

STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORTS ON CONDITIONS HERE AND URGES ADDITIONS TO FIRE EQUIPMENT

As reported in the Outlook of December 19 deputies from the state fire marshal's office spent several days in Gresham making a survey of the conditions relating to fire risk and protection. A report has been made as to their findings and is given herewith.

The report covers existing conditions, water system, fire department, city ordinances pertaining to related subjects and recommendations. The report was made to the state fire marshal, A. C. Barber, by Deputies G. W. Allen, G. W. Stokes and Horace Sykes.

The introduction states that Gresham is a flourishing little city, located 12 miles east of Portland in Multnomah county, connected directly with Portland by an electric trolley line, and by a hard-surfaced highway.

The business of the city is principally mercantile, there being no important manufacturing industries. Every building within the corporate limits is occupied and there is apparent all the evidence of prosperity.

The larger part of the city is built on level ground. One corner containing a few buildings only is in a depression a few feet lower than the main portion.

The streets are wide, paved, and well kept. The business district is mostly of frame construction, there being only nine or ten brick buildings in all. There is, therefore, some existing conflagration hazard.

The greatest hazards are the unnecessary accumulation of rubbish, the careless disposition of ashes, the lack of attention to stoves, pipes, and chimneys, and the hazard arising from personal carelessness.

Water System.
The water system is a gravity system. The supply is taken from both of the Bull Run pipe lines. The 12-inch connecting main forming a "T" and so arranged that the supply can be taken from either pipe, or both at will. The main is single from this connection to the city distributing system. The mains in the mercantile district are 10-inch, 8-inch and 6-inch, and in the residence section, 4-inch.

There is no reservoir or other reserve supply, and the city is dependent entirely upon the Bull Run pipes, and the single connecting main for water supply for all purposes.

There are in all thirty double hydrants, which are located from one hundred to two hundred and fifty feet apart.

The normal static pressure is 110 pounds per square inch, but is reduced for ordinary use to 80 pounds. The full pressure can at any time be turned on in case of necessity.

Fire Department.
The fire department consists at full strength of three companies of fifteen men each. Because of the call to war, and general unrest during the recent months, however, the companies have been quite badly depleted and disorganized.

Equipment.
The equipment of the department consists of two hand drawn hose carts, each carrying about 700-feet of 2 1/2-inch cotton rubber lines hose. There is also in the department 100-feet of 1 1/2-inch cotton and rubber

hose. The chemical equipment consists a small hand-drawn two-wheeled chemical engine. It is noted also that the turn outs and helmets are sufficient for a small department, and are in good condition and well kept.

Ordinances.
We find the city to be practically without fire prevention ordinance. The necessity for these, and their value, needs no argument. The lack of gasoline and electrical regulations materially increases the fire hazard, and this hazard will continue to increase until effective steps are taken to prevent it.

We find ordinance No. 67, Section 2, and No. 85, not strictly enforced. These relate to the removal of rubbish and grass around buildings. These ordinances are very much to be commended, and should be strictly enforced.

Recommendation.
We recommend that the city charter be so amended as to make the office of Chief of Police appointive instead of elective.

We recommend that Section 2, Ordinance Nos. 67 and 85, be strictly enforced. These are intended to promote public safety, and are very important from a fire prevention standpoint.

Ordinance No. 4, should be amended by omitting the words: "Except by proclamation of the mayor."

We recommend the enactment and enforcement of the following fire prevention ordinances.

1. Requiring all gasoline or other inflammable or volatile oils, in quantities of less than five gallons to be kept in air tight metal cans properly labeled, and all gasoline or volatile oils in quantities over five gallons to be kept in under ground storage tanks, buried four feet or more beneath the surface.

2. Requiring all electrical installations, either new work or repair work to be up to the standard of the national code, and requiring inspection to be made of same by a competent inspector.

By correct installation of the wiring and appliance, and proper maintenance of same is the only way the electrical hazard can be overcome. Improper electrical equipment and wiring is causing over eight per cent of the preventable fires, and the electrical fire is one of the hardest to combat, because it is often in an obscure place, and most frequently at night.

3. An ordinance requiring all chimneys to be cleaned at least once a year by a competent chimney sweep, who shall be authorized by the city to clean the chimneys and collect a specified fee from the property owners. The chimney sweep shall be required to report any defective chimney or flue within twenty-four hours after finding same.

This is an important measure, because more fires are caused by the unclean and defective chimney than from any other source. It is one of the preventable causes and by proper cleaning and inspection can be eliminated.

We urgently recommend the purchase of a new truck chassis of not less than one and one-half ton capacity, to be converted into a combination chemical and hose wagon, with racks for ladders. The advantage of such a rig for a city of the size of

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Railroad Problem



Representative John J. Esch.

This Republican statesman, of Wisconsin, is chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and author of the measure returning the railroads to their owners. His speech in explanation of the present railroad situation, in which he declared that "government ownership and the Plumb plan are impossible" has been pronounced one of the most notable and convincing arguments made in Congress in many years.

NEW COUNCILMEN ARE SWORN IN, COMMITTEES APPOINTED FOR YEAR

An important meeting of the town council was held on Tuesday night, it being the first meeting of the year when the new councilmen were sworn in and the various committees were appointed by the mayor. This being the off year there was no change in the city's governing body or the officers of town except for the three new men on the council.

Messrs. Geddes, Thom and Cleveland retired and Al. Hammar, B. L. Walrad and T. R. Howitt took their places. J. E. Metzger had been re-elected for one year filling out a vacancy.

The council now consists of Messrs. E. H. Kelly, Will Metzger, J. E. Metzger, Al. Hammar, B. L. Walrad and T. R. Howitt. Mayor Kenney, Marshal J. G. Metzger, and Treasurer J. H. Metzger, each have one year more of their regular term. At the meeting Tuesday night C. G. Schneider took the recorder's chair, being the first meeting at which he had filled that position at the council meeting since his recent appointment by the council on the resignation of Karl Miller. It is not a new position for Attorney Schneider however, he having been recorder before his enlistment and war service in France.

The old council sat in session most of the meeting, finishing up the business of the year. Reports of committees were made covering important matters that had been in their charge, mainly relating to the placing of new lights and street matters. Several petitions were presented and referred to the committees for investigation.

L. H. Harms of Portland, who had been arrested by Traffic Officer Squires for speeding, was present and plead for the remission of part

at least of his fine of \$27, saying this was his first offense. The council decided that while the fine seemed heavy there was no way to remit a part of it. It seems the recorder, acting as municipal judge, is by the wording of the ordinance given for speeding, the ordinance specifying the amount as based on the rate of speed.

It was decided to put "No Parking" signs at points on Powell and Main streets where autos are now forbidden to park.

The mayor was authorized to employ an attorney to represent the city in cases before the recorder where the city's laws or interests were at stake.

There being presented to the council numerous complaints against the multiplicity of canines running at large in the town, the marshal was instructed by the council to enforce the dawgon ordinance to the letter. A dollar and a half or three dollars, as the case may be, will save the family pet, but failure to procure a license and keep the tag on the "dear" animal, be he yellow, black or white, big or little, will be as good as saying goodbye to the household nuisance or noble watch dog. So, take warning. The dog catcher will be around.

The mayor appointed the following committees for the ensuing year:

Finance.
T. R. Howitt, W. C. Metzger, E. H. Kelly.

Health and Police.
B. L. Walrad, J. E. Metzger, Al. Hammar.

Public Property.
Will Metzger, E. H. Kelly, T. R. Howitt.

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PHONE SERVICE OFF SATURDAY 7:30 P.M.

The switchboard of the Multnomah & Clackamas Mutual Telephone company will be moved from its present position in the Metzger building to the new location in the Condon hotel building Saturday night, January 10.

Every preparation has been made to move the board with as little interruption as possible in the service, but it will be necessary to cut the line at about 7:30 or 8 o'clock in the evening. Any one who has any important telephone calls to make is warned to get them through before that time. Every effort will be made to have the lines connected up ready for use again Sunday morning but a definite time cannot be set owing to unseen difficulties which may be met.

There are now 102 lines on the board and it will be some task to connect them up after the board is in place.

This change in location is in preparation for the new switch board which has been ordered. No date can be given as to when it will arrive however, because shipping and manufacturing conditions are so unsettled.

The new office will have many advantages over the old one. The large operating room will be well lighted with large well placed windows, also, the new office will be steam heated which will be more satisfactory than the stoves which have been used. One of the most important benefits to be derived from the change, is the greater protection from fire, the old office being in a wooden building. The Condon building is practically fire proof.

Many people paused to see what the linemen were doing last week, when the new cable was run from old office to the new location.

At first it was decided to put the cable over head, but there was always the danger of fire and of sleet to cause trouble with an overhead cable. Finally, it was decided to try putting it under the street. A pipe was driven across under Main street at first and the cable run through that, now it is safe in time of fire or when one of the dreaded silver thaws comes. This new cable is about 1 1/4 inches in diameter and will carry 200 lines.

As soon as the old switch board is in place the linemen are planning to run new lines from Pleasant Home, Boring, Sandy, Troutdale, Fairview and other populous districts and the number on the lines will be reduced to 8 or 9 which will give better service.

POULTRYMEN ENDORSE LYMAN AS CANDIDATE

An enthusiastic meeting of the Gresham Poultrymen's association was held at the office of the county agent, S. B. Hall, last Tuesday. President A. R. Lyman presided at the meeting. Many questions of interest were freely discussed, such as breeding, culling, feeding, the handling of baby chicks and the marketing of products.

The meeting endorsed President Lyman as a candidate for director of the state association at the annual meeting to be held in Portland on January 9.

Eight new members joined the association at this meeting. They are A. E. DeHaven, V. H. Calhoun, A. L. Schiller, T. S. Kosend, F. C. Schroeder, E. B. Kirkwood, F. W. Heltzman and R. F. Walters. This makes more than 30 members of the association.

The State Producers association was given much credit for steadying the market in the recent slump by holding firm against the attempted raid on the market. The association shipped a car of 450 crates of eggs to New York City at a price that will net the producer 61c per dozen while the Seattle market dropped to 53c, and the probability is that the Portland price would have dropped to 50c if the association had not stood pat. This one deal saved the patrons of the Portland market at least \$3000 which would have gone into the pockets of the speculators if the state association had not been formed ready for work.

There are many producers who have not yet joined the association who are reaping part of the benefits of the state association, in other words they are reaping where they have not sown.

The slogan for the local organization is: maximum production at minimum cost.

Any others who wish to join either the state or local association can find the necessary blanks at the county agent's office or call D. E. Towle, the secretary of the local association.

BERRY GROWERS REPORT AND ELECT

The annual meeting of the Co-operative Berry Growers association was held at the public library Wednesday evening, January 7, for the purpose of electing two directors and receiving reports of the year's work.

The secretary reported a total of 28 commercial berry growing members in good standing. The treasurer reported the company solvent.

Eugene Chiodo and W. F. Robinson were re-elected as directors to serve for one year. K. A. Miller was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Following the election of officers, the new board organized with H. G. Andrew, president; W. F. Robinson, vice president to serve for the ensuing year.

D. E. Towle, field manager, reported that the business of the past season had proven very satisfactory under the sale contract made with W. H. Paulhamus of the Puyallup & Sumner Fruit Growers Canning company of Puyallup, Washington. The price paid the grower was more than double the price paid, in 1918 for raspberries and nearly double on strawberries, loganberries and Lawton blackberries. Cherries sold 66 1-3 per cent higher than they did in the year 1918.

The association handled 118 tons of berries and 50 tons of cherries. The total number of patrons of the association was 283, with fruit deliveries ranging from 10 pounds to 15 tons.

"These results were very gratifying to the promoters and producers as the results reached beyond the local territory and helped to raise the price of all fruit in western Oregon," says Mr. Towle.

"Much credit is due the promoters of the local association for having conceived the idea of applying the theory of cooperative marketing to the berry and fruit growing industry. This cooperation coupled with the broad policy of W. H. Paulhamus, which in a phrase, is to take the grower into a partnership in which he shares the profits, will result in a rapid development of the berry industry in this locality and will add materially to the prosperity of our people."

The association has a large quantity of berry plants under contract and can supply those who desire to plant. Mr. Towle advises all who wish to plant acreage this season to see him and place their orders early. It is important that those interested should act at once.

MULTNOMAH GRANGE TO HAVE PIE SOCIAL

Multnomah grange is planning a jolly evening at their hall at Orient for January 17, when they will have a pie social instead of the bazaar which they had planned before the holidays. A program of songs, recitations and instrumental music is being arranged. The program will be free. Ladies are requested to bring pies which will be auctioned off after the program. Every one is invited to attend.

An Extra Good Buy.
Overland 99, good condition, new battery, five tires, \$450.
GRESHAM OVERLAND CO.
Phone 544, Gresham.

Notice of Stockholders' Meeting.
The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Multnomah & Clackamas County Mutual Telephone Company will be held in Metzger's hall, Gresham, Oregon, Monday, January 26 at 2 p. m. for the purpose of electing two directors and to transact any other business which may come before the meeting.
PEARL RUEGG, Secretary.

HELD UP HER HANDS BY FOILED ROBBERS



Marie Brockmeier, cashier in the First National Bank of a suburb of Cincinnati, put her hands in the air when six bank robbers started waving dangerous guns in all directions. But her feet were busy. She found a tiny button in the floor which sounded an alarm—a huge gong—to ringing. The robbers ran.

DELIVERING AIRPLANE EGGS FROM THE AIR



Larry B. Jahn of Montevideo, Minn., helped make it easier on Uncle Sam's air mail carriers. He invented this parachute with which eggs have been delivered from 800 feet in the air while the plane was in motion—and without scrambling them. The parachute was first used during the war as "safety" for airmen. It automatically leaves its case and opens when released.

Why Am I a Church Member?

BECAUSE if nobody belonged to the church, there would be no church; and if the church left town, I would want to leave on the next train.

BECAUSE if I share the blessings and privileges of the church, I want to be square enough to have a part in its work.

BECAUSE, as the greatest organized force for righteousness in the world, it offers to me a better chance for the real service of humanity the world over, than any other institution.

BECAUSE, while I may not agree with all its ideas of theology, I do believe in its ideals of life.

BECAUSE, while it may be abstractly possible to live a Christian life outside the church, I know that about 99 out of every 100 Christians are members of the church. I'll take my chances with the 99 rather than the lone one.

A church located in the community would help more than one over in Portland or back east.

Meetings are in progress at the M. E. church. Come.

Mrs. C. E. Rusher was taken suddenly ill last night. Her many friends wish her a speedy recovery.

ANOTHER JOLT FOR THE H. C. of L!



WELL, BYE, BYE, UNCLE. I'M GOING TO REDUCE THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

WHAT, AGAIN?