

Crook County Journal

BY GUY LAFOLLETTE

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CITY OF PRINEVILLE RAILWAY

Time Table No. 4

Effective 12:01 a. m. Nov. 9, 1919.

West Bound			
Stations	Motor	Motor	
Leave Prineville	5:30	5:15	
Leave Wilton	5:45	5:30	
Leave O'Neil	6:15	6:05	
Arrive Prineville Jct.	6:30	6:20	

East Bound			
Stations	Motor	Motor	
Arrive Prineville	7:50	8:45	
Arrive Wilton	7:35	9:30	
Arrive O'Neil	7:05	9:00	
Leave Prineville Jct.	6:50	8:45	

TRADE IN OUR TOWN

GOOD FINANCING

After many months of labor during which there has been solved a great many problems that were very difficult, including engineering difficulties and other matters, the Ochoco District, which has been created by local land owners, financed and is now owned by them, has reached the point where completion within ninety days is assured, and the final cost established at an average per acre cost of about \$61.

The increased cost above the original estimate will not exceed 30 per cent, perhaps 28 per cent will cover the expense above the original estimates, made before the war.

Some of the expenses in connection with the construction have necessarily been high. Unavoidable incidents have been contributing factors to the increased cost, but the remarkable fact is that the increase has been so small.

Where is there another enterprise that has kept within so close a radius of the original estimates?

Any land owner can point out single instances where the board of directors, the engineer or others in

authority have made expenditures that were too high under normal conditions.

But conditions have not been normal, and the facts are that the total finished cost is but \$1.39 where we originally planned to expend \$1.00.

A good farmer, with present prices for his crops, and an abundance of water, which without accident will be available this year and hereafter, will be able to pay the entire cost of the water with three or four crops, after which he will own his pro rata share of the system, and will have the perpetual use of the water.

With this supply of water it is difficult to estimate the actual value of the lands, without it they made unsatisfactory homes for jack rabbits.

The board of directors, both past and present, the engineer and the office force are to be congratulated in that they have been able, in times when costs have been so tremendous, to keep the expenses in connection with the construction at so low a figure, and especially that they have maintained so firm a hold on the work at all times that there has been no stops in the construction excepting those unavoidable because of the weather conditions, despite the supreme efforts of some very strong forces to wrest the control from the hands of the men in charge, who are of and are themselves owners of the land and the system which is making it so valuable.

For those who may wish to criticize the men in authority, we would point for one example to the City of Prineville Railway, which cost two or three times the original estimated amount, and at the increased cost, is proving the best investment the city of Prineville ever made from every standpoint.

This is but one of hundreds of enterprises, the cost of which ran up, during the war and the period following, when in turn the farmer especially is receiving much more than the old prices for his products.

As a consolation to those who think they cannot afford to pay their share of the financing of the project, the prices of land it covers have increased greatly since the bonds have been voted on them and sales are possible almost any time and the opportunities to sell the land are sure to increase.

The project is a success from every standpoint, and one of the most favorable facts in so far as the development of the country is concerned is the very per acre tax itself, which prevents the idle acres that are a liability to any community.

This fact the necessity of every acre doing its full duty every year, assures a prosperous and thriving community and will force a development in the lands and in Prineville, that will be unequalled in this part of the state, for the possibilities of these lands are very great, and they will well repay for the best of treatment.

GEN. PERSHING'S OWN STORY

(Continued from last week)

the principal attack, the line pivoting on the center division of the first corps. The first division on the left of the fourth corps, was charged with the double mission of covering its own flank while advancing some twenty kilometers due north toward the heart

of the salient, where it was to make contact with the troops of the fifth corps.

On the western face of the salient by the fifth corps, Maj. Gen. George H. Cameron commanding, with the twenty-sixth division, fifteenth French Colonial division and the fourth division in line, from Mouilly west to Les Eparges and north to Warrionville. Of these three divisions the twenty-sixth alone was to make a deep advance directed southward toward Vignelles. The French division was to make a short progression to the edge of the heights in order to cover the left of the twenty-sixth. The fourth division was not to advance.

In the center between our fourth and fifth army corps, was the second French Colonial corps, Maj. Gen. E. J. Blondiat commanding, covering a front of 40 kilometers with three small French divisions. These troops were to follow up the retirement of the enemy from the tip of the salient.

At dawn on Sept. 12, after four hours of violent artillery fire of preparation, and accompanied by small tanks, the infantry of the first and fourth corps advanced. The infantry of the fifth corps commenced its advance at 8 a. m. The operation was carried out with entire precision. Just after daylight on Sept. 13 elements of the first and twenty-sixth divisions made a junction near Hattonchatel and Vignelles, eighteen kilometers northeast of St. Mihiel. The rapidity with which our divisions advanced overwhelmed the enemy and all objectives were reached by the afternoon of Sept. 13. We captured nearly 16,000 prisoners, 443 guns and large stores of material and supplies. The energy and swiftness with which the operation was carried out enabled us to smother opposition to such an extent that we suffered less than 7,000 casualties during the actual period of the advance.

The material results of the victory achieved were very important. An American army was an accomplished fact, and the enemy had felt its power. No form of propaganda could overcome the depressing effect on the morale of the enemy of this demonstration of our ability to organize a large American force and drive it successfully through his defenses. It gave our troops implicit confidence in their superiority and raised their morale to the highest pitch. For the first time wire entanglements ceased to be regarded as impassable barriers and open warfare training, which had been so urgently insisted upon, proved to be the correct doctrine. Our divisions concluded the attack with such small losses and in such high spirits that without the usual rest they were immediately available for employment in heavy fighting in a new theater of operations. The strength of the first army in this battle totaled approximately 500,000 men, of whom about 70,000 were French.

Immovable Since 1914.

The Meuse-Argonne front had been practically stabilized in September, 1914, and except for minor fluctuations during the German attacks on Verdun in 1916 and the French counter offensive in August, 1917, remained unchanged until the American advance in 1918. The net result of the four years' struggle on this ground was a German defensive system of unusual depth and strength and a wide zone of utter devastation, itself a serious obstacle to offensive operations.

The strategical importance of this portion of the line was second to none on the western front. All supplies and evacuations of the German armies in northern France were dependent upon two great railway systems—one in the north, passing through Liege, while the other in the south, with lines coming from Luxembourg, Thionville and Metz, had as its vital section the line Carignan-Sedan-Mezieres. No other important lines were available to the enemy, as the mountainous masses of the Ardennes made the construction of east and west lines through that region impracticable.

Begin Victorious Advance.

On the night of September 25 the nine divisions to lead in the attack were deployed between the Meuse river and the western edge of the Argonne forest. On the right was the Third corps, Major General Bullard commanding, with the Thirty-third, Eightieth and Fourth divisions in line; next came the Fifth corps, Major General Cameron commanding, with the Seventy-ninth, Thirty-seventh and Ninety-first divisions; on the left was the First corps, Major General Liggett commanding, with the Thirty-fifth, Twenty-eighth and Seventy-seventh divisions. Each corps had one division in reserve and the army held three divisions as a general reserve. About 2,700 guns, 189 small tanks, 142 manned by Americans, and 821 airplanes, 604 manned by Americans, were concentrated to support the attack of the infantry. We thus had a superiority in guns and aviation and the enemy had no tanks.

Following three hours of violent artillery fire of preparation the infantry advanced at 5:30 a. m. on September 26, accompanied by tanks. During the first two days of the attack, before the enemy was able to bring up his reserves, our troops made steady progress through the network of the defenses. Montfaucon was held tenaciously by the enemy and was not captured until noon of the second day.

The attack continued without interruption, meeting six new divisions which the enemy threw into first line before September 29. He developed a powerful machine gun defense supported by heavy artillery fire, and made frequent counter-attacks with fresh troops, particularly on the left of the Twenty-eighth and Thirty-fifth divisions. These divisions had

taken Vervennes, Cheppy, Bauloy and Charpentry, and the line was within two kilometers of Apremont. We were no longer engaged in a maneuver for the pinching out of a salient, but were necessarily committed, generally speaking, to a direct frontal attack against strong, hostile positions fully manned by a determined enemy.

At 5:30 a. m., October 4, the general attack was renewed. The enemy divisions on the front from Fresnes-en-Woevre to the Argonne had increased from ten in first line to sixteen, and included some of his best divisions. The fighting was desperate and only small advances were realized, except by the first division on the right of the First corps.

On the 7th the First corps, with the Eighty-second division added, launched a strong attack toward Cornay, to draw attention from the movement east of the Meuse and at the same time outflank the German position in the Argonne. The following day the Seventeenth French corps, Major General Caudel commanding, initiated its attack east of the Meuse against the exact point on which the German armies must pivot in order to withdraw from northern France. The troops encountered elaborate fortifications and stubborn resistance, but by nightfall had realized an advance of six kilometers to a line well within the Bois de Consenvoye, and including the villages of Beaumont and Haumont.

Foe Fought Stubbornly.

Continuous fighting was maintained along our entire battle front, with especial success on the extreme left, where the capture of the greater part of the Argonne forest was completed. The enemy contested every foot of ground on our front, in order to make more rapid retirements further west and withdraw his forces from northern France before the interruption of his railroad communications through Sedan.

We were confronted at this time by an insufficiency of replacement to build up exhausted divisions. We still had two divisions with the British and two with the French. A review of the situation, American and allied, especially as to our own resources in men for the next two months, convinced me that the attack of the First army and the allied armies farther west should be pushed to the limit. But if the First army was to continue its aggressive tactics, our divisions then with the French must be recalled and replacements must be obtained by breaking up newly arrived divisions.

In discussing the withdrawal of our divisions from the French with Marshal Foch and General Petain on October 10 the former expressed his appreciation of the fact that the First army was striking the pivot of the German withdrawal, and also held the view that the allied attack should continue. General Petain agreed that the American divisions with the French were essential to us if we were to maintain our battle against the German pivot. The French were, however, straining every nerve to keep up their attacks, and before those divisions with the French had been released it became necessary for us to send the Thirty-seventh and Ninety-first divisions from the First army to assist the Sixth French army in Flanders.

First Army of 1,000,000.

At this time the First army was holding a front of more than 120 kilometers; its strength exceeded 1,000,000 men; it was engaged in the most desperate battle of our history, and the burden of command was too heavy for a single commander and staff. Therefore on October 12 this portion of our front extending from Port-sur-Selle east of the Moselle, to Fresnes-en-Woevre, southeast of Verdun, was transferred to the newly constituted Second army with Lieut. Gen. Robert L. Bullard in command, under whom it began preparations for the extension of operations to the east in the direction of Briey and Metz. On October 16 the command of the First army was transferred to Lieut. Gen. Hunter Liggett, and my advance headquarters was established at Ligny-en-Barrois from which the command of the group of American armies was exercised.

Summarizing the material results which had been attained by the First army by the end of October, we had met an increasing number of German's best divisions, rising from 26 in line and reserve on September 26 to 31 on October 31; the enemy's elaborately prepared positions, including the Hindenburg line, in our front had been broken; the almost impassable Argonne forest was in our hands; an advance of 21 kilometers had been effected; 18,000 prisoners, 370 cannon, 1,000 machine guns and a mass of material captured; and the great railway artery through Carignan to Sedan was now seriously threatened.

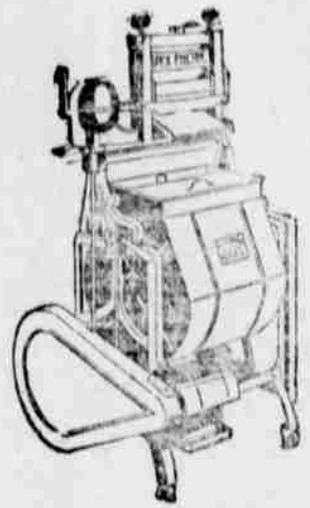
On the morning of November 1 three army corps were in line between the Meuse river and the Bois de Bourgonne. Preceded by two hours of violent artillery preparation the infantry advanced, closely followed by "accompanying guns."

By nightfall the Fifth corps, in the center, had realized an advance of almost nine kilometers, to the Bois de Folie, and had completed the capture of the heights of Baricourt, while the Third corps, on the right, had captured Aincreville and Andevanne. Our troops had broken through the enemy's last defense, captured his artillery positions and had precipitated a retreat of the German forces about to be isolated in the forest north of Grandpre.

The following day the advance continued toward Sedan with increasing swiftness.

(To be continued)

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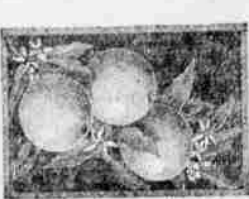
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