

CITY BUYS A FIRE ENGINE

Thursday night's adjourned session of the city council was a busy meeting. The recorder was ordered to pay Mr. Holmes the \$50 for sewer right of way; water propositions for fire protection were received from Joe Wilson and L. E. Morse; a sidewalk petition was granted for both sides of Stranahan avenue; the finance committee reported a balance of \$1,996.31 in the hands of the treasurer; the fire and water committee was instructed to purchase a double 35-gallon chemical fire engine at a cost of \$1100; the street committee was authorized to use \$300 in completing work on the road to the boat landing; an ordinance to prohibit pedestrians in the city streets was read; an ordinance fixing fire limits for the city was given final passage; bills amounting to \$583.30 were ordered paid; and on motion the council adjourned.

There was a full attendance with the exception of Leonard Nickelson, whose place as clerk of the session was filled by councilman McDonald. A letter was read from R. J. Holmes stating that he had not yet received the \$50 for a deed to a sewer right of way through the land of Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Holmes wanted the \$50 or the deed returned. Mayes explained that the money was withheld because the city's attorney had found some flaw in the agreement. The recorder was later ordered to mail Mr. Holmes a warrant for his money. A proposition was read from Joe Wilson, agreeing to furnish water for \$1 a month for each hydrant, the city to furnish the fire hydrants and pipes. Should the city at any time discontinue buying water from him, he was to be guaranteed pay for crosses and gates. No action was taken on the proposition but it is understood the council is favorable to it.

L. E. Morse stated that he had a spring sufficient to supply the water needs of the city and is ready to talk business. The business men and citizens on the heights petitioned that a sidewalk be laid on both sides of Stranahan avenue. There seems to be a dispute concerning the property lines in this addition, and on motion of Rand the sidewalk petition was granted with the understanding that the property owners shall ascertain the street lines at their own expense, and that the sidewalk be laid.

A communication from Street Commissioner Cunningham stated that he had ordered Jim Langille to remove his fences from the streets, and on Langille's failure to do so, the street commissioner had the work done at an expense of \$5, which he considered Langille should pay. The bill was left with Marshal Olinger for collection.

While discussing the removal of fences from the streets McDonald said there were some fences in River Street that should be taken down. He wanted every one treated alike.

Rand, the chairman of the committee on fire and water, stated that he and Councilman Prather had been in Portland last week, where they examined a chemical fire engine. The engine when new cost \$220, but the city of Hood River had the opportunity to get it for \$1100. The engine is in good condition and supplied with new fixtures and 150 feet of hose. It has been used in the city of Forestville, which has recently installed a paid department and secured larger engines for horses. Mr. Rand thought the engine was a bargain. The company selling it was willing to make easy terms of payment.

Prather spoke in favor of buying the engine. While the four-wheeled engine was heavy, weighing 2600 pounds, he thought it better than a two-wheeled engine, and considered that it would pull down hill just as easy. The engine was supplied with new equipment, and the two 15-foot ladders that can be made into a combination 22-foot ladder.

Other members of the council spoke in favor of the purchase of the engine. Over 80 per cent of the fires of the larger cities are extinguished by chemical engines said Mr. Rand. On motion of Mr. Rand the committee on fire and water was instructed to purchase the engine, and to arrange for the erection of an engine shed adjoining the city hall. At this point Prather suggested that the city take steps toward the organization of a volunteer fire department.

Mayes, for the committee on streets and public property, reported that work on the East Side grade had gone as far as the funds on hand permitted. The grade between the railroad bridge and the county bridge was completed for light traffic, and the fill across the Patton corner has been finished. A fill or bridge is needed over the low ground crossing the land of the Oregon Lumber Co. Mr. Mayes thought it would cost about \$400 to construct an unimproved bridge. Councilman Early said a trestle could be built at a much less cost, but he did not favor a bridge, as the work would not be permanent as a fill. He considered \$300 sufficient to make the fill.

On motion of Rand the street committee was authorized to expend the \$300 in completing the work on the road to the boat landing. Councilman Bailey of the health committee reported two cases of diphtheria on the hill. The Marshal had placed the quarantine flags on the houses and the committee thought there was no danger of the contagion spreading.

Prather, chairman of the sewer committee, had no report to offer. McDonald, a member of the same committee, stated that the city attorney employed by the city considers that the city has the authority to make a double assessment for the sewer system. By this means the property of the whole town would be taxed to construct the main sewer and the outlets, while the benefits would be paid for by the adjoining property owners as they were built.

A new ordinance was presented by C. A. Bell asking for a franchise to construct and operate an electric railway in Hood River. Mr. Bell asked for rights to lay rails on River street, State street, and Park street to the city limits. He also asks that he have ten years in which to complete his system on all these streets. The system will begin at the water front on the east end of Columbia avenue, the new street to the boat landing, cross the county bridge, and come west on State street to the center of town. This part of the road Mr. Bell proposes to construct immediately.

The matter was referred to the committee on streets and public property. An ordinance prohibiting prize fights, boxing contests or exhibitions, or attempts to arrange for the same was introduced and passed first reading.

An ordinance establishing fire limits in the city of Hood River was introduced by Councilman McDonald and on motion was given final passage by unanimous consent of the council. The ordinance described the fire limits as extending from the O. R. & N. right of way south on Front street to State street, west on State to Fifth street; north on Fifth to the O. R. & N. right of way, and east on the line of the right of way to the point of beginning. Nothing but brick or stone buildings shall be erected within this district, except small sheds prescribed for by the ordinance. No

WHERE THEY GROW THE 3-TIER SPITZ

The exhibit of 3-tier Spitzbergs at the fair, the Bateham place at Mosier excited the curiosity of the Glacier man, and he made the overland trip to investigate.

A. H. Bateham was found on the Lamb place, now owned by him, where he was superintending the gathering of the apple crop. Although the old orchard has been neglected for years, yet with the little attention Mr. Bateham was able to give it this year he succeeded in getting a crop of about 500 bushels this year. It was on the Jeff Mosier tract on the Columbia, however, that Mosier is pushing improvements with a gang of Japs. It was there the big Spitzbergs were grown, and trees were still loaded with the big red apples, the bulk of them 4-tier, while many were still larger. Into strawberries has been remodeled, large, comfortable living rooms fitted up, while from the house a good view can be had of the Columbia, the mountains across in the state of Washington, and the surrounding make an ideal home. On this tract there are fully 100 acres of fine tillable land. It is about the earliest strawberry land on the river, and Mr. Bateham will put in a large acreage as soon as he gets more irrigating water on the place. A spring now furnishes water for domestic purposes and also enough to irrigate seven acres, while a lake near the river contains enough water to irrigate the whole farm with a pumping plant. By spring nearly the whole 100 acres will be in cultivation, and will be put mostly into strawberries and apples. Mr. Bateham has about 300 acres in the two places, and he expects to have 200 acres in apples as soon as the land can be prepared and the trees set out. The improvements are being pushed with a gang of Japs and no time is being lost.

The Dollie Mosier place, adjoining, is also one of the choice farms of the Mosier valley. The crop of Spitzbergs this year is especially fine, and as good as any seen in Hood River. Miss Mosier is making improvements and steadily increasing the value of the property.

On the Dalles road, just east of town, are several fine farms. On the William Johnson place is a fine young orchard of eight acres and while the trees did not get the attention this year that was necessary, on account of sickness in the family, yet the crop was remarkable for the size of the fruit. The writer picked one Spitzberg that was larger than 3 tier, weighing 16 ounces and measuring 13 inches in circumference. Mr. Root has a fine place on the Dalles road. His bearing orchard is composed of many varieties, and the crop amounted to about 500 bushels, but Mr. Root will set out 200 Spitzbergs and Newtowns.

G. Sellinger, one of the Mosier pioneers, has one of the choice locations in Mosier. His farm consists of 228 acres, of which nearly 100 acres are in cultivation. His main crop is corn and grain, but on the west side of the farm the trees are making a vigorous growth and yielding heavily with fine large fruit, without irrigation. The soil is from 50 to 75 feet deep, having practically no bottom as far as the roots of the trees are concerned. J. P. Carroll has just completed a large apple house, said to be one of the best in the state.

J. T. Brown adjoins the Carroll farms, and has an ideal place. Only six acres in orchard, but the quality of fruit is of the best, the trees being vigorous and full of fruit, and the returns are ample to make more than a living for the owner. Many varieties of fruit have been planted. Mr. Brown probably has the best place for grapes in the valley. His Catawbas, Sweetwaters and Muscates are of fine size and flavor that is superior to any in this section of the country.

Across the creek are the farms of S. D. and S. E. Fisher. But a small clearing has been made, though they are steadily putting in Spitzbergs and Newtowns, and now have about 12 acres in these varieties of apples.

Mr. Peterson has a few apple trees in bearing on his homestead, but is making slow progress on account of having to do all his own work, and having but one acre in orchard. His apples and flowers are especially fine, although having received but little care.

Just over the summit from the Hood River valley is the 100-acre farm of P. Salzman. He has six acres in trees, and is clearing up more ground for orchard. While he has no labor for irrigation, his crops are all doing well. We saw carrots on his place, one of which would make a meal for a boarding house.

J. P. Bailey has the next place on the Mosier road, and has 20 acres cleared. He expects to irrigate several acres from a well, pumping the water with a windmill.

A. M. Roop is steadily improving his homestead setting out a small orchard, and has a good patch of alfalfa started on land which he does not expect to irrigate. By piping water from a spring he has sufficient for domestic purposes and a garden.

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Election Day Dinner Brings in Money. The receipts from the meals served in the State street school house by the school children on election day netted \$30.40. This sum will go toward buying books for the library and other purposes. The most severe weather of the season, boys and girls worked hard, and were well patronized by the public. A professional cook made the coffee, and for the evening meal, Professor Wiley, who served with the Second Oregon in the Philippines, had a hot dinner, which was boiled in one big camp kettle. This is said to have been one of the best dishes served.

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