

# THE CROOK COUNTY JOURNAL

An Independent Newspaper

D. F. STEFFA.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT.

With this issue of The Journal the undersigned covers his connection with the paper, having sold his business and interest to D. F. Steffa. The latter will collect all bills due for advertising, subscription, job work and will pay all bills contracted by The Journal Publishing Company. In turning over the paper to Mr. Steffa it is not without regret, for surely no county publisher ever did business with a fairer lot of people than it has been our lot during the year of our management. However, we bespeak for the new proprietor the same liberal patronage that it has been our pleasure to enjoy, and as he is a young newspaperman of ability, the grand old premier paper of Crook County will continue to forge ahead in the favor of the people of this section.

W. C. BLACK.

## HOW ABOUT THE OIL?

What's become of all that enthusiasm and nervous energy that was running riot over Crook county's oil prospects a year or two ago? Asleep is it? Well, just at present there seems to be no indication of its being attacked with insomnia. And the monument makers, too, may have an order before long. Enthusiasm over one subject in this community it seems does no more than wash its eyes in the morning bath before a new sensation, with all the noise accompanying, has thrust its face in the bowl. A hare and hound chase, as it were, with new hares constantly joining the van guard and as many additional canines following faithfully in the rear. Surely, history is a double repeater in Crook county.

But back again to the subject matter. Scarcely two years ago a group of credulous persons became interested in the county's oil prospects. Investigation of the fields, under whose surface untold oily fortunes lay, led to the organization of a company, and notices of location soon dotted the area in which development was soon to begin. But aside from considerable talk, the matter got no further. The surface indications were ideal, and the parties interested were undoubtedly on the main track, but their suspicions got switched and were never satisfied. Not a single spadeful of dirt was lifted off earth's greasy treasure. Sheets of paper by the score, however, were consumed in making records; ink flowed like water; claims were cheap, talk cheaper, and—but that's all. No one can

tell exactly why. It's a conundrum. Will some one please solve it?

## A CLUB WORTHY OF ITS MEMBERSHIP.

A short time ago the Portland Journal announced in an editorial its organization of the Portland Push Club—a society for the upbuilding of that city and the expenditure of latent energy in the directions where its effects would be felt the quickest. The fees for joining were nothing, the dues nothing, the cost to the members absolutely nothing save the use of a little gray matter in boosting the town, its industries, its resources, its people—in fact everything in the town worthy of the boost.

The scope of the beneficial results to be obtained by the advocacy and attainment of a large membership to such an organization, in any city or town, is incalculable so far as its weight upon the future of that particular place is concerned. Any town would gain by its presence, no town would lose, or could lose by having a mutual benefit association of this kind within its limits.

And the rule is applicable to this city. A merchant, who has been in business here for several years, said the other day that Prineville would change to some extent when a new generation rose up and took hold of things, and not before. From an abstract point of view, he was right. Almost any community will experience the shedding and taking on of a new skin inside of 30 years, the lifetime of a generation. But more broadly speaking, he was wrong, or at least he should be wrong in his suppositions.

Prineville's slowness, which no one will deny in taking up new customs, building up new industries and stretching out its arms for more, and in this way establishing a live city and a little empire of its own, is due more perhaps to the easy going manner of its residents and their well fed stomachs than to any other cause. It is that slothful feeling of being too well satisfied with life that has kept enterprise down and delivered a body blow to civic pride, enthusiasm and energy.

But, notwithstanding the merchant's thirty year prophecy, a change is coming. The light of expanding ideas is breaking into the community, and it is to be hoped that the industrial rays will grow stronger as time passes. It may be that a Push Club is being organized in a quiet way and that its membership is a private one and unknown. But no lodge secrecy here, please. Silence has never yet been known to build up a town; and if it's a case of boost the city, its resources and the wealth of the country surrounding, then out with the goods. Indust-

rial parades will attract both attention and enthusiasts, and the latter will make a large, strong membership in a society of progressive ways. A Central Oregon Push club looks well in print, but in actual existence and operation it would do more towards gaining the desired ends.

## THE DEAD LETTER ORDINANCE.

It is almost incredible to believe that 600 lives had to be lost in order that a city of the magnitude of Chicago should realize with such pitiful force that some of its ordinances were dead letters; that many of its city laws, governing the construction of public buildings, had been altogether removed to the background, and that little attention had been given to reasonable demands for the safety of human lives.

But such a state of affairs is characteristic of the great bulky, spreading city by the lake. The mayor's order, closing many of the public halls and theaters until the building ordinance had been complied with, is also characteristic of the man, and the impulsive forces that have always controlled his actions. But the edict issued by the head of the city's government has not lessened in one degree the results of that horrible catastrophe; neither has it called back to earth the scores of human beings whose lives were snuffed out when exits were closed and nearly every avenue of escape barred. Instead it brings out in strong relief the flagrant violation of ordinances which apparently have never been enforced since the time they passed the council and received the mayor's signature. Dusty and moth-eaten they are now, brought forth and their contents exposed—a mockery thrown into the faces of those suffering from the stinging hand of death.

And Chicago is no exception to the rule, even though the tragedy that has enshrouded it in gloom has laid bare the flagrant violation of its city's statutes. On the pages of every city's volume of ordinances can probably be found a dirth of dead letters. Laws that were conceived with a view of bettering the condition of the people for whom they were prescribed, but which from mere indifference have passed the day of their usefulness. Become obsolete, as it were, from inattention and non-enforcement. Only when some sorrowful calamity has been caused from this negligence is the true worth of their existence realized, and then, like Chicago, appreciation comes too late.

An act of much importance to the arid region of Oregon was passed at the recent short session of the legislature and it has been approved by the governor. It cures

a defect in the law of 1899 and authorizes irrigation companies to condemn the water rights of riparian owners. It does not authorize the taking of water actually used by the riparian owner, or by the prior appropriator, but it does away with the old doctrine that riparian owners are entitled to have the water flow past their property in its natural condition regardless of whether they made any use of it or not. Now riparian owners cannot prevent others from making beneficial use of the water they do not use. And the first fellow to use the water has the best right to it.

The sugar beet crop of the Grand Ronde valley has netted the growers this year \$95,000. The yield of beets for the year was 12,000 tons, or 3,000 tons in excess of last season's production. One ton of beets will produce 240 pounds of sugar. The 12,000 tons yielded 2,880,000 pounds of sugar, with a valuation of \$144,000.

## Additional Locals

Wood for sale at the Bee Hive. Dill pickles and Gherkins in bulk at the Bee Hive.

Mrs. F. Lohman of Milwaukee, Oregon is visiting with her sons Fred and Alex in this city.

W. T. Fogle and wife visited the last of the week with Mrs. Fogle's parents, J. M. Montgomery and wife of Lower Crooked river.

Wm. Holder, editor of the Paisley Post, and S. M. Bailey, editor of the Silver Lake Oregonian were visitors in Lakeview Tuesday.—Lakeview Examiner.

The Women's Annex Social and Athletic club wishes to announce that Tuesdays and Fridays, from 2 to 6 have been set aside for their exclusive use of the club house.

Mrs. M. J. Heinbothen will hold services at the Methodist church next Sunday morning and evening. The pastor, Rev. H. C. Will spend the Sabbath at the Bend.

E. C. Weisner was in the city from Haystack Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Mr. Weisner will furnish The Journal the news from that section during the coming year and some interesting items are forthcoming from that rapidly developing district.

Alex Davis, foreman for J. W. Howard, started Monday with a load of 680 head of beef cattle for Gaxelle, from which place they will be shipped to San Francisco. Mr. Howard has already delivered about 1600 head and now has over 800 left. These will be taken out later in the season.—Klamath Republican.

Geo. E. Morley, who recently succeeded C. L. Shattuck as manager of the local water and electric system has placed his resignation with the company to take effect February 1st. He will be succeeded by Adrian Crooks, a Prineville boy, who is a thorough electrician, and merits the promotion. His place as assistant will be filled by Henry Whitsett. Adrian's many friends are glad to hear of his success.

The county court last Saturday again recognized The Crook County Journal as the leading paper in the county and awarded it the official business during the present year. The printing for the county and the publication of its court proceedings and semi-annual statements of the county officers appears each year in the county paper having the largest circulation. The Journal this year has practically 300 more subscribers in Crook county than any other paper, and it was upon this basis that the award was made. The Journal's present circulation in Crook county is close to 800 and practically equals that of all other papers combined.

## Notice to Church Members.

A meeting of the members of the First Christian church will be held at the Union church Saturday afternoon at 1 p. m.

Wm. Bezilla, Clerk.

## Grand Clearance Sale.

All lines of Ladies, Misses and Childrens, Hats, Silk Bonnets, Coats, Jackets and Skirts going at cost and less, 30 days only.

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## OUR FOURTH ANNUAL Clearance Sale OF WINTER GOODS

At Greatly Reduced Prices in

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Overshirts, Mackinaw, Clothing, Macintoshes,  
German Socks, Legging and a Hundred Other  
Articles for winter wear. Come and look  
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