of the week conducting canning demonstrations and holding club meetings over the county. Beginning today (Thursday) they will hold demonstrations at Irrigon, Pine City and Hardman, and club meetings at Boardman, Heppner, Ione, Morgan and Ceell.

Mrs. Arthur Smith a few days ago received a letter from her sister, Mrs. Susanah Hughes, a former resident of Heppner and well known to all the older residents, who now resides in Ireland, stating that she had just received a telegram announcing that her son, Matthew Hughes, had been killed in action in France. The young man enlisted in a New Zealand regiment some time ago and after reaching England he was transferred to the famous Rifle Brigade, of England, which is composed of four regiments all of whom are crack shots with the rifle. The regiment to which Mr. Hughes was attached had been at the front but a few days when his death occurred.

Dave McAtee returned from a business trip to Portland Wednesday and announces that he will begin the construction of his new building at once. His son, Arthur McAtee will also build on his adjoining lots making a combined building 60x60. Sydney Smith, Morrow county's expert road engineer, made a business trip to Condon during the week.

DRAFTEES MEETING BIGGEST OF YEAR

The meeting for drafted men held in the court house Tuesday was the greatest demonstration of the American war spirit yet witnessed in Heppner. The circuit court room was crowded to the last inch of standing room while every desk, table and window sill was occupied by earnest, interested men of all ages, those of draft age predominating. Men were present from all sections of the county and it seemed that every harvest crew within reach of Heppner was present en masse. More than 100 men were unable to get inside the court-room or even within hearing distance in the corridors and on the stairway.

Sam E. VanVactor, chairman of the County Council of Defense, presided at the meeting and introduced the speakers the first being Hon. John Kollock, executive secretary of the State Council of Defense, who addressed the men of the draft from the standpoint of a lawyer. Mr. Kollock gave a most valuable and interesting talk explaining the legal status of the American soldier under existing laws particularly the new laws recently passed by congress safeguarding the legal and property rights of all men in the military and naval service of the country.

Col. John Hibbard, head of the Homeguard organizations of Oregon, was the next speaker. He explained the importance of the home military organizations particularly the Oregon Military Police and the Homeguards.

Col. Hibbard is a veteran of the Spanish American war and the picture he drew of the deplorable condition of the soldiers in that war as regards sanitary and social hygienic conditions laid the foundation for the lecture of Captain Richard Russell, of the medical department of the U. S. army.

Captain Russell is sent out to carry a most important message to the young men of the country who are soon to be taken into the army, on the subject of communicable diseases, particularly of the venereal type. Ten years ago, the speaker stated, the per centage of diseases of this character among American soldiers was the highest of any army in the world but at the present time it is the lowest. Captain Russell used plain language in handling his subject and the information he gave out is of great value to every young man in the country whether he ever becomes a soldier or not.

The meeting was strictly business from start to finish. There was no singing, no spread eagle oratory, no fuss nor feathers; just plain English delivered straight from the shoulder by earnest men with a message to a crowd of equally earnest young men who, by their intense interest and close attention showed that they were ready to receive and profit by that message.

The visiting speakers declared the Heppner meeting to be the largest and most enthusiastic, population considered, of any they have held in the state.

The Sixth Annual Morrow County Fair WILL BE HELD September 17th, 18th and 19th, 1918 At Heppner

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FIRST NATIONAL BANK
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Assets over One and a Quarter
Million Dollars.