

THE HERMISTON HERALD

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CARDS ARE LAID FACE UP TO RAILWAY OFFICIALS

Publication by The Herald during the past four months of the freight and express shipments handled by the O-W. railway at Hermiston has been the means of bringing to the attention of the people of this valley in more concrete form the stupendous revenue the railroad company is deriving as a result of the ever increasing production of marketable commodities on this project. It has also been the means of the people asking themselves what they are getting in return in the way of reciprocity, and whether the station is maintained simply for the benefit of the company to rake in the shekels from the farmers and the public in general, with no thought of convenience for the town or country that makes its operations at this point so prosperous.

The O-W. is due for a rude and just awakening from its lethargy in this connection, for ere now the officials are no doubt taking note of the trend of public sentiment toward the railroad as embodied in the following genteel but pithy letter to one of the railway officials from a committee of the local Commercial organization:

Mr. W. Bollons, Supt. O-W. R. & N. Co., La Grande, Oregon.

Dear Sir: The undersigned were appointed at a meeting of the Hermiston Commercial Club on December 23rd as a committee to take up with the proper officials of the O-W. R. & N. Co. and the Railroad Administration the matter of improvement in the service now accorded the traveling and shipping public at this station. No complaint is made against the personnel of the present force as individuals, but a complaint is made of the services received, due to the inadequacy of the present force and facilities at this place.

The condition at this station has steadily grown worse for the past two years, until it has reached such a state that the public is demanding that something be done so that it may receive, in part at least, the service for which it pays and is justly entitled to. That the present force and facilities here are inadequate to the demands made upon them, your attention is invited to the following comparison of business done at this time and that prior to the year 1917.

There are three employees at this station. The total man hours worked during the 24 hour day is 25 hours, five hours of which the depot is closed. The freight revenue is from \$15,000 to \$19,000 per month, express \$1200 to \$1500 per month, and the number of cars shipped out (car loads) each month is 100 to 160. Several years ago when the business was less than 50 per cent of what it is at the present time there were four employees at this station working approximately 40 man hours a day. In other words there has been an increase in business of 50 to 100 per cent and a decrease in the working force which in effect amounts to 37 per cent.

There is urgent need for an operator here. Under the present conditions the agent is compelled to handle all Western Union as well as all railroad wire work, and the demands upon his time, as well as the other employees, are such that it is impossible for him to arrange and divide the work in a manner to promote economy of time and efficiency of service. It is almost impossible to get any information from the station over the telephone, the employees being too much occupied with other work to pay attention to phone calls.

The trackage room for unloading and loading cars, and the depot itself, is much too small to handle the volume of business now transacted here with any degree of satisfaction, this being especially true of the freight house. It is so crowded at times that much of the freight is of necessity left out on the platform exposed to the elements, and the congested condition in the freight house necessitates the rehandling of much of the freight several times, incurring added expense to the company and delay to its patrons.

We are of the belief that there is no other station on this line where the volume of business is as large as it is here and handled by as small a force. The need of additional help at this station is imperative if the

public is to receive the consideration to which it is entitled.

The committee would like to hear from you as to what, if any, remedy you have to offer to relieve such an unsatisfactory condition of affairs.

Should you desire to meet with the Commercial Club and further discuss this matter, the Club extends a cordial invitation to you to do so. We have regular meetings every Tuesday each week at noon, but if such should not meet your convenience we would be pleased to arrange for a special meeting for any particular time you may wish.

Trusting we may have your cooperation in this matter, we are

Yours respectfully,

Geo. A. Cressy,
C. W. Kellogg,
F. V. Prime,
The Committee.

Still Open Season

Although the hunting season on ducks and geese closed Wednesday night, it is still open on book agents, and will from now to next November remain the same on politicians, who will soon begin buzzing around the voters with their spiel of the "office seeking the man" and such bunk.

Matthew's Sell's Ranches

A. M. Matthews of Columbia District this week disposed of his home place of 22 acres and 15 acres near Columbia school to F. M. Adair of Weiser, Idaho, who with his wife and son came from the Gem state a month or more ago. The consideration was \$8000.

DAIRY COWS SOLD TO STANFIELD RANCHERS

A rancher from the Furnish project southeast of here while in town early this week said that fifty head of high grade dairy stock had been imported to and distributed among a dozen Stanfield farmers.

Of these 15 registered cows and two bulls were bought from J. C. Brown of Shedd, Ore., and 11 registered cows and 27 grade cows were purchased from J. C. McConnell, near the same place. This stock is known to be some of the best in the Willamette valley and will be of inestimable benefit in building up the herds about the neighboring town of Stanfield.

Harvard Won

Much interest by local fans centered in the football game between Oregon's crack team and that of Harvard at Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's day. The home boys made a great showing against the easterners, and only lost the game by one point, the score being 7 to 6 at the finish.

Everybody Danced

It just seemed as though everyone was at the dance held in this city New Year's Eve, for the Auditorium was crowded with a happy care free throng that immensely enjoyed the dance music doled out by Bowker's Portland orchestra.

Idaho Visitors

Mr. and Mrs. F. Stamy of Payette, Idaho, visited at the home of his nephew, Eli Winesett, Monday and Tuesday of this week, leaving Wednesday morning for Portland, Tacoma, Olympia and Seattle on a continuation of their journey through Oregon and Washington. Mr. Stamy, who is a Virginian, during his stay met many former residents of that state who have settled here.

Family Reunion

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Boynton of Pendleton and Mr. and Mrs. Lyle L. Boynton of Helix participated in a family reunion at the home of their son on Christmas Day. They returned to their respective homes the latter part of last week.

The Ladies of the M. E. Aid will meet at the home of Mrs. Waterman on January 8th at 2:30.

C. E. Glasgow of Irrigon while here one day last week purchased a three year old Percheron colt from Attorney W. J. Warner.

Conflicting Thoughts



COUNTY CLERK IN ROLE OF DOG TAX COLLECTOR

And now comes forth County Clerk R. T. Brown in the role of dog tax collector. We don't presume he likes the job, but it seems the last legislature wished it on him when it created the new dog law as contained in Section 8, Chapter 186, session laws of 1919, which provides that each person in the county who owns a male or female dog over the age of eight months shall apply for and procure from the county clerk a license, paying the clerk the sum of \$1 for male and \$2 for a female dog. If all dog owners that have not already procured a license will hurry now and get one, the clerk agrees to throw in a collar for the canine.

He says many applications have already been received, but none of the applicants thus far state the length of collar desired. These collars are made in 12, 14 and 16 inch sizes. If the applicant making the application will state the length of the collar he wants, the clerk says it will aid his office very much.

COLUMBIA NEWS NOTES

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Herbert Hall went to Pendleton Tuesday morning, where he has secured a position in the Royal Saw-tell jewelry store.

Mrs. L. Brownell of Umatilla is spending a few days at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Simmons, while her husband is in Portland at the bedside of his mother, who is quite ill.

The Neighborhood Club will meet Tuesday afternoon, January 6, at the home of Mrs. W. H. Simmons.

LANE IS INVITED TO IRRIGATION CONGRESS

The ninth annual convention of the Oregon Irrigation Congress will be held in Portland January 8, 9 and 10 at the Portland Chamber of Commerce. It was originally planned to hold the sessions on December 29, 30 and 31, but on account of the special session of the legislature and the state wide storm the dates were postponed until the week immediately preceding the convening of the state legislature.

Inasmuch as important matters concerning irrigation are to be brought up at the special session, all of the members of the legislature have been invited to attend the sessions of the Oregon Irrigation Congress by President Jay H. Upton of Prineville.

Various matters of importance relating to irrigation will be discussed and prominent speakers representing the Interior Department and the various irrigation enterprises of the state will be heard at the convention. Among the speakers invited to attend are Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the Interior, and Elwood Mead, chairman of the Land Settlement Board of the state of California.

Weather Report

The maximum temperature during the past week was 47 degrees and the minimum 1. Precipitation was .05 of an inch.

ARE THE CITY LIMITS OF HERMISTON TOO LARGE?

Who Owns the Package?

There is a package in the local postoffice that was evidently being sent as a Christmas gift to Mr. and Mrs. Beavert of somewhere unknown to Postmaster Skinner, whose occult powers have not been strong enough to penetrate the abiding place of those people. He'd be a wonderful postmaster, we claim, if he could send that package to its intended destination, for the only address on it is "From Eva and George to Mr. and Mrs. Beavert."—just like that. So it still reclines on a shelf in the postoffice waiting for "Little Eva" or George to come and readdress it.

Taking Inventory

All places of business in this city have been busy the past few days taking inventory to ascertain how they stand with the beginning of the new year. It will take several of the larger concerns a week or more to complete their inventory.

Nice Wall Calendars

The First National Bank has this week mailed to patrons a wall calendar that has a picture of the bank building on it, which makes of the monthly reckoner an attractive as well as a useful article.

Probably the finest calendars to be distributed in Hermiston so far this season is that bearing the name of Hitt's Confectionery. They are very large and carry a picture above the calendar part depicting the return of a soldier boy to his loved ones at home.

FLOODS DAMAGED ROADS IN COUNTY

County Commissioner Dunning has been making a survey of the damage sustained to roads from the recent floods that caused washouts in several places in Umatilla county. His opinion is the damage to highways will set the county back about \$20,000 to \$25,000.

The washout of the large fill on the old road leading into Stanfield from this end of the county will cost considerable to repair, but probably the most expensive will be the repair of the bridge and pavement near Saxe, which were washed away by the recent flood in Wild Horse canyon. Roads in the Milton-Freewater section suffered from damage also.

It is said that all repairs now to be made to the damaged roads will be of a temporary nature, just so they will be passable. Permanent repairs will not be made until the flood danger in the spring has passed.

Will He Run Again?

It is said that President Wilson will disclose his intentions next week regarding his attitude toward a third term race for the presidency in a message to be read at a Jackson day banquet to be held in Washington, D. C., on the evening of January 8.

Adding New Members

The Embroidery Club had two well attended meetings during the holiday season, one at the home of Mrs. H. E. Hitt last week and the other at the home of Mrs. C. B. Percy this week. The Club is adding new members weekly. Its regular meetings are held every Tuesday evening.

Poisoned Liquor Kills

Twenty arrests have been made in Massachusetts and Connecticut in connection with the distribution of liquor containing wood alcohol, which caused the deaths of at least 57 men and women in the vicinity of Chicopee since Christmas.

O. E. Blackwood, who is holding down a position in Sawtelle's jewelry store in Pendleton, passed the New Year holidays here visiting with his family.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Agnew and Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Agnew were New Year's day dinner guests at the Cressy home in this city.

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Quite a discussion was precipitated at the weekly luncheon of the Commercial Club at the Hotel Hermiston Tuesday when the matter of the formation of improvement districts on the east and west side of town was broached. The plan, as set forth, was to establish a district on the east side to run from the eastern city limits west to intersection with Hermiston avenue, taking in such territory as actually needed improvement to streets and sidewalks. The other district would extend out Hermiston avenue to the western city limits.

Most of those owning town property seemed to be in favor of the districts, but it was different with ranchers present who owned orchard and alfalfa tracts that would be heavily taxed by reason of improvement of the thoroughfare in front or through their tracts, and of course they were desirous of ascertaining where they were going to get off if the improvement districts were organized. They held that the expense for road improvement would set each one of them back all the way from \$500 to \$700.

This was admitted, but some of the city fathers present thought possibly the city should help those ranchers by standing at least fifty per cent of this expense. This philosophy evidently did not fit well either, for at this point the proposition of cutting down the city limits was sprung by one of the ranchers, the explanation being that it was his judgment that the boundaries of the town were altogether too far reaching. The final outcome was the passage of a motion to appoint a committee to look into the feasibility of reducing the city limits and reporting their findings at the next regular meeting.

The piece of sidewalk leading from the library to the school house that has been a dangerous eyesore during the past two years was again brought to the attention of the Club. This had the effect of bringing the school board out from under cover, to the extent that possibly the walk will be fixed by that body in the near future. The real reason that this sidewalk has been left so long in its present condition is that the school board contended it was up to the city to fix it, while on the other hand the city held it was up to the school board to do it.

The Club was notified of the bad condition of the bridge across the feed canal south of town, caused from an ice jam during the recent flood, and also that of the Butter Creek bridge at Sheridan's ranch, which was moved by flood from its present position and was impassable. The road and bridge committee of the Club is now looking into the matter of having these repaired as soon as possible.

Old H. C. L. brought up a discussion of teachers' salaries. The building of teachers' cottages was also included, but before these matters could be brought to any concrete conclusion someone changed the subject entirely by wanting to know if the town was maintaining a sand pit by allowing holes to be dug in the street near the public library. Absolute silence denoted that no one seemed to know anything about this, and as time was up the Club adjourned.

He's a Booster

As a result of a visit to Portland by August Meyer last week Hermiston has prospects of another settler. The gentleman who desires to come here to locate is H. E. Potter, who in the classified columns of this issue of The Herald states what he has to trade there for what he wants here. In his letter to The Herald he tells of his meeting with Mr. Meyer last week.

"Mr. Meyer was in this city last week, and was telling me about your country, so thought I would like to try it. He sure is some booster for old country."

Building Farm Residence

O. O. Felthouse, well known Columbia District resident, is having a house built on his ranch. A concrete basement and a concrete foundation are now being constructed by Henry Neitz, and on the completion of this work the carpenters will begin the erection of the building.