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APPEARANCES

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THE NEW RAILROAD

Chamber Commerce Committee
Investigate Proposition.

NECESSARY MONEY IN BANK

Attorney Whalley Stated That H. Hawgood Actually Had Money in Bank to Construct Road at Reasonable Price—People Fully Protected.

The special committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce at the regular meeting last night to investigate the proposition offered by the Portland, Oregon and Seacoast Railway Co., to build a railroad out of Clatsop City up the Nehalem Valley, and to complete and operate the first 15 miles to Humburg Mountain by the first day of November, held a lengthy session yesterday morning and thoroughly threshed out the important matter.

Chairman John H. Whyte presided and there were present the other four members of the committee—B. Van Dusen, J. T. Ross, F. J. Taylor and F. L. Parker. J. S. Talbot, the superintendent of construction and right-of-way agent for the new road, Judge J. Q. A. Bowlby, who will represent the road locally as an attorney, in all probability; and J. T. Whalley, the road's attorney in Portland, were present during the session.

Numerous questions were asked of Messrs. Talbot and Whalley and the proposition which they represent was unreservedly laid before the committee, and in such a way that a very splendid impression seemed to be left in the minds of all the committeemen.

Judge Taylor for the committee pointed out how the right-of-way blanks might be worded so that the fullest possible protection would be offered to those who would be called upon to give the rights-of-ways. However, it was pointed out by Mr. Whalley that these blanks already appeared to afford the utmost protection to all who might be asked to sign them. In fact, the deeds for the rights-of-way are not asked for until such time as the road is completed and in operation, which seems to be about as fair as any proposition could be.

But to make the proposition all the more fair and considerate of the best interests of local people, Attorney Whalley suggested that the president of the new road be communicated with by wire for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not facts were not exactly as he had stated them, namely that the president, Mr. H. Hawgood, of Los Angeles, actually had the money in the bank necessary to build and equip and operate the road in case no fancy prices were forced for rights-of-way. This telegram was accordingly framed up by the committee and Manager Whyte sent it direct to Mr. Hawgood.

As soon as a reply is received the committee will be in possession of about all the information on the question that it seems possible to obtain. And if this reply is acceptable it is quite likely that the committee will report favorably to the Chamber of Commerce tomorrow night at 8 o'clock on the occasion of the adjourned meeting called to give the railroad enterprise fuller consideration than was possible without a committee investigation and report.

It was stated that the money for the preliminary work of constructing this new railroad was furnished by H. E. Huntington of Los Angeles. Mr. Hawgood was the chief engineer for the Huntington California Railroad interests for a number of years.

It is expected that there will be quite a largely attended meeting at the Chamber of Commerce rooms tonight when final consideration is given to the railroad proposition and Messrs. Whalley and Talbot will be present to answer any interrogations. It now seems likely that Astoria will have another new railroad sooner than many had anticipated. From Clatsop City into Astoria at this time, the new road will operate over the tracks of the A. & C. railroad, but so soon as the bridge permission is given to the company by the legislature, it will enter the city over its own tracks.

Rev. G. E. Rydquist, pastor of the First Lutheran church of this city, called at the Chamber of Commerce yesterday afternoon and made arrangements to take some of the literature of the Chamber with him for distribution when he goes east in a few days, first to visit various places in Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa and ultimately to attend the exposition at Jamestown, Va.

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