

EASTERN OREGON MEN AT IRRIGATION MEET

W. MALLETT TELLS HOW TO INSURE SUCCESS OF IRRIGATION PROJECT

"A long handled shovel and a big family." These, in the opinion of C. W. Mallett of Ontario, Malheur county, are the chief requisites in developing an irrigation project, says a Portland special.

A SURPRISE.

The Rev. C. C. Pratt and family are surprised Wednesday evening, when a house full of friends came in them bringing good things to eat and also bringing good cheer which was the best of all.

LOCAL ITEMS

Miss Vivian Mallett left Tuesday night for Madera county, California. Otto Blackaby returned yesterday from Jordan Valley.

C. C. PRATT AND FAMILY.

LOCAL ITEMS

W. E. Lees is a visitor in Vale today. C. McGonagill was a Vale visitor yesterday, being there on legal business.

THE W. C. T. U. WILL MEET

The W. C. T. U. will meet in the Methodist church next Tuesday afternoon at 2:30.

DR. W. G. HOWE IS MOVING

Dr. W. G. Howe is moving his office from over the First National bank, to the Wilson building.

THE MISSISSIPPI BOY AND EDITH

The Mississippian boy and Edith are spending the holidays in Ontario with relatives.

AMONG THE PATIENTS AT THE HOLY ROSARY HOSPITAL

Among the patients at the Holy Rosary hospital is Bert Gardner, the light clerk at the Carter house. He is quite seriously ill.

THE ASHER HOUSE BURNED

The Asher house, in the east part of town, was completely destroyed by fire on East side causes action against house to be dismissed.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES.

Sunday, January 2d., the first Sunday in the year of 1916 will be kept in a way consistent with the time.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHURCH

The annual meeting of the church will be held on Tuesday, January 10, beginning promptly at 7 p. m. unless otherwise announced later.

REV. PHILIP KOENIG, D. D. PASTOR

ONTARIO GETS ANOTHER MUSICAL TREAT

Once each year the Oregon Club endeavors to secure a high class musical entertainment for the citizens of Ontario, and this year are fortunate in securing a trio from the Schubert Symphony Club of Chicago, each one an artist of renown.

SKOVGAARD.

The musical entertainment at the Dreamland Theatre Tuesday evening by Skovgaard, the Danish violinist, and the New York Metropolitan Company, was one of the musical treats of the season.

UNDERGOES OPERATION.

Mrs. Duncan McRae of Riverside, underwent a serious operation at the Holy Rosary hospital yesterday morning.

WEDDING BELLS.

Mr. Russel Zimmerman and Miss Pauline Hillman, of Westfall, were united in marriage by the Rev. C. C. Pratt at the Carter House, Monday evening, December 27.

ASHER HOUSE BURNED DOWN LAST NIGHT

FIRE ON EAST SIDE CAUSES ACTION AGAINST HOUSE TO BE DISMISSED

Last night fire completely destroyed the residence of Mrs. T. J. Asher in the east part of town. The fire was of unknown origin, and because of the distance from water and the fact that the flames were well started when first seen, it was impossible for the fire department to do more than to keep the adjoining houses from getting on fire.

Mrs. Asher left the house and went to town about 7:30 P. M. The fire was discovered about 8:00 o'clock in the western end of the house in which was a bed-room and the sitting room. A fire was left burning in the sitting room stove, and it was probably from this that the fire originated.

The fire burned with marvelous rapidity, and it was but a short time after the flames came through the roof that the whole house was in ashes. The house was completely destroyed when Mrs. Asher returned, shortly after 9 o'clock. It is said the house and furniture was insured for \$1,000. Abatement proceedings against the house were to have been heard this morning, but, on account of the fire, the action was dismissed.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES.

Sunday, January 2d., the first Sunday in the year of 1916 will be kept in a way consistent with the time. Communion services will be held in connection with the regular morning worship. In the evening, the sermon theme will be: "Servanthip."

The annual meeting of the church will be held on Tuesday, January 10, beginning promptly at 7 p. m. unless otherwise announced later.

REV. PHILIP KOENIG, D. D. PASTOR

PROSPERITY YEAR FOR MINES OF THE U. S.

PRELIMINARY REPORT FOR THE YEAR JUST ENDED SHOWS BIG FIGURES

The midyear review of mining conditions reported to the Secretary of the Interior on July 1 by the Director of the United States Geological Survey is well supported by the preliminary reports for the year submitted today. The Geological Survey is making public its usual estimate of mining production for 1915 in the form of a separate statement for each of the more important mineral products.

A review of these statements confirms Secretary Lane's comment of last July to the effect that the mining revival is in full swing. In the west iron states alone the metal production shows an increase in value of more than \$130,000,000 over the corresponding figures for 1914; and the year's increase in output for the principal metals measured in value is more than \$250,000,000. Moreover it is not unreasonable to expect that when the full returns for all mineral products are compiled they will show that 1915 was the country's most productive year in the mining industry. The total may even reach two and one-half billion dollars.

In the response to bettered conditions the production figures for copper, iron and zinc show the largest increase.

The copper mines passed all records for previous years, the 1915 output having a value of \$236,000,000, or \$83,000,000 more than the value of the production for 1914. The statistics and estimates received place the output of blister and Lake copper at 1,365,500,000 pounds or more than 120,000,000 pounds in excess of the largest previous production and eighteen per cent above last year's figures. Only twice in the history of copper mining has there been a larger increase in quantity of metal produced.

The total shipments of iron ore from the mines in the United States in 1915 are estimated to have exceeded 55,000,000 gross tons, an increase over 1914 of more than 33 per cent. Based on the same price as received in 1914 this represents an increase in total value of about \$27,645,000. The increase in pig iron is estimated at 6,500,000 tons, with a total increase in value of pig iron production of more than \$120,000,000.

The output of zinc (spelter) made from domestic ores was larger than ever before being about 425,000 tons worth \$120,000,000 as compared with 345,418 tons in 1914, an increase of about 23,000 tons or nearly 25 per cent in quantity and of \$85,000,000 in value. Production was increased during the latter half of the year, as the production during the first half was at the rate of 415,000 tons annually and at the rate of 436,000 tons during the last half.

The output of refined pig lead from domestic ores was about 515,000 tons worth about \$48,500,000 as compared with 512,794 tons in 1914, an increase of only 2,500 tons in quantity but of \$8,500,000 or 20 per cent in value. The production of antimonial lead was 20,550 tons as compared with 16,668 tons in 1914, an increase of 3,882 tons or 23 per cent in quantity and an increase in value of nearly \$2,000,000.

The annual preliminary estimates on the production of gold and silver in the United States, made jointly by the United States Geological Survey and the Bureau of the Mint, are not yet complete, but early figures based on reports from the mines indicate an increase in mine production over that of 1914 of over \$7,000,000 in gold, principally from Colorado, California, Alaska, Montana and Idaho, and an increase in mine production of silver of fully 4,000,000 ounces, chiefly from Montana, Utah and Arizona. This increase in gold production may bring 1915 up to the record year of 1909, when the gold output of this country was nearly \$100,000,000.

Quicksilver also has had its best year in 1915. The quantity increased 25 per cent over 1914, but the value of the output more than doubled owing to the much higher prices. The estimated production was 20,681 flasks of 75 pounds each, valued, at the average price for the year—the highest in the last 40 years—at \$1,768,225. In value, this domestic production was the highest since 1881 and in quantity the largest since 1912.

DOES NOT AGREE WITH PRESIDENT WILSON

SENATOR WEEKS MAKES ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT IN CAMPAIGN ASSERTIONS

Washington, Dec. 31.—(Special) Senator John W. Weeks, of Massachusetts, does not agree with the recent assertion by President Wilson that the Republican Party will have no issue, with the exception of the tariff, upon which to make its campaign for Presidency. On the contrary, Senator Weeks insists that the issue furnished the Republicans by the present Administration are so ample and evident that it is a mere matter of choice as to which shall be featured by the Republican campaign orators.

"In the first place, I believe that the Mexican issue is one of those upon which the coming campaign will be waged and won by the Republican party," said Senator Weeks today. "Certainly the present Administration's inefficient handling of the situation every since it came into power is rich in vulnerability. In the Democratic platform for 1912 there appeared the unequivocal statement that American property should be protected throughout the world and on our borders. No great bodies of water separate us from Mexico. It is our next door neighbor, and if American lives were ever to be protected by their government, certainly those going no further abroad than across an imaginary line to the south of us should have had that protection. But they have not had it, and that is why I say the Mexican question is to be one of the leading campaign issues."

"I also feel assured that the American people will be quick to grasp the fact that there is a considerable campaign issue in the failure of the Democrats to reduce the cost of living. This was one of the campaign slogans of the Democracy in 1912—the high cost of living—and they told the country that if put into power they would enact a tariff law, for revenue only, that would automatically reduce the cost of food and other necessities of life. They were put into power, they enacted the Underwood-Simmons law, and the cost of living immediately started on an upward march that has never stopped. If the Democrats considered the high cost of living a worthy campaign issue in 1912, it is clear that the Republicans can now raise the same cry, and with even greater justification. The response, I feel assured, will be nationwide."

"I am glad the President concedes us one issue, the tariff. So much is included in that one issue that it really should be divided into a number of issues. In the first place the Republican principle of protection is an issue distinct and apart and stands for nationwide commercial growth and prosperity. In the second place the tariff represents the only reasonable, effective means for rehabilitating our staggering Treasury, and certainly the Government's present financial distress is another issue that must figure prominently in the coming campaign, together with the extravagance of appropriations which has helped to bring it on. The President has urged additional special taxes in an effort to ignore the possibilities of the tariff as a sensible remedy for the plight in which we find ourselves. Needless to say, these taxes will not be popular, and it is plain the tariff—or more particularly the strange substitutes now being urged by the Administration for raising revenue—is to be a very decided issue in the campaign and perhaps it is a hopeful sign that the Administration is willing to admit this fact."

PARSONS-BLANTON WEDDING

Tuesday evening the wedding of Miss Bessie Blanton to Mr. Ray Parsons occurred at the Baptist parsonage with Rev. D. E. Baker officiating. The bride is a daughter of John Blanton, and a member of one of the pioneer families of Malheur county. The groom is a well known resident of Ontario, and both have many friends here.

BAPTIST CHURCH NOTES.

Topics for next Sunday, January 2d 1916: 11 a. m. "A New Year Motto." 7:30 p. m. "The Churches Call to Them that are Without." These addresses will be helpful in starting out the new year. An invitation is extended to one and all to attend these services.

D. E. BAKER, Pastor.

COUNTY REPRESENTED AT IRRIGATION MEET

A. W. TROW RESPONDS TO ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY MAYOR ALBEE

C. W. Mallett, A. W. Trow, W. Moffett, Mrs. L. M. Moffett and A. Gramse, were the representatives of Malheur county at the Irrigation Congress which closed in Portland yesterday. There were nearly 250 delegates at the meet, from various parts of the state. J. W. Brewer was elected president of the body for the coming year.

A. W. Trow addressed the meeting Tuesday, taking the place of C. S. Hudson, who was unable to attend the congress, and who was on the program to respond to the address of welcome by Mayor Albee. In speaking of his address, the Portland Telegram says: "He voiced his appreciation of the fact that Portland must take the leadership in developing the state, and told of the work being done toward the construction of the new railway across the state. The Harney valley is separated from Portland now by 420 miles of distance and two mountain ranges. 'Think what it will mean when the distance is reduced by 150 miles and the road comes to the city on a water grade,' he said. 'The Harney, Blitzen and Albert valleys contain 700,000 acres that are as rich as the valley of the Nile. The people who have said they were a desert, because they had never seen these valleys themselves, said the same thing of the Dakotas years ago. In the Malheur valley there are 50,000 acres on the Oregon side of the Snake river which grow or can grow 7 to 9 tons of alfalfa to the acre and 100 bushels of corn. We want that business to come to Portland.' He concluded with an expression of appreciation of the work done for eastern Oregon by the Commercial club several years ago and by the Oregon Development league."

HE WOULD FIT POSITION TO A NICETY

J. W. McCulloch of Ontario, the prominent Malheur county attorney, as announced himself a candidate for the office of public service commissioner for the Eastern Oregon district. Mr. McCulloch is a friend of the News man of many years' standing, and knowing that he is competent in every respect to fill the duties of the office to which he aspires, and that Eastern Oregon's interests will be carefully guarded with J. W. McCulloch a member of the commission we are going to use all honorable means to assist in landing him the job. —Huntington News.

QUARANTINE REMOVED.

The Federal quarantine against shipments from foreign countries of Irish potatoes affected with powdery scab is removed by an order of the department, effective January 1, 1916. This permits a number of potato-producing countries to resume shipment of potatoes to the United States. In the case of Canada, the new order, in addition to removing the quarantine, provides that potatoes may be shipped in without certification by Canadian officials, under an arrangement with the Canadian minister of Agriculture that Canada will offer for export to the United States only potatoes free from injurious diseases and insect pests.

The removal of the foreign quarantine for powdery scab follows the lifting of the domestic quarantine against this disease September 1, 1915.

Although this quarantine is removed, the regulations governing the entry of potatoes and providing for inspection at ports of entry are continued in force. These regulations provide for an adequate field inspection by recognized experts in the countries where shipments are made and that such countries must maintain effective quarantines against entry into their territory of potatoes from any country under quarantine by the United States on account of the potato wart disease. The inspection at ports of entry of this country is believed to be adequate to prevent the entry into this country of objectionally diseased potatoes.

NEW O. S. L. BRIDGE IS ABOUT COMPLETED

BIG STRUCTURE ACROSS SNAKE RIVER GIVEN TRY-OUT BY FLOATING ICE.

The O. S. L. railroad bridge across the Snake river at Ontario, is now practically finished and the old materials are now being loaded on cars and hauled away. It has taken quite a long time to build this bridge but the result is one of the most substantial structures along the entire line.

The sudden dropping of the thermometer Wednesday night was responsible for the first large cakes of ice which came down the Snake river Thursday and crushed against the new concrete pillars. The strength and durability of these pillars may best be appreciated by watching miniature icebergs break to pieces against the cement obstruction.

MORE DIVISION NEWS.

Under the heading "Ontario takes a back seat. Payette now in line for the division with Olds' Ferry close second" Editor Plughoff of the Huntington News has the following to say: "The Oregon Short Line has refused to rent a few tumbledown shacks located on railroad property at Payette, a new trackage is being laid for switch purposes, the new hotel in course of construction there is 'thought' to be backed by the railroad, it is the junction of the 'Pumpkin Vine' running through Payette Valley, is only four miles from the junction (at Ontario) with the Oregon & Eastern branch, now being built in Eastern Oregon, and Payette citizens are jubilant, for castles are flying in the air to remove the division from Huntington to the 'Melon Town,' which places poor, old Ontario on the shelf after dreaming for the past 25 years to possess the Huntington division."

"This division removal is a joke that materializes the first of every year, notwithstanding improvement after improvement continue from day to day in the Huntington yards. Let us Huntingtonians all unite in singing 'In the Sweet Bye-and-Bye.' Let us remind you, Brother Plughoff, that this division removal is not such a joke up at La Grande."

METHODIST NOTES.

Steady growth is not so spectacular as more sudden development, but is more lasting and brings more permanent results in the long run. That may properly be said of the work of the M. E. church. The Sunday school is in a far better shape than it has been for a long time and is increasing each Sabbath in numbers and efficiency. The men of the church have organized a men's class and it is hoped that more men will avail themselves of this opportunity to study together the Word of God which is able to make us wise unto salvation. Several have recently united with the church and the prospect is good for a number more.

Friday night the congregation will unite in a union watch night service at the Baptist church beginning at 9:30. You are urged to so plan your work that you may be present. Beginning January 3rd, 1916 the week of prayer will be observed with cottage prayer meetings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Union meetings will be held in the Methodist church on Thursday evening and in the Presbyterian church on Friday night.

Let us make these services profitable.

C. C. PRATT, Pastor.

MASKED DANCE AT MOORE. Last night a masquerade dance was given at the Moore hall and some very unique masks and costumes were displayed, among them being the "gold dust twins" who took first prize. They were Miss Edith Hatfield and Mrs. Wood. Other prizes were also given out, and a good time was had by all.

GRAND JURY TO MEET.

The Malheur County Grand Jury will meet in regular session at Vale Monday. This will be one of the heaviest grand jury terms ever held in the county, as there are many cases to come up.

COUPLE WED.

The marriage of Mr. Clarence E. Rees and Miss Charlotte E. Burris occurred at the Methodist parsonage Wednesday afternoon, Rev. C. C. Pratt officiating.