

Vernonia Eagle

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Union Blames Columbia Basin Loggers for Lumber Strife

Charges that the Columbia Basin Loggers association is responsible for the present strife in the lumber industry were made in a statement issued by the Columbia River council Monday. It reads as follows:

In a final effort to maintain industrial peace and obtain the wages and conditions of the entire remainder of the industry, we, the representatives of the loggers and sawmill men involved, recommend that the entire dispute be submitted to a fair and impartial board of arbitration. A referendum vote to accept or reject this recommendation is being placed before the membership immediately, and will be completed by midnight, Wednesday, April 28.

In issuing this statement we fully realize that the public is dependent upon limited sources for their information on this or any other labor dispute. A detailed explanation of the workers' positions would only be met by a cleverly drafted counteractive statement from the Columbia Basin Loggers' association (the employers), and would not result in bringing clarity of the issues to the minds of the public, but, on the contrary, would only result in further confusion of facts, a purpose desired and manipulated by the Columbia Basin Loggers association. We are, however, pointing out these definite facts:

1. The unions involved have met the representatives of the Columbia Basin Loggers' association in negotiations, with the hope and express purpose of gaining only the wages and conditions prevailing in the rest of the industry.

2. The Columbia Basin Loggers' association refuse to consider this request for equality.

3. The representatives of the Columbia Basin Loggers' association not only refuse to grant wages and conditions equivalent to those prevailing in the industry, but immediately imposed on April 1, 1937 an increase of 15 cents on meals, constituting a reduction in pay.

4. As a further effort to maintain peace and with the hope of eventually obtaining the conditions of employment of all other operations, local union committees elected by the employees of each particular operation, contacted the employer of the operation, directly, and proposed a temporary agreement.

5. Seven operators recognized the fairness of this proposal and accord was reached.

6. This temporary settlement as mutually agreed upon by these seven units was presented to the other operators with the hope of establishing a right foundation for maintaining production and arriving at a mutually satisfactory conclusion.

7. Two major operators and members of the Columbia Basin Loggers' association, namely, the Interstate Logging company and the Connacher Logging company, were heartily in accord with this temporary proposal. These operators were definitely prevented from signing same by the Columbia Basin Loggers' association, and stated so before witnesses.

8. As a final expression of their willingness to be fair, the Connacher and Interstate com-

panies notified their employees that they would pay the wage increases, retroactive to March 22, 1937. This increase was paid for two days, March 21 and 22, but these operators were forced to retract same and post notices of withdrawal of the increase.

The entire issue is unquestionably to be summed up to this: The majority of employers as individual operators recognized the fairness of the temporary proposal and are willing to continue production on that basis, but are prevented from doing so by dictation of the operators and officials of the Columbia Basin Loggers' association.

Charges covering several points of unfair labor practices have been filed with the national labor relations board against the Columbia Basin Loggers' association. Charles W. Hope, regional director, has notified the association to this effect.

In conclusion, we ask the public to give consideration to the fact that the representatives of the unions involved, hoping to prevent any stoppage of work, express such confidence in the fairness of the workers' request, that we are recommending arbitration.

In consideration of the general public, the employers and the employees, can any saner solution to this dispute be proposed?

Sawmill Owners Issue Statement
The newly organized Columbia Basin Sawmills issued Monday a counter statement embodied in a letter to the Columbia River council. It reads as follows:
Gentlemen:

Strikes have been called at the sawmill plants of the Oregon-American Lumber Corporation at Vernonia and of the Clark and Wilson Lumber company at Linnton and Prescott. These strikes were called without notice and while there were no disputes between the companies and their sawmill employees.

Both of these companies are members of the Columbia Basin Sawmills, an association whose sole purpose is to prevent disputes between employers and employees, and in line with that purpose to work out uniform agreements between the members of the association and their employees. At none of the sawmill plants where strikes are now on was there any labor dispute whatsoever with mill employees. At the Clark and Wilson plants no opportunity was given the employees of the sawmill department to vote on the question whether or not they would go out on strike. The plants were picketed and the men barred from work without notice to the company or the employees.

Both of these companies, along with other members of Columbia Basin sawmills, had voluntarily raised the wages of all their manufacturing department employees 7½ cents per hour, effective on March 16, 1937, and had requested that negotiations be commenced for the preparation of a uniform working agreement among all member sawmills.

The strikes in the plants of

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Treasurer Authorized To Buy Property

The city treasurer was authorized at a meeting of the city council Monday night to purchase from the county property within the city limits foreclosed for taxes, in order to protect the city's interest in assessments. The furnace and radiator in the bank building were sold to the Birkenfeld school district for \$113.

Application of Joe Springer to the state liquor control commission for a class B package license was approved by the council.

INHALATOR IS BOUGHT BY LEGION REPRESENTATIVES

The inhalator for which the American Legion post has been raising funds was fully paid for Tuesday night, and will be permanently available for community use. An article regarding its use and listing the donors is being held over for lack of space and will appear next week.

Consolidation of Districts 47, 49 Is Approved

Consolidation of School District 49 Jt., Beaver Creek, with School District 47, Vernonia, was approved by the voters in both districts last week end. The vote at the Beaver Creek school was 13 to 1 in favor of the proposition, and in Vernonia 6 to 0.

There are at present 87 pupils in the Beaver Creek school. A bus route will be established to bring them into Vernonia. Added revenues from taxation of property in the Beaver Creek district will be sufficient to take care of this, Supt Ivan N. McCollom believes. A further source of income will be a bonus that the law allows a consolidated district when transportation is necessary.

Since the Beaver Creek district is a joint district with Washington county, District 47 will be assigned a new number that will not duplicate the number of any of the existing districts in that county.

A few weeks ago the Rock Creek school district voted to merge with Vernonia, hence the local school district will be considerably enlarged when school opens next fall. Mrs. Madge Rogers has been teacher of the Beaver Creek school during the current year, and Mrs. W. T. Graves of the Rock Creek school.

Clean-up day tomorrow.
See last week's Eagle for Particulars.

TEACHERS ATTEND CONFERENCE AT MONMOUTH

Supt. Ivan N. McCollom, Principal Enoch Dumas, Miss Ethel Peterson, Miss Marjorie Gray, Miss Helen Hall, Miss Thelma Sweeney, Miss Grace White, Miss Julia Keasey and Willard Berg of the Vernonia grade schools attended the annual spring educational conference in Monmouth Saturday.

N. A. Spofford, 77, Passes April 27

Nathaniel Ash Spofford, 77, died April 27. Services were held yesterday afternoon at Brown's mortuary.

He was born Feb. 26, 1860 in Rockland, Maine, the youngest of 10 children. When 15 years of age he moved to Chicago, Ill.

May 28, 1894 he became a member of Austin Park lodge 645, I.O.O.F. in Chicago, in which he retained membership for the remainder of his life.

On Feb. 25, 1902 he was married to Bessie M. Colburn. To this union were born two daughters and five sons. Two sons preceded him in death.

The family moved to Jerome, Idaho in 1909, where Mr. Spofford engaged in farming. In Nov. 1929 Mr. and Mrs. Spofford, daughter Bessie and son Arthur moved to Vernonia, where they continued to reside.

Surviving are the widow, Thur R. Spofford of Vernonia and Nathaniel Spofford of Jerome, Idaho, two daughters, Mrs. Alvin Herrin of Vernonia and Mrs. Emmett Biddle of Svensen, and nine grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Ernest Stacey, Ernest Herman, Cal Plummer, Lane Lyons, Robert Spencer and Alfred Bays.

Jury Names Drawn For May Court Term

The names of Minnie L. Hughes, H. J. Buffmire, S. V. Malmsten and Harry L. King of Vernonia, and A. R. Melis of Mist were drawn for jury duty for the May term of circuit court.

TOWNSEDITES TO HAVE BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Vernonia Townsend club will have a birthday party Monday evening in celebration of the birthdays of three members. A program and a birthday cake of special design will be the attractions of the evening. The public is welcome.

Pomona Grange to Meet

Pomona grange will meet tomorrow at Clatskanie for the regular quarterly session.

Long Elected as Superintendent Of Grade Schools

Bus Contracts Awarded with Requirement that New Safety Features Be Included

W. Ralph Long, who has been teaching in the Washington grade school for the past half year, was elected superintendent of the local grade schools at a meeting of the directors Wednesday night. He succeeds Ivan N. McCollom, whose resignation was accepted. Mr. Long has had considerable experience as teacher and principal in the Portland schools and elsewhere, and had a position in Multnomah county awaiting him at the time of his promotion here.

The board also awarded bus contracts for the next three years, with the requirement that all busses will have all-steel bodies, shatter-proof glass and leather upholstery. With the exception of T. M. Crawford's bus, which meets the specifications, all the busses will be new.

C. A. Mills was awarded a contract for the new Beaver Creek route at \$150 a month, Bruce McDonald for the Rock Creek route at \$120, T. M. Crawford for the Camp 8 route at \$225, and H. M. Condit for the Stony Point and mile bridge routes at \$180. Mr. Mills and Mr. McDonald hold contracts with the high school district also, and will combine their loads, using larger busses than now. The men were awarded three year contracts to enable them to purchase the new equipment necessary.

EXAMINER TO BE HERE THURSDAY, MAY 6

R. J. Dooley, examiner of operators and chauffeurs, is to be at the city hall in Vernonia from 11 a. m. to 5 p. m. Thursday, May 6, according to word from Earl Snell, secretary of state.

McCollom Resigns To Accept Place In Adna Wash.

Ivan N. McCollom, superintendent of the Vernonia grade schools for the past four years, resigned Wednesday night in order to accept a position as superintendent at Adna, Wash. He will receive an increase in salary of \$200 a year, and will have charge of the high school as well as the grade school in the community. The district includes the town and a large section of rural territory. There are 14 teachers in the system.

Mr. McCollom expects to leave for his new field as soon as school closes here.