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LITTLE CREDENCE GIVEN THE RUMOR HERE HOWEVER.

Extensive Outlays of Money at La Grande Refutes Rumored Cut-off.

With over \$160,000 being spent on new shops, which are far too great in capacity to be kept busy by merely local train power, and various other costly improvements under way. there seems to be little ground for the rumor that the Harriman system is planning construction of gigantic cut-off from Vale to Heppner, surveys for which are said to have been made. The announcement eliminating from Portland this week is given but little credence in this city where men are abreast with developments of the O-W appropriations. In the face of the announcement comes the report that the entire O-W is to be double tracked; another impractical move in the event the proposed cutoff is ever constructed. Referring to the cut-off a Portland paper says:

"Construction of an extension of the present line from Ontario to Vale in eastern Oregon through the central portion of the state with a connection with one of the roads now operating south from the Columbia river, possibly at Heppner, is reported to be the move planned by the Harriman interests of shortening the present ine between Portland and its eastern connections and of reducing the running time of fast trains between this city and the Oregon Short line from five to six hours.

"It is known, however, that this course has been surveyed and figures of the probable cost of construction are on file in the offices of the company both here and in New York. "Not only would such a piece of road eliminate much difficult trackage but it would pierce a productive portion of the state that at present is without railroad facilities. That the road would be a paying proposition from the start is a conclusion that has been drawn from all calculations that have been made on the subject.

"It is estimated that the proposed new lnie would reduce the distance

from Portland and the east nearly 100 miles. The curvature between Umatilla and Huntington would be avoided and many of the grades would be

"The construction of such a line would leave several important cities in eastern Oregon, including Baker, La Grande and Pendleton off the main road, but it is still pointed out that the business of that portion of the state is developing so rapidly anyway that a train service equally as frequent as that now provided for thorough traffic will be required to handle the local freight and passenger business.

"After passing through the productive John Day valley in the eastern part of the state a number of good routes are available for the new road any of which would offer an easy entrance into Portland. It has been asserted that the new tracks might connect with the Deschutes valley line now building toward Redmond from the Columbia river line, or that connection with the main line might be made through the Biggs-Shaniko road. The short lines between Arlington and Condon and between Heppner Junction and Heppner also afford means of reaching the river road should the eastern and western work be undertaken.

MAY DOUBLE TRACK SOON.

O'Brien Admits That Money Has Been Appropriated for That Purpose

General manager and vice president, J. P. O'Brien, of the O-W, with reference to the announcement made yesterday that the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific as well as the other subsidaries of the Harriman lines were to double track from Portland to Huntington, said:

"The double-tracking of the line from Portland to Huntington has been authorized, and we shall do just as much work on it as we possibly can the present year. We are now building the Portland-Troutdale cutoff, which is soon to be finished, and from there we are planning to add another main-line track to Bonneville. The next link will be started from a point about five miles west of The Dalles and continued on to Blalock. and from that point eastward to the Coyote-Echo cutoff the construction vil be done as rapidly as we can.

"This will mean practically 215 a iles of double-tracking. The work from Echo to Huntington will depend largely upon what is done in connection with the Central Oregon situation. The Deschutes Road into the interior, with the proposed east and west line from Natron to Odell and across to Ontario will give us in reatity a double track line for the O.-W. R. & N. while the Natron-Klamath Falls extension will mean a north and south double-track line for the Southern Pacific."

Mr. O'Brien added that the new work would be pushed forward just as soon as weather conditions permit and that at least \$5,000,000 will be expended on the main-line double-tracking for the current year.

Legislatures Help Whitman.

Whitman College, Walla Walla, Wash., Feb. 1. (Special) -Unanimous vote in both senate and house, the legislatures of Oregon and Idaho last Monday adopted a memorial to Congress asking for the grant to Whitman College of the abandoned Fort Walla Walla Military Reservation. The Washington legislature had already adopted the same memorial by an overwhelming vote the previous week. The pasage of the bill before Congres adjourns looks hopeful.

Don't let your horses step on the icy street. Anti Slip shoeing. R. A

Directory of the Fraternal Orders of La Grande, Oregon

A. F. & A. M.—La Grande Lodge No., REBEKAHS—Crystal Lodge No. 50 41, A. F. & A. M. holds regular meetings first and third Saturdays at 7:30 p. m. Cordial wetcome to all Masons. L. M. HOYT, W. M. A. C. WILLIAMS, Secretary,

B. P. O. E .- La Grande Lodge No. 433

meets each Thursday evening at 8 o'clock in Elk's club, corner of Depot street and Washington avenue. Visiting brothers are cordially invitag to attend.

DR. G. L. BIGGERS, Ex Rul. HUCH McCALL, Rec. Sec.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD-La Grande Lodge No. 169 W. O. W. meets every second and fourth Saturdays at K. P. hall. All visiting mebers welcome.

D. FITZGERALD, C. C. J. H. KEENEY, Clerk.

M. W. A.-La Grande Camp No. 7703 meets every Monday in the month at the I. O. O. F. hall. All visiting neighbors are cordially invited to

> I. R. SNOOK, C. D. E. COX, Clerk.

I. O. O. F. hall. All visiting members are invited to attend. MRS. KATIE ARBUCKLE, N. G. MISS ANNA ALEXANDER, Sec.

meets every Tuesday evening in the

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS-Red Cross Lodge No. 27 meets every Monday night in Castle hall, (old Elk's hall.) A Pythian welcome to all visiting

> JESS PAUL, C. C. R. L. LINCOLN, M. of R. & S.

O. E. S .- Hope Chapter No. 13, O. E. C. holds stated communications the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Visiting members cordially invited.

> MARY A. WARNICK, Sec. PAULINE EDERLEE, W. M.

WOMEN OF WOODCRAFT-Grande Ronde Circle No. 47 meets every first and third Thursday evenings in the month at the I. O. O. F. hall. All visiting members are welcome.

CHLOE ROBINSON, G. M. LIZZIE ELLSWORTH, Clerk.

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