



THAT UNION HIGH SCHOOL.

The sentiment of the people in this neighborhood seems to be strongly in favor of uniting the Port Orford, Elk River and Sixes districts into a union high school district. All that apparently is needed is for someone to take the lead in each of the districts and see that a school meeting is called and the matter put to a vote. And these meetings will have to be held this fall if the union is to become effective next summer. This is in order to get the matter before the January term of County court.

The plan to unite these district is endorsed by the County Superintendent of Schools, and its advantages cannot help but appeal to every parent who gives it any consideration whatever. Seven boys and girls (one from Elk River and one from Sixes) are now taking the 9th grade work in Port Orford. Prof. Robinson is doing the best he can with them, without equipment and with limited time. And next year what of these children—they can go no farther here. Perhaps two or three of them will be fortunate enough to be sent away to school. The others, through no fault of theirs, will go out into life handicapped to compete with their more fortunate brothers and sisters. Do you think it is right to let such a condition exist when it will cost nothing but a little effort to remedy it?

And the little ones, with fewer grades in a room, would be given more time in a union school and consequently do much better than they are at present.

With an auto running to each of the outside districts, the school would be brought closer to the homes of the children than it is now. The expense of the union school might, in fact undoubtedly would, cost the districts a little more than their schools are now costing, but the difference would be so small that it should not be considered for a minute in comparison with the benefits the children will derive.

In forming such a union, each district should go into it on an equal footing, free from debt, and with an agreement that one director should come from each locality.

Talk the matter over with your neighbor, but remember talk alone won't do it. Get busy and see that the matter is put to a vote in your district.

BOTH TO BLAME.

In the opposition of Congress to the League of Nations, President Wilson is paying the penalty of not taking that august body into his confidence. Had the President consulted Congress in planning the league, instead of going ahead entirely upon his own initiative, much of this opposition would not have developed. Some of the Senators are no doubt conscientiously opposed to the league, while others are out of humor because they have been ignored in the matter when they should not have been. A U. S. Senator should be too big to let pique influence his actions, yet human nature is much the same in all walks of life, and both pique and politics are entering into this fight in the Senate against the League of Nations. But, while some of the Senators are not excusable for their actions, neither can President Wilson be excused for breaking all precedent by not consulting Congress in starting off the league. Thus the matter stands, and the fight is on.

Early Day Mines in Coos and Curry.

The following interesting account of the first beach mines in Coos and Curry counties was written by Fred Lockley, of the Oregon Journal, and is an accurate tale of the discovery and richness of the gold in these beaches:

Some years ago ago, in talking of the early days of Curry county, one of Curry county's first settlers, Judge William Packwood, told me of the discovery of gold on the Curry county beach.

"Gold was first discovered there," said Mr. Packwood, "at Battle Rock at Port Orford. Early in the year, either in February or March, 1853, I saw an old man named Simmons putting in seine boxes in the little stream that flows into the ocean near Battle Rock."

"In the spring of 1850, while at Trinidad, Cal., I met a party prospecting up the coast towards the Oregon line. Whether they found any gold on the Oregon beach I do not know. Captain Tichenor, who founded the town of Port Orford, told me there was gold in the sand in front of Port Orford, but didn't know whether it existed in paying quantities. I believe Simmons was the first man who actually did the

beach mining. That summer Simmons, with several others, went to the mouth of Rogue river where they struck it rich."

"Early in June, 1853, Captain A. J. Smith, captain of C troop, First United States dragoons, of which I was a member, took a detail of men to look over the country between Port Orford and Coos Bay. They stopped at a stream later called Whiskey Run. One of the soldiers, Marion Dildine, lay down to take a drink of water. As he drank he saw in the bottom of the stream some black sand in which were particles of gold. Seizing a tin cup from his saddle he gathered a cup of black sand, panned it down and found colors in the bottom of the cup. The men who were in the party agreed to keep the find secret, so they could come back later when they were mustered out and take up claims."

"Not long after the soldiers returned to Port Orford several miners arrived from California. Among these miners were McNamara, McKay, Judd and 'Doc' Hall. The evening they arrived one of the sailors who had been with the party who had found the gold on Whiskey Run, spent the evening with them."

Drunk loosened his tongue and he told them of the find they had made on Whiskey Run. Early next morning they struck out up the coast. McNamara, or 'Big McNamara', as he was usually called, had flaming red hair. His face was very red and was covered with freckles. He was still drunk when they pulled out next morning. He was riding a small horse. He swayed from side to side, occasionally grabbing at the horse's mane or the horn of the saddle to keep from falling. There were ten other miners with McNamara.

"They stopped at the first creek above the Coquille river. You will find the creek marked on the map as Packwood creek. It was named after me. They staked 11 claims, taking 12 inches of water each, as they estimated there was just about 12 heads of water in the creek. They drew lots for the claims."

"Shortly after they had made the drawing three halfbreeds, Peter, Joe and Andrew, joined them. They wanted to locate on the stream. McNamara told them all the claims had been taken. He suggested that they stake out claims on some other stream. Peter was a very bright and intelligent halfbreed. He said, 'That's all right. There may be good claims on this creek farther up but we wouldn't have water enough to work them. We will go farther up the beach and stake claims on the next creek.' They went on up the beach two or three miles, prospected, and found very rich ground, so they located claims near the mouth of the stream. At that time a beach claim was 60 feet broad on the beach. You had the privilege of working as far out to sea as you could, and as far as stream as you wished."

McNamara, McKay, Judd and the others found their claims were paying only about \$8 a day. When they discovered that Peter, Andrew and Joe, the halfbreeds, had struck it rich, McNamara claimed they were partners, as he had advised them to go up the creek and take claims. They had left Crescent City together, which Mac said was an additional reason for their being partners. In any event, the 11 men held a miners' meeting, and in spite of the protests of the halfbreeds, decided they were partners and should share equally in the rich claims. The miners' meeting also decided that Big Mac, Judd and McKay should have 120 feet of beach front. This included the rich ground that the halfbreeds had worked. Peter, Andrew and Joe had to give up their claims and take claims elsewhere. They took claims farther from the mouth of the river, which of course were not nearly so rich as their original claims. The three halfbreeds could rock out from \$250 to \$300 a day, but the 120 feet taken away from them by Big Mac and his party was the richest ground I have ever seen."

"On October 8, 1853, I happened to meet Mac and Judd on their way back to Crescent City. I was doing packing at the time. They had 40 pounds of coarse gold dust apiece for their work, somewhere between \$8,000 and \$10,000 apiece. Mac had seen so many men spend all they had made, in drink or gambling, so he decided then and there that he was through with mining and mine boozing. He had made his cleanup in two or three months. He went on the water wagon and I don't believe he ever took another drink. He went to Crescent City, got married, built a hotel, and did well. I visited Mac in Crescent City later. He said he and McKay and Judd one day rocked out \$2,200 from the claims they had taken from the Indian boys. During the few months they worked this claim they took out \$100,000 in gold dust. They thought they had worked the claim out and gave it to a man named George See, but he struck a second beach farther back and worked it for years, making a lot of money from it. I often met him at Crescent City when he came in to deposit his gold dust. McKay took his share of money and went to Walla Walla, where he went into the stock business. Peter, Andrew and Joe made a lot of money, but the white men soon got it away from them. Andrew, while going from the mines at Sixes to Port Orford, became confused in a snow storm, wandered from the trail and froze to death. His body was not found for some time afterwards."

"The news of the rich diggings on Packwood creek and Whiskey Run brought hundreds of miners to the Curry county beaches. Within the next few years hundreds of thousands of dollars were rocked out of the beach between Port Orford and the mouth of Rogue river. I have an idea that some of these days they will discover gold farther back on some old beach line along the coast."

BIG DANCE

In Spurgeon Hall, Sixes

Sat. Night, Oct. 4th.

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NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That in pursuance of a License and Order of Sale granted by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Douglas County in the matter of the Estate of Sanford Crocker deceased, said License and Order of Sale being dated July 18th, 1919, the undersigned administrator of the estate of Sanford Crocker deceased will, from and after the first day of September, 1919, offer for sale and sell at private sale for cash in hand, for the purpose of paying claims, charges and expenses of administration of the estate of said decedent, the following described real property belonging to his estate and situated in Curry County, Oregon, to-wit: The North half of the Southeast quarter, and the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter,

ter, and the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 16 in Township 29 South of Range 12 West of Willamette Meridian, containing, according to Government survey, 160 acres of timbered land.

Said sale will be subject to confirmation by the above named Court. Bids or offers for said land should be mailed to me in care of the Oregon Soldiers Home, Roseburg, Oregon.

Dated this 25th day of July, 1919.

ALFRED KOCH,
Administrator of the Estate of Sanford Crocker, deceased.

COLLEIER H. BUFFINGTON

Lawyer
Gold Beach, Oregon