

OPENING OF LARGE NEW STORE READY

Monday and Tuesday are the opening days for the large new Halton-Smith store, just completed off the bridge, joining the Throop store. This is one of the largest and best stores in Columbia County. They handle the famous Hart Schaffner Marx Clothes for men, the Florsheim shoe for men and women, dry goods, dresses, cloaks and a splendid dry-goods and clothing store in every respect. They have a big ad in this issue that will surely pay you to read. We welcome the new enterprise to our growing city.

Another New Business

Mr. Sale, a new arrival to buy property in our city, has been busy this week on the foundation to his new building next to the Eagle office. As soon as the lumber arrives from Portland, Mr. Sale will complete a good building where he will operate a first class restaurant.

The American Ry. Express Co. now has an agent in Vernonia, Mr. H. E. Albert of the Company was here this week making all arrangements with Mr. Oxley. You can now ship by Express.

A good crowd gathered at the Lunch Box Cafe, Thursday night had a jolly time, refreshments and started plans for the organizing of a Five Hundred Club.

Stray Cow For Sale

On Dec. 21, 1922, I will sell at auction one small black cow 2 or 3 years old, six inch horns. Said cow taken up in the city of Vernonia, under authority of ordinance No. 52. Sale to be at Grange Barn, Vernonia, at 2 o'clock—E. D. Fowler, City Marshal.

Cow For Sale

One old cow, taken up Dec. 14 yellow color, with dark face, feet and end of tail. Right horn broken off, dry, gentle. To be sold at auction, according to ordinance No. 52, Saturday, Dec. 23 at Grange Barn at 2 P. M.—E. D. Fowler, City Marshal.

The Vista Hotel just finished near the church is ready for business. Notice their ad in this issue. This is another good family added to our growing population.

C. A. Mills braved the snow and bad roads this week to get in Portland, where he attended a meeting of the Highway Commission.

Mr. McGregor, of the Oregon-American Co., wrote a hurried letter to our Mayor, Tuesday, calling his attention to a meeting of the State Highway Commission, and telling Mr. White that the Chamber of Commerce or a Committee from Vernonia should be there in the interest of the Inland Highway from Portland to Astoria. Mr. White had to act quick as the meeting was Wednesday, giving him only a very few hours to get there in. He finally got in touch with two or three members and at once went to Portland. When it comes to work and action, count on Vernonia. Mr. McGregor is interested in Vernonia and Vernonia is interested in Mr. McGregor and his big Company and we feel that we can depend upon them for some mighty big help and good ideas along the line of progress.

Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink. Yes, this has been the situation, but no more in Vernonia. Soon we can take a big drink of water without a feeling of dread. Soon we can take a drink of water in the dark and know what we are drinking. Soon we can take a bath and have the hot and cold water without carrying it from our neighbors or a spring. Soon we can water our lawn, and have things as convenient, as safe, as clean and pure as anybody, and we are as good as anybody, so why not? The people of Vernonia recently voted in favor of bonds to put in a water system and the water system will now soon be a reality. The actual construction is ready to start and with no bad luck, Vernonia people can buy a bathtub by the coming June. Plenty of water to be had.

Near East Situation Dreadful

America must respond to the cry of destitution from the Near East. Extracts are here printed from a recent cabigram showing only a small report of the dreadful situation. It is beyond imagination:

"I visited twenty camps in Athens, Piraeus, where hundreds of thousands of persons herded. Rain fell continuously, drenchingly, and through mist I saw sights which no one could make me believe possible in these modern times of Christian civilization, under drab wintry skies more than half refugees are obviously far below par physically, probably at least third are seriously ill, but hospital facilities are so inadequate as to be practically nil in many camps. I saw three persons die in camp where single doctor comes only twice weekly to minister to two thousand women, children who are without protection or breadwinner. Many sick lie on bare wet ground. Everywhere cry was for blankets, it is shocking to find how little covering most of these women and girls have many of them escaped from Smyrna by swimming and have perhaps one or two thin pieces of raiment at most. 'Stop our bread to give us blankets,' many said to me although their thin drawn faces showed how dire is the need for famine ration of half pound each. I saw pale mothers give birth to children on wet ground. What chance these babies have of life? Here in these terrible refugee camps is going on grimmest elemental struggle for existence battle wherein reaper death has every advantage. I talked with man and wife camped in tiny corner of a ruined warehouse where leaky roof shut out the light but not the weather, two months ago they were among the richest residents in Smyrna, lost half million dollars in five, today are as penniless, hopeless as poorest of their neighbors. I thought of Thanksgiving season America as talked with them, poorest family America will have hundred times more to be thankful for than the richest of these camp dwellers. If we could only give them blankets and food enough to carry them through the next few weeks, give the shelter and breathing space, give them chance to regain their balance after terriblest experience within imagination of man, can America do this? Situation here is so stupendous it needs million good Samaritans to bring order out chaos yet so little is needed by each individual, so little food, so little shelter, so little clothing, it would be small hardship for any normal American to adopt one of these refugees to provide enough to pay for his food and raiment, it would be small burden for average American if every American would save one life, it is an opportunity for service we red-blooded Americans can reguse.

A New Comer's Idea of Vernonia's Future

In considering the future of Vernonia we must at the very outset get away, at least in part, from the idea of "a beautiful little village nestled among the hills." Not that this is not absolutely true and entirely applicable in our case, but it cuts so little figure in the future of a city.

If a committee of three persons were appointed to go to a certain place, thoroughly examine and make report upon a particular tree, and suppose further that one of these men were a lumberman, another an artist and the third a botanist. The lumberman would consider the value of the tree in dollars and cents after it had been converted into marketable lumber. A very businesslike view, to say the least. Any particular limb which might increase its beauty in the eyes of the artist, would, according to the first committee member, be lessened considerably the value of the product when manufactured. The artist would look only at the symmetry, relation to the landscape etc. The botanist would consider only the texture of the bark, form of leaves, what particular branch of the vegetable family the tree was a member, and pay no particular attention to the intrinsic value.

Just so in considering the lasting qualities of a town, we must look through several different pairs of eyes. No town will ever become of consequence simply because it has a beautiful location, and simply because we desire it to become so. There must be something more substantial than mere beauty and desire. Indeed Vernonia has both of these possessions and many more.

In the first place we have the geographical location to make a natural trading point, which Vernonia has been for many years. We are far enough from any other town of any importance to guarantee a good trade for our merchants. This may seem like a small matter, but time will prove the importance of it. We also have resources which have never yet been touched. Chief among our resources is our immense supply of timber. There is a great demand at present for lumber, and with the coming of our big sawmill and our new railroad we will in a short time be able and ready to do our part toward supplying this urgent demand. This alone is sufficient to insure a considerable degree of prosperity for a number of years at least. But this is not all we have. Our agricultural possibilities are simply wonderful. As good crops of all kinds can be, and are raised here as at any spot on this mundane sphere. Quite true, only a small portion of the land is yet in a tillable condition, but this has also been true of all other parts of Oregon at some time in their history. This is simply a parallel case to our timber interest. Wherever there is a demand for development of any kind there will soon be capital available for the development.

So, owing to the fact that we have the location, beauty, resources and all that is necessary for a future, the writer sees no reason for regret at having cast his lot with the Vernonians. If we expect prosperity we must go where prosperity is possible. In the language of the Arkansas hunter, "If you want to hunt bar, you must go where the bar are at." H. E. H.

COUNTY AGENT NEWS

The county agent is now taking orders for heifer calves to be purchased for a Tillamook county cow testing association. These calves are from dams producing not less than 300 pounds of butterfat and sired by pure bred bulls. Accompanying each calf will be a statement of the number of the calf, number and name of pure bred sire and production of the dam. These calves are guaranteed to be free from contagious diseases and taken only from tubercular tested herds. The express company feeds and cares for these calves enroute and safe delivery can be guaranteed. Orders should be placed early. For further information get in touch with the county agent.

During the past two years considerable work has been done along cost production lines in the production of butterfat and milk. It has been rather definitely proven that a cow in order to return profit to the owner under present dairy conditions must be able to produce at least one pound of butterfat per day, or 300 pounds during her lactation period. How many cows in Columbia county will measure up to this standard, and how can you tell whether your cow will do this or not? The only safe way to know what is going on in your herd is to weigh the milk from each cow twice a day and have at least one monthly test run for butterfat production, keeping accurate cost of feed, labor, etc. There is a difference between supporting a cow and having the cow support you. The average production of the dairy herds in Columbia county is entirely too low for profitable returns. This can be overcome only by careful feeding methods, use of the pure bred sire, and the keeping of production records, which means the elimination of poor cows.

Operators of a number of stage lines operating on the Pacific highway, between Salem and Eugene, appeared at the offices of the public service commission and complained that the county court of Benton county had threatened to regulate them out of business.

The bodies of George D. Linn, proprietor of the Eugene Sand & Gravel company, and Henry Nestle, an employe, were swept down the Willamette river when a boat capsized opposite the gravel plant. The two men were stringing a cable across the river.

Six small children and one woman, Mrs. Ivor Johnson, died and three grown persons and one child suffered severe burns when a can of gasoline, mistaken for kerosene, exploded when the contents were poured into a stove to aid a smouldering fire set fire to a two-family home in the west part of Eugene.

The proposed paving of the 11-mile section of road between Albany and Corvallis on the Benton county side will be put up to the state highway commission at the next meeting with full assurance of the support of the two counties as the result of a conference of members of the Linn and Benton county courts and the Corvallis and Albany chamber of commerce.

Marked reduction in the salaries of practically all state officials, both elective and appointive, with the exception of secretary of state and state treasurer, will be proposed at the next session of the Oregon legislature. The bill setting out the proposed new schedule of salaries is now being prepared, it was said, and will be ready for introduction on the second day of the session.

Never a week passes in Vernonia without the starting of from one to a half dozen new buildings. It is safe to say that a hundred new homes have been built in Vernonia this fall. And there is no letup. A hundred more houses are wanted now, and it is a paying proposition. New families are constantly arriving and the large new mill will bring a couple hundred more families the first of the year. The coming spring will be a busy one in Vernonia, and the people on the ground floor are the lucky ones.

The cows are "at home" nights now, since the publishing of the ordinance.

LESTER'S RESTAURANT

Wishes You a Merry Christmas.

In our new location on Beiler Street, formerly occupied by the Drug Store.

MEALS SHORT ORDERS LUNCHEONS

We specialise in Home Made Candies

Superior Christmas Box Candy

Noodle and Chili are our special delicacies these cold evenings

Next door to Lane & Co.

MRS. A. LESTER

Vista Hotel

New Rooming House just finished and ready for occupancy. North of the Church, on Second Street.

When wanting a room by the Day, Week or Month Try the "VISTA"

We are New Years in Vernonia, but it is as good to us

A Merry Christmas to all.

THE VISTA HOTEL

Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Feinman

"RELIABILITY"

Is Our Watchword.

We guarantee all our ENGINE AND MACHINE WORK

At this Time we Wish to Express to the people of the Valley our Sentiments for a Real Merry Christmas and Our Good Wishes toward all For 1923

Vernonia's Reliable Auto and Machine Shop

OF SESSEMAN & GREENWELL

Weed Avenue

Across from Depot.