

Crook County Journal

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NO. 26

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FURNACE COMPANY READY FOR WORK

Material for the Lookout Mountain Plant Has Been Ordered and Shipped—Officers Are Elected.

C. M. Elkins and C. Fitzgerald returned this week from Portland where complete arrangements were made for the erection of a cinnabar furnace on Lookout mountain on the property of the New Alameda Gold and Quicksilver Mining company.

While in Portland Mr. Elkins was successful in securing a transfer of several outside interests, so that nothing stood in the way of purchasing the material for use in the furnace. All the fire brick and piping necessary was ordered and shipped to Shaniko and will be brought in here as soon as possible. In fact everything to be used in construction will be on hand in a few days with the exception of some clay brick which will be burned as soon as possible in the local yards.

Mr. Fitzgerald will personally superintend the construction work on the furnace and expects to have it completed and ready for use by the first of September, when it will immediately be put to work burning ore. The foundation will be laid in such a way that the furnace can be enlarged from time to time as greater service is needed. For the present it will have a capacity of ten or fifteen tons per day and the veins of ore in the tunnels, so far as the development work has been carried, have placed on hand a six months' supply of cinnabar.

Those who have subscribed stock in the furnace company will hold a meeting this afternoon at which time the company will be incorporated and officers elected. The capital stock will probably be placed at \$10,000.

HIGH PRICES OF WOOL WILL CONTINUE

A well known woolbuyer who is now in the city is of the opinion that the present high prices of wool will continue for at least three years more, because of the increased demand throughout the entire world for woolen goods and the great scarcity of sheep, says the Pendleton Tribune. He says that there is a shortage in the United States alone of 18,000,000 sheep over two years ago.

In speaking of the general situation the buyer said: "The price of wool is from 30 to 60 per cent higher now than it was last year, and this is due to many reasons. One of these is the decrease in the number of sheep raised. The increased demand for mutton and the gradual shortage of range area have influenced this. By improved methods of handling mutton in cold storage, it is made more available for markets and the demand is increasing.

"In addition to this, the limitation of the range is causing the growers to have trouble in raising enough sheep to meet the demand for wool. Other kinds of farming are being practiced on what was formerly range, and men who originally had plenty of room for their herds now must lease land for them. The government reserves are also interfering with the woolgrower and causing him to limit his herds.

"The wool crop of America is about 10 per cent short of what it was last year. In the Northwest the wool is better in quality and lighter in shrinkage, which more than offsets the decrease in production.

"But the increased demand for wool is universal, for more wool is being used throughout the world now than before. This is due to the Japanese and Russian war, and to better financial conditions

everywhere. As a result of the war, the Russians ordered large supplies of woolen blankets, and owing to the cold climate, wool tents were also provided for the soldiers. This affected the price of the coarse wool.

"People in Europe have had good times and are wearing better clothes, also. I expect to see the high prices continue, and probably rise for the next three years, and perhaps longer."

MAURY MOUNTAIN RESERVE PERMANENT

President Roosevelt signed a proclamation last Tuesday creating the Maury mountain forest reserve in the southeastern portion of this county.

The new reserve comprises 51,360 acres of land lying in the mountain range. The original amount withdrawn numbered 62,480 acres, but this area was afterwards reduced to the acreage noted above. The balance of the tract as first selected will be restored to enter.

The Dalles land office received notification last fall that 10,000 acres of the temporary withdrawal had been restored to enter and that the office would be advised at an early date regarding the required publication of notice of the date upon which the lands would become subject to entry, filing and selection. Now that the president has signed the proclamation creating the permanent reserve, it is probable that the notice of publication will appear in a short time. The lands upon which filings will eventually be accepted lie in townships 17 and 18 south of ranges 18, 19 and 20 east.

PORTAGE ROAD WILL OPEN GREAT REGION

"Now the portage road is the step to the real channel which will give for all time lower rates and better transportation to the large agricultural sections of Oregon, Washington and Idaho," is the way Tom Richardson, of the Commercial Club, regards the future for the Columbia River Basin, now that the last spike has been driven in the road which virtually forms a connection between that portion of the Inland Empire when facilities have been lacking. "The fact that a steamer has actually made the trip from Lewiston to Celilo gives the basis for water rates and one that is recognized throughout the United States."

Mr. Richardson, in support of his statement, cites the case of the traffic on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers between Kansas City and St. Louis, where the steamer Mason has been operated for years at the expense of Kansas City, and through which every point gets the same rate. Few in the Northwest, with the exception of those directly interested by reason of business connections, are more enthusiastic over the completion of the portage road than Mr. Richardson. Having seen the trade grow between Kansas City and St. Louis to such large proportions, under what he terms identical conditions, with those which now confront Portlanders, the agriculturists and stockraisers of the upper country, he feels the results to be attained here will prove enormous. Such projects, Mr. Richardson says, have been brought to the attention of the Government and help for improvements in the way of navigation aids has been given. He referred to the City of Galveston and other places on the Gulf where the Federal authorities expended millions of dollars.

Allen Lewis, of the Chamber of Commerce, who has been one of the ardent workers in securing the portage road, speaks most highly of the possibilities of the that line. When pressed for an opinion as to advantages to accrue from the line, Mr. Lewis retorted the best evidence he himself had was the fact he had attained the opening exercise, and he certainly would not have gone did he harbor the opinion the portage road would not bring all the assistance to the sections both above and below The Dalles.—Telegram.

SHEEPMEN'S HOPES ARE REALIZED

Highest Prices in Twenty-Five Years Are Paid for Clips at the Wool Sales in Shaniko.

The expectations of the local wool men that clips would bring the highest prices this year received for a quarter of a century, were realized at Shaniko this week. Some of the county's wool was sold at a figure near 25 cents, but the highest prices went to outside firms. Over 48,000 fleeces of wool from this county, which would have been sold at the Shaniko sales, was previously contracted for at 20 cents. The Oregonian has the following to say regarding Tuesday's sales at which 1,600,000 pounds passed into other hands:

The highest price paid for wool in Eastern Oregon in 25 years was paid to the growers of this section of the state at the public auction held here today. The sales were conducted on the sealed bids system, and prices ranged from 21 to 25 1/2 cents for Merino wools. One small clip of cross-bred Lincoln wool sold for 26 1/2 cents.

These wools were formerly marketed at The Dalles, but since the completion of the railroad to this point sales have been conducted here. The prices are the highest paid this season at any Eastern Oregon point, and Wasco county maintains its reputation as the leading wool market in the state.

The high prices which prevailed at today's sales are especially gratifying to the growers, by reason of the fact that their loyalty to the sealed-bid system has been rewarded by from 3 to 5 cents per pound increase over prices paid those who contracted earlier. Fully three-fourths of the wool grown in the state were contracted during the winter and early in the spring, this section being the only noticeable exception where the offers of tempting prices failed to make serious inroads into the clip to be marketed.

Local growers who held are highly elated over the success of the public sales, while the few who contracted here are correspondingly sorry that they did not stand by the sealed bid plan. The success of this year's public sales firmly establishes the popularity and proves the wisdom of the plan.

This being the only point in the state where a large quantity of the choice wools would be offered for sale on the sealed-bid plan, a large number of buyers were attracted to the sales, and 20 representatives of the leading wool merchants and manufacturers in the East and West were present.

Owing to the quantity of the wool offered the sales could not be completed today, and they will be continued tomorrow, when it is estimated that another million pounds will be sold. The following were among the largest clips sold and prices realized:

Baldwin Sheep & Land Company, 200,000 pounds at 23 1/2 cents.
Prineville Land & Livestock Company, 125,000 pounds at 23 1/2 cents.

Morrow & Keenan, 90,000 pounds at 22 1/2 cents.

R. R. Hinton, 100,000 pounds at 22 1/2 cents.

Thomas Brogan, 80,000 pounds at 22 1/2 cents.

Charles Hilton, 70,000 pounds at 22 1/2 cents.

DEATH OF AN OLD SETTLER

The death of Monroe Hodges last Sunday morning, removed from the community one of the oldest settlers of this region and a man who was largely instrumental in the upbuilding of Prineville, the city which he had helped to found and in which he had lived

and watched grow for over 30 years. It was he who, settling upon land now covered by this city, made possible the building of a town, and it was due to his residence here that others of the older residents came to Crook county and make this place their home, converting a barren valley into a rich and productive region, and finally building a city on the land where Mr. Hodges had built the first habitation.

Monroe Hodges was born in Allen county, Ohio, in December, 1833, and at the time of his death was 71 years of age.

In 1847, at the age of 14, he crossed the plains with his father in an ox team and the family home was established in Benton county. Leaving there he went to Southern Oregon, then into California to follow mining, for it was at the time of the gold excitement and people were pouring into the state from every direction. From the hardships of that campaign he returned to Benton county a few years later, and in 1856 was married to Miss Rhoda Wilson of Corvallis.

Mr. Hodges' residence in Crook county began in 1871 when he crossed the mountains into this country and filed a homestead claim on the land upon which a greater part of this city now stands. A short time afterwards the Hodges addition to the town of Prineville was laid off.

Soon after coming here Mr. Hodges became the owner of the Prineville Hotel, a business which he followed successfully for five years, then selling to other parties. Since that time he had maintained a continuous residence here, known and respected by young and old alike.

Of the family left in sorrow over his loss there remains four children: Mrs. John L. Luckey, Arthur Hodges and Louis Hodges of this city, and Mrs. George S. Wright of McMinnville. Mrs. Hodges and two sons, Edwin H. and Samuel, have preceded him to the grave. Among the list of innumerable friends and acquaintances in the county, where he was personally known by everyone except the most recent arrivals, his death is universally regretted.

The funeral services were conducted at 10 o'clock last Tuesday morning by the Rev. O. W. Triplett, pastor of the Baptist church, of which Mr. Hodges was a member. Interment took place in the Union cemetery.

RACING AUTOS ARE SPINNING WESTWARD

The two automobiles, which will pass through Prineville on their race from New York City to Portland, will soon be in Oregon territory and will leave Burns, as far as schedule can be trusted either next Sunday or Monday.

Last Saturday the two machines were spinning across Wyoming "Old Scout" left Laramie about 50 miles in advance of "Old Steady," but it was stated in the bulletins received by the passenger department of the O. R. and N. that the two autos will be neck to neck in the race by the time Boise, Idaho, is reached. It is expected that the latter point will be reached today or tomorrow, then the machines will proceed on their way to Burns. From Burns to Prineville the machines will be forced to come across a rough country, although the last half of their journey across the desert will be comparatively easy running.

R. E. Simpson has received word to have 50 gallons of gasoline in readiness for the machines, and it is not probable that the racers will stop long here as each will make an effort to distance the other in the last stretch of the race.

If no accidents happen, Prineville will be reached early next week. Telegrams to Portland announce that the machines will reach that city about June 20.

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