

THE DAM CHRONICLE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1934

THE FIRE MENACE.

A roof fire two weeks ago, a grass fire last week. Happily, both fires were extinguished before serious damage was done, but the next fire, or the next, may not be controlled so easily and thousands of dollars in property value may be destroyed or the town wiped entirely out.

It is the history of every new community where people build hurriedly and without providing an adequate fire protection that fire takes a terrible toll. The Chronicle does not believe that the people of Cascade Locks realize the seriousness of the situation which confronts this community. Hood River is demanding payment for use of its fire truck in fighting the flames which swept the town on July 2. The Dalles is neither in a mood or position to help, and the Portland fire department is not permitted to leave the city limits.

If another serious fire occurs we must accept our losses and smile. And losses will be heavy, due to the high rate of insurance which exists throughout the Bonneville Dam area.

The war department has granted permission for the town to tie onto the water line which serves the locks. With a pressure of 250 pounds, this line would give Cascade Locks one of the finest fire protection systems in the state. Insurance rates would be cut in half if the town takes advantage of its opportunity and lays the necessary main and installs hydrants.

A temporary water system has been suggested. The Chronicle does not believe the public is in sympathy with temporary expedients, for the system which has been proposed would be of no value in fighting a serious fire and would not be instrumental in reducing fire insurance rates.

Fire hydrants will cost \$500. The necessary hose will cost another \$500, and a hose cart and truck will add another \$500. In other words, through expenditure of \$1500 the town can procure fire protection equal to Portland. Where is the \$1500 coming from? How is it to be raised? These are questions asked repeatedly, but no one has answered them.

The Chronicle believes the public must come together in a meeting and answer this question relating to our future fire protection to the satisfaction of everyone.

An unincorporated village or town cannot borrow funds or obtain credit. Thus it would appear that the town has two courses open if it is to escape the constant menace of fire: Incorporate or ask each citizen to dig down into his pockets for the necessary funds to carry on.

Business men of the town are unanimous in the declaration that

SCHOOL DAYS

The chimney tops were wreathed in smoke,
 As day upon the village broke,
 The birds, who, since the pink of dawn,
 Had gathered breakfast from the lawn,
 The stable, garden and the street,
 Now settled down with puzzled "tweet,"
 Unusual, less noisy were.
 The trees and brush scarce seemed to stir
 The merchants, opening their stores,
 Mused on the quiet of all outdoors.
 The traveler, why? he never knew,
 Restrained his horn in passing through.
 And we, who in the village dwelt,
 The strangeness of the morning felt.
 Yet puzzled w e to find the cause,
 Nor know just why the strangeness was.
 The day wore on, and then there fell
 Upon our ears a familiar bell.
 And with its first loud sudden stroke
 The stillness of the morning broke.
 From out the houses on the street,
 Came clattering of children's feet,
 To move, to merge in noisy groups,
 And fill the town with howls and whoops.
 Across the street to call and yell,
 As though they wished to drown the bell.
 Feet, which were all summer free,
 No more, 'till spring, the sun would see.
 The ragged overalls once worn,
 No more be donned at early morn.
 No more glad youth will greet the air,
 Unwashed of neck, uncombed of hair.
 Fond parent now their young restrain,
 Until some neatness they attain.

The bell is still. Again the town
 In drowsy peace has settled down.
 By mansion, and unpainted huts,
 Lay droop-eared, puzzled, sad-faced mutts,
 Who wonder at their master's strange
 Decline today the fields to range.
 And workers fumble at their tool;
 They, too, in thought, trudge off to school.

—Noble F. Hyde.

they cannot afford to contribute the funds necessary to provide fire protection. They feel that the burden should be spread out, that the people as a whole should assume it.

Cascade Locks has two privately owned water systems. The owners are either going to be compelled to spend additional money to extend the the systems or the town must absorb these systems and weld them into one single system.

The question of water service must be met and conquered. People living in certain districts of the town would not enjoy adequate fire protection even though hydrants were installed in certain strategic locations. This newspaper believes that every home in the city is entitled to fire protection. But it is also of the conviction that the home owners should help pay for the protection.

To provide the needed protection water mains of sufficient size to accommodate a 4-inch stream of water must be put into the ground.

We bring these problems to public attention for the reason that we believe they demand a solution. And we believe that the solution lies in an open-minded discussion of the problems. Self interest should not be allowed to interfere with the interests of the people as a whole, but the interest of every individual should be considered. If that is done, no doubt the community will find a satisfactory method of dealing with these vexing questions.

LIMITATION OF TAXES.

Now that the dog days are past and autumn is just around the corner, people are commencing to give some thought to the approaching November election. Deepest thought at the moment centers about the tax limitation bill.

Limitation of property taxes has long been a necessity, but like

prohibition cannot be forced upon the public. Taxes can only be lowered through exercise of common sense and manifestation of deeper in public affairs on the part of the people.

The state, county, schools and municipalities must be supported by taxation. Failure of the people to interest themselves in the expenditure of moneys raised by taxation has encouraged men in public office to spend recklessly. To attempt to overcome this weakness in a democratic government through arbitrary legislative methods only leads to chaos.

Schools cost money and must be supported. County government costs money and must be supported. State government costs money and must be supported. The public has never been encouraged to deny itself.

County, state and school taxes must be reduced if we are to have a limitation of taxing powers. Or indirect taxes must be made to take the place of direct property taxes. We do not believe the people will vote a limitation on taxes until they know where other tax moneys are coming from, but we do believe the campaign now under way will be educational in its character and encourage the public to study the tax problem in an effort to determine how the tax burden can be lightened and relief given to the property owner.

Scientists tell us that 5,000 years hence much of North America will be a desert and people will be living in the polar regions. Admiral Byrd appears to be picking out his homesite in advance of the rush.

An indignant subscriber, writing to The Oregonian, says the administration at Washington realizes that a republican can get just as hungry as a democrat. Hump! You learn something every day.

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If you have a cabin for rent, a room for rent, a piece of furniture for sale, want a place to live, are looking for some boarders, wish to do washing or sewing or any of a multitude of other things—try a want ad in the classified columns.

The Chronicle goes throughout the district. It calls on people every week. It will carry your message at small cost.

ONE CENT A WORD
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If not convenient to bring your want ads to the office leave them in the boxes which you will find in numerous locations throughout the territory. The boy will call and collect when delivering your paper.