

Ents

to this school district. There is still an outstanding indebtedness of \$8000 on the building destroyed. The insurance amount to \$8000 on building and \$1200 on contents. A new school building will be erected as soon as circumstances will permit. The board of directors have secured the Presbyterian, Methodist and Seventh Day Adventist churches and a hall for school purposes. School opened Monday morning.

slightly injured Monday, and has gone to his home on A. ... Did we have Thanksgiving dinner? Well, I should say we did, and we had Thanksgiving supper for the boys on night shift, and some of the boys are wishing—well, that the 29th would come around again soon. Yes, we had turkeys, cranberries, celery, and all that goes to set a sumptuous repast. Merry making was indulged in until a late hour on the evening of the 29th.

Blue Ledge Notes.

Editor The Mail:—You have not heard from us for some time. It wasn't because there was no news, but because times been dull about the Blue Ledge. But we have been that busy for the past fortnight that we haven't had time to write to even our best friend. I am sitting up very late tonight to pen you that we are not yet snowed under. Yes, there goes the dull boom boom from the timber, and the boys are going by to take their pieces on the gravel yard shifts. You see we have there an eight hour shift now, and the one going on still p. m. is called the grave yard shift. The boys going on this shift have supper at 9:30, and those coming off the evening shift have theirs at 11:30.

Yes, we are awake all the time, like the Chinaman who had a sign upon the street along beside a restaurant which displayed "Meals at all Hours," and a saloon which illuminated the words, "Open all Night," so the Chinaman painted in large letters upon a piece of cloth, "Me Walkee Too."

Well, we are awake out here in more ways than one. You can truly say that there is "something doing every minute."

The mines are now furnished with the most modern machinery, and 100 men are now being worked upon the three shifts. There are more than 100 men upon the outside, cutting wood, building, working upon pike lines, etc.

J. W. Wilson, the telephone man and electrician, left for his home in the valley a few days since, after having instituted a splendid telephone system for our camp. The phone line connects the mines, offices, compressor, and reaches as far as Hutton.

Quite a number of loads of coal have been brought up from the Meador coal mines, and prove to be splendid boiler fuel, and is also being used in the blacksmith shops.

We have both a freight and a passenger train daily now. The passenger train consists of from two to four stages, with terminal station at Aileen, and the freight train of four teams, three four horse and one six horse team, with terminal station at the Reve ledge. What do these teams haul—well everything that might be needed in a little town of 300 people, and they are loaded every day and then cant keep pace with the demands upon them.

Ralph Smith, the contractor, went to Medford Tuesday upon business.

We have both a freight and a passenger train daily now. The passenger train consists of from two to four stages, with terminal station at Aileen, and the freight train of four teams, three four horse and one six horse team, with terminal station at the Reve ledge. What do these teams haul—well everything that might be needed in a little town of 300 people, and they are loaded every day and then cant keep pace with the demands upon them.

W. T. Kinney is in the market for old leather and rubber boots. Don't sell your collection without seeing my quotations on same I have a few. Want some more. R. F. D. No. 1.

Wanted—Harness, bridles and chaps. A good grade of second-hand stuff. Call on or write Joe Handies, Sr. He also has quite a collection of non-destructible goods which he would re-sell.

Special.—Those who have got timber to sell, write F. Farlow. Frank has got the sawmill to grind out the goods. Butte Creek is on the boom. Sawmills, grist mills, threshing machines are sure to supply the trade.

The sale of the H. H. Batrie's property was made today. James Belt of Brownboro was the auctioneer. The property sold well. The ranch has not been sold yet. Don't know whether it will be sold or not. The heirs are talking of holding the ranch.

Mr. Binns, the Jacksonville meat man, was up Thursday.

Mr. Hughes, the former chief cook at the Nash, has charge of the dining room at Hotel Aileen, and the table he is setting can't be exceeded even in our best railroad towns.

Messrs. C. M. Garrison, S. N. Wertz and C. R. Crouser came in today and secured places with the company.

The assay office is being enlarged, also is the main office building, and are having a large new bake shop.

Payette will leave for Medford to spend the holidays, and return about the first of the year.

Mr. Binns, the Jacksonville meat man, was up Thursday.

as on the 21st of December, and both teachers are preparing suitable exercises, while one of them, Mr. Martin, will present a tree, and the Sabbath school has also made preparations for one.

Died—In Eugene, Dec. 15, 1906, from injuries received in the Booth-Kelly logging camp, William O. Jones, a native of Virginia, aged 32 years. The young man was well and favorably known in this vicinity, as for the past ten or more years his home has been here. For the last nine years he has been the guest, at Christmas time, of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Scott, and was, for some time past, a partner with our postmaster, H. T. Hart, in the mercantile business. He was highly respected and well liked by all who knew him, and his untimely death brings grief to a host of friends in this neighborhood. The deceased has no relatives on this coast, but leaves an aged father, two sisters and three brothers in Virginia. The remains were shipped here for burial and the funeral services were conducted by Rev. John Day, who spoke from the text, "If a man die, shall he live again?" Job 14 11.

Oliver Gaines visited Medford, Grants Pass and other valley points the first of the month, and is back again.

J. Lee, one of Medford's best carpenters, is here, having come to finish Mr. Cannahan's private office and suite of rooms.

R. F. O'Brien left for his home in Grants Pass Wednesday.

J. F. Yokum was the recipient of the sad news that his father died in Gold Hill Tuesday. Mr. Yokum started for his father's former home the same evening.

O. Weichsel, the mining engineer, left for Medford Wednesday evening, and will do some work for the company in the coal mines.

But few of our boys will go out for the holidays, as we are going to have a good time in camp about the 25th.

Do we know about the boom in and around Medford? Well, I should say—we couldn't but know if we would, and wouldn't if we could.

It is conceded that Medford is not only the coming metropolis of the Rogue River valley, but that it is already the best town in these parts.

Any one wishing to buy a lot of first-class L. E. navy soap beans or to sell same see J. W. Slinger.

The social dance given by T. L. Farlow not long since was a grand success all present reported a social good time.

Mrs. Amelia Pech has been quite sick. She is now convalescent. Her many friends and neighbors are glad to learn of her recovery.

Mrs. J. G. McCallister and her children who went to Portland recently arrived all O. K. and are well. J. G. heard from them yesterday.

Milo Conley has built him an addition to his residence on his homestead near McCallister soda springs. Milo has a fine ranch well located.

Those wishing to dispose of general all round collection of second hand watches and cooking utensils correspond with Martin & Conley post-office box 103.

W. T. Kinney is in the market for old leather and rubber boots. Don't sell your collection without seeing my quotations on same I have a few. Want some more. R. F. D. No. 1.

Wanted—Harness, bridles and chaps. A good grade of second-hand stuff. Call on or write Joe Handies, Sr. He also has quite a collection of non-destructible goods which he would re-sell.

Special.—Those who have got timber to sell, write F. Farlow. Frank has got the sawmill to grind out the goods. Butte Creek is on the boom. Sawmills, grist mills, threshing machines are sure to supply the trade.

The sale of the H. H. Batrie's property was made today. James Belt of Brownboro was the auctioneer. The property sold well. The ranch has not been sold yet. Don't know whether it will be sold or not. The heirs are talking of holding the ranch.

Mr. Binns, the Jacksonville meat man, was up Thursday.

Mr. Hughes, the former chief cook at the Nash, has charge of the dining room at Hotel Aileen, and the table he is setting can't be exceeded even in our best railroad towns.

Messrs. C. M. Garrison, S. N. Wertz and C. R. Crouser came in today and secured places with the company.

timbers with asbestos, the removal of all charred wood, and the cutting of a trap door in the floor above the furnace so that water may readily reach the seat of difficulty. The next step to make all safe should be to provide a hose to run from the faucet in the hall to a position over the furnace.

We are in receipt of the following letter from Portland: Professor M. H. Signa, Medford, Oregon.

Dear Sir.—Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of \$5 in cash and five boxes of supplies for the children of this society from the pupils of your public schools, and to say that your great kindness is much appreciated by us, and we trust that in the future as in the past, we may continue to warrant the confidence reposed in us by the good people of the state.

Winning to convey our thanks to your school children, and hoping that they will never be unfortunate enough to come under our care, I remain Yours truly, W. T. GARDNER, Supt.

Grade III chose aides for a reading contest last Friday. The lesson chosen was one read the day previous in the regular work. Those making an error in reading were obliged to sit down. At the close of the contest eleven on one side and thirteen on the other had read perfectly. It is especially noticeable that the leaders are accurate in selecting the best readers, showing that even so young as pupils are in the third grade, they recognize good reading. Also the contest feature causes the children to give special attention to their reading, in order that they may be chosen. A spelling contest was also conducted between the two divisions of grade V, the A division winning. Such a contest reviews the words spelled during the month, both in the speller and the readers. These drills are to be encouraged within reasonable limits, for there is untold benefit to be derived therefrom.

A new regulation in regard to attendance was into effect Monday, December 17, which will be of interest to parents, as well as pupils. The teachers are instructed by Prof. Signa to see that all pupils understand that hereafter absence will lower the standing of the pupil. An absence is to be counted as a failure in recitation, and will so stand until the work is fully made up. Then pupils will be given as high a grade as possible, but not as high as if they had been present all of the time. Certain consideration will be given in cases of sickness, but all work must be made up. Two tardy marks will lower the general average one per cent. The greatest drawback to progress, and the greatest cause for falling interest in school work on the part of the pupil is due to irregular attendance. Too many times there is no good reason whatever for non attendance or tardiness, and with the enforcement of the above regulation, we look for results along this line.

Table Rock Items. BY J. C. P.

Mr. Wolfer has been out for several days looking over his interests here. In passing among our neighbors lately we have heard many complaining of hard colds, and some feel pretty badly but it is too close to the holidays for people to give up now.

Mr. and Mrs. Washburn expect to leave for Portland the last of this week to spend the holidays season and have a good long visit with relatives. A much needed rest after the busy season on the orchard farm.

Our R. F. D. carrier is out with a regular mail wagon, bran new and up-to-date, even the rains or fogs have little terror for him now. People are fast learning the benefits of such a small service and often express their appreciation accordingly.

Mrs. Hyrum and Mrs. Adams drove to town Tuesday to purchase supplies for the Christmas tree. The committees are all busy these days, as well as nights, preparing for the entertainment. A general good time is expected, but if every one comes who have donated towards the tree, it will be a house jammed from door to platform.

Emmer Nichols is quietly working away on his foot hill farm grubbing and blasting out brush and trees and one of these fine days he will have a nice orchard and all the result of his own hard work. There is room for several more to do the same and before many years we expect to see many comfortable home where now only chaparral and trees abound.

From the best information we can get, there will be between eight and ten thousand trees set in this small sack-of-the-woods this winter. One man is seriously considering the advisability of putting out two hundred acres in one body, we sincerely hope he will decide to go ahead, for this section has already proved to be one of the best fruit sections in the valley. We always have size and as for color we are not to be out done by any spot on the coast.

Notice of Dissolution of Co-partnership. Notice is hereby given that L. J. Reinhart and J. H. Atwell, doing business in Medford, Oregon, under the firm name and style of Medford Cement & Construction Company, by mutual consent, this day dissolve. All accounts are payable to and all debts will be paid by L. J. Reinhart, who will continue the business. Dated at Medford, Oregon, this 1st day of December, 1906.

L. J. REINHART, J. H. ATWELL.

On January 1st the postoffice at Brownsville becomes a presidential one with a salary of \$1000. More trouble for the Oregon delegation.

Promotion in Navy Too Slow. Washington, Dec. 18.—The message of President Roosevelt on naval personnel follows in part: To the Senate and House of Representatives: I have invited the attention of Congress to the urgent necessity of such legislation as will cause officers of the line of the navy to reach the grades of captaincy and rear-admiral at less advanced ages and will give them more experience and training

in the important duties of these grades. Under the present archaic system of promotion, without parallel in the navy of any other first-class power, captains are commissioned at the average age of 56 and rear-admirals at the average age of 60. This system is the result of a long-continued prejudice in favor of a method of promotion by which all lieutenants in order to seniority pass through the several grades until they eventually become rear-admirals, a method which sacrifices the good of the service to the interest of individual mediocrity. As a direct consequence of the existing method naval officers obtain more than ample service in subordinate positions, but have a limited and inadequate experience, as captains in command of battleships as flag officers in charge of fleets and squadrons; that is, in the very position of greater responsibility, where experience, skill and initiative are essential to efficiency.

With the close of the present year, he people of the United States may have good reason to be thankful and proud of what has been achieved. The six leading cereals reach the almost incomprehensible total of 4,651,000,000 bushels; the sugar product amounts to 2,822,000,000 pounds; the potato crop is 335,000,000 bushels; the cotton crop, 12,500,000 bales; pig iron production, 25,000,000 tons; bank clearings for ten months amount to \$131,000,000; railroad gross earnings, \$1,140,000,000; exports of domestic merchandise, \$1,125,000,000; total foreign trade, \$2,470,000,000; money in circulation, \$2,861,000,000. Every item mentioned and many more, shows a gain in per centage over last year.

WANTED: Gentleman or lady with good reference to travel by rail or with a rig for a firm of \$250,000. Salary \$1.72 per year and expenses, salary paid weekly and expenses advanced. Address, with stamp, Jos. A. Alexander, Medford, Oregon.

Popular Holiday Excursion. Messrs. Bolton and Pell have arranged for another of their always popular excursions to San Francisco. At holiday time every year for the past seven these gentlemen have been conducting these excursions and each succeeding one grows in popularity. Seeing San Francisco at this time—after its ruin and terrible disaster—will be worth more than the fare to anyone. Particularly interesting will this be to those who have seen and were familiar with the city before the devastation.

The excursion will leave on the regular overland train on the morning of December 26th. Round trip tickets are \$15 and are good for fifteen days. Parties intending to take the trip should inform the management as early as possible in order to secure ample car accommodations. Fullman Standard and Tourist accommodations for these desiring them. Tickets are now on sale in Medford at the grocery store of E. N. Warner. 46-1

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. The undersigned, having been duly appointed administrator of the estate of John W. Cunningham, deceased, by order of the County Court for Jackson County, Oregon, sitting in probate and having qualified as such, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate of said John W. Cunningham, deceased, to present said claims with proper vouchers attached to the undersigned at Medford, Oregon, or to Charles P. King, my attorney at Medford, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. Dated at Medford, Oregon, December 26, 1906. J. E. BARKDOLL, Administrator of the estate of John W. Cunningham, deceased.

SINGLER'S PIANO HOUSE. We sell the Weber, Chickering and Kimball and forty other makes PIANOS FOR RENT and sold on easy terms. Agent for Wheeler & Wilson and Singer Sewing Machines. AUG G. SINGLER, MEDFORD, OREGON

WE SEND THE Season's Greeting To all our friends and we trust that their Christmas will be a MERRY ONE, INDEED. Here's a Christmas suggestion for Old Santa Claus SHOE UP THE FAMILY It's better than wasting money for toys and gew gaws This is a happy thought, and we suggest for instance— A pair of Warm Anise for Grandpa A pair of Warm Anise for Grandmother A pair of Handsome United Anises for Mother A pair of High Heeled Dress Slippers for Sister Kate A pair of Reading Shoes for Brother Tom A pair of Rubber Boots for Willie Add them to cap the climax— A pair of Slippers for Old Santa Claus himself Splendid Suggestion; don't you think so?

Smith & Molony, THE MEDFORD SHOE MEN.

Urge Change in Land Laws. Washington, Dec. 18.—The following is the message in part of President Roosevelt on the subject of public land laws, sent to Congress yesterday. To the Senate and House of Representatives: The developments of the past year emphasize with increasing force the need of vigorous and immediate action to recast the public land laws and adapt them to the actual situation. The timber and stone act has demonstrated conclusively that its effect is to turn over the public timber lands to great corporations. It has done enormous harm, it is no longer needed and it should be repealed.

The desert land act results so frequently in fraud and comparatively seldom in making homes on the land that it demands radical amendments. That provision which permits assignment before patent should be repealed and the entryman should be required to live for not less than two years at home on the land before patent issues. Otherwise the desert land law will continue to assist speculators and other large holders to get control of land and water on the public domain by indefensible means.

The commutation clause of the homestead act itself, in a majority of cases, to defeat the purpose of the homestead act itself, which is to facilitate settlement and create homes. In theory the commutation clause should assist the honest settler, and doubtless in some cases it does so. Far more often it supplies the means by which speculators and loan and mortgage companies secure possession of the land. Actual—not constructive—living at home on the land for three years should be required before commutation, unless it should appear clear to repeal the commutation clause altogether.

I am gravely concerned at the extremely unsatisfactory condition of the public land laws and at the prevalence of fraud under their present provisions. For much of this fraud the present laws are chiefly responsible. There is but one way by which the fraudulent acquisition of these lands can be definitely stopped and that is to amend the laws so that they are to be issued to patent lands under any law until an examination on the ground actually in compliance with that law has been found to exist. For this purpose an increase of special agents in the Land Office is urgently required, and, unless given, bona fide would-be settlers will be put to grave inconvenience, or else the fraud will in large part go on. Further, the Secretary of the Interior should be enabled to employ enough mining experts to examine the validity of all mineral land claims, and to undertake the supervision and control of the use of the mineral fuels still belonging to the United States.

My own belief is that there should be provision for leasing coal, oil and gas rights under proper restrictions. I recommend that a bill be enacted which will provide for Government control of the public range through the Department of Agriculture which alone is equipped for the work. Such a bill should insure to each locality rules for grazing specially adapted to its needs, and should authorize the collection of a reasonable grazing fee. Above all, the rights of the settler and homemaker should be absolutely guaranteed.

Promotion in Navy Too Slow. Washington, Dec. 18.—The message of President Roosevelt on naval personnel follows in part: To the Senate and House of Representatives: I have invited the attention of Congress to the urgent necessity of such legislation as will cause officers of the line of the navy to reach the grades of captaincy and rear-admiral at less advanced ages and will give them more experience and training

in the important duties of these grades. Under the present archaic system of promotion, without parallel in the navy of any other first-class power, captains are commissioned at the average age of 56 and rear-admirals at the average age of 60. This system is the result of a long-continued prejudice in favor of a method of promotion by which all lieutenants in order to seniority pass through the several grades until they eventually become rear-admirals, a method which sacrifices the good of the service to the interest of individual mediocrity. As a direct consequence of the existing method naval officers obtain more than ample service in subordinate positions, but have a limited and inadequate experience, as captains in command of battleships as flag officers in charge of fleets and squadrons; that is, in the very position of greater responsibility, where experience, skill and initiative are essential to efficiency.

With the close of the present year, he people of the United States may have good reason to be thankful and proud of what has been achieved. The six leading cereals reach the almost incomprehensible total of 4,651,000,000 bushels; the sugar product amounts to 2,822,000,000 pounds; the potato crop is 335,000,000 bushels; the cotton crop, 12,500,000 bales; pig iron production, 25,000,000 tons; bank clearings for ten months amount to \$131,000,000; railroad gross earnings, \$1,140,000,000; exports of domestic merchandise, \$1,125,000,000; total foreign trade, \$2,470,000,000; money in circulation, \$2,861,000,000. Every item mentioned and many more, shows a gain in per centage over last year.

WANTED: Gentleman or lady with good reference to travel by rail or with a rig for a firm of \$250,000. Salary \$1.72 per year and expenses, salary paid weekly and expenses advanced. Address, with stamp, Jos. A. Alexander, Medford, Oregon.

Popular Holiday Excursion. Messrs. Bolton and Pell have arranged for another of their always popular excursions to San Francisco. At holiday time every year for the past seven these gentlemen have been conducting these excursions and each succeeding one grows in popularity. Seeing San Francisco at this time—after its ruin and terrible disaster—will be worth more than the fare to anyone. Particularly interesting will this be to those who have seen and were familiar with the city before the devastation.

The excursion will leave on the regular overland train on the morning of December 26th. Round trip tickets are \$15 and are good for fifteen days. Parties intending to take the trip should inform the management as early as possible in order to secure ample car accommodations. Fullman Standard and Tourist accommodations for these desiring them. Tickets are now on sale in Medford at the grocery store of E. N. Warner. 46-1

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE. The undersigned, having been duly appointed administrator of the estate of John W. Cunningham, deceased, by order of the County Court for Jackson County, Oregon, sitting in probate and having qualified as such, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate of said John W. Cunningham, deceased, to present said claims with proper vouchers attached to the undersigned at Medford, Oregon, or to Charles P. King, my attorney at Medford, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. Dated at Medford, Oregon, December 26, 1906. J. E. BARKDOLL, Administrator of the estate of John W. Cunningham, deceased.

SINGLER'S PIANO HOUSE. We sell the Weber, Chickering and Kimball and forty other makes PIANOS FOR RENT and sold on easy terms. Agent for Wheeler & Wilson and Singer Sewing Machines. AUG G. SINGLER, MEDFORD, OREGON

WE SEND THE Season's Greeting To all our friends and we trust that their Christmas will be a MERRY ONE, INDEED. Here's a Christmas suggestion for Old Santa Claus SHOE UP THE FAMILY It's better than wasting money for toys and gew gaws This is a happy thought, and we suggest for instance— A pair of Warm Anise for Grandpa A pair of Warm Anise for Grandmother A pair of Handsome United Anises for Mother A pair of High Heeled Dress Slippers for Sister Kate A pair of Reading Shoes for Brother Tom A pair of Rubber Boots for Willie Add them to cap the climax— A pair of Slippers for Old Santa Claus himself Splendid Suggestion; don't you think so?

Smith & Molony, THE MEDFORD SHOE MEN.

Urge Change in Land Laws. Washington, Dec. 18.—The following is the message in part of President Roosevelt on the subject of public land laws, sent to Congress yesterday. To the Senate and House of Representatives: The developments of the past year emphasize with increasing force the need of vigorous and immediate action to recast the public land laws and adapt them to the actual situation. The timber and stone act has demonstrated conclusively that its effect is to turn over the public timber lands to great corporations. It has done enormous harm, it is no longer needed and it should be repealed.

The desert land act results so frequently in fraud and comparatively seldom in making homes on the land that it demands radical amendments. That provision which permits assignment before patent should be repealed and the entryman should be required to live for not less than two years at home on the land before patent issues. Otherwise the desert land law will continue to assist speculators and other large holders to get control of land and water on the public domain by indefensible means.

The commutation clause of the homestead act itself, in a majority of cases, to defeat the purpose of the homestead act itself, which is to facilitate settlement and create homes. In theory the commutation clause should assist the honest settler, and doubtless in some cases it does so. Far more often it supplies the means by which speculators and loan and mortgage companies secure possession of the land. Actual—not constructive—living at home on the land for three years should be required before commutation, unless it should appear clear to repeal the commutation clause altogether.