## MEDFORDMAILTRIBUNE

anmOfficial Paper of the City of Medford.

Interesting data regarding the Wells Fargo \& Com-
pany is being presented by the state railroad commission
in the hearing now on at Salem to reduce express rates in in the hearing
Oregon. The earnings given are substantially an abstrac from the express company's report. The rates attached in the rates.
Express rates have been excessive and far more than good work in tak up the matter and determining good work in taking up the matter
whether or not a reduction is justified.
The Wells Fargo \& Company was organized in Colorado in 1866 as the Holiday Overland Mail \& Express Com pany with a capital stock of $\$ 3,000,000$. Later it was merged with the Holiday Overland Mail \& Express Company with a capital stock of fifteen millions-taking ove the Pioneer Stage Company, the Overland Mail, and chang ing the name to the present one. The capital stock was reduced to $\$ 5,000,000$, but the companies books do not show whether it was paid up in cash, realty, equipment securities or issued as payment of good will. Since the capital stock has been increased by issues of shares, said to be issued as advanced payments on contracts. Thes. Fight of the thirteen directors are either officers or directors in the Harriman system.

A total of over sixty-five thousand miles is covered by the operations of the Wells Fargo Company, to which can be added ocean-going mileage exceeding nine thousand. The mileage in the United States operated is 55,132 , the mileage in Oregon, 1002 miles.

The company's statements shows assets of $\$ 32,675,442$. of which approximately four million dollars are stocks and bonds, nearly two million dollars real property, two million dollars in equipment, nineteen and a half million permanent investments, and two and a half millions cash as-
sets. The liabilities include capital stock of eight million, a reserve of approximately twenty million, and profit and loss of four and three-quarter millions.

The company's books show less than four million dollars of the company's capital was used in 1909 in operation of the express business. This four million earned over and above all expenses and taxes over three and a quarter mil-
lions, or $811-2$ per cent net for the year ending June 30 , 1909. In 1908 the capital used in operation was only two and a half million, which was increased a million dollars last year by adjustment of its inventory and accounts. Whether or not the increase was legitimate, cannot be gleaned from the company's reports.

The income account shows the receipts from the oper ation were approximately twenty-four and a half million less eleven and a half millions for express purposes, leaving operating revenues of exceeding thirteen millions. Against this are operating expenses and taxes approximately of nine and three-quarters milions, leavilg and this is added nearly a million and a half dividends on stocks owned and income from other investments, leaving net coroprate income of $\$ 4,664,379$. A 10 per cent dividend was declared of $\$ 800,000$, leaving the balance for the year credited to profit and loss, $\$ 3,806,379$.

Of the total revenue from operation, 98 per cent was received as revenue for transportation, and 2 per cent from operations, half of which from C. O. D. checks and the balance from money orders and other sources.
The average net income from operations for the pas three years was $\$ 3,252,892$,

The average value of the real estate and equipment used during the three years was in round numbers $\$ 2,750$, 000 , or less than 10 per cent of the company's capital, sur plus and undivided profits. The average yearly net earnings from operations was therefore over 118 per cent on the capital used.

During the said three years more than 90 per cent of the company's capital, surplus and undivided profit was invested or was a vailable for investments in outside invest ments, and netted the compa
ceed 4 per cent per annum.

On such a showing it would seem that the people
Oregon are entitled to a great reduction from the present rates. There is no reason why the public should be muleted to the tune of 118 per cent per year profits for the express company on the capital actually used.

## TEN MILES OF PAVING.

Medford's city council will tomorrow night receiv bids for laying nearly ten miles of hard surface pavement This mileage will be further increased by other streets pe.

It is probable that a considerable reduction wolld be se


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