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NO. 6

ASSESSORS' MEETING

Important Matters Discussed at North Yakima.

ASSESSOR McDONALD REPORTS

Valuations to Be Materially Increased Throughout the State.

Chehalis, Wash., Jan. 15, 1908. To the Press of Lewis County:—

As I have been interviewed for publication concerning the actions of the County Assessor's Convention held in North Yakima Jan. 7 to 11 inclusive, and realizing how difficult it is to express myself exactly in the same words to each reporter, I have decided to ask the papers of Lewis county for space to express myself to all alike. I shall be as brief as possible.

The first day was devoted to the discussion of the cruise of the timber lands, in which the state tax commission took part. The discussion revealed the fact that some eight or ten counties were actually at work on a cruise, besides others that had done so some years ago. A resolution was passed impressing the importance of a cruise upon the minds of all county commissioners of timbered counties as the only method of obtaining anything like the correct value of the timber, and that a copy of said resolution be sent to the county commissioner's convention, and also a copy be sent to the commissioners of each county of the state. No particular method or scheme for conducting a cruise was recommended by the convention. The daily press have reported that Mr. E. P. Galbraith's method of cruising was adopted. This is an error. Mr. Galbraith is assessor of Spokane county and some of the western counties have as much timber on one section as his county has on a whole township. This is putting it just as Mr. Galbraith remarked it to me. He is cruising the timber lands, and classifying the improved and unimproved lands of his county and this progressive step was indorsed by the convention.

At the second day's session the committee on order of business made its report, and the committees appointed at the last session were allowed to stand for this convention, and each reported resolutions to assess property coming under their work at 60 per cent. of its actual value and were adopted.

A general resolution was then adopted by the convention to assess all property at 60 per cent. of its market value. The state tax commissioners made the statement that the state railway commission had completed its labors in finding the cost of construction of the railroad and telegraph lines of the state and that they would assess the same at 60 per cent. of those figures, and called the attention of the assessors to the result should they fail to assess the general property of the state on the same basis. They stated that if an assessor of any county turned in his property below 60 per cent. the state Board of Equalization would most certainly raise his assessment to what they deemed 60 per cent. of the value of the property of said county. Now, it appears to me that it behoves each assessor of the state to get this rate of valuation if the taxes of the railroad and telegraph lines are to be collected, and if the people of my county wish to see the railroads and telegraph companies pay their just proportion of taxes, they will assist the deputy assessors in giving in their property this year accordingly, instead of, as some do, trying to get the better of his neighbor by managing to get his property listed below others.

Incidentally, I wish to say that I tried to show one of the tax commissioners that the State Board of Equalization were not justified in raising the valuation of Lewis county for the year 1907, but he answered me as follows: "That the street railways of Seattle were assessed for \$5,000,000, and that the board reasoned that the total assessed value of all the property of Lewis county, including railroads, tele-

graph and telephone lines, should be much more than double the value of the street railways of Seattle; that the water plant and franchise of Vancouver was assessed for \$1,000,000, and the board thought they would much rather have all of Lewis county than ten such water propositions." I could have but little more to say, and granting such property in other counties are so assessed, we must grant Lewis county is too low, and I hope to be able to get deputies this year that will obey my instructions and get a valuation that will be a credit to Lewis county, and give it her proper standing among the other counties of the state. We, as individuals, will not be hurt as I am thoroughly convinced that every assessor or present will line up to the spirit of the actions of the convention, and we will all go up together. Lewis county is not the only county assessed too low.

At Thursday's session a resolution was passed endorsing the constitutional amendment to Article VII of the Revenue laws that a more modern system of taxation might be adopted. It seemed at the time that no one understood what this was, and was adopted without discussion. On Friday morning a resolution was adopted to reconsider the matter, and in the discussion that followed it was shown that much private investigation had been made during the interim and a motion prevailed to refer the resolution back to the committee on legislation. This action doubtless gave rise to the statement in the daily papers that the convention believed that the tax commission was trying to usurp its authority. There was no such resolution offered to the convention. The object in referring the matter back to the committee on legislation was to give the assessors time to consider what stand they wished to take. This committee will report to each assessor its final decision by letter and the same will be either approved or disapproved by each assessor sending in his vote by mail.

The timber land committee deemed it wise to postpone the formulation of a schedule for the assessment of timber until near the first of March, and a sub-convention was called to meet in Seattle February 21st, consisting of all the assessors of timbered counties and the state tax commission.

Another action which may have given rise to the statement that the convention thought the tax commission was usurping its authority was the passage of a resolution asking the legislature to give back to the county assessor the assessment of street railways and railroads lying wholly within the boundaries of one county. In the discussion of this motion, as well as that of some others, there were remarks made by individual members that the convention as a whole does not wish to father, and reporters should respect the convention as a whole and not the individual babblers; but it appears that the desire of the average reporter for something sensational overshadows the good to come from such a body.

On the whole the convention was a great success, intensely interesting and will be productive of much good in the way of securing equitable and just values for assessment among the various counties.

Yours for a square deal,
A. T. McDONALD,
Assessor of Lewis County.

I. O. O. INSTALLATION.

The I. O. O. F. and Rebekah's of this city held a joint installation Wednesday evening at which time the following officers were installed: Encampment, No. 60—W. J. Glover, C. P.; S. C. Davis, P. C. P.; James Lynch S. W.; S. Reeves, J. W.; E. A. Norton, scribe; A. C. Green, Treasurer. Subordinate officers—Wesley Woods, P. N. G.; E. A. Norton, N. G.; Chas. Devlin, V. G.; S. C. Davis, Sec.; A. C. Green, F. Sec.; W. W. Canon, Treas.; Geo. Mays, War.; W. Brown, Cond.; W. O. Remington, R. S. S.; F. Rowsell, L. S. S.; D. Calderwood, O. G. Rebekah Lodge No. 21—Gertie Lynch, N. G.; Media Fisher, P. N. G.; Lula Henderson, V. G.; Bessie Green, Sec.; W. Woods, F. Sec.; A. C. Green, Treasurer. Those present from outside points were Major Wm. Crowhurst of Seattle, Capt. H. T. Clippenger, Chevaliers Clippenger and Hugh Steklind, of Chehalis, and King, of the department of Oklahoma, also H. A. Thompson, Grand Inside Sentinel of the Grand Encampment, who acted as installing officer. After the installation service a banquet was served to which all did ample justice.

The Knights of Pythias of this city will give their annual ball on Wednesday evening, February 19th. The ball will be handled by the Uniform Rank and all members of the rank will be present in full uniform.

EXTENSION IS REQUESTED

In Time of Franchise for Street Car Line.

WORK TO COMMENCE IN APRIL

City Council Will Consider Matter at Meeting Next Tuesday.

B. J. Weeks, of Tacoma, who is at the head of the corporation which holds the franchise for the electric street car line between here and Chehalis was in town several days this week and also visited Chehalis, negotiating with the city councils of the two cities for an extension of sixty days in which to put up his forfeit of \$1000 to each city.

Mr. Weeks expresses the opinion that he will be able to begin the actual work of construction in about three months.

The city council here has already granted one extension on this franchise on account of financial conditions and no doubt will agree to a further extension if they are thoroughly satisfied of the good intentions of the promoters of the enterprise.

The Chehalis council will consider the matter of an extension of time at their meeting next Monday evening.

GAVE HIMSELF UP.

Victor Smith, the young man accused of shooting Miss Etta Fink at her home near Alpha last Sunday gave himself up to Deputy Sheriff King last Tuesday. He stated that his flight into the woods was due to fear and that as soon as he thought the matter over he decided to give himself up to the authorities. In an interview, Smith says that he knows that the bullet glanced and struck the little girl. He claims, as does young Mosier, that the dog is a vicious one, and that it was coming after them, and that he shot to kill the dog. Smith also stated that he had had no trouble with the Fink family, except over a bear trap last spring, when he said one of the Fink boys had accused him of stealing the trap.

The little Fink girl is reported to be entirely out of danger.

ELMA DEFEATED BY CENTRALIA.

Last evening the Centralia High School Basketball team defeated the Elma High School team, on their floor by a score of 88 to 15. The Elma team is made up of small but swift men and the game was fast from start to finish. After the game, the boys being in good spirits over their victory, thought they could celebrate a little, but, as the celebration took place in front of the marshal's residence, it took tall talking to save the Centralia team from a job on the streets of Elma.

The Centralia team was beaten two points by the Winlock team, but in the game next Friday with Hoquiam, they expect to show what they can do with high schools of their class.

AN EXCITING BEAR HUNT.

Hoquiam, Jan. 18—Roy Blair, of this city, and Will and Jesse McCash of Centralia, while hunting on Big Creek, about 18 miles northwest of Hoquiam, discovered a bear in a hollow tree. After surrounding the tree to prevent a possible escape, Jess proceeded to bombard Mr. Bruin through a crevice in the tree until we were satisfied he was dead. Then came the tug-of-war to pull him from the hole but to no avail, as the hole wasn't large enough. A man had to be sent to the camp to secure an ax to enlarge the hole. The bear tipped the scales at 452 pounds and measured 8 feet 2 inches from tip to tip.

BIG REAL ESTATE TRANSFER.

Yesterday there were filed for record in the court house at Chehalis deeds for many thousand acres of land from the Continental Timber Company to the Milwaukee Land Company. (Similar transfers have been made in neighboring counties. The Milwaukee Land Company is a subsidiary corporation of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company.)

The transfer in Lewis county includes about 40,000 acres. Mr. Abe Flewelling will remain local manager of the corporation.

LESS WASTE OF LUMBER

Increased Value of Stumpage is the Cause.

IMPROVED MACHINERY IN USE

Manufacturers Discriminating in Use of Large and Small Logs.

The men of no industry recognized the importance of practicing economy in the utilization of product more than the lumbermen of this country. Such has not always been the case, but the rapid depletion of the forests during the past decade and the consequent advance in stumpage prices had made necessary the reduction of waste in order to insure the prosperity of the business. So far, aside from reducing waste in the woods, practically all efforts have been directed to better utilization of the log of the tree through the introduction of machinery which works up the product with less waste.

Lumbermen have for years been perfecting their machinery so as to reduce the waste in manufacturing logs into lumber. The old-fashioned, vertical, stiff-back saws which were operated by water power made a cut almost half an inch wide. Then came the circular saws which greatly increased the speed of sawing, and reduced the waste in kerf. These have now been supplanted by modern band saws, which in some cases make a cut of not more than 1-3 of an inch wide, and revolves with tremendous speed. With the saw, all of the other parts of mill machinery have shown marked improvement.

This condition has been brought about by the ever increasing demand for greater economy and cheaper and quicker methods of manufacture. Waste in lumbering has always been an important consideration, but has become far more so of late on account of the very rapid depletion of the forests. Competition has also greatly increased until it is only those lumbermen who have kept pace with modern conditions that are able to operate with success.

These changed conditions have completely revolutionized the logging methods of several of the largest lumber companies in the south. Instead of felling the tree and sawing it into logs in the woods, they simply trim off the branches, and haul in the whole tree. It is then thrown into a log pond, picked up on endless chains, and sawed into logs of any desired length. One concern in the south with which the Forest Service has been cooperating has built a separate mill for this purpose. The savings in the actual merchantable contents and cost of manufacture are considerable, and more than pay for the initial and upkeep costs of the mill.

Another feature of the business which is just beginning to be thoroughly appreciated is the manufacture of the logs of different sizes into definite products. Thus, where formerly boards were sawed from logs of any diameter, many lumbermen are now beginning to use only the larger logs for this purpose. The smaller logs are sawed into those commodities which require little handling and cost of manufacture, such as posts, poles, railroad ties, etc.

Railroad companies want heart long-leaf pine for their cross-ties, and in the past have had little difficulty in getting them. Now, however, many lumbermen absolutely refuse to furnish them, but take the logs of this quality and saw them into more valuable grades of lumber. Heart long-leaf pine ties are likely therefore, to go out of use, and their place be taken by the ties sawed from small trees and surfaced on two sides only. Such ties are admirably adapted to preservative treatment, because they are entirely surrounded by sapwood, and this readily absorbs preservatives. Moreover, a tie cut from a small tree, when treated with a preservative, is far more durable than an untreated tie cut from heartwood, and although its initial cost is somewhat greater, its final cost is considerably less. Manufacture of logs of certain sizes into definite products is therefore getting to be of increasing importance. While the principal advances in the closer utilization of the tree, so far,

have been made in working up the log to better advantage, other reductions in waste will come through the use of every part of the tree which can be handled with profit. Varied commercial interests over the country have made good success in the last few years in reducing the enormous waste of forest products by treating with preservatives woods which are of little value in their natural state, reducing the height of the stump, using the tree higher up into the top, and utilizing for various by-products many parts which were formerly wasted. The government, through the United States Forest Service, has taken a prominent part in these experiments, and the knowledge gained has been placed at the disposal of the business men of the country who are interested.

ANNUAL MEETING OF UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK.

The stockholders of the United States National Bank, of this city, held their annual meeting on Tuesday evening, practically all the stock being represented in person. The report of the condition of the bank was submitted and was eminently satisfactory, and showed a substantial profit to the shareholders. The active officers of the bank were congratulated for having conducted the affairs of the bank on a strictly cash basis during the recent severe financial panic, notwithstanding the fact the bank was called upon to protect in cash the pay rolls of the largest inland lumber manufacturing concerns in southwestern Washington, aggregating \$75,000.00 to \$85,000.00 for the months of November and December.

The following persons were named as directors for the ensuing year: Chas. Gilchrist, C. S. Gilchrist, Geo. E. Birge, and George Dysart, of this city, and the Honorable J. A. Veness, of Winlock, Washington, all of whom have the highest interests of the community at heart, and who have always contributed to the promotion of every worthy enterprise.

The directors elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Chas. Gilchrist, President, C. S. Gilchrist, First Vice-President, Geo. E. Birge, Second Vice-President, J. W. Daubney, Cashier, and Ross W. Daubney, Asst. Cashier, who are known among the most conservative and successful bankers in the state.

The stockholders of this bank are recognized as representatives of the most substantial and legitimate business enterprises in this community.

The chief functions of a bank are to receive deposits and to loan money. These things this institution is prepared to do in a manner acceptable to its patrons.

SUPERIOR COURT.

The following cases were heard before Hon. A. E. Rice, this week.

In the case of H. C. Nelson vs. Hugh C. Nelson, the judgment was signed in the tax lien foreclosure.

J. W. Young was allowed to intervene as party defendant in the suit brought by Therese Lutkins vs. Fred Muller et al.

In the matter of the guardianship of Millard Gosnell, insane, an order to rescind the money and release the mortgage was issued by Judge Rice.

In the guardianship of Howard and Raymond Packard, an order was issued fixing the bond of Nellie Packard at \$5000.

In the divorce case of Fannie Roman vs. C. C. Roman, an order of default was issued.

Mrs. Hope Grant et al vs. Walworth & Neville Manufacturing company, judgment in favor of plaintiff for \$2000, each party to pay own costs.

HOP GROWERS ELECT OFFICERS.

The hop growers of Lewis county completed their organization at a well attended meeting held in Chehalis last Saturday. The total acreage represented at the meeting was 457 acres, which is about 60 per cent. of the total acreage of the county. The officers of the new organization are: President, J. C. Rush; Vice-President, Carl Motter; Secretary, Walter Twiss; Treasurer, Frank Donahoe. The Lewis county district will have a strong delegation present at the state meeting of hop growers soon to be held in Payallup. It is expected that 80 per cent. of the entire acreage will be signed up inside of a few days.

COURTHOUSE NOTES.

James Callison filed a petition for letters of administration in the estate of Lizzie Callison this week.

Those receiving marriage licenses this week were Roy M. Ellis and Minnie Collins, Liel Golski and Victoria Comolak, D. F. Fitzgerald and Maggie O'Connor.

MEETING OF LUMBERMEN

Southwestern Association Elects Officers.

ATTY. DYSART MAKES REPORT

On Hearing on Rate Case Before Interstate Commerce Commission.

A meeting of the Southwestern Washington Lumber Manufacturer's Association was held in their rooms in the rear of the Agency building Thursday afternoon, nearly the entire membership being present.

The first business to come before the organization was the election of officers and the following were elected: President, W. C. Miles; First Vice-President, F. A. Martin; Second Vice-President, S. S. Somerville; Secretary, T. H. McLafferty; Treasurer, J. G. Startup.

This being the first meeting of the association since the return of Messrs. W. C. Yeomans, W. C. Miles and Attorney Geo. Dysart from Washington, D. C., where they appeared before the Interstate Commerce Commission these gentlemen were called on to address the members of the association present, and Mr. Dysart spoke as follows:

"Mr. President and Gentlemen:—As you know, this case started last fall. To go over the preparations of this case is only to re-hash work done by committees of the different associations with which you are familiar. However, in the preparation of our case I worked in harmony with Mr. Teal of the Oregon & Washington Association, and our theory of the case and the theory on which we tried the case before the commission was that prior to the time of the agitation of this rate we had a firm lumber market, but the agitation of the increased rate resulted in the demoralization of the market, and more especially due to the realization of cargo buyers that with the raise in rate the manufacturer would be compelled to stuff his lumber into their territory with the result that prices would be greatly lowered. Another point that we dwell upon was that the increase in rate could not be absorbed by the mills and a profit realized in the manufacture of lumber. It was also our purpose to show the commission that with the old rates in effect the railroads were making a fair profit from any test that might be applied, and that these railroads were doing as well as any railroads in the United States, and we proceeded along that line. Mr. Teal and his traffic man had worked industriously on their exhibits, and had prepared a map showing every station which the increased rate effected. This was very clear to the commission, and was of great assistance to all of us. In addition to this he had a great deal of other valued data, and produced annual reports from the railroads to their stockholders, State Railway Commissions, etc, and also verbatim speeches made by Mr. Hill years and years ago. He had testimony given by Mr. Hill before the State Railway Commission of Minnesota, in which he stated that they made their money on long hauls and that there was no money in short hauls.

"The railroads tried the case on two theories. One was that but a small percentage of the lumber went into the territory affected, but they did not attempt to show that less than sixty-five per cent. of our cut would be affected. They also attempted to show that the rate per ton per mile on lumber was lower than that on almost any other product and exhibited tables to show this, but on cross examination it was shown that the tables were not fair, as, while the rate per ton per mile might be lower, it was higher per car. They also advanced the theory that the depressed condition of our lumber market was not due to the increased rate, but to the panic, and put on witnesses from the white pine manufacturers, from Nebraska and other points to prove this, but it was shown that these witnesses would be benefitted by the increased rates on our product and

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