

# OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

## WANT GOOD ROADS.

### Enthusiastic Meeting Held at Medford by Association.

Medford.—That the people of Medford and vicinity are thoroughly alive to the good roads campaign was emphasized last week, and a most enthusiastic meeting was held. So thoroughly are Medford citizens interested in the movement that the business houses were closed in order that the members might attend the meeting.

The meeting convened in the Commercial club rooms, and the hall was crowded. Judge William Colvig, president of the Commercial club, presided. John H. Scott, president of the Good Roads association for Oregon, spoke of the importance of good roads and outlined the formation of associations throughout the state to work for the enactment of legislation providing for the appointment of state highway commissioner, and for appropriation to construct one or more continuous lines of road through the state. He also advocated a state appropriation of \$10,000 for each of two years, with a provision that the county appropriate a like sum for the purpose of constructing a piece of permanent road in each county, so that eventually the roads so constructed in the various counties would unite and make some continuous lines of road throughout the state.

## Money for Indians.

Klamath Falls.—Every man, woman and child on the Klamath Indian reservation is to receive \$50.35 within the next 10 days. This represents the distribution of \$52,500 interest now due, and 10 per cent of the principal, of a sum placed to their credit several years ago, paid for lands which belonged to the Indians and which the government appropriated. Part of the money received for the land was set aside for the building of irrigation ditches, purchase of cattle, etc., and \$350,000 was placed on interest for them at 5 per cent. Seventeen thousand five hundred dollars interest is now due them and the Indians, in addition, asked for 10 per cent of the principal.

## Frosts Thin Out Crop.

Salem.—Though the prune crop is light, averaging in different localities from one-half to two-thirds of a crop, all of that which matured will be saved. The quality is good, size large, and growers are much encouraged. For what there is of the crop, on account of the quality and size, growers will receive more than last year, when prices were considered good. Contracts are being made on a basis of 4 cents, and the average seller will pull out much better than last year. From 33 to 5 cents is being offered for the field run. Because of the fine weather that has prevailed throughout the valley during the last three weeks conditions for drying have never been more favorable.

## Light from Waste Waters.

Pendleton.—Hermiston, Echo and Umatilla are to be supplied with electric lights within a year if the promises made by a company which has completed its organization are fulfilled. Drainage water from the government reclamation projects is to be utilized to develop horsepower sufficient to furnish the towns named with light and also to make possible the operation of a small electric system in the heart of the irrigation belt.

## Lumber Is Scarce.

Waldport.—There is a great scarcity of lumber in the western part of Lincoln county and a number of parties who have bought Waldport property with the intention of building have been unable to secure material. As soon as the river gets high enough a great deal of contracted lumber will be brought down from the Alsea mills. Newport is also suffering a lumber famine.

## Send Seed Grain to Canada.

McMinnville.—A. M. Warren, a farmer living near town, has made a shipment of gray winter oats to the Canadian Pacific Development company, at Alberta, Canada, to be used for seed and experimental purposes. Other shipments of seed grain from this county to the Canadian northwest will be made during the next two months.

## New Factory for Albany.

Albany.—A. J. Caldwell is planning to remove his hose factory from Stayton to Albany and enlarge the plant materially. Caldwell, who is a former Finn county young man, was in this city recently discussing the proposed change with local business men and was assured enough support to justify the erection of a big plant here.

## Frosts Hurt Hops.

Salem.—Hop-picking proper has closed in the valley fields and what hops remain to be picked can be easily cleaned up during the next week. It is very fortunate for the unusual heavy frosts have damaged the unpicked hops.

## \$10,000 for Lincoln.

Waldport.—Judge John H. Scott of the Oregon Good Roads commission spoke to a large crowd of Lincoln county business men last week. An effort will be made to secure an appropriation of \$10,000 from the legislature.

## Haying Is Finished.

Fairview.—The Sun Dial Ranch company has just completed haying. They now have over 1,000 tons of hay housed ready for feeding their large band of cattle which they fatten for the Union Meat company.

## LAND CONCENTRATION.

### Big Farmers Are Acquiring Control of Eastern Oregon Tracts.

Pendleton.—One of the most important industrial tendencies of eastern Oregon is the rapid concentration of the farming lands into the hands of a few men. This year the enormous wheat crop of Umatilla county was harvested by fewer men than ever before. Section after section of the best wheat and is being bought up by the big farmers who already own many square miles and the farms are being gradually abandoned by their former owners, who are moving in large numbers to the new wheat districts of Alberta.

In the Athena district over 100 farms have sold out in the past 15 months and moved away, most of them to Canada, and the land is now owned and farmed by wheat kings whose prestige is increasing from year to year. The only increased settlement in any portion of Umatilla county is in the irrigation districts, where small tracts are being bought up gradually by new settlers and where great development is looked for.

## Beet Sugar Yield.

La Grande.—An average yield of 62 bushels to the acre is the result obtained by the management of the farm belonging to the Amalgamated Sugar company on the 2,000-acre Hall ranch near Union this year. The Hall ranch has been considered, heretofore, as a piece of land that was not on a par with the rest of the Grand Ronde valley, for the reason that a part of it was too wet for successful farming, and a part of it was very dry. But this season the sugar company has employed 155 men on the farm, kept 40 teams busy, and by intelligent effort so drained the wet land and irrigated the dry that the crop of small grains, consisting of wheat, oats and barley, averaged 65 bushels to the acre.

## Packing Plants Ready.

Roseburg.—The two large prune packing plants in this city have completed the work of installing the new machinery, and are now ready for the fall run of packing. H. S. Gile & Co. have added several new and up-to-date equipments for the handling of evaporated prunes, and they expect to pack more than 50 carloads this season. The E. W. Tilson & Co.'s plant has added a new boiler, and also new machinery throughout, besides several additional rooms for the use of storing and packing. This plant will handle upwards of 75 carloads of prunes this season.

## Estimate Water Cost.

Klamath Falls.—The cost of the water under the Klamath project is now being determined upon by a board of reclamation engineers in session in this city, and it will be made public in a short time. The cost of irrigation per acre will not be uniform over the territory embraced in the project, but will vary according to the ease with which water is put upon the lands, it being more difficult in some sections.

## Land Board Approves Loans.

Salem.—Applications for loans amounting to \$46,625 were approved by the land board at its last meeting. At the first of the month a similar amount was approved, making the total for September over \$90,000. The number of applications during the last few weeks has increased heavily, and the land board was compelled to reduce each individual loan below the amount asked by the applicant.

## PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 89c per bushel; forty-fold, 92c; Turkey red, 92c; file, 89c; bluestem, 93c; valley, 91c.

Barley—Feed, \$26 per ton; rolled, \$27.50@28.50; brewing, \$26.50.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$31@31.50 per ton; gray, \$30@30.50.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$14 per ton; Willamette valley, ordinary, \$11; eastern Oregon, \$16.50; mixed, \$13; clover, \$9; alfalfa, \$11; alfalfa meal, \$20.

Fruit—Apples, new, 60c@81.50 per box; peaches, 49@80c per box; pears, 75c@81.00 per box; plums, 50c@81.00 per box; grapes, 40c@81.25 per crate; Concord, 20c@25c per basket; huckleberries, 8@10c per pound; quinces, \$1.25@1.50 per box; ground cherries, 75c per box; cranberries, \$10 per barrel.

Potatoes—80@90c per hundred; sweet potatoes, 2c per pound.

Melons—Cantaloupes, 50c@75c per crate; watermelons, 10@1c per pound; casabas, \$1.75@2 per dozen.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.50 per sack; carrots, \$1.75; parsnips, \$1.75; beets, \$1.50; artichokes, 65c per dozen; beans, 3@4c per pound; cabbage, 14c per pound; cauliflower, 25@75c per dozen; celery, 75c@81c per dozen; corn, 75c@81c per sack; cucumbers, 15@20c per dozen; egg plant, 50c@81.25 per crate; lettuce, \$1@1.25 per box; parsley, 15c per dozen; peas, 6c per pound; peppers, 8@10c per pound; pumpkins, 10@14c per pound; radishes, 12c per dozen; spinach, 2c per pound; sprouts, 10c per pound; squash, 14c per pound; tomatoes, 60@70c.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 22@34c; fancy outside creamery, 30@32c per pound; store, 18c.

Eggs—Oregon extras, 31@32c; firsts, 27@30c; seconds, 23@26c; eastern, 25@28c per dozen.

Poultry—Fancy hens, 13@14c; spring, 14@15c; ducks, old, 12@12c; spring, 14@15c; geese, old, 9c; young, 10@11c; turkeys, old, 17@18c; young, 20c.

Veal—Extra, 9c per pound; ordinary, 7@7c; heavy, 5c.

Pork—Fancy, 8c per pound; ordinary, 6c; large, 5c.

Hops—Oregon, 1908, 7c per pound; 1907, 2@4c; 1906, 1@1c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 10@16c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 15@15c.

Mohair—Choice, 18@18c pound.

## IRRIGATION CONGRESS.

### Hot Debate Expected on Forest Reserve Policy.

Albuquerque, N. M., Sept. 30.—The proceedings of the opening session of the 16th National Irrigation Congress, which convened in Convention Hall, in this city, at 10:30 yesterday, were impressive, and 1,500 delegates and 2,500 spectators, who crowded the galleries were moved to repeated demonstrations.

It is evident that this congress is to give the major portion of its time to discussion of the reclamation of public and conservation of natural resources, and it is likely these discussions may lead to differences of opinion in phases of the government policies, particularly the forestry policy. D. C. Beaman, of Denver, Colo., will address the convention today on "Forestry service," and it is intimated that such criticism of the service as may be indulged in will come at that time. The livestock interests are well represented, and their desires as to the resolutions urging government regulation of the public domain and national forests may precipitate sharp discussion.

A movement has appeared, backed by a number of well-known men, to make the irrigation congress a permanent working organization, with headquarters and a secretary, whose duty would be the collection of data and information for the use of the congress in furthering needed legislation and arousing public interest in reclamation and conservation work to be undertaken. The movement is finding favor among the delegates.

A notable feature of the congress is the absence of men prominent or active in political affairs, and the presence of an unusual number of men who are active workers in the practical fields of reclamation, and who make up a list of speakers of exceptional strength. The usual exposition, for which congress appropriated \$30,000, and which has brought together the finest display of irrigated products ever assembled in the United States, was formally opened yesterday by Governor Curry of New Mexico, following a parade of the troops of the Department of the Colorado, ordered here for the exposition. General Bell, chief of staff, and Brigadier General Thomas, commanding the department of the Colorado, took part in the parade.

A vigorous fight is under way between Pueblo, Colo., and Spokane, Wash., for the next session of the congress.

## INCREASE FREIGHT RATES.

### Railroads to Make Advance Both Ways First of Year.

Chicago, Sept. 30.—January 1 the transcontinental railroads hope to be able to increase the freight rates on more than 80 commodities west-bound and on about 20 commodities east-bound between all eastern points and the Pacific coast.

Conferences are being held frequently with a view to reaching an agreement as to what commodity rates should be increased and what should remain at present rates. Yesterday traffic men admitted that all of the commodities were being gone over with a view to making increases where possible and equitable. It is stated that all of the commodities on the list, which include a number of large consumption and large tonnage, have borne ridiculously low freight rates for years. This fact, it is maintained, is due to old competition, which was wont to cut a rate in order to get business irrespective of whether or not it paid.

The proposed increases, if they become effective, will be from every territory east of the Missouri river to the Pacific coast and will average between 7 and 8 per cent above the present rates. It is hoped that most of the increases can be agreed upon, and it is expected that the railroads will be able to make them effective January 1, 1909.

## Two Towns Wiped Out.

Marinette, Wis., Sept. 29.—A soaking rain, which began Saturday evening and continued until yesterday morning, has extinguished the forest fires in Marinette county. Before the rain came the towns of Goll and Kingsman, on the Wisconsin & Michigan railway, were wiped out, and six or eight families had to flee for their lives. The town of McAlester was saved by the residents, assisted by volunteers from Marinette. The loss to Senator Stephenson and the Sawyer-Goodman company in standing timber will be large. Other companies on the Menominee river also lost heavily in standing timber.

## Court Knocks 8-Hour Law.

Madison, Wis., Sept. 30.—The supreme court of Wisconsin yesterday declared unconstitutional the railroad telegraphers' eight-hour law, introduced at the 1907 session of the legislature. The decision is based on the contention that the state law conflicts with the provisions of the federal constitution giving congress the power to regulate interstate commerce. It is also given as a basis for the finding that congress already has passed a law fixing the hours for the employment of railroad telegraphers. The decision is the result of a test case.

## C. P. Strike Nears End.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 30.—It is expected here that the Canadian Pacific strike will end before midnight. It is known that delegates left here Sunday night for Montreal to see Thomas Shaughnessy, of the Canadian Pacific, with terms satisfactory both to the western strikers and the western interests of the railroad company. If the strike is declared off it will be the result of a compromise, leaving the situation the same as when the strike was called.

## Surveyors General to Meet.

Boise, Idaho, Sept. 30.—D. A. Utter, surveyor-general of Idaho, has invited the surveyors-general of Oregon, Montana, Washington, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada and Utah to meet here at a date to be named later for the purpose of considering uniform plans for conducting their work.

## Jacksonville Post

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, OREGON

Published every Saturday by the Post Publishing Co. J. B. BARNES, Editor.

Admitted as second class matter at Jacksonville, Oregon.

## SUBSCRIPTION

One year, by mail.....\$1.50

## RATES FOR ADVERTISING

One inch, one column, per month.....\$ .50  
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per inch..... .50

Over 15 inches and up to 20 inches..... .45  
20 inches and up to 50 inches..... .40  
50 inches and up..... .35

The space can be used in one, two, three, four, five or six columns wide. Copy should be in as early as possible. Not later than Thursday noon to insure publication in the following issue.

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