

Crook County Journal

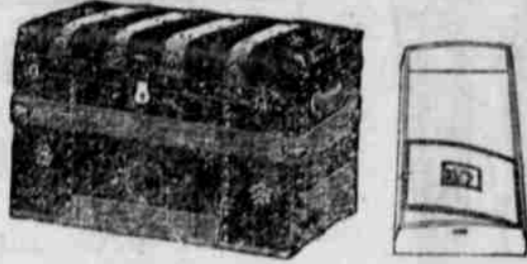
VOL. IX.

PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, MAY 25, 1905.

NO. 24

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GORMLEY THE TAILOR

STOCK THIEF FINDS WAY TO LIBERTY

Carelessness of Gilliam County Sheriff Gives Freedom to Man Wanted in Crook County-

Arch McKay, a man who has been serving a sentence at Fossil for stock rustling, and who is wanted in Crook county for the same offense, escaped last week from the Fossil jail.

Sheriff Keeton went to the jail in the morning and left both the outer door and the inner one unlocked. The outer door was held by a latch and while the Sheriff busied himself in the cell room McKay slipped to the corridor, thrust his arm through the bars of the inner door, and turned the latch to liberty.

Information was sent out at once to the sheriff of surrounding counties, sheriff Smith having received notification several days ago. An indictment was returned against McKay by the grand jury at the May term of the circuit court and a warrant was sent by Sheriff Smith to Sheriff Keeton with the expectation that McKay would be brought to Prineville as soon as he had served out his sentence. Sheriff Smith was particularly anxious that McKay be brought here as he is looked upon as one of the most dangerous and smoothest stock rustlers who has operated in the county, and it was certain that several crimes could have been laid on his shoulders. But the carelessness of the Gilliam county sheriff has let loose a much wanted bird and it is not likely that McKay will be caught again if there is any possible chance of him getting out of the country. Over in Grant county a special session of the circuit court has been called to try the stock rustling cases which are numerous. A dispatch from Canyon City reads as follows:-

There are a number of larceny cases, growing out of the horse and cattle rustling business, which has gone on quite extensively in different parts of the county during the Fall and Winter. It now appears that the whole subject is in a fair way to be aired, and some unlooked for exposures may result from the investigations by the grand jury.

A case that has excited considerable attention is that of the State vs. T. N. Williams, of Paulina, Crook county. Williams had been about town a few days, when he was employed by an Izee stockman to go out to his place and work on the cattle ranch. Williams had been drinking quite heavily, so it is said, and left town in a state of intoxication. On the way out, he quarreled with his traveling companion, in the course of which he was knocked down. In the meantime, he had been fighting his horse and had knocked out an eye, besides injuring the animal in other ways. He then drew a weapon, and frightened his companion away. His abuse of the horse was renewed. Pulling out his knife, Williams jabbed it into the animal in a most cruel manner. Finally, in an excess of frenzy, he gashed the horse's throat repeatedly, severing the windpipe. The horse dropped in the road where it soon expired.

Not content with his record, the fellow next held up the stage going to Izee, and made the driver carry his saddle into that town. The driver protested, but he says that Williams drew a big gun on him, and he then complied with the demand.

When the stage-driver returned to town he swore out a complaint against Williams, and Sheriff Ambrose went to Izee, bringing back the prisoner.

ARCHIE MASON GETS RAILROAD CONTRACT

Archie Mason, the contractor who is identified with several enterprises in Crook county, has secured the contract for building the grade for ten miles of the extension of the Sumpter Valley railroad which will extend its line from the present terminus at Tipton to Canyon City.

Mr. Mason was in the city Monday looking for men and teams. He sent through about 50 head of horses and wanted more. He stated that he would begin work on the grading as soon as he reached Tipton and that his portion of the contract would be completed by September 1. The road is being built by the Oregon Lumber company, in which David Eccles is heavily interested, and when completed will tap a rich and productive country. The extension will be about 50 miles in length and will follow down the middle fork of the John Day river where an easy grade is secured.

WILL GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL

The High School commencement exercises will be held at the M. E. church, Friday evening, June 2, at 8:30 o'clock. A program, replete with interesting and entertaining features, has been arranged for the evening as follows:

Selection, "Under the Harvest Moon"..... Ball Orchestra
Class History..... IVA BOOTH
Vocal Solo, "Voices of the Wood" From Rubenstein's Melody in F..... MISS CELIA NELMS
Piano Solo, "Maritana"..... SMITH
..... MISS GERTRUDE SHARP
Valedictory, "We Launch Tonight, Where Shall We Anchor?"..... CHAS. CHRISTIANI
Vocal Solo, "O, Dry Those Tears" Del Riego, Mrs. A. C. STRANGE
Class Address..... REV. W. P. JINNETT
Selection, "Lady of the North" Blake..... Orchestra
Presentation of Diplomas..... JUDGE W. A. BELL
Selection, "Luzon"..... Elworth..... Orchestra

Accommodation has been made in the church for about 200. Seats for these will be reserved at ten cents each. This is made necessary to meet expenses. Tickets can be secured at Winnek's after Monday next. Those desiring to attend should procure seats early as there will be no general admission. All are cordially invited to attend by the class of '05.

VALLEY WOOL CLIMBS HIGHER

A dispatch from Salem says the wool market for this section of the Valley has advanced over 3 cents within the past week, and there is prospect of a still further advance before the end of the month. The growers in this and adjoining counties are organizing pools of holdings, and each succeeding sale realizes from a fraction to a cent better price than the preceding one. The Scio pool of 2600 fleeces, or 18,200 pounds, was sold last week for 27 1/2 cents; the Silverton pool, of 1700 fleeces, 11,900 pounds, sold on Friday for 27 1/2 cents, and the Sublimity pool, of 2200 fleeces, 15,400 pounds, was disposed of on Saturday for 28 1/2 cents. A pool of the wool raised in the immediate vicinity of Salem, aggregating 2300 fleeces, with prospect of an increase to 3000 fleeces, amounting to 21,000 pounds, was organized on Saturday, and the growers have declared their intention of holding out for 30 cents, which price, they feel, will be realized by June 1. The sheep in the Valley are in excellent condition, and the wool is an exceedingly high grade, owing to the mildness of the past Winter. The present and past inclemency of the weather has been the cause of delaying shearing this Spring, but the growers are living in hopes of being able to begin by June 1.

FURNACE COMPANY WILL BURN ORE

Final Arrangements About Completed for Local Organization to Handle Cinnabar Output.

Final arrangements for the organization of a furnace company to burn the cinnabar ore from the New Alamedan Quicksilver and Gold Mining company's property on Lookout mountain, were practically completed this week. While it is practically assured that a furnace capable of handling from ten to twenty tons of ore per day will be erected, the permanent and active organization of a furnace company hinges upon the transfer of certain interests from outside parties with whom it was impossible when negotiations began last week to get into direct communication. C. M. Elkins left today for Portland to arrange these details and if satisfactory, as has been assured they would be, the furnace company will complete its organization and Mr. Elkins will place the order for the necessary equipment before returning home next week.

C. Fitzgerald, who came here from San Francisco last week and who will erect the furnace, spent several days on Lookout mountain looking over the cinnabar properties and the field of development. He was highly pleased with present indications and stated that there was a sufficient quantity of ore on the dump at the present time to justify an expenditure of \$8000 or \$10,000 in the erection of a furnace. He himself will take stock in the furnace company in partial payment of the cost of building the plant. The balance of the stock has been subscribed.

In the event of a satisfactory arrangement for the transfer of the outside interests, as noted above, orders will be placed at once for the fire brick and all the necessary material for building the plant will be put on the ground by July 1. This will insure the completion of the furnace by September 1, at which time it will begin its work of roasting the ore. The furnace will be erected a considerable distance below the tunnels which are now being worked and the ore carried to the roaster either by a tram way or by cars on an endless chain. Then as the upper tunnels become exhausted the work can be carried on at a lower point, but still be above the furnace where transportation of the ore can be carried on advantageously.

Those who are backing the enterprise are sanguine of the most favorable results. In fact it is the opinion of all those who have viewed the property, and who are competent to judge, that Crook county inside of a few years will be a close rival to the California quicksilver fields. At the present time every indication points to a cinnabar property with an unlimited amount of ore beneath its surface, and that a portion of it is in place beyond dispute has been proved by the tunnel work during which cross cuts of large bodies of high grade ore have been made. And with only a few hundred feet of tunnel work completed and sufficient ore in sight to more than cover the cost of a furnace it is a safe estimate that only a small fraction of the real value contained in the mine has been uncovered.

SHEEPMAN WILL TEST NEW LAW

The migratory stock law enacted by the recent legislature is soon to be put to a test and its constitutionality decided upon. A. B. Schroder, a prominent sheepman of Northern Lake county, will

make a test of the law. Mr. Schroder owns no real property with which to insure the payment of the taxes on his sheep. The new law provides that in such cases the taxes must be paid to the assessor at the time the assessment is made at the rate of the levy of the preceding year. This Mr. Schroder, as all other stockmen of the county in similar circumstances, refused to do in order to give the law, which is generally conceded to be unconstitutional, a test.

Several of our local attorneys have long since held that the law is not constitutional and that it cannot be enforced. Their understanding of the law seems to be the general belief of the legal talent throughout the state. In speaking with Attorney General A. M. Crawford about the law he said: "It is my belief that the law is unconstitutional in this, that it provides for inequitable and not uniform assessment; and it is my opinion that when it is brought to a test the courts will declare it unconstitutional."

That the law will be declared unconstitutional is now almost a certainty. The law would raise the taxes on live stock among the counties in which the stock is grazed, thus giving to each county a just proportion of the taxes. But on the contrary it would compel stockmen not possessed of real property to pay taxes twice in one year and that at a rate that does not legally exist. In this the law is inequitable and will no doubt be declared unconstitutional. —Lakeview Herald.

SHERIFF GETS AFTER THE TAX DODGERS

Owing to the large number of delinquent personal property tax payers, Sheriff Smith has decided to levy upon all property, which can be found, to satisfy the delinquent taxes one half of which was not paid on April 4, 1905.

The law requires that all personal property taxes, of which one-half are not paid by the first Monday in April, must be seized by the Sheriff and sold to pay the taxes and costs. This proceeding will in consequence put the tax payers to great expense, but it seems to be necessary to use drastic measures to convince certain tax payers that their taxes must be paid.

Notices have been sent from the Sheriff's office explaining the matter of collection of personal property taxes which have become delinquent, and unless payment by those notified occurs before the Sheriff finds the property involved, levy and sale will be made.

At the present time there remains on the tax rolls in the neighborhood of \$1500 on personal property which, the Sheriff says, is now subject to execution.

"The Country Kid" Next Week.

"The Country Kid" will be produced at Athletic hall next Tuesday and Wednesday evening, and if the extensive preparations made for its presentation are any indication of its reception the comedy-drama will score the season's success.

The play will be seen in three acts, all of which are guaranteed to strike the funny spot of the audience. Between the acts there will be entertaining specialties including a monologue sketch and several songs. Tickets have been placed on sale at Winnek's at 25, 35 and 50 cents. Much work and a large amount of new scenery have been put into the play and a crowded house no doubt will witness the comedy both nights.

C. A. Gilchrist returned from Shaniko Monday where he went to meet his wife who has been spending several months visiting with relatives in Indiana. Mrs. Gilchrist's brother, G. A. Johnson, and wife and daughter, Miss Grace, of Indianapolis, returned with her and will spend the summer at the Gilchrist ranch near Fife.

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