

Crook County Journal

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NO. 13

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COUNCIL FAVORS CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

City Dads Raise Saloon License and Get Started on Other Good Moves.

The city council got busy at its regular meeting last Tuesday evening and took steps on some matters of great importance to the city in general. Aside from passing an ordinance raising liquor licenses to \$500 per annum, the matter of establishing a fire limit in the business district and grading the streets was left in the hands of the fire and water and public improvements committees. These committees will draw up ordinances embodying the main points discussed at the council meeting and the first reading of the new ordinances will be had at the regular monthly meeting the first of next month.

After the routine business was dispensed with Tuesday evening, Mayor Wurzwiler called the attention of the council to the fact that many new buildings in the business district were contemplated this year and he thought it expedient to draw up ordinances at once to establish a fire limit within which only buildings of stone or brick or a combination of the two should be built. He stated that only some such ordinance as that would handle the fire question in a satisfactory manner and the restrictions should be embodied in an ordinance and passed at once. The committee, in whose hands the matter rests, looked upon the matter right, and the ordinance is consequently forthcoming. The latter will in all probability include both sides of Main street along its entire length or from Simpson's dry goods store to the Ochoco bridge and perhaps a block or two of the cross streets leading into Main.

Then the question of grading the streets came up for discussion and quicker action will be had in that matter than in the establishment of fire limit inasmuch as the latter work will not require the passage of an ordinance. Alderman Stewart's suggestion that a competent engineer be secured to do the surveying and all arrangements made to complete the work within a short time met with approval. L. D. Wiest, who has been in the service of the Squaw Creek Irrigation Co., will be asked to take charge of the work. But there is some question about him being able to come at this time and if such is the case another engineer will be secured. When the work is completed, the streets will have a uniform grade which will enable the city to handle the waste water and sewerage to satisfactory advantage besides making a decided change for the better in the present appearance of the city's thoroughfares.

The mayor suggested that prompt action be taken on both matters and especially that of establishing a fire limit, as it was desirable to have an ordinance covering the latter pass the council before any building operations commenced. He said it was not the intention of the council to direct the ordinance against anyone in particular and if the ordinance was drawn up within the next few days and passed, its provisions would cover all the building operations that would be carried on this year.

With these matters out of the way, the second and third reading of the ordinance increasing the saloon license to \$500 per annum and repealing all other ordinances that in any way conflict with the present one was heard. The ordinance passed with only one dissenting vote and became effective immediately upon its approval by the Mayor.

Action was also taken on matters pertaining to the water mains and sidewalks and the disposition of the goods in the pest house, all of which will aid materially in cleaning up the city and giving it a better appearance for the summer.

RAILROAD TO TAP CRATER LAKE

Southern Oregon will be a field of activity in railroad building before the end of the present year if plans now being formulated in San Francisco and New York are carried to successful conclusion, and the expectation of local capitalists at Medford and Grant's Pass is realized. From Medford a railroad is projected to Crater Lake, the great natural wonder of the Cascades, and from Grant's Pass other promoters hope to span the stretch of 100 miles to Crescent City, California, with bands of steel.

Crater Lake has been visited by thousands of people traveling overland by the difficult trails that lead to the peculiar creation of extinct volcanoes that is probably without parallel as a natural physical phenomenon of the world. Created a National Park by act of Congress, and growing in interest as its beauty becomes more generally known, it is believed that with modern methods of transportation the number of visitors that would annually journey to the crest of the Cascades would be enormous. Below the lake are magnificent forests that have been but little disturbed by timber cruisers in seeking a source of supply for lumbering.

W. I. Vawter, president of the Jackson County Bank numbered among the leading business men and financiers of Medford, and others of that town, are the promoters of the railroad to Crater Lake. They estimate that a large revenue would be derived from lumber shipments, following the establishment of mills along the route, and that during the summer season an enormous tourist travel would be handled, making side trips from the main line of the Southern Pacific, with which the road would have connection at Medford.

There are two railroads in the United States similar in their nature to the one projected. One of these ascends Mount Washington in New Hampshire and the other reaches the crest of Pike's Peak in Colorado. Both are said to be very profitable alone for the passenger traffic handled with no industrial purpose to make them yield revenue from other kinds of traffic.

Naturally, because of the obstacles to construction and that operation to Crater Lake would probably not be continued throughout the year, passenger fares would be considerably higher than if calculated upon a mileage basis. The Pike's Peak road is about 13 miles in length, and the fare is \$5 round trip, but even at that price thousands of people annually journey to the summit of the eastern outlook of the Colorado Rockies.—Telegram

CLUB'S FINANCES IN GOOD SHAPE

C. M. Elkins, temporary secretary of the Athletic club, has made out a report on the resources and liabilities of the association. The club is gradually clearing up its debt and the report makes a very gratifying showing for the year and half that the association has been in existence. The financial standing is given in the following figures:

Resources.		Liabilities.	
Real Estate	\$3500.00	Bonds outstanding	\$2500.00
Furniture & Fixtures	750.00	Interest on bonds	20.00
Piano	300.00	Floating indebtedness	470.90
Cash on hand	113.38	Due on piano	11.10
Total	4663.38	Balance on piano	140.00
		Total	3148.88
		Net Gain	1522.50

C. M. Elkins, Temp. Secretary. The above figures show that the club has reduced its debt about 20 per cent during a period of a little over one year, or since the date of organization in October, 1903.

HOMESEEKERS RUSH INTO OREGON

Tide Has Already Set in—Crook County Is Attracting Its Share.

Trains carrying hundreds of colonists are rolling into Oregon. The influx began yesterday.

The morning train over the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company's line was a long one, and was loaded with people. It arrived at Huntington with 11 tourist cars and not a vacant berth. There were over 200 homeseekers aboard. Of these, about half embarked at points in eastern Oregon. More than 100 were in the train when it reached Portland. Most of them are destined for the Willamette valley and southern Oregon.

There were many men accompanied by their families and a large number of wives and families came to join husbands already located and waiting for them. Nearly all knew where they were going to locate, and made preparations in advance. They are without exception intelligent, with money realized from sale of property in the east or middle west.

The evening train over the O. R. & N. was loaded with a similar class of people. They turn southward here and are distributed through the Willamette and Rogue river valleys and the Umpqua and the Coos bay country. Of those who stopped at points in eastern and central Oregon, many are headed for sections where irrigation projects have been started. The Deschutes valley is attracting many, and Wallowa county is getting a share of them. Every incoming train for the next 10 days that bring colonists is expected to be loaded with people. Advices from eastern agents of the railroads indicate that a large movement of homeseekers to the Pacific northwest has begun.

WASHINGTON TO HAVE A FINE BUILDING

The Washington State building at the Lewis & Clark Exposition will be one of the finest structures on the Exposition grounds. The building will be of frame, two stories high, and as large in size as a site 145x250 feet will permit.

The site is located on an eminence overlooking Guild's Lake and the main picture of the Exposition. A fine view may be obtained from the veranda of the building of the surrounding scenery, which embraces several snow-capped mountain peaks. The site originally allotted to Washington was on the edge of the lake, but as the sister state of Oregon was not altogether pleased with the location, the Exposition officials very graciously granted one of the most desirable sites on the Exposition grounds which had already been allotted for other building.

The buildings will in the shape of a cross, with wide verandas overlooking the water. Staff will be used on the exterior of the structure, except in the center, where not exposed to the weather. Here and throughout the interior many different varieties of native woods will be used, thus making a practical exhibit of the timber resources of Washington.

The second floor will be arranged as balconies overlooking the main floor. On the latter the state exhibit will be made, while the second floor will be used for reception purposes, waiting rooms, retiring rooms, writing rooms, and lounging places. Here visitors from Washington and other states may find comfortable and pleasant quarters to gather, to meet each other and rest.

SALARY QUESTION MAY DEFEAT SUMMERS' CASE

Whether there is any law for the existence of the office of State Land Agent, or any authority of law for payment of salary of \$1800 a year and traveling expenses to that official, is the interesting question passed up for Judge George H. Burnett, of the first department of the State Circuit Court, to decide, says the Telegram. The question is deduced from the contentions of the opposing counsel in the case of George Summers, plaintiff, vs. T. T. Geer, L. B. Geer and W. H. Odell, defendants, in the argument of a motion to strike out parts of the plaintiff's complaint. The case was argued yesterday afternoon, submitted and taken under advisement by the court. This is the first time that the laws which created this office and prescribed the duties of the incumbent have come into question.

This is the case in which Summers, to whom has been assigned numerous claims similar to his own, all of which are merged in one complaint, seeks to recover from the defendants, T. T. Geer, L. B. Geer and W. H. Odell about \$9500, moneys alleged to have been paid to Odell for information as to the whereabouts of base land due the state. The first allegation is that L. B. Geer and W. H. Odell were agents for the State of Oregon for the selection of indemnity school lands, etc. The council for the defense moves to strike this paragraph out for reasons which raise the question involved.

The office of State Land Agent was created by virtue of an act passed by the Legislative Assembly of 1878, approved October 18, of the same year. This act is known on the statutes as section 3597, of Hill's code. The sessions of 1899 passed another act, which was approved by the Governor on February 17 of that year. This act designates the duties of the State Land Agent, and purports to amend section 3597 of Hill's code. This same Legislature passed another act which was approved by the Governor on the day following the approval of the former act, February 18. The first section of this latter act provides that "the Governor of this state is hereby appointed Land Commissioner for the state of Oregon, and is empowered to locate lands to which the state is entitled under the laws of the United States, or otherwise, and is authorized to appoint such agent or agents as may be necessary in the performance of his duties." This act also operates to repeal section 3597 of Hill's Code.

Counsel for the defense contend that the second act repeals the first, and that under the law no duty is devolved upon L. B. Geer and Odell were agents of the Governor and not of the state. The plaintiff's counsel contended that whether they were officers of the state or not, it made no difference, inasmuch as they had entered into a conspiracy to defraud, and were liable in a private capacity.

Plaintiff's counsel also contends that the facts prove that the Governor was appointed under the first act, and that L. B. Geer was appointed and drew a salary of \$1800 per year under its provisions; therefore, if the act was repealed, the office of the State Land Agent was abolished and the State Land Agent was drawing a salary of \$1800 per year to which he had no right. The act of 1903 prescribes certain duties of the State Land Agent, as to the selection of indemnity lands, but does not fix his salary, and thus, inferentially, recognize the office of State Land Agent as created by the act of 1899, which the counsel for the defendants are now contending was repealed as valid.

Professional Cards.

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