

# Crook County Journal

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER, \$1.50 YEAR

PRINEVILLE, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1909.

VOL. XIII—NO. 31

## OVER 200 MEN NOW AT WORK

### Railroad Building Is at Last Under Way

#### MAKING SHOW OF GOOD FAITH

#### Approval of All Maps Expected—Harriman Wants Oregon Trunk Route at Madras

Construction work on the much heralded and long promised Central Oregon railroad up Deschutes canyon is at last getting under way. And this time, too, with such a showing that there is little room to doubt that Harriman intends to make good his oft repeated and long standing vow to give the greatest railroadless territory in the United States transportation, within the shortest possible time.

About 200 men are now at work on the first 40 miles, where the right of way has been approved, while train loads of equipment and supplies are piled up at Grass Valley, and a force of men is now at work

on a road between that railroad point and the Deschutes river, 12 miles distant, preparatory to establishing a big construction camp on the right of way along the stream.

A big surveying crew has been sent to Madras to run over and check up data on the survey held by the Oregon Trunk between the mouth of Trout creek and Madras, the supposition being that the Harriman people want to get possession of this right of way, for the construction of their road up Willow creek canyon, instead of following their roundabout survey up Trout creek, which includes heavy grades, sharp curves and at least two expensive bridges.

The construction work is under direction of Twoby Bros. of Spokane but no contract has been let. The announcement is made that this step will not be taken until every foot of the right of way along the entire route from the Columbia river to Redmond, is under control.

#### Construction Camp Open.

Grass Valley, Or., July 12.—Twoby Bros., railroad contractors, of Spokane, have established headquarters at this place and have rented six office rooms. They also have secured a warehouse for a commissary and have it filled with supplies for men and teams. They have built a large cellar for storing powder, have rented a large livery stable for teams and have 20 head of mules here now.

They have also established camp on the top of the Deschutes hill and have 150 men at work there building

Continued on page 4.

## USE OF HARROW SAVES MOISTURE

### "Dry Farming" Principle Makes Crops Grow

#### HUGH GEE'S COMBS FLAT RANCH

#### Shows What Proper Methods Will Produce on High Unirrigated Lands

"Combs Flat" is no longer a byword with the old-timer when speaking of its agricultural possibilities. A few years ago it was. Four or five stockmen had homes up there and found it an ideal place to run cattle and sheep, but the homesteader is gradually cutting up the range until now there is very little government land left.

Alma T. Morris was one of the first to convince people that things could be made to grow on the bench and a few others followed. Mr. Morris raised wheat, oats, barley, rye and all kinds of vegetables and some of the best potatoes in the county.

Hugh Gee has a homestead adjoining the Morris place and its well worth a

visit. Mr. Gee is a worker and the thrifty appearance of his homestead shows that he knows how to farm a dry ranch. He has oats that will thrash from 40 to 50 bushels to the acre, rye that is waist high and wheat that will make a good yield; some of the stools counted ranged from 40 to 65 heads each. His garden is a good one, especially his potatoes. He has been supplying the local market with new spuds for two or three weeks. He is going a ter some of the premiums offered by the Crook County Fair this fall. Not only has he a fine crop of potatoes, but also peas, beans, squashes, pumpkins, melons, corn, etc. When asked how he could get such a growth without irrigation, Mr. Gee pointed a harrow and said the secret was in its use. He could not explain scientifically the reason why—the only thing he was sure of was the fact that when moisture was needed cultivation supplied it. In other words by breaking up the capillaries he prevented surface evaporation; instead the moisture was left in the ground. He kept an inch or two of fine mulch on the surface and with this protection the soil was kept in good growing condition.

Another fact, too, that may surprise bottom-land farmers is that alfalfa can be grown on this high bench south of town. Mr. Gee was putting up the first crop Monday. The patch is a small one—containing only 1½ acres—but it shows that with proper cultivation it can be made a profitable crop.

We have made a note of the above facts to show that on a bench 3500 feet above sea level and 700 feet higher than Prineville, stuff will grow that cannot be raised on the bottom lands on account of the frost. The Gee ranch is also an object lesson of what a man can do on 100 acres if he is willing to work. Five years ago Mr. Gee had nothing. For two or three years he and his wife worked out at odd times until the ranch became self-sustaining. Now he has a comfortable home and a good ranch. Others can do likewise. All it needs is plenty of back bone.

## NOTHING MATTER OF COURTHOUSE

### Window Casing Was Out of Plumb

#### STORY OF BULGING WALLS FAKE

#### County Court Finds Building As Solid as Day It Was Built—Optical "Delusion."

Last week some one made the wonderful discovery that the new courthouse was on the verge of total collapse. The walls were bulging, the building was settling, great cracks were showing up in the stone work and the condition was so panicky that the prisoners in the county jail were asking to be released from the building for fear that the whole structure would pile up in a heap.

But, behold! The courthouse still

stands. There is absolutely nothing the matter with the building at all. The whole story arose from the fact that two of the wooden window frames set in the openings in the stone work had tipped a little out of plumb, and the person who made the discovery that the wall was bulging was too short-sighted to note that it was the window casing that was crooked instead of the wall of the building. The window was straightened up in the wall and the courthouse again stood firm.

The county court and Contractor J. B. Shipp, upon hearing that the building was on the verge of tumbling down, took levels, plumbs and other instruments and tested the walls to their entire satisfaction and found that they were absolutely in perfect condition and as solid as the day they were built. There is nothing to the published stories of last week, that the walls of the pillars are bulging apart and that they are filled in the middle with rubble work, for the pillars are not built that way. The stones extend completely through the walls and tie the work together the same as brick walls are built, although the space left in the masonry to take the castings make it look as though the walls were filled with loose rubble work in the center.

The only crack in any of the masonry work that has been discovered by a thorough inspection of the entire building is in the coping stone over the door on the south side of the basement, through which the fuel is taken to fire the heating plant. This is thought to be merely a season crack, as it has been done for some time and does not spread a particle.

Some of the county papers published the news that the building had settled one-fiftieth of an inch. That would be about the thickness of five sheets of ordinary writing paper, and it would be interesting to learn how the measurements were taken to determine this fact.

Special pains were taken last week to inform the Journal that the courthouse was ready to tumble, and scare heads were suggested, but this paper concluded to wait till the building went down before it made any noise like an earthquake, and it takes pleasure this week in assuring its readers that so far as the county court and the most skilled mechanics and builders equipped with the best appliances for testing can determine, after thorough inspection, Crook county's new stone court house has not settled a hair's breadth, there is not a single stone the fraction of an inch out from the place it was laid, and the building is just as solid in every particular as it was the day it was finished.

## Black Pine Good for Paper Making

A special from Bend states that the discovery has been made that the wood of the black pine of Central Oregon can be manufactured into a paper pulp of an exceedingly fine and valuable grade. J. N. Hunter and J. E. Sawhill, of Bend, recently sent specimens of the wood to the Lebanon Pulp Mills, and as a result of experiments tried there it is reported that the quality of pulp produced from the black pine surpasses in whiteness, ease of manufacture and probable commercial value for paper-making purposes anywood hitherto handled in the state.

The results of the discovery of marketable value in timber hitherto considered almost worthless will be of vast importance to the entire Central Oregon country, and particularly to that portion drained by the Deschutes, where the stand is remarkably prolific.

In the past the paper mills have secured their pulp from the white pine, balsam and cottonwood. The end of the available supply within the state from these sources is a matter of a comparatively few years. But before the existing supply is exhausted, if the claims made for the black pine pulp are solidly based, the eyes and capital of the paper-makers will undoubtedly turn to the enormous forests of this newly available wood to be found in the central portions of the state.

It is estimated that in the country tributary to Bend alone, there are a million or more acres of this "black-jack," averaging all the way from 2,000 to 10,000 feet to the acre, this, of course, taking no consideration of the enormous stand of yellow pine. Should the manufacture of black pine pulp become a reality—and as the Deschutes offers unlimited water-power, this need only depend upon the realization of the present railroad hopes—many millions of dollars will be exchanged for lands up to now looked upon as next to worthless.

The black pine is a dark-barked pine growing thickly in the semi-desert lands too dry for the yellow pine, and in some instances, is mixed in with the latter. It is far smaller than its yellow brother, a tree 12 or 14 inches in diameter being exceptionally large for the species, and the average of a fairly good stand ranging about nine inches. On account of its small size it is not logged, and is usually regarded by the homesteader as a nuisance to be cleared from his fields like sagebrush, and finds its nearest approach to practical use as fence railings.

## HAY MAKING IS IN FULL BLAST

### Yield Will Be Above the Average

#### NEW ACREAGE COMING IN

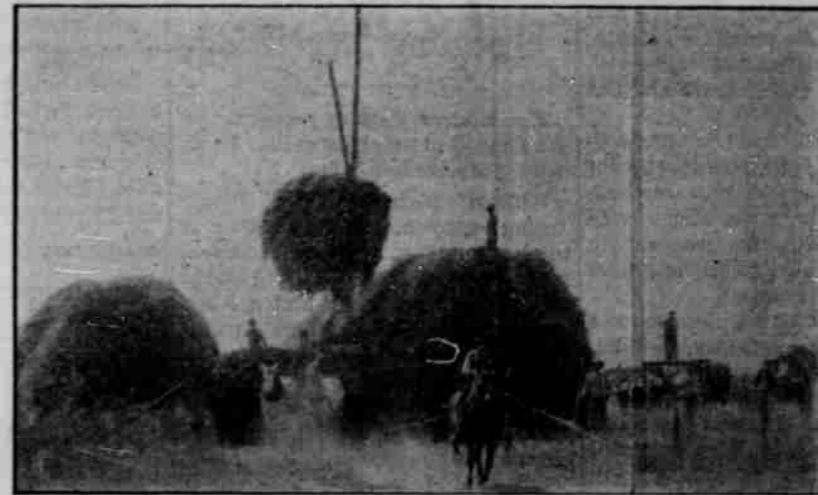
#### Rains Followed by Warm Days Make All Fields Ready for Mower at Same Time

Crook county is making hay while the sun shines. The few days rain just after the fourth caused a little delay in many parts, the only result being that hay of all kinds matured faster as soon as the rain was over and perhaps not for years has practically all the alfalfa in the county been ready for the mowers at so nearly the same time.

The yield of all kinds of hay will be above average this season, the

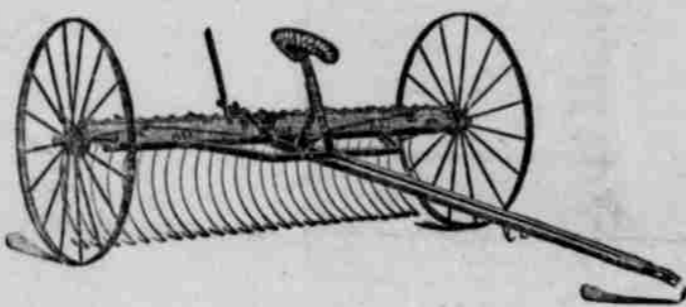
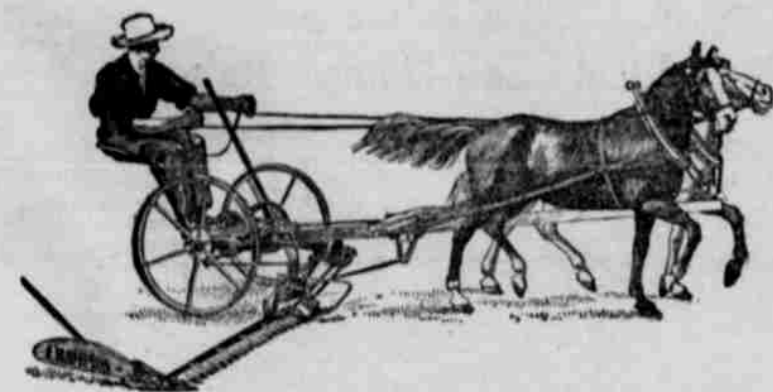
## \$75 in Rewards.

Lost, strayed or stolen—Bay Percheron filly, two years old this spring, branded small C on left shoulder, disappeared from my place near Lamonta, last fall. \$25 reward for return of animal, and \$50 reward for evidence leading to conviction of any party guilty of stealing same. OSCAR COX, Lamonta, Oregon. 8-19p



Harvesting Alfalfa Hay Near Prineville.

# Harvesting Machinery!

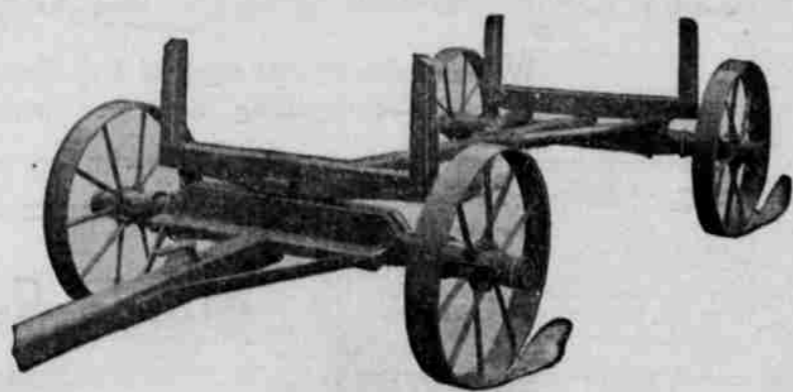


## "CHAMPION" Mowers, Rakes Reapers, Binders, Headers

### "International" Hay Bucks

NOTHING BETTER MADE

Full line of repairs on hand



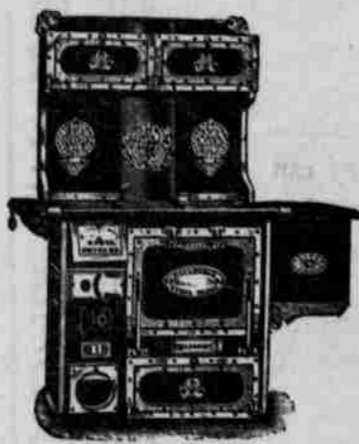
## Iron Wheel Hay Wagons

at specially low prices, in 3-inch and 3 1/4-inch axles.

## Hay Forks, Derrick Ropes and Rigging, Pulleys and Lubricating Oils

We carry the best that money can buy

We are closing out several lines of STEEL RANGES. Take advantage of reduced prices. Buy a range.



PITTSBURGH Welded Fence stands the strain, no weak points. Made in Field and Poultry styles. Lawn fence and garden gates.

## C. W. Elkins Big Department Store, Prineville, Or

## Fat Cattle Find Ready Market in Portland

Joseph Lister of Paulina passed through Prineville the last of the week on his way home from Portland, where he had taken three carloads of good fat beef cattle. Mr. Lister had heard be-

Married—July 10, in the county clerk's office, William P. Burson of Marion county and Grace C. Yuyer of Crook county. Rev. Bailey officiated.

## A Bargain.

A relinquishment made so that 160 acre homestead can be taken; also 160 acres of deeded land adjoining for sale. Five miles from Prineville; fine land; also a team of horses for sale. Enquire at the Journal Office. 7-15t4