

Will Build New Court House Down Town

BUILDING CONTRACT AWARDED BY COURT

CONTRACT IS AWARDED HERE AFTERNOON TO PORTLAND FIRM AT PRICE OF \$181,775. FIVE BIDS SUBMITTED.

CONTRACT IS SIGNED BY TWO MEMBERS OF COURT—COMMISSIONER BURRELL SHORT REFUSES TO SIGN PAPERS—MUCH EXCITEMENT.

The County Court this afternoon awarded a contract to J. M. Dugan & Co. of Portland for the construction of a new court house on the site where the old one now stands for \$181,775.

The contract was made by Judge Hanks and Commissioner Frank McCornack. Commissioner Burrell short refused to sign the papers.

The old court house trouble, which has for years been a source of contention between different factions of the county, has been renewed with all the apparent old intensity. The awarding of the contract today, which was generally predicted on the street, is the culmination of a serious difference of opinion between Hanks and McCornack on the one hand, and Short representing the other faction.

The court room was well filled with interested citizens and architects, and the air was somewhat tense with the unusual excitement.

Each architect submitted his figures on the completion of the Hot Springs building and on a new building on another site.

The following was the order in which the bids were read: White & Gloor, San Francisco, original building, \$191,300; new building, \$138,000 without elevator, deduct \$6,700, and without electric fixtures, deduct \$3,500.

George Isaacson, Portland, original building, \$218,000; new building, \$145,000, including elevator and fixtures.

Sound Construction company, Seattle, original building, \$187,886; new building, \$137,436, without elevator, deduct \$7,000; without fixtures, deduct \$3,500.

J. M. Dugan & Co., Portland, original building, \$181,546; new building, \$131,775, without elevator, deduct \$7,500; with fixtures add \$3,550.

Franchell & Parelius, Portland, original building, \$128,814; new building, \$137,654; without elevator,

GAS BOMBS DROPPED ON AMERICANS

RUBBER BOMBS FILLED WITH LIQUID MUSTARD GAS ARE DROPPED BY GERMAN AIRMEN ALONG AMERICAN SECTOR

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY, March 20.—A German airplane last night and this morning flew over the American sector to the northwest of Toul, and dropped rubber balls 18 inches in diameter, filled with liquid mustard gas.

It is the first time the airplanes have been employed for this purpose. General Pershing has approved the awarding of the first New Mexico war crosses for extraordinary heroism to Lieutenant John Green, Sergeant Wm. Norton and Sergeant Patrick Walsh. These men have all been decorated by the French government.

ALASKA MERCHANTS WILL PATRONIZE HOME INDUSTRY

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Feb. 12.—(By mail)—Merchants here have agreed that they will purchase no vegetables from dealers in the "states" this spring or summer, but will buy from farmers in the Matanuska Valley. Local business men have likewise petitioned the Alaskan Engineering Commission to purchase what available supplies it can from Anchorage merchants in preference to dealers in the "states."

INSANE INMATES ESCAPE FROM SALEM HOSPITAL

SALEM, March 20.—John H. Otter, aged 50, an inmate of the hospital for the insane here for twenty years, has escaped from the hospital farm. He came from Jackson County, and was considered to be harmless. W. F. Foyser of Portland, another inmate escaped from the institution Monday.

REPLY FROM HOLLAND IS NOW ON CABLES

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20.—Holland's reply to the United States and England regarding the shipping demands is now on the cables, and is expected to arrive here today.

BIRDMAN DROPS TO DEATH

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 20.—First Lieutenant Walter H. Johnson, aged 33, of Belleville Ill., was killed instantly here today when his airplane fell 1,500 feet at Kellyfield.

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MANY ARE NOW BUYING W. S. STAMPS

HOUSE TO HOUSE CAMPAIGN WHICH WAS LAUNCHED YESTERDAY BIDS FAIR TO REAP EXCELLENT RESULTS

The Klamath Falls money market was considerably upset yesterday as a result of the opening of the house to house canvass for the sale of Thrift and War Saving Stamps, according to the statement of local bankers today.

Complete reports are not in for the day's work, but all those in the field declared that the reception accorded them by the public was all that could be desired, and the individual sales in many cases ran well up toward \$100. The idea of the present campaign is to get the people started with the habit of putting their spare change into the stamps each day, rather than to run up a large amount of sales.

Members of the Central committee are planning to hold a meeting at Algoma on Thursday evening to discuss the Thrift Stamp movement before the residents of that district. Other meetings will be held at different places in the county in the near future.

UNSINKABLE SHIPS NOW PLANNED

CHAIRMAN HURLEY ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF ALL SHIPS NOW BEING BUILT TO SEE IF THEY CAN BE RENDERED UNSINKABLE

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20.—Immediate investigation of all ships now building to see if they can be equipped with any of the devices submitted to make them unsinkable or torpedo-proof, has been ordered by Chairman Hurley of the shipping board, after receiving a confidential report from the navy department on success that is being achieved in the protection of war vessels.

The scope of the naval board, headed by Rear Admiral Winterhalter, originally created to study the practicability of the devices designed to make the steamer Lucia unsinkable, has been greatly enlarged. The board has been instructed to study fully all other theories of non-sinkable construction. Secretary Daniels conferred today with Admiral Winterhalter, who said a report on the Lucia construction principles was being prepared.

Naval officials generally are frankly doubtful that any means will be found to prevent destruction of cargo craft which would not also require much additional time for construction.

Secretary Daniels, however, does not propose, he said, to overlook any device that might be of any use. It is also probable the H. C. Seymour of the Oregon Agricultural College will be on hand to assist in that organization. Twelve meetings will be arranged, three and others called at later times.

SUIT FILED TO ENJOIN COURT ACTS

ACTION STARTED TO PREVENT COUNTY COURT FROM ABANDONING HOT SPRINGS STRUCTURE TO BUILD ON NEW SITE

An injunction suit asking that the County Court be enjoined temporarily from entering into any contract, with the money now in the hands of the county treasurer or otherwise collected from the taxpayers for the construction of a court house in Hot Springs Addition, for the construction of a new court house on another site, was this morning filed in the office of the Circuit Court clerk by John Koontz, a county taxpayer, thru his attorney, E. R. Elliott.

The complaint recites that a site was secured in April, 1913, in Block 10, Hot Springs Addition, for the erection of a court house; that the conveyance deed to the county was conditioned on the completion of the court house, and that in 1910 a special tax was provided for the construction of a court house. Since that time \$400,000 has been collected, it is asserted. It alleges that \$150,000 has already been expended on the building started, and that sufficient money is now in the hands of the county treasurer for its completion.

The expense thus far incurred, according to the complaint, will be lost to the county soon unless the building is completed, and the County Court is now negotiating for a new building on another site. It is asserted that on January 28th contracts were entered into with architects to submit bids for a new court house with a commission of 7 1/2 per cent of the cost of the building and traveling expenses, if the bids were accepted. It is the belief of the plaintiff that the court intends diverting the funds collected for the Hot Springs court house toward the construction of one on the old site in block 25 of the original town. It is asserted that the county judge ordered the county clerk to advertise the bids without the authority of the court.

COUNTY WILL BE ORGANIZED FOR WAR WORK

DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF SERVICE FOR PEOPLE IN COUNTRY TO BE HANDLED BY PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

In response to a direct request of the government, a series of meetings through the different sections of the county are to be held commencing about the 1st of April by County Agricultural Agent H. E. Glasper and County School Superintendent Edna Wells for the purpose of perfecting permanent organization to aid the nation in the different branches of war work.

It is also probable the H. C. Seymour of the Oregon Agricultural College will be on hand to assist in that organization. Twelve meetings will be arranged, three and others called at later times.

HOME GUARD TO BE FORMED IN THIS CITY

BIG MEETING LAST NIGHT AT ELKS HALL, AT WHICH DIFFERENT PLANS FOR ORGANIZATION ARE DISCUSSED

In the belief that during the period of the war, an urgent need for some organized protection of the city and county was urgent, and that the move already started in most other communities for something of this nature could well be started here, about one hundred men gathered last night at the Elks Hall to talk over plans for organization. Both the home guard and national militia methods of organization were discussed at length, and it was finally decided to proceed with the home guard organization first and later form a militia company if it was found advisable.

At the close of the meeting a committee of twelve men was selected to make further plans and report at a meeting tonight. At this meeting a number of suggestions were made which will be presented at tonight's gathering.

No leaders have been selected as yet, but it is probable that some of the city's business and professional men who have seen government service will be called upon to drill the men here for a night or two a week during the coming summer months.

MENARY NOW WORKING FOR LUMBERMEN

OREGON SENATOR "GOES AFTER" RAILROAD BOARD FOR FAILURE TO "COME THRU" WITH PROMISED RELIEF FROM CAR SHORTAGE

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20.—Lumber companies of Oregon have wired Senator McNary, asking that vigorous steps be taken to secure relief from the car shortage and discrimination against Oregon shippers charged.

The senator discussed the matter with the railroad board, and pointed out that promises heretofore made in reference to relieving the situation had been unfulfilled; that the situation was serious, and that something should be done at once.

The board stated that conditions affecting the shortage were improving and that within one week they believed ample relief from congestion would be afforded.

RUSS CAPITAL MAY BE MOVED AGAIN

LONDON, March 20.—Various reports from Russia indicate that the greatest anxiety exists over what appears to be a great enveloping movement which the Austro-Germans are carrying out against Moscow.

MORE GERMAN DIPLOMACY IS REVEALED

DISPATCHES FROM FRANCE THROW LIGHT ON RECENT MOVES IN NORTHERN EUROPE. HUNS ATTEMPT TO COERCE SWEDISH

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20.—Germany is charged in official dispatches received from France with having attempted to force Sweden to participate at the Brest-Litovsk conference recently for settlement of questions affecting the Baltic Sea.

Falling in her effort to bring this about, Germany has resorted to force in occupying the Aland Islands under the pretext of a request made by the residents of Finland.

EFFICIENT HOME GUARD AT FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Feb. 12.—(By mail)—Altogether it seems unlikely that Fairbanks, located in the interior of Alaska, and consequently many thousands of miles from the war zone, need ever fear an invasion by the enemy, a company of home guards has been formed and is drilling regularly.

It is composed of men who are well over the draft age. Most of them have spent years in Alaska, and are excellent rifle and revolver shots.

U. S. CONSUL ESCAPES FROM HUNS

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20.—The American consul at Odessa managed to effect his escape before the German occupation of that city, and is now safe in Roskoff, according to a dispatch from Consul Summers at Moscow.

DUTCH CONDITIONS DECLARED UNFAVORABLE

LONDON, March 20.—A Reuter dispatch from The Hague says that the conditions laid down by the Dutch are unlikely to be acceptable to the allies.

RUSS FRIENDLY TO U. S.

MOSCOW, March 20.—Russian relations with the entente remain unchanged, M. Tohtcherin, the new bolshevik foreign minister told the Associated Press representative today. He declared that the relations with the United States were of a friendly nature.

Water Running Over Lost River Dam

It will now be entirely unnecessary for the reclamation officials here to turn water over the Lost River dam, in order that mullets below may run up, as the water has now commenced pouring over the dam itself at the rate of 500 second feet per day, according to an announcement made at the reclamation office.

PLEASANT OUTLOOK NOW FOR KLAMATH

SPRING SEASON OPENS UNDER FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES. GROUND WELL SOAKED—STOCK TURNED ON RANGE

MILLS OPENING AT UNUSUALLY EARLY DATE WITH PROSPECTS FOR RECORD RUN—BUSINESS CONDITIONS GOOD—INDUSTRIES LAUNCHED

At the close of a winter which could hardly have been more favorable to farmers, stockmen and lumbermen in every way, spring is opening at a very early date under the most promising auspices. Seasonable rains are soaking the ground with moisture at the most opportune time; the stock that has been held for feeding in the yards has been turned on the range; the lakes are open to logging operations, and the mills are starting on a big season's run, weeks before they can usually plan to get under way.

At no time in recent years has Klamath County been "set to go" in the condition which she now finds herself. Business condition during the winter have been of the best. A large number of new irrigation enterprises are getting under way, which have been held back by litigation and other causes for years past. The vast tract of the Lower Klamath marshes is now being reclaimed at a rapid rate, bringing under cultivation an area of fertile land on which the added production would be hard to estimate.

Lumbermen are preparing for a big season's run, the operations of which will only be limited to the amount of help that is available for them to secure. Good markets for boxes insure the steady operation of the year pay rolls in these rapidly growing factories. It is little wonder then that with such a backing for future progress Klamath Falls, in spite of the fearful world war and in spite of the fact that the citizens who are largely responsible for the progress are devoting a very large part of their time and energy in helping by various ways to win the war, is presenting such an extraordinary evidence of

(Continued on page 4)

Baker Mill Employees Are Out On Strike

BAKER, Ore., March 20.—A hundred and seventy-five employees of two logging camps of the Oregon and Idaho Lumber companies, have struck

here, protesting against the eight-hour wage scale, which is slightly less than the former one. They also claim that food prices have been raised in some of the camps.